



NEWSLETTER No. 1

Friday, 29th January 2021



DIARY DATES

TERM 1

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 3rd	Prep Rest Day
Thursday 4th	Welcome BBQ & Bootball
Monday 8th	Swimming Yrs 3-6
Wednesday 10th	Swimming Yrs 3-6 Prep Rest Day
Thursday 11th	Swimming Yrs 3-6
Friday 12th	Swimming Yrs 3-6
Monday 15th	Swimming Yrs 3-6
Tuesday 16th	Pancake Day
Wednesday 17th	Ash Wednesday Mass Prep Rest Day
Tuesday 23rd	Parent Teacher Interviews

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am very excited about the new year and am looking forward to working with our students, staff and parents to build a strong and vibrant learning community. We are starting the year with the theme 'Ready to learn' and teachers will be focusing on how to be a good learner. This year, we are introducing the 'You Can Do It' keys for success and happiness; our whole school theme of 'Ready to Learn' links with the traits in You Can Do It; term 1 includes focuses on Work Confidence, Persistence, Goal Setting, Time Management and Teamwork. Every grade will be working through the program each week so that our students are supported to become resilient, happy and healthy people. We are going to hit the ground running!

SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

Welcome back everyone. We are honoured to be your school captains for 2021. We hope you had a good



TERM DATES 2021



- TERM 1 - 29 January - 1 April*
- TERM 2 - 19 April - 25 June
- TERM 3 - 12 July - 17 September
- TERM 4 - 4 October - 17 December

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- Term 1 - Monday 8 March (Labour Day)
*Friday 2 April (Good Friday)
- Term 2 - Sunday 25 April (ANZAC Day)
Monday 14 June (Queen's Birthday)
- Term 4 - Tuesday 2 November (Melbourne Cup)

holiday and are ready for a new school year. We know that it is going to be an awesome year!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

We welcome our new Preps who have made a great start to the year. They seem to have taken to school like ducks to water. Luckily they have the grade ones to show them the ropes and I know Mrs Cheshire and Mrs Hole have been putting in a lot of groundwork to make the transition smooth. We welcome Evie, Eva, Layla, Solveig, Matilda, Jimmy, Jayden and Amelia and we pray for God's blessing as they begin school life.



St Michael's Primary School acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gunaikurnai people, traditional custodians of the land on which the school is built. As a school community, we commit to walk alongside our First Nations people for reconciliation, truth and justice.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to our student leaders for 2021. Our school captains are Stella and Phoenix and our vice-captains are Mikayla and Noah. I am sure they will be fantastic role models and leaders of our school. I am looking forward to working with them all.



The Student Representative Committee is still to be decided—each grade elects a class representative who will attend meetings and be involved in the decision making. Our SRC plans at least one social justice activity per term in keeping with our Catholic social responsibilities.

Our House Captains will be Noah and Phoenix (Yellow), Archer and Angus (Red) and Lahni and Cooper H (Blue). All our student leaders will be presented with their badges at our first formal assembly next Friday. Assemblies will be at the same time of 2.20pm.

ON TRACK WITH MARY MAC!

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Josephite sisters set up schools in Australia and New Zealand. They also set up houses for elderly women, young girls and women without jobs. They gave their life to people in need often giving comfort to the sick and dying and even visiting people in jail to give them whatever help they could.

Throughout the year we will be looking at the life and work of Mary MacKillop and the Josephite sisters (who founded our school). St Mary of the Cross is a terrific role model for our lives. She was the model of an independent woman who showed great strength and persistence, dedicating her life to the promotion of justice for all and education for

everyone, especially in small towns that might not otherwise have a school.

This year we want to be on track with Mary Mac and...

"Never see a need without doing something about it"



We will also be connecting with our local Parish story and are excited about finding out about the history of both the church and the school.

NEW TO OUR SCHOOL

This year we welcome Lauren Bayliss and Anika Duncan to our staff. Lauren is a Cowwarr local and parent at our school so I'm sure many of you already know Lauren and her family. Lauren will be sharing the 4/5 classroom with Suzi Herbert. Anika comes to us from St Patrick's and is in the 5/6 classroom from Monday to Thursday; she brings lots of experience and expertise to our school.



We are also pleased to welcome Lahni and Mikayla into the 5/6, Shelby into the 4/5 and Chloe, Emmagen, Noah, Mitch, Jacob and Tayla into the 2/3. It's great to see all these new faces and we're sure they will all have a lot to contribute to our school community. We hope their families love our St Michael's community as much as we do.



UNIFORM & SPORTS DAYS

Last year we noted that non-uniform items (especially footwear) were creeping into the uniform. Please note that the nominated sports days for this term are **Monday** and **Wednesday** so these are the only days where students can wear their sports uniform (unless it is the swimming week). If your child is out of uniform, please notify their classroom teacher of the reason. Just a reminder that in terms 1 and 4 hats are compulsory, although we would encourage students to wear their hats all year.

SWIMMING

Swimming commences on Monday 8th February for students in Years 3-6. Your child will be given a permission form on Monday which will need to be sent back to school. Please make sure your child is 'Sunsmart' for this activity and wears sunscreen and a rash vest.

We will be doing swimming at the beginning and end of the year as we did in 2020.

The date for the swimming carnival is yet to be decided but we will notify parents as soon as possible.



CLASS NEWSLETTERS

You should receive a class newsletter next week. Each newsletter will outline important features and expectations of your child's class. For example, information about homework, helping in the classroom, specific class structures, classroom rules and consequences, behavioural expectations, learning topic for the term, and so on. Please read this information carefully and get in touch with your child's classroom teacher if you require additional information.

You should have received a request to join Class Dojo if you are not on already. Class Dojo is a very easy and effective way for parents and classroom teachers to communicate with each other in this busy world.

CLASS DOJO

All grades will be using Class Dojo again this year to enhance communication between home and school. We strongly recommend that you sign up



when you receive the information—it is a simple and easy way to keep in contact with your child's teacher.

REMINDER ABOUT THE SCHOOL APP

This is just a reminder to everyone to make sure that you have the school app on your phones. The app is the school's official online communication for messages and calendar dates - Facebook is administered by P & F and doesn't include regular school notifications. The newsletter is also uploaded to the app so you can access it anytime. **In an emergency, the app allows us to send out important information to our whole school community.**

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

This is a 'heads up' that parent teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday, 23rd February from 1.00pm. This is an important opportunity for you to come and talk with your child's teacher about his/her progress and to share any information that you think it is important for your child's teacher to know. You are the expert on your child and the more complete our picture is, the better we can work together to improve his/her learning and development. The emphasis at this stage is less on the academic and more on the social, emotional and work skills. Any 'red flags' that are noticed with your child's development will be raised at this meeting, if it hasn't been already, and an alternate time organised to come in and discuss this in more depth (interview times are too short to deal with major concerns). Interview times will be sent home in the next week or so; fitting everyone in is a juggling act, so if the time doesn't suit please call us and we will make alternate arrangements.

REMEMBER: In most cases, the classroom teacher is your first point of contact if you have any concerns or issues. They have the most information about your child and can often clarify any misunderstandings.





BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated their birthday during the holidays.

Cooper W	3rd January
Tahlia	7th January
Mrs Miller	9th January
Harper	28th January



PARKING ZONE REMINDER

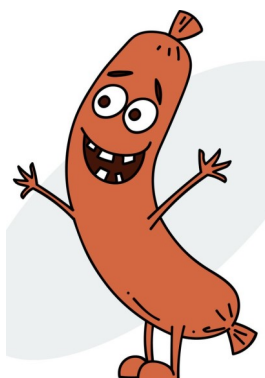
At drop off and pick up times, please make sure not to park in the area between the sign posts at the Davis Street entrance to the School. **This area is reserved for School buses only** and if a car is parked there it makes it difficult for the bus to deliver and pick up the students in a safe manner.



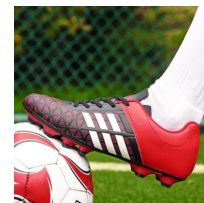
If you park on Davis Street to collect your children, it is also important to park on the school side of the road. Davis Street is far too busy at pick up time and children should not be crossing the road on their own. Children are to remain inside the school grounds until they are collected by a parent/carer.

WELCOME BBQ & BOOTBALL CHALLENGE

We'd like to kick off the new school year (no pun intended) by inviting everyone to our annual BBQ and Bootball Challenge on Thursday, 4th February starting from 5.30pm. We hope everyone will be able to come and join in (we especially need some sporting talent on the adults' team for the bootball). School will provide bread, meat, coleslaw and drinks. Due to Covid restrictions we are unable to have families bring food to share as we normally would. Make sure you wear sports shoes! Remember the



trophy is at stake—the adults won last time so we want to see if we can do it again.



BIG PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Keep the 16th February free and join us on Shrove Tuesday from 8:20am for a big pancake breakfast. More information will follow closer to the time—it may not be exactly as we have done this in the past due to Covid restrictions but I'm sure we can come up with a workable plan!



COVID AND SCHOOL

We are working very hard to make sure we are compliant with the health regulations and DOSCEL requirements so that everyone in our school stays fit and healthy.

This does mean that changes to the rules occur, sometimes at short notice, so we apologise for this inconvenience.

Don't forget that if you need to come into the school building you will need to sign in at the office and complete a School Entry Declaration. We are required to keep these for 28 days.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Pip Killeen for receiving an Australia Day 'Customer Service' Award for her exceptional work in the fitness industry and in the community. We'd also like to congratulate our past student, Cory McGrath, for receiving an award as well.

PHOTOS FROM OUR FIRST DAY

