

NEWSLETTER No. 20

Friday, 9th December, 2022



DIARY DATES

TERM 4

DECEMBER

Monday 12th	Mary MacKillop Award Winners 2023 Captains' Speeches
Tuesday 13th	Christmas Carols, Nativity & Family BBQ SRC Lunch at the Bakery
Wednesday 14th	P & F Sale Cinema and Park Reports to go home
Thursday 15th	Year 6 Graduation
Friday 16th	Last day of term 4 for students 3PM FINISH
Tuesday 20th	Last day for staff

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have come to the end of another school year and it has me thinking 'Where did that time go?' When I reflect on the year there are a few things I'd like to share.

I am incredibly proud of our student leadership and their willingness to get in and organise some great activities for our students. They have worked hard on improving our school and have had an active voice in the life of the school. The student leadership has organised social justice events and student wellbeing activities. Our assemblies have been running very smoothly and I have been able to call on our leaders many times to step in and speak on behalf of the school.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the occasions we have been able to share with families and it has been especially lovely to have grandparents coming along to our events. It has been a slow reawakening with Covid! We are also grateful to our volunteers who support our school in so many different ways – this help is so important to the life of the school.

I also cannot speak highly enough of the dedication and professionalism of the staff at St Michael's. Being a small school, everyone has to take on additional roles and responsibilities and they are all incredibly busy and

TERM DATES 2023



TERM 1 - 30 January—6 April
Staff commence: 27/1/23

Student Assessment Interviews 30/1/23

Students commence classes 31/1/23

hardworking, but their priority is always the students at our school. I have observed some wonderful teaching and learning and I love it when the students are so proud of what they've achieved and come and share their learning with me.

We are a small community at St Michael's, but we are also a strong community. When I hear about other schools and get the feedback from emergency teachers that they like to come here because it has a great 'vibe' and the kids are so friendly, then I know that we must be doing something right as a school community.

I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and gets to spend a relaxing time with their families. God bless all of you and may you all experience the joy and peace of Christmas.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS' MESSAGE

We would like to say good luck to the Year Six students as they move on to secondary school and to the new preps coming through. We are glad to see all of the students improve throughout the year. Thank you to the teachers and staff for all the help and effort they put into our learning. We know everyone is prepared well for their next year of school. It has been an honour to be the school captains of 2022 and we wish the best for the new captains coming through. Have a great Christmas everyone!



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.





Truth

ON TRACK WITH MARY MAC!

Congratulations to Mikayla for receiving the Mary MacKillop Award this week. Like Mary MacKillop, Mikayla is always helpful and considerate. She anticipates what needs doing and is always inclusive of others. We thank you Mikayla for making St Michael's a better place and being a great role model to others.



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



"Never see a need without doing something about it"



2nd December

Ruby D: For accurately measuring classroom objects using informal units.

Mia D: For accurately measuring the width of the classroom using informal units.

Lewis: For improvement in his daily writing tasks.

9th December

Alex S: For writing a detailed recount about our excursion to the Melbourne Aquarium.

Lilli W: For writing a sequenced recount about our excursion to the Melbourne Aquarium.

K.L: For her enthusiasm and interest on our Big Day Out excursion. Well done!

Alex C: For his great listening, following directions and interest at the Melbourne Aquarium. Well done!

Layla: For being a responsible role model on our Big Day Out and writing a great recount about the day.

Jayden: For his keen interest at the Melbourne Aquarium. Well done!

Emily: For showing determination and having a positive attitude when swimming.

Archie: For showing commitment and enthusiasm towards his reading. Great job!

Noah: For showing determination and having a positive attitude when swimming.

Oliver: For a thoughtful response when reflecting on Advent. Well done!

Phoebe: For working mathematically and being able to halve numbers in the millions.

Charlotte: For working mathematically and being able to halve numbers in the millions.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated their birthday recently.

Mrs Duncan

9th December





Truth

CAPTAINS' SPEECHES

Year 5 students are invited to nominate for school captain next year. Speeches will be delivered to the whole school on Monday 12th December in the afternoon. After the speeches, students and staff will vote for the people they would like to see as our 2023 Captains.



BIKE ED

The 3/4 students had a very successful Bike Ed program which culminated in a Rail Trail ride out to Mrs Sunderman's farm. Mrs Sunderman very kindly gave the students morning tea, including icy poles, before they set off back to school. We were very fortunate to be able to use the Wellington Shire Bike Ed Trailer for our program—the additional bikes were very handy. Thank you to Mrs Hole for coordinating the program and Tina for collecting the trailer.





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CHRISTMAS NATIVITY AND CAROLS

We hope everyone can come for our family get together on Tuesday, 13th December at 6pm. The preps will be doing a re-enactment of the Nativity and students will be singing carols with everyone. Our choir have been busy practising and will be doing a special performance for us. Please bring along your family and extended family as the more the merrier! P & F will be cooking a sausage sizzle for us before we begin our carols. **The only thing you need to bring is a chair!**



START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Staff will be resuming school on Friday 27th January 2023. Students have been allocated assessment interview times for Monday 30th January and then students commence regular classes from Tuesday 31st January. In the first week there will be no Prep rest day on the Wednesday, unless parents feel that their child needs to stay home.



Time to return the Library Books.

There's only 5 days left of this school year! **Please return all library books next week please.** There are a few books that have become 'lost' throughout the year too, so please check in the house, book shelves, under the bed, or anywhere else you can think of, thank you.

Advent Prayer for Light

Son of God,
 You are the light of the world.
 This Advent shine your light on
 all our choices this day.
 Create in us the ability to let
 your light shine forth for others.
 We ask this in the name of the
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 Amen.

BUMP UP DAY AND TRANSITION

Just in case you missed it, this is reminder of our class structure and specialist classes for 2023.

CLASSES:

- FOUNDATION/PREP: Kellie Hole and Amy Freeman
- YEAR ONE/TWO: Jade Wheeler
- YEAR THREE/FOUR: Liane Barry and Tilka Brown
- YEAR FIVE/SIX: Anika Duncan and Suzi Herbert

SPECIALISTS:

- ITALIAN: Tilka Brown
- VISUAL ARTS: Carmel Kuizenga
- DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES & MUSIC: Lauren Bayliss
- MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING LEADER: Lousie Cheshire

We had a very successful Bump Up Day as can be seen from the photos below.





Truth

BIG DAY OUT AT THE AQUARIUM

The Junior classes had a wonderful day out in Melbourne on Wednesday, despite the early start and late finish. They really enjoyed the train travel, which was a first for some students and they loved the aquarium. The soft toys were a big hit—they've been coming to school each day they are so popular.





Truth

BUON LAVORO!

We were entertained at assembly by our 1/2 class singing the Pasta Song and educating us on the different types of pasta as well. The 3/4 class also shared their Italian learning by showing us their research projects and highlighting interesting facts about the different regions of Italy.



FAREWELL

We also farewelled Michelle Jolley this afternoon. Michelle has been doing a teaching placement with us for the last four weeks in the 5/6 class. It has been terrific having her teaching at St Michael's—she has been a great addition to our staff and we were sad to have to say goodbye. Hopefully she will return one day!

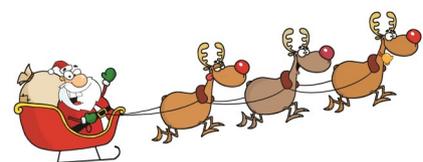


5/6 BOOK GROUP SHARING

Tahlia, Shelby, Mikayla and Cooper shared the intricate model they made based on a book they had been reading in their book group. It was based on a fort in the middle ages.



THANK YOU TO THE YEARS 3-6 FOR HELPING US GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT BY DECORATING THE WHOLE SCHOOL. WE CAN CERTAINLY TELL THAT CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOON. IT WAS A LOVELY SURPRISE FOR THE JUNIORS WHEN THEY RETURNED TO SCHOOL AFTER THEIR BIG DAY OUT.



A MODERN DAY TAKE ON CHRISTMAS

This is a reflection that I read in a St Vinnies newsletter to its members and it really resonated with me. It was written by Kevin McMahon, the State President of St Vincent de Paul.

This is a busy time of the year, so I thought it was appropriate to start out with a reflection. I would like to offer some brief thoughts for your consideration on what I get from the Christmas story. We hear so much about the lack of contemporary application of our Christian message. However, I think that the real story has so much relevance to us today. We all know the details, but here are my insights.

When I hear of a child gifted to a young woman yet to be married, I think of the many single mothers we assist, some unmarried, some left to look after kids after being abandoned by a husband or partner.

When I listen to the story of Elizabeth, I recall all the couples going through the heartbreak of trying to have a child without success. At least her story ends with a great outcome.

When I recall the birth in a stable, I cannot help thinking of the thousands of homeless both here and abroad. Thankfully that was one family for whom it was a temporary situation brought about by the Census circumstances.

We hear so much about refugees – the Christmas story is one about a refugee family two thousand years ago, fleeing to Egypt to escape threatened violence to the child in the family. Sound familiar today?

When I think of the choice of the lowly shepherds to be the first to hear of the birth of Jesus, it reminds us that Christ still brings the Good News to all regardless of social and economic standing. I hope that all of us can be as open to hearing the Good News being offered to those open and humble enough to listen.

Finally, we have the magi or kings. Personally, I am never quite sure how to understand their role, even though they appear in every Nativity play. But I do like the star – the light that guides them in their search for the new king. As I

have said at many functions this year, we have a light to shine to the world – our great work in Christ's name. I urge you all to tell people what we do, always in the name of Jesus.



So, is the Christmas story relevant today? Definitely!

As we take the time to reflect back on the year, we realise that we can feel proud of our part in making a difference to so many lives. St Vinnies helps so many people every year, asking only "How can we help?" That is our key question, and follow up questions are only necessary to do our proper assessment in that regard. We pride ourselves that we help everyone, regardless of personal circumstances every one of us, in our own way, has had a part in this good news story. When we take a break over the holiday period to "recharge our batteries", let us take a moment to remember those not as fortunate as we are.