



ISSUE 6  
29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020

Cassowary Drive, Ballajura WA 6066  
PO Box 2185, Malaga WA 6944

Telephone (08) 9241 7500  
Facsimile (08) 9249 9315

Email: [admin@mmccps.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@mmccps.wa.edu.au)  
Website: [www.mmccps.wa.edu.au](http://www.mmccps.wa.edu.au)

Canteen (08) 9249 9190  
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

Uniform Shop:  
Tuesday 8:00 - 10:30am  
Thursday 2:00 - 4:00pm



*Mary MacKillop  
Catholic Community  
Primary School,  
Ballajura, as a  
growing faith  
community seeks to  
be enlivened by  
Christ to live in  
truth, love and  
dignity.*

In 1861, Mary MacKillop went to work in Penola, a small town in South Australia. Here she met a Catholic priest, Father Julian Woods. Together they opened Australia's first free Catholic school. At that time only the rich could afford schooling.

# Penola

## Principal's Post

Newsletter – 29 April 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new term which has turned out to be anything but usual. Today, we had a little less than half of our students return to school whilst the rest will be working from home. Many parents have indicated to me that they will be sending their children in next week, so I'm anticipating that we may be about three quarters full by then. I'm guessing that by Week 3, we will be mostly full. These are very challenging times and I know everyone is feeling bombarded by the constant updates and the changes to these updates which makes it very confusing. I really appreciate the support we have received from our beautiful families in these very testing times (I'm trying my best to avoid the word 'unprecedented').

**Thank You** I would like to say a big thank you to all parents who have agreed to support our requests regarding contacting the class teachers during school hours by email only. This has made things flow a lot more smoothly. Also, I really appreciate the way you have been dropping your children off in the mornings by staying in your cars. I'm not sure how long this process will be in place, but your cooperation does help us a lot. **The other big request is that if your children are sick or unwell, please keep them at home until they are feeling better. This is really important.** Please note if any children come to school and they are sick, you will be called to come and take them home and keep them there until they are well again.

**School Uniforms** Due to the challenges we are currently facing, we have extended the transition period of the summer uniform into the winter uniform by an extra week. This means you can choose to send your children to school in the summer uniform until the end of Week 3. Hopefully by then, we will be able to reopen the uniform shop.

**Interschool Swimming Carnival** Unfortunately, this carnival has been cancelled. I have received a few questions regarding other school activities such as the Sacramental programmes, excursions and the camp and for now, we are postponing most things. However, the intention is hold them later in the year so the students don't miss out. Once things settle down and we can get new dates, we will let you know.

**Staffing Update** Mrs Mel Trusso in 6P will not be returning to work as she will be focusing on the safe arrival of her baby in a few months' time. Whilst we are very sad to say farewell to Mel, it is an exciting time for her and we wish her every blessing for the safe arrival of her child. In her place, we welcome Mrs Chloe Diedrick who will take the class for the remainder of the year. Chloe worked with Mrs Bowman last year as she completed her final teaching prac. Also, from June 8, we welcome Mrs Courtney Carr into 4A to replace Mrs Alisia Tardrew who is moving to Padbury Catholic Primary School. Mrs Carr is an experienced teacher who has worked in three other Catholic schools. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming our new members to the team.

Yours sincerely  
Laurie Bechelli

**Term 2 School Fees are due Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May via BPAY, Website credit/card or EDFTPOS facility only. There will be no statements sent home due to COVID-19. Please contact the school office if you require any other information.**

### **KINDERGARTEN 2021 ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS**

If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, they are due to attend Kindergarten in 2021.

Application forms are available at the office or online at our website [www.mmccps.wa.edu.au](http://www.mmccps.wa.edu.au)

Please return application forms to the school office ASAP.

All sibling applications need to be lodged as enrolment process is now beginning.

We don't want you to miss out.

### **SCHOOL COUNSELLOR MESSAGE**

#### **Looking for the silver lining**

Finding positivity in such challenging times can seem ridiculous and sometimes even impossible, but I have noticed that many conversations I've had over the last few weeks have included moments of gratitude and perhaps renewed perspectives about life. Watching my local community support each other has been quite uplifting. I found myself looking for teddy bears in windows or gardens and reading messages of hope amongst the rainbows that were chalked onto our footpaths. My street started an online group to support one another, we stood to reflect in our driveways together on Anzac Day, and we supported local business by ordering fruit and vege and takeaway meals... that magically appeared at our door, what a win/ win situation!

Whilst there has been so much tragedy and sadness in our world and many families in our community will be facing some big challenges at the moment, the situation in Western Australia and the optional return to school has given us some hope.

I encourage you to talk with your children about what the silver linings might be for them within this Covid cloud. Is it sharing games together, walking or riding together, having time to just be at home, or maybe communicating with loved ones in different ways? If they are feeling that they have missed out or they are focussed on what they have lost, remind them that we will get back to normal again eventually and those things that they miss like sport, playdates and birthday parties will all return!

The decision about when to send your child back to school might be a particularly difficult one for you and some of you might feel quite anxious about the prospect. Remember that what is right for you and your family may not be the same for other families, and make the decision that you are comfortable with knowing that you will have your teacher and school's support. Please continue to look after one another over the coming weeks and especially to reach out to other parents who may be feeling isolated or struggling, even if it can only be a phone call or message.

Whilst these times can be worrying, it's still important that you allow yourself to have moments of joy and be happy. Some days will be harder than others, but actively bringing your attention to the positive may help make the hard days a little easier!

Lisa Mueller  
School Social Worker  
*Available Tues, Thurs and Fri*

# P&F NEWS

Welcome back to Term 2. It is so fantastic to see that the people of W.A. have been doing the right thing so that we can now start to return to some form of normality.

I am so happy to announce that the MOTHER'S DAY STALL will be going ahead. We have a wonderful selection of gifts between \$2 and \$7 that the students can buy for their Mums. This year, the stall will be run by each class teacher in their classroom. Please send some money with your child on THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY (or FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY for Kindy). If your child will not be at school on this day and would like to buy something from the stall, please e-mail your child's teacher.

The P & F continue to offer ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS. There are plenty of deals for online shopping and takeaway options to support local restaurants. You can save money, support our local community and our school community from the comfort of your home! If you are interested, please visit <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/861q83> or send us an e-mail [pandf@mmccps.wa.edu.au](mailto:pandf@mmccps.wa.edu.au) and we can send you the link. Proceeds go back to our school community.

The P & F are here to support our school community in whatever way we can, so get in touch if you need help or have an idea of how the P & F can help out. If your small business is struggling, let us know and we can advertise it to our school community, free of charge. At the last P & F meeting, we agreed that the P & F donations for the rest of the year would go towards helping out our students and families who have been affected by this crisis. If you have any suggestions of how we can help, please e-mail us at [pandf@mmccps.wa.edu.au](mailto:pandf@mmccps.wa.edu.au). We will get through this together as a community.

We don't know when our next meeting will be, but you're welcome to keep in touch with us on our Facebook page: Mary MacKillop P&F, or send us an e-mail at [pandf@mmccps.wa.edu.au](mailto:pandf@mmccps.wa.edu.au).

I look forward to seeing everyone in the not-too-distant future, when we are once again allowed on school grounds!

Alyce Hofmann-Fritz  
P & F President 2020

## **SCHOOL BANKING PROGRAMME**

### **Message from Commonwealth Bank**

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people remains our highest priority. Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding coronavirus, the School Banking program will remain on hold. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed with any updates including how we will be managing Dollarmite tokens for students.

In the meantime, here are some handy online resources for parents who wish to maintain momentum with their child's financial education:

- [Start Smart](#): these resources have been created to improve children's money management skills, and is aligned to the Australian Curriculum and the National Consumer Financial Literacy Framework.
- [The Beanstalk](#): offers videos and fun activities for children to learn about money.