



Term 4 Week 4
Wednesday 2nd November 2022
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DIARY DATES

TERM 4	2022
Wednesday 2 nd November	All Souls Day
Wednesday 2 nd November	Band Demo Concert Yrs 2 – 6 11:20am
Friday 4 th November	Mufti fundraiser Yr6 EOY
Friday 4 th November	Kindergarten Sharing of Learning 2:20pm
Friday 4 th November	Confirmation Yr6 & above 7pm
Monday 7 th November	Staff Development Day – No school for students
Tuesday 8 th November	P & F Meeting 7pm via ZOOM
Tuesday 8 th November	Year 1 Incursion
Wednesday 9 th November	Kindergarten Excursion to the Sydney Zoo
Wednesday 9 th November	Year 4 Sharing of Learning 2:20pm
Friday 10 th November	Colour House Mufti
Friday 11 th November	Remembrance Day Liturgy 10:45am
Monday 14 th November	K2023 Parent Information Evening 7pm
Tuesday 15 th November	K2023 Transition 9:00 - 10:30am
Tuesday 15 th November	Stage 3 Virtual PD night 7:00 – 8:00pm
Wednesday 16 th November	Year 1 Sharing of Learning 2:20pm
Wednesday 16 th November	Year 5C Robotics Incursion
Thursday 17 th November	Year 5K Robotics Incursion

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

Ever thought of being a saint? No? Not for you? Probably, two people who were declared as saints in 2010 never thought of being saints either. The two people were St Mary Mackillop, declared on 17th October, and St Damian de Veuster, more easily recognised as Father Damian of Molokai, on 10th October. Though they led vastly different lives, they both had uncommon kindness and both were examples to us not to forget those people who are the “forgettable” in our world.

The saints are always calling us back to our Christian roots. They are real human beings like us with their own personal problems but who battle on to achieve extraordinary deeds. Because of this, we should not leave them as lifeless statues or stained-glass windows and excuse ourselves from our responsibilities to other people on the pretext that we aren't perfect. The very fact that they are human like us, is a reminder to us of our responsibilities even if we are flawed and imperfect persons.

The following two observations highlight the “ordinary person” of St Mary Mackillop: “We want our saints to be inspiring but to understand the pathways we walk. Mary is a model of human possibility and she worked with what she had available to her and made things happen in a practical, humanly sensitive way.” Sister Carroll. “The real Mary Mackillop was, in her youth, a rather photogenic, nice nun who grew up to be a remarkable woman of toughness and imagination in the way she lived her faith. But she was also an old lady in a wheelchair nursing her little dog after her active days were over.” Fr Tony Kelly. Father Damian of Molokai was a Belgian missionary priest who worked with Hawaiian people who had leprosy. About 8000 people had been separated from the rest of their society and isolated on the island of Molokai where they were abandoned. It was mostly missionary volunteers like Father Damian who cared for them in three-monthly shifts. After several shifts, Father Damian volunteered to stay permanently and take up the work that needed to be done on behalf of the lepers.

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Not surprisingly, after a period of living, working and sharing with the lepers, he caught the disease himself and at only 49 years of age the disease caused his death. His tireless and selfless efforts caught the attention of many who shared his Christian beliefs and people like the famous author, Robert Louis Stevenson, eventually forced official assistance to be given to the lepers.

The life of St Damian of Molokai holds out a powerful message that one single life properly motivated and directed to the needs of others, can make a lives-altering difference. Even though the necessary two miracles needed before declaration of Sainthood were proven, Mother Teresa said of Father Damian, "Damian, himself, is a miracle."

Not everyone can be a Mary Mackillop or a Damian of Molokai, but we can all do something, if only of a minor nature, to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged and neglected people. The world needs more saints in the making, so that question again: Ever thought of being a saint?

St Mary Mackillop of Australia and St Damian of Molokai, may the spirit of your lives live on in the lives of Christian people right now. May we, ordinary people like you, be inspired to reach out to needy people as you did. May God's Spirit be powerful in us as it was in the both of you. Amen.

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
Principal



Staff Development Day

A reminder that there is no school for the children on Monday 7th November. COSHC will be open - please contact them directly if you need to book in your child. Thank you for your understanding.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

November 3 rd	Samuel H Maison O Selena K Enrique P Jamie J
November 4 th	Saanvi S
November 5 th	Wilson C
November 6 th	Marion P
November 8 th	Malcolm D Amarah K
November 9 th	Angelo R
November 11 th	Alyssa K Isaac L Grace K
November 13 th	Chimamanda I
November 15 th	Tara C
November 16 th	Jacob H

We would like to wish all of these children a very happy birthday!!

LINDA'S LUNCHES

There will be no Linda's Lunches on Monday November 14th.

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...



PARENTS AND FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING

The next P&F meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 8th November on Zoom commencing at 7pm. The P&F have adopted a hybrid meeting model – alternating face to face meetings with virtual meetings. Face to Face meetings will be held in Terms 1 and 3 while meetings in Term 2 and 4 will be via zoom. The staff also wish to thank the P&F Executive who arranged a lovely morning tea, a coffee tab and a thank you chocolate for World Teacher's Day last week. Thank you to all the children who made the day special for the staff.

COVID UPDATE

- Last week we advised we would like to send our remaining RAT kits home to each family – we miscalculated our supply (one carton was only half full) and so boxes of 5 kits are available (max one per family) should you need them – please email the office and a box will be sent home until our supply is exhausted. Sorry for any confusion.
- Anyone who believes they have been exposed to COVID-19 is recommended to monitor for symptoms, test, and wear a mask if they are concerned. If you test positive on a rapid antigen test (RAT) please [register](#) this with Service NSW (note that such registration is now voluntary). Voluntarily registering your result can help you access medical support from NSW Health, including antiviral medicines if you are eligible. It also assists NSW Health to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Our school will continue to operate with the 'baseline' COVID-smart measures in place throughout Term 4 to minimise transmission and keep schools open while prioritising student and staff wellbeing. This includes a combination of layered safety measures – encouraged mask-wearing, rapid antigen testing (RAT) kits available, encouraged vaccinations, ventilation, hygiene and additional cleaning.
- Afternoon Parent Pick Up (where parents walk in) – while queuing is no longer required we will still assembly the students as we have been and invite parents to enter via Gate 1, meet their child at the end of the ramp and leave via Gate 2. This is the safest way of dismissal.

MOVING SCHOOLS OR LEAVING ST MARY'S AT THE END OF 2022?

It is a legal requirement that you inform us of the school your child will be attending in 2023. If you are moving house or changing schools, please advise the school office in writing of your new contact details and the name of the school your child will be attending. We have a number of families on our waiting list now (people are hearing good things about our school and want to come here) and we would like to offer them places where we can. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

HAIR STYLES

Please remember our Uniform Policy and the need for hair to be tied back off the face. Students should not have colours in their hair, lines or shavings and all hair styles must be neat and tidy. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PRINCIPAL'S HOLIDAY CHALLENGE...

This week we are sharing the portraits selected from each grade as the 'winners' of the Holiday Challenge. The 'prize' is that these portraits will be hung in the office with the description of the artwork. Just like the real Archibald's this year we have also included a "Packer's Prize" – which has been selected by the front office team who managed and sorted all entries for Mr Blissenden. Thank you to everyone who entered the Challenge!



I chose my mum because I love her and I love going for breakfast with her. She buys me so many toys. She has a pretty smile. She helps me get dressed and does my hair. She likes to play with me and dance with me. I also like watching her put make up on me.

Arianna B Kindergarten



My Mama Gladys is special to me because
She turns 100 this month
She can't see but still writes books
She's very brave
She loves to sing and pray
I love her very much.

Mason R 1L



This is a portrait of my baby sister Abby. She is special to me because she is very beautiful and loving, secondly she always smiles to me, that makes her happy and she's fragile. Also she is the most amazing baby in the whole wide world! Fourthly she's kind and very caring. She is also special to me because she is happy with what ever she's given and never just cries or whinges about it. Also she is a good listener because knows her own name. She's also important to me because she always makes funny noises to make me laugh so hard! My 8th reason is that she is cuter than anyone in the country! Also she always wants to have fun with the one and only me. My last and 10th reason that she is the calmest baby I've ever seen!

I LOVE MY SISTER

Marion P 2FM



I wanted to draw my cousin Olivia as a special person to me because she is a wonderful person.

Firstly, she cares about everybody. I know she cares because she shares her valuables with me all the time. She has warm feelings like I used in the drawing.

Secondly, she is my cousin, but also a good friend of mine. We are both in Year 3 and share the fun and brilliant similar moments we have.

Thirdly, she has good and fun ideas that make me laugh like fireworks popping in the sky in the background.



For the Principal's Holiday Challenge, I chose to draw a portrait of my MUM.

I decided to draw her because she cares for me and loves me no matter what, and because she is an amazing and super-duper MUM!

Alina N 4R

Josephine
5C



The person that is most important to me is the person who takes care of me, cooks me dinner and loves me to bits. That important person is my mum, also known in my home, the head of the house. My mum has brown, yellow dyed hair and this adds sweetness of her personality. She is very loving, kind, careful and remembers where my dad puts his wallet when he forgets! She is important to me as she cooks us the most delicious meals, reminds me of the smallest thing I might forget, she asks me what I did at school and well, the list goes on and on. One of the greatest things about my mum is the great advice she gives to my questions and problems aiding me in life. I'm very grateful to have a mum like her as she is so important to me. I could tell you all about the things that she is important to me.

Josephine L 5C



For the Principal's Holiday Challenge I decided to draw my dad. My Dad has a very important role in my life and is an inspiration to me personally. He gives me tasty meals, has plenty of dad jokes and is the wheelie master. On a more serious note, my dad is special to me and is someone that will always have a place in my heart for his great qualities and influential figure. Note the whole challenge was completed on a very bumpy car ride to Dubbo!

Thomas L 6H



Hi everyone, my name is Amy
Today I drew my cousin Aidan.

Aidan plays a really important part in my life.
He is the oldest cousin in my family.
But his main role is being my Godfather.

He looks after me when my auntie and uncle go out for dinner.
He always checks on me to see if I'm okay and safe.
He likes to play games with me all the time.

Aidan always keeps me safe.
Aidan is really, really fun.

Aidan is so fun
He is the coolest cousin
He is so awesome

He plays games with me
He always gives me a hug
He is amazing!

Amy L 4D - "PACKER'S PRIZE"

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS...

PRINCIPAL AWARDS



Arianna B	KD	James K	KJ
Ruby W	KD	Cordelia C	KJ
Luka A	1L	Nathanael M	1M
Sylvie A	1L	Zara N	1M
Emily T	2FM	Chase M	2RM
Angela L	2FM	Isabella N	2RM
Olivia G	3J	Hayley A	3LV
Grace K	3J	Judah M	3LV
Maxim A	4D	Eva C	4R
Eoin M	4D	Nivaan S	4R
Renae A	5C	Noah C	5K
Thomas H	5C	Michael K	5K
Alessandro B	6H	Sebastien P	6K
Mia L	6H	Selina L	6K

CARE AWARDS



Zahra B	KD	Eva P	KJ
Rose D	KD	Esther T	KJ
Zara C	1L	Jane K	1M
Kevin M	1L	Neel K	1M
Emmeline M	2FM	Myles C	2RM
Benjamin Y	2FM	Tristan T	2RM
Riley I	3J	Hope E	3LV
Sienna G	3J	Theo M	3LV
Sarayah A	4D	Kira M	4R
Levi L	4D	Anahita W	4R
Nicholas K	5C	Isaac D	5K
Maxwell N	5C	Sam C	5K
Thomas L	6H	Lachlan P	6K
Ellie S	6H	Japreet K	6K

congratulations

Defence Member and Family Support program

For the past four weeks kids from grades 3 - 6 who have parents in the defence force, have been doing a program with two representatives from the defence member and family support association. The two representatives names are Rebekah and Maissa who have helped us for the past 4 weeks with fun activities and learning about operations such as, OPERATION BUSHFIRE Assist and OPERATION Flood assist.

Rebekah and Maissa have taught us so many things that we did not know about the ADF (Australian Defence Force.) We have done lots of activities such as, talking about where our parents have been through their career in the ADF and drawing in a hand and listing our hobbies on the fingers. We did a lot more activities that were fun during our time with them. But we must thank the lady who set up this wonderful life changing experience. It is none other than our very own Defence coordinator Dianne Woods. She set up this program for us defence kids to enjoy and have a blast as we discover and learn more about the ADF.

Logan - Yr 6



DEFENCE FAMILY & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM...



Library News

1. A **BIG** thank you to all who have helped and supported the library this year. Whether you have covered books or read books to your children or have listened to them read to you, the students and I really appreciate it.

2. I am so happy to announce that (after a bit of a break due to COVID19 restrictions) our St Mary's Library will be open for a **fun, family day** during the 2023 school holidays!

LIBRARY OPEN DAY!

When? on
Tuesday
17 January 2023
From 10am – 1pm

Why?

- So you can **borrow as many books as you need** to keep reading during the break!
- So you get to be the first ones to see *and* borrow **brand new books** from my secret stash!
- So you get to **bring your whole family** and have some fun playing **Library Trivia** with them. *Trivia will start at 10:30am.*
- So you get a chance to **win some prizes!**
- So you can read and share stories with your family!





HAVE A BLAST



Get into Woolworths Cricket Blast

It's a fun and active program for kids of all abilities, whether it's your first time with a bat or you're a backyard Cricket star!

FREE 4-WEEK CRICKET BLAST PROGRAM
Cricket Central - Silverwater/Sydney Olympic Park
Monday 14th November 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Jade Boyce - Jade.Boyce@cricketnsw.com.au



JOIN YOUR NEAREST CLUB

Q Play Cricket

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