

ST MARTIN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

LEADERSHIP NEWS

Dear Parents and Caregivers,
Greetings!

Last Saturday, our school featured in the 2023 / 2024 South Australian Catholic Schools magazine that appeared in The Advertiser. The article titled "Signs of Good Faith" highlighted how our graduating students take great pride in designing and creating their own mosaic crosses for their Graduation ceremony and take the keepsake as a reminder of their time at St Martin's. Our school is very fortunate to have a robust Visual Arts program overseen by Ms Helen Williams who ensures students are engaged in an array of hands-on activities. Below is the featured article for your perusal.

Congratulations to all Semester 2 Student Voice students who received their badges at our assembly last Friday. It is lovely to see all students wear their badge with a sense of pride. Thanks to Mel Jones who oversees our Student Voice program and no doubt, there will be some upcoming projects rolled out by the group over this semester.

Over the next few weeks, approximately 100 prospective new families will be interviewed for a place in our Reception classes in 2025.

If you have any relations, friends or neighbours seeking to enrol their child in our wonderful school community, please inform them that we are currently accepting applications for 2025 to 2027. They can contact the school office on 8211 2400 for a prospectus, to book a school tour or for any additional information required.



Last Wednesday, the eldest child of every family received a form titled "Enrolment Census for 2024". It is imperative that this form is completed and returned no later than **Friday, August 18** to assist us in planning our 2024 class structures, staffing and budget. Thank you to all families who have already returned their forms.

Photo Day for students is on **THURSDAY, AUGUST 24**. Information and envelopes will be sent home this week. On this day, all students are required to wear their full WINTER UNIFORM please. If you require a Family Photo, please obtain an envelope from the Front Office. If your child is absent due to sickness on this day, there is a 'make-up day' in late August / September. Date to be advised later in the term.

Congratulations to Mary Mellon, our Auslan teacher, who has won a position at Immaculate Heart of Mary School at Brompton commencing next year. We are currently advertising for a replacement teacher to commence in January 2024.

Wishing you a great fortnight ahead and Happy Mary MacKillop Feast Day to all staff and students.

Christine Comas
PRINCIPAL

APRIM NEWS



Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

We will be celebrating this special feast day on **Friday, 11 August** with a whole school Mass hosted by 5D. Families are invited to attend.

The students and staff are invited to wear Aussie inspired clothes on this day. A gold coin donation will be collected for the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

Saint Mary of the Cross was born on 15 January 1842, Melbourne, Victoria and died on 8 August 1909, North Sydney, New South Wales. She was canonized on 17 October 2010 and her feast day is on 8 August. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was a religious figure, educator, and social reformer who was the first Australian beatified by the Roman Catholic Church and the first Australian to be recognised as one of its saints.

A Woman with an Open Heart From the Pen of Mary:

Make no reserves with God. Reject no-one. You never know what grace can do (1871).

Scripture:

Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today. Luke 19:5

Reflection:

Mary MacKillop brought the message of human dignity to all whom she encountered. She held in reverence each person about whom she spoke even those who had caused her great pain. Sister Mechtilde recalls how 'if anyone came to her in trouble and distress, she would encourage and help them and draw the good that was in them out'.

Stories abound of how people responded to her presence.

Pause for Reflection:

With whom is God inviting me to keep an open heart?

Prayer:

God of tenderness you call all to share in your Trinity of love. May we, like Mary MacKillop open our hearts to all whom we encounter this day. St Mary of the Cross, defending human dignity, pray for us.

Action:

Be open to the stranger who comes into your life today.



MITIOG Program 2023

The Made in the Image of God, Human Sexuality curriculum is mandated for South Australian Catholic Schools, for Years Reception-12. It incorporates a sequential curriculum firmly based on Catholic moral teaching. The curriculum is organised into four threads:

- Identity
- Relationships
- Human Development
- Reproduction and Reproductive Health

Made in the Image of God is taught in Term 3 at St Martin's. If you have any questions, concerns or require seeing an outline of the key outcomes and possible learning opportunities offered for your child, please see the class teacher or Rose Valenti. Teachers have planned your child's learning according to their specific level and will only teach content appropriate for your child's level of learning.

Whilst this curriculum has been mandated to be taught in Catholic Schools in South Australia, should you wish for your child to be excluded from classes, please indicate this in writing via email to the class teacher or to Rose Valenti (rvalenti@smg.catholic.edu.au) before Friday, 18 August 2023.

Sustainability

Our next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 21 September at 3:20pm in the Staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend.

Outreach

The Reception unit is currently in the process of organising a Crazy Hair/Hat Day on Wednesday, 30 August. Proceeds of gold coin donations collected on the day will go towards Backpacks 4 Kids.

Greenacres Walkerville Parish News

Children's Liturgy Dates at St Monica's Church (6pm) and St Martin's Church (9:30am).

Children's Liturgy is a wonderful way for the children to have a better understanding of the Gospel of the day's Liturgy and grow in appreciating the structure and the richness of the first part of the Mass. Next dates for Children's Liturgy: 19 and 20 August.

Upcoming Diary Dates

Week	Date	Time, Celebration and Hosting Year Level
3	Friday, 11 August	9am Mass Year 5D hosting
4	Friday, 18 August	9am Assembly Reception T hosting
5	Friday, 25 August	9am Assembly Year 2SW hosting
6	Friday, 1 September	9am Liturgy of the Eucharist Year 5R
7	Friday, 8 September	9am Assembly Reception DM hosting

All families are welcome to stay for a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit in the Boardroom after these events.

With God's Blessings
Rose Valenti

SPORTS NEWS

SAPSASA BASKETBALL TEAM

Well done basketballers on your hard work and performance this year! The team has trained regularly at lunchtimes since the end of Term 1 and yesterday finished third in their pool at this year's carnival. Fantastic effort and consistency were a highlight of the carnival!

Reminder: Please return borrowed basketball tops and shorts washed and clean to 5R as soon as possible. Once returned, they will be checked against a register to ensure all uniforms are accounted for in readiness for the next carnival.

SAPSASA DISTRICT SOCCER TEAM

Congratulations Francesco (Year 5) who has been selected for the District Team. The team will compete at the SAPSASA State Carnival in Week 5.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Last term's Jump Rope for Heart programme has been finalised. Well done to all those students who participated this year! Jump Rope for Heart prizes will be distributed at school upon their arrival.

SENIOR NETBALL (All students Years 3-6)

Senior netball training is held on Thursdays from 3:15pm-4:00pm. Netballers who play in Saturday matches as part of the school's netball teams must attend.

MR. GEORGE'S RUNNING CLUB

Enthusiastic runners and some staff (usually 30-40 people) continue to attend Mr George's Running Club. Running Club runs from 8:00am-8:30am on Thursday morning.

SACPSSA (Catholic Schools) CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL – AUGUST 10

On Thursday, approximately 30 Year 3-6 students will represent St Martin's at this year's Cross Country Carnival. The 2km races will be held in the East Parklands. Well done to everyone who will be attending this year.

Reminder: Please return borrowed running tops washed and clean to 5R as soon as possible. Once returned, they will be checked against a register so they can be reissued for the upcoming SAPSASA Athletics Carnival.

SAPSASA DISTRICT ATHLETICS CARNIVAL AUGUST 17

Following in-school trials, selected students born in 2013, 2012 and 2011 have been invited to attend the SAPSASA District Athletics Carnival.

Date: Thursday, 17 August
Time: 8:20am-3:00pm (traffic dependent)
Venue: Bridgestone Athletics Centre, Frost Road, Salisbury
Transport: Athletes will be transported to and from the event by coach
Cost: \$20.00

SACPSSA (Catholic Schools) TOUCH CARNIVAL – SEPTEMBER 6

Students in Years 3-6 wishing to attend this term's participation based, SACPSSA Touch Carnival are invited to register via the QKR App.

Date: Wednesday, 6 September
Time: 9:00am-3:00pm
Venue: Park 17 - Touch SA Headquarters (corner of Greenhill Road and Beaumont Road)
Transport: Students will travel by bus to and from the venue
Cost: \$20.00

PRIMARY SCHOOLS VOLLEYBALL CARNIVAL – SEPTEMBER 8

Date: Friday, 8 September
Time: 8:20am-2:30pm
Venue: The Lights Community and Sports Centre (Corner Hampstead Road and East Parkway, Lightsview)
Transport: Students will require private transport to and from the event
(Volleyballers can arrive at the venue from 8:20am and be picked up from 2:00pm)
Cost: \$20.00

HOTSHOTS TENNIS CARNIVAL – SEPTEMBER 8

This participation-based carnival has been cancelled due to minimal interest before the due date.

SACPSSA (Catholic Schools) HotShots Tennis Carnival – OCTOBER 18

This is a participation-based carnival open to all students in Years 3 and 4. Please register via the QKR App.

Date: Wednesday, 18 October
Time: 9:00am-3:00pm
Venue: Playford Tennis Centre - Spruance Road, Elizabeth East
Transport: Students will travel by coach to and from the venue
Cost: \$20.00

TERM 3 TENNIS COACHING - Matt Owens Tennis School

Starts: Sunday, 23 July

Venue: Greenacres Tennis Club - Romilly Ave,
Manningham

Contact: Matt – 0415 539 270 – owenstennis@gmail.com

Currently on QKR (Please note due dates)

SACPSSA Touch Football (Years 3-6) **DUE: 18 AUGUST**

Hotshots Tennis Carnival (Years 3-4) **DUE: 31 AUGUST**

SACPSSA Tennis Carnival **(Years 3-4) DUE: 1 SEPTEMBER**

Upcoming Sports Dates

August

17 SAPSASA Athletics District Day (Years 4-6)

September

6 SACPSSA Touch Carnival (Years 3-6)

8 Volleyball Carnival (Years 4-6)

8 Hotshots Tennis Carnival (Years 3-4)

October

18 SACPSSA Tennis Carnival (Years 3-4)

SIGNS OF GOOD FAITH

WORDS LYNN CAMERON PHOTOGRAPHY RUSSELL MILLARD

Students at St Martin's Greenacres take great pride in designing and creating their own mosaic crosses for graduation



Graduation is always a special moment but, for students at St Martin's Catholic Primary School in Greenacres, coming together for the final time is the perfect opportunity to take pride in an extra special achievement.

From Year 6, each student has been designing and creating their own unique mosaic cross as a memento of their time at the school. The crosses, which represent creativity, faith and tradition, are presented to the school at their graduation ceremony.

"As a Catholic school, we wanted to do something that was symbolic for our students and allowed them to create a graduation gift that was meaningful to them," principal Christine Comas says.

"For us, seeing the students lined up with their crosses is a wonderful



Top: St Martin's Greenacres principal Christine Comas with Grace-Emily and Hugh.

moment. It's a sense of achievement and you feel like a proud mother because the students are leaving on a high and are taking away something that is personal to them.

"All the students are very careful of how they carry them – they hang them at home where they take great pride of place."

The creative freedom in designing and building their crosses encourages students of all faiths to explore and extend their creative and artistic skills as well as bolstering communication skills.

"They are engaging in the art of conversation," Ms Comas says. "They are talking to each other, they're not on their phones or on the computer – everything has to come from them."

Year 7 Kildare College student Grace-Emily completed her mosaic cross last year. "I was mostly excited but I was also nervous about how it would turn out," she says. "I loved the creative freedom. The colours I used are some of my favourites."

"At the graduation ceremony, everyone walked in with their crosses – it was exciting and I felt proud to be a part of the school's tradition in making my cross."

Brother Hugh is in Year 6 at St Martin's and beginning his own mosaic journey. "I'm not artistic so this is going to be a new challenge but I'm excited about it," he says.

The mosaic crosses are part of a robust visual arts program at the school, which also includes soap carving, pottery and planter boxes in the Sensory Garden. Around the school hang eight mosaic placards, created collaboratively over the years by students, teachers and volunteers, representing the school's eight values of safety, service, respect, honesty, pride, friendship, service and responsibility.

"There's always something different happening in the art room," Ms Comas says. "It's good we have our wonderful specialist visual arts teacher, Helen Williams, who loves this kind of work."



ST MARTIN'S STEM SHOWCASE

Term 3 2023

Friday 8th September 2pm-4pm

Monday 11th September 8am-9:30am and 2pm - 4pm

STEM investigations from all classes
will be on display



St Martin's Community
Centre