



Newsletter / 6 August

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Let us be for our world beacons of hope and trust.
May God bless and strengthen us.
Confide all to God.
See how God carries us through the storms.
ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP**

This year marks the tenth year since Mary Mackillop was canonised and became the first Australian saint. Her feast day is this Saturday, 8 March. It is significant that the focus of her work was in education. On 19 March 1866 she officially began life as a religious sister and within 2 years she had 120 women who joined



her in that ministry. The 19 March is the feast day of St Joseph, the Worker. Mary truly took on that ideal of worker throughout her life in both word and action. One of the four tenets of the life of a sister of St Joseph is to *Do all the good they could, and never see an evil without trying to remedy it.* This inspirational view is just as relevant today as it was over a century ago.

Mary Mackillop implored her sisters to find opportunities to work in small remote communities that were in dire need of the benefits of education for their children. Every child was treated the same and all were offered opportunities to learn. In many ways we aim to do that here at St Benedict's and we hope you and your child have experienced that. You can find out more about the life and work of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop [here](#).

From: <https://www.dow.org.au/novena-for-a-world-in-need/>

Prayers for Lebanon

I'm sure you have seen the images and heard the news of the recent tragedy in Beirut, Lebanon. I am aware that one of our school families has close relatives residing in Lebanon. They have been able to confirm that all is well for them. We know many lives have been lost due to this tragedy and this loss will weigh heavily in the hearts of many Australians who have connections to Lebanon. You are invited to devote some of your prayer for the people in Beirut and for their families there and across the world at this time.



COVID19 - Stage 4 Restrictions

As we make still more adjustments to the way we do life in the midst of a pandemic we demonstrate endurance and flexibility. At St Benedict's this will mean from next Monday that we will operate with reduced staff on-site each day. Each staff member will be working from home at some stage during the week.

I would like to emphasise two important comments from the last newsletter

1. The importance of being on time for the morning google meet

We are encouraging the students to engage with the google meets in a common space in the house each morning as part of their learning process and general health and wellbeing. This 'welcome' to the day is an opportunity to see each other each morning and make connections. These small connections - even at a distance - provide your child with opportunities to develop their own confidence in the processes of learning.

2. Having a routine for the day to support learning

It is important to maintain a routine with each day so that the children can separate the school day from the rest of the day – and separate the weekly school days from the weekend. It is important to have breaks in the day as well. Whether they be brain breaks with exercise or a food break several times during the day they all benefit the learning processes as well.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support the learning of your child while flexible and remote learning continues. And thank you for the support and kind words you send to the teachers – gratitude in this time, is so important

Resource Pack pick up

Resource packs will be available at the front office each Friday afternoon from 2:30-3:45pm. If this time does not suit, please email your child's classroom teach to arrange an alternative time.

Temperature checks in Term 3

Daily temperature checks with a thermometer are happening at St Benedict's for all staff and students who are onsite. This follows the advice of Victoria's Chief Health Officer.

On-Line Safety

Social media is a great way to connect and stay informed. One way to support children to be e-safe online is to make sure they understand there are rules in the on-line world that are intended to keep them safe. As part of the privacy policies of social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram they specify that users must be at least 13 years old. Some of the more popular social networking sites provide information specifically tailored to help parents understand their child's use of the site. For example:

- Facebook: [Help Your Teens Play it Safe](#)
- Instagram: [Tips for Parents\(link is external\)](#)
- Snapchat: [Safety Centre\(link is external\)](#)
- Twitter: [Safety on Twitter\(link is external\)](#)
- YouTube: [Policies, Safety and Reporting](#)



Prayer

Our prayer this week focuses on St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and you can ask for her intercession on your behalf for something you are in need of.



From <https://www.misacor.org.au/index.php/e-magazine/latest-news/2733-mary-mackillop-and-the-mystery-of-the-msc-motto>

*Ever generous God,
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop
To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement
to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.
With confidence in your generous providence
and through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop
We ask that you grant our request.....
We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit
so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust and openness.
Ever generous God hear our prayer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

Mary MacKillop

Blessings to each one of you and your families

Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal



Diary Dates

Diary Dates		
Term Three		
19 August	First Eucharist Reflection Day	Postponed
30 August	First Eucharist	Postponed
4 September	Father's Day Mass	Postponed
8 September	Andrew Chinn Workshop	Postponed
18 September	Term 3 ends	3:15pm
Term Four		
5 October	Term 4 commences	8.45am



Book Club Issue 6 catalogue is now available
at <https://www.scholastic.com.au/media/5667/bc-620.pdf>.

Paper catalogue will be distributed with the children's learning resources.

Please place your orders via
Loop <https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Login.aspx>.

Books will be delivered to the school for distribution.

With all libraries, and now retail closed, Book Club is a great way to keep reading.

(Not to mention the arts and crafts which come in very handy now)!

Religious Education

Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop August 8th



"Let us try to keep God with us by charity of thought, word and act."

Mary MacKillop, 15.09.1890

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842. Her dream was to help the poor. With Father Julian Tenison Woods she founded the Sisters of St Joseph, a religious congregation adapted to Australian life.

The eldest of eight children, Mary experienced from an early age the necessity of taking responsibility for her family's care. Her circumstances demanded frequent travel and required of her, faith, integrity and compassion.

"Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them cheerfully, remembering whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another. Bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life." Mary of the Cross, 12 January 1909
Something for us all to think about during this challenging time.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21 Jesus feeds the five thousand

Gospel Reflection

The response of today's psalm is an excellent summary of the theme that runs throughout today's readings: The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs. The compassion of God is foremost in these readings – recognising need within the people and responding with an overflowing abundance. In the gospel, the abundant response of God is the miraculous feeding of more than five thousand people with twelve baskets full of leftovers. As it became late in the day, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away to the nearby villages so that they could buy food for themselves. But Jesus is moved with compassion for the people. He knows that as it is now evening they probably won't be allowed to enter any of the local villages and, even if they were, they probably didn't have money with which to buy food. So it is compassionate care that moves Jesus to act. Remember, he had tried to get away from the crowds to spend some private time mourning the death of John the Baptist. He was entitled to be frustrated and angry with them for intruding on his grief. Instead, when they tracked him down, he went ashore and healed them and taught them. When it came to the evening he went one step further in his compassion and made sure that all were fed. At the time of writing, the gospel writer knew that his audience would be familiar with the Eucharistic meal. The words and actions of Jesus in this miraculous feeding event foreshadow the events of the Last Supper: he took the bread and fish, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples to distribute. This event is a Eucharistic one just as much as the Last Supper.



Scriptural context – Food for all

This miraculous feeding is the first of two such accounts in the gospel of Matthew. (It also appears twice in Mark and once in both Luke and John.) In this account, there are twelve baskets of leftovers. These baskets represent the twelve tribes of Israel. It is a metaphor for Jesus as the one who provides nourishment and satisfaction for the entire Jewish population. The imagery in the second story (Mt 15:32-39) emphasises that Jesus also feeds and satisfies the gentile people. Between them, the two accounts present Jesus as the one who provides spiritual food for all.

Living the Gospel – Grieving John

The passage begins with Jesus receiving the news that his cousin, John the Baptist's death. In response, Jesus



immediately withdraws to a lonely place where he can be alone with his disciples. His response to this terrible news is to take time out. He wants to go away to a quiet, lonely place to pray and grieve. He doesn't just take the news in his stride and carry on regardless; he steps back from the busy-ness of life to mourn. It's a lesson for us in times of stress and grief: the response Jesus models is to take time to grieve the loss.

Different View – A different miracle

A very different interpretation of this miraculous feeding suggests that what Jesus did was actually shame people into pulling out from under their cloaks the little bits of food that each of them were carrying. The scripture tells us that the event takes place in a 'lonely place'. People didn't tend to travel very far at all from home without taking with them a bit of food. This interpretation suggests that by his own generosity and willingness to share what little he had, Jesus shamed the crowd into sharing their own morsels of food and produce enough to feed the multitude that were gathered there.

Exploring the Word

What are three different emotions Jesus might have experienced in the course of this passage?

Why might the people have been so determined in following Jesus?

How might the disciples have felt when Jesus told them to feed the loaves and fish to the people?

What message can you take from this passage that is applicable today?

Mary Brooks

Religious Education Leader

Learning and Teaching

Senior B News

Once again, the students have got themselves into an excellent routine for remote learning. It is important to begin the day touching base with everyone, particularly on Mondays after the weekend.

However, we all need to be mindful of the social, emotional, physical and mental health of one another. My sister, who lives in NY at the moment, said to me just this week, "I think we are covid fatigued. I think the whole world is covid fatigued". I believe she has a point and this is where we need to be mindful of one another, adults and children. If you feel your child is not managing, allow them some downtime, away from their device. There are times when I will also be encouraging a child to have some 'time out' if I see that, for whatever reason, he/she is not managing very well in an online session. The world will not cave in if a maths lesson is missed or a worksheet not done!

The slim pick wallet system seems to be working well and the students appear more organised and more easily able to locate what they need. My aim is to continue to colour code work as much as I can, hopefully making it a bit easier. Regarding what needs to be returned on a Friday - I only want work that has been completed. I don't need copies of the schedule (they can be recycled if you want) or unfinished work. When preparing this week's work, I wasn't sure how long certain activities would take so there was more than what they would need. These activities will be timetabled next week so please do not send them back. Also, please don't return books etc unless they have been requested and this will be sent in an email as well as talked about in a conversation with your child.

Our fractions and decimals topic will conclude with work on percentages. This will take us to the end of Week 6. Our Religious Education focus for the rest of the term will be the sacraments. We will begin with forgiveness and healing, then Eucharist, followed by units that will be part of preparation for Confirmation.

Due to all the COVID restrictions we do not know if and when the sacraments will be celebrated, however the topics are always relevant.

Year Five parents please make sure you are on track with Secondary applications etc. Some inspiration to finish off.

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

Arthur Ashe

Mary Brooks

Senior B Teacher

Middle School News

Winter has definitely made its presence felt this week. It's a great excuse to stay inside and stay warm.

We are still preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during our Religious Education lessons, most of which are conducted during a Google Meet. It is important that everyone, particularly those wishing to receive the Sacrament for the first time this year, be online for these lessons. We are still investigating 3D objects and angles in Maths, as well as trying to improve the speed we can mentally add 2 digit numbers.



Our learning in Civics and Citizenship we researched what each level of Government in Australia, had lawmaking responsibilities for. We made a Triarama that summarised the roles and responsibilities of each of the three levels of government in Australia.

In English we are reading the book Sudako and the Paper Cranes. We researched background knowledge for the book, covering topics like Kokeshi dolls, paper cranes, Hiroshima, Hiroshima Peace Day, World Peace Day and Kimonos. Each of the students became an 'expert' and shared their knowledge on a padlet presentation.



Hiroshima Peace Day: Emma

Emma What they do
Every year since 1945, thousands of people from 150 countries around the world gather in Hiroshima for the 76th anniversary of the atomic bombing. They hold a candlelight vigil and pray for world peace.

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World Peace Day 2020: Hannah
Find out Facts about World Peace Day 2020

hannah
Peace Day bring us together.

Hannah
World peace day means to help and bring love and peace when you can.

Hannah
This International Day of Peace celebrates the power of global solidarity for building a peaceful and sustainable world.

hannah
This year is particularly significant. It is the 20th Anniversary of the UN Resolution on the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.

hannah
This is a long established universal website which serves all involved in Peace Day, beginning annually with the 102-day Countdown.

WHAT IS PEACE?
WHAT IS PEACE? (FOR KIDS)

World Peace Day

Kimonos: Rafael
Fast facts about the topic

raf
This is the Kimono

raf
Kimono is the biggest reason for relatively high cost of even the most casual kimono is they cannot be mass produced effectively. The structure of the garment is such that the vast majority of seams and edges cannot be sewn by machine. They are finished and often also attached with blind stitches.

raf
Kimono is made out of single bolts of cloth, about 30cm wide and 11 metres long, which are cut into seven straight pieces. Two panels - each extending up the front, over the shoulder and down the back - create the body, two the sleeves, two more the overhangs, and a narrower panel the neckband.

raf
Each layer of the kimono represents an element of Japan's history, building to the style that we know today. The Japanese kimono is a significant part of wedding and tea ceremony formal wear, and some wearers are required to dress the traditional clothing whenever they appear in the public eye.

raf
japanese shirt

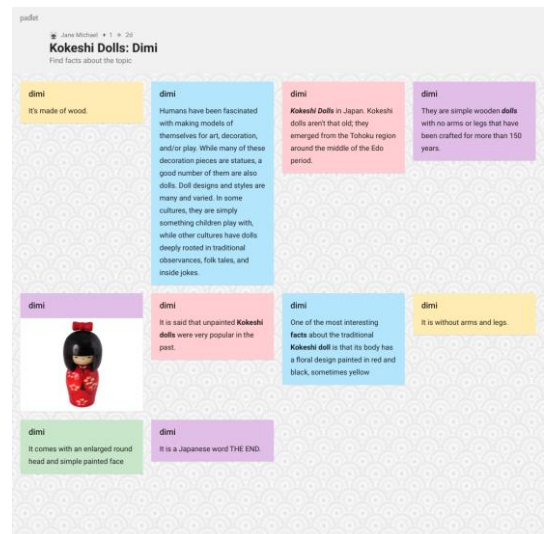
We have each started our own Writer's Notebook to collect and store ideas and prompts for writing. We continue to work on spelling and comprehension strategies, as well as how to write a procedural text for a variety of purposes.

Each student has created a short slide presentation about their family's cultural background and we will move on to looking at some of the things that make up the culture of Indigenous Australians and its importance to us.

Keep up the great work you are all doing - both students and parents. Let us know if you have any problems whether they are with the work, the internet or anything else. We will do our best to create a solution.

Stay warm, stay safe and stay in touch.

Jane Michael and Maryann Hamilton



Junior School News

It is hard to believe we're already coming to the end of week 4 of Term 3. The children seem far more settled this time around. I am really pleased with the amount of completed work they are returning to me each Friday. The daily meeting is working well for everyone; it would be great if everyone was there on time. The feedback I get from the children about the indigenous stories they've been studying has been positive. We will endeavour to learn a little more about the history and culture of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I have included a photo of the dot style paintings sent back.

The children did some excellent work around the story of the Prodigal son. I have included a retell of the story by Lana and a visual composition put together by Enzo in the photos below. We will continue our unit on Forgiveness for one more week. Our maths unit on 3D shapes will continue for another week before we build on our knowledge of patterns with shapes and numbers. I hope you are having some success with growing the seeds, there are more to come.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need any support.

Regards,

Deborah Torre



Performing Arts

As most of you know, this is a concert year at St Benedict's. Our plan is to perform the concert in the school hall some time in Term 4.

The topic is **Shrek's Swamp**. The script uses characters, songs and ideas from the Shrek movies and incorporates the school's wellbeing topics – responsibility, respect, resilience, support and safety.

The students have been allocated their own individual character. Each character has their own lines to perform as well as songs and dances. Parents do not have to provide costumes. Most of the costumes have been organised (hired from K&C Performing Arts). The rest of the costumes will be organised when students return to school.

We will have more information about the concert in Term 4.

All students have a copy of their script at home. Each week, students meet with Ms Ellis to rehearse the script. We are working on memorising, using expression and actions.

Year 3 – 6 have Performing Arts activities in the Google Classroom. Year P-2 have a nursery rhyme booklet (Performing Arts folder in take home tub) where they are experimenting with song writing.

Cathy Ellis

Performing Arts

cellis@sbburwood.catholic.edu.au



STEM

Whole School STEM Challenge 2

Congratulations to those families and students who participated in the last STEM challenge to build the tallest free-standing tower with things from around the home. We had an interesting variety of building materials, including cushions, boxes, Lego and even CDs and DVDs. All of our towers were well over 2 metres tall.

This week's challenge doesn't aim quite so high - but only literally! This week the challenge is to build a Domino Run.

Your run can be a single line, a spiral, a tower, a maze... the possibilities are endless.

There are lots of different ideas on YouTube.

You do not need to use dominoes. You could use cardboard tubes (toilet roll, paper towel etc.) plastic cups, match boxes, lego or other blocks. Use your imagination.



Send us your photos and videos to share on our social media and in the next newsletter.

Apologies to anyone trying to build this with small children or animals in the house.

Community News

CareMonkey is rebranding to 'Operoo'

**Date change: CareMonkey will now
become Operoo on the 10th August**

You can continue using the system, and its mobile application as usual. Just be aware that emails and notifications from the system will start appearing under the new name 'Operoo'. You will automatically be diverted to the new Operoo website if you go the old CareMonkey website.



SPARE ROOM?

- ▶ Hosting an international student is easy
- ▶ Set your own fees and inclusions.
- ▶ Choose guests to suit your Homestay.
- ▶ Enjoy more freedom and choice, than hosting via a Traditional Agency.

Supplement your income by becoming a Homestay Host. FREE 12 month memberships are available, for a limited time only, when applying coupon code FreeAnnual in the cart.



<https://homestayharmony.com/host-benefits/>

www.homestayharmony.com