

ISSUE

12

4 August 2021

# Caritas COLLEGE Newsletter



## KEY DATES

**Catholic Schools Open Week**  
9-15 August 2021

**SATAC Information Sessions**  
via Zoom (Yrs 10, 11, 12)  
10 August 2021

**Sacrament of Confirmation**  
Rehearsal  
11 August 2021

**Year 11 Leadership Day**  
12 August 2021

**Sacrament of Confirmation**  
13 August 2021

**National Science Week**  
14-22 August 2021

**SAPSASA Golf**  
15 August 2021

**Book Week**  
21-27 August 2021

**School Photos**  
23-24 August 2021

*(Please note that dates are  
subject to change due to COVID  
restrictions)*

Further information on events is available  
on our website  
[http://www.cc.catholic.edu.au/news-  
events/calendar](http://www.cc.catholic.edu.au/news-events/calendar)

150  
years

T (08) 8648 9700  
Absentee SMS 0428 071 211  
[cc.catholic.edu.au](http://cc.catholic.edu.au)

## Principal's Message

### St Mary 'of the Cross' MacKillop

On the 8<sup>th</sup> August each year we celebrate the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop. It is a special day for our school community, which has been tethered to Mary's story for 150 years.

This year will be slightly different due to COVID-19. Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the celebrations that we planned for this weekend to mark our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Nonetheless, the restrictions that are currently in place have created an opportunity for us to be innovative and flexible to the circumstances. Therefore, students will celebrate Mary MacKillop's Feast Day with a class liturgy later in the week in home classes. They will learn about her incredible story and give thanks for her as an enduring source of inspiration.

*Lord, in our 150<sup>th</sup> year may all that we  
love and appreciate about Mary's life  
continue to find expression in us and our  
school community.*

*May we imagine and act on new  
possibilities wherever we are that will  
heal, include, untether, set right and  
serve those in need.*

*Spirit of Wisdom accompany us through  
the unfolding of our lives. Amen*



### Sacrament of Confirmation

Several of our Year 7 and 8 students are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August. This sacrament signifies the final step in their initiation into the Catholic church. It is important for our school and parish community to support and celebrate this significant milestone with these students and their families. With a couple of false starts to this celebration due to COVID-19, I am sure that these young people are eager to experience the wonder and joy of this special aspect of their faith journey. May we offer our prayers to them as they continue to prepare over the next two weeks.

### COVID-19 Update

I am incredibly grateful for the way in which our school community has responded to the recent effects of COVID-19. The statewide lockdown caused considerable challenges for everyone as we all scrambled to adapt to the circumstances. Nonetheless, everyone in our school community responded with a degree of understanding and flexibility.

In relation to the latest restrictions, I would like to thank students and families for the way everyone has accepted and responded to the need of having to wear face masks. This has been a dramatic change to what we are used to and everyone has been quite incredible in supporting these measures. Masks must continue to be worn by all adults and students in the secondary setting.

We continue to ask parents not to come onsite unless absolutely necessary. If you do need to come onsite for any reason, you are asked to wear a face mask and practise physical distancing.

While the most recent changes to the restrictions mean that some extra-curricular activities are able to recommence, we need to consider a range of factors before reconvening particular events and activities to ensure that we are being supportive of students, staff and parents in these trying circumstances. Therefore, we will continue to 'tread carefully'.

We remain on high alert as we know the circumstances around COVID-19 can change quickly. Regardless of the situation, our commitment to student learning and wellbeing remains central to all that we do.



### Research Project Results

I congratulate all of our current Year 12 students who received their Research Project results in Week 1. Not to be overshadowed by the Statewide lockdown, we again achieved 100% completion for the Research Project. We are incredibly proud that more than 30% of our students were awarded with an 'A'. These results reflect the hard work of the students and the commitment of their teachers to support them to do their best. I continue to wish them well as they engage rigorously in the final leg of their Year 12 studies.

### Parent/Teacher Learning Conversations

Unfortunately, we have been forced to postpone the Parent/Teacher Learning Conversations that were scheduled to occur in Week 3 due to COVID-19. In order to cater for this important aspect of working with our families to support students, we will now be conducting these over the phone between Week 4 and Week 7.

Parents will receive a SMS on Thursday 5 August 2021 inviting you to book a time for these conversations to occur with your child's teacher(s). Teachers will then contact parents at the organised time and discuss your child's growth and achievement in their learning. Interviews are strictly 10 minutes only as teachers will have a large number of phone calls to make. If you require additional time then this can be arranged at a later date. Our teachers are always happy to discuss your child's learning and wellbeing. More information regarding Parent/Teacher Learning Conversations can be found [here](#).

### Living Learning Leading Parent/Caregiver Surveys

Parents/Caregivers are invited to participate in a survey about our school's performance. This survey will help us to understand and improve the teaching, learning and school environment throughout Catholic schools in South Australia. Similar surveys will be administered to staff and students to enable us to capture a community snapshot. All responses are confidential and will be used for school improvement purposes. Completion of the survey is on a voluntary basis. In the coming week parents/caregivers will receive further information about this survey along with a link to complete the survey. Your perspective about the school is important to us as it helps us to be the best we can and support your child in the best ways possible.

### 2021 Census

The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department) collects certain information about your child's school, its staff, and student body. This information is collected by the department to

- Ensure the provision of Australian Government funding to schools is properly calculated and appropriately managed.
  - Conduct research, statistical analysis and develop school education policy for the Australian Government.
  - Meet national and international reporting obligations on school students in Australia.
  - Publish and provide information about schools to the public
- For information regarding the Census, click [here](#).

*Damian Smith, Principal*





## Around the College

