Welcome to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School.

A place of optimism, excitement and challenge.

Inspired by the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Where every student, teacher, parent and community member is accepted and invited to make a contribution to a vibrant school community that seeks to fire the imagination, develop good citizenship and promote a life long thirst for God and learning.

‘There where you are you will find God’
Mary MacKillop 1871
Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students & Friends of SMCM school Community,

Message from Maurie

It's exactly this week that Spring really begins, as the winter sun starts to return to give us - eventually - summer light and warmth: and, as we've started to see, the world around us begins again to grow and show promise of new life.

What a great week, then, for the first newsletter from our new School: St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School - for right there on the Farmhouse Boulevard / Redding Rise corner new life is clearly taking shape. And behind that building that passersby can see, your family is giving life to this new life!

I have enjoyed meeting many of our School families as Geraldine and I chatted with you at the enrolment conversations in The Farmhouse: it's so exciting, isn't it!!

That has also been a wonderful opportunity to draw your attention to the presence of the Catholic Church in your neighbourhood - already with The Farmhouse and The Barn, and our Parish staff that use those facilities as a base for their ministry. 'Watch this space!' as they say, as we develop our Parish presence more and more.

We have begun planning for the formal Opening and Blessing of The Farmhouse and The Barn - Sunday afternoon 11th November [around 5pm] with food, drink, music, games, displays ... as well as one or two speeches. And we have begun a research project in our Parish to consider having the celebration of Mass regularly in the Epping North area. Indeed 'Watch this space!'

People are rarely given the opportunity to do something brand new: we are in that fortunate position at St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Centre and School - they haven't existed before, so we have the chance to make it as good, fruitful, useful and productive as we want to! And that will best happen when we do what we do together.

We have a strong connection with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The first Mass in this area was celebrated in 1848 in the MacKillop home with a Priest who had travelled from St Francis Church in Melbourne. Mary was 6 years old at the time. Her father was in and out of work constantly, and at that time the family was on a farm along Epping Road. Mary's adult approach is an inspiration for us in this new of Parish and School life: try something new ... and do all you can to make it work!!

It really is a time full of potential, isn't it?!?!?

Maurie Cooney
Parish Priest

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Leadership and Management encompasses the following areas: Organisation, Structures, Resource Management, Staff Wellbeing and Professional Learning.

Hello everyone and welcome to the first official newsletter of our new school St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School! This newsletter will be delivered to you every Thursday during the school term via our email distribution list.

I'm very proud and honoured to be the Principal of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School Epping North and am very excited about many aspects of this new role.

I'm especially excited about having Mary MacKillop as our patron – a Real Woman with a Message for Today. If we're looking for a model of how to live a good life, using Mary MacKillop as our example highlights some very human qualities of a person – an Australian - one of us – with connections to the Epping district - who was made a saint!
Mary lived a life full of challenges; she made positive life choices in spite of the hurdles that came her way. By learning about Mary MacKillop the person - we can be inspired by her courage, care for others, commitment to action and embracing God in the ordinariness of her life. Recognising and living these gifts is a wonderful foundation on which to create a new school community.

I’m excited about contributing to the building of a new strongly focussed learning centred school community.

I’m excited about providing an attitude of openness and welcome so that each person is able to contribute to this community.

I’m excited about the innovative and stimulating learning spaces that we are providing at Epping North, it is a dream to be able to design and plan a school for best educational practice to be implemented. And not forgetting the farmhouse and the barn that are already here – we have the best of the old and the new!

But what I’m most excited about is the reason we are doing all this… and that is the students of St Mary of The Cross MacKillop School.

I want these children to be lifelong learners by providing them with the mentoring and focussed teaching that leads to reflection and planning.

I want their time at St Mary of the Cross MacKillop School to be filled with many positive learning experiences, much joy and laughter and genuine opportunities to experience the love of Jesus in their lives.

I want them to value learning and to take risks in a supportive and empowering environment.

I want them to be engaged and motivated, to explore and question and create new knowledge… To be people who take action that matters in a world that will continue to change through their lifetime.

I’m excited about you joining me on this journey ….. let’s enjoy it together.

Geraldine
principal@smcmeppingnth.catholic.edu.au

Building Progress
Hopefully you have been watching the building of our school and have been noticing as I have how quickly it is progressing.

Walking through the building I now have a real sense of what it will look like inside and it is indeed a wonderful facility.

We have fortnightly site meetings and all is on track for our building to be completed by 19th December - we will then open the building for you all to come up and take a walk through – please see the diary dates that will be included in this newsletter and updated weekly.

We are now discussing the landscaping of our school site. Planting will be consistent with the Aurora development recommendations with mainly indigenous plants being selected. We are blessed to have the instant shade provided by the beautiful Peppercorn trees that already exist on site. Plans for an adventure playground, basketball court, sandpit and kitchen garden are included in the landscaping.
Staffing for 2013
We have begun advertising and employing staff for 2013. We have been impressed with the number and range of suitable applicants for teaching positions at our new school. Staff will be introduced to you in our next newsletter.

Logo
Thornbury artist Dominic Sowersby has designed our school logo. The silhouette depicts a young Mary MacKillop as a sister of St Joseph and the Southern Cross star constellation that can be seen in the night sky anywhere in Australia and, is an identifiable symbol of our region of the world.
The logo is a symbolic representation of Mary MacKillop’s canonised name St Mary of the Cross-and also that fact that she is our first Australian saint.

Uniform
Amy, Mason and Vince modeled our new uniforms yesterday and they looked very smart. A full list of uniform requirements will be provided early next term.

Our school colours are aqua, charcoal, black and white.

Letter drop
Have you received a brochure about our school in your letterbox? 1500 brochures have been delivered so far and we 1000 more to be delivered. Thank you to Mara (Sienna Yr. 1 2013) Josie (Yannick Year 1 2013) Andrea (Ben Yr. 4 & Catherina Yr. 3 2013) and Kathy (Conor Prep 2015!) for delivering these for us. If you can help deliver some brochures please email Geraldine principal@smcmeppingnth.catholic.edu.au.

Our uniform supplier is Academy Uniforms in Thomastown. More details to come!

DIARY DATES 2012

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Mon 8th</td>
<td>Start of Term 4</td>
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<td>Thurs 11th</td>
<td>7.30pm Social Justice Seminar in Farmhouse</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Thurs 8th</td>
<td>7.30pm Prep 2013 Parent information evening</td>
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<td>Sun 11th</td>
<td>5.00pm Official Blessing of Farmhouse for all school families</td>
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<td>Tues 13th</td>
<td>7.30pm Year 1-6 Parent &amp; Student Information Evening</td>
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<td>Thurs 15th</td>
<td>9.30am Prep 2013 Orientation Session 1</td>
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<td>Thurs 22nd</td>
<td>9.30am Prep 2013 Orientation Session 2</td>
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<td>Wed 28th</td>
<td>7.30pm Scripture Workshop in Farmhouse</td>
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<td>Thurs 29th</td>
<td>9.30am Prep 2013 Orientation Session 3</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Wed 5th</td>
<td>7.30pm Scripture Workshop in Farmhouse</td>
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<td>Wed 19th</td>
<td>7.30pm Practical completion of SMCM school</td>
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<td>BBQ and walk through SMCM school</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Fri 1st</td>
<td>8.45am First day of school for students at SMCM</td>
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Enrolment Meetings
A highlight of recent weeks has been meeting the new families of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop School in the Farmhouse – beginning a relationship that is vital in the 3-way partnership between family, student and school.

Leader Newspaper visit
Yesterday we had a visit from the Leader Newspaper to find out some information about our school. At short notice we were able to round up some models for the photo. Thank you to Vince, Mason and Amy all of Prep 2013 and to their mums Loreta, Sandra and Melissa for bringing them along. Look out for the next edition of leader Newspaper.

Do you have any feedback or suggestions about SMCM School? Please contact Geraldine: principal@smcmeppingnth.catholic.edu.au