

Catholic Education

Today



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Strength
in our unity

TERM 3, 2021

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ST MARY OF THE
CROSS MACKILLOP

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OF CATHOLIC
EDUCATION

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CELEBRATION

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SUCCESS

Prayer for our schools

Heavenly Father,
bless our school communities,
particularly in these times
which continue to challenge us.

Bless our students and staff,
our parents and families,
our priests and parishioners,
and all who work in our schools.

We pray that your love might find a home there
to provide safe haven for our young people,
and enable them to grow
in wisdom, compassion and grace.

We pray that your justice might be lived here
to instil in our young people
the inspiration to create God's Kingdom
through their hands and hearts and minds.
Amen.

*Prepared by the Catholic Mission and Identity team
at Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools*



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Cover image Students from Loyola College, Watsonia, singing at the Mass celebrating the bicentenary of Catholic education in Australia at St Patrick's Cathedral.



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views and discussion designed for parents.

Editorial

‘Let us show love in our acts, bearing with one another’ (St Mary of the Cross MacKillop).

This year has asked us to show each other love and bear with the disruptions of flexible and remote learning as we again respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our principals, and the entire Catholic education community, are grateful for the support we continue to receive from parents as we rise to meet these challenges together.

As the first educators of the child, parents are essential partners in ensuring our students receive a high-quality Catholic education. The academic and spiritual leadership you have shown will continue to be important as we move through this school year. While we cannot know what is ahead, we can be certain that a strong relationship between parent and school will underpin everything we do to educate our students.

Though much of the focus over the last 18 months has been, understandably, on the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic schools are continuing to innovate in teaching and learning. The full flourishing of each student in our care requires that we invest in delivering high-quality teaching and there is much in that space for our vibrant Catholic learning communities to look forward to.

Catholic education is partnering with the Victorian Government to establish the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, which will deliver advanced professional learning opportunities for Catholic school teachers.

By building a culture of teachers sharing insights derived from everyday classroom practice and working with experts in learning, we believe that this academy will complement our existing programs and further develop teacher quality in our schools.

It comes at an ideal time, given all that our teachers have learned from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the transitions to and from remote and flexible learning.

Another innovative program that facilitates excellent learning outcomes and experiences for students is [STEM MAD](#) (Making a Difference). Many schools across the Archdiocese will participate in this event, which is a celebration of student learning designed to acknowledge and promote science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) learning initiatives that address real world problems and demonstrate the distinct ethos of Catholic schools.

STEM MAD is another example of Catholic schools aiming to not only be innovative leaders in teaching and learning, but also to make a positive difference in the world.

Term 3 has been another busy term in Catholic education, so please keep a lookout for any new learning initiatives from your child's school. ✦

Celebrating St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Students at **St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School, Epping North**, and **MacKillop Catholic Regional College, Werribee**, are inspired by the life and legacy of Mary MacKillop and empowered to act on issues that are important to them.

An important day for these schools, and many others around Australia, is the Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, which is celebrated each year on 8 August. Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop is considered an early pioneer of Catholic education.

Mary worked as a teacher before she established the Sisters of St Joseph, a religious order that founded many schools across Australia and New Zealand.

Mary dedicated her life to ensuring education for all, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. For the many schools bearing her name, her work continues.

“

Mary MacKillop,
for these students,
and for our teachers,
is our leader.

”

Students are agents of change

'We recognise that students are agents of change. Just as Mary MacKillop was someone who saw a need for change and persisted, we encourage our students to share their own ideas and problem-solve', said Anna Hill, Education in Faith Leader at St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School. This approach ensures students are deeply familiar with her ethos.

The school reinforces Mary's values in their weekly Mary MacKillop Citizenship Award, presented to students who demonstrate the same qualities as Mary.

'If you ask Foundation to Year 2 students about what values Mary MacKillop shows, you are likely to hear students talking of showing kindness and respect. When I asked some Year 6 students about how Mary MacKillop influences our school, the resounding answer was "leadership". Mary MacKillop, for these students, and for our teachers, is our leader.'



St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School, Epping North

Each individual is important, but so is the collective

Troy Rickard, Deputy Principal at MacKillop Catholic Regional College, said for his school, Mary MacKillop's passion for social justice comes through strongly in its celebration of diversity and acceptance. 'Each individual is important but so is the collective ... We listen to each other and no one is less important.'

The college also instils in its students the value of hard work. 'Mary MacKillop was all about rolling her sleeves up and working hard and we want to ensure our students realise that. It's also about connections with people and the dignity of people.'

The feast day is marked annually with a diversity parade* – an initiative put forward by the students themselves – which kicks off a week-long celebration with a social justice focus.



MacKillop Catholic Regional College, Werribee

*This year's parade has been postponed to September.

‘Faith in the future’ 200 years of Catholic education in Australia

This year, Catholic education is celebrating 200 years in Australia, marking the bicentenary of the first Catholic school established in Parramatta in October 1820.

It’s a remarkable story from humble beginnings to a contemporary and high-performing education system, which today educates 777,000 students in 1,755 schools across the country and employs over 100,000 teachers and staff.

The first Catholic school in Australia was founded by Irish Catholic priest Fr John Therry and run by former convict and lay person George Marley. The school, which historians believe was in Hunter Street, Parramatta, taught 31 students.

Over 200 years, Catholic schools have grown to become the largest provider of schooling in Australia (outside of government) with one-in-five school students attending a Catholic school.

The theme of the bicentenary celebrations ‘Faith in the future’ reflects the core purpose of Catholic education to form students in their faith, and to provide an education that enables graduates to not only excel but make a meaningful contribution to the world.

“
‘Faith in the future’
reflects the
core purpose of
Catholic education.
”



St Mary's School,
Williamstown



First Catholic schools in Melbourne

The first Catholic school in the Port Phillip District (later known as Victoria) likely opened in 1839 after the arrival of the first Catholic priest in the colony, Fr Patrick Geoghegan, a Franciscan friar.

It was a catechism school, conducted by Catherine Coffey who had migrated from Tasmania with her husband. The first school Mass was celebrated in a small, roofless building on the corner of what are now Elizabeth and Little Collins streets in the Melbourne CBD. Thomas Lynch and his wife, Mary, were the teachers at the first official Catholic school, which was probably near the present site of St Francis' Church.

When Bishop James Goold, an Augustinian priest working in the Archdiocese of Sydney, arrived in the Port Phillip District in 1848, he founded two Catholic churches (St Mary of the Angels, Geelong and St Francis' Church, Melbourne), six schools and a number of school chapels in Geelong, Williamstown, Brighton and Portland.

Building on strong foundations

St Mary's School, Williamstown, has been educating local children since May 1842, making it the oldest continuously operating Catholic school in Victoria.

The school was established through the efforts of local lay people determined to provide a Catholic education for working-class children as Williamstown reached a population of around 300 in the early 1840s.

Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint, was known to the parish community in the latter years of the 19th century and, in 1900, the task of continuing the education of the Catholic children of Williamstown was taken on by the Sisters of St Joseph, the religious order she founded.

The Josephites taught at St Mary's for 99 years until 1999 and, although not teaching in the school today, the sisters still live in the parish community and attend school celebrations.

St Mary's School continues to thrive today with an enrolment of 340 students from Prep to Year 6 under the leadership of principal Anthony Hockey.

Mr Hockey says the school community remains proud of its rich history, and the values of St Mary of the Cross and the Sisters of St Joseph – care, compassion and respect – still shape the school today.

'As custodians of a school with such a rich history and legacy, St Mary's aspires to provide a contemporary, high-quality and holistic education for the children of Williamstown – an education of which St Mary of the Cross would be proud', he said. +

Growth and development continues

Two new Catholic schools – **Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Mickleham**, and **St Lawrence of Brindisi Catholic Primary School, Weir Views** – will open in these growth areas of Melbourne in 2022.

For the foundation principals of the two new schools, it's been a chance to bring the vision for Catholic education to life in new settings and communities.

'My experience has shown me that the active engagement of the community can have a profound impact on the culture of the school and the education of its children', said Bill Hill, foundation principal of St Lawrence of Brindisi Catholic Primary School.

'We will focus on nurturing every child and supporting their individual needs each and every day, building a culture of high expectations where every child can experience success.'

In Mickleham, construction of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School is a time to plan the type of school culture for those first students and their families.

'In a new school, we are not restricted by existing buildings and structures, but rather we will work together to create a new culture and develop a hub of learning and innovation in the heart of Mickleham', said the school's foundation principal, Mark Miatello.

'I am very excited about creating a purpose-built and child safe environment where learners will have access to the best of resources and the very best teachers, to activate their passions and develop deep learning.' +



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Mickleham



St Lawrence of Brindisi Catholic Primary School, Weir Views

Socceroos legend joins St John's gala soccer day



St John's Regional College, Dandenong, hosted an inaugural Soccer Gala Day and Paul Wade Cup tournament for local Catholic primary schools on 3 May.

An amazing 22 teams totalling 220 boys and girls from seven schools played in the seven-a-side round robin tournament, culminating in **St Anthony's School, Noble Park**, taking out the Paul Wade Cup 4-2 in a nail-biting final against **St Paul Apostle North School, Endeavour Hills**.

A past student of St John's, former Socceroos captain and one of Australia's most capped players (118 games, 1986-1996), Paul Wade attended the tournament to present the trophy and speak to players and coaches.

In addressing the players, the Socceroos legend encouraged them to be courageous and work hard at their game. 'You don't have to be the best, just be your best. If your attitude is better than anyone else's, it's amazing what can be achieved', he said.

Congratulations to all schools that participated in this outstanding event:

- Holy Family School, Doveton
- St Anthony's School, Noble Park
- St Francis de Sales Catholic Primary School, Lynbrook
- St Gerard's School, Dandenong North
- St Kevin's School, Hampton Park
- St Mary's School, Dandenong
- St Paul Apostle North School, Endeavour Hills. +



It was all action as 22 teams from seven Catholic primary schools competed in the Paul Wade Cup 2021.

“

If your attitude is better than anyone else's, it's amazing what can be achieved.

”

Players from champion team St Anthony's School, Noble Park, hold the Paul Wade Cup aloft.



Teachers are lifelong learners too

In her second year of teaching at **St Augustine's Primary School, Keilor**, Natasha Vella discusses her experience and the challenges she has faced as a graduate teacher.

What makes a good Catholic educator?

In my opinion, a good Catholic educator creates a safe and welcoming learning environment to support their students' social and emotional learning. Nurturing the learner's growth will make a difference in their learning, health and wellbeing.

My favourite part about working at a Catholic school is ...

Being able to teach God and Jesus' attributes, as well as witnessing these characteristics within a Catholic school. Another aspect I enjoy is having a supportive leadership team, as they foster a culture of growth and 'learning together' to enable all teachers and students to flourish.

I have also loved the inclusiveness between families, the parish and the wider community, and incorporating them into our learning experiences to achieve positive outcomes for each student.

What challenges have you faced in your teaching career so far?

The last two years have been particularly challenging for all teachers alike. The most valuable lesson I took was the importance of students' social and emotional learning. The significance of building resilience and competence in learners creates a sense of belonging – whether it is in the classroom or a remote learning environment.

Despite the challenges faced, it has been incredibly rewarding to collaborate with parents as partners of the school in supporting their child's education, as this will potentially have a long-lasting, positive impact on student outcomes.



What advice would you give to future teachers?

Teaching is persistence, perseverance and passion. When you learn something new, you may not always get it right the first time. Just remember teachers are lifelong learners too. With that in mind, we need to have a growth mindset and a positive attitude to improve.

Teacher wellbeing is also fundamental for the wellbeing of the whole class, student engagement and academic success. It is important to be able to manage a healthy work-life balance, practise mindfulness and be confident in yourself.

As teachers, we need to continuously reflect and question our teaching practice in order to provide effective learning opportunities and create a pathway to the success of the student outcome. So, embrace challenges and always remember to be you!

In the next five years, I hope to ...

In the next five years, I would like to continue broadening my knowledge and growing as a teacher by collaborating with professional teaching networks to learn new approaches. I would also like to complete my Master of Teaching and mentor and support the professional growth of pre-service teachers and graduate teachers, just as I have been incredibly supported when first entering the profession. ✦

“

Teaching is persistence, perseverance and passion.

”



A national celebration

Students from Melbourne's Catholic schools joined thousands of others around the country to celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in Australia.





Coinciding with the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians on 24 May, Masses to mark the bicentenary of Catholic education were held simultaneously around the country. The Mass in Melbourne was celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, and was the first event since 2019 where multiple schools had been able to gather together at St Patrick's Cathedral and share our unique Catholic identity.

The Mass was attended by 600 people, including students and staff from schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Special guests, including Deputy Premier and Minister for Education the Hon. James Merlino MP and Shadow Attorney-General the Hon. Edward O'Donohue MP, were also present. A message of support was shared by the Prime Minister of Australia the Hon. Scott Morrison MP.

With the 200th anniversary of Australia's first Catholic school in Parramatta, schools nationwide have been marking the rich legacy left by those first educators. In his homily, Archbishop Peter paid tribute to those early pioneers of Catholic education in Melbourne. 'Someone saw a need to provide education to the young of our fledgling town, and had an idea to establish a school for them', he said.



Schools nationwide have been marking the rich legacy left by those first educators.



'But someone else had the intention to take that first good idea, and to make it a deliberate purpose of providing schooling to children of Catholic families. The first school was a novel idea; but the second school was a purposeful commitment. Without the second, and the third, and then onwards, there would be no Catholic schooling to celebrate as a foundational pillar of our society here in Melbourne. So I say, thanks be to God for number two.'

The bicentennial song 'Faith in the future', written by Fr Rob Galea, was performed at the conclusion of the Mass. A [music video](#) has been produced featuring schools from around Australia, including performances from the choirs of **Genazzano FCJ College, Kew**; **Loyola College, Watsonia**; and **Thomas Carr College, Tarneit**.

More information about the 200th anniversary of Catholic education in Australia, including stories and resources, is available on the *Celebrating 200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia* website www.200years.catholic.edu.au.

You are invited to share your own stories of Catholic education via email ncec@ncec.catholic.edu.au.

Student success



John Paul College, Frankston

Rahul from **John Paul College, Frankston**, was crowned the Australian National Dream Car Champion in a competition by car manufacturer Toyota. The Year 8 student's winning submission of a 'Nature Car' was a celebration of technology and care for the environment. The win earned him a \$2,500 gift card, along with an additional \$2,500 for the college.

'With Nature Car, you can truly embrace the delights of nature in every ride', said the young artist about his winning submission. 'The car is solely powered by nature, so you will never need to stop to fill the tank. Travel the globe in the blink of an eye and experience all the wonders of our world.' †

St Peter's School, Sunshine South West

Singer-songwriter An-My Dao from **St Peter's School, Sunshine South West**, has put her creative energy into writing a song to help her fellow students stay positive during the COVID-19 outbreak.

*We're back in quarantine, we're SO not pleased,
We're staying home, but we're not alone.*

*Missing school, is SO not cool,
But look on the bright side, we're not going to hide,
We're back in quarantine!*

*You can sleep in, lots of games to win,
But you need to wake, 'cause we got meetings to take.*

*You can have fun, but homework to be done.
So c'mon! Let's finish it, we're not leaving yet.
(For the flu shot)
We're back in quarantine!*

*It's ok you see, it's nice to be,
Back at school; just follow the rules.*

*Make sure to exercise, keep off your eyes,
We wash our hands, and look after the land.
We're back in quarantine!*

*Vaccines are here, we've been waiting all year!
Happy to see your faces, reduce those cases.*

*So, virus you're doomed.
No more kabooms.
It's good to be back.
COVID; take that! †*

Holy Family School, Mount Waverley

Student leader Emilio Bellistri at **Holy Family School, Mount Waverley**, represented his school at Halogen Australia's National Young Leaders Day with student leaders from across Melbourne. 'I am really proud and honoured to be part of the school leadership team', he said. 'Our school is a great community with great students and teachers. I believe that in whichever classroom you're in, you will have a smile on your face.'

'Being a leader is more than a title or badge, it is about listening to others and being kind to others. It's about being helpful, approachable and caring, and it's a privilege to represent my school, students and teachers.' †



St Fidelis' School, Moreland

She may only be eight years old, but Olivia Servello from **St Fidelis' School, Moreland**, is already a singing veteran. Olivia competed in the Bendigo Eisteddfod this year, taking home two first-place trophies and one second-place trophy. She also sang online in the Boroondara Eisteddfod, winning second place in the under-14 age category.

'I love to sing because it is my gift and it makes me feel good about myself', said the Year 2 student. 'I also like the way other people feel when I sing, which is happy. My mum, dad, grandparents and brother love to watch me perform, they say it's their favourite thing to do.' †



Reflections on Catholic education from parents

As we celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in Australia this year, it is a great opportunity to reflect on what makes Catholic education unique for you and your children.

The following reflections are from parents on their time both as students in Catholic schools and now as parents of children attending Catholic schools.

As a child I attended three different Catholic schools, in both primary and secondary, in regional Victoria. Being taught by nuns in primary school, as well as lay teachers, was a unique and varied experience. What I remember fondly about primary school was the community feel, where everyone knew each other; families would not only see each other at school but also on Sundays at church. It was where community came together in those days and it wasn't unusual for families to still be chatting long after Mass had finished.

In secondary school there were many opportunities to be involved in sport and other activities that enhanced our academic learning. I recall having some great teachers in the senior years of school and the strong bonds made through friendships I still have to this day. I now send my children to Catholic schools to provide them with similar opportunities, to learn the values of a Catholic education, and the spirit of giving and caring for others as they move into adulthood.

I studied piano and was taught by a nun, a gentle and patient soul. Every year, when it came to exams, Reverend Mother would come to the waiting area and tell me that the sisters had all prayed for me at morning chapel. She would bless me before she left the room. Due to the wonderful power of prayer, I passed each year. Such precious memories!

By Catholic School
Parents Victoria

“

I now send my children to Catholic schools to learn the values of a Catholic education, and the spirit of giving and caring for others.

”

My two daughters have been students at Catholic schools, both primary and secondary. I've always felt confident that their wellbeing and faith development was supported, as well as their academic growth. Our experience with Catholic education has established a stronger sense of community and faith. I'm grateful that we chose a Catholic education for our daughters.

We hope you are creating special memories with your children in your Catholic learning communities.

We would love to share your stories during this bicentenary year of Catholic education. Please email executive@cspv.catholic.edu.au to get involved. †



connect
The power of connection



Who is representing Catholic school parent perspective in Victoria?

Catholic School Parents Victoria provides parents with opportunities to contribute their perspective in education. Follow us on social media and visit our website for further information.



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Prayer and Christian Meditation collectives

Catholic schools actively cultivate a sense of the sacredness of each day, where God is present, ready to meet us in ordinary moments. The *Encountering the Sacred* initiative from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) is supporting schools to cultivate openness to encounter and a sense of the sacred through Catholic prayer practices.

Across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, 54 schools have established 19 groups through Prayer and Christian Meditation collectives. In this edition, leaders from **Holy Saviour Parish School, Vermont South**, and **St Bridget's School, Greythorn**, share stories of collaborating in prayer.

‘Our school is committed to the frequent practice of meditation and contemplation. Teachers are looking for ways to include Christian Meditation in their classrooms. We are looking to build a stronger culture of prayer within the school community which will lead the children and their families to a greater personal closeness and connectedness to God’, said Holy Saviour principal, Steve Evans.

St Bridget’s principal, Robyn Thomson, said she ‘aims to strengthen the capacity for teachers to deliver an engaging Religious Education curriculum and pedagogy which encourages students to explore their own questions and ideas of faith in the context of their lived experience’.

‘As a collective we were guided through imaginative contemplation by the Catholic Mission and Identity team at MACS using Scripture’, Mr Evans said. ‘The strategy of imaginative contemplation was a gentle approach to exploring a deeper meaning to the gospel. The process was not rushed and there was time to reflect, allowing for meaningful connections to be made’, Ms Thomson added.



St Bridget’s School, Greythorn

Holy Saviour Parish School, Vermont South



Mr Evans said staff at Holy Saviour ‘were open to the experience and engaged wholeheartedly. After the prayer, [they] were very positive about the experience and were happy to share how it affected them’. After being led through the process, staff at both schools were excited to share imaginative contemplation with their students.

“

We are looking to build a stronger culture of prayer within the school community.

”

Religious Education Leader at St Bridget’s, Margaret Maher, said: ‘the students were curious to try imaginative contemplation and were instantly engaged, knowing there was opportunity for them to share their own ideas. The strategy helped the students to feel safe and free to share their thoughts knowing there were no right or wrong answers’.

Ms Thomson added: ‘our journey in this space is only just beginning. The opportunity that emerged for us is the power that comes from working with knowledgeable others in the area of Religious Education such as the staff from MACS, as well as working with staff from another school in the sharing of practice. We look forward to more opportunities to work collaboratively with these partners through the Prayer Collective’.

Performing arts showcase

VCE students from **Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Braybrook**, showcased their performances at the Victorian Arts Centre after the college secured VET Live Production Services as a Year 11 and 12 subject in collaboration with the centre.

Head of learning for performing arts, Damian Bernardo, says the college is the first school in Melbourne to offer the course as a VET subject, with students able to work with industry professionals, learning about sound, lighting and vision operations. ✦



Illuminare et Ardere

Year 12 students at **Aquinas College, Ringwood**, created an impressive art installation to mark their final year of school. They were challenged to think how they would make a positive impact and develop their own spirituality throughout the year.

Students wrote their thoughts on a scroll and attached it to lanterns that now hang in the Year 12 space. The work represents light leading the way forward, drawing on the college's motto *Illuminare et Ardere*: 'to light up and be on fire'. ✦



Mother's Day

The special women in our lives were celebrated over the Mother's Day weekend, as our school communities recognised mothers, grandmothers and those we love.

Following more subdued celebrations forced by lockdown in 2020, this year schools were able to make up for lost time with liturgies, breakfasts, gift stalls and assemblies in the days leading up to Mother's Day. ✦



National honour for teacher librarian

In April, Anne Girolami, Learning Leader – Information Services at **Mercy College, Coburg**, was announced as Australian School Library Association Australian Teacher Librarian of the Year 2021.

'I was surprised and delighted to be presented with this award', said Anne, a 30-year veteran of school libraries, 'but I'm also pleased that it's a way of shining a light on the important role school libraries and teacher librarians play in our schools'. ✦



Australian Education Awards 2021

In May, Catherine Spurritt, Director of Improvement at **Avila College, Mount Waverley**, became one of nine national awardees in the category of Secondary School Teacher of the Year – Non-government in *The Educator's* Australian Education Awards.

'2020 was such an unprecedented year for learners and teachers in schools across Australia', said Catherine, 'but particularly here in Victoria. For me, 2020 was about ensuring that no one was going to be left behind. It challenged me to explore new ways to foster engagement'. †



Family Week at St Brigid's

St Brigid's School, Gisborne, celebrated Family Week this year in style. The school's Mini Vinnies organised a week filled with fun events and fundraising initiatives.

Students ran family activities at lunchtime, including arts and crafts and games, raising more than \$600 for CatholicCare Victoria to assist refugees to rebuild their lives. The school also received a visit from a CatholicCare representative who spoke about the importance of supporting this cause. †



Bunurong stories shared in book

Students at **St Augustine's School, Frankston South**, worked with the Bunurong people of the Mornington Peninsula to help preserve some of their oral language stories in the form of a children's book called *Kurboroo – The boy who could talk to koalas*.

Bunurong Elder Uncle Shane, who worked with the students on the project, thanked and congratulated them. 'This book helps awaken our Indigenous culture and keep it alive for future generations', he said. 'Let's all continue to walk together and learn together.' †



Learning and wellbeing HUB reaps benefits

A vibrant learning and wellbeing space with seven different zones known as the 'HUB' is reaping benefits for students at **St Jude's School, Langwarrin**. Principal Marita O'Sullivan said the HUB has been a wonderful addition.

'Literacy, numeracy, robotics, social and emotional capabilities, and so much more are taught in the HUB, whether it be independent, small-group or whole-class learning', she said. The HUB also includes a dedicated 'take a break' space, designed to help children learn to understand their emotions and gain the ability to self-regulate. †



Artwork for Tokyo

Students at **St Macartan's School, Mornington**, created artwork designed to spur on athletes at the Tokyo Olympics.

Students produced inspirational artwork at the request of the Australian Olympic Committee to be displayed in the athletes' village at the Games in Tokyo. The students began their artwork during visual art classes and continued during remote learning. †



More than a word

Schools recognised the significance of taking action towards reconciliation as part of National Reconciliation Week 2021, which marked 20 years of Reconciliation Australia. The 2021 theme, 'More than a word: reconciliation takes action', encouraged all Australians to look beyond the positive messages and act in a way that further promotes a spirit of justice and cooperation.

Although lockdown disrupted some of the week, schools were able to mark the occasion either in person before the restrictions began or as part of remote learning. ✦



Ainger Peck Public Speaking Award 2021

Star of the Sea College, Brighton, Year 11 student Genevieve won the Ainger Peck Public Speaking Award for 2021. In her speech, Genevieve talked about being judged on one's appearance and the importance of blind job interviews.

The competition is an annual event to promote effective public speaking and to celebrate young people within the local community. ✦



Earth Day

'Restore Our Earth' was the theme for this year's Earth Day, a chance for school communities to look at ways of reducing their impact on the planet. Students at **St Margaret Mary's School, Spotswood,** marked the event by participating in a variety of investigations designed to foster their knowledge about the environment.

Students engaged in their Term 2 Faith Life unit of work about sustainability, as well as a number of other activities, such as creating a collage table using only recyclable items. ✦



For those who are voiceless

Refugee Week was marked at **St Ignatius College Geelong, Drysdale,** with a series of three actions that brought to life the plight of refugees.

During the week, students and teachers engaged in a silent protest, conducted activities such as studying, eating and eventually sleeping overnight in a cyclone-fenced area at school, and participated in a food ration challenge. ✦



Antonine College's fundraiser for Lebanon

Students and staff at **Antonine College, Pascoe Vale South,** put their faith in action by raising funds for Our Lady of the Rosary Orphanage in Achkout, Lebanon.

Supported by the Maronite community in Melbourne and the college's alumni, students were able to collect monetary donations and various supplies, including non-perishable foods and hygiene products, to assist the Antonine Sisters and staff at the orphanage amid Lebanon's political, economic and humanitarian crisis. ✦



Connection to community

Students at **St Patrick's School, Mentone,** celebrated Australian Indigenous cultures by producing their own artwork.

The students were inspired by Jessica Johnson's *Action* and the works of Bronwyn Bancroft, particularly *Colours of Australia*, to paint *Connection to Community*. ✦





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