

Year 9 St. Mary's Campus Information Booklet 2012



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Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians

St. Mary's Campus represents MacKillop College's dedication to the provision of excellence in teaching and learning. It recognises that students at Year 9 need to be educated in other modes of teaching to discover themselves as thinkers and learners. The innovative and challenging program offered at St. Mary's gives all students the opportunity to examine themselves as learners and as young men and women who need to understand the world they inhabit, how to function ably and productively in it and how to negotiate with others to mutually beneficial outcomes. The staff initiate and deliver programs that are inquiry-based and student-driven. The course is designed to be skills-rich, to support VCAL & VET, and to promote good learning and study patterns to support VCE and the pathways that lie ahead.

This booklet will provide you with information to enable you to understand how the campus functions and what is expected of your son/daughter. It is an appropriate and useful starting point for your inquiries but it cannot fully describe the depth of what is achieved at the St. Mary's Campus. You can expect to discover over the course of a semester, that your son/daughter will flourish in many ways and that they and their community will reap the rewards of this innovative experience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kennedy', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

RORY KENNEDY
PRINCIPAL

Contact Details

Location

MacKillop College,
St. Mary's Campus
Cnr Whites & O'Connors Roads
Werribee South 3030

Contact Details

MacKillop College
St. Mary's Campus
PO Box 522
WERRIBEE VIC 3030

Tel. 03 8734 5256
Fax 03 9742 1756



*Travel time is approximately 10-15 minutes
between campuses.*

Daily Operation

Timing of a Day

8.40am	Students board buses from the Main Campus to St. Mary's Campus
9.00am	Period 1
10.35am	<i>Recess</i>
11.00am	Period 2
12.40pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30pm	Period 3
3.00pm	Students are dismissed from St. Mary's and board buses to return to the Main Campus
3.20pm	Students arrive at the Main Campus to board buses home

Travel Arrangements

MacKillop College provides an optional shuttle service between MacKillop College Werribee and St. Mary's Campus Werribee South.

Students arriving at the Main Campus who are late and fail to board the provided bus transportation to St. Mary's will be required to arrange their own transport to St. Mary's Campus. Where this is not possible, students will remain at the Main Campus, supervised in the Time Out room for the duration of the day. Alternative arrangements will be made if students fail to arrive at the Main Campus due to external factors.

From time to time students may be required to arrive and remain at the Main Campus before departing on an excursion or to attend an assembly.

Lunch Orders

Students at St. Mary's Campus will be able to place lunch orders, which are prepared by Rapp's Café, Werribee South. Orders must be placed in the lunch order box by 9.00am each morning. A list of available items and prices will be available from the Campus in the New Year.

Student Welfare & Expectations

Student wellbeing is a significant part of a student's welfare. For this reason, students at St. Mary's Campus have the same access to student services and support that are provided at the Main Campus.

All student expectations remain the same at St. Mary's Campus as the Main Campus. These expectations are described in the General Expectations Booklet and the Student Diary. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the expectations of the College.

Student Counselling Services

Student counsellors will visit St. Mary's on an 'as needed' basis and will be available for students to make appointments. Emergency counselling will be provided as required.

Uniform

Students will be required to attend St. Mary's Campus in full school uniform and adhere to the grooming requirements as outlined in the MacKillop College General Expectations found in the student diary. Students will be required to wear the correct Physical Education uniform on those days where Health and Physical Education practical classes are timetabled or when instructed by teachers.

Behaviour Issues

In accordance with the MacKillop College Recognition and Correction Procedure (RCP), student misbehaviour during class time will be consistent with that of the Main Campus. Referred students will be required to report to the office to be monitored.

In instances where detentions have been issued, students will be required to attend detention at the Main Campus from 3:30pm until 4:15pm as directed.



Curriculum & Assessment

St. Mary's Campus represents an exciting and challenging program for Year 9 students. The curriculum has been designed to have close links with the local area and allow students to be active and engaged learners. It focuses on students understanding themselves, their community and their world.

The Integrated Studies unit, studied at St Mary's contains knowledge and skills from a range of traditional Domains including English, Religious Education, Humanities, Science, Communication, Thinking, The Arts, ICT and Civics and Citizenship. The Health and Physical Education program has been specifically designed to support the integrated program.

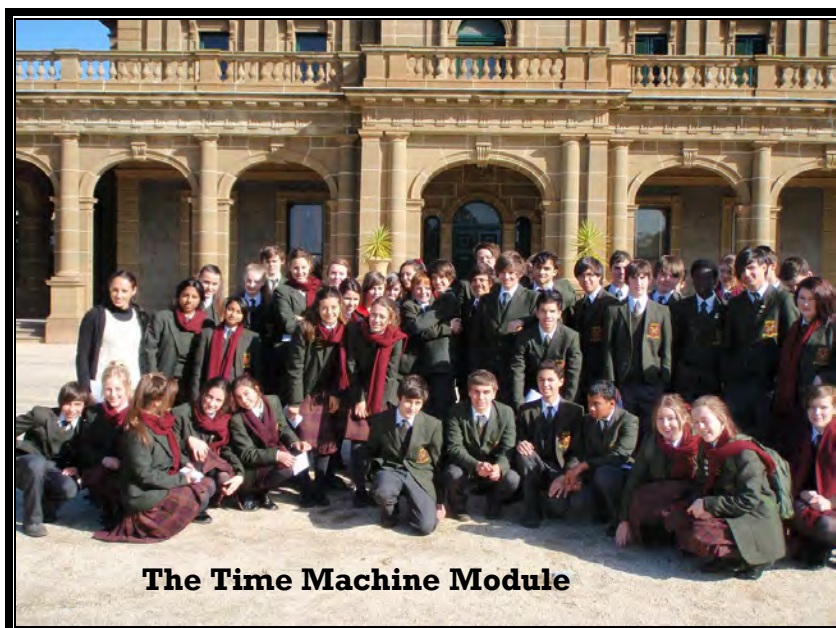


Mathematics, Language Other Than English (LOTE) and Health and Physical Education are taught in addition to the Integrated Studies units.

A significant feature of the Integrated Curriculum is the Action Based Inquiry Learning Task where students investigate an area of their own interest, based on the curriculum delivered, through negotiation with teachers. Students are asked to reflect upon what they have learnt and attempt to consider how this can impact upon themselves, their community and wider world.

A number of literacy tasks are woven through the course and include essay writing, analysis tasks and an online journal in the form of a wiki/blog.

The Integrated unit taught is complimented through two Outdoor Education experiences and our Community Links Program.



Integrated Units of Study

Unit of Study - My World Wide Web

This unit is made up smaller modules, and allows the teachers at St Mary's to teach various aspects of the course. Not every module will be taught every semester. This is dependent on staffing and the availability of excursion providers.

The modules include:

Walking to Reconciliation

In this module students examine the life of Mary MacKillop as a young person and look to her example as a way of living today. It also focuses on the issue of aboriginal reconciliation while exploring the story and contribution of the Wurrundjeri people to the local area.

Reading between the lines

Students study a range of texts, films, novels and newspaper articles and learn to critically analyse the information they are presented with.

Coastal Eco-systems: To the Sea and Beyond

This module looks at the interconnectedness of life species in a marine coastal environment.

or

Zoo to Iramoo

This module looks at the interconnectedness of life species in a grasslands environment and includes a trip to the Werribee Zoo

Memories – The stories of the ANZACS

This module focuses on the historical aspects of our society, looking particularly at the symbols, images and events that have caused us to develop our national identity.

Lifestyles – The impact of our food choices

This module explores the global impact of our food choices. Students will visit CERES as part of this module.

or

Werribee Ambassador

This module explores the structures and features of the local Werribee Community. It tunes students into what community features and support structures surrounds them, while at the same time explores the history and features of the local area.

Melbourne Experience

This module allows students to explore the city of Melbourne while at the same time looking at some of the big issues that affect our city, including poverty and sustainability.

At the conclusion of the semester at St Mary's, it is expected that all students will be able to answer the following essential questions:

1. What is my responsibility to myself, the community and Earth?
2. How does the community and the Earth support my life?
3. How do the decisions of the past impact on today and how do our decisions today impact on the future?
4. What are the rights and responsibilities of a global citizen?
5. How can the human community contribute and celebrate life on the planet?
6. Like Mary MacKillop, how do we meet the needs of our time?

Assessment

Our integrated unit is made up of a variety of assessment tasks. There is a strong emphasis on developing literacy competencies. Students will be required to write a variety of essays and letters as well as use a number of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools to map their thinking.

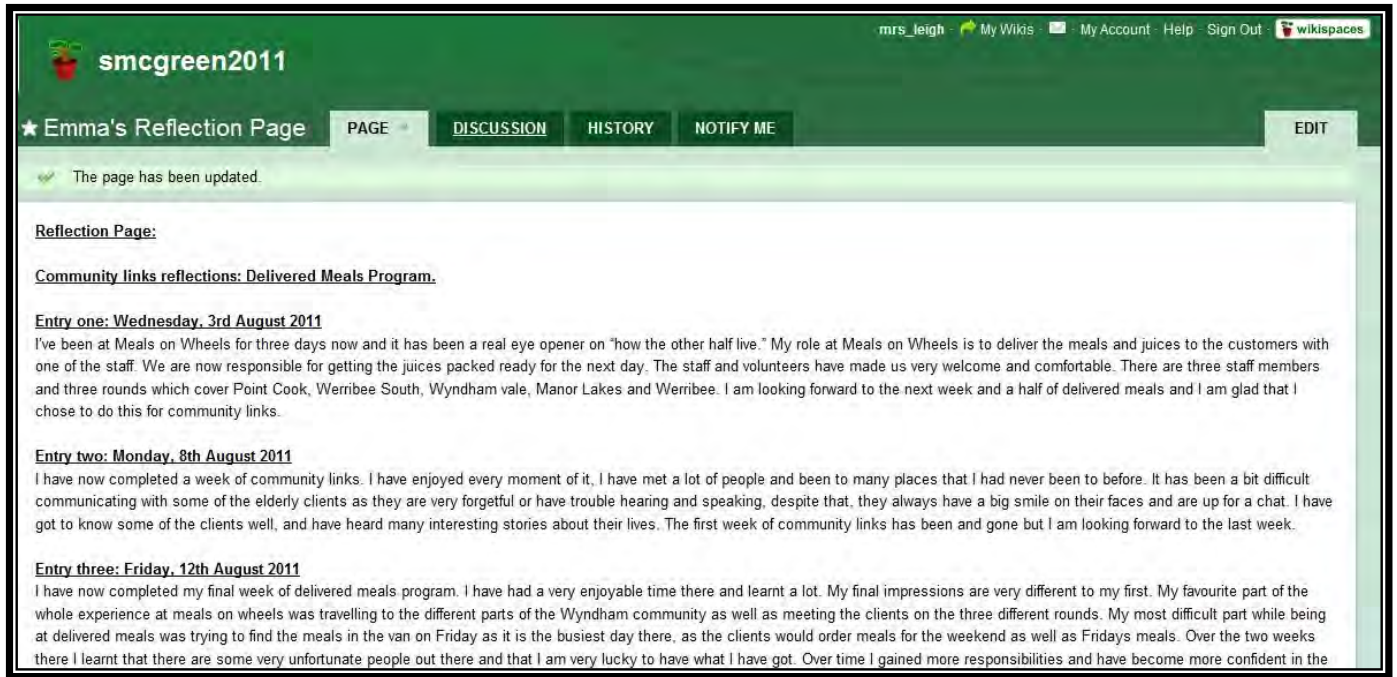
Action Based Inquiry Learning Task (ABILT)

All students at St. Mary's complete an Action Based Inquiry Learning Task. Students will investigate an area of their own interest that has links to the contents of the course covered. This task will be negotiated with teachers to ensure suitable academic rigour and attainability. Inquiry based learning offers a unique opportunity to capture the interest and imagination of students and encourages them to take responsibility for their learning. Once students have developed an understanding of a topic, they are asked to consider what they can do with their learning to positively affect the world.



Wiki Space/Blog Journal

A journal of thoughts, reflections and experiences must be kept by each student in the form of an online wiki space or blog. Weekly entries are required which may take the form of writing, drawings, photographs, reflections, quotes etc. These entries will build up over their time at St Marys and is a key assessment task.



The screenshot shows a Wiki Space page for a user named 'smcgreen2011'. The page title is '★ Emma's Reflection Page'. The navigation bar includes 'PAGE', 'DISCUSSION', 'HISTORY', 'NOTIFY ME', and 'EDIT'. A message at the top states 'The page has been updated.' The main content area is titled 'Reflection Page:' and contains a section 'Community links reflections: Delivered Meals Program.' This section includes three entries:

Entry one: Wednesday, 3rd August 2011
I've been at Meals on Wheels for three days now and it has been a real eye opener on "how the other half live." My role at Meals on Wheels is to deliver the meals and juices to the customers with one of the staff. We are now responsible for getting the juices packed ready for the next day. The staff and volunteers have made us very welcome and comfortable. There are three staff members and three rounds which cover Point Cook, Werribee South, Wyndham vale, Manor Lakes and Werribee. I am looking forward to the next week and a half of delivered meals and I am glad that I chose to do this for community links.

Entry two: Monday, 8th August 2011
I have now completed a week of community links. I have enjoyed every moment of it, I have met a lot of people and been to many places that I had never been to before. It has been a bit difficult communicating with some of the elderly clients as they are very forgetful or have trouble hearing and speaking, despite that, they always have a big smile on their faces and are up for a chat. I have got to know some of the clients well, and have heard many interesting stories about their lives. The first week of community links has been and gone but I am looking forward to the last week.

Entry three: Friday, 12th August 2011
I have now completed my final week of delivered meals program. I have had a very enjoyable time there and learnt a lot. My final impressions are very different to my first. My favourite part of the whole experience at meals on wheels was travelling to the different parts of the Wyndham community as well as meeting the clients on the three different rounds. My most difficult part while being at delivered meals was trying to find the meals in the van on Friday as it is the busiest day there, as the clients would order meals for the weekend as well as Fridays meals. Over the two weeks there I learnt that there are some very unfortunate people out there and that I am very lucky to have what I have got. Over time I gained more responsibilities and have become more confident in the

Learning Experiences

Part of the philosophy underpinning the St. Mary's curriculum is that learning goes beyond the classroom. For this reason, students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of excursions, incursions and learn from guest presenters. In each instance, students are given the opportunity to learn through experience, speak with experts and link curriculum to the outside world. The learning that occurs during these experiences is also used by students to complete assessment tasks.

Learning experiences provided at St. Mary's are an integral part of the curriculum and it is a requirement of the student's assessment that they attend and participate.



Students travel around the local area frequently as a part of their time at St Marys. Please complete the *St Mary's Campus Consent Form* to allow this. Excursions that go beyond the 15km radius will require individual excursion forms to be signed as each excursion approaches.

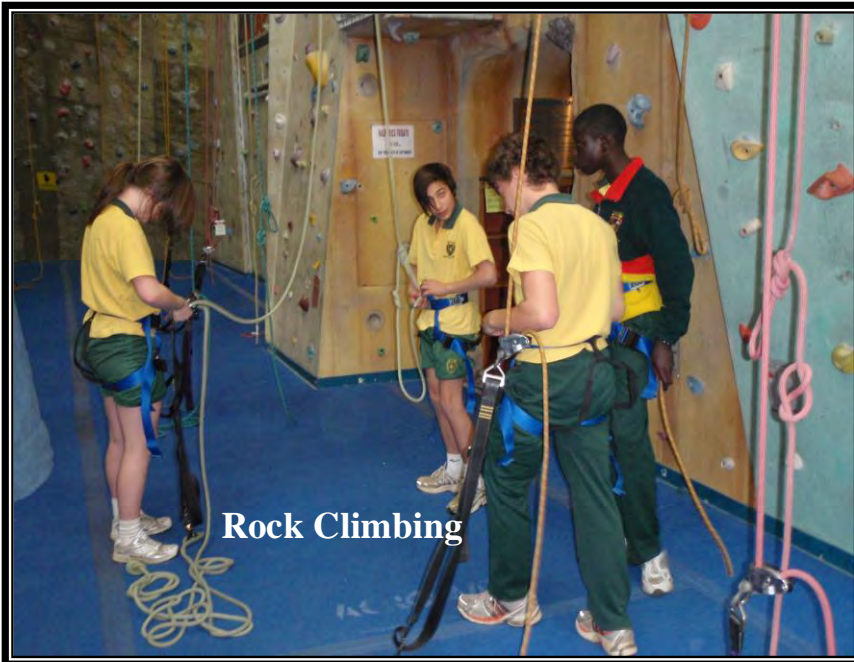
During all learning experiences, students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the situation. Students are expected to be well groomed and to behave in public with courtesy, common sense and

consideration for others. The school's expectations of behaviour and uniform will apply. Students who do not meet these expectations may be removed from an activity and may be withheld from future experiences.

As few items are necessary for off-campus learning experiences, students will be issued with a small school backpack for the semester.

*** This backpack remains the property of MacKillop College and must be returned at the end of semester in the condition it was issued. Any damage that occurs must be paid for.**

Health and Physical Education



Rock Climbing

The Health and Physical Education program is an exciting and challenging one. Components of this course have been designed to directly compliment the units of Integrated Studies.

Students are required to wear their full sports uniform for practical activities. Other items may be needed depending on the nature of the activity. These activities include indoor rock climbing, golf and individual pursuits.

If for any reason a student is unable to participate in the Health and Physical Education Program it is imperative that a parent/guardian makes contact with the relevant Physical Education teacher to discuss the issue



Taekwondo

Community Links

Service learning and the idea of serving the community has been a long held philosophy that has been implemented at a social policy level and is fundamental to our Christian values at MacKillop College. Students at St. Mary's are afforded the opportunity to learn through service to their community in ways that can only be experienced first hand through the Community Links Program. The program provides mutual benefit to both students and to the organisations they are supporting. Students will be given the opportunity to nominate their preferred placement from a range of service providers participating in the Program. Such placements include local primary schools, kindergartens, charities, aged and special care facilities.



During the placement, students will be assisting their nominated organisation in a wide variety of relevant ways. Not only are they to be punctual but also present in a manner befitting a MacKillop College student. Homeroom teachers and the Community Links Coordinator work closely with the students in preparing them for a successful placement. Students will be placed either individually or in groups of two to four depending on the needs of both the organisation and the students. Students will be required to make their own way to and from their placement each day. In the event of non-attendance at any time throughout the placement, contact is to be made with the Homeroom teacher and the organisation on that day.

The Community Links Program letters will be remitted when required. It requested that parents /guardians read, sign and return the relevant letter to the College, along with all other forms.

Resources

Students at St. Mary's Campus have the availability of the College resources at their disposal, whether it is text or audio visual resources or assistance from the art technicians or science assistants. Whilst at St. Mary's students can utilize all of the existing facilities to enhance their learning.

The MacKillop College Intranet is an invaluable tool with students having 24 hour online access to course documents, class timetables and current school communication. Computer resources are consistent with those at the Main Campus and students also have access to computer resources outside of class hours through the College's Resource Centre.

Over the course of their studies at St. Mary's students will be provided with two text books to assist them with their studies. These texts remain the property of the College and must be returned in good condition.

It is an expectation that all students purchase a current edition of the Religious Education text - *To Know Worship and Love*.

Outdoor Education

During the students' time at St. Mary's Campus, they will take part in two Outdoor Education experiences that are directly linked to the curriculum. It is expected that students will attend both experiences. As with all programs at the College, the students' diverse range of needs will be met. If you have any queries regarding the program, please do not hesitate to contact the Outdoor Education Leader or Year Level Coordinator at the College.

Outdoor Education in Year 9 involves two varied and diverse programs.

Goulburn River Canoe Experience

The Goulburn River Canoe Experience is a river journey conducted on the Goulburn River in the Seymour/Nagambie region of Central Victoria. This program runs over four days and the students will be pitching tents on the banks of the river along which they paddle. In keeping with the integrated design of the curriculum at St. Mary's Campus, the students will be able to utilize their experience and learning on the Goulburn Canoe Experience.

Students will gain knowledge of the environment and have the opportunity to develop skills in canoeing, river navigation, bush cooking and camping. The students will undertake a number of varied activities to enhance their learning. These activities could be water testing, bird watching, fauna surveys and understanding human impact on the fragile river ecosystem.



6 The St. Mary's Camp

The St. Mary's Camp is a two day whole campus program that ties in with our integrated unit. Students learn basic outdoor skills and safety; heighten their awareness of the environment and are challenged in their ability to work as a team.

Some sessions focus on relationships in which students develop skills in teamwork, cooperation, problem solving, initiative, communication, self esteem and leadership. These provide a sense of class spirit that will be consolidated back at school throughout the remainder of the semester.



Campus Senate

Whilst at St. Mary's, students will elect a campus committee known as The Senate. The purpose of The Senate is to give students the opportunity to lead by addressing campus issues and complimenting Student Representative Council (SRC) fundraising initiatives. Members of The Senate hold portfolios related to different areas of responsibility: these include Transport, Religious Affairs, Sport and Recreation, Wellbeing and Communication.

Extra Curricular Activities

Sport

Students attending St. Mary's Campus will be given every opportunity to participate in all sporting pursuits offered at MacKillop College including swimming, athletics, cross-country etc.

Selection and training for intermediate sporting teams (e.g. netball, tennis, football, basketball and soccer etc.) will include after-school sessions to enable students from both campuses to attend.

Instrumental Music

Instrumental music teachers will attend St. Mary's Campus for students wishing to participate in music lessons. Where a student is unable to attend a lesson due to requirements of the St. Mary's curriculum, it is the responsibility of the student to notify and make any necessary changes with their instrumental teachers.

Other Extra Curricular Activities

Students will have continued access to all extra-curricular activities on offer at MacKillop College. Such activities include participating in the school musical, band, debating, public speaking and various other performances/competitions. Sports training, rehearsal sessions and similar activities are held for all students after school hours on Main Campus.



Excursion Consent

St. Mary's campus has been established with a curriculum designed to offer integrated units for Year 9 students using an inquiry-based approach. We are hoping to foster an environment in which students are encouraged to explore lines of inquiry raised during their formal classroom tuition. This may involve students leaving the school precinct on supervised 'excursions'. Examples of the types of excursions include:

My World Wide Web

- Walk to Werribee River to measure pollutants and environmental features
- Visit the Wyndham Cove Marina Site
- Visit to Western Treatment Plant
- Walk/Ride to local historical sites to help and understand what we value
- Tour of Werribee Mansion and surrounds



More information regarding Integrated Units of Study and off-campus learning experiences can be found on pages 7 to 11 of this booklet. Supervised visits to Community Links appointments, Sustainability Day, Transition Days and Year 9 Reflection Days are also considered as excursions outside of the school precinct. Different forms of transport may be used including trains and buses, bicycles or walking. The students may go on the excursions in small or large groups. Students will be supervised at all times, in accordance with the student-teacher ratios in the MacKillop College policies. Where possible, MacKillop will contact parents/guardians before the date of the excursion to advise them of relevant details. However, the nature of the program means that this will not be feasible in all cases. To allow maximum flexibility and to assist in achieving the program's full potential, we are therefore asking parents/guardians of Year 9 students at the St. Mary's Campus to sign the *St Mary's Consent Form* agreeing to their son/daughter leaving the school for the purpose of these types of excursions during Semester 1 or Semester 2, 2012. Parents/Guardians will be sent individual consent forms for all excursions outside a 15 kilometre radius of the St. Mary's Campus and for any adventure activities or sports that the students will be involved in.

Safety and Duty of Care:

MacKillop College will take measures to ensure that all Catholic Education Office and government regulations regarding excursions off-campus are adhered to during excursions from St. Mary's. In addition, MacKillop College will take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of students at all times. Further information about MacKillop College policies regarding Excursions and Adventure Activities/Sports is available to view and download at our website: www.mackillop.vic.edu.au

To help MacKillop fulfil these responsibilities, it is important that you provide all relevant information about your son/daughter's medical history and/or any current medical conditions and medication that may affect their ability to participate in these types of excursions on the *Confidential Medical Form*. It is vital that you keep us updated about any changes to this information.

The following forms must be returned to MacKillop College once completed:

- St. Mary's Campus Consent Form
- Confidential Medical Form