ST CATHERINE OF SIENA
NEWSLETTER

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire"

Term 4, Week 7 20th November 2026

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to this week's newsletter!

Student Transition Day

As the 2026 school year begins to draw to a close, our attention is already turning towards the exciting opportunities that lie ahead in 2027. As part of this preparation, we will have our Student Transition Day on Monday, 7 December (Week 10) for the current Prep to Grade 5 students. During this seesion students will spend time in their new classes for the coming year.

This Transition Day is an important opportunity for students to meet their new teacher, reconnect with friends and become familiar with their new learning environment. By providing this opportunity, we hope to ease any uncertainty about the year ahead and help every child feel comfortable, confident and excited about the next step in their learning journey.

We recognise that first impressions play an important role in shaping how children feel about change and new experiences. Our staff take great care to ensure these initial interactions are welcoming, calm and positive, creating an environment where every student feels safe and supported.

We also encourage parents and carers to reinforce this positive message at home. When your child shares news about their new class, teacher or learning space, your encouragement, warmth and enthusiasm can make a significant difference to how they approach this transition. By speaking positively about the opportunities ahead and embracing change as an exciting new beginning, we can work together to build each child's confidence and ensure they head into the new school year ready to thrive.

Staffing Update

We are also delighted to announce the appointment of Cassandra Chandler as our new Science teacher for 2027. We warmly welcome Cassandra to our school community and look forward to the knowledge and passion she will bring to our specialist Science program. We are excited about the opportunities this appointment will create to further enrich our students' learning experiences and foster their curiosity and love of discovery.

Go gently
Lisa

Important Update: Lunch Orders & Food Deliveries!

We are excited to announce that from next year, students will have even more opportunities to enjoy lunch orders at school, with lunch orders available every Monday and Wednesday!

All lunch orders will continue to be placed through the Spriggy Schools app, making it easy and convenient for families to order and pay for their child's lunch.

We hope this additional lunch order day will be a welcome option for busy families and something the students can look forward to each week.



A Reminder About Lunches at School

With the introduction of our expanded lunch order program, we will also be making an important change to our school lunch arrangements.

Fast food deliveries to students at school will no longer be permitted from 2027. This includes takeaway meals ordered and delivered to the school by parents.

For the remainder of 2026, any fast food delivered to students at school will need to be eaten in the school office. Students will not be permitted to take these meals into their classrooms.

We encourage families to continue providing healthy, home-prepared lunches and nutritious snacks on days when students are not having a lunch order.

Providing balanced, nourishing food helps students maintain their energy, concentration and wellbeing throughout the school day.

Thank You for Your Support

We appreciate the support of our families as we introduce these changes. Our aim is to provide convenient lunch order options while continuing to promote healthy eating habits and a positive food environment for all students.

We look forward to making Mondays and Wednesdays something extra special for our students next year!

Whole School Colour Fun Run





St Catherine of Siena was bursting with colour, energy and smiles last Friday as our community gathered for this year's Colour Run! Students, families and staff shared an afternoon full of excitement, great company and plenty of colour.

We are thrilled to share that, thanks to our hardworking students and generous families, the event raised more than $8000. Every dollar raised will directly support school initiatives and learning resources across St Catherine's.

Of course, no Colour Run would be complete without a good slimming! Our brave staff members stepped up to the challenge much to the delight of our cheering students.

We extend a sincere thank you to the many parents who volunteered on the day to set up and support. Your generosity with your time is what makes these school events so memorable and strengthens our wonderful community.

























Library Closed for Stocktake

Please note that borrowing from the school library has now closed for the year as we begin our annual stocktake. We ask all families to check at home for any remaining school library books and return them as soon as possible. Thank you for your help!

Medical Conditions

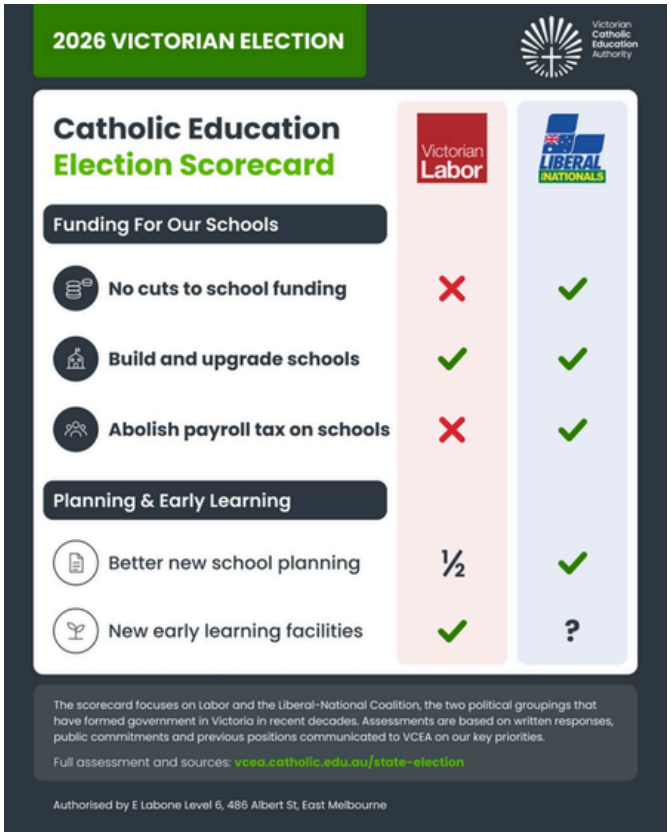
Student health and safety is our top priority. To help us respond quickly and safely in an emergency, please ensure the school has accurate medical details for your child:

- Notify us of any diagnosed conditions (e.g., allergies, asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy), or if your child's health, treatment, or emergency requirements change.
- Provide current Action Plans signed by a doctor for any condition that requires one and send updated copies after reviews.
- Check school medications to ensure they are clearly labelled in original packaging, within their expiry date and replaced before expiring.

Please contact the school office if you need to update a plan, report a new condition, or check what documentation is required. Thank you for helping us keep every student safe.

Help protect funding for Catholic schools

With the Victorian state election approaching, the Victorian Catholic Education Authority has released its Catholic Education Election Scorecard to help families understand the major parties' commitments to Catholic education.



While both parties have committed to investing in school infrastructure, significant differences remain on protecting existing school funding arrangements and abolishing payroll tax on non-government schools.

These decisions would affect school fees, staffing, resource and facilities.

We have attached a copy of the election scorecard and a letter from VCEA Chief Executive Officer Professor Elizabeth Labone.

We encourage all families to read the materials and learn more about the commitments made by both parties.

View the scorecard and full assessment:
vcea.catholic.edu.au/state-election

View and share VCEA's Facebook post:
www.facebook.com/VictorianCatholicEducationAuthorityVCEA

Tricky Talks Online Sessions

A reminder to families with students in Years 3 - Year 6 that our online Tricky Talks education sessions will take place next week.

As part of our Personal Development curriculum, the age-appropriate sessions presented by Interralate will cover basic anatomy and body changes, personal hygiene and changing emotions.

Event Details

Session 1 - Year 3 and Year 4	Session 2 - Year 5 and Year 6
Date: Monday, 23rd November 2026 **Time:** 6:00pm - 7:00pm **Location:** Online (via Zoom)	**Date:** Monday, 23rd November 2026 **Time:** 7:15pm - 8:15pm **Location:** Online (via Zoom)

Families must register online by following the link below
https://events.humanitix.com/st-catherine-of-siena-tricky-talks-program-23rd-november-2026

School Advisory Council – Expressions of Interest for 2027

St Catherine of Siena is inviting parents and carers of students in Prep, Year 1, or Year 2 to express their interest in joining the School Advisory Council for 2027.

The SAC provides an opportunity for parents, guardians, carers and parish members to support and advise the Principal, Parish Priest and school leadership team on matters relating to our school's mission, strategic direction and student success. Areas where the council offers valuable input include:

- Strategic planning and school improvement initiatives
- Religious Education and curriculum
- Enrolments and resources
- Family partnerships and the Annual Report to the School Community

No specific expertise is required. We are looking for enthusiastic community members with a diverse range of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives to help ensure our council reflects a balanced parent voice, cultural diversity and varied skill sets.

How to Get Involved
If you are interested in learning more or joining the council, we warmly invite you to attend our final 2026 SAC meeting:

- **Date:** Tuesday, 24th November 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

For any questions ahead of the meeting, please contact the school office on (03) 9743 2166 or email office@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au.

Term 4, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23 Week 8 Term 4 PSG Meetings Library Closed for Stocktake Year 3 & 4 Tricky Talks Online Session 6pm Year 5 & 6 Tricky Talks Online Session 7:15pm	24 School Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00pm	25 Term 4 PSG Meetings Year 4 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm	26 Term 4 PSG Meetings	27	28	29
30 Week 9 *Year 6 Life Saving Excusion	1 December Term 4 PSG Meetings Whole School Carols by Candlelight @ 6pm 	2 Prep attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Year 2 Shelter Brickwork Incursion	3 Term 4 PSG Meetings Year 6 Space Incursion	4 Term 4 PSG Meetings	5	6
7 Week 10 *2027 Student Transition Session (Prep – Year 5)	8	9 Year 5 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm Semester 2 Reports Released on Compass	10 Year 6 Big Day Out	11 Parent Helper Afternoon Tea St Anthony of Padua Fete 2:00pm – 8:00pm	12	13
14 Week 11 African Drumming Incursion Year 6 Graduation & Presentation @ 6:00pm	15 Whole School End of Year Mass @ 9:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm – Farewell to Year 6 Students Last Day of Term 4 Students Dismissed @ 3:15pm	16 **School Closure Day**	17 **School Closed**	18 **School Closed**	19	20