Friday, 28th November 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As we enter the season of Advent this weekend, we begin a new liturgical year—a time of waiting, hope and deep expectation. Advent invites us to pause amid the busyness of life and open our hearts to God's presence, preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

In this Sunday's Gospel, *Jesus reminds us to "stay awake" and be ready*, encouraging us to live each day with purpose, kindness and attentiveness. It is a beautiful message for our school community as we approach the final weeks of the year: to stay present, to notice the goodness around us and to look forward with hope.

Advent is also a time of new beginnings and next week marks an important step for our students as we hold the first of two Transition Mornings on Monday. These sessions help our children prepare confidently for the 2026 school year, meet new teachers and classmates and begin imagining the learning journey ahead. For many of our younger students—and especially our incoming Preps—this is an exciting milestone, full of anticipation and possibility.

As we enter this season of light and expectation, may we continue to support one another, stay attentive to the needs of those around us and hold our students in prayer as they prepare for the next chapter of their learning.

With warmest regards,

Des Noack
Principal





The Four Candles

Advent wreaths are a symbolic way of reminding us of the season of advent. There is a beautiful story about 'The Four Candles' that appear on the advent wreath. It goes like this;

The Four Candles burn slowly. The ambiance was so soft; you could hear them speak. The first one said: I am Peace! "However, nobody can keep me lit. I will go out". Its flame rapidly diminishes and goes out completely.

The second one said: I am Faith! "Most of all I am no longer indispensable, it doesn't make any sense that I stay lit any longer." When it finished talking, a breeze softly blew on it putting it out.

Sadly, the third candle spoke in its turn: I am Love! "I haven't got the strength to stay lit. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." And waiting no longer, it goes out.

Suddenly, a child enters the room and sees three candles not burning. "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit till the end." Saying this, the child begins to cry. Then the fourth candle said: "Don't be afraid, for while I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles. I am Hope."

With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

The story illustrates that with the flame of hope each of us can live with peace, faith and love.

This weekend, the Church officially enters the season of Advent. The school, through the amazing effort of our staff, have dressed the corridors with the colours of Advent & Christmas, reminding each one of us of the qualities of each candle, - Peace, Hope, Faith & Love.

May we make our homes a place where the four candles of this season burn brightly through our words, thoughts and actions.



Colour Run Success – A Celebration of Fun, Community and a Very Green Principal!

Last Thursday's Colour Run was an incredible celebration of joy, energy and community spirit at St Catherine of Siena. The oval came alive with colour as students, families and staff shared an afternoon filled with laughter, excitement and more than a little mess!

Thanks to the remarkable efforts of our students and the generosity of our families, the Colour Run raised over $10,000 – an outstanding achievement that will directly support school initiatives and resources for our learners.

One of the highlights of the day was undoubtedly the *sliming* of our brave teachers… and of course, Mr Noack, who took the slime in true principal style to the cheers of delighted students! These moments added extra fun to a day already bursting with colour and community connection.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the many parents who volunteered their time to help prepare, set up, supervise and support the event. Your involvement is what makes occasions like this truly special and strengthens the sense of belonging we value so deeply at St Catherine's.

We hope to distribute all Colour Run prizes no later than Week 10.

Thank you once again to everyone who contributed to making this event such a memorable success!













2026 Student Transition

Next week, your child/ren will undertake the first of two Transition Days for 2026. They will meet their new classmates, their new teacher and visit their new classroom. In preparing 21 class lists, we have done our best to respond to over 180+ parent and teacher requests, sought to place students with at least one of the three friends they have nominated and ensured that the parameters set out in our student placement policy are reflected in the classrooms created.

Located in the next column is the agenda for the transition mornings. We seek to share it with you so that, as a parent, a carer, a student, you better understand the planning and logistics that go into such a day. As the saying goes, 'if you fail to plan, you plan to fail'.

End of Year Student Reports

Parents who wish to speak or meet with their teacher regarding their child's end of year report, are asked to please contact the school to make such an appointment. In turn, teachers may wish to follow up with specific parents regarding their child's progress. If this does occur, I strongly encourage you to please make yourself available to meet with your child's teacher.

Directors of First Impression (Parents)

Please remember the saying "Directors of First Impression" for that is exactly what you are when your child comes home to tell you of their new teacher. Your expressions and words will have far more impact than anything we can say and do.

Let's make the first impression a great one!





2026 Student Transition Timetable

The following outlines the timetable and the process used to facilitate student transitioning to their new classrooms for Monday, 1st December & Monday, 8th December.

Day 1 – Monday, 1st December

11.30 -11.40am
Teachers to read out 2026 classes to their current students.

- Grade 6 students move directly to the oval (hall if poor weather) and are supervised by leaving staff

11.40 - 11.45am
Movement of classes proceeds with attention to the following:

- Prior to moving to hall, ensure that students take drink bottles to new classes
- Move to hall and line up with new teacher as displayed via projector re new 2026 seating map

11.45 – 11.55am
Affirmation of students as they move to their new classrooms.

- Teachers and students move to their classrooms (PBL focus - moving safely)
- Teachers to provide any materials relevant to their activities

11.55 – 1.00pm
Orientation activities occur in new classes

- Commence with prayer
- Activities to focus on peer connectivity & establishment of classroom culture

1.00pm
All students and teachers move back to their existing assembly spaces.

- Teachers and students return to normal yard assembly points (PBL focus - moving safely)
- Staff to provide feedback via email to leadership regarding any concerns observed during transition session for follow up. Email is to be used to ensure the observations or learning is not lost in the business of the coming week

1.00pm
New teachers and teachers covering for classes that currently do not have a teacher allocated to gather in the Planning Room.

- To debrief and opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback

Day 2- Monday, 8th December

11.30 -11.40am

- Grade 6 students move directly to the oval (hall if poor weather) and are supervised by leaving staff

Movement of classes proceeds with attention to the following:

- Prior to moving to hall ensure that students take drink bottles to new classes
- Move to hall and line up as shown on projected new 2026 seating map

11.45 – 11.55am
Affirmation of students as they move to their new classrooms.

- Teachers and students move to their classrooms (PBL focus - moving safely)

11.55 – 1.00pm
Orientation activities occur in new classes

- Commence with prayer
- Activities to focus on peer connectivity & establishment of classroom culture

1.00pm
All students and teachers move back to their existing assembly spaces.

- Teachers and students return to normal yard assembly points (PBL focus - moving safely)
- Teachers to provide feedback via email to leadership regarding any concerns observed during transition session for follow up

1.00pm
New teachers and teachers covering for classes that currently do not have a teacher allocated gather in the Planning Room

- To debrief and opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback





Congratulations to Sebastian – General Diploma Achievement

We are thrilled to share with the St Catherine of Siena community Sebastian's achievement in being awarded his **General Diploma** at the Vic Group Review—a remarkable milestone within the Australian Air League. He has also written a short report on the event, which is attached for you to enjoy.

This achievement is truly outstanding. The General Diploma is designed for cadets up to 17 years of age and requires the successful completion of **18 specialised education subjects**, including general proficiency, navigation, meteorology, space flight, theory of flight and physics at a Year 10 level. In addition, cadets must attain drill awards at an exceptionally high standard.

We are incredibly proud to share that Sebastian is believed to be **one of the youngest—possibly the second youngest in Australia—to ever receive this prestigious diploma**.

Congratulations, Sebastian, on this extraordinary accomplishment. Your dedication, discipline and passion for learning are an inspiration to us all.

On the 22nd of November, I went to the 2025 Victorian Air League Review. It was fun and I competed in events like marching, modelling competitions, aircraft recognition competitions and ball games.

When we arrived at the site where it was being held, we had to set up a shelter and place the models we had built in the room where they would be judged. Next, after everyone had arrived, we did some

practice for our drill (marching) competition. After practice we had to go to the running track and line up so we could have our uniforms inspected. We then returned to the shelter and relaxed until it was time for me to take some cadets and parents to do the parent cadet drill competition. I had both my mum and my Poppa compete with me in this drill. Before long, we were off on our way to the marching area again to do the flight drill (a flight is 19 members of our squadron marching together). After the flight drill we chilled out before ball games.

Once we were ready, we went over and competed in the ball games which included tunnel ball and a game where you throw the ball to each team member who then throws it back and then bobs down, which was fun. After ball games we then had to get ready for section drill (section drill is 6 cadets marching). I was leading our Junior section (I was commanding them but it's the same thing) and we did really well.



Soon it was time for the final parade where we marched the whole way around the running track and stopped in front of the grandstand where the awards would be given out.

The first award given out was actually to me! I was receiving my general diploma, a pin badge you receive after completing 18 badges. It has taken me a long time and a lot of studying to get this diploma and I am the second youngest in the Air League to receive it. After this my friend Christian, also received 2 diplomas (Christian is my mentor and was also my sponsor for Confirmation). After this they gave out a few more awards and then they gave out the award for who won the parent drill comp and guess what, we won! We also won the section, flight, junior section, best flight on the march, best squadron on the march and administration. I won the best balsa wood model, and my dad won 2 best plastic model awards. My squadron also won the grand aggregate award.

Overall, it was an awesome day, and I really enjoyed it but there is one thing else I have to say, I'm glad they held it on a Saturday because after that we really needed a break to recover because it was a huge day. But still it was awesome and I am very proud of my squadron.

Unleashing Personal Potential – Year 5's

"Last week, our Year 5 students participated in an inspiring leadership incursion run by Unleashing Personal Potential (UPP). The program encouraged students to reflect on who they are as leaders and how they can positively contribute to our school community.

Throughout the day, students explored what it means to *lead with or without the badge*, discovering that leadership is demonstrated through actions, service, respect and influence. They took part in the high-energy EPIC Race, working in teams to apply the A.S.P.I.R.E. framework - Action, Serve, Persist, Influence, Respect and Encourage.

Students also engaged in the "Knowing Me, Growing Me" session, where they identified their personal strengths, recognised the strengths of others and strengthened their confidence, empathy and teamwork.

The incursion was a wonderful opportunity for our Year 5s to build leadership skills, develop resilience and grow as positive role models within the school. We look forward to seeing them apply these skills in the future.











Prep A
Malou A – Your amazing growth and persistence this year. You rare a SUPERSTAR!!

Camilla A – Your confidence and amazing growth in your reading skills. Amazing work!!

Prep B
Riley S – Your amazing effort during dictation using your letter sound relationship to write a sentence.

Toa O – Your focus during Maths and showing your understanding of Yes/No questions. Awesome effort.

Prep C
Zoe K - For your confidence and amazing growth in your decoding and comprehension skills this year! We are so proud of you!

Awek Y - For your amazing growth in your counting and place value test! Your dedication and passion for learning has truly shined this year.

Year 1A
James K - For demonstrating to an audience how to use his voice and include body language to communicate with others during Inquiry.

Jordan A - For always being a happy class member in 1A and for the good humour you bring to the classroom.

Year 1B
Grace N - For segmenting and blending words with split digraph o_e. We are so proud of you!

Cyrus N - For staying focused when completing your worksheet in Literacy. Keep up the great work!

Year 1C
Ayor A - For demonstrating great confidence and growth when identifying the biggest number in a set of 2 digit numbers.

Pypah M - For demonstrating great problem solving skills when trying to identify the missing number in a number pattern.

Year 2A
Suzanna J - For adding great detail and describing nouns in your "suitcase" writing piece and your excellent spelling! Super work Suzanna!

Harper W - For always being ready to answer questions and share your experiences with confidence. Keep it up!

Year 2B
Ofure O - For using Story Jumper to bring your ideas to life with creativity and imagination. Your stories shine brightly—keep creating and dreaming!

Nyanring M - For bringing your stories to life by using rich adjectives, specific details and complex sentences. You are a dedicated writer!

Year 2C
Ian F - For your exceptional ability to recall and apply basic facts with remarkable speed and accuracy. Outstanding work in your mental efficiency.

Ryan A - For showing great improvement in your basic math facts. Your hard work and progress is impressive!

Year 3A
Mayom A - For being a responsible learner who always volunteers to help clean up our classroom, ensuring we have a tidy and positive learning environment.

Athieng N - For always trying your best to follow our school values by being kind, respectful, responsible and safe and for being a great role model in our class. Well done Athieng!

Year 3B
Peyton-Ivy F - For your focus during Mathematics. You demonstrated a good understanding of when to regroup and rename when drawing representations for multiplication.

Athena P - For showing solid growth in addition and subtraction from Term 1 to Term 4 in the Westwood assessment. Great work!

Year 3C
Benjamin M - For working so hard to achieve your multiplication facts up to 12 × 12, I'm incredibly proud of you!

Claire S - For speaking up when something doesn't make sense in your learning, especially during regrouping of numbers. Well done for being a responsible learner.

Year 4A
Morgan G - For your amazing achievement in your reading comprehension testing. Incredible effort!

Harnoor L - For making great growth in your end of year Math testing. Amazing effort!

Year 4B
Abigail K - For your symbol denoting the concept of friendship and love. Very well thought out and created, excellent work!

Radha L - For your symbol denoting the concept that "time flies when you're having fun." Very well thought out and created, excellent work!

Year 4C
Abraham T - For getting 100% on your multiplication and division westwood test. You are math genius, well done!

Jax G - For contributing thoughtfully to our discussion and completing the Advent activity with attention to detail — well done!

Year 5A
Kara T - For consistently showing our school expectations during learning time by staying focused, respectful and responsible. Well done!

Dau D - For actively engaging in your learning by contributing to class discussions more often. It has been wonderful to hear your ideas and see you confidently share your understanding. Keep it up!

Year 5B
Alexander K - For working hard and showing improved focus and determination when completing independent learning tasks. Keep it up, Alex!

Taylah C - For showing great growth in your Data Investigation post-test. Your effort, hard work and concentration during explicit teaching have paid off. Well done, Taylah!

Year 5C
Airlie L - For always putting in consistent effort, trying your absolute best and eagerly asking for feedback to learn and improve. Your dedication is truly admirable.

Aleth A - For showing great improvement in your positive choices and putting in a strong effort to meet our PBL expectations each day.

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

Family Christmas CAROLS

WEDNESDAY, DEC 10



Come and enjoy a night of Christmas Carols and performances from students across the school.

Picnic starts at 5pm. BYO blanket and/or picnic chairs & picnic dinner. On the St Catherine of Siena Soccer Pitch

Christmas Carols begin at 6pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO

End of Year

PARENT HELPER AFTERNOON TEA

FRIDAY
12 DECEMBER | AT 2.15 PM
ST CATHERINE PRIMARY
SCHOOL ATRIUM

Invitations have already been sent out to our Parent volunteers

RSVP via Seesaw by 8th December 2025



Come and visit our school Nativity. Located opposite the fish tank in the Year 2 foyer.



Term 4 Dates for the Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 December – Week 9 *2026 Student Transition Day 1	**2** *SFCC – Year 7, 2026 Transition Day *Year 2 Cultural Infusion Incursion	**3** Class Mass – Year 4 Whole School Assembly 2:15pm	**4** *Prep Animal Land Children's Farm Excursion	**5** *Prep 2026 Transition Session 4 9am - 10am
8 Week 10 *2026 Student Transition Day 2	**9**	**10** Whole School Assembly 2:15pm *Carols Night 6:00pm	**11**	**12** *Prep 2026 Transition Session 5 9am - 10am *Semester 2 Reports Sent Home
15 Week 11 *Year 6 Big Day Out	**16** *Year 6 Graduation 6:00pm	**17** Whole School Mass 9:15am End of Year Awards Assembly 2:00pm ***Last Day of Term – Students Dismissed @ 3:15pm**	**18** **School Closure Day**	**19** **School Closure Day**