



ST CATHERINE OF SIENA NEWSLETTER

"Be all that you can be and you will set the world on Fire"

Term 4, Week 10 8th December 2023

E: principal@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

W: www.scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

T: 9743 2166

The Church is now in the liturgical season we call Advent. The word 'Advent' means 'coming' and it marks the beginning of a season when we joyfully prepare and wait the birth of Jesus at Christmas. During Advent we make a special effort to live like Jesus and we prepare for his coming at Christmas. The Advent wreath has candles and each week a new candle is lit. This symbolises the coming of Jesus, the light, into the world, and reminds us that Jesus is with us.

We pray,

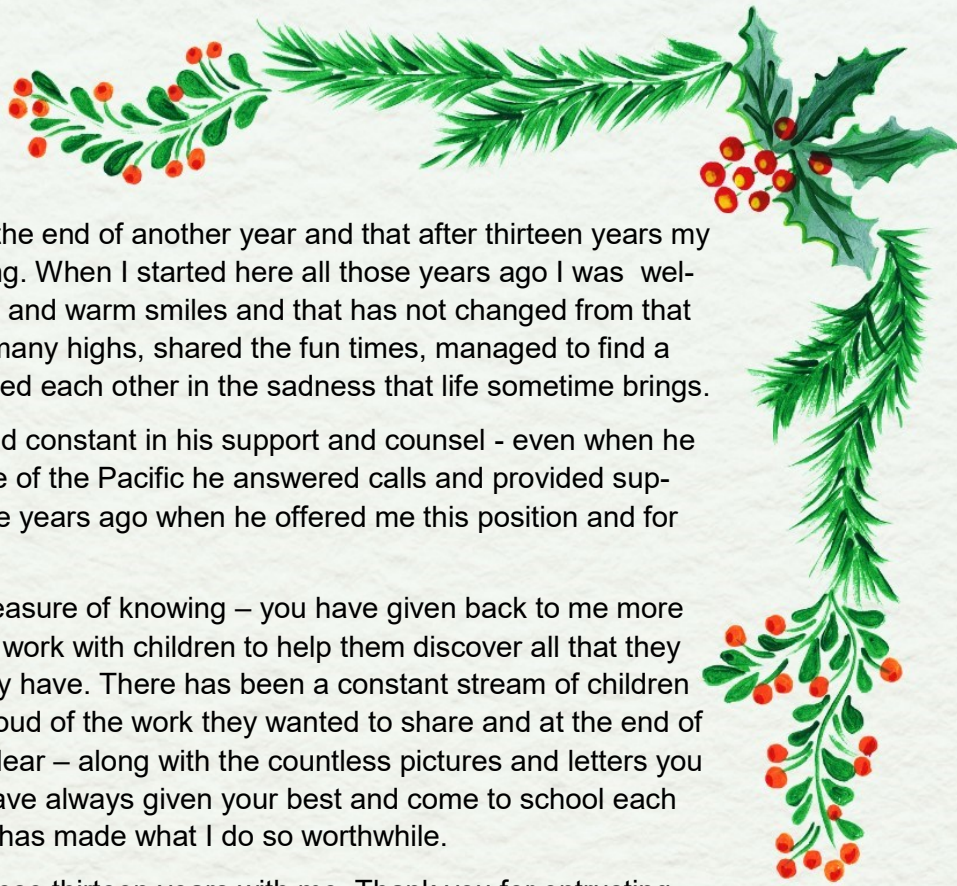
Dear God, we ask You to guide us as people of hope, peace, love and love this Advent. We pray for our sisters and brothers around the world who are poor, hungry, lonely or living in war. May they know they are not alone at this time and may we continue to be Christ-like people in our communities as we share the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ this season with everyone we meet.

We ask this prayer in Your name.

AMEN



Principal's Message



Dear parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another year and that after thirteen years my final days at St Catherine's are approaching. When I started here all those years ago I was welcomed into the community with open arms and warm smiles and that has not changed from that day to this. We have certainly celebrated many highs, shared the fun times, managed to find a way through the difficult times and comforted each other in the sadness that life sometime brings.

Fr Michael was always only a call away and constant in his support and counsel - even when he was chaplain on a cruise ship in the middle of the Pacific he answered calls and provided support. I thank him for his trust in me all those years ago when he offered me this position and for his support ever since.

To the amazing children I have had the pleasure of knowing – you have given back to me more than you can know. I became a teacher to work with children to help them discover all that they could be and the strengths and talents they have. There has been a constant stream of children coming into my office over the years so proud of the work they wanted to share and at the end of the day they will be the times I hold most dear – along with the countless pictures and letters you have gifted me with over the years. You have always given your best and come to school each day with such joy and eagerness and that has made what I do so worthwhile.

To all of the families who have travelled these thirteen years with me. Thank you for entrusting your children to us and me. You have always been there to support us. I remember one time a number of parents came in to volunteer to mind children so the staff could attend a staff member's funeral – a very real example of a community giving unconditional support and care. I said to one of the parents that if I was going to another school I would want a community just like this one as it's pretty terrific. Sincere thanks to you all for your messages and well wishes, your fundraising, presence at numerous school events, participation in working bees in those early days, help on excursions and so much more. I always say that education is a two-way relationship between home and school and you have always upheld your part in that relationship.

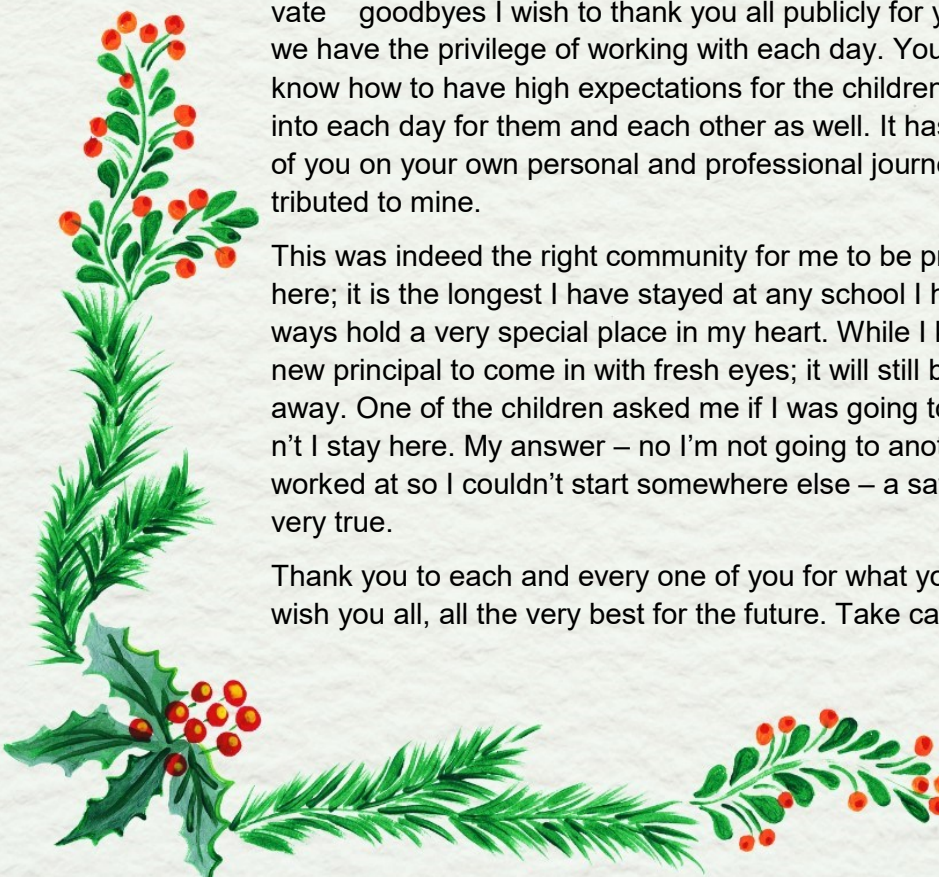
There have been numerous staff over these thirteen years and while we will have our private goodbyes I wish to thank you all publicly for your care and dedication to the children we have the privilege of working with each day. You are an amazing group of people who know how to have high expectations for the children and their learning but also put the fun into each day for them and each other as well. It has been a pleasure to work with each one of you on your own personal and professional journey and thank you for what you have contributed to mine.

This was indeed the right community for me to be principal and I will always cherish my time here; it is the longest I have stayed at any school I have worked and this community will always hold a very special place in my heart. While I know that it is time for me to go and a new principal to come in with fresh eyes; it will still be hard to hand in my keys and walk away. One of the children asked me if I was going to another school and if I was why couldn't I stay here. My answer – no I'm not going to another school, this is the best one I've worked at so I couldn't start somewhere else – a satisfactory answer for them but also so very true.

Thank you to each and every one of you for what you have given to me over the years. I wish you all, all the very best for the future. Take care everyone and thank you!!

Carmel Marantelli

PRINCIPAL



CHRISTMAS

2023 MASS TIMES

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, MELTON WEST

15th-23rd Dec	Christmas Novena Masses	8pm
23rd Dec	Saturday Vigil Mass	6pm
24th Dec	Sunday Mass	9am
	Sunday Mass	11am
	Christmas Vigil Family Mass	6pm
	Christmas Vigil Mass	8pm
	Midnight Mass	10pm
25th Dec	Christmas Day Mass	10am
	Christmas Day Swahili Mass	1pm

*Christmas Carols will begin 30 minutes before
Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day masses.*

O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

Upcoming Events

NO CANTEEN IN THE LAST WEEK

Monday 11th December - Reports go live on Nforma

Monday 11th December - Year 1 & 4 Christmas Melodies excursion

Tuesday 12th December - Years 1 - 6 Step up Day

Tuesday 12th December - Christmas Concert 7pm

Wednesday 13th December - Prep Christmas Liturgy 9.30 - 10.30

Wednesday 13th December - Year 6 Graduation Mass 7pm

Thursday 14th December - Picnic Day Maddingley Park

Friday 15th December - Whole School End of Year Mass 11.45am

Friday 15th December - Students finish 3.15pm



Congratulations

Congratulations to the following children who received a class award this week. These awards were presented to children at assembly today.

Keep up the terrific effort!

Prep A - Whole Class Prep A

Prep B - Whole Class Prep C

Prep C - Blessing Tag Bol & Ryan Ashamalla

1E - Bailee Wemyff

1F - Isaac Manyok

1H - Georgia Hollingworth

2G - Whole class!

2I - Amelia Sobol

2K - Georgia Aquilina and Carlos Mordido

3J - Gabriel Madut

3L - Nathan Scicluna and Ella Pearmine

3M - Christian Latino

4R - Sebastian Duyvestyn

4T - Chadhor Mabor, Jaiden Goundar & Avalon Sutton

4V - Whole class 4V

5Q - Ava Mc Grath

5S - Olivia Sobol

5U - Whole Class 5U





6N - Harry Sliwa and Anica Klasic

6O - Frans Hoodie

6P - Abok Bol



Term 4, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11 Week 11 Semester 2 Student Reports available via Portal	12 2024 Yr 1 - 6 Step Up Christmas Concert @ 7pm 	13 Prep Christmas Liturgy @ 9:30am Yr 6 Graduation Mass @ 7pm 	14 Whole School Picnic 	15 End of Year Mass @ 11:45am Last Day of Term 4 - Students dismissed @ 3:15pm	16	17 Advent Week 3 Peace 

Term 1, 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29 JANUARY Week 1	30	31 Grade 1 - 6 Starts	1 FEBRUARY Preps start	2	3	4
5 Week 2	6	7 Beginning of Year Whole School Mass at 9:30am	8	9	10	11
12 Week 3	13	14 Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:30am Beginning of LENT	15	16	17	18
19 Week 4	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Week 5 Year 5 Camp	27 Year 5 Camp	28 Year 5's return from camp Years 6 Camp	29 Years 6 Camp	1 MARCH Years 6's return from camp Camp		

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA WELCOMES YOU TO



OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2023

Come and enjoy a night of Christmas carols and a showcase of performances from students across the school. A great event to celebrate the Christmas season!



Date: 12th December

Time: 7pm – 8pm

Doors open: 6.30pm



Where: St. Francis Catholic College Stadium

109 – 141 Bulmans Road Melton West

See You Soon

WHOLE SCHOOL PICNIC

Thursday 14th December 2023

Maddingley Park Recreation Reserve,
Tavernor st Maddingley (Bacchus Marsh)



Permission note on Operoo