



Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Term 2 Week 6 of 11

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**School Closure**  
**Next Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

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Dear Parents, Students & Friends,

**Student Leadership**

This week, our Year 6 students participated in the process of electing their peers for the many student leadership roles available to them.

I do not say this lightly, but the quality of speeches, by those who have applied for either School Captain or House Captain was extraordinary. Both these students and their families should be very proud of the way they spoke and the way they have conducted themselves through this process.

Some examples of these speeches have been made available for you to read in this newsletter.

School Captains and House Captains will be announced at next Monday's assembly. Parents of these students have been notified today to provide them with the opportunity to be present if available. The following week, all other Year 6 student leadership positions will be announced. Next week the process for electing a Student Representative from each classroom will commence with the announcement being made on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. I acknowledge that this process has commenced far later than preferred, however in ensuring that we have a meaningful and active student leadership presence within the school, we are taking the time to get it right. We do not want this to be a popularity vote validated by a badge with student voice being ineffectual.

All elected students will receive their badges and be formally acknowledged and blessed at the end of term Mass held on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June**.



This weekend we celebrate Trinity Sunday.

A famous icon of the Trinity depicts the three persons at a table where there are four place settings. The final place, in the lower half of the painting, invites the viewer to take the seat and join them. It's profound theology and masterful art, but we can quickly misunderstand it.



We are not just personally invited to join in the very life of God and pull together with them in their loving and saving of the world. The seat at the table is reserved for all of humanity.

In practical terms it is impossible to profess belief in the Trinity, on the one hand, and then work at things which pull the human family apart, on the other. How can one hold to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and be known as racist, bigoted and sexist, to not care about refugees or those who die each day of starvation.

Trinity Sunday is not about theological mathematics, working out how three goes into one. It's about gaining the strength at this Eucharist to pull together. Most people will learn about the love of God primarily through the way they observe us seeing, judging and acting.

**Reconciliation Week**

Next week our focus not only turns to our Year 4 students receiving the Sacrament but also too the recognition of our indigenous heritage through Reconciliation Week. The theme of **Reconciliation Week** this year is 'Now More Than Ever'.

At St Catherine of Siena, through our curriculum, we seek to promote greater understanding of our Indigenous heritage. We believe it is important that our children, our students not only acknowledge, but understand the richness of our countries indigenous culture that has existed for more than 65,000 years.

Located within this newsletter is an article that provides a small insight into the indigenous heritage of Melton.

Ngarrngga, a Taungurung word means *to know, to hear, to understand*. It is not only the word that is important but the actions we take to better understand and respect the peoples who are indigenous to this land in culture, custom, language and spirituality.

*This Trinity Sunday reminds us that all people are welcome at the table and in taking time to understand each other's story, culture and diversity, God calls us to be one although we are many, and that through our actions, we are known as Christian.*

With kindest regards,

Des Noack  
Principal



## This Weekend's Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

**Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

# Term 2

## Week 7

### Monday 27/05

- Saint Augustine of Canterbury
- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

### Tuesday 28/05

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

### Wednesday 29/05

- Saint Paul VI
- **Mass & Reconciliation for Yr. 4's @ 9:15am**

### Thursday 30/05

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Parents & Friends Committee Meeting @ 9am
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

### Friday 31/05

- **School Closure Day**
  - Science of the Brain PL (St Anthony's)
- **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

### Sunday 02/06

- **Feast Of Corpus Christi**

## Week 8

### Monday 03/06

- Saint Charles Lwanga
- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

### Tuesday 04/06

- **Parent Advisory Board 7.00pm – 8.00pm**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

### Wednesday 05/06

- Saint Boniface
- **Mass & Reconciliation for Yr. 4's @ 9:15am**
- Yr. 2 Toys Over Time Incursion
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

### Thursday 06/06

- Saint Norbert
- Saint Marcellin Champagnat
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

### Friday 07/6

- Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Year 6 ASPIRE 2 Incursion

### Saturday 08/06

- Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

### Sunday 09/06

- 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time

## Week 9

### Monday 10/06

- **King's Birthday – Public Holiday**

## Tuesday 11/06

- Saint Barnabas
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

## Wednesday 12/06

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Year 4 attending mass @ 9.15am**

## Thursday 13/06

- Saint Anthony of Padua
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

## Friday 14/06

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Yr. 1 Reptile Encounter (Minibeasts) Incursion

## Saturday 15/6

- **First Eucharist Masses 11.00am & 2.00pm**

## Sunday 16/06

- 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time

## Week 10

### Monday 17/06

- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

### Tuesday 18/06

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

### Wednesday 19/06

- *Saint Romuald*
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Year 4 attending mass @ 9.15am**

### Thursday 20/06

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

### Friday 21/06

- Saint Aloysius Gonzaga
- Parent Support Group Meetings

### Saturday 22/06

- Saints John Fisher and Thomas More

### Sunday 23/06

- 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time

## Week 11

### Monday 24/06

- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

### Tuesday 25/06

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

### Wednesday 26/06

- **Whole School Mass – End of Term 9.15am**

### Thursday 27/06

- Saint Cyril of Alexandria
- Last Day of Term 2
- Semester 1 Student Reports Sent Home
- **Dismissal Time 3.15pm**

### Friday 28/06

- Saint Irenaeus
- **School Closure Day**
  - Positive Behavior For Learning



## School Captain Speech

Why should I be school captain? What makes me different from other candidates? Why should you choose me? Hi, my name is Diyar from class 6C.

I've been at St Catherine of Siena for 6 years, each year learning more and more things about leadership. I know a leader needs to be able to listen, be able to act, serve their community, persist through challenges, be a good influence, a good role model, show respect to one another, no matter who they are. Encourage people to strive to be the best they can be.

I believe I show strength in each of these qualities. As a leader I want to be able to share with you, my ideas. Ideas on how to get students more engaged during class, feel more comfortable at our school. Feel more comfortable sharing their ideas.

A couple years ago I know that I would be terrified to be speaking in front of a large group like this. I want to help others be able to come out of their shell, show that it's possible. I know by working with our school leadership team we can achieve this goal. I see myself as a caring person, and I have no issue listening to you talk about anything that's bothering you, what's making you feel upset, uncomfortable, anything. I'm here to support you through any challenges. You want to talk about your weekend? I'm listening.

By the time I leave St Catherine of Siena I would have liked to make a huge positive influence on the future leaders. To have shown them that being a leader is by being a good person. By being yourself. To take action, to listen to your community. To follow what Jesus has taught us. "Love one another as I have loved you."

Thank you for listening.

*"A simple mantra for inspiring,  
effective, mindful leadership:  
Cultivate peace of mind and go  
about doing good."*



## School Captain Speech

Good afternoon staff and students on this wonderful day I want to explain to you why I would be the best school captain.

Abraham Lincoln, Anthony Albanese and Julius Caesar. What do these people have in common? Well yes, they are all famous, but they are all amazing leaders who are known for their great leadership, and I aspire to be like them.

My name is Meyen, most people here know me as a good student or a nice friend, but I also want to be known as their school captain. As I have learnt from my former teachers and peers, being a school leader isn't about having a badge or having a title to your name, it's about how you can help your school and everyone who considers themselves part of our community.

From parents to students, we all are a part of this school community and it's our job to take care of each other. Many times, in the past I have helped younger year levels with problems with friends or just playing with them when they're bored and have nobody to play with. I also love helping teachers and staff during learning time such as during math when peers need help or if teachers need help showing examples. Also, out on the yard when there's an argument or something I always try to break it up and solve the issue.

As a school captain, I promise to do this many more times and other things. I want our school to be a safe and happy place not only will this be a place for learning it will be a place where students can call home. I can guarantee you that if I am elected as school captain I will live up to your expectations and make sure everyone at our school can feel safe and comfortable. I'm here to represent our school as a whole and make it the best place for people in our community. Like a wise man (me) once said "Much like a flower can't bloom without sunshine a leader can't reach their potential without experience." Elect me for school captain and it will be the best decision you've ever made.

Just before I end my speech I want to give thanks to Ms Hoey for making me a good student and helping me realize key qualities that a leader needs, Miss Gill for helping me throughout Grade 6, Mr Walker for helping me realize what I wanted to be, both vice principals for recommending me for this job and inspiring me, my friends for helping me become the person I am and finally Mr Noack for being the principal this school needed and hand-selecting me to write this speech.

## House Captain Speech

Hello, our amazing teachers and students. My name is River from Grade 6B and I hope I can be a house captain so I can help the younger and older students at our school feel welcome and comfortable at our amazing school.

I'm a very friendly person. I can gladly talk to you about your ideas or questions or maybe even help to solve any issues. Whenever my friend group argues I always try to stop it, so it doesn't cause any more damage than it already does. Other than being friendly I'm also quite relatable which can come in handy to understand other students when they're upset or feeling any other emotions.

Remember I'm one of you. I'm here to represent us, let me be our voice. I will stand up for our house and what we believe in. We are all in this together. If I get this opportunity to be house captain, as your voice we will be heard loud and clear.

As they say, "a river cuts through rock not because of its power but because of its persistence." As your future house captain, I can bring positive change for our school and make it a better place with my strong and kind attributes.

So, give me a chance to build a better place for the future!

A vote for me is a vote for Yellow House!!

## House Captain Speech

Good afternoon to all the wonderful staff and students that are here with me today.

My name is Catherine and I am here to present on why I think I would be a good fit for the position of Red House Captain.

Although I really hope to fulfill this great opportunity of a role, being a house captain may be related to sport and all, but there's way more things to this role than a badge and label.

It's about being a good role model to the younger students here at St Catherine's and building up your spirit and sportsmanship together. It's about the opportunities you must be all you can be to set the world on fire and set a good example so others can follow your footsteps. I also promise that I will put a better effort in coming to school early.

I may not get this role but if I do, I promise I will be the best version of myself and I hope to make a change here in my last year at St Catherine's with or without this role. I promise to showcase the ASPIRE qualities in and out of the classroom and take

initiative when I see something wrong, no matter if it's something in the classroom like doing the right thing without being asked, or if it's something out on the school yard like helping somebody that is hurt or letting someone join in your game when they're lonely.

I hope that with this role I can not only better myself, but the community at St Catherine's. I am very passionate and confident about this role, and I am very grateful that I've been given the chance and opportunity to present a speech about it. Thank you for listening to my speech and I hope I can influence our school community positively and if I do get this amazing spot of leadership, I am more than confident that I will exceed gradually in it and use the authority of the role to good use.

## School Captain Speech

Hello to our Principal, Vice Principal, Teachers and Peers.

My name is Nathan, a student from Grade 6 standing before you for the position of '**School Captain**'.

I've been at this school since Prep and have had a fantastic positive experience with our supportive teachers and staff.

This school is my **second home**, where I connect with friends and learn something new every day.

Learning here has been both enlightening and enjoyable.

Alongside academic knowledge, we've been taught essential values like - **Discipline, Responsibility** and **Respecting boundaries** which contribute to our growth and help us become an independent and responsible generation.

I trust, my peers have shared a similar experience!

### Here's why I want to be a school captain

- **Firstly** - To make a positive impact on the school, teachers & students.
- **Secondly** - I enjoy taking on challenges to learn new things, which help me grow as a better individual and share that triumph with my team as well.
- **Thirdly** - As an approachable and empathetic person, I would encourage my peers to share their ideas / suggestions with me. I'll then take those to the school management for approval or advice.
- **Lastly** - I hope, **together** we can create opportunities for everyone and promote acceptance and inclusivity.

As Robin S Sharma wisely said:

**"Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It's about Impact, Influence & Inspiration"**

I'm not perfect, but I'm willing to take on feedback and commit to doing my best.

**With confidence I know I can do this task,  
A vote from you is all I ask!**

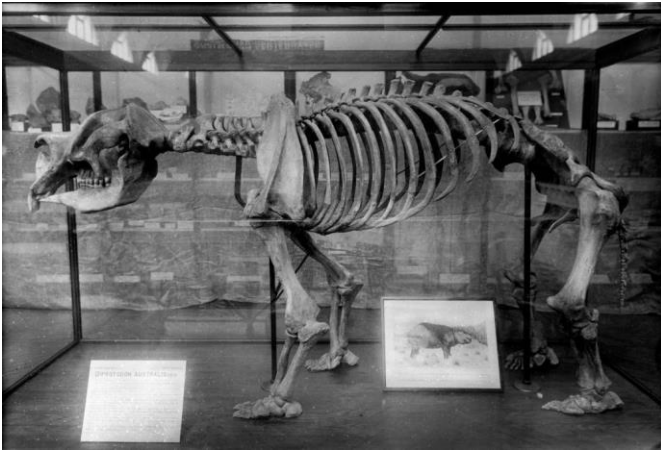
Thank you all for listening and your patience - Nathan.



Our school is built upon the lands of the Kurun jang balug of the Wurundjeri-willam, a clan of the Woiwurrung.

Kulin custodians are likely to describe their presence around Narm (greater Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay) as being from time immemorial. A European scientific perspective is that Aboriginal people have lived on this continent for at least 40,000 years. Kulin people lived alongside megafauna, witnessed volcanic activity, and around 12,000 years ago they saw the flooding of the land bridge that once

connected the mainland to what is now called Tasmania.



**Bones from the giant marsupial Diprotodon, which lived tens of thousands of years ago alongside Aboriginal people, were discovered in a Melton creek in 1923. Photographer: A.J. Campbell. Museums Victoria Collections, MM 47261.**

The Kulin Nations comprise five 'wurrungs' or language groups, the term Kulin indicating the concept of 'human being'. Three of these five groups – the Woi wurrung, Boon wurrung (Bunurong) and Wathaurong – occupied territory in and around what is today the City of Melton. Today, ancestors from all three groups continue to maintain vital traditional connections to this area.

The plains and waterways that now lie within the City of Melton are the traditional territory of the Kurun jang balug of the Wurundjeri-willam, a clan of the Woi wurrung. The name 'Kurun jang balug' translates as 'red ground people' and describes the distinctive deep red earth on which Melton is situated. This name is preserved today in the suburb of Kurunjang. In the 1830s, the Kurun jang balug clan-head or ngurungaeta was Bet Banger, an important leader who worked alongside white settlers and mediated Kulin people's access to Country.

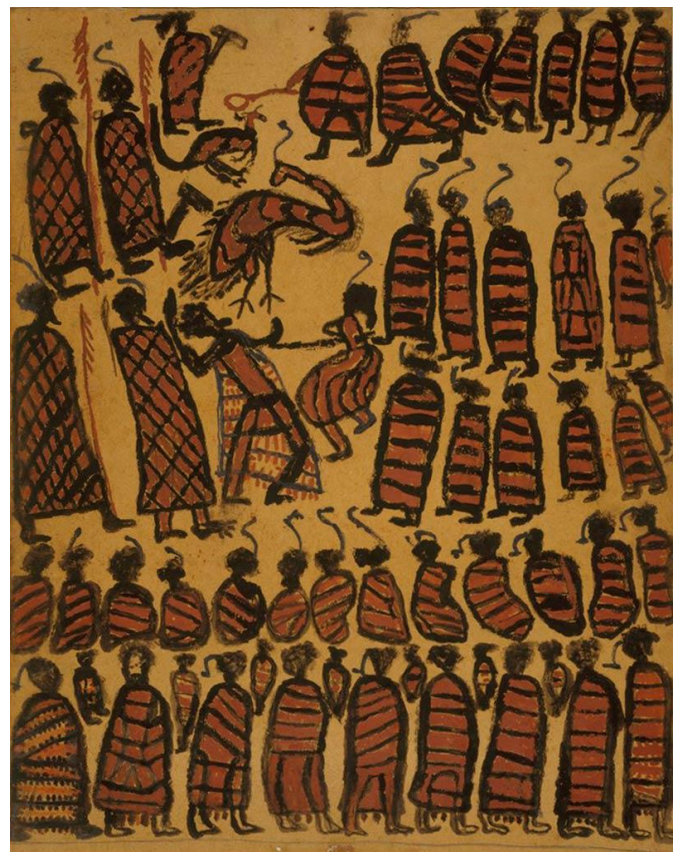
The resources of Narm were plentiful. Thousands of years of interaction with the land, combined with an effective system of transmitting knowledge between generations, allowed Kulin people to thrive. Food was abundant, including kangaroo and other mammals, as well as reptiles, birds, insects, mussels and fish. Kulin people used ingeniously designed fish traps that diverted the flow of waterways.

Plants were another major food source. These included the nutritious tuber from the yellow-flowered murrnong (*Microseris* sp.) or yam daisy. Murrnong was cultivated by Aboriginal women in the Narm area. Plants had other purposes in addition to food, including being used for fibre, medicine, to make implements and

cement. Firestick practices saw strategic burning to promote constant renewal of plant and animal life. This also contained the growth of foliage, to facilitate ease of movement through Country.

Additionally, Kulin life allowed time for leisure and for fulfilling social and ritual obligations. With extensive cross-cultural and spiritual affiliations across Kulin clans and language groups, people would meet for ceremony and to discuss important business. A series of earth rings on hillsides around Sunbury are thought to be ceremonial sites that may have been locations for male initiation. Other physical evidence of the presence of Kulin people is still clearly visible today in numerous local scar trees, including those at Pinkerton Forest, Eynesbury Grey Box Forest and the Melton Golf Course.

In the 19th century, the arrival of European settlers from far across the sea, with their animals, fences, diseases, and completely foreign cultures and ways of life, spelled the end of Kulin ascendancy over the lands of which Kulin people had been custodians for more than two thousand generations.



**Kulin people maintained important social and ritual connections by gathering for ceremony to enact spiritual obligations, discuss important business and settle disputes.**

**This painting by William Barak depicts an Aboriginal ceremony, c. 1880-1890. State Library Victoria, H29641.**

