



Friday, 14th June 2024
Term 2 Week 9 of 11

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

Letters of offer for **2025 Prep** will begin to be sent out as of **Monday 24th June**. We currently have only **14 places left**. Once these are filled, all late applications, will go onto a waiting list. We are aware that 79 applications have been received so far with 6 of these being current families who have, as yet, not completed their application form.

Please note that we will not be holding a place for current families who have not yet returned their 2025 application form by Monday 24th June.

If all 2025 Prep positions have been filled, any further applications received will go on a wait list with no guarantee of a placement.



This Week's Newsletter Items:

- **Change & Growth - An Intrinsic Part of Education**
- **Prep Incursion – Emergency Services Visit**
- **Meet The Teacher (Prep B) – Mr. Ric Martin**
- **Student Absenteeism Due To Illness**
- **Student Absentee Hotline**
- **Stick Insects**
- **Upcoming Events – Dates For The Diary**
- **This Weekends Gospel & Reflection**
- **Unleashing Personal Potential (Grade 6)**
- **Term 3 Staff Professional Learning**
- **Student Absentee Notes**



This weekend, children from our parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist, their First Communion. It is a very special occasion for these children and especially their parents and families who, at Baptism, promised that this day would come and have supported their children by continuing to support them in practicing the faith passed on from one generation to the next. First Eucharist Masses will occur at 11.00am & 2.00pm this Saturday. Please keep them in your prayers.

Student Awards – Families will have seen that student awards are being published each week. This week however, due to the public holiday last Monday, no awards were presented and therefore no awards to publish. We are looking forward to our students' achievements in next week's newsletter.

Our Student's Rely On Their Parents & Carers to Arrive To School On Time

If your child is late one or more times per week, you need to change your routine. The routine you have is impacting upon your child, both in their learning and in showing respect to those that are trying to teach them.

Please ensure that your child is able to enter their classroom no later than 8.40am.

Classrooms open at 8.30am every morning and earlier if it is raining.

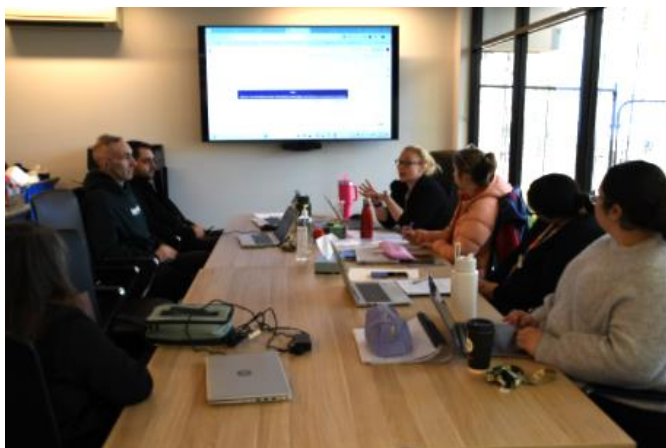


Change and Growth is an Intrinsic Part of Education

Teachers have always been learners. Change and growth have been a part of the classroom environment since the earliest days of formalised education, as teachers adopted new techniques and best practices to improve learning.

In recent years, and especially at St Catherine of Siena in the last two terms, it might feel like this has accelerated, as school computers, smart screens have been joined by tablet devices.

Teachers have always needed to embrace change as they strive to achieve the very best for their students. Now, however, this is more important than ever, requiring principals to create a culture that empowers teachers and students alike.



At St Catherine of Siena, we have set ourselves key priorities as part of our School Improvement Plan.

The first of these is the following:

To develop and implement a whole school pedagogical approach based on evidence.

So that:

All staff have a shared knowledge, understanding and implementation of an inquiry based transdisciplinary instructional model.

All staff are proficient in the collection, interpretation and use of data that relate to our individual students needs and outcomes.

Every student is engaged, challenged and learning successfully.

At the back of the newsletter, a professional learning schedule has been published to highlight the learning that our staff undertake each term in ensuring that they are building upon their professional knowledge and skills. Our aim is to achieve the priorities that we have set for ourselves and to ensure that our students receive the best learning opportunities possible.



Please note that the last day for students for this term is Thursday 27th June. The dismissal time is 3.15pm.

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 (Postponed)**

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

- 12th 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

Preps Learning About Who Keeps Our Community Safe.



On Wednesday we were fortunate to have two police officers visit our school in their police car.

They showed us all the equipment they use and have to carry with them to keep our community safe.



Our Preps had the opportunity to sit inside the police vehicle and listen to the siren and watch the blue and red lights flash. At the end of the visit we were taught how to march and salute like a police officer. We would like to thank Constable Ryan (Quinn's Mum - Prep A) and Constable Saychells from Victoria Police for their time.



The Police officers
came
to our school
yesterday

We could sit
inside the
police car



Emma

On Wednesday police officers
came to our school. They talked
about how they keep us safe.



Meet the **TEACHER**



Mr Ric Martin joins our teaching team and will commence teaching from the start of Term 3. Ric is currently a Prep teacher and has taken the opportunity to not only continue to be a Prep teacher but take up the position of Prep Team Leader at St Catherine of Siena.

To support our **Prep B** students in transitioning from one teacher to another, Ric is visiting Prep B over the last two Friday afternoons of the term, allowing students to become familiar with him and at the same time, for Ric to get to know the students prior to commencing next term.



When Do I Keep My Child Home?

This week has seen a dramatic rise in the number of children and staff absent due to illness.

This is not just happening at St Catherine of Siena but across greater Melbourne. The majority of illnesses are related to gastro, cold and flu.

We very much understand that a sick child can represent a day off from work, or having to reschedule important meetings or appointments if a carer is not available. We have staff who, like yourself have children and have to make the same call from time to time, when their own child is ill.

There are two particular reasons that children are excluded from school while they are ill, sick or unwell. Firstly, so that they have the chance to recoup and get well, and secondly, so that their illness is not passed on to others. The experience COVID-19, and now the onset of flu, has certainly reinforced why this action is necessary.

The following is a guide to assist you in making the call if to send them or keep them home. But please, if they are pale and clearly unwell, please do not send them to school. Home, bed and rest are the best medicines for improving their health.

Keep a Child at Home if You See the Following:

Fever. This is one symptom that automatically rules out school, no questions. Your sick child should be fever-free without medication for at least 24 hours before you send him/her back to school. As a school, we do not administer over-the-counter fever-reduction medication; instead, we believe that it is definitely worth keeping your child home, making sure they drink plenty of fluids so they can recover from whatever they are battling.

Diarrhoea. This could be a sign of a viral infection, so it's best to keep your child at home. It's also important to keep rehydrating him/her with an oral rehydrating solution when s/he has diarrhoea, and

the best way to do that is by keeping him/her at home.

Vomiting. Aside from the fact that your child won't be comfortable, s/he could vomit again. Keep him/her home until s/he has gone 24 hours without throwing up – that way you won't feel guilty if you send him/her to school and we call you up to come and collect your vomiting child.

Cough. This depends on how severe the cough is. Coughs can spread infection to other students. A serious cough can also keep a child from getting a good night's rest, which means s/he'll be too tired for school in the morning. As a general rule, if your child has a serious wet cough, particularly if it's accompanied by breathing troubles, seek medical advice. But if it's just a mild cough and s/he has no other symptoms, s/he can probably go to school. The wearing of a face masks in these circumstances is encouraged.

Rashes. Skin rashes could be a sign of a contagious infection, such as impetigo. You should have a rash evaluated by a doctor before sending your child to school.

Conjunctivitis. This infection can quickly and easily spread from one child to another, as many parents of primary-school age children already know all too well. Keep your child home until the doctor says s/he is no longer contagious.

Stomach ache. This one can be tough to call. If s/he doesn't have diarrhoea and isn't constipated, tummy trouble could be caused by any number of things from anxiety to food poisoning. If the stomach pains are minor enough to allow your child to continue walking and behaving in his/her usual boisterous fashion - and there are no other symptoms – this might be one of those times worth risking sending him/her to school. Later, you can talk to him/her about any emotional issues that may be on his/her mind.

Ear-Infection. As with coughs, you should evaluate all his/her symptoms before making the call. If s/he has mild ear pain, s/he'll likely be fine; but if s/he's clearly uncomfortable, s/he will have trouble concentrating in class anyway and should be kept at home. And if there are any other accompanying symptoms such as a fever, it's a definite sick day.

Runny nose. Let's be realistic: If you kept your child home every time s/he had the sniffles, s/he'd miss a lot of school. Use your judgment. If s/he has a runny nose but seems otherwise fine, then it's probably okay for him/her to go to school (with a box of tissues in his/her bag and possibly a face mask). If it's clear and runny without any other

symptoms, that should be ok. However, if it's of a thicker and darker colour, this is a good indication of infection in which case your child should stay home.

Trust your instincts. If your child seems lethargic and is just not themselves (if s/he's not interested in playing, that is often a big clue), keep him/her home and monitor him/her for any signs of illness.

If we follow these simple guidelines, our children will be far healthier and happier and our school will be a far healthier place to learn and play.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Student Absentee Hotline

When your child is to be absent for any reason, we ask that you please call the school on **97432166**, press **Option 1**. And leave the following information:

- **Child's full name & classroom they attend**
- **Reason for absence.**

(E.g. Hi, my child Michael Nyugen, in Grade 2A, is absent today due to being very sick.)

This must be done for each day of their absence followed by a written explanation of the absence.

The written explanation can be done via Seesaw, an email to your child's teacher or the **'absentee note' cards** that have been **included at the back of this newsletter** for your use.

Early Dismissal of Student

Parents and carers seeking to collect their child prior to the 3.15pm dismissal time, and particularly after 2.30pm to attend a medical or personal appointment, are asked to **contact the school office prior to 12.00pm on that day.**

This ensures that minimal disruption occurs to your child's class and their learning when they are leaving, to have their bag ready and if located in a different part of the school, such as the hall, Church or performing arts classroom, can be easily located and attend the office quickly.

Parents attending the office to collect their child unannounced after 2.30pm are advised that there may be a delay in having your child attend the office for collection for the same reasons as mentioned above.

STICK INSECTS!



Our students are continuing to be enthralled with the stick insects and have had the opportunity to watch eggs being laid.

Each Wednesday, the enclosures (3) are refreshed with new gum leaves (their favourite food). When taking the chance to clean up the enclosures, our Eco Leaders take the opportunity to collect the eggs so that in taking care of them over the next 18 weeks, our students get to see baby stick insects hatch from these eggs.

This week we collected 34 eggs!

The Stick Insect Club operates every Wednesday at lunchtime. We can only cater for 30 students at a time and those who are lucky to attend are not disappointed at spending time with their stick insect.



This Weekend's Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 4:26-34

The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel is a wonderful example of the teaching style of Jesus. It even tells us that 'he would not speak to them except in parables'. Jesus used the parable form almost exclusively to share his message. He used imagery that was familiar to his audience; parables about the everyday life of a rural community: seeds, planting, growing, harvesting. The secret of Jesus' parables, when we understand the cultural context, is that there was always a 'twist in the tale' – what is called a 'discombobulating shift' – that turns the expected outcome of the story on its head.

This is nowhere more evident than in the image of the mustard seed. On the surface the parable is about the kingdom of God starting from very small, humble beginnings and growing into something great. However, immediately prior to this kingdom parable, Jesus has reminded us that the community makes a living out of growing grain crops like wheat for bread, etc. His parable about the mustard seed describes a tiny seed that grows into a great shrub 'so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade'. A farming community that was growing grain crops would be greatly alarmed at the thought of actually attracting birds to their fields or even nearby. Jesus' message about the kingdom of God is that it is actually disruptive and invasive. The kingdom brings unrest and disquiet to the predictable. The kingdom of God is unsettling. This is a much more challenging parable than it appears from a literal reading.

Gospel Focus – The Kingdom of God

The references to the kingdom of God in the gospels always carry a paradox. It exists in the present, yet is something to be achieved in the future. It is here, but not yet. If we live 'as if' we are living in the kingdom here and now then we hasten its coming. The kingdom of God is not a place but a way in which the world operates. It is a kingdom that is ruled by justice and gives precedence to those who are regarded as nothing in the world. It is a kingdom of promise and hope that inspires and calls all people to more than they currently are.

Scriptural context – Kingdom Parables

Jesus sought to describe the kingdom of God by comparison and analogy – 'The kingdom of God is like ...'; 'To what can we compare the kingdom of God?' He never gave a lecture about the kingdom, rather, he painted a picture in terms that were readily recognised by his audience but forced them to think differently about the image he used. It forced them to think about themselves and their world in a different way. Kingdom parables begin innocently enough with a familiar image but very quickly shift to a challenge about the way we normally perceive things. The kingdom is often portrayed as a contradiction.

Living the Gospel – Seed on the land

The first parable in the gospel passage describes the unerring work of the kingdom. It is like the seed that almost magically transforms into a fully grown plant that may be harvested – apparently without any external forces. Of course, we know that plants need to be fed, watered, weeded and nurtured to ensure their proper growth. However, the kingdom of God works in our lives in a similar way – if we feed and nurture it, the kingdom will produce a great harvest. Even if we don't pay it attention, the kingdom is present and acting in our world.

"Unleashing Personal Potential"



On Friday 7th of June, the Year 6 students had the opportunity to unleash their personal potential by participating in an incursion. Students challenged themselves and each other within an engaging, interactive and transformative leadership workshop.



Students covered topics such as

- The power of Influence
- Team Building and
- Battle of the Houses.



Term 3

Week 1

Monday 15/07

- Saint Bonaventure
- **Students Return To School**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 16/07

- *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Thursday 18/07

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Saturday 20/07

- *Saint Apollinaris*

Sunday 21/07

- 16th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 2

Monday 22/07

- **Saint Mary Magdalene**
- Emergency Displan Practice
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 23/07

- *Saint Bridget*
- **Parent Teacher Learning Conversations**
3.45pm to 7.15pm

Wednesday 24/07

- *Saint Sharbel Mahkluf*
- **Grandparents Day Mass (Whole School) & Celebration**

Thursday 25/07

- Saint James
- **Parent Teacher Learning Conversations**
3.45pm to 7.15pm

Friday 26/07

- Saints Joachim and Anne

Saturday 27/07

- **Presentation Masses for Sacrament of Confirmation**

Sunday 28/07

- 17th Sunday In Ordinary Time
- **Presentation Masses for Sacrament of Confirmation**

Week 3

Monday 29/07

- Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 30/07

- *Saint Peter Chrysologus*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **Parent Advisory Committee 7.00pm – 8.00pm - TBC**

Wednesday 31/07

- Saint Ignatius Loyola

Thursday 01/08

- Saint Alphonsus Liguori
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **100 Days Of Learning for Preps**

Friday 02/08

- *Saint Eusebius of Vercelli*
- *Saint Peter Julian Eymard*

Saturday 03/08

- Saint Dominic

Sunday 04/08

- 18th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 4

Monday 05/08

- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 06/08

- **The Transfiguration Of The Lord**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 07/08

- *Saints Sixtus II and companions*
- *Saint Cajetan*
- **Whole School Mass – St Mary of the Cross Mackillop 9.15am**

Thursday 08/08

- Saint Mary Of The Cross
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 09/08

- *Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*

Saturday 10/08

- Saint Lawrence

Sunday 11/08

- 19th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 5

Monday 12/08

- *Saint Jane Frances de Chantal*
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 13/08

- *Saints Pontian and Hippolytus*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 14/08

- Saint Maximilian Kolbe
- **Whole School Mass – Feast of the Assumption 9.15am**

Thursday 15/08

- The Assumption Of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 16/08

- *Saint Stephen of Hungary*

Sunday 18/08

- 20th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 6 – Book Week

Monday 19/08

- *Saint John Eudes*
- **Book Week Parade – 9am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 20/08

- Saint Bernard
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 21/08

- Saint Pius X

Thursday 22/08

- The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Northern Region School Improvement Network (All Day)
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 23/08

- *Saint Rose of Lima*

Saturday 24/08

- Saint Bartholomew
- **Sacrament of Confirmation Masses 11.00am & 2.00pm**

Sunday 25/08

- 21st Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 7

Monday 26/08

- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 27/08

- Saint Monica
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 28/08

- Saint Augustine

Thursday 29/08

- The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 30/08

- The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
- **Father's Day Breakfast (7.30am) & Blessing (8.15am)**
- **Fathers Day Stall**
- **Footy Colours Day**

Sunday 01/09

- 22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time
- **Father's Day**

Week 8

Monday 02/09

- Saint Augustine
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 03/09

- Saint Gregory the Great
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Advisory Committee 7.00pm – 8.00pm - TBC

Wednesday 04/09

- Mr. Noack on Study Leave (Returns Wednesday 9th October.)

Thursday 05/09

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 06/09

- Instalment 3 - Family Fee Payment Due

Sunday 08/09

- 23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 9

Monday 09/09

- *Saint Peter Claver*
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 10/09

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Thursday 12/09

- *The Most Holy Name of Mary*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 13/09

- Saint John Chrysostom

Saturday 14/09

- The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sunday 15/09

- 24th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 10

Monday 16/09

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

Tuesday 17/09

- *Saint Hildegard of Bingen*
- *Saint Robert Bellarmine*

Wednesday 18/09

- **Whole School Liturgy 9.15am**
- Year 3 Camp – Camp Sunnystones

Thursday 19/09

- *Saint Januarius*
- Year 3 Camp – Camp Sunnystones
- Year 4 Camp – Camp Sunnystones
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 20/09

- **Last Day of Term 3**
- Year 4 Camp – Camp Sunnystones
- **Dismissal Time 3.15pm**



Term 3 Staff Professional Learning Plan

This section has been added to provide parents & carers with an overview of the professional learning being undertaken by teachers next term. The article titled "Change and Growth Is An Intrinsic Part of Education", found at the front of the newsletter, provides a further explanation.

Week	Day/Date	Meeting Focus	Facilitator
1	Tuesday 16/7/24	Vision For Learning: Science of the brain	Lisa McCallin & Chantell Cassar
	Thursday 18/7/2024	Mathematics	Chantell Cassar
2	Tuesday 23/07/24	Literacy	Vivian Abarci
	Thursday 25/07/24	Vision For Learning: Science of the brain	Lisa McCallin & Chantell Cassar
3	Tuesday 30/07/24	Vision For Learning: Principles of Instruction	Lisa McCallin & Chantell Cassar
	Thursday 01/08/24	Inquiry Learning	Grant Lewis
4	Tuesday 06/08/24	Literacy	Vivian Abarci
	Thursday 08/08/24	Mathematics	Chantell Cassar
5	Tuesday 13/08/24	Vision For Learning: Principles of Instruction	Lisa McCallin & Chantell Cassar
	Thursday 15/08/24	Mathematics	Chantell Cassar
6	Tuesday 20/08/24	Positive behaviour For Learning	Jo
	Thursday 22/08/24	Religious Education	Eloise Meyer
7	Tuesday 27/08/24	Vision For Learning: Principles of Instruction	Lisa McCallin & Chantell Cassar
	Thursday 29/08/24	Teaching & Learning: Student profile booklets	Lisa McCallin
8	Tuesday 03/09/24	Religious Education	Eloise Meyer
	Thursday 04/09/24	Inquiry Learning	Grant Lewis
9	Tuesday 10/09/24	Vision For Learning: Principles of Instruction	Lisa McCallin & Chantell Cassar
	Thursday 12/09/24	TBC	
10	Tuesday 17/09/24	Teaching & Learning: Student profile booklets	Lisa McCallin
	Thursday 19/09/24	TBC	

STUDENT ABSENTEE NOTE

My child, in (Class)

Was absent on/...../..... For the following reason:

.....
.....

Signed Date/...../.....

STUDENT ABSENTEE NOTE

My child, in (Class)

Was absent on/...../..... For the following reason:

.....
.....

Signed Date/...../.....

STUDENT ABSENTEE NOTE

My child, in (Class)

Was absent on/...../..... For the following reason:

.....
.....

Signed Date/...../.....