



Friday, 21st February 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

This weekend's Gospel is a fabulous insight into the heart of what we aspire to achieve when teaching Positive Behaviour Learning to our students.

The Gospel is published for you to read further in the newsletter along with a homily based upon the Gospel that gives a great example of how the words of Jesus 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that? Be kind, be merciful, forgive and do not condemn, for the measure you give out is the measure you will receive'.

Choosing to send your child to a Catholic school is not just about numeracy & literacy, it is about raising children to develop within them a moral compass, a way of seeing and living in the world that reflects the heart of Christ.

It is our shared understanding of the Gospel and participation in the Eucharist, the examples that Christ has given us which allow us to work together in raising children as 'who God meant them to be'.

St Catherine's flourishes not only because of the commitment of our staff but because you as parents and carers support us in striving to do the best for our students.

May the coming of Lent provide us time to return to our faith, our core values, so that in turn, we can be a light of hope to our children.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Just a reminder that our first **Parent/ Child Reflection Evening for the Sacrament of Reconciliation** for Grade 3 students enrolled in the Sacramental program will occur next **Monday 24th February** commencing at **6.30pm** (1hr duration) in our school hall.

FAMILY Learning Night

Information nights: Reading and Maths

Last Thursday, we hosted our first of a series of Family Learning and Information nights to discuss how Reading and Numeracy are taught at our school, and to support parents with ways their child/ren can be supported at home.

The current Learning and Information nights are being held in the upstairs area of the school (above admin).

As there are limited places available you will be required to book your spot. This will be done in the same way you are booking parent teacher interviews. Please note that there are limited spaces.

Below are the last three nights in this first of a series of information nights being held this year.

Family Learning and Information Night:

READING

Year 1 & 2 Families:
Reading with your child at home – Thursday, 27th February from 7pm-8pm



<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/vkgqg>

Event code: **vkgqg**

Family Learning and Information Night:

MATHS

Year 3 & 4 Families:
Math's Learning Night – Thursday, 6th March from 7pm-8pm
Year 5 & 6 Families
Math's Learning Night – Thursday, 13th March from 7pm-8pm



<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/vkgqg>

Event code: **9z2rv**

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR LEARNING

We are a Positive Behaviour for Learning School. PBL is all about teaching children the right behaviour, just like we teach any other subject at school.

"If a student does not know how to read, we teach
If a student does not know how to swim, we teach
If a student does not know how to multiply, we teach
If a student does not know how to behave, we teach."

Toward the later part of last year, after much consultation and reflection, we were able to publish the values that staff, student and parents chose as the core foundation to our school's culture and to use Positive Behaviour Learning as the mechanism by which these core values are expressed and lived out. A reminder to us all is that the purpose of introducing Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) and identifying these core values is to: **Support all students to succeed socially, emotionally and academically every day.**

The core values at St Catherine of Siena Primary School are:

Respectful
Safe
Kind
Responsible

These four values were voted highly in both the parent survey and staff poll.

A Behaviour Matrix has been established to create clear and achievable behaviour expectations within a variety of areas throughout the school and across all year levels. The Behaviour Matrix will ensure that there is a consistent approach to behaviour within the school.

A copy of the Behaviour Matrix is included in this newsletter edition.

Sitting beside the Behaviour Matrix are two further documents. The first is a Behaviour Management

Flow Chart that instructs staff in how behaviour is to be managed, the second is a document that outlines what a MINOR & a MAJOR behaviour is.

A copy of the Behaviour Management Flow Chart is shown below on the following page.

Next Thursday, staff will meet to finalise what are considered **MINOR & MAJOR** behaviours. MINOR being those behaviours managed by the teacher and MAJOR behaviours managed by leadership. Once finalised, this will be shared and communicated with the community.

The next stage in our PBL journey is to create mascots that can be used to assist us in remembering the values of Respectful, Safe, Kind & Responsible.

Each classroom will explore what a mascot is and why they are used. We will then ask students who are interested to enter a competition to create mascots that can be used to market the PBL values within the school. The student or students who create the winning images will be awarded with a **\$50 kids voucher** that can be used at either Smiggle, JB-Hi Fi, Rebel and many other stores. The lucky winner or winners will also get the opportunity to work with a graphic artist to turn their images into professional artwork which will be used across the school as part of the displays that will reinforce the positive behaviours we are seeking to encourage and develop as part of our learning behaviour.

We encourage all students to have a go and get involved in the competition. Please note that students can work independently, with their siblings, or in a pair with a friend.

The student **PBL Mascot Competition Template** will be handed out by the classroom teachers at the end of next week, but that doesn't mean students can't begin drafting their entry for the competition.

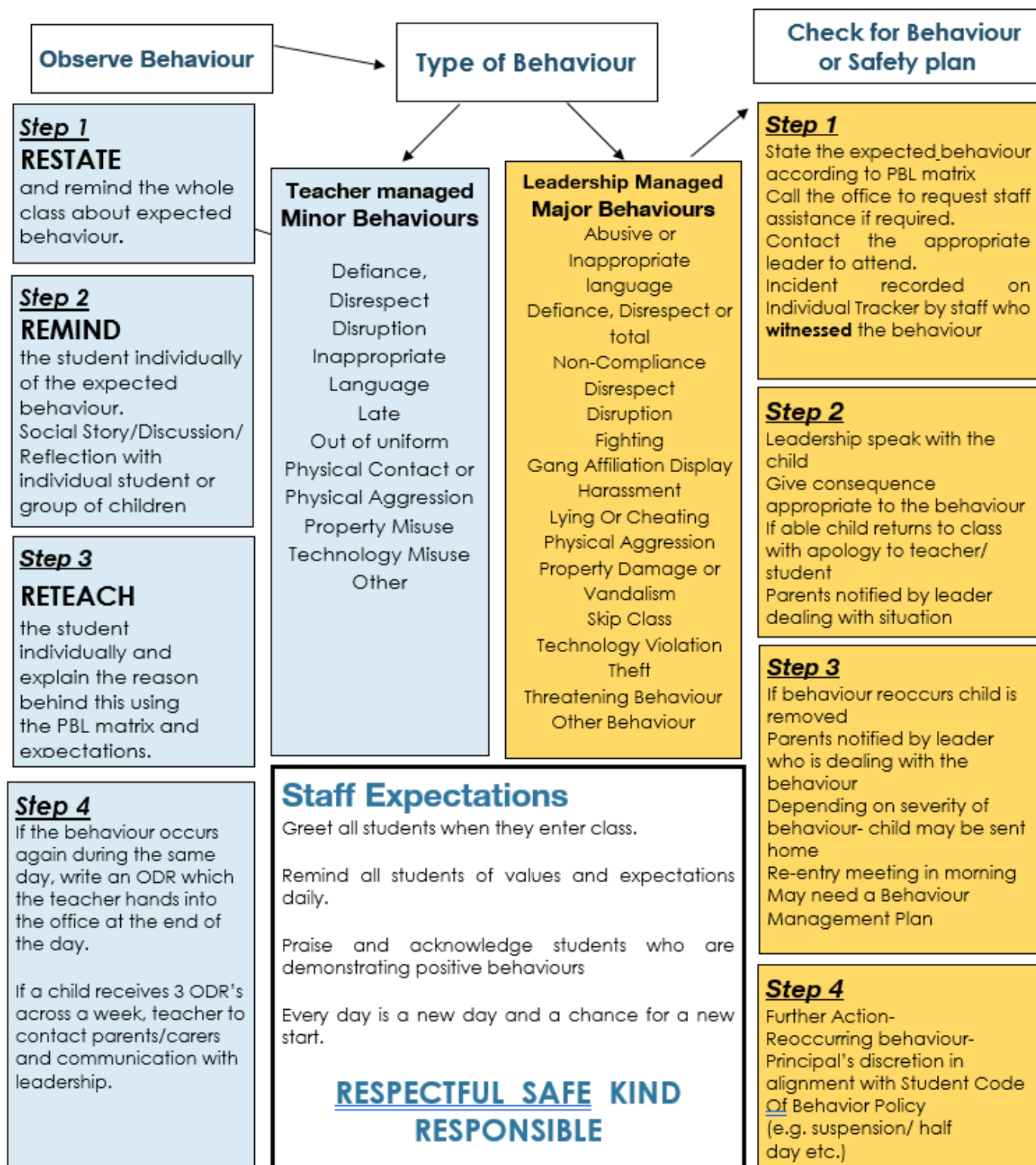
To ensure a fair process, all students interested in entering, will be given a blank template to draw their image on. Each entrant will be given a number as we will not have student's names attached to the images to ensure that the voting on the image is about the image and not who has drawn it.

Entries close on **Monday 17th March 2025** and must be submitted to **Mrs Anderson via the classroom office tubs.**

Once all entries have been received, the PBL team will shortlist the entries. We look forward to sharing the winning image with you next term.



St Catherine of Siena Positive Behaviour for Learning Flowchart





St Catherine of Siena, Melton West PBL Matrix

	Always	Learning Areas/Spaces	Outdoor Areas/Spaces	Transitions
<p>Respectful</p> <p>I am honest and value myself, other people and property.</p>	<p>I listen to and follow directions of all staff</p> <p>I speak appropriately at all times</p> <p>I am inclusive of everyone in our school community</p>	<p>I am ready to learn</p> <p>I allow teachers to teach and learners to learn</p>	<p>I play games fairly and can follow the rules</p>	<p>I enter and leave learning areas quietly and calmly</p>
<p>Safe</p> <p>I look after myself and each other in all I do and say.</p>	<p>I keep my hands, feet and objects to myself</p>	<p>I get permission before leaving a learning space</p>	<p>I use sports, playground and sandpit equipment appropriately</p> <p>I am an upstander</p>	<p>I move calmly and carefully</p> <p>I stay with my class when moving around the school</p>
<p>Kind</p> <p>I care for others like Jesus cares for me.</p>	<p>I treat others as I would like to be treated</p> <p>I show forgiveness</p>	<p>I value the ideas and opinions of all</p>	<p>I let others join in at play time</p> <p>I share and take turns</p>	<p>I greet others with a smile, politeness and courtesy</p> <p>I am aware of others whilst I move around the school</p>
<p>Responsible</p> <p>I make good choices and I am honest.</p>	<p>I take care of school property and the environment</p> <p>I am in the right place at the right time</p> <p>I follow whole school routines</p>	<p>I ask for help when I need it</p> <p>I take ownership of my actions and words</p> <p>I follow the schools ICT user agreement</p>	<p>I speak to the yard duty teacher when I need help</p> <p>I try to resolve problems calmly</p>	<p>I am in class by 8.40am</p>

MAKE LENT COUNT

PRAY • ACT • GIVE

Lenten Offering 2025

Supporting Saint Vincent De Pauls Through A Weekly Offering of Non-Perishable Food

This coming Monday 24th February, and each week throughout Lent, we are encouraging all students, staff and families to **donate weekly, non-perishable food items** to be placed in tubs allocated to each year level. The tubs will be located throughout the school enabling students to place items in them with ease.

The staff have already commenced putting a Lenten Offering together for next Sunday.

Each week at the 9.00am and 11.00am Sunday Mass our Lenten offering will be brought up by two to four St Catherine of Siena school students and offered to the parish in support of families in need.

The students presenting the Lenten offering will be representing our school and as such are asked to wear full school uniform at the Mass so that parishioners can clearly identify the effort of St Catherine Of Siena Catholic School students and their families.

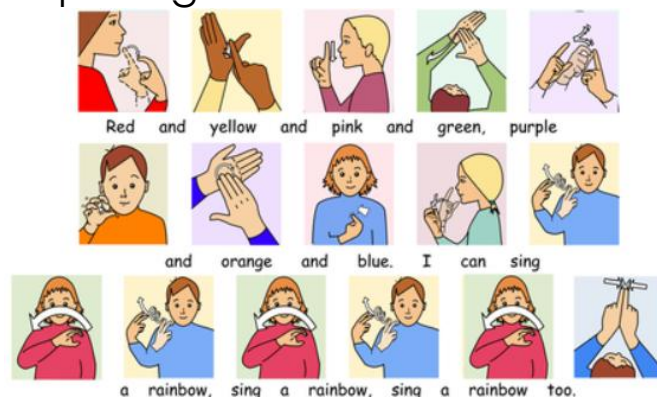
An Operoo form will be sent out next Monday seeking the names of students who will present our offering at each Mass with names published on the Friday before to acknowledge their participation.



Celina (PA) – The Joy Of Growing & Sharing Food

AUSLAN HUB

Exploring the Colours This Week



This week, we dove into the vibrant world of colours! Students learned to sign colours like red, yellow, green, and blue. Classroom activities included finding objects that matched the signed colour.

You can practice at home by asking your child to sign their favourite colour or identify colourful objects around the house.

It's Shrove Tuesday!



On Tuesday 4th March, the day before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, we will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday with our students.

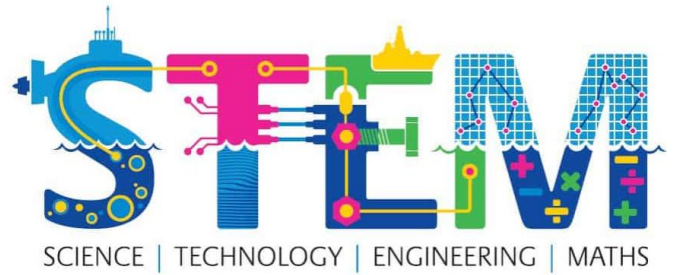
As well as teaching the students about the history and traditions associated with Shrove Tuesday, we would like to share a pancake snack with our students.

To simplify things this year, with the hope that next year, our master chef students will participate in the making of pancakes, we will be using store bought pancakes from Coles.

Alternative arrangements will be made for those students with allergies. If however, you would prefer that your child **DID NOT** receive a pancake, please advise us via the Operoo form sent out this week.



~ Learning to be courageous and face our fears ~



This week's 2 minute experiment saw the whole school participating in learning about the special property salt has and how it makes ice melt. Students were amazed when Mr Coleiro was able to make the ice stick to the string for the whole class to see.



In Years 5 and 6, students have got stuck into the basics of programming through BeeBots.

These small, programmable robots help students develop logical thinking and an understanding of coding, as they plan and test simple commands to make the robots move. It's a hands-on way to introduce them to the world of technology.

In Years 3 and 4, students explore how technology is integrated into our daily lives. They learnt about the terms object, system and process, and how everything manmade is technology such as a peg, spoon and even a set of instructions. This learning also introduces students to engineering concepts, allowing them to understand the role engineers play in designing the world we live in.

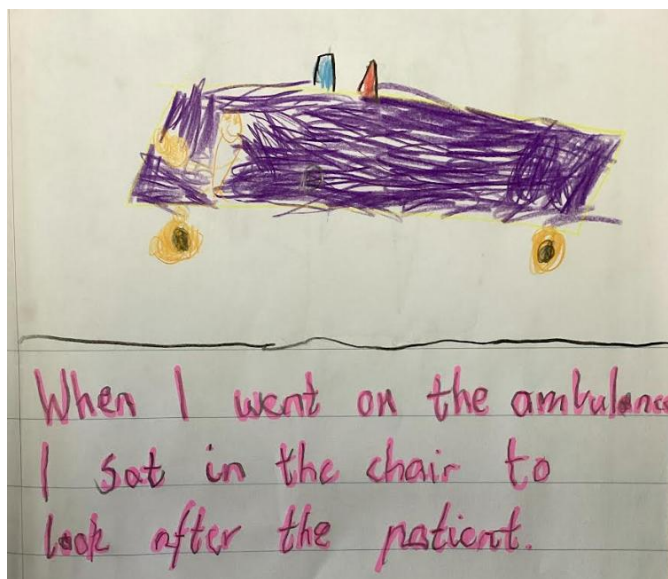
For younger learners in Years 1 and 2, STEM focused on simple scientific concepts. Students explore the properties of materials by experimenting with objects that sink or float, developing an understanding of buoyancy and material properties in a fun, interactive way.

Even the youngest learners in prep are introduced to STEM through sensory exploration. By making and playing with playdough, they discover its unique properties, such as its texture and malleability, laying the foundation for more complex scientific thinking in later years.



Ambulance Victoria

On Monday, February 17th, 2025, our prep students had a special visit from paramedics Claire and Susan, providing a hands-on learning experience. The students were given the unique opportunity to sit in the ambulance, walking through its various features and asking insightful questions. They were also captivated by an engaging story, which helped them better understand the role of paramedics in the community. The day was made even more interactive when the students dressed up and used bandages to practice basic first aid skills, pretending to help in emergency situations. The Prep Team would like to express their deep gratitude to Claire and Susan for their time, knowledge and the invaluable experience they provided to the students.





Rules of Gaga Ball

Gaga has become one of our favourite outdoor games for students from **Grade 3 to Grade 6**. Since introducing this game late last year, we have noticed some issues regarding variations to the rules being introduced that have created opportunities to argue over who is in and who is out. In response to this, the leadership team gathered last Monday night to resolve this issue.

The official St Catherine Of Siena Gaga game rules:

- All players (up to 8) start with one hand touching a wall of the pit.
- The game begins with a referee throwing the ball into the centre of the pit with the players shouting 'GA' for the first two bounces, and 'GO' on the third bounce, after which the ball is in action.
- Once the ball is in play, any player can hit the ball with an open hand.
- You can hit the ball with open hands, but picking up the ball, holding the ball and throwing it at a player is not allowed and will result in you going out.
- Hitting the ball with a closed hand or a "fist" is not allowed.
- If a ball touches a player on or below the knee (even if the player hits himself or herself) he or she is out and leaves the pit. If a player is hit above the knees, the play continues.
- If a player hits the ball out of the court, and the ball doesn't hit anybody, then the player who hit it is out.
- Players and spectators are not permitted to sit on the wall of the Gaga pit.
- When one player has eliminated all other players, the game is over and a new one may begin.
- When two players are left, a twenty second count begins. If there is no clear winner, the two players use 'rock-paper-scissors' to settle who the winner is with both players then returning to the end of the line and 8 new players to enter the pit and start the game again.



TERM 1

Week 5

Monday 24/02

- Prep's Commence Full-Time
- Reconciliation Family Night for St Catherine of Siena and St Dominics @ 6:30pm

Tuesday 25/02

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Advisory Committee Meeting 7pm- 8pm

Wednesday 26/03

- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
- Year 4 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am

Thursday 27/03

- Saint Gregory of Narek (commemoration)
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Yr 1/2 Parent Night – Reading with your child at home 7pm 8pm

Friday 28/02

- Yr 6 Summer Sport – Round 3 @ St Catherine's

Sunday 02/03

- 8th Sunday In Ordinary Time-GREEN
- Clean Up Australia Day

Week 6

Monday 03/03

- Whole School Photo Day

Tuesday 04/03

- Shrove Tuesday
- Saint Casimir (commemoration)
- Yr 5 Excursion to Melbourne Zoo
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 05/03

- Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9:15am
- Instalment 1 - Family Fee & Student Levy Payment Due
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 06/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Yr 3/4 Parent Information Night – Mathematics 7pm – 8pm

Friday 07/03

- Saints Perpetua and Felicity (commemoration)
- World Day of Prayer

Saturday 08/03

- Saint John of God (commemoration)
- International Women's Day
- Reconciliation Presentation and Commitment MASS @ 6:00pm

Sunday 09/03

- Saint Frances of Rome (commemoration)
- 1st Sunday of Lent-VIOLET

Week 7

Monday 10/03

- Labour Day – Public Holiday

Tuesday 11/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 12/03

- Year 2 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am
- Sacrament of Penance 7.00pm
- NAPLAN Commences for Year 3 & 5
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 13/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Yr 5/6 Parent Information Night – Mathematics 7pm – 8pm

Friday 14/03

Saturday 15/03

Sunday 16/03

- 2nd Sunday of Lent-VIOLET

Week 8

Catholic Education Week

Monday 17/03

- Solemnity of Saint Patrick (Dress In Green)
- Saint Gertrude

Tuesday 18/03

- Saint Cyril of Jerusalem
- Parent Advisory Committee 2.00pm – 3.00pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 19/03

- Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Year 3 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm – Yr 5 presenting Stations of the Cross (part 1)

Thursday 20/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 21/03

- Harmony Day
- Mass of Saint Patrick for Schools

Saturday 22/03

- Saint Turibius de Mogrovejo (commemoration)

Sunday 23/03

- 3rd Sunday of Lent-VIOLET

Week 9

Monday 24/03

Tuesday 25/03

- The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 26/03

- Year 1 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm – Yr 5 presenting Stations of the Cross (part 2)

Thursday 27/03

Saturday 29/03

Sunday 30/03

- 4th Sunday of Lent-VIOLET

Week 10

Monday 31/03

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Tuesday 01/04

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 02/04

- **Last day of Term 1**
- *Saint Francis of Paola*
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm – Yr 5 presenting Stations of the Cross (part 3)
- Student Dismissal 3.15pm

Thursday 03/04

- **School Closure Day - Staff PD**

Friday 04/04

- **School Closure Day - Staff PD**
- *Saint Isidore*



TERM 2

Week 1

Monday 21/04

- **EASTER MONDAY**

Tuesday 22/04

- **Students Return Today**
- Earth Day
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 23/04

- *Saint George*
- *Saint Adalbert*
- **YEAR 6 and Prep ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- **Whole School Assembly 2:15pm**

Thursday 24/04

- *Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 25/04

- **ANZAC DAY (Public Holiday)**
- *Saint Mark*

Sunday 27/04

- 2nd Sunday of Easter- WHITE

Week 2

Monday 28/04

- *Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort*
- *Saint Peter Chanel*
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Tuesday 29/04

- **Saint Catherine of Siena Feast Day**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Wednesday 30/04

- *Saint Pius V*
- **Whole School Mass – St Catherine of Siena Feast Day @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Thursday 01/05

- *Saint Joseph the Worker*
- International Workers Day
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Friday 02/05

- *Saint Athanasius*
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Saturday 03/05

- *Saints Philip and James*

Sunday 04/05

- 3rd Sunday of Easter-WHITE

Week 3

ONLINE CYBERSAFETY SESSION FOR YEAR 1-6 THIS WEEK

Monday 05/05

- Parent Support Group Meetings

Tuesday 06/05

- **Parent Advisory Committee 2.00pm – 3.00pm**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Wednesday 07/05

- **Mother's Day Mass 9:15am (Whole School) & Morning Tea**
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 08/05

- **Mother's Day Stall**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Friday 09/05

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Year 3 excursion to the Art Centre

Saturday 10/05

- *Saint John Avila*

Sunday 11/05

- **Mother's Day**
- 4th Sunday of Easter: WHITE
- World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Week 4

ONLINE CYBERSAFETY SESSION FOR YEAR 1-6 THIS WEEK

Monday 12/05

- *Saints Nereus and Achilleus Saint Pancras*

Tuesday 13/05

- *Our Lady of Fatima*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **Eucharist Family Night @ 6:30pm with Fr John Madden (tbc)**

Wednesday 14/05

- *Saint Matthaia*
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
- **YEAR 5 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**

Thursday 15/05

- International Day of Families
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 16/05

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Saturday 17/05

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Sunday 18/05

- Saint John I
- 5th Sunday of Easter - White

Week 5

ONLINE CYBERSAFETY SESSION FOR PREP THIS WEEK

Monday 19/05

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Tuesday 20/05

- **Mary, Mother of the Church**
- *Saint Bernadine of Siena*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 21/05

- *Saints Christopher Magallenes and companions*
- **Staff Flu Vaccination Program**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
- **YEAR 4 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**

Thursday 22/05

- *Saint Rita of Cascia*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 23/05

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Saturday 24/05

- *Our Lady, Help of Christians*
- **First Eucharist Presentation and Commitment Mass @6pm**

Sunday 25/05

- *Saint Gregory VII*
- *Saint Mary Magdalene de Pazzi*
- *Saint Bede*
- 6th Sunday of Easter-WHITE

Week 6

National Reconciliation Week

Monday 26/05

- *Saint Philip Neri*
- *National Sorry Day*

Tuesday 27/05

- *Saint Augustine of Canterbury*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 28/05

- **YEAR 3 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 29/05

- *Saint Paul VI*
- LSO Meeting 2:15 - 3pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 30/05

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Saturday 31/05

- **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- **First Eucharist for SCS and SD @11am (SD Choir) and 1pm(SCS Choir)**
- **Sunday 01/06**
- The Ascension of the Lord-WHITE
- Jesus commissions the eleven, ascends to heaven-Luke 24: 46-53

Week 7

Monday 02/06

- *Saints Marcellinus and Peter*

Tuesday 03/06

- *Saint Charles Lwanga and companions*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 04/06

- **YEAR 2 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
- **Interrelate Human Development Family Night - Tricky Talks 6:30 - 8:00pm**

Thursday 05/06

- *Saint Boniface*
- LSO Meeting 2:15 - 3pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Inform and Empower Parent session

Friday 06/06

- **School Closure Day**
- *Saint Norbert*
- *Saint Marcellin Champagnat*

Saturday 07/06

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Sunday 08/06

- **Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**
- **PENTECOST SUNDAY-RED**

Week 8

Monday 09/06

- **King's Birthday – Public Holiday**
- *Mary, Mother of the Church*

Tuesday 10/06

- **Parent Advisory Committee 2.00pm – 3.00pm**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 11/06

- *Saint Barnabas*
- **YEAR 1 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2:15pm

Thursday 12/06

- LSO Meeting 2:15pm - 3pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 13/6

- *Saint Anthony of Padua*
- Year 6 Aspire Incursion
- Instalment 2 - Family Fee Payment Due

Saturday 14/06

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Sunday 15/06

- SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY-WHITE

Week 9

Monday 16/06

- **Tuesday 17/06**

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 18/06

- Year 5 Talent Show
- **YEAR 6 and Prep ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 19/06

- Feast of Corpus Christi
- Saint Romuald
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 20/06

- Saturday 21/06
- Saint Aloysius Gonzaga

Sunday 22/06

- Saints John Fisher and Thomas More
- SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi)-WHITE

Week 10

Monday 23/06

- Saint Paulinus of Nola

Tuesday 24/06

- THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 25/06

- Saint Romuald
- **2026 Prep Enrolments Close**
- **Whole school mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 26/06

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 27/06

- Saint Cyril of Alexandria
- Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- **Semester 1 Student Reports Sent Home**

Saturday 28/06

- Saint Irenaeus
- The Most Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sunday 29/06

- Saints Peter And Paul -RED

Week 11

Monday 30/06

- The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Tuesday 01/07

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

Wednesday 02/07

- **YEAR 5 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- **Parent helper afternoon tea**
- Whole School Assembly 2:15pm

Thursday 03/07

- Saint Thomas

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

Friday 04/07

- Saint Elizabeth of Portugal
- Last Day of Term 2
- **Dismissal Time 3.15pm**

This Weekend's Gospel



The Gospel according to Luke 6:27-38

Be Merciful As Your Father Is Merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you.

If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them.

And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much.

And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount.

Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.

Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned.

Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

Some years ago I was at an annual parents' dinner for a Catholic school for profoundly disabled children.

A well-known local politician, whose child was in the school, was asked to speak. This is what he said: 'I would like to pay tribute to the staff at this school. Only parents and teachers know what a joy and a heartbreak it is to have a profoundly disabled child. I always wanted the perfect child, but where is the perfection in my son David? We are told that God looked at the world and it was perfect, but my son cannot understand things as other children do. David cannot remember facts and figures as other children do. David walks with difficulty and cannot speak. How can God be filled with joy at David?' The audience was shocked by this pained question from an anguished father.

'I believe', the father continued, 'that when God allows a world in which David can now live for 50 years, perfection is found in the way people react to children like him.'

'Just recently David and I were walking in our local park. Some boys had been there most of the day playing cricket. They were serious about this competition. David was very excited and I knew he wanted to join in. David has terrible physical co-ordination, but I approached one of the boys on the pitch and asked if David could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his mates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said "Things are tight, we have to get six runs to win but we'll try and give him a bat". David smiled broadly. After scoring three more runs the next boy got out. David was put up the batting order and called to the wicket. I helped him get out there.'

'Everyone knew that it was all but impossible for my son to help them win the game. He didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, let alone hit with it. The bowler, however, sent down a soft ball so David could at least make contact. The second similar ball came and David swung clumsily and missed it. One of David's team mates came up to him and together they held the bat and faced the bowler waiting for the next ball.'

'As the ball came down, David and his teammate swung at the ball and together they hit a strong ground shot to the boundary. At his captain's urging David stumbled up the pitch as quickly as he could.

Never in his life has David run so fast. He came back for a second run as the fielder saved the ball from being four runs and so the team was screaming for a third run. The fielder could have thrown the ball to David's stumps and got him out. On the winning third run, however, he threw the ball to the other end where the other batsman was safely home. The keeper casually sent it up to David's end, just as David was completing the third, winning run.'

'That day', said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, 'those boys showed me why God always looks at creation and knows it is very good.'

Jesus said, 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that? Be kind, be merciful, forgive and do not condemn, for the measure you give out is the measure you will receive'.

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Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.



Year 1B

Thomas B - For always using his manners in class and for being a sensitive classmate who respectfully listens to others.

Evelyn S - For working well in class and trying your best to complete all of her work. Well done Evelyn!

Year 1C

Kai A - For demonstrating great understanding of patterns when counting by 10s, 5s and 2s.

Tomislav J - For taking on classroom jobs and carrying them out calmly and with great responsibility.

Year 2A

Mariah A - For your positive and enthusiastic 'ready to learn' attitude and the kindness you share with others. Well done Mariah!

Makuac T - For your determination and effort to finish tasks in both Writing and Maths. Keep it up Makuac!

Year 2B

Ayvah P - For successfully honing in on 3-digit numbers and mastering expanded form. Your hard work is impressive

Zac K - For being a great leader, role model, and staying focused in the classroom. Your positive example inspires others.

Year 2C

Jayden Z - For your efforts in handwriting, working hard and taking on feedback to write clearly formed letters on your dotted thirds. Great work

Ebony B - For your determination in ordering three digit numbers and writing these in exponent form. Keep up the excellent work.

Year 3A

William M - For settling into 3A. You have shown kindness to your peers and demonstrated your readiness to learn. Keep up the fantastic effort

Nova H - For your exceptional demonstration of moving calmly and safely during transition times.

Year 3B

Jairus-Leonard R - For your focus and effort with your learning. You always demonstrate being ready to learn.

Michaiah A - For your positive attitude towards learning. You are always willing to try new learning tasks and contribute to class discussions.

Year 3C

Olivia V - For starting each day with focus and organisation, ready to begin your learning.

Benjamin M - For consistently demonstrating an interest in learning long vowel sounds by asking questions.

Year 4A

Zakaria A - For showing persistence and enthusiasm when using addition strategies to solve problems. Well done!

Allegra S - For your active participation in class discussions. Keep up the fantastic work!

Year 4B

Ayen A - For outstanding organisation and effort in completing your work regularly.

Anthony M - For demonstrating an excellent understanding of the addition algorithm including regrouping numbers.

Year 4C

Aditya U - For being an outstanding helper by assisting others in the classroom and setting a great example for your classmates.

Heath P - For demonstrating an excellent understanding of the four-digit subtraction algorithm and problem-solving. Great work!

Year 5A

Nathan S - For taking on feedback and improving your orientation paragraph in your narrative. Keep up the good work!

Logan F - For giving an outstanding insight into the Jubilee logo during R.E class discussions. Well done!

Year 5B

Kailen S - For the effort and positive attitude shown in adapting to your new school environment.

Jude S - For having a positive attitude towards all parts of your learning. Keep it up!

Year 5C

Ruby I - For showing great strength, being flexible, and staying positive while adjusting to your new school.

Moses D - For always showing respect to others and working hard to do your best every day.

Year 6A

Jamie N - For your brilliant sportsmanship during our first round of Inter School Sports activity at Rockbank Primary. You made St Catherine of Siena proud!

Dor T - For taking on feedback and improving your writing responses resulting in insightful wonderings and reflection.

Year 6B

Geu G - For demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship during Year 6 interschool sports. Your positive attitude, teamwork, and encouragement of others made you a fantastic role model on and off the court!

Marita M - For always being organised and ready to learn. Your curiosity and willingness to ask thoughtful questions help deepen your understanding and inspire those around you!

Year 6C

Robert R - For always completing tasks effectively, while also being an excellent role model both in the classroom and at break times.

Luchelle S - For consistently demonstrating a strong work ethic in class and completing extra homework

Auslan

Ava K (4A) - For your incredible effort in recognising and understanding Auslan fingerspelling. Amazing!

Jobe G (5A)- For your incredible effort in recognising and understanding Auslan fingerspelling. Amazing!

