



Friday, 28th February 2025



This Week's Newsletter Items:

- Ash Wednesday Mass 5th March 9.15am
- Make Lent Count
- Final Family Learning Nights (Year 3-6 Maths)
- Whole School Photos Timetable
- Naming Our Turtles & Frogs
- Auslan This Week
- What's Happening In S.T.E.M. This Week
- School Advisory Council
- School & Staff Commissioning Mass
- Term 1 Dates

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Friends,

Next week we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. The provision of the image above provides our students with an understanding of what the placement of ashes on a forehead looks like. More importantly is what it represents. Teachers are taking the opportunity to deepen their students with knowledge about this ritual and the symbolism of ashes in preparation for next Wednesday. Mass will occur at 9.15am with all families invited.

MAKE LENT COUNT

PRAY • ACT • GIVE

Lenten Offering 2025

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

We are asking all families and staff to **donate weekly, non-perishable food items** to be placed in tubs allocated within the main school building enabling students to place items in them with ease.

Commencing on **Sunday 9th March**, at the **9.00am and 11.00am Sunday Mass**, during the season of Lent, our Lenten offering will be brought up by several St Catherine of Siena school students and offered to the parish in support of families in need.

Located on the following page are a list of students and their families who have already nominated themselves for this service. We greatly appreciate the generosity of these students and families in undertaking this service of charity.



Next Monday is our official School Photo Day. To ensure consistency across all photos, we ask that students, particularly **Years 5 & Year 6 students to please wear their formal school uniform** (not sports uniform) for this occasion. The photos will be used when publishing school academic reports.



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

Sunday, 9th March – 9:00am Mass

Emily D – 4A
Dor T – 6A
Jacob A – 6A
Ofeina T – 6C

Sunday, 9th March - 11am Mass

Saria J – Prep C
Aiden B – Prep C
Max M – Prep C
Frazer A – 1A
James K – 1A
Lual M – 1B
Rhylan S – 1B
Blessing B – 2A
Thea H – 2A
Elijah J – 2B
Jason P – 2C
Mary Z – 2C
Zoey T – 2C
Aisha S – 3A
Lukas F – 3A
Nyandeng D – 3A
Jason D – 3B
Liam M – 3B
Isaac M – 3B
Alexander Z – 3C
Mary H – 3C
Mathias K – 3C
Sabrina S – 3C
Marion R – 3C
John P – 4A
Maan T – 4A
Bakita M – 4B
Isaac K – 4B
Roman H – 4B
Barach B – 4B
Alana F – 5A
Jayden R – 5A
Jobe G – 5A
Noah K – 5A
Stephanie F – 5A
Leon P – 5B
Nathaniel A – 5B

Tatiana T – 5B
Moses D – 5C
Jamie N – 6A
Nolan D – 6A
Gabrienna D – 6B
Leona P – 6B
Anna K – 6C
Robert R – 6C
Wel M – 6C

Sunday, 16th March – 9:00am Mass

Ebony B – 2C
Ryan A – 2C
Mateo L – 3B
Radha L – 4B
Christian L – 5A
Chloe A – 5A
Isabelle B – 5B
Oliver B – Prep A
Bryce P – Prep A
James L – Prep C

Sunday, 16th March – 11:00am Mass

Valentina G – Prep B
Achol M – Prep C
Athena A – Prep C
Imani M – 1C
Anthony G – 2A
Romeo W – 2A
Luwayne S – 2A
Daniel W – 2A
Chloe M – 2B
Charlotte K – 3C
Anthony M – 4B
Elizabeth W – 5A
Alfred W – 5C
Marita M – 6B

Sunday, 23rd March – 9:00am Mass

Denzel S – 2A
Georgia H – 3A
Andreana D – 3B
Liberty G – 4B
Andrew S – 6A

Sunday, 23rd March - 11:00am Mass

Grace K – 2B
Chelsea H – 5C

Sunday, 30th March – 9:00am Mass

Sunday, 30th March – 11:00am Mass

Victoria T – Prep A
Elizabeth G – Prep C
William G – 2B
Achucha A – 2C
May T – 3C
Ronida G – 4C
Lucian R – 5A
Ira G – 6A
Ngong A – 6B

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 two nights** in this first of a series of information nights being held this year.

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/vkagg>

Event code: **9z2rv**



On Tuesday we will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday with our students. **Thank you to the many parents who have volunteered to assist with the distribution of pancakes.** Your support allows us to make this happen.



Whole School Photo Day

Monday 3rd March 2024

Please refer to this timetable if making an appointment for your child during school times.

Time	Class
8:15	STAFF
9:00	5B
9:10	5A
9:20	5C
9:30	6A
9:40	6B
9:50	6C
10:00	Prep A
10:10	Prep B
10:20	Prep C
10:30	1A
10:40	1B
11:30	1C
11:40	2A
11:50	2B
12:00	2C
12:10	3A
12:20	3B
12:30	3C
12:40	4A
12:50	4B
1:00	4C
1:10	FAMILY PORTRAITS

Turtle and Frog Naming Competition

Thank you to all the families who replied to our Operoo note to name our Turtles and Frogs.

We ended up having a huge response with over 180 suggestions. We shortened the list to the top 10 of repeated name suggestions, which the whole school then voted on.

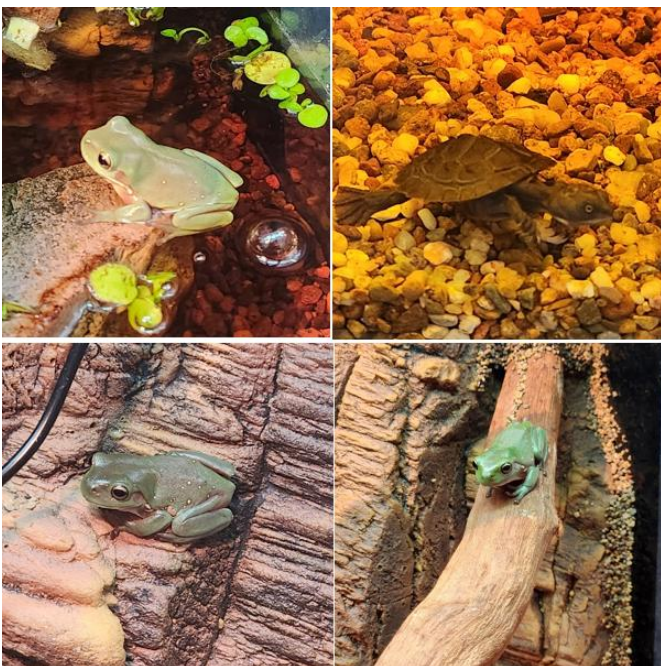
It is with great excitement that I can announce that the names chosen are....

Turtles: Leonardo & Squirtle

Leonardo is the bigger of the two, and as the name suggests, Squirtle is the smaller turtle.

Frogs: Bob, Jimmy, Kermit & Freddie

As for determining who is who in the frog pond, further investigation will have to occur to define their particular features in allowing us to accurately point one out from another.



AUSLAN HUB

Fun Facts About Auslan

Did you know that people who are deaf use different sign languages around the world? Just like spoken languages, there are about 130 different sign languages!

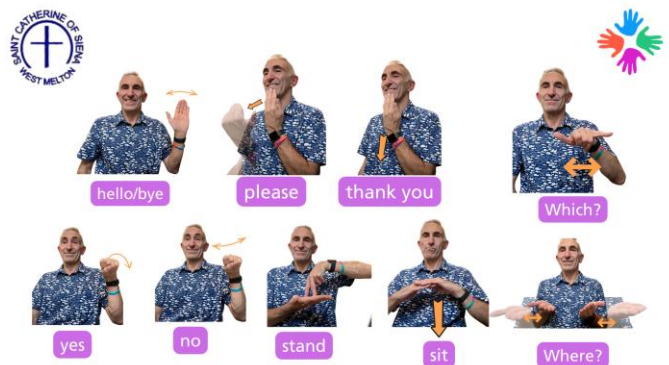
In Australia, most deaf people use Australian Sign Language, or Auslan. Here are five fun facts about this special language!

1. **Auslan is an Australian Language**
2. Auslan was **created in Australia** by deaf people.
3. Instead of using sounds, Auslan uses **hand movements, body movements, and facial expressions** to communicate.
4. More than **20,000 people** in Australia use Auslan every day!
5. In 1991, the Australian Government said that Auslan is an **official language**, just like English!



Students expanded their vocabulary with practical, everyday Auslan signs such as "stop," "go," "sit," and "toilet." They also practiced using facial expressions to add meaning to their communication.

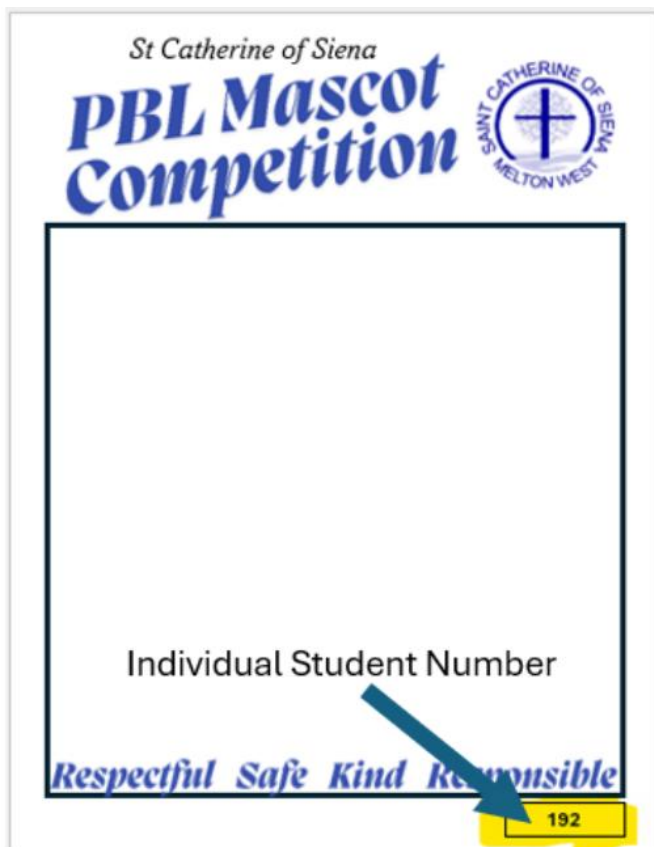
Try asking your child how to sign "How are you?" and practice responding with "good" or "bad."



PBL Mascot Competition

All PBL Mascot Competition templates have now been distributed to students.

A reminder that each student has been given an individual number (1 - 525). This is to ensure that we are selecting the art work rather than a child (Merit based recognition.) We encourage students to practice on blank pieces of paper before they send in their final submission.



There are so many ways that parents can contribute to the life of the school.

TERM 1

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
- 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 7.00pm**
- 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

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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**



Over the past week, students at St. Catherine of Siena have been immersed in a variety of engaging activities. The whole school had the exciting opportunity to observe a simple yet fascinating experiment: when a candle is covered by a cup with a bit of water at the bottom, the water rises into the cup as the flame goes out.



This hands-on experience sparked curiosity and led to discussions about air pressure and combustion.

Year 5/6 students focused on Bee Bots, learning about programming by designing and creating obstacle courses for the robots to navigate. This activity helped them develop problem-solving skills and understand the basics of coding.



In Year 3/4, students explored the engineering design process, where they used limited materials to create prototypes. This challenge encouraged teamwork and innovative thinking as they worked to solve design problems.



The Year 1/2 classes continued their exploration of buoyancy, building boats out of play dough to see how shape impacts a material's ability to float.



Meanwhile, the Prep classes learned about the properties of play dough, testing its strength by building towers and bridges. These hands-on activities have provided a fun and engaging way to apply STEM principles to real-world situations.

What are School Advisory Councils?

Parent voice

School Advisory Councils provide a structure and a process for shared voices leading to consensus that supports 'the effective development of the strategic direction of the school' and give opportunity for parent voice and community perspective to be available to the principal and the parish priest for the good of school and parish where students' wellbeing and outcomes are paramount.

This year, St Catherine of Siena School is seeking to formalize the School Advisory Council. This means that those who wish to participate and be a member of the School Advisory Council will be formally appointed and hold specific roles within the council.

If you wish to participate as a formal member of the School Advisory Council, please read the following and email the principal (Des Noack) via principal@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

expressing your wish to participate as a council member, the year levels that your child/ren are enrolled in along with a mobile number so as to make direct contact with you when organizing School Advisory Council meetings.

On **Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7.00pm**, we hope to formalize the appointment of members to the council and communicate this to the community that week in the school newsletter.

What they are

School Advisory Councils:

- form part of the broader governance framework of MACS
- are a consultative, review and advisory body
- are found in all MACS schools, both primary and secondary levels
- are guided in their actions by the MACS Statement of Mission, and an understanding of the history of the parish, founders and school
- are a forum for parents to share their wisdom

- with, and offer support to, the principal and the strategic interests of the school
- are a sounding board for all stakeholders that provides feedback to the principal and parish priest
- are an important point of liaison with parish pastoral councils
- are avenues for parents to contribute to their children's school and build up one another
- will fit the pastoral model of each particular parish or association of parishes
- are a form of Church lay ministry
- are a means of engagement with parents that enables a fruitful participation in consultation on matters affecting the education of students

What they do

The following are some examples of ways the School Advisory Council may support the school and the principal:

- ensuring that, at the local level, Catholic schools remain 'actively embedded in the life of the faith communities of the local Church, which in turn is tangibly manifest in the life of each school'
- articulating and enacting the school's mission and vision, and promoting the school's Catholic ethos and culture by promoting faith formation and development
- encouraging the partnership and participation of the school, parish and wider community in the life of the school and parish
- providing advice to the principal on school improvement, school reviews, the annual school budget and other financial matters, the school master plan, capital resource planning and maintenance
- contributing to the selection process for the school principal via membership of the selection panel
- as per MACS and Victorian Catholic Education Authority Ltd (VCEA) policies and guidelines

- contributing to the panel that guides the process of principal appraisal as per MACS and VCEA policies and guidelines
- receiving reports from the principal to be informed as per requirements in various MACS and VCEA policies and guidelines
- developing processes of consultation and providing a forum for discussion and discernment, where parent voice and perspective are available to inform and support the decisions made by the principal and the parish priest for the good of school and parish where students' wellbeing and outcomes are paramount
- understanding and acknowledging that any initiative that materially affects the school's land and buildings or other areas of parish property must be approved by the parish priest, who represents their parish as the beneficial owner of the school's land and buildings
- acting within the parameters of the MACS Terms of Reference for School Advisory Councils
- producing a School Advisory Council Annual Report that acknowledges the activities, achievements and challenges of the council over the past year, and indicates goals and focus for the following year
- undertaking an annual evaluation to reflect upon its performance and areas for improvement.

School Advisory Councils:

- are not the governing body of a school
- do not have a decision-making authority
- do not have a legal identity
- do not become involved in the day-to-day management of the school
- are not a forum for parent advocacy or special interest representation
- are not a parents and friends association
- are not a fundraising forum or fete-organising committee.



Expectations of members

As the School Advisory Council is not a governing body and has no canon/civil law or corporate status, its appointed members do not need to prove their status as a 'responsible person' as defined in the *Education and Training Reform Regulations*, and thus do not need to undertake the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) fit and proper person declaration or the National Police Check.

However, council membership must be fit for purpose and composed of people who meet high standards of community, group and individual behaviour, and appreciate, value and share the educational mission and ethos of the Catholic Church.

In this light and as stated in the MACS Terms of Reference for School Advisory Councils, each member of the council will receive a letter of appointment that will require them to:

- sign the school's Child Safety Code of Conduct (available from the school)
- undertake a Working with Children Check as per the [Worker Screening Act 2020](#) (Vic.)
- accept the [MACS Code of Conduct for School Advisory Council members](#).

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

– Francis of Assisi



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 Grignon 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 2.15pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Thursday 01/05

- ONWZ Principal Network
- *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 7:00pm**
- 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 - 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*
- Yr 4 Excursion – Melbourne Museum
- Yr 2 Incursion – Metro Trains Awareness

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 Matthia*
- 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

-

Saturday 17/05

-

Sunday 18/05

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

Week 5

ONLINE CYBERSAFETY SESSION FOR PREP THIS WEEK

Monday 19/05

-

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

-

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

-

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

-

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 7:00pm**
- 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 13/06

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

Saturday 14/06

-

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

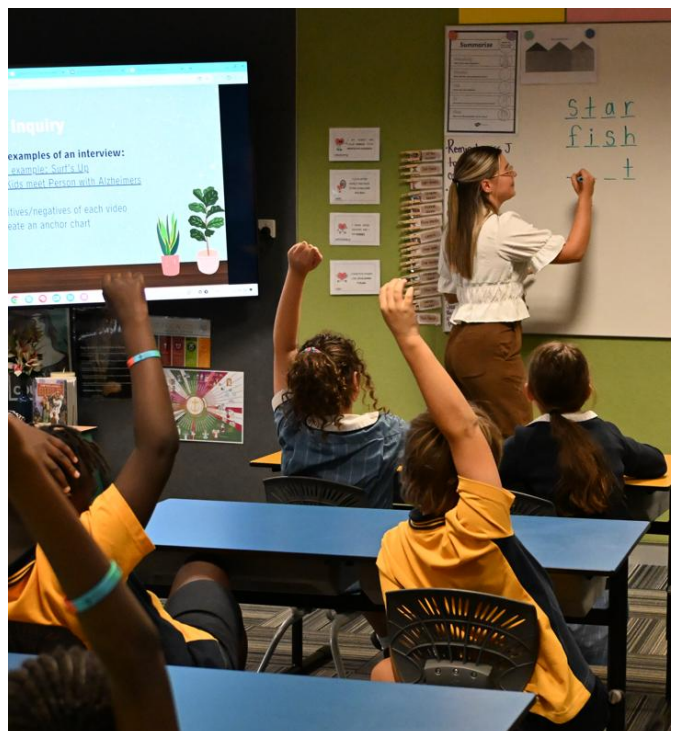
- **YEAR 5 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- **Parent helper afternoon tea**
- Whole School Assembly 2:15pm

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 6:39-45

A Person Speaks From What Is In His Heart

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher.'

Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! **Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.**

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. **A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.**'

**THE MOUTH
SPEAKS WHAT
THE HEART IS
FULL OF**

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

In Rome, during the 16th Century, the most famous confessor in town was St Philip Neri. Popes and paupers sought his counsel and spiritual direction.

One day a famous Duchess came to him and confessed the sin of gossip. Philip Neri told her to go home and get a feather pillow and return to the steps of the Church. Sometime later he met her there and produced a small knife. He told the noblewoman to rip open the pillow. As she did, the swirling wind in the square picked up the loose feathers and they danced around the square and down the lanes.

St Philip and the Duchess watched in silence as the feathers went everywhere. He then turned to her and said, "Now, go and collect all the feathers." To which she protested, "They have gone everywhere, I couldn't possibly find and regather them." "So too with your tongue, Madam," St Philip scolded her, "You have no idea where you gossip goes and you can never unsay it." (This is very much what happens when social media is used to maliciously.)

In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us that our words reflect the state of our hearts.

Psychologists tell us that there are three main reasons why people habitually gossip, or 'share the news' as Australian men prefer to call it: power, envy and boredom.

To know something about someone else can put us in a more powerful position with friends or colleagues. By being able to share what we have 'just heard', we are seen to be current and interesting. But this type of power is destructive because our friends normally assume that when they are absent, they are maltreated in the same way. Gossipers have more alliances than friendships.

The most malicious gossip often comes out of envy. Envious gossip often sees people make things up about others and pass it off as though it were true. The worst of tabloid newspapers, television and radio trades on this destructive vice. There is no place for the 'rumour file' in the Christian life. Sometimes, when a company or person have to deny the false accusations made about them, we get what we want – their reputations are tarnished and even their business can be in danger. No wonder medieval theologians called envy a 'deadly sin'.

Boredom, however, is a modern cause for gossip. Our relationships and the way in which we hold each other's trust and good name to be paramount, are undermined by images from the media about how exciting life should be for everyone. Scene after scene in novels, television programs and films where confidences are

betrayed, and lives are raked over for comment and intrigue fill in the boredom in our lives with a distorted portrayal of human behaviour. The more we take it in, the more we mirror it in our own conduct.

Jesus does not tell us today that there is no place for criticism, challenge, confrontation and correction in the Christian life. Just that we have the responsibility to very careful about what we say about others and how we criticise and condemn them. Jesus reminds us that most of our condemnation of others, is what we now call, "projection", where we ignore similar failings in ourselves, but roundly condemn them in others.

May this Eucharist, then, help all of us let go of the need to be powerful, the deadly sin of envy and more creative with what we do when we are bored. May it help us make better choices about how we speak, to whom we speak and what we say.

St Philip Neri knew it all too well: most times we cannot know the consequences of what we say and we can never unsay it.

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.



Prep A

Avaliah T - For always looking out for your peers and making sure everyone feels included. Keep it up!

Joseph J - For always being on task and listening to the teacher's instructions. Well done Joseph!

Prep B

Kaylani S - For being an inquirer and always asking questions during reading about the book.

Noah S - For being an inquisitive learner and making a fantastic start to your time at St Catherines, making a really big effort to ask more questions and show your understanding during learning time.

Prep C

Chloe F - For participating in our daily Heggerty lessons and sharing your ideas with the class! Well done!

Aiden B - For always using his manners in class and for being a respectful classmate who is ready to learn.

Year 1A

Lincoln G - For your dedication to learning and your unwavering commitment to growing as a learner. Keep up the great work Lincoln!

Makayla M - For your unwavering eagerness to learn and exceptional participation in Heggerty lessons. Your inquisitive mindset and curiosity shine through in every lesson, inspiring those around you. Well Done Makayla!

Year 1B

Lual M - For your fabulous, neat handwriting you continue to deliver every day. Keep it up!

Joy A - For always contributing to class discussions and showing enthusiasm.

Year 1C

Aanaya K - For your participation in our daily Heggerty lessons, you are a Heggerty star! Thank you!

Shannon S - For being brave when entering into the classroom this week. We are so proud of how you are growing and learning every day.

Year 2A

Christy T - For being a fantastic class role model by always listening to others respectfully and following teacher directions. Well done Christy!

Suzanna J - For always being 'ready' to learn and staying focussed on tasks when working independently. Keep up the great work!

Year 2B

Nyanring M - For being an exemplary leader who is consistently exceeding expectations. Keep up your positivity, it is amazing to see!

Dylan G - For trying your absolute best to blend and spell words using the silent 'e' rule

Year 2C

Mansan T - For writing detailed compound sentences. I look forward to reading more.

Xavier M - For your enthusiasm in our Heggerty lessons every day. Well done on reaching mastery level! Keep up the good work.

Year 3A

Benjamin T - For being a responsible learner and always putting in your best effort, keep up the fantastic work!

Taylah D - For taking great care in the work you present. Keep up the neat and detailed work! You should be proud

Year 3B

Gracie W - For being an excellent role model of the PBL values. You always demonstrate the four values of being kind, respectful, responsible and safe.

Malual M - For your contributions to class discussions. It is great to hear your questions and insights about our class novel, Charlotte's Web.

Year 3C

Quillan G - For consistently remaining engaged and attentively following the teacher's instructions

Claire S - For actively participating in class discussions with a genuine enthusiasm to learn

Year 4A

Georgia A - For representing fractions of a collection, equivalent to one half. Well done!

Lexi T - For accurately sequencing a summary to highlight important information. Excellent!

Year 4B

Ajhak A - For consistently giving your best efforts when working on independent tasks in Literacy and Numeracy

Fatuma J - For consistently giving your best efforts in independent Literacy and Religion tasks

Year 4C

Jai M - For your consistent effort in writing and including plenty of detail in your writing responses during our novel study.

Lekky M - For staying on task and demonstrating a strong commitment to learning. Your full participation is amazing!

Year 5A

Jacob D - For doing a great job on your multiplication and division test and giving it your best effort! Keep up the great work.

Sophie C - For always asking great questions and giving your best effort on every learning task. Keep up the awesome work!

Year 5B

Oneli R - Your amazing results in your multiplication and division pre-test. Keep up the fantastic effort in numeracy!

Charles N - Your impressive knowledge and confidence in recalling multiplication facts up to 12. Keep up the fantastic work!

Year 5C

Faith M - For your great and consistent efforts in Maths. Well done!

Alfred W - For your hard work and always showing respect to others.

Year 6A

Aiden Q - For independently applying your new knowledge of contrasting words to create juxtaposing sentences in inquiry. Keep up the great work!

Jaxon S - For showing responsibility for your learning and continuously asking clarifying questions in order to do your personal best work at all times! Well done!

Year 6B

Benjamin E - For demonstrating remarkable personal growth this week. Your ability to manage emotions, show self-control, and check in on others with kindness and maturity is truly inspiring. Keep shining!

Kelsey B - For independently being able to use contrast words to create juxtaposing sentences. Well done!

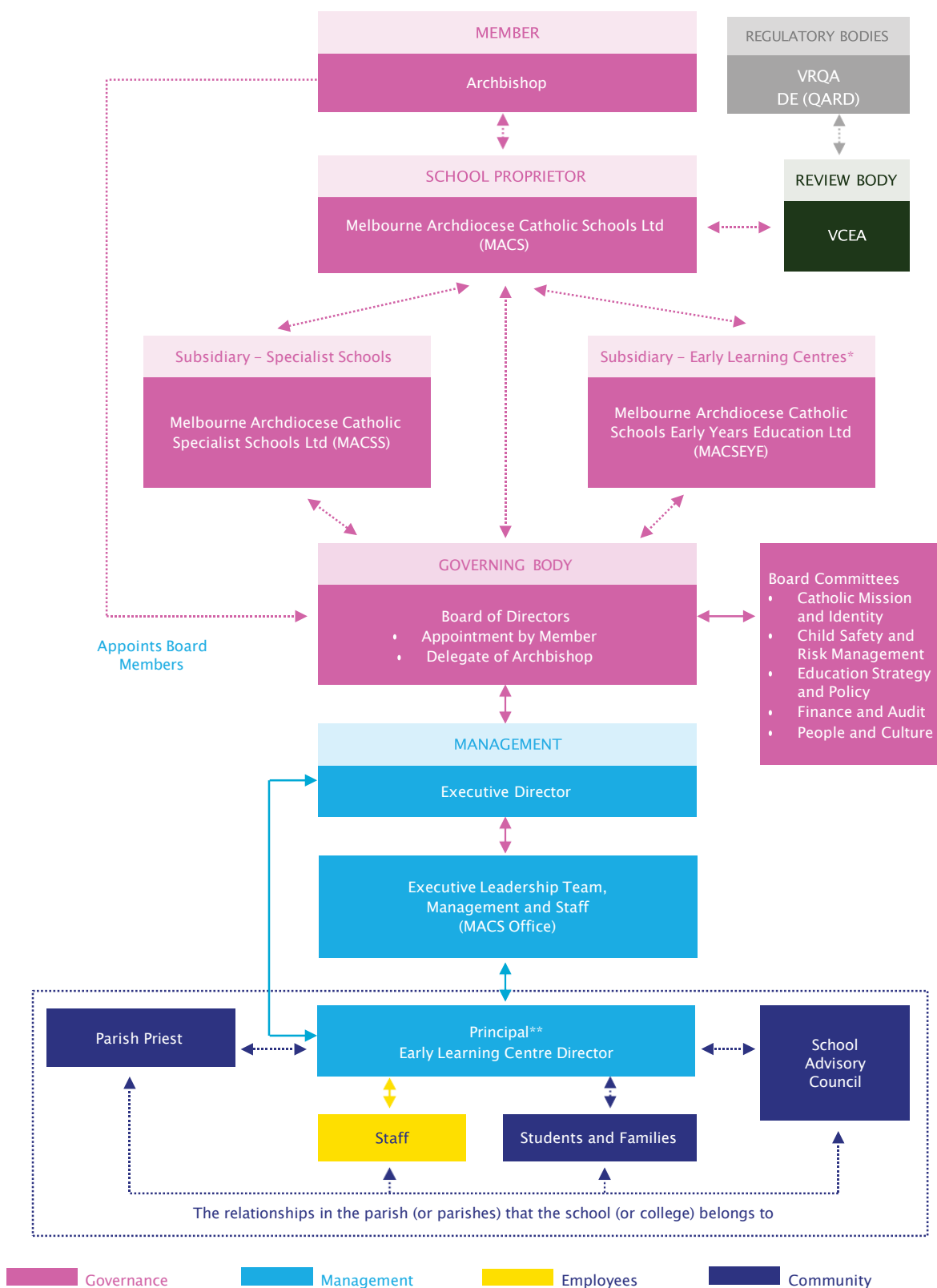
Year 6C

Mia K - In recognition of your composure and strength in the face of challenges and your ability to handle difficult moments with kindness. Your maturity sets an inspiring example to your peers.

Mussie G - For outstanding participation and sportsmanship at Inter school sports. Your hard work and positive attitude encouraged your peers.

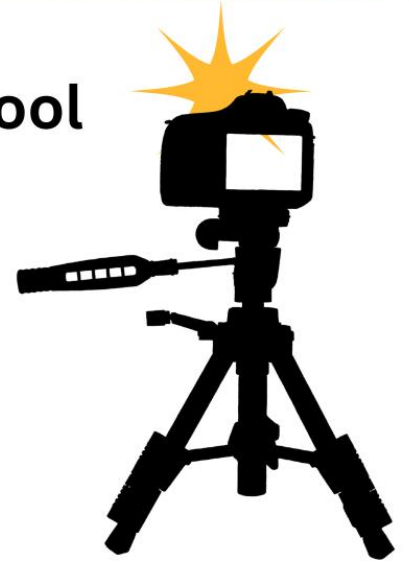


Governance Structure of St Catherine of Siena Primary School



St Catherine of Siena Primary School

Whole School Photo Day



Monday, 3rd March 2025

1. All students required to wear full SUMMER uniform
2. Individual, Class and Sibling orders must be placed online prior to photo day.
 - Go to www.eliteschoolphotography.com.au and enter code

ESP202515

Please ensure all relevant student details (including class) are filled in correctly.

If you have any queries regarding School Photos, please contact the friendly team at ESP directly on (03) 9570 9311

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