



Friday, 16th May 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, & Students,

What a fantastic week we have had! The sun has shone and the very energetic team from Kaboom provided a fabulous day of activities in honour of our belated Feast Day celebrations.

2026 Student Enrolments are coming in thick and fast. As with this year, once class numbers have reached their ceiling, any further enrolments are placed on a waiting list. Current families are asked to please ensure that enrolment forms have been received no later than the end of this term.



This Week's Newsletter Items:

- Athletics Update
- Enrol Now For St Francis College
- Year 3's Go To NGV
- PBL Data Improving Learning Outcomes
- PBL Flowchart – A Reminder
- **Youth Road Safety – IMPORTANT MESSAGE** – This information was sent to us due to a spike of serious injuries occurring to primary & secondary students in our area. Please discuss this with your children.
- Learning To Read – The Reading Rope
- Sacrament Of Eucharist – Update
- Term 2 Dates
- What's Happening In S.T.E.M.
- Star Of The Week Awards



Mathletics



As we begin Week 4 of Term 2, it's incredible to reflect on the continued success our students are achieving on Mathletics. Not even a two-week break could slow them down – many students stayed engaged and continued their learning over the holidays, earning certificates along the way.

Since the start of the Term 1 holidays, our students have collectively earned an impressive 192 certificates across the school!

What's even more remarkable is the growing number of students reaching Silver and Gold certificates. These milestones represent more than 20 weeks of consistent, dedicated effort – an outstanding achievement.

While this is certainly something to celebrate, there's still plenty of opportunity for growth. To progress to the next level, students need to earn five certificates at their current level – so every week of effort counts toward that next milestone.

Let's keep up the momentum and aim even higher.

Mathletics certificates

Below is the list of certificates students can reach:

1. Bronze
2. Silver

3. Gold
4. Platinum
5. Emerald
6. Diamond
7. Epic
8. Legend

Presentation at assembly

For students who are earning their 5th certificate from Gold and above, we will be presenting these during assembly to acknowledge the consistent hard work you have shown.

The following is a reminder of how to earn points and achieve a certificate.

How to get a certificate

The students will be able to earn certificates by:
Bronze Certificate – 1000 points earned in a week
Silver Certificate – 5 × bronze certificates
Gold Certificate – 4 × silver certificates (20 weeks of sustained effort!)

It is good to note that only one certificate can be earned each week – this encourages consistent participation.

How to earn points

Points are awarded across Mathletics in a number of ways:

- 1 point per correct answer in Live Mathletics
- 2 points per correct answer within the student's bonus level of Live Mathletics
- 10 points per correct answer within individual Mathletics curriculum activities
- 20 points per correct answer within a curriculum Topic Test
- 10 points for every correct answer in Skill Quest activities.

Matt Galea
Numeracy Leader

NEW COLLEGE TOUR DATES

Register now for Term 2 tours at
www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/join-us/college-tours





Year 3's Exploring Art and Creativity at the NGV

The year 3's recently went on an excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) on the 9th of May 2025. Students embarked on an educator-led tour, engaging with a diverse range of artworks that narrate stories of everyday life. They delved into the meanings and details of selected pieces, gaining insights into how artists convey messages through their work.



Following the gallery tour, students participated in the "Draw Me a Story" workshop, where they explored resist techniques using wax crayons and ink-wash to create their own visual narratives. This process allowed them to craft personal "modern relics"—artworks that reflect significant aspects of their own lives.

In the studio, students began by drawing patterns on their vases to represent elements of their personal stories. They then applied an ink wash over their designs, revealing intricate patterns and symbols.

This experience directly supported our Unit of Inquiry, *How We Express Ourselves*, which explores the ways in which we discover and express ideas and feelings through the arts. By engaging with both historical artworks and creating their own

pieces, students gained a deeper understanding of how art serves as a powerful medium for personal and cultural expression.



On Friday the 9th of May the year 3's went to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). To begin our day we went on a guided tour to see famous art pieces. During that time we talked about what the art represented and the patterns they used. Next, we stopped to have lunch. After that, we began the 'Draw me a Story' workshop where we drew patterns using white wax crayons to represent our life. Lastly, we used blue ink wash to bring out the details in our patterns. My favourite part of the day was when we did the 'Draw me a Story' workshop because we got to be creative.

3A Student



Last week on Friday the year 3's attended an excursion to the Art Museum. The bus picked us up and when we arrived we had our snack break. Afterwards we went inside the museum where we saw a lot of paintings from the past, most of the paintings originated from Egypt. We also saw other colourful and fragile objects like vases, sculptures and statues. My favourite art was looking at the octopus sculpture because it was big and shiny. Later on we had our lunch break and we got to play in the maze.

After lunch the year 3's then participated in an art activity where we made a 'magic vase' painting. We used colours such as a white crayon and blue paint to illuminate the white crayon so it looked like magic. Overall it was really fun and I enjoyed my time at the museum.

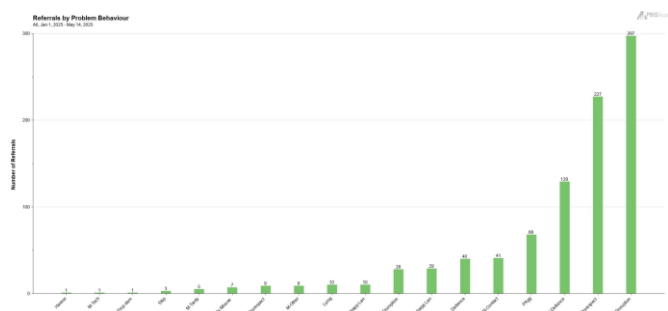
Mary 3C

PBL Data & How It Assists Us To Improve The Learning Environment.

The Student Behaviour Policy is based on a model of positive behaviour learning support (PBL). This is a model that acknowledges the positive behaviour of the majority of students and puts strategies into place to model and specifically teach expected behaviours. It targets focused support, including staged sanctions, for the minority of students that do not embrace positive behaviour.

Published on the following page is the school's process for managing behavioural issues that occur both within the classroom and playground. It has been great to receive feedback from parents who have appreciated better understanding of how we are addressing and working toward preventing such behaviours occurring.

A part of this process is the collection of data that informs us of WHO, WHEN & WHAT. The diagram below illustrates the behaviours recorded since the start of this year and provides us with a clear understanding as to what are the major issues that are impacting student safety and learning engagement.



The illustration in the following column identifies 'defiance', 'disrespect' & 'disruption' as the main three concerns.

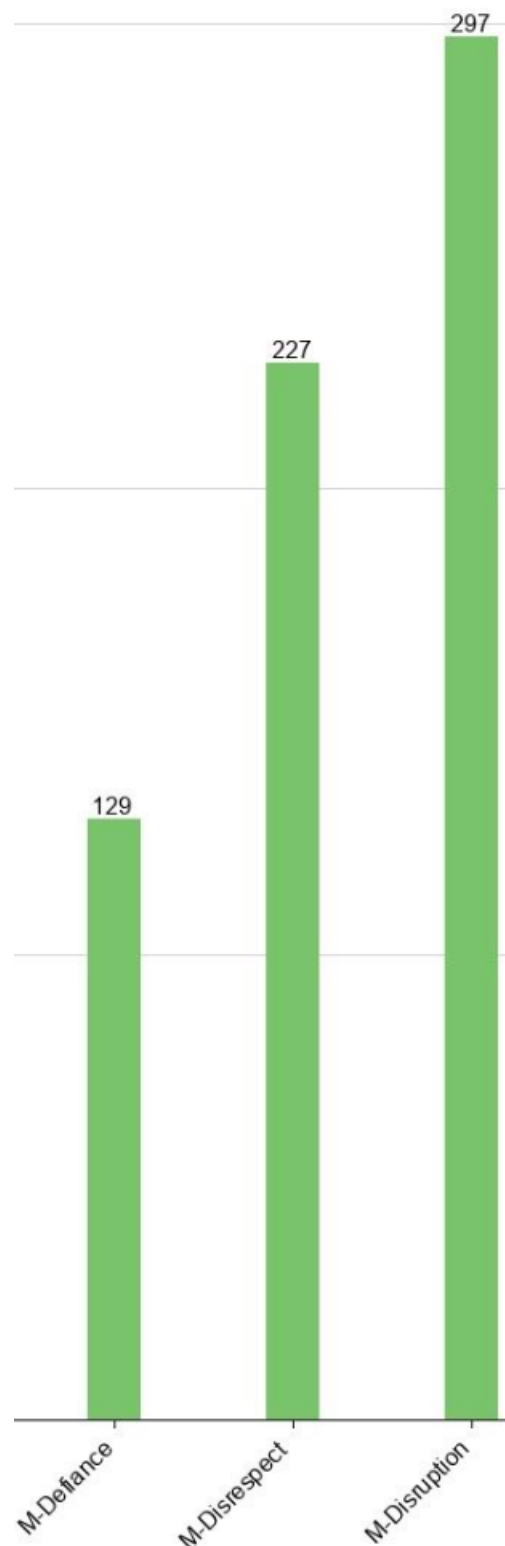
Our data also highlights that the majority of our students are very well mannered and behaved with only a small proportion of students requiring further targeted focused support. We are really pleased to see several students, together with the support of their families, improve their behaviour resulting in increased participation in their learning as well as a dramatic decrease in the disruption that these behaviours create for all other students within the classroom.

Breach of the student code of conduct

The flowchart also notes that reoccurring behaviour may result in further action being sanctioned by the school principal as deemed appropriate given the nature of breach and the age of the student. In cases of serious and/or persistent breaches of the student code of conduct, the Student Behaviour

Policy outlines the consequences for student misbehaviour. In alignment with the St Catherine of Siena policies and procedures, these sanctions may take the form of Suspension, Negotiated Transfer of Students, and the Expulsion of Students.

In accordance with applicable legislation and the school's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, the police and/or 'Families and Children's Services' within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP), and/or any other relevant bodies will be informed of any unlawful breaches of this code.





St Catherine of Siena

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING FLOWCHART



Youth Road Safety

Fact Sheet



Whether you're biking or riding an e-scooter, follow these simple road safety tips to stay safe and have fun on the move!

MODIFIED OR PETROL POWERED BICYCLES

- Illegal.



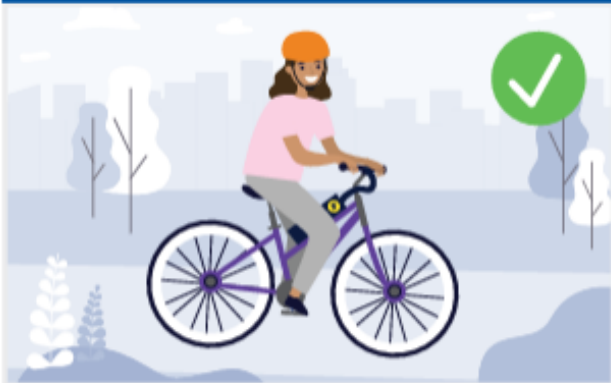
MOTORBIKES

- To ride on or offroad it must be registered with a full or recreation registration
- Helmet must be worn at all times.



E-BIKES

- 25 km/h MAX speed
- Motor cannot provide power at speeds higher than 25km/h
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.

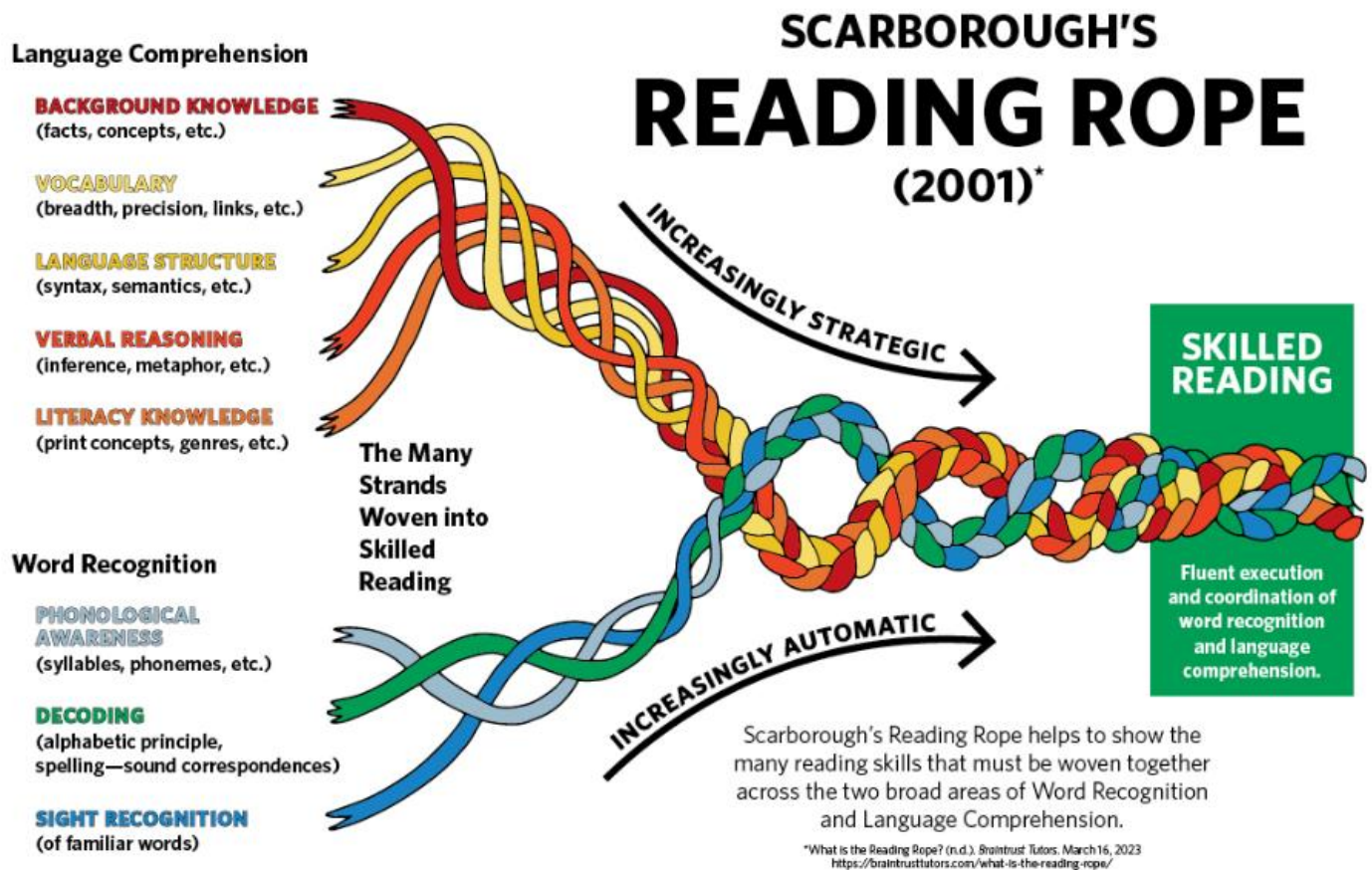


E-SCOOTER

- Be aged 16 yrs or over
- Max speed 20 kmph
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.



For more information, visit police.vic.gov.au/road-safety



Decodable Readers

At St Catherine of Siena, we teach reading using evidence based practices. Our reading approach is strengthened through our commitment to support teachers in developing their skills to effectively teach children to read. Decodable readers are a critical tool in teaching young students how to read and an absolute must in complimenting a strong, robust reading program.

What are decodable readers?

Decodable readers contain a high proportion of words that use regular letter-sound correspondences (grapheme-phoneme relationships) and tricky words taught in a systematic phonics program. These texts are designed to help students build confidence and develop strong reading skills by using their phonics knowledge to decode words, rather than guessing. They provide students with the opportunity to practice the sounds and words they have learned in class. They are described by many as 'training wheels' for reading and are only used whilst students are working on strengthening their decoding skills.

Decodable books as take home readers.

If your child is in the junior years of their schooling, they will very likely be taking home a decodable reader that they will have for the week. Repeated readings of decodable texts is a key component of effective early reading instruction. These texts assist students in developing fluency and accuracy by providing ample opportunities to apply their phonics knowledge to connected text. By repeatedly reading the same text, students become more comfortable with the sounds and patterns within words, strengthening their decoding skills and building confidence.

Decodable texts help support the critical early skills of reading. Scarborough's reading rope illustrates this quite effectively. The bottom part of the reading rope is the foundational skills of reading that must be well developed in order for the upper language comprehension part of the reading rope to strengthen and grow. If you have any questions at all about decodable readers, or anything to do with reading instruction at St Catherines, please feel free to email me on khoey@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

Happy reading!

Kylie Hoey

Literacy Leader/Intervention Coach

The Sacrament of First Eucharist (Holy Communion)

Eucharist is the sacrament that is at the heart of our faith and gives us our Christian identity. It is the sacrament that nourishes and strengthens the whole community and indeed makes us 'Church and Body of Christ for the world'.

In preparing for the Sacrament of Eucharist, families gathered last Wednesday evening to undertake further learning about the importance of Eucharist in our lives and how we are able to support our children in preparing to receive Jesus at Holy Communion for the first time.



The Eucharist is the sacrament that completes the process of initiation into the Christian community. When candidates share in the sacred meal of the Christian community for the first time, they do so as fully initiated members.

Eucharist is unique among the sacraments. It gathers the community, gives it its Christian identity and prepares the community for mission. Eucharist is, by its very nature, communal. It is the sacrament that nourishes and strengthens the whole community and indeed makes us 'Church and Body of Christ for the world'.

To reinforce this understanding, families were invited to gather as a family around a table for dinner or lunch and say grace together, to give thanks for each other and God and to be in communion with each other.

It is important to remember that although your child is continuing to fulfill their initiation into God's family, this is not the end of the road; this is only the beginning. Once you are fully initiated (that is, you have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist

and Confirmation), you are called by God to a special mission. To keep you fed, strengthened and nourished for God's special mission, God invites us to Mass each Sunday to play a special part in the Eucharist.



One of the many questions we receive from parents is what their children wear for First Communion. The children are encouraged to wear their best clothes, or neat, casual clothes. Boys generally wear a shirt and pants with closed in shoes (no thongs or runners please). Some boys wear a tie, others a suit and tie. Girls often use the opportunity to wear a dress or skirt and top. A white dress is not compulsory, but from our experience in previous years the majority, if not all, of the girls do wear white. Flowers in the girls' hair is a popular choice and a veil is another option although has not been as common.

If your child cannot eat wheat or has a gluten allergy they can still receive First Holy Communion. Special hosts are available to meet gluten free dietary requirements. Please advise us in advance if your child has any allergies and requires a special host so that we may have it available on the day.

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' John 6:51



TERM 2



Week 5

ONLINE CYBERSAFETY SESSION FOR PREP THIS WEEK

Monday 19/05

- Emergency DISPLAN Practice

Tuesday 20/05

- **Mary, Mother of the Church**
- *Saint Bernadine of Siena*
- Yr 2 Incursion Transport Rail Awareness & Safety
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **Parent Advisory Committee 7:00pm**

Wednesday 21/05

- *Saints Christopher Magallenes and companions*
- MPSSA Yr 5/6 Girls AFL
- **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

- MPSSA Winter Sports – Round 2

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*
- Year 1 Excursion – Royal Botanical Gardens
- **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

- MPSSA Lightning Prem

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
- 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

- 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 Feast Day
- ONWZ principal Network
- Instalment 2 - Family Fee Payment Due

Sunday 15/06

- SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY-WHITE



Week 9

Monday 16/06

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Tuesday 17/06

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 18/06

- **YEAR 6 and Prep ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Year 5 Talent Show 11:30am – 1:30pm
- 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

- 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**



Our youngest learners explored the idea of *technology* by investigating how everyday items like scissors and rulers are forms of technology. They also had fun programming Beebots, using forward, backward, and turn commands to navigate them around maps.



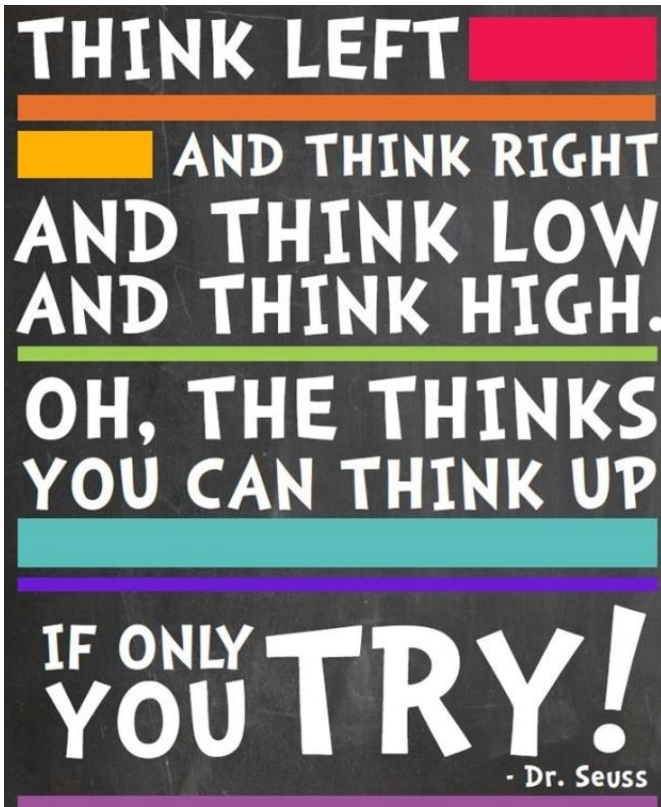
It was a hands on week for our Grade 1–2 students as they built their own paddle boats using plastic bottles, rubber bands, and chopsticks. The best part? Testing their boats in water to see them in action!



Students in Grades 3–4 wrapped up their learning on *bridges* by documenting their insights on PADLET. They also had the chance to learn about the important work of Civil Engineers and how they help shape the world around us.



Our senior students began developing their multimedia skills by using Chromebooks as video recording tools. They also practiced saving and importing files into Canva as they continue building their digital design capabilities.





Prep A

Gurbaaz P - For Reading nearly every night after school. You are a superstar! Keep it up.

Remy Z - For being so focused during fluency reading and following along with the teacher. You are amazing!

Prep B

Peyton D - For being knowledgeable during maths, when working with friends of 10.

Jamarley C - For using your voice during whole class learning. Keep up the great work.

Prep C

Eden W - For trying your best to use your knowledge of letter-sound relationships to write a sentence. Well done!

Isaac M - For partitioning numbers to 5 in two parts in different ways. Keep being an amazing learner.

Year 1A

Cyrus T - For showing an amazing effort when writing sentences using **but, because and so!** You've added detail, explained your thinking, and made your writing exciting to read.

Sarah T - Your positive attitude and hard work makes you a fantastic role model in our class. We're so proud of your determination and kindness!

Year 1B

Gabriella G - For your outstanding effort when completing writing tasks. Keep up the great work.

Isabella N - For using your knowledge of vowel teams taught in term 1 to independently segment and blend words. You are a superstar!

Year 1C

Imani M - For sharing your understanding with your classmates when learning to compare and measure objects using balancing scales.

Connor M - For your participation and effort in literacy groups with the teacher, when writing about our class novel; Billie B Brown.

Year 2A

Thea H - For being a kind, safe, respectful and responsible class member every day and always trying your best to complete tasks independently. Fantastic effort Thea!

Harper W - For using our spelling rules to make great spelling attempts and write new words. Keep it up Harper!

Year 2B

William G - For always being a team player. You are consistently helping others and showing teamwork every day in 2B. Well done!

Connor K - For amazing work rounding 3-digit numbers to the nearest ten and hundred. You're a rounding rockstar.

Year 2C

Ian F - For making inferences about character traits and justifying these. Keep up the great work.

Liam P - For your efforts in rounding decimal numbers this week. Well done, Liam.

Year 3A

Latoya J - For your enthusiastic engagement at the NGV excursion that truly reflected our PBL values. You made our school proud with your outstanding participation.

Joshua O - For your amazing effort in representing fractions of collections and shapes. It has been so wonderful to see you engaged in this unit. Keep up the fantastic learning!

Year 3B

Peyton-Ivy F - For demonstrating our PBL values while on excursion at the NGV. You represented our school amazingly through your active participation.

Zayne K - For your active participation in our daily reviews for spelling and mathematics. It is great to see such fantastic engagement in your learning.

Year 3C

Amelia G - For representing our school at the excursion to NGV by being responsible and respectful when viewing the Religious Art.

Spencer R - For showing your enthusiasm on our excursion to the NGV by engaging with people around you. It was great see your excitement.

Year 4A

Amelia S - For demonstrating enthusiasm in exploring the different artefacts at the Melbourne Museum.

Godfrey M - For demonstrating our school's PBL value of responsibility during the excursion to the Melbourne Museum.

Year 4B

Roman H - For showing outstanding behavior by demonstrating our school's PBL values during the excursion to the Melbourne Museum.

Liberty G - For showing outstanding behavior by demonstrating our school's PBL values during the excursion to the Melbourne Museum.

Year 4C

Jayden M - For your hard work and effort at the Cross-Country event. Your performance was amazing. Well done!

Abby V - For showing outstanding behavior and proudly demonstrating our school's PBL values during the excursion to the Melbourne Museum.

Year 5A

Christian L - For showing fantastic enthusiasm and strong focus when spelling words during our literacy block. Great work!

Jobe G - For showing great effort and focus throughout the day. You've shown just how much you're capable of when you stay on track. Keep it up!

Year 5B

Nathaniel A - For being able to quickly and accurately convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa, showing a deep understanding of the concept. Well done!

Mia P - For showing a solid understanding of equivalent fractions by confidently identifying and representing them using a variety of strategies. Well done!

Year 5C

Alison S - For being a great role model in the classroom, always focused on the learning, staying on task and showing respect. Well done!

Marco S - For showing great planning and thinking in writing a detailed and thoughtful persuasive text. Keep it up!

Year 6A

Logan W - For showing great enthusiasm and responsibility for your learning as demonstrated in our maths learning.

Sage - For taking the initiative to be a reflective learner and ask for support when needed as demonstrated in your math learning.

Year 6B

Zoe C - For consistently demonstrating our school's PBL values - being respectful, responsible, kind and safe in all that you do. Well done!

Mia M - For consistently demonstrating outstanding effort, kindness, and a positive attitude. You are an inspiring role model to your peers.

Year 6C

Ofeina - For consistently demonstrating honesty and a positive attitude during class. Thank you for being a bright light in our classroom!

Lewis M - For being an excellent leader! And always being willing to stop what you are doing to help your buddy



**FRIENDS ARE THE
PEOPLE WHO MAKE
YOU SMILE BRIGHTER,
LAUGH LOUDER
AND LIVE BETTER.**

