



Friday, 22nd August 2025

This Week's Newsletter Items:

- Sacrament of Confirmation
- Book Week Celebration
- Bully No Way Day
- Ticket Information for Newsletter
- Upcoming MACSIS Student & Parent Survey
- Getting Ready for Father's Day
- Our Students are Ready to Learn
- Learning and Teaching – Year 5 Highlight
- Focus on Students Leadership - Year 6
- Spotlight on Student Success - Basketball



Sacrament of Confirmation

Last Saturday, our Year 6 students took an important step in their faith journey as they received the Sacrament of Confirmation, with Bishop Martin Ashe presiding. Surrounded by their families, sponsors, teachers and parish community, the candidates renewed their baptismal promises and were sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The joy and sense of occasion were palpable as each student was called by name and blessed, affirming their commitment to live out the values of our Catholic faith.

This sacred milestone is the culmination of prayer, preparation and learning. Guided by the

dedication of their teachers, the support of their families and the encouragement of our parish.

Bishop Ashe reminded our students that the gifts of the Holy Spirit - wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord - are not only blessings to be treasured but gifts to be lived out in their daily lives. It was inspiring to witness our students take on this commitment with such sincerity and grace.

We congratulate each of our Year 6 Confirmands and pray that they continue to grow in faith, hope and love. May they always remember this day as a celebration of God's presence in their lives and may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them as they move forward into secondary school and beyond. Our school and parish community are proud of each of them and look forward to seeing the many ways they will share their gifts in service of others.



Book Week Celebration

On Tuesday, August 16th, we gathered at 9 am with friends and family to take part in our annual Book Week Parade.

The effort and detail put into the costumes this year was amazing. To acknowledge the effort taken and incentivise our students in thinking about what they selected as their costume we awarded prizes to the best dressed in each class.

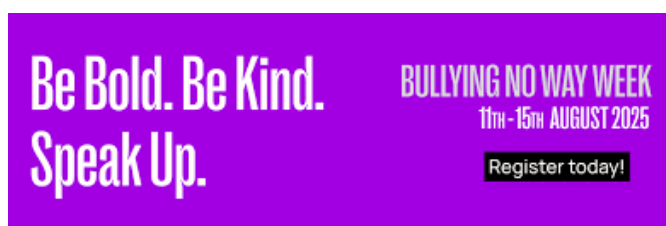
The Judging panel was made up of 4 of our wonderful staff members (Susan Aquilina, Heather Cunningham, Brendan Coleiro and Mandy May) who were blown away by the creativity on display from our excited students.

After the parade, the judging panel then awarded the 3 best-dressed students from P-6. These students were lucky to receive a voucher to spend at our Scholastic Book Fair.

Class	Winners
Prep A	Riley S & Daniel P
Prep B	Enid F & Remy C
Prep C	Stevie H & James L
1A	Lincoln G & Cyrus T
1B	Yalise O & Grace N
1C	Shannon S & Jake A
2A	Thea H & Alaura M
2B	Connor K & Dakota S
2C	Davina A & Xavier M
3A	Mayom A & Mello Z
3B	Quinn B & Zayden M
3C	Charlotte K & Livia S
4A	Emily D & Allegra S
4B	Anthony M & Jack A
4C	Abby V & Reighson F
5A	Elizabeth W & Nathan S
5B	Isabel R & Donovan J
5C	Hunter B & Alfred W
6A	Zion T & Ira G
6B	Leona P & Julian M
6C	Ofeina T & Anna K
1st Prize	Kaylee P
2nd Prize	Liam P
3rd Prize	Abby W

Events like these do not run themselves, on behalf of the school community we thank our school librarian Susan Aquilina for your vision and running of this event. You sure know how to make reading FUN!

Photos that highlight just how special this day was can be found at the back of the newsletter.



Bully No Way Day

On Friday, 15th August as a school we participated in the National Week of Action to express our commitment to preventing bullying as a school community.

The theme for 2025 is '**Be bold. Be kind. Speak up.**'

It takes courage to spark change. Bullying is everyone's responsibility. It takes a community to be

brave and address bullying behaviours, within and beyond the school gate.

Students can be bold, kind and take a stand to support others being bullied. While parents and teachers are there to support children and young people learn how to behave in a positive way.

In our community and in our school, we want a place where everyone can belong, a place that celebrates everyone and where bullying is never accepted.

This Bullying No Way Week we aligned our PBL Learning and Teaching to upskill students on the expected behaviour and skill of 'I am an upstander'.

Students displayed high levels of participation on the day by wearing a splash of the colour purple and designed the images in our school PBL Social Story 'I am an upstander', which you can find attached with this newsletter.



Ticket Information

Tickets for our Year 6 Production of 'Alice in Wonderland Jr' will be available from Wednesday, 27th August to Wednesday, 3rd September through the school interviews portal. Don't miss your chance to see this unforgettable show!

Keep an eye out in Week 6 for booking details and codes. Get in early to book your tickets - First in best dressed!

Paper tickets will be sent home with students on Monday 8th September.





Upcoming MACSIS Student & Parent Survey

One of the most powerful ways our families can influence school improvement is through the participation in the School Improvement Survey. This data is used by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools to check if the school is meeting parental and student expectations. It is important to hear the voices and feedback from as many parents as possible.

An email will be sent to every family early in September providing you with your family's personal number (PIN) for completing the survey with further instructions as to how to access the survey site.

Please note that the survey needs to be completed by Friday, 19th September. This survey may only be completed once.

For families with more than one child attending our school, we ask that you focus on the eldest child attending the school when completing the survey.

The school will invite all families to respond via this survey and participation is completely voluntary. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers – all responses are completely anonymous and at no point are any of the responses from students, families or staff identifiable by the school.

The survey is available in English, Arabic, Assyrian, Chaldean, simplified and traditional Chinese, Dinka, Falam, Hakha Chin, Karen, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Zomi.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact ORIMA Research on 1800 654 585 or macsis@orima.com, or Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) via email - macsis@macs.vic.edu.au.

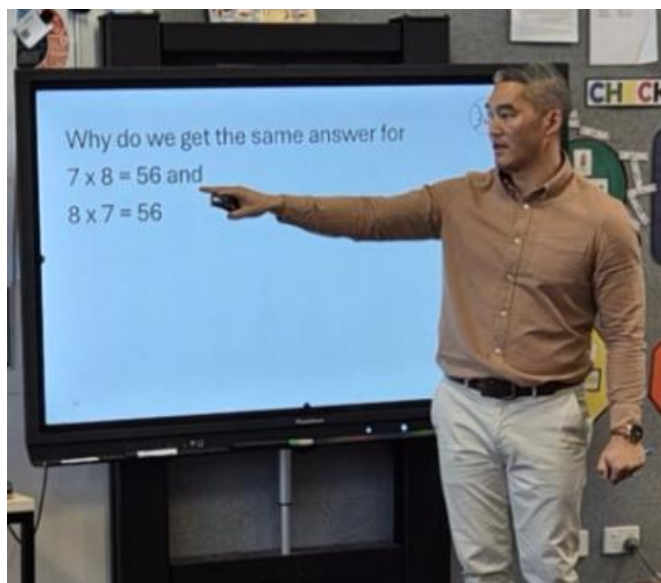
We would really appreciate your feedback and encourage all to participate.



Getting Ready for Father's Day

Please join us for our Father's Day breakfast to be hosted on Wednesday, 3rd September commencing at 7:15am. This year we will be serving bacon and egg rolls (gluten free option available). Breakfast is for both our dad's (or accompanying adults) and students. Whether your child is attending the breakfast event with a father, father figure, special guest or arriving at school at the usual time we invite all students to participate in this special breakfast. *Please note that breakfast cannot be served to unaccompanied students unless a parent has given permission via the Operoo permission form.*

Our Students are READY to LEARN



At the beginning of term 3, St Catherine's embarked on a strategic implementation journey to further develop our students in Mathematics. The school began to pilot a 'Mathematics Acceleration Program' being facilitated by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS).

This term our Year 2 and Year 4 students, along with their teachers, are participating in trials of the pilot program where students access an additional 10 minutes daily of Explicit Instruction in the Mental Computation Strategies.

Through the professional learning, resource design and assessment provided by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, the Year 2 and 4 teachers will gain valuable coaching in cycles where they are observed delivering this additional Explicit Instruction by both internal and external staff to ensure the pilot is implemented with fidelity.

In week 1 of this term, we hosted a Learning Walk which began these coaching cycles. Ainslie McIntosh (MACS Learning Consultant in Mathematics) and Lyndon Strong (MACS School Manager) participated in this along with Lisa McCallin (Deputy Principal of Learning and Teaching) and Matthew Galea (Mathematics Leader).

The feedback we received from this initial Learning Walk from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools staff has highlighted that as a school community of learners our PBL routines and practices along with strategic implementation of Explicit Instruction delivered with engagement norms and participation tactics is having positive impact on ensuring our students are **Ready to Learn**.

Because of this, on Tuesday 26th August, our school community will be hosting a Mathematics Demonstration Lesson on behalf of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools.

School Leaders and teachers from other 'Mathematics Acceleration Program' pilot schools in the Western Zone are coming to observe our students participate in a Mathematics Lesson delivered by Brendan Lee.

We are excited for our students to participate in this learning opportunity and proud of the work our leaders and teaching staff are doing day in and day out to ensure that we deliver high quality Learning and Teaching to our students.



Learning and Teaching – Year 5 Highlight

On Friday, 15th of August, Year 5 had an incursion about The Parliament of Victoria.

Half of the Year 5s were split into 5B's classroom and the other half went upstairs. Grace, who is a presenter from the State Government, came to teach us about how Parliament works. She also led us through some slides on the three levels of Government (Local, State and Federal) and a role play where our classroom became just like Parliament House.

The topic we debated was called the *E-Scooters Bill*. This was about the idea of children riding e-scooters to school, with schools providing these scooters for free.

We learned some really interesting things about how Parliament works. Some of these were:

- There is a special seating plan and the closer you sit to the middle table, the more power you have.
- The Speaker is in charge of the chamber but can only vote if there is a draw.
- Instead of clapping when they agree, members say "Hear, hear!" and when they disagree they say "Shame!"
- Members of Parliament also debate and vote on new laws, rules and bills.



During our role play, different students took on the important roles. To name a few, Noah was the Speaker, Ellie was the Serjeant-at-Arms, Johnny was the Clerk and Peyton was the Premier. There were others who also acted as party leaders and members.

The role play began with Ellie leading Noah into the chamber and Johnny ringing the bell to start the session. These roles were scripted and although they did not present arguments, they wore costumes, used props like the mace and helped make sure Parliament ran smoothly.

The incursion was a fun and engaging way to learn about the Parliament of Victoria, how bills are debated and the important responsibilities of our elected representatives.



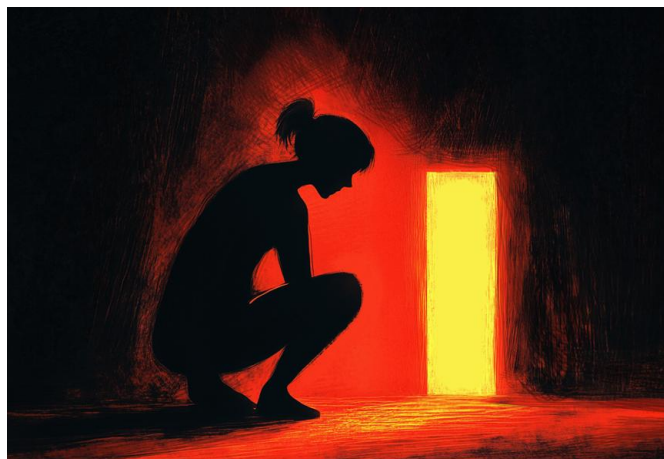
Focus on Students Leadership - Year 6

Last week, our Year 6 students had the wonderful opportunity to learn from a group of Year 12 students from St Francis who visited our school. As part of their studies, the Year 12s created engaging and informative presentations about Community Organisations, focusing on the SES, CFA and Victoria Police. Their task was to design information packages suitable for primary school students, ensuring the content was both educational and enjoyable.

Our students gained valuable knowledge about the important role these organisations play in keeping communities safe and supporting people in times of need.

After the presentations, some of our Year 6 leadership groups also had the chance to share their own projects with the Year 12s. They spoke about issues they see as important in the community and the action steps they have developed to make a positive difference.

It was a fantastic learning exchange and we look forward to seeing more of our Year 6 leadership groups presenting their projects at upcoming assemblies.



This weekend's Gospel reading is the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:22-30

From East and West they will come to take their place in the kingdom of God.

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel passage picks up one of the major themes that runs throughout the gospel of Luke: the message of salvation is not reserved exclusively for the Jews, but is for all people; Jew and Gentile alike. A number of times in this gospel, the writer makes a point of having Jesus relate this controversial and fairly unpopular message to his audience. Today's gospel makes clear that to gain salvation, you have to do more than just show up! Like those knocking on the locked door and claiming friendship, we can't just turn up at the last minute and expect to be received. Salvation – entrance into the kingdom of God – belongs to those who accept the message of Jesus and act on it for the rest of their lives.

The gospel makes plain to the Jewish people of the time that unless they accept the message of Jesus and act upon it, they will get a terrible shock ('weeping and grinding of teeth') at the coming of the kingdom. Those who believe in name only will find themselves looking in from the outside and will see the greatest prophets in the kingdom while they themselves are denied access. To further make the point, they are told that people from east and west, north and south will be welcomed into the feast of the kingdom. References to people from the four points of the compass always indicate people from other lands – non-Jews. Jesus tells his audience that people who are faithful to his message, even though they may be Gentile, will gain salvation before anyone who thinks they deserve it because of their birth or title. The kingdom must be earned through faithful effort, not by just turning up and claiming to be a believer.

Scriptural context – A gospel of the least

The gospel of Luke portrays Jesus as focusing his ministry on those considered the least in society. In the Lukan version, the birth of Jesus is witnessed by lowly shepherds as opposed to the regal wise men of Matthew's version. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, it is the Samaritan outsider who responds with compassion. The Lost (Prodigal) Son is welcomed back with great rejoicing. Zacchaeus, the resented tax collector, is treated with acceptance and makes a conversion of heart. All of these stories are unique to this gospel and paint a very particular picture of a compassionate Jesus.

Gospel Focus – First and Last

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.' These words of Jesus carry with them a major thrust of his ministry in the gospel of Luke. Jesus reminds his audience that their status in society means nothing when it comes to their status in the kingdom of God. What will make people 'first' in the kingdom is their acceptance of Jesus' message, their faith and their compassionate actions toward others. Jesus' insistence on the inherent value of the 'last' in society must have been a constant irritant to those who considered themselves 'first'.

Living the Gospel – Consequences

To be Christian is more than a name; more than a title. If we put our hand up and claim the title of Christian, then there are consequences that flow from that. Those who are disillusioned by religion frequently name hypocrisy as the major reason for their disillusionment. Sometimes, that's an easy out. We can't all live like Jesus all of the time. However, we are called to take Jesus as our model of the Christian life and to use his example as a guiding beacon. To call ourselves Christian is to try to be Christ-like in all our actions.

Spotlight on Student Success - Basketball



Following last week's announcement about Jobe and Noah (5A) being selected for the U12 Country Jamboree, we're thrilled to share that Alison (5B) has also been selected by Basketball Victoria to attend this prestigious event.

Congratulations Alison, we wish you all the best!!



Prep A

Kyrac B - For your excellent growth in our addition and subtraction unit in Maths. Superstar!

Gurbaaz P - For successfully being able to add and subtract two numbers from a number story. Awesome work!

Prep B

Remy C - For being a knowledgeable learner and confidently using addition and subtraction strategies to solve number problems.

Mason M - For being a knowledgeable learner and finding objects that are long and short.

Prep C

Isaac Maher

For finding objects that are longer and objects that are shorter than a chosen object. Awesome work!

Solange S - For comparing whether objects are long, short or the same. Amazing work!

Year 1A

Jordan A - For developing greater fluency when reading and for using his knowledge of letter sounds to sound out unfamiliar words.

Achan B - For demonstrating creativity by publishing her work with gorgeous illustrations.

Year 1B

Grace N - For showing an amazing effort in sounding out your words in your spelling test. Keep up the fantastic work!

Rhylan S - For showing focus and participation in demonstrating repeating units of measure. Well done!

Year 1C

Cody S - For being a responsible and respectful learner. We are so proud of your progress Cody.

Connor M - For making progress in your writing and taking steps toward being an independent learner. Keep up the amazing work.

Year 2A

Marcus B - For always being ready to answer questions during whole class sessions and for your positive growth mindset to learn from your mistakes. Keep it up Marcus!

Makuac T - For showing more independence when writing sentences and spelling new words. Keep learning and trying your best Makuac!

Year 2B

Faith H - For amazing progress in fluency and expression - and for bravely taking on those big, tricky words!

Zane S - For settling into 2B so smoothly and trying your best to stay focused, way to go!

Year 2C

Ryan A - For consistently showing kindness, respect, and responsibility in the classroom. Keep up the amazing work, PBL Superstar.

Mansan T - For your progress in using a range of strategies to solve multiplication and division problems. Amazing work.

Year 3A

Aishia S - For your excellent participation in this week's spelling focus. You have shown great enthusiasm and skill in applying the suffix "-ness" to

words, demonstrating a clear understanding of how it changes meaning to show a state, condition or quality.

Jacob T - For beginning to show great responsibility by getting tasks done and using your time wisely during class. You are making wonderful progress and showing that you can stay focused and organised.

Year 3B

Jason D - For consistently demonstrating the PBL values in our class, by engaging in learning tasks with a positive attitude and demonstrating respect for everyone.

Sienna L - 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

Charlotte K - Great progress in your multiplication goals, keep practicing, you are quickly succeeding

Grace S - Well done for building your confidence and reading fluently at the whole school Mass last week, you did amazing!

Year 4A

John P - For your incredible creativity and use of adjectives to describe your fictional characters this week! Superstar!

Harnoor L - For your phenomenal creative fictional character diagrams and descriptions about their traits. Amazing!

Year 4B

Abigail K - For your creative representation of acute, obtuse, straight, right and reflex angles in our Maths session.

Mikayla-Rose M - For your creative description of a character's appearance and traits during our Literature session.

Year 4C

Aditya U - For always participating and giving 100% during Maclit. Superstar!

Jax G - For managing changes in the classroom and learning environment. Amazing!

Year 5A

Chloe A - For showing wonderful growth in confidence by actively participating in class discussions and demonstrating a clear understanding of concepts across all areas of learning. Well done!

Dit P - For your outstanding engagement and active participation in our inquiry unit on how the Australian Government works. You have shown great curiosity and thoughtful contributions of the key ideas we explored.

Year 5B

Leon P - For your curiosity and insightful questions during inquiry discussions on the Australian government. Well Done!

Jude S - For your insightful questions and answers during our incursion demonstrating a deep understanding of Australian Government.

Year 5C

Alison S - For sharing her thoughts and opinions during Literacy and being a respectful member of 5C by supporting your peers.

Manyiel D - For showing great confidence and understanding when solving interior angles of triangles and quadrilateral using a protractor.

Year 6A

Charlie P - For your well researched project on St Mary Mackillop including a very thoughtful reflection on the fruits and gifts that your confirmation saint displayed, that you hope to nurture in yourself.

Andrew S - For showing confidence while speaking at confirmation. You demonstrated clear annunciation and steady pace. It is evident that you practiced.

Year 6B

Geu G - For showing wonderful improvement in reading fluency, confidently reading texts with a clear pace, expressive tone, and engaging voice.

Julian M - For working hard to stay focused during learning time, especially in Maths lessons, and showing great effort while learning about angles.

Year 6C

Alana A - For showing great confidence and speaking clearly during the Confirmation reading - Great job!

Miron F - For using feedback from Term 2 to make great improvements in the classroom and with classwork - Well done!

TERM 3

dates for your diary

Week 6

Tuesday 26/08

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 27/08

- **YEAR 6 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 28/08

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 29/08

- Year 6 Mad about Science Incursion

Week 7

MACSIS Open for Input this Week

Monday 01/09

- [World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#)

Tuesday 02/09

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 03/09

- **Father's Day Breakfast 7am & Mass (Whole School) 9.15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 04/09

- Father's Day Stall
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 05/09

- ONWZ Principals Network

Sunday 07/09

- **Father's Day**

Week 8

National Child Protection Week

Monday 08/09

- Year 4 Shelter Building Incursion

Tuesday 09/09

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 10/09

- **YEAR 1 and 2 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- **2025 Year 6 School Matinee Production 11.30am**
- **2025 Year 6 School Production 6.30pm**

Thursday 11/09

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **2025 Year 6 School Production 6.30pm**

Friday 12/09

- Instalment 3 - Family Fee Payment Due

Week 9

Tuesday 16/09

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 17/09

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

Friday 19/09

- **End of Term 3**



