



**Friday, 29th August 2025**

**This Week's Newsletter Items:**

- Working Together for Positive Learning Environments
- Beginning and End of Day Responsibilities for Entering and Exiting the Building
- Success of Demonstration Lessons
- MACSSIS Survey
- Scholastics Book Fair
- Athletics Day
- Father's Day Update
- Year 6 Production Update

## **Working Together for Positive Learning Environments**

At St Catherine of Siena, we want every child to feel safe, valued and supported in their learning. Our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Behaviour Matrix is built on four simple but powerful values: Respect, Responsibility, Kindness and Safety. These values shape how we learn and live together as a community.

This year we have been strengthening our approach to Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). By using data, we can better identify behaviours that may be preventing students from fully engaging in their learning or that might make classrooms less safe for others. Sometimes this shines a light on behaviours that may not have been noticed before but still have a real impact on learning.

When we contact families to discuss these behaviours, we do so because we care deeply about the wellbeing and growth of each and every

child within our learning community. It is never about blame or criticism, but about partnership. The best outcomes happen when school and home work together, helping children to learn from mistakes and to grow in the values we share.

By joining with us in this work, parents and carers play a vital role in modelling how to respond positively to challenges and how to take responsibility for our actions. Together, we can ensure that classrooms remain happy, safe and productive places - where every child has the chance to be their best.

Please see our PBL Matrix of our 4 school Values and Expected Behaviours at the end of this newsletter.

## **Beginning and End of Day Expectations for Entering and Exiting the Building**

With the above said as a community of staff at St Catherine of Siena we have collected data about our beginning and end of day expectations around students entering and exiting the building.

We have been implementing PBL at our school for over 18 months and are continually using data to strive to improve practice.

As a community of learners, we open our gates at 8.15am to allow students to play safety outside whilst being supervised.

From 8.15am - 8.30am students have been explicitly taught to demonstrate the following expected behaviours:

- Place their bags in their line up spaces
- Move around the yard 'calmly and carefully' to demonstrate Safety
- Before school is not for running games or ball games, with the exception of 'down ball'
- Use this time to chat with friends and share about the night before or day ahead of them
- Take an opportunity to visit the library in the Atrium or join us for Breakfast Club (Tuesdays Only)

At 8.27am the music begins to play, this music lasts for 3 minutes and signals to students and adults that we are now allowed to transition into the school building with our belongings. We are to use the closest door to our classroom and again move 'calmly and carefully'.

Again students have been explicitly taught to line up outside their classroom door and demonstrate that they are 'ready to learn'. Students remain lined up until their teacher and LSO opens the classroom door and welcomes them in.

Older students with mobile phones visit the office from 8.15am - 8.40am to deposit their mobile phones for the day. Students enter and exit the office through the yard and the black doors located next to 2A's classroom.

Between 8.30am and 8.40am the students are offered one of the following two choices;

1. Remain in their classroom to engage in calm activities e.g. setting themselves up for learning for the day etc

Or

2. Exit the classroom back onto the school yard

**Students are not to use the corridor as a place to play, socialise, or move unsafely. This is a place for safe movement to and from the classrooms and yards only.**

Please be advised that from 8.40 am the corridors transition to active learning spaces. We ask that if students arrive late, they present to admin for a late pass from 8.40am and then proceed through the school independently to class to engage in learning as soon as possible.

Additionally, the Art room at the back of the school leading through the yellow doors out to our Prep and Year 1 space is not to be used as an extension to the corridors.

From 8.30 am this becomes an active learning and teaching space with staff setting up for the days learning ahead.

I remind all students and families that as best as possible we must use the external doors to travel to this location.

Finally, at the beginning and end of the day, as stated above students enter the building is to be done through the nearest external door to classrooms and students are released from the closest external door to the gate that you have agreed to meet students at the end of the day.

**No Student or family member should be entering or exiting through the black admin doors. The admin space is very busy at the beginning and end of the day.**

I ask for your support on the above as a student, parent/care giver and staff community to ensure

we set our students up daily for a successful day of learning.

## Success of Demonstration Lessons

This week we hosted Brendan Lee for our Mathematics Demonstration Lessons. 5 staff from Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS) and 25 teachers for 5 other western zone schools participating in the Mathematics Acceleration Program Professional Learning experienced hosted by our school.

The students of 2B and 4C were extraordinary! They demonstrated the PBL values & expected behaviours. Our students showed our visitors the tireless efforts of teachers, LSOs and leaders who are putting engagement norms, full participation and explicit instruction at the forefront of our Learning and Teaching journey at our school!



The following is an email of feedback from MACS staff regarding the day:

*A big thank you to you Lisa and Matthew for all the organisation and for your hospitality. It was a great day of professional learning and an opportunity to showcase the wonderful students engaged in their learning and dedication of staff in teaching them. We would like to reiterate again how impressive your classroom routines and teacher practice was. The school has made great progress on your implementation of the Vision for Instruction. A standout in the WEST for Learning and Teaching!*  
Ainslie McIntosh & Nancy Surace (MACS-Mathematics Learning Consultants)

Congratulations to all on the success of the day and too everyone who helped to get this initiative off the ground!





## 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.

**An email will be sent to every family this Monday, 1st 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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025**. 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 has invited 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 [macssis@orima.com](mailto:macssis@orima.com), or Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) via email - [macssis@macs.vic.edu.au](mailto:macssis@macs.vic.edu.au).

**We would really appreciate your feedback.**

## Scholastic Book Fair

We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make our Annual Scholastic Book Fair such a wonderful success! A heartfelt thank you to all the families who supported the event by purchasing books and to the amazing parent volunteers who generously gave their time to assist throughout the week. Your contribution truly made all the difference.

We are thrilled to share that the total in book sales reached \$8378.00! Thanks to you, the school received \$500 worth of books directly from the fair – hand-picked for our library and sure to be loved by our students. In addition, we earned \$2087.00 in Scholastic Rewards, which can be used to purchase more books and educational resources for our school community.

A very special thank you goes to Mrs Susan Aquilina for her time, dedication and effort in coordinating and running the fair. Her hard work behind the scenes ensured everything ran smoothly. We truly appreciate you!!



## Athletics Day

Last week on Thursday, our St Catherines athletics team went out to the Melton athletics track to represent our school in several events.

God blessed us with a sunny amazing day and our students represented our school in the best way possible.



With a lot of competition from other schools in our district, every member of our team put in their best efforts in their individual events.



A big shout out to Mrs. Sharpe, Mrs. Whitehand, Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Mizzi for their amazing efforts and ensuring our students were organised throughout the day.

We are very proud of everyone on the day and a massive congratulations to Guak in the 200m and Taylor C in the High Jump who both qualified for the Western Range's day in the next coming weeks.



## Father's Day Update

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.

Please ensure that this form is completed by Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> September.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

## Year 6 Production Update



Bookings for our Year 6 Production of 'Alice in Wonderland Jr' are now open through the school interviews portal.

THE ORIGINAL TICKET ALLOCATION HAVE ALREADY SOLD OUT! DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND, WE HAVE RELEASED AN ADDITIONAL 100 TICKETS!!!

Don't miss your chance to see this unforgettable show!

Here is a reminder of the booking codes:  
[www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au)

Event Code: **uuh2q**



Get in early to book your tickets - First in best dressed!





### Prep A

Julia B - For your amazing effort in your writing during our dictation lessons. SUPERSTAR!

Joseph J - For writing an amazing sentence on your own about where the pig lived. Awesome work!

### Prep B

Jamarley C - For your fantastic effort during Maths, when identifying heavy and light objects around the room.

Elizabeth E - For always demonstrating your amazing participation and listening skills during Heggerty. Keep it up

### Prep C

Stevie H - For identifying and sorting objects that have a large or small mass. Amazing work!

Max M - For trying your best to read and write our heart words. Great work!

### Year 1A

Frazer A - For always demonstrating respect to your teachers and his peers.

Georgia D - For always being ready to learn and demonstrating great listening skills.

### Year 1B

Yalise O - For fantastic participation during our morning Phonics. You are always ready and focused. Keep it up!

Tyson L - For always trying your best, showing a positive attitude, and putting great effort into everything you do. Well done!

### Year 1C

Jessie M - For always presenting work with neat handwriting and careful thought. You take great pride in your learning tasks – well done!

Pypah M - For showing wonderful effort and determination while learning to skip count by 2, 5 and 10.

### Year 2A

Luwayne S - For clearly demonstrating how to represent a multiplication problem in different ways on a think pad and drawing groups to solve division problems. Well Done!

Thea H - For clearly demonstrating how to represent a multiplication problem in different ways on a thinkpad, showing arrays, equal groups and repeated addition. Super Effort!

### Year 2B

Victoria M - For consistently showing leadership, integrity and hard work. You are always following the PBL matrix and choosing to be an upstander for others!

Oscar J - For showing dedication to practicing and improving in maths, both at school and at home.

### Year 2C

Hirwa S - Your consistent practice, perseverance and growing confidence in fluency. Great job for taking on feedback and growing as a reader.

James S - For using dialogue and adjectives to bring your narrative alive. Keep up the great story writing.

### Year 3A

Nyandeng (Victoria) D - 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.

Yuot Y - For showing determination and effort in completing sentence-level tasks during our Iron Man novel study. Well done on your commitment to trying your best.

### Year 3B

Deng D - For attempting to use paragraphs within your writing piece. It was great to see the correct layout used for the inclusion of them.

Ivan J - For attempting to edit and revise your writing. It was great to see that you identified where some punctuation needed to be included.

### Year 3C

May T - For a fantastic job in demonstrating an improvement in your pre and post test in our Times unit. Well done!

Charlie S - For showing a growing interest in our novel study of the Iron Man by contributing to class discussions.

### Year 4A

Ava K - For your focus and persistence during the equivalent fractions activity in Maths this week. Amazing!

Payton R - For your use of descriptive vocab in your narrative to describe your character's actions. Well done!

### Year 4B

Bakita M - For showing the PBL value of kindness, particularly by demonstrating empathy for an injured classmate.

Isaac K - For your recent efforts in demonstrating our school values and expectations in the classroom. Keep it up!

### Year 4C

Aditya U - For always following the PBL values of being respectful, responsible and kind, even when Ms Jacobson was away.

Lekky M - For always following the PBL values of being respectful, responsible and kind, even when Ms Jacobson was away.

### Year 5A

Caitlyn S - For your fantastic effort in our angles unit! You have shown great growth in your learning and a strong understanding in your assessment.

Mace Z - For an awesome effort on your angles assessment! You have made great progress and have really shown your understanding in this unit.

### Year 5B

Jordan J - For the great effort you have put into your writing moderation piece! Fantastic work

Nathaniel A - Including clear, well-organised paragraphs in your writing piece, it made your work a pleasure to read!

### Year 5C

Marco S - For your constant effort and positive attitude during learning. Well done!

Sarah B - For your great work and determination during literacy. Keep up the great work!

### Year 6A

Liam D - Well done for thoughtfully applying feedback to enhance your character. Your growth and commitment truly elevated your performance during our practice sessions in Performing Arts for the upcoming play!

Ira G - Well done on delivering a confident and engaging presentation. Your strong public speaking skills made a real impact during your group's talk on youth violence to the Year 12 students from St Francis Catholic College.

### Year 6B

Braxton V - For the wonderful job you have been doing in organising the sound and music for our Alice in Wonderland performance practices. Your dedication, focus and attention to detail have made a big difference in helping our rehearsals run smoothly. Well done!

Ava V - For working hard to push yourself in your learning and striving to extend your knowledge and skills. You have shown great determination in preparing yourself for the challenges of high school. Well done!

### Year 6C

Athieei T - For demonstrating initiative and a strong desire to challenge yourself by taking on a greater role in the school performance.

Ofeina T - For thoughtfully taking on feedback to improve your performance and for setting goals that uplift not only yourself but your entire class as a team.

# TERM 3

## dates for your diary

### Week 7

**MACSIS Open for Input this week - Students, Families, Staff**

**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 & Blessing @ 7.15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm - **CANCELLED**

**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
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

**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** (students only)
- **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

**Monday 15/09**

- *Our Lady of Sorrows*

**Tuesday 16/09**

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

**Wednesday 17/09**

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

**Thursday 18/09**

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

**Friday 19/09**

- **End of Term 3 – Students dismissed at 3:15pm**



ST CATHERINE'S YEAR 6 PRODUCTION OF

Disney  
*Alice in  
Wonderland* JR.

*Performance Dates*

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September &  
Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September**

**Time: 6:30pm**

**Location: St Catherine of Siena School Hall**

*Bookings*

Book online at

[schoolinterviews.com.au](http://schoolinterviews.com.au)

Enter event code: **uuh2q**

or

Scan the QR code

***Be quick - Limited seats available!***

*We Can't wait to see you there.*





# St Catherine of Siena, Melton West PBL Matrix

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