



Friday, 19th September 2025

- Principal Message
- Year 6 Production Review
- Process for Parents Invited to Provide Input re: Class-Placement for 2026
- MACSSIS
- Focus on L and T Article: Year 2 Incursion Gospel
- Year 3/4 Basketball Tournament
- Year 3 Camp Information
- Prep – Term 4 Excursion
- Student Achievement
- Learning Auslan
- MAV Games

Dear Parents, Students & Friends,

Can you believe that it is the end of TERM 3? We have had an exciting term filled with learning, religious celebrations, excursions, incursions, Father's Day breakfast, Grandparent's Day, 100 Day's of Prep, Year 4 camp, Book week events, Year 6 Production and the grand finale being the Dance Incursion!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support as I took on the role of Acting Principal whilst Des has been on Long Service Leave.

It has been an absolute pleasure leading our amazing school.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS - WEEK 1 AND 2 OF TERM 4

- Term 4 begins on Monday, 6th October
- Mr Des Noack returns Monday, 6th October
- Summer Uniform to be worn in Term 4
- Year 5 Camp Week 1, 8th – 10th October
- Breakfast Club Returns Week 2 Tuesday, 14th October
- Swimming Program:
 - Prep – Week 1, 6th – 10th October

- Year 1 – Week 3, 20th – 24th October
- Year 2 – Week 4, 27th – 31st October

Next term many more events, incursion, excursions, camps and learning opportunities are being prepared by our staff to welcome our students back for their final term of the 2025 school year.

So, please rest over the holidays and get ready for a busy and exciting final term ahead.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday.

See you all next term.

Lisa McCallin (Deputy Principal and Learning & Teaching Leader)
Acting Principal

Year 6 Production Alice and Wonderland

Last week the Year 6 Production of Alice and Wonderland was staged on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th of September to SOLD OUT crowds.

The production journey began in term 1 of this year with an audition process. As each week of the school year passed our Year 6 students were hard at work with the tireless efforts of our school Performing Arts teacher, Lauren Jamieson perfecting each scene and song.

Each and every Year 6 student has showed active dedication to the final product and all the countless hours of rehearsals allowed each of our talented Year 6 cohort to SHINE last week.

On behalf of the whole community a huge SHOUT OUT to our Year 6 students!

An event like this takes careful planning and many staff are to thank for their efforts in supporting our students in the long lead up to show day.

Three cheers for Miss Jamieson and the Year 6 teachers; Ms Ademi, Miss Di Falco & Mrs Tarlano and LSO's; Mrs Harrison & Mrs Borg who have been supported by the staff community near and far.





2026 Class Placement Parental Input (Closes Friday, 7th November)

Your child's current teachers have spent an amazing amount of time with your child during the school year. They are aware of most, but maybe not all, of your child's strengths and challenges from a school perspective. It is their knowledge,

observation and insight that provide the basis from which class structures and placement are created.

However, as a parent, your knowledge is far more profound through the simple relationship of child and parent. You hear the story of their daily experiences and know intimately of your child's strengths, challenges and amazing potential. You know of the relationships they have in and outside of school, the learning and teachers that inspire them to do their best and the friendships that either help them to flourish or, at times, struggle.

It is within this context that we invite you to write about your child's learning and social needs to assist us in the placement of your child into specific classrooms for the 2026 school year.

When receiving a letter that requests a specific teacher, knowing that the teacher may not be in the same year level the following year, we read it as a parent's way of expressing the type of teacher your child responds well to. In doing so, it affirms the quality, temperament, characteristics of the teaching staff that we wish to foster at St Catherine of Siena.

At the same time, it gives us an insight into the quality of relationship that has been formed between parent and teacher over the year(s). A positive relationship between parent, student and teacher makes a huge difference in the way a student engages in their learning and the school community.

Please note that we may not be able to provide you with exactly what you want, but we do try to do our best given the many and diverse factors that go into making up a class.

All emails must be received by **Friday, 7th November 3.30pm**. Please title the email with the heading **"Confidential – 2026 Class Placement"**.

The email address to use is:

dnoack@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

This year the teaching staff and school leadership team will use Class Solver software to ensure class placements take into consideration not only parent preferences around student class placements but also:

- Specific learning needs
- Individual differences
- Gender balance
- Relationships with other students
- Age
- Social and emotional maturity
- Academic achievement
- Family groupings

- Length of time a class or group has been together
- Class placements in previous years
- Classroom observations
- Student teacher relationships

MACSSIS

Please check your emails as the survey was sent to all families on Monday, 1st September providing you with your family's personal number (PIN) for completing the survey with further instructions as to how you can access the survey site.

The survey needs to be completed by today, Friday, 19th September 2025.

This survey may only be completed once and takes an average of 10 minutes!

We value your feedback!

Year 2 'Mad About Science' Incursion - Wicked Weather!

On Friday the 12th of September, all of the grade two's had an incursion about science. My grade went to the incursion during session 3 and 4. Half of grade 2B came into our class before it started. First, we learned about the water cycle. Evaporation was first, then condensation and then comes the precipitation. We got to make our own rain in a cup! Next, we got to use instant snow, which is like snow, but then it's not like snow at all. There was also something called UV light. It is a very strong light. We made bracelets that could change colour! After that, we made cyclones in a bottle. I loved all of it!

By Charbel, Grade 2A



Hi my name is Ofure and I will be talking about the grade two incursion. Last Friday, the grade twos participated in a Mad About Science incursion. We learned about different climates and weather. We created rain droplets using hot water and some ice.

We also made instant snow. My favourite part was when we made bracelets that changed colors in the sun. Some grade twos received a certificate for their excellent work. We had so much fun. Thank you for listening. **By Ofure, Grade 2B**



Gospel: John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

Gospel Reflection: This week, we read and hear a beautiful message from the Bible, from the book of John. It's a special story that reminds us of how much we are loved.

Sometimes, when we hear stories from the Bible, they can sound a little tricky. But the most important part of this story is a very simple and wonderful message: **God loves us so, so much!**

Imagine someone giving you a very special gift, the best gift you could ever imagine. That's a bit like what God did for us. The Bible says, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." This shows us that God's love is a great big, wonderful gift for everyone, no matter what.

Sometimes, we might feel like we've made mistakes, or that we don't belong. This story tells us that Jesus didn't come to tell us off or make us feel bad. He came to help us, to show us a way to be safe and happy forever. The message is about hope and being saved, not about being judged.

Just like a good friend helps you when you're in trouble, Jesus is here to help us. He wants us all to feel loved and to have a wonderful life, both now and forever.

Let's remember this week that we are all a part of God's big, loving family. We are all so very special, and we are all loved.

Year 3/4 Basketball Tournament

On Monday, 15th September, our Grade 3 and 4 students represented the school at the Basketball Tournament held at Cobblebank Stadium. Coached by Mr Galea and Ms Mizzi, both our boys' and girls were super excited to get out there and show their skills

The boys team fought hard throughout the day, winning 2 games and having heaps of fun along the way.



The girls' team had a phenomenal run, winning all 4 of their games. Our last game was super intense, but our girls played well and we managed to win by one point!



A big thank you goes to all our wonderful parents who came along to support and help on the day. Your encouragement and assistance made the tournament a fantastic experience for our students.



Well done to all players – we are so proud of your sportsmanship and achievements!



Year 3 Camp Information

This year, Grade 3 students will be attending an outdoor education camp at Camp Sunnystones, Merrimu, from Thursday 13th to Friday 14th November, 2025. The camp experience is designed to help students build independence, develop social skills and engage in meaningful learning beyond the classroom.

To support families in preparing for this exciting event, St Catherine of Siena will be holding a Camp Information Session on Thursday, 30th October at 6:00pm in the school hall. The session will run for approximately 40 minutes. It will provide details about the camp program and activities, along with a presentation to help students and parents become familiar with the camp environment and what to bring.

This is especially helpful for students who may feel a bit anxious about attending. We strongly encourage both parents and children to come, as there will also be an opportunity for questions. Permission notes have been sent out via Operoo, and families are asked to complete these forms and confirm attendance at the Parent Information Night by Tuesday, 14th October 2025.



Important Dates

Operoo Camp Permission and Parent Information Night Forms Due: Tuesday, 14th October 2025

Camp Parent Information Night: Thursday, 30th October 2025 – 6:00pm, School Hall

Camp Dates: Thursday, 13th – Friday, 14th November 2025 (Sunnystones Camp, Merrimu)

Prep – Term 4 Excursion

Dear Prep Families,

We are excited to share that our Prep students will be heading on an excursion to Animal Land on Wednesday, 22nd October. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore, learn and experience hands-on encounters with animals in a fun and safe environment.

Students will depart school at approximately 9:00am and return by 3:00pm.

The permission note for this excursion will be available on Friday, 19th September and will remain open for signing throughout the school holidays via Operoo. Please ensure you log on and provide consent in time so that all students are ready for this exciting day.

We will also be inviting a small number of parent helpers to join us on the excursion. To keep this fair, names will be drawn from a hat once parents have confirmed they are available to attend. More information about this process will be shared with families who express interest.

We know this excursion will be a highlight of the term, and we thank you in advance for your support in making it a special experience for our Prep students.

Warm regards,
The Prep Team

Prep A

Chanuon T - For consistently giving your best effort and maintaining a positive mindset towards your learning. Keep it up!

Oliver B - For growing in your learning, being able to sound out and write most words that include a digraph. Superstar!

Prep B

Luna R - For being an inquirer and asking questions about living things throughout our inquiry unit.

Enid F - For reading so wonderfully at our Prep Mass. You did yourself very proud! Well Done.

Prep C

Prabhnor L - For identifying if groups have equal shares and the amount of equal shares in each group! Amazing learning!

Paige T - For recording the sounds you hear during dictation and remembering our writing non negotiables. Super Writing!

Year 1A

Selena T - For adding thoughtful and interesting contributions to class discussions.

Cyrus T - For demonstrating his excellent mathematics skills by demonstrating to the class how to create an array.

Year 1B

Madelyn F - For consistently being ready to learn and completing your learning tasks in a responsible manner. Keep being awesome!

Cyrus N - For demonstrating enthusiasm and effort into your learning. Keep it up!

Year 1C

Ayor A - For demonstrating great listening skills during your lessons. Thank you for being ready to learn!

Ayor A - For demonstrating great listening skills during your lessons. Thank you for being ready to learn!

Year 2A

Daniel W - For being a kind, friendly and inquisitive class member. You are always ready to share your ideas and extend your thinking. Super effort Daniel!

Gloria M - For learning to use the mental computation strategy of Adding Ten to two-digit numbers. Well Done Gloria!

Year 2B

Elijah J - For making astronomical growth in your learning, focus, and reading. You should be very proud of yourself!

Dakota S - For confidently using bar models to solve two-digit addition and subtraction problems with clear thinking and great effort.

Year 2C

Zoey T - For your great progress in spelling skills and a strong commitment to learning new words! Keep up the excellent work, Zoey.

Jason P - For your progress in our shape unit. Keep up the excellent work, Jason.

Year 3A

Eden F - For excellently using the CUBES strategy to solve addition problems

Nova H - For fantastic participation during our spelling focus on the prefix 'mis', meaning wrong. You have shown great enthusiasm in reading, spelling and analysing 'mis' words.

Year 3B

Ivana F - For your great recall of multiplication facts up to 12x12. Well done on achieving all the wrist bands

Liam M - For showing perseverance in developing efficient strategies for solving worded maths problems.

Year 3C

Charlize B - For showing determination when writing challenging poems - your Haiku poems were amazing!

Khiani Setiu - For working really hard to learn the strategy of solving maths worded problems effectively.

Year 4A

Achillik M - For your amazing growth in your fractions post-test this week. Superstar!

Fennet T - For showing incredible growth in your Multiplication and Division fact testing this week! Amazing!

Year 4B

Anthony M - For his detailed design and model construction as part of our Inquiry building project. Well Done!

Radha L - For her detailed design and model construction as part of our Inquiry building project. Excellent work!

Year 4C

Reighson F - For showing incredible growth in your westwood testing this term. Amazing work!

Sienna P - For your amazing growth in your fractions post-test this week. Amazing work!

Year 5A

Nyanthon N - For using your sound knowledge to help with spelling during literacy. Awesome work!

Beny P - For showing our PBL expectations during learning time by staying focused and giving your best effort! Keep it up!

Year 5B

Marita B - For showing kindness and respect every day, your thoughtful actions set a great example for others to follow.

Tatiana T - For your effort and growth in completing all set learning tasks this week. Keep up the great work!

Year 5C

Peyton T - For always completing her work to a very high standard. Peyton shows pride and consistently gives her best effort.

John S - For always finishing his tasks with enthusiasm and determination! John always has a positive attitude towards learning.

Year 6A

All of 6A: The Grade 6 class is to be commended for their outstanding performance of *Alice in Wonderland*, showcasing remarkable enthusiasm, dedication, and talent across all three days of the show.

Sage T - For showing incredible initiative throughout the production. You were an all-rounder, generously supporting teachers with make-up and backstage preparation, ensuring the cast had all their necessary props and providing encouragement and assistance to your peers.

Year 6B

All of 6B: For your outstanding effort and dedication in our production of *Alice in Wonderland*! You all stepped up, worked together as a team, and showed incredible commitment throughout rehearsals and performances. We are proud of you!

Ngong A - For independently solving measurement conversions and carefully showing all your workings out! Well done!

Year 6C

Mussie G - For being responsible and showing great commitment by coming back to support your classmates and teachers on the second night of the performance. Great team work!

Aaliyah F - For always listening carefully, participating in class and putting your best effort into classwork and homework. Keep up the great work!

Student Achievement

We would like to acknowledge Abby 6C for her amazing efforts in the under 12s hockey Victoria tournament. Abby and her team came away victorious in their grand final.



We would also like to acknowledge Alison 5C, Peyton 5C and Kailen 5B for their amazing efforts in the Melton 12.2 Girls VJBL grand final on Friday night. Although the team didn't get the win, the girls played with incredible determination after a tough and hard-fought season.

A big shoutout as well to Jobe 5A and Noah 5A from the Melton 12.1 Boys VJBL, who also played in their basketball grand final coming away with the win. Well done on a fantastic season.

Congratulations to everyone, we are so proud of you!!



Learning Auslan: HOLM and NMF

Auslan (Australian Sign Language) is a complete language with its own unique rules and structure. To sign clearly and effectively, students focus on two essential elements: HOLM and NMF.

HOLM: The Building Blocks of Every Sign

HOLM stands for Handshape, Orientation, Location, and Movement. Each sign in Auslan is made up of these four components:

- **Handshape:** The shape the hand makes (e.g. Flat, Spread, Good (thumbs-up), Point, Hook, Claw/Ball).
- **Orientation:** The direction the hand is facing (up, down, left, right).
- **Location:** Where the hand is placed near the body or face.
- **Movement:** How the hand moves.

A small change in any part of HOLM can change the meaning of a sign, just like changing one letter in an English word creates a new word.

Handshapes in Auslan

Auslan features a wide variety of handshapes:

- **38 Major Handshapes:** The main "building blocks" of signs.
- **28 Variants:** Smaller changes or adjustments to the major shapes, adding detail and complexity.

This means there are over 60 ways to shape the hand, making Auslan a rich, flexible and expressive language. In class, students begin with the six most common handshapes:

- Flat
- Spread
- Good
- Point
- Claw/Ball
- Hook



NMF: Non-Manual Features

NMF stands for Non-Manual Features. These are the parts of signing that do not use the hands, including:

- Facial expressions (eyes, eyebrows, mouth)
- Body movements and posture

Examples of NMF in action:

- Raising eyebrows can indicate a question.
- Shaking the head can mean "no."
- Smiling can show friendliness.

Why HOLM and NMF Matter

By practising HOLM and NMF together, students can:

- Share their ideas more clearly
- Show feelings and tone
- Understand Auslan conversations better

Learning these skills helps students become confident and respectful communicators in Auslan. It also builds awareness of how body language supports communication in everyday life.

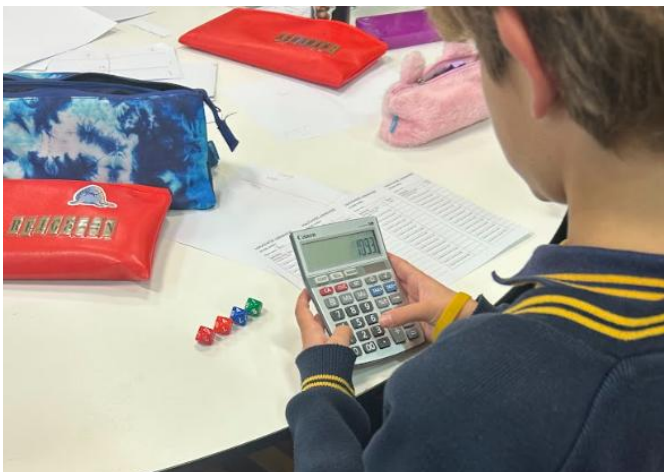
MAV Games Day

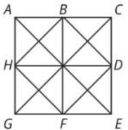
On Wednesday, 10th September eight Year 4 students participated in the Mathematics Association of Victoria Games Day held at St Annes Primary School in Sunbury.

Students started with some warmup games with their peers and then got straight into their Math's games. The first game that was played was a team problem solving challenge. In this problem-solving challenge, students had 5 sheets of paper they needed to work through and answer each one. Some examples of the questions are below.

SCHOOL NAME: _____	TEAM NUMBER: _____
1A. Traffic Cones Tilly has been asked to put these traffic cones in a stack of 4. How many different ways is it possible to stack the cones if the yellow cone must always be in the top? 	
1B. Buying two bottles of water and a bottle of juice from a vending machine costs \$10. Two bottles of juice and one bottle of water costs \$11. How much does it cost to buy one bottle of water from this vending machine, in dollars? Hint: Is a bottle of water more or less expensive than a bottle of juice?	

After this game, students had a break and then participated in the team relay. For this relay students had one question to answer one question at a time and if they got the answer correct, they moved on to the next question, but if they were wrong were given the opportunity to try and solve the equation again. Some examples of the questions are below:



5	I arranged my 18 coins into 3 stacks. The second stack has two coins more than the first stack. The third stack has two coins more than the second stack. How many coins are there in the second stack?
6	A shopkeeper sells house numbers. She has a large supply of the numerals 4, 7, and 8, but no other numerals. How many different three-digit house numbers could be made using only the numerals in her supply?
7	Square ACEG is drawn at the right. Points B, D, F, and H are halfway along the sides of the square. What is the total number of squares of all sizes which can be traced using only the lines drawn? 
8	Charlotte, Declan, Faye and Thomas have a different pet each: a canary, a dog, a fish and a turtle. Neither Charlotte nor Thomas has a fish. Faye does not have a canary or a turtle. Nobody has a pet that starts with the same letter as their own name. What is Charlotte's pet?

Finally, they had mini competitions against children from other schools, playing a range of games to earn points for their school. These games were called 1,2 or 3 and Bridges. This tested the students thinking as they had to work out strategies to beat their competition. These games are below:

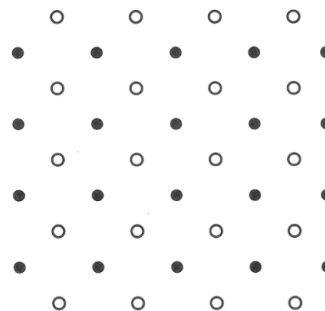
Take 1 OR 2	Take 1, 2 OR 3	Take 1, 2, 3 OR 4
Materials: Counters	Materials: Counters	Materials: Counters
The rules: Tip out one pile of counters. Take turns picking up 1 or 2 counters. You <u>must</u> pick up 1 or 2 counters	The rules: Tip out one pile of counters. Take turns picking up 1, 2 or 3 counters. You <u>must</u> pick up 1, 2 or 3 counters	The rules: Tip out one pile of counters. Take turns picking up 1, 2, 3 or 4 counters. You <u>must</u> pick up 1, 2, 3 or 4 counters
Aim: To be the player with the <u>last</u> move	Aim: To be the player with the <u>last</u> move	Aim: To be the player with the <u>last</u> move

Bridges

Materials:
Match sticks, toothpicks or two different coloured pencils.

- The rules:**
- Game for two players.
1. One player uses solid dots and the other uses hollow dots. Players take turns to put a match stick between two of their dots (horizontal or vertical only)
 2. A match must not be put on top of another match

Aim:
To make a bridge between either top and bottom (player playing - hollow) or left and right (player playing - solid)



Although we did not win overall, the students had a great time and we look forward to participating in this competition with other year levels next year.

Term 4 Dates for the Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 October – Week 1 *Students Return *Prep Swimming Program	7 *Prep Swimming Program	8 *Prep Swimming Program *Year 5 Camp - Kyneton Class Mass Year 6 Whole School Assembly 2:15pm	9 *Prep Swimming Program *Year 5 Camp - Kyneton *Year 3 Wild Action Incursion *Year 6 ASPIRE Incursion	10 *Prep Swimming Program *Year 5 Camp - Kyneton
13 Week 2	14 *Year 6 Graduation Photo	15 Class Mass – Year 5 Whole School Assembly 2:15pm	16 *Year 6 Life Saving Day - Altona	17
20 Week 3 *Year 1 Swimming Program Parent Support Group Meetings	21 *Year 1 Swimming Program *School Advisory Meeting 7:00pm Parent Support Group Meetings	22 * Prep Animal Land Excursion *Year 1 Swimming Program Parent Support Group Meetings Class Mass – Year 4 Whole School Assembly 2:15pm	23 *Year 1 Swimming Program Parent Support Group Meetings	24 *Year 1 Swimming Program *Year 4 Melbourne Zoo Excursion Parent Support Group Meetings
27 Week 4 *Year 2 Swimming Program Parent Support Group Meetings	28 *Year 2 Swimming Program Parent Support Group Meetings	29 *Year 2 Swimming Program Class Mass – Year 3 Parent Support Group Meetings Whole School Assembly 2:15pm *2026 Sacrament Enrolment Night 7pm	30 *Year 2 Swimming Program *Year 3 Camp Information Night 6pm Parent Support Group Meetings	31 *Year 2 Swimming Program Parent Support Group Meetings
3 November – Week 5 School Closure	4 Melbourne Cup Day	5 Whole School Mass 9:15am *Year 5 Life Saving Day Whole School Assembly 2:15pm *Art Show Opening Night 4:30pm -6pm	6	7 *Year 6 Transition Program with Melton Council
10 Week 6 *Prep 2026 Transition Session 1 9am - 10am	11 Remembrance Day	12 Class Mass – Year 2 Whole School Assembly 2:15pm	13 *Year 5 ASPIRE Incursion *Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones	14 *Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones
17 Week 7 *Prep 2026 Transition Session 2 9am - 10am	18	19 Class Mass – Year 1 Whole School Assembly 2:15pm	20 *Whole School Colour Fun Run	21 School Closure Day
24 Week 8 *Prep 2026 Transition Session 3 9am - 10am	25	26 Class Mass – Year 5 Whole School Assembly 2:15pm *Year 6 Camp – Waratah Beach Camp	27 *Year 6 Camp – Waratah Beach Camp	28 *Year 6 Camp – Waratah Beach Camp
1 December – Week 9 *2026 Student Transition Day 1 – (Prep – Year 5)	2	3 Class Mass – Year 4 Whole School Assembly 2:15pm	4	5 *Prep 2026 Transition Session 4 9am - 10am
8 Week 10 *2026 Student Transition Day 1 (Prep – Year 5)	9	10 Whole School Assembly 2:15pm *Carols Night 6:00pm	11	12 *Prep 2026 Transition Session 5 9am - 10am *Semester 2 Reports Sent Home
15 Week 11 *Year 6 Big Day Out	16 *Year 6 Graduation 6:00pm	17 Whole School Mass 9:15am End of Year Awards Assembly 2:00pm *Last Day of Term – Students Dismissed @ 3:15pm	18 School Closure Day	19 School Closure Day