



Friday, 10th October 2025

Dear Parents, Students & Friends,

Welcome back to school!

I wish to take this opportunity to thank both Lisa McCallin and Nadine Barnes, who during my absence did a fantastic job, in the role of Acting Principal, in ensuring the school ran smoothly despite staffing shortages, a couple of very challenging behavioural issues and the hosting of major events such as Father Day Breakfast and the Year 6 School Production. Their professionalism and the support of staff around them is reflected in the very smooth start we have had this week.

Next week, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) will commence interviewing applicants for the position of principal at St Catherine of Siena. I wish to note that our school has taken precedence over several other school's who are yet to appoint a principal. Please join me in a quiet prayer to seek God's guidance for those appointed on the interviewing panel as they discern who best will lead this beautiful school into the future.

During the term break, we received confirmation of the results of the review of our school's operational standards and practices, along with Child Safety. I am very happy to announce that we passed with flying colours. A copy of the letter confirming this has been published in this week's newsletter.

May this coming term be one of great learning, further growth and the opportunity to deepen our understanding as to why the school's four values of Respect, Safety, Responsibility and Kindness are so important to our communities harmony and growth.

With kindest regards,

Des Noack
Principal

Important Reminders

- **Year 3 Operoo Camp Permission and Parent Information Night Forms Due:** Tuesday, 14th October 2025
- **Year 6 Graduation Photos:** Tuesday, 14th October
- **Year 6 Life Saving Day Excursion:** Thursday 16th October - Altona Beach
- **School Emergency Displan Practice:** Thursday, 16th October
- **Parent Advisory Council:** Tuesday 21st October at 7.00pm in staffroom
- **Prep Animal Land Excursion:** Wednesday, 22nd October
- **Year 3 Camp Parent Information Night:** Thursday, 30th October 2025 – 6:00pm, School Hall
- **Year 3 Camp Dates:** Thursday, 13th – Friday, 14th November 2025 (Sunnystones Camp, Merrimu)
- **Year 1 Swimming Program:** Monday, 20th October – Friday, 24th October
- **2026 Sacramental Enrolment Night:** Wednesday 29th October at 7pm in School Hall
- **Year 2 Swimming Program:** Monday, 27th October – Friday, 31st October



Monty's Colour Fun Run coming **Thursday, 20th November 2025**

Simply go to www.myprofilepage.com.au and click onto the register button to create a cybersafe, online profile page from Monday, 13th October 2025.

Booklets will go home with students on Monday.

Raise \$10 to receive your first incentive prize or send your donations to one of the great causes on offer!

You can even earn free bonus donations!

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

Please read the following in conjunction with the Child Classroom Placement & Procedures Policy

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

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

Child Classroom Placement & Procedures Policy

Rationale:

Student learning is our core business and so we aim to provide an environment that positively encourages each child's educational and social development.

When making decisions about the placement of students we consider the following criteria to achieve a fair and even distribution of students in each class setting:

- 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
- Parent / Carer input

The class structure that is decided upon will aim to:

- Create an equal range of abilities in each class / year level.
- Keep average class sizes as low and as even as possible.
- Allow for planned and unplanned increase in enrolments.
- Ensure that students identified as requiring additional support are, where possible, "shared" throughout the school.

The setting of classes requires a great deal of time and thought. Staff use their professional judgement

and expertise, along with relevant information provided by parents in an effort to achieve effective class groups that satisfy, where possible, the needs of the individual and the needs of the group. No single factor determines placement, or will necessarily be acted upon. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the Principal to make decisions about classes and the placement of students.

Parents / Caregivers role in the process

In order to make the best decisions we need as much information as possible. Class teachers have an excellent knowledge of your child/ren, particularly in relation to their social and academic needs in the classroom and school setting.

As Parents/Caregivers you are given the opportunity to provide information that you believe could be considered in the placement of your child/ren. What we specifically seek from you is information about your child's learning or social needs that you believe the school may not be aware of. **(Such information would not include a request for a particular teacher or what is commonly called "teacher shopping")**. This information should be provided via email or in a letter placed in an envelope addressed to the Principal and marked "Confidential". Information provided must specifically relate to the criteria highlighted above.

The following will not be considered:

1. Requests to have or not to have particular teachers.
2. Information provided after the due date.

NB. The provision of this information should not be seen in anyway as a guarantee that requests can or will be met.

Communicating Class Placements

Class Placements for the year ahead is communicated to the students at their first 2026 Student Transition session.

This practice means that:

- a. Students will know the name of their teacher for the following year;
- b. Students will know which other students will be in their class; and
- c. Parents and carers will have time to talk positively to their children about the class experiences they may have the following year.

PARENT AND CARER COMMITMENT

Parents and carers commit to supporting the school's Class Placement Policy & Procedure by:

- a. Supporting and accepting decisions made by the School; and
- b. Being positive with their child about the class placement decision that has been made. (Remember you are the "Directors of First Impressions".)

SCHOOL COMMITMENT

The School commits to supporting the Class Placement Policy by:

- a. Using informed professional judgement when deciding class placements; and
- b. Considering all available information, including that received from parents and care givers.



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.

LIVE The Gospel

Gospel: Luke 3:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It seems that no one has returned to give thanks to God except this foreigner.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'



Have you noticed how the words 'please' and 'thank you' are less frequently used these days? Many people seem to act and speak as though anything done for them is entirely their due; no recognition, no please and no thank you. This should not come as a great surprise; there's been a rapid shift to seeing many social institutions as commodities rather than services and we always want value for money from commodities. My fear is that we are increasingly treating people as commodities as well. By contrast, however, Christians are identified by asking for what we need and being grateful for every blessing.

The Gospel of Luke was written about 60 years after the death of Jesus, most probably for the Gentile community at Antioch in Syria. It has four major themes: compassion, healing, prayer, and the outsider. Luke loves telling stories about the Gentiles, not only because they are outsiders, but also because they often show up the faith of the Jews. The story of the ten lepers has Luke at his best.

Lepers were until this century treated as outcasts. Also, in Jesus' day, they were considered sinful and ritually impure. If one touched a leper one incurred that same fate. The leper who comes back to Jesus, however, was also a Samaritan! This guy can't win a trick! He is a leper, a Gentile and a Samaritan. He would have been rejected and despised by everyone, even the other Jewish lepers.

The story of the ten lepers is not just about asking for what we need and being grateful when we get it, as important as that is. In this rich and multi-layered story, Jesus does three things: he reaches out to the untouchables of his day; he heals them and enables them to be welcomed back into the community; he draws attention to the fact that the poorest of the lepers, a Samaritan, is the only one who can recognise the source of the healing and has the humility to return and praise God for it.

As well as the virtue of gratitude, then, Jesus also announces that the Christian community is the place where there is no such thing as an unclean or untouchable person. Jesus touches the lepers and then goes about his business. In doing so he rejects centuries of ritual taboos. We are called to do the same today. We are challenged to get our hands dirty with the most unclean groups of our society, confront the assumptions that marginalise and oppress them, and defend their rights to dignity and participation. Not surprisingly Christians who do this often report the same experience as Jesus: they are staggered at the gratitude and faith of the people society has rejected.

May this Eucharist then be a celebration of the fact there is nothing in our life or in our world that Christ won't touch and heal. All we have to do is say 'please' and 'thank you'. May it also give us strength to go out and do likewise in the name of Him who has healed us, finding the humility to keep singing that great old hymn, 'We give thanks to Jesus with all our hearts'.

Practicing
gratitude and
being grateful
are keys to a
happier life.

2 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers Melton, VIC



Scan the
QR code or
[click here](#)
to register



This workshop is for parents, full time carers and grandparents.



Wednesday & Thursday
19 & 20 November, 2025
9:30am - 2:30pm



Melton Valley Golf Club
30/2 Melton Valley Drive
MELTON VIC 3337

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.



Interpreters available upon request

During the workshop you will learn about:

- The diversity of autism
- Sensory processing
- Understanding behaviour
- Working together with your child's school.

Learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

For more information or to register visit:

 <https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/PC>

 smidwood@positivepartnerships.com.au



0461 324 758

1 September 2025

Dr Edward Simons
Executive Director
Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools
Via email: execdirector@macs.vic.edu.au

Dear Dr Simons,

2025 School Compliance Review – E1334 – St Catherine of Siena School, Melton West

We are pleased to advise the Victorian Catholic Education Authority (VCEA) School Compliance Review is completed and **St Catherine of Siena School, Melton West** has demonstrated compliance with the Minimum Standards and Requirements for School Registration and the Child Safe Standards (Ministerial Order 1359).

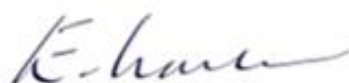
VCEA recognises that the principal Mr Desmond Noack, has led significant improvements at the school to attain minimum standards compliance. The school was able to demonstrate compliance in this review through the desktop and onsite review stages with no outstanding actions.

Please see attached the finalised Minimum Standards Assessment and Child Safe Standards Assessment Reports for your records. The VCEA will inform the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority of the outcome of this review.

The next cyclical review for **St Catherine of Siena School, Melton West** will commence in 2030.

If you have any questions about this process please contact Anna Rados, Integrity and Assurance Manager
arados@vcea.catholic.edu.au

Yours sincerely,



Professor Elizabeth Labone
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Mr Desmond Noack, Principal, principal@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au
Mr Anthony DiMichele, General Manager Risk, Compliance and Assurance, adimichele@macs.vic.edu.au
MACS Compliance, compliance@macs.vic.edu.au

Term 4 Dates for the Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13 Week 2 *Fundraising for the Colour Fun Run opens	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 - Altona 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 *Year 2 Excursion to Immigration Museum	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	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 2	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