



ST CATHERINE OF SIENA NEWSLETTER

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire"

Term 3, Week 3 31st July 2026

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Principal's Message

"Grandparents are the wisdom of the family, they are the wisdom of a people."

Pope Francis

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On Wednesday, 29th July, we celebrated Grandparents' Day at St Catherine of Siena. It was a truly special occasion as we welcomed so many grandparents and special people into our school community for Mass and classroom visits. It was heartwarming to see our church filled with families gathering in prayer and thanksgiving.

The excitement and pride on our students' faces as they welcomed their grandparents into their classroom was a joy to witness. They loved sharing their learning, introducing their friends and teachers and spending precious time with the people who play such an important role in their lives. These moments of connection remind us that learning flourishes when families and schools work together in partnership.

Grandparents hold a special place within our families. They are often the keepers of family traditions, storytellers, role models and a source of unconditional love and encouragement. Their wisdom, patience and unwavering support help shape the lives of our children in countless ways. We are incredibly grateful for the positive influence they have on our students and our wider school community.

As a Catholic school, Grandparents' Day provides us with the opportunity to honour Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary and the grandparents of Jesus. Although little is known about them from Scripture, the Church remembers them as faithful people who nurtured Mary in love and faith, helping prepare her for the unique role she would play in God's plan. Their example reminds us that faith is often passed from one generation to the next through the quiet witness of family life.

In 2021, Pope Francis established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne. He wanted the Church to recognise the invaluable contribution grandparents and older people make to families, parishes and society. Pope Francis reminds us that grandparents are the custodians of memory and faith, passing on stories, traditions and values that help shape future generations. Their love, wisdom and experience strengthen family bonds and remind us that every stage of life is a precious gift from God.

Thank you to every grandparent and special person who joined us to celebrate. Your presence brought warmth, joy and a wonderful sense of community to our school. The smiles on our students' faces said it all. We hope you enjoyed sharing this special day with your grandchildren and creating memories that will be treasured for years to come. We look forward to welcoming you back to St Catherine of Siena in 2027.

Grandparents, may God bless you always

Lisa Black

Principal





Book Week - Term 3, Week 7

The theme for this years Book Week is

SYMPHONY OF STORIES



Important Book Week Dates

Tuesday, 11th August - Monday, 17th August: Scholastic Book Fair

Students will have the opportunity to browse and purchase a fantastic selection of books. Keep an eye out closer to the date for opening times and location details.

Monday, 17th August: Book Week Parade at 9:15am

Students may dress up as their favourite book character or they can use the theme: 'Symphony of Stories' as inspiration for dressing up. Parents and family members are welcome to attend.



Week 5 Specialist Timetable Changes

Please note that due to a number of staff engaging in Professional Development (PD) during Week 5, there will be a temporary change to our Specialist timetable:

- **Year 2 & Year 3: Specialist classes will take place on Monday, 10th August.**
- **Year 4 & Year 5: Specialist classes will take place on Tuesday, 11th August.**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as our staff undertake this valuable professional learning.

Confirmation Family Faith Night

A reminder to all families with students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation that our Confirmation Family Night will be held on Tuesday, 4th August at 6:30pm and will be facilitated by our guest speaker, Pauline Cicutto. This evening is an opportunity for families to come together, share in faith and reflect on the journey towards the sacrament. **ALL Confirmation candidates, their parent/s and sponsors are to attend.**



Please also note in your calendars that the Confirmation Presentation & Commitment Mass will take place on Saturday, 8th August at 6:00pm. ALL Confirmation candidates and at least 1 parent are to attend. Sponsors are encouraged to come as they have been chosen to be the spiritual support and guide by the student and this is a way they can begin this important role. We look forward to seeing our students and their families there as they take this next step in their faith journey.

Fire Rescue Victoria Lithium-ion Battery Safety

As the school year continues, many students are using devices such as laptops, tablets and phones. Most of these devices contain lithium-ion batteries, which have become part of everyday life, but need to be used safely.

Fire services are responding to an increasing number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries, often caused by incorrect charging or leaving devices unattended. That's why fire safety at home is especially important during the school year.

You can help reduce the risk by:

- Only using the charger and battery designed for each device
- Unplugging devices once fully charged
- Never charging devices on soft surfaces like beds or couches
- Not charging devices such as e-bike and e-scooters away from living spaces and keeping them clear of exits
- Regularly checking devices and stopping use if battery looks damaged, swollen or overheats

You can watch Fire Rescue Victoria's safety video [here](#)

It's also important to make sure smoke alarms are working and tested every month. Fire Resue Victoria recommends installing smoke alarms in bedrooms, living rooms and near where devices are charged - because working smoke alarms save lives.

For more tips on lithium-ion battery safety, visit:

<https://www.frv.vic.gov.au/battery-safety>

A few simple habits can help protect your home and your loved ones.



Term 3, 2026

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

3 Week 4	4 Confirmation Family Night @ 6:30pm	5 Year 5 attending Parish Mass & 9:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm	6	7	8 Confirmation Presentation & Commitment Mass @ 6pm	9
10 Week 5	11 Scholastic Book Fair Opens 	12	13	14	15	16
17 Week 6 Book Week Parade @ 9:15am 	18	19 *Whole School Mass – Feast for the Assumption @ 9:15am *Assembly @ 2:15pm	20	21 Year 4 MAV Games Day	22 Year 6 Sacrament of Confirmation 	23
24 Week 7 School Closure Day	25	26 Year 6 Confirmation Retreat Day	27 Year 4 Camp – Lady Northcote 	28 Year 4 Camp – Lady Northcote	29	30
31 Week 8	1 September	2 Father's Day Breakfast Assembly @ 2:15pm	3 Father's Day Stall	4	5	6
7 Week 9	8	9 Prep attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am	10	11 Installment 3 of School Fees Due	12	13
14 Week 10	15	16 Assembly @ 2:15pm	17 Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones 	18 Last Day of Term 3 Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1 October	2	3	4