



ST CATHERINE OF SIENA NEWSLETTER

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

Term 3, Week 7 28th August 2026

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Only three weeks to go until we farewell Term 3! Once again, it has been a busy but incredibly rewarding term.

As a first-year Principal, I continue to be supported through what I affectionately call my "Baby Principal Induction"! I am a learner, and I continue to learn more and more about our community, its strengths, its needs, and how we can best support our students, families and staff.

Yesterday's induction focused on Charism. We often hear this word in Catholic education, but do we truly understand what it means and, more importantly, what it means for us as a school community?

What is a Charism?

As a Catholic school community, we are inspired by the charism of our patron saint, St Catherine of Siena. But what do we mean when we use the word *charism*?

A charism is a special gift from God that helps a person or community live out their faith and serve others. It shapes who we are, how we treat others, and the way we share God's love with our school and wider community. St Catherine's charism encourages us to grow in faith, show compassion, speak with courage, serve others, and work towards peace and unity.

The staff and I at St Catherine of Siena are not only educators working within the education system; we are also disciples of Christ. We choose to work in a Catholic school because we are called to embody Christ's values and lead with compassion, faith and courage. We have a responsibility to nurture not only the academic growth of our students, but also their spiritual, social and personal development.

Student excellence is always at the forefront of what we do, but excellence for us is about more than achievement. It is about helping every child recognise their God-given gifts, develop their strengths, care for others and use their gifts to make a positive difference in the world.

As we continue through Term 3 and look towards the final weeks of the year, may we be reminded of St Catherine's example and the charism that calls us to be people of faith, courage, compassion and service. Together, we can continue to build a community where every student feels known, valued and encouraged to flourish.

School Advisory Council

Our next School Advisory Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 15 September at 6:00pm.**

While our School Advisory Council has established members, I warmly invite other parents and guardians to attend. The Council provides an opportunity for our community to come together, share ideas, ask questions and contribute to the ongoing growth and development of our school.

Your voice matters, and I encourage any parent or guardian who would like to learn more about our school, contribute ideas or be part of the conversation to join us.

Year 6 Confirmation

I would like to warmly congratulate our Year 6 students on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation last Saturday. It was a truly beautiful and faith-filled celebration, and it was overwhelming to see so many families, staff and members of our community come together to support our students on this very special occasion.

Confirmation is an important moment in the faith journey of our young people. Through this Sacrament, our students are strengthened by the Holy Spirit and reminded that they are called to live as courageous and faithful disciples of Christ. As a school community, we are incredibly proud of the way our students embraced this important milestone and the commitment they made to continue growing in their relationship with God.

I would like to sincerely thank all the staff who worked behind the scenes to make the day such a wonderful success. A special thank you to Angela Giordimaina, Deputy Principal – Catholic Mission and Identity Leader, our Year 6 teachers Shanti Di Falco, Louise Tarlano and Jessica Camilleri and our Education Support Staff Jakleen Hajar, Michele Harrison, Susan Aquilina and Kristine Brake for their dedication, preparation and care in supporting our students.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Fr Alex Clemente and Most Rev Bishop Martin Ash for sharing this important celebration with our students and families and for helping make the occasion so meaningful.

There is a saying that "it takes a village," and our Confirmation celebration was a beautiful example of this. It takes the commitment, faith and support of our families, staff, parish and wider community to nurture our young people in their faith. Our Year 6 students were truly surrounded by a village of people who believe in them, pray for them and encourage them.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide, strengthen and inspire our Year 6 students, giving them the courage to live their faith with kindness, compassion and confidence. May they always remember that they are never alone on their journey of faith and that they have a loving community walking alongside them.

Congratulations, Year 6! May the gifts of the Holy Spirit remain with you and guide you always.

Go Gently
Lisa Black

Year 5 & 6 Basketball

MPSSA 2 Basketball Champions!!

What an incredible day for our Grade 5/6 basketball teams!

On Monday, 24th August, our boys' and girls' teams competed in the MPSSA 2 Basketball Tournament and what a day it was! Both teams played with determination, teamwork and fantastic sportsmanship, going undefeated throughout the entire tournament.

Their hard work, commitment and positive attitude truly paid off, with both teams finishing the day as tournament champions! 🏆🏆



We are incredibly proud of every student who represented our school. Their teamwork, encouragement of one another and never-give-up attitude were fantastic to see. They showed that success is not only about winning, but also about supporting each other, playing fairly and giving your best effort.

Congratulations to all our Grade 5/6 basketballers — you should be incredibly proud of yourselves. We certainly are! 🎉🏀👏

Bring on the next round!

Year 6 Confirmation Retreat Day

This Wednesday, our Year 6 students gathered in the school hall for a special Confirmation Retreat Day. Following their recent Confirmation, the day provided students with an opportunity to pause, reflect and deepen their understanding of what it means to live as followers of Jesus and witnesses of the Holy Spirit in their everyday lives.

Throughout the retreat, students explored the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and reflected on how these gifts can be seen and experienced within themselves, in the lives of others, in our school community and throughout the wider world. Students were encouraged to consider how the Holy Spirit guides and strengthens us to make positive choices, show kindness and compassion, and use our gifts to serve others.

A highlight of the day was a guided meditation, which provided students with a quiet opportunity to be still, reflect and connect with God. Students then created their own prayer rocks, writing a personal prayer about a Gift of the Holy Spirit they would like to nurture and grow within themselves. This encouraged students to think about how they can continue to live out their Confirmation promises and put their faith into action.

The day also included plenty of creativity, teamwork and fun! In groups, students were challenged to recreate the Bishop's vestments using only newspaper, sticky tape and scissors. Students worked collaboratively to problem-solve, communicate and create their designs, with some very imaginative results!

Our Confirmation Retreat was a wonderful reminder that Confirmation is not simply a celebration, but the beginning of a deeper journey of faith and discipleship. Through prayer, reflection, collaboration and service, our students were encouraged to recognise the gifts they have received from the Holy Spirit and consider how they can use these gifts to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

We are very proud of the way our Year 6 students embraced the day with faith, enthusiasm, creativity and joy.

Father's Day Breakfast Reminder

Join us for our Father's Day Breakfast as we celebrate all fathers, father figures, and special male role models in our community! Guests and students are encouraged to wear their favourite footy team colours for Footy Colours Day.

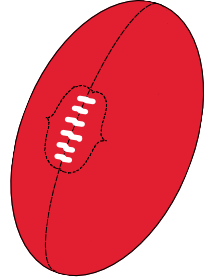


Event Details

Date: Wednesday, 2nd September

Time: 7:15am

Location: Atrium and School Courtyard



Please remember to register your attendance prior to the event. We look forward to seeing you there!

[**Register for Father's Day Breakfast Here**](#)

Father's Day Stall Volunteers

We're excited to be hosting our annual Father's Day Stall on Thursday, 3rd September, and we would love your help to make it a special event for the children! We're looking for parent volunteers to assist with setting up and running the stall between 8:30am and 11:30am.

Whether you can spare an hour or the whole morning, your support would be greatly appreciated. Parents will need a Working With Children's Card to help out.

If you're available to lend a hand, [please register your details here](#). Thank you in advance for your time and generosity – events like these wouldn't be possible without our wonderful school community!

Father's Day Stall

Thursday, 3rd September

Gifts priced between \$1 and \$4

Please bring a plastic bag to put your gifts in.

Students will have the opportunity to purchase 1 - 2 gifts



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Scan the QR code to upload your receipts from purchases made at Woodgrove to earn points for our school.

For more information, please visit woodgroveshoppingcentre.com.au

*Terms & conditions apply.

SCHOOL PRIZES:

- First Prize: \$10,000
- Second Prize: \$5,000
- Third Prize: \$3,000
- Fourth Prize: \$2,000

LEADERBOARD:

1. Binap Primary School
2. Melton Primary School
3. Arnold's Creek Primary School
4. St Catherine P.S
5. Melton Specialist School
6. Melton West P.S
7. St Anthony's Primary School
8. St Francis Catholic College, Melton & Cobblebank
9. Rockbank P.S
10. Al Iman College

Leaderboard will be updated every Monday & Friday of the campaign period.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



MACSSIS

One of the most powerful ways our families can influence school improvement is through participation in the School Improvement Survey.

An email will be sent to each family on Monday, 31st August 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 18th September 2026.

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. All families are invited to respond to 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.

We thank you for your ongoing partnership and as a school are looking forward to using this vital data to strategical plan for our school.

Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

MACSSIS

Imagine if, in about 30 minutes,
you could help **improve your
child's school.**

The MACSSIS family survey is open
Monday 31 August – Friday 18 September 2026.



2026 CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

SYMPHONY OF STORIES



Symphony of Stories came to life!

Last Monday, our school community gathered for a joyful parade to mark Book Week 2026. The hall filled with much-loved characters as students proudly shared imaginative costumes, celebrated reading and championed literacy across St. Catherine of Siena.

Staff embraced the fun too, with our Leadership Team following the yellow brick road as characters from The Wizard of Oz. Biblical figures also joined the procession, bringing to life stories from the most important book of all. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and family members, whose smiles and encouragement made the morning even more special.

Well done to every student and staff member who took part with such enthusiasm. Our judges had the difficult task of choosing one outstanding costume from each year level. Congratulations to all our prize winners!

With gratitude: Our sincere thanks go to all staff for helping to organise our day, to the judging panel for sharing their time, and to staff member and author Karen Scicluna for generously donating copies of her book, 'The Adventures of Monty', as prizes.

What an amazing way for stories to bring our whole community together!



Term 3 & 4, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31 Week 8 MACSSIS Opens	1 September	2 Father's Day Breakfast @ 7:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm	3 Father's Day Stall Year 3 Camp Information Night @ 6:00pm	4	5	6
7 Week 9	8	9 Prep attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am District Athletics Day	10 Year 5 Camp Information Night @ 5:00pm	11	12	13
14 Week 10 St Catherine's National MPSSA Year 3/4 Basketball	15 Week of the Deaf People: "No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights" School Advisory Council meeting @ 6:00pm	16 Assembly @ 2:15pm	17 Year 3 Camp - Sunnystones 	18 Last Day of Term 3 Students dismissed at @ 3:15pm Year 3 Camp - Sunnystones	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1 October	2	3	4
5 Week 1 Term 4 Commences Prep Swimming Program	6 Prep Swimming Program	7 Year 5 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Prep Swimming Program	8 Year 6 ASPIRE Incursion Prep Swimming Program	9 School Closure Day	10	11
12 Week 2 Year 6 Graduation Photo 	13	14 Year 6 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Whole School Assembly @ 2:15pm  Year 5 Camp @ Campaspe Downs	15	16 	17	18
19 Week 3 Year 1 Swimming Program	20 Year 1 Swimming Program	21 Year 4 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Year 1 Swimming Program Reconciliation Family Night @ 6:30pm	22 Year 1 Swimming Program	23 Year 1 Swimming Program	24 Reconciliation and Presentation Mass @ 6:00pm	25
26 Week 4 Year 2 Swimming Program	27 Year 2 Swimming Program	28 Year 2 Swimming Program Year 5 Life Saving Excursion Assembly @ 2:15pm 2027 Sacrament Enrolment Night @ 7:00pm	29 Year 2 Swimming Program	30 Year 2 Swimming Program	31	1 November