



ST CATHERINE OF SIENA NEWSLETTER

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

Term 3, Week 9 11th September 2026

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HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School, our commitment to every student remains firmly centred on providing a high-quality Catholic education in which every child is known, valued, supported and inspired to achieve their full potential.

In recent weeks, there has been considerable discussion in the media regarding Catholic schools and the broader challenges facing education, including workforce planning, financial sustainability and the changing needs of schools. While these conversations are important, I want to reassure our families that at St Catherine of Siena, our students remain at the heart of every decision we make.

As a growing school in a rapidly developing community, we have an exciting opportunity to shape what the future of St Catherine of Siena looks like. Growth brings challenges, but it also provides opportunities to strengthen what we do, consider new ways of working and ensure that our structures, programs and resources continue to meet the needs of our students.

We will not simply do things because they have always been done that way. We will continue to reflect, evaluate and improve. Our focus is on creating a culture of excellence in which high expectations are balanced with compassion, relationships and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of every child.

Welcome to Vivian Lau

We are delighted to welcome Vivian Lau to our school as our new Learning Diversity and Inclusion Leader. Vivian brings a strong commitment to supporting diverse learners and creating inclusive learning environments where every student can thrive. In her role Vivian will work closely with students, families and staff to strengthen learning support and ensure that individual learning needs are supported. Please join us in welcoming Vivian to our School community. Vivian can be reached at vlau@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

Farewell to Mandy May

After an incredible 12 years at St Catherine of Siena, we farewell Mandy May as she begins an exciting new chapter in her teaching journey.

Twelve years is a significant contribution to any school community, and Mandy has been an important part of the story of St Catherine of Siena. Throughout her time here, she has shared her passion for teaching, her commitment to our students and her care for our school community.

Mandy has made the decision to take on a teaching role closer to home. While we are certainly sad to see her leave, we understand her decision and are excited for the opportunity that lies ahead for her.

Over her 12 years at St Catherine of Siena, Mandy has taught and supported many students and has built strong and lasting relationships with colleagues, students and families. Her contribution to our school has been greatly valued. We know Mandy will take with her many wonderful memories of her time at St Catherine of Siena, just as she leaves behind many memories for the students and staff who have had the privilege of working alongside her.

On behalf of the entire St Catherine of Siena community, I would like to sincerely thank Mandy for her 12 years of dedication, care and commitment to our school. Mandy, we wish you every happiness and success as you begin this next chapter. We hope your new role closer to home brings you a wonderful balance and a renewed sense of enjoyment in your teaching. Thank you, Mandy, for everything you have given to St Catherine of Siena over the past 12 years. You will be greatly missed and we wish you all the very best for the future.

Father's Day Breakfast

Last Wednesday, we had the pleasure of welcoming our dads, grandfathers and special people to St Catherine of Siena for our Father's Day Breakfast. It was wonderful to see so many of our families enjoying time together before the school day began. The morning was filled with conversation, laughter and plenty of smiles, creating a wonderful sense of community across our school.

We hope that all of the dads, grandfathers and special people who joined us felt celebrated and appreciated. These moments provide a wonderful opportunity for our children to share a special experience with the important people in their lives.

A very special thank you to our dedicated staff who worked behind the scenes and on the morning to ensure the event ran so smoothly. Their organisation, preparation and willingness to go above and beyond helped make the breakfast such a successful and enjoyable occasion for our community. We are very grateful for the commitment of our staff and the wonderful way they continue to create opportunities that bring our school community together.

Thank you to everyone who joined us — we hope you enjoyed the morning as much as we did!

Go Gently
Lisa Black
Principal

Last Day of Term 3 – Friday, 18th September

Term 4 Commences – Monday, 5th October

Year 4 Camp – Lady Northcote Camp

Our Year 4 students had an unforgettable time at Lady Northcote Camp, heading off on Thursday 27 August and returning on Friday 28 August. The students embraced every opportunity to have fun, challenge themselves and learn new skills as they participated in exciting activities including the Giant Swing, Radio Rogaine, Bike riding and Archery. Throughout the camp, students showed courage as they overcame fears, demonstrated initiative and became more proactive in trying new experiences. They worked collaboratively, encouraged and supported their peers, and celebrated each other's successes. It was wonderful to see the students grow in confidence, independence and resilience while creating special memories with their classmates. A fantastic camp was had by all!



Reminder: Complete the MACSSIS School Improvement Survey

A reminder to all our families regarding the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools School Improvement Survey (MACSSIS).

On Monday, 31st August, an email was sent to each family containing your personal number (PIN) along with instructions on how to access the survey portal.

- Closing Date: Friday, 18th September 2026
- Completion Time: Approximately 30 minutes
- Focus: If you have more than one child at St. Catherine of Siena, please answer with a focus on your eldest child.

Your feedback plays a vital role in shaping our strategic planning and continuous school improvement. The survey is completely voluntary and responses remain 100% anonymous. For your convenience, the survey is available in multiple languages including Arabic, Chinese, Dinka, Karen, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and more.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support!



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.



Fathers Day Breakfast



Swimming Program

Students in Prep, Year 1, and Year 2 will be participating in swimming lessons during Term 4 at BlueFit Bacchus Marsh. These 30-minute sessions focus on essential stroke development and water safety skills in accordance with Victorian Curriculum and Health & Physical Education guidelines.

The swimming schedule for Term 4 is as follows:

- Prep: Week 1
- Year 1: Week 3
- Year 2: Week 4



Please keep an eye out for the permission form on Compass, which will include further details and requirements. All students are expected to participate, and parent/guardian permission must be completed via Compass prior to commencement.

Term 3 & 4, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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"	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 Prep 2027 Transition Day 1	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 Prep 2027 Transition Day 2	24 Reconciliation and Presentation Mass @ 6:00pm	25
26 Week 4 Year 2 Swimming Program Prep Firefighter Incursion – Session 1	27 Year 2 Swimming Program Prep 2027 Transition Day 3	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
2 Week 5 School Closure Day	3 Melbourne Cup	4 Whole School Mass – All Saints & Souls @ 9:15am Prep Firefighter Incursion – Session 2 Art Show Opening	5 Sacrament of Reconciliation @ 6:00pm	6	7	8
9 Week 6 	10 Prep 2027 Testing Day	11 Year 3 Reconciliation Retreat Day Assembly @ 2:15pm Prep 2027 Testing	12 Year 5 ASPIRE Incursion	13 Whole School Colour Fun Run	14	15