

ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 WEEK 6
FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2025

Principal's Message

From our Principal Mr Michael Gavaghan

Dear parents and carers,

What a wonderful gathering we had of F-2 families last Tuesday for Shrove Tuesday. The weather was gorgeous, offering an opportunity to be outside enjoying pancakes cooked by a wonderful team of volunteers. The students loved having their families attend, for those who could. It is events like these that contribute to the building up of our wonderful school community. Thank you to those who could come along and volunteered to cook a plethora of pancakes. Thank you also to the F-2 teachers for getting things organised.

On Wednesday, the school celebrated Ash Wednesday with the year 5 & 6 students joining the parish mass, the year 4s having a small celebration whilst on camp and the year F-3s held a liturgy in the sports centre, also well attended by family members. Ash Wednesday begins the Christian church celebration of lent, a period of 40 days before Easter, a time of prayer, almsgiving and sacrifice.

We also have a small number of muslim students in our school who are celebrating Ramadan. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. Ramadan Mubarak.

It was great to see the year 4 students return safe and sound, albeit very exhausted, from their camp to Anglesea. The weather was perfect and, from all reports, a great time was had by all. Thank you to Anne Go, Catherine Scott, Kat Eastman, Brittany Holland, Antoinette Sheridan & Matthew Majur for giving up your comforts of home to provide this wonderful educational opportunity for the students.

22 of our Year 6 students are reverently preparing to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation next Friday 14 March. This is an especially sacred and reverent time for each candidate and their families during this time of preparation. Please keep the candidates in your thoughts and prayers over the next week.

Our Year 3 & Year 5 students will be sitting the NAPLAN test from next Wednesday 12th March. The timetable is as follows:

Wednesday 12 March 9:30am - Writing

Thursday 13 March 9:30am - Reading

Friday 14 March 9:30am - Language Conventions (Spelling & Grammar)

Tuesday 18 March 9:30am - Numeracy

It is critical children are at school on time to ensure they are adequately prepared.

Nicole Thompson is on a period of leave until March 26th. During this time our office will be staffed by Bianca (Mon - Thurs) & Zara (Fri). They will do their best to answer questions and phones but please be patient knowing we're a staff member down in the office for the next few weeks.

We've had a little staff baby boom since last Christmas. Staff members, Beth Du Plooy, Amy Casley and Tiffany Rigato, have all given birth to healthy little girls. I'm sure you will all join me in offering them congratulations and best wishes.

Next Monday is a public holiday for Labour Day and Tuesday is a pupil free day. On this day, the teachers will be continuing professional learning on the Science of Learning with other western region catholic schools. Camp Australia will be running a pupil free day program on Tuesday. Students return to school on Wednesday 13 March.

March 8 is International Women's Day. Happy Women's Day to staff, mums, sisters, grandmas, aunts, etc.

Regards,



Michael Gavaghan

Health Care Cards & Fee Concessions

Families with a current Health Care Card are encouraged to apply for the CSEF and the MACS Concessional fee discount. If you have not done so already, the \$400 School Savings Bonus can only be applied to families who qualify for CSEF.

School Advisory Council

We had a good response to our recent recruitment drive for School Advisory Council members and we now have reasonable representation for 2025.

Our first meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday 18 March. If any parent has matters they would like discussed please email principal@sawerribee.catholic.edu.au prior to the meeting.

MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (MACS) CONCESSIONAL FEE POLICY

For students with approved MACS Concessional Fee Policy (CFP), the CFP will be applied first (including CSEF of \$154) and then SSB to applicable items. This will be reflected on your school fee statement once all applications are approved.

Upcoming School Closure Days

Date	Camp Australia Program
Tuesday 11 March	Yes
Tuesday 22 April	Yes

Office Hours

Please note that office hours are 8:30am - 4:00pm
Monday to Friday.

Foundation 2026 Enrolments

NOW OPEN

Enrolments for 2026
Foundation are now open!

If your child turns 5 years of
age before April 30 2026 now
is the time to enrol.

Complete an enquiry form on
our website by clicking [here](#).



NOW AVAILABLE EVERY FRIDAY!

Order online at <https://app.canteenhub.com.au/login>

Order by midnight each Thursday (12am) for Friday lunch that
week.

For assistance with online account, please email:
contactesubsforyou.com

YEAR 4 CAMP

CAMP NEWSLETTER BY ESTHER O AND BEN S

On Monday 3rd March 2025, the Year 4s went to Camp Wilkin in Anglesea. We travelled by bus and it took us 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Once we arrived, we unloaded our baggage and we were introduced to the camp staff. We learned about the rules of the camp and the many animals that we might encounter during our activities.

After some free time, we began our first set of activities which included flying fox, rock climbing and initiative games. We then settled into our cabins where we got to unpack our sleeping bags, get cosy and rest, before heading off to the dining hall for dinner.

We even got a special visit from Mr Gavaghan who joined us in eating a very yummy meal of Chicken Schnitzel with a side of gravy, wedges and vegetables. We finished our first night with a night walk to a lookout, with a beautiful view of Anglesea Beach.



On our second day of camp we all woke up and had breakfast, before getting ready for our activities. On this day, we did Archery, Bike Riding and Disc Golf. We finished with a very fun and competitive game of Amazing Race. Before bed we were lucky enough to watch a special movie called the 'Lion King' while eating some scrumptious popcorn and lollies.

Our final day of camp felt very quick. We started off with an Ash Wednesday Liturgy (shout out to Mr Mugavin for organising this for us!). We then walked 1 km to Anglesea Beach where we got to play some fun beach games and create sand castles. But sadly Camp can't last forever, so we reluctantly headed back home.

YEAR 4 CAMP



Catholic Identity News

From our Deputy Principal, Mr Glenn Mugavin

TEACHING AND LEARNING ABOUT ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT

This week our students have been learning about the Church Liturgical Season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday. Years 5 & 6 attended the parish Ash Wednesday Mass and our Foundation to Year 3s participated in a Ash Wednesday prayer service in the Sports Centre. Thankyou to families who attended and prayed with us.

Our Foundation students were introduced to Ash Wednesday by eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Archer & Layla from Foundation learned : *I remember we ate pancakes because it was Shrove Tuesday. Some mums helped to make them. We ate pancakes with jam and syrup, and prayed for Jesus. (On Ash Wednesday) We had the cross on our forehead to pray to Jesus.* Anna & Nellie from Year 2 learned: *I got the ashes on my head. I prayed in a special place. Sometimes I pray in the Sports centre, sometimes in the classroom & sometimes in front of the big cross. Ashes remind me that Jesus died for everyone. It reminds us that Jesus loves us.*



TEACHING AND LEARNING ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Written by Evie, Tymirah, Jia & Akier from Year 6

Meeting Bishop Martin Ashe

Today we met Bishop Martin Ashe, because we are making our Confirmation next week. We have been preparing for weeks and the final step was meeting the Bishop. We feel very grateful to have had this opportunity to meet him before our big day! We felt peaceful and serene while waiting for the Bishop to arrive. Once Bishop Martin came in, he spoke about Confirmation and us receiving the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. He asked about the saints whose names we chose and why we chose them.



The Bishop was excellent and asked reasonable questions and we all learnt something. It was really nice meeting him and we loved his personality. We tried our best to answer as many questions as we could, and came up with great answers. The Year 6s had a great time with Bishop Martin and I'm 100% sure I can speak on all of our behalf when I say that we are ready!

Sacrament of Confirmation

On Friday 14 March we are being Confirmed. Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments that we receive in our lives. When we receive these sacraments, we get closer to God and it strengthens and deepens our relationship with the Lord. When we are Confirmed, we receive gifts and fruits from the Holy Spirit to make us a better person for God and to guide us through our lives. Receiving these beautiful gifts and fruits are a great opportunity in our Catholic life. We embrace our faith and feel grateful for what God has given us.

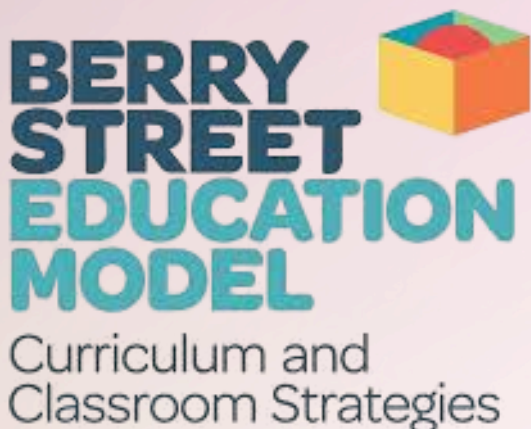
When we learn about Confirmation we choose saints that we really look up to and they become parts of our life. We choose these saints very carefully because they are like people we really want to live like.

We also have sponsors, who are people who guide us through life. Sponsors are usually Godparents or people close to us who support us at Confirmation.



Student Wellbeing News

From our Deputy Principal, Mrs Lisa Black



The Berry Street Education Model (BSEM) is an approach to teaching and learning developed by the Berry Street Education Foundation in Australia. The model aims to improve student learning outcomes by integrating strategies that promote emotional regulation, resilience, and positive relationships.

The Berry Street Education Model is based on 4 key areas:

Domain 1: Body Supporting students to be Ready to Learn through strategies that build self-regulation when learning.

Domain 2: Relationship Harnessing strong student-teacher relationships to cultivate learning and wellbeing.

Domain 3: Stamina and Engagement Maximising student engagement in learning and prioritising stamina for academic achievement.

Domain 4: Character Identifying, nurturing and celebrating student and community strengths to ensure positive school cultures.

At St Andrew's, we ensure that our teaching staff are trained in the BSEM and that every day begins with "Circle Time." This model grounds and centers each student so that they can take on the day with a positive attitude.

Have a conversation with your child about the morning routine in their classroom using these prompts:

"Tell me about circle time in the classroom."
 "What are some things you talk about?"
 "What can you share in circle time?"
 "Sharing good news in circle time makes me feel..."
 "We do circle time every morning because...?"
 "Mt favourite thing about circle time is..."



PE News

From our PE Teacher, Ms Sally Taylor

YEAR 6 SUMMER GALA DAY

The Year 6's will have their first opportunity to take part in the SSVWD Summer Gala day on Friday 21st March.

We have 1 Soccer team competing at Galvin Park and 2 Volleyball teams competing at Eagle Stadium. The day starts at 9.30am so if any parents are available to support our students by cheering them on or assisting the teachers please come and see Ms Taylor.

Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival

St Andrew's Athletics day is fast approaching. The Year 3 - 6 students will be traveling to the VU Athletics track on Hoppers Lane Hoppers Crossing on Monday 24th March for a day of fun.

The students will be timed in 100m, 200m and Hurdles events to assist with building our SSVWD Interschool Athletics team that will compete in August. There will also be some tabloid games and the opportunity to trial for Cross Country as well.

Seeking Parent Helpers

This year we are seeking your assistance and expertise with our extra curricular sporting activities.

If you would like to volunteer to help out at one or all of our sports events or if you have a passion or coaching experience in these listed sports please contact Ms Taylor.

We are seeking your help with Soccer, Volleyball, T-Ball, Netball, Basketball, Athletics or Cross Country.

You will need to be available for a volunteer induction session, have a Working With Childrens Check and sign our Code of Conduct.

Thanks in advance, I'm looking forward to speaking with you.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FRIDAY 21ST MARCH - YR 6 SUMMER GALA DAY
MONDAY 24TH MARCH - YR 3-6 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL



*Grade 5 & 6
Parent Information Night*

**Will be held on
Thursday 20th March at 6pm
in the College Gymnasium.**

The following school tour dates are available
for Wyndham Central College in Term 1.

26th February -5pm

5th and 26th March -5pm

1st April -11am and 5pm

Use the following QR Codes to make your bookings-



Grade 5/6
Information Night



School Tour
Bookings

Respect, Co-Operation & Excellence

For more information, please click [here](#).



"A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man, faithful and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life."

St John Fisher

**6.30PM, WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025
CAROLINE SPRINGS**

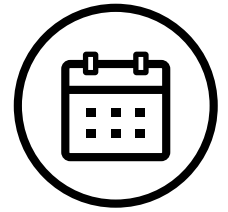
MASS | DINNER | FRATERNITY

RSVP HERE



To book, click [here](#).

2025 TERM DATES



TERM 1	Wed 29th Jan	Foundation Students commence*	8:50am to 1:00pm
	Thurs 30th Jan	Year 1-6 Students Commence	8:50am to 3:15pm
	Thurs 30th Jan	Foundation Early Finish	8:50am to 1:00pm
	Fri 31st Jan	Foundation Early Finish	8:50am to 1:00pm
	Fri 4th Apr	Term 1 Concludes	1:00pm
TERM 2	Tues 22nd Apr	Students Commence	8:50am-3:15pm
	Fri 4th Jul	Term 2 Concludes	1:00pm
TERM 3	Mon 21st Jul	Students Commence	8:50am-3:15pm
	Fri 19th Sept	Term 3 Concludes	1:00pm
TERM 4	Mon 6th Oct	Students Commence	8:50am-3:15pm
	Fri 16th Dec	Term 4 Concludes	1:00pm

*During February, Foundation students attend school Mon, Tues, Thurs & Friday. There is no school Wednesday.

Week beginning Feb 3	Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday
Week beginning Feb 10	Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday
Week beginning Feb 17	Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday
Week beginning Feb 24	Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday
Week beginning Mar 3	Full Week Attendance

School Communication St Andrew's Werribee



Used for:

- Medical Information**
- Reporting Absences**
- Excursion/Camp Permissions**
- Sick Bay Communication**
- Newsletters**
- SMS alerts and Notices**
- Notify School of School Absences**
- Learning Diversity: Personalised Learning Plans and Meeting Minutes**

You will have access to Operoo the day after your child begins at St Andrews. You will receive a log in email from Operoo.

Please download the app.

School Reports

Directly emailed twice a year.

June & December

School Website

www.sawerribee.catholic.edu.au

- Policies**
- Curriculum**
- New and Events**
- Student Wellbeing**
- Enrolment Information**



An app: For parents and teachers to communicate regarding school events or brief queries. Your child's teacher will give you the Remind invite code once your child commences school. Report absences through Operoo only.



School Interviews to be used when requested for Three -Way Conversations- this is through a web address supplied.