

# ST ANDREW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1, 2026  
FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026



*Holy God,  
source of all goodness,  
who show us in Saint Mary MacKillop  
a woman of faith  
living by the power of the Cross,  
teach us, we pray,  
to embrace what she pioneered,  
that like her we may show to the world  
new ways of living the Gospel  
that respect and defend  
the human dignity of all in our land.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

From our Principal Mrs. Melissa Evgeniadis

Dear St Andrew's Community,

I wish to thank each and every one of you - staff, students, families and parishioners - for welcoming me into the St Andrew's school community. These past three weeks have been an absolute joy for me to listen, learn and connect with you all. I instantly felt a sense of belonging from day one which has made my transition into the community and Principal role a smooth and enjoyable experience. I have truly appreciated the time that families have spent saying hello, introducing themselves, sharing stories about their family and checking in on me. The community spirit at St Andrew's is seen, heard and felt.

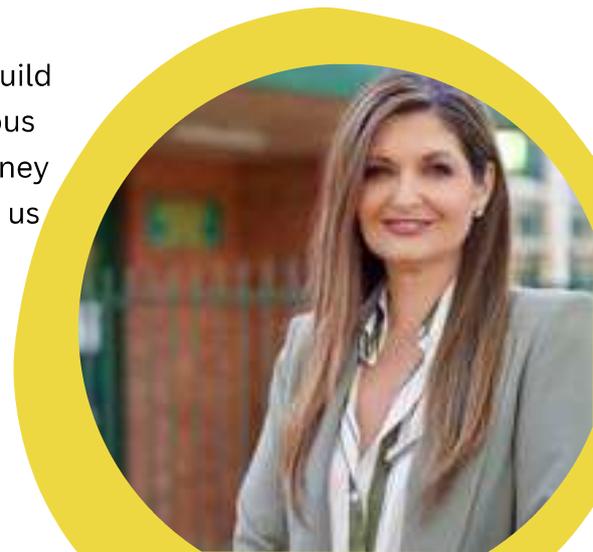
I am incredibly grateful for, and in awe of the dedication and passion for education shown by the staff of St Andrew's. I have loved observing the ways in which staff are building authentic and meaningful relationships with the children in their care. Seeing the bright smiles on the student's faces tell me that they feel safe, happy and loved as St Andrew's. The staff go above and beyond for the children to ensure that every student is being catered for.

I especially wish to thank the leadership team - Glenn, Laura, Carolyn, Steve, Brittany and Beth for their incredible support and leadership. It is because of their expertise, skills, knowledge and dedication that the school has continued to maintain such high expectations and organisation throughout a change in Principal. Furthermore, I am extremely grateful to our admin staff, Nicole and Bianca for the welcoming, calm and organised atmosphere they create in our front office. I appreciate the time they have each spent to support me in learning the St Andrew's systems, processes and online platforms so that together we can continue to serve our community with love, care and efficiency.

I am truly excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to collaborating with our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and enthusiastic students. Together, we will continue to nurture and build upon the strong foundation of St Andrew's and strive for continuous improvement in all aspects of our educational mission. Let us journey forward with faith, hope, and love, trusting in God's grace to guide us every step of the way.

Go gently,

Mel





## Teaching and learning about Ash Wednesday & Lent

Our students have been (or will be) learning about the Church Liturgical Season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Years 3, 4 5 & 6 will attend the parish Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 18 February at 9am and our Foundation to Year 2s will participate in an Ash Wednesday prayer service in the Junior Wet Space at 2:15pm. Families are invited to these opportunities for communal prayer. Our Foundation students will be introduced to the Season of Lent with a pancake making (and eating) activity on Shrove Tuesday.



## PROJECT COMPASSION

### Mini-Vinnies: Social justice action in the community

#### *Project Compassion launch*

Members of our Mini-Vinnies Social Justice Action team are representing St Andrew's at the Project Compassion launch at MacKillop College on Tuesday 17 February. Bishop Martin Ashe is leading the launch & we look forward to the Mini-Vinnies returning, inspired by his words, to begin their Lenten social justice action.



"What's the meaning of life?"  
"Who is God?"  
"What if?"

**Come & See!**

Alpha is a safe space to ask questions, share doubts & grow with others.

Starts March 5 7:00 PM  
Penola Community Hub

Gather for a meal, video & conversation.

Open to all! Check the link:  
[bit.ly/AlphaWerribeelInvite](http://bit.ly/AlphaWerribeelInvite)

Email Us:  
[Alpha.StAndrews.Parish@gmail.com](mailto:Alpha.StAndrews.Parish@gmail.com)

**STAY CURIOUS**





As we start the year I would like to thank families for getting onboard with nForma and Remind, I invite parents with any tech issues to pop into the office before and after school to ask for my assistance.

As part of our Positive Behavior for Learning (PBL) and child safety children who are out of class must be approved and identifiable. We have replaced the old green vests with new lanyards called a "Class Pass". Students wear the Class Pass when they are going to the toilet, going to the office, or going on a message for their teacher.



**Child Safe Standard 11**  
Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

## Introducing our school captains:

Introducing our School Captains in Year 6: Ollie Borysewicz, Eliza Scott, Elena Murzello & Riley Quijano. We congratulate them on their appointment and we look forward to seeing them grow as leaders.



**Child Safe Standard 3**  
Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.



## First 2026 Cuppa and Chat

We welcomed parents who joined us for the first Cuppa and Chat for 2026. We will hold them from 9.30-10.00am in the Sport's Centre Foyer, fortnightly after assembly. It's a good way to connect with other parents/carers, ask questions and have a breather after a busy school week.

## Safer Internet Day Tuesday February 10

Safer Internet Day 2026 is on Tuesday, 10 February 2026, focusing on "Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI". It is a global event held annually on the second Tuesday of February to promote safer, more positive online experiences for all ages.

Students at St Andrew also continue to learn about Internet Safety in STEM and in their classrooms. Year 5 and 6 students all have eSmart Digital Licence accounts where they can work on online safety modules.

To acknowledge safer internet Day, our Foundation children each received a copy of "Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5", a wonderful and engaging story about monitoring device use and screentime. The book was written and published by the esafety commission: a digital version can be found here.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/media/swoosh-and-glide-story-time-video>



### Child Safe Standard 4

Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.



### Child Safe Standard 9

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.



## **Bag Accessories and Personal Items**

We have updated our policy on bag accessories and personal items.

### **Keychains and Bag Decorations**

- Limit: Students may have one keychain or bag decoration on their school bag.
- Optional: These are not a requirement; they are a personal choice for students who wish to have one.

### **Toys and Sports Equipment**

- General Rule: Personal toys and sports equipment (including balls) should be left at home.
- Exceptions: Items may only be brought to school if there is a prior arrangement to support a child's specific learning or sensory needs.

Morning Storage: If an item is brought to school under an arrangement, it must remain inside the student's bag before school starts.



# Staff Spotlight

## with Mrs Melissa Evgeniadis



**How long have you worked at St. Andrew's School?**

14 Days!!

**What is your role at the school?**

The Principal

**What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

Seeing happy, smiling students, staff and families

**What is your ideal way to unwind and relax?**

Listening to music or reading a book by the beach in the warm weather

**What's your most fond childhood memory?**

Dancing and singing in the lounge room to music and riding my bike

**As a child, what did you aspire to be?**

A teacher

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

Maths

**What skill would you like to master?**

Speaking a language other than english

**What book/podcasts are you into at the moment?**

True Crime

**What is your favourite sport to watch or play?**

To watch - AFL (GO PIES)

**If you could choose to be anything for a day, what would it be?**

A lady of leisure

**If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Pasta

**If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?**

The ability to freeze time

**What's your favourite holiday destination?**

Anywhere that involves a plane

**Do you collect anything?**

Artwork or postcards from different places I have visited

**What's your favourite thing to do for fun?**

Karaoke



MACS  
**CARE**  
Parent/Carer Newsletter **1**

Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools

**Working  
together for  
Child Safety**

## Child Safe Standard 1

**"Establish culturally safe environments in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children, young people and students are respected and value"**

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

### Overview of the Victorian Child Safe Standards

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must meet. These standards are designed to:

- Prevent child abuse and harm
- Make child safety a shared responsibility
- Support the wellbeing of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with disabilities
- Promote the participation and empowerment of children and young people

These standards apply to all school staff, volunteers, contractors, and anyone working with children in schools.

### Our Commitment

Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This vision is driven by the Gospel message of love, justice and abundance, beautifully reflected in the words of John:

**"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full"**

(Jn 10:10)

**Note:** The term 'Aboriginal' includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is important to be respectful of how individual children, students, their families and community refer to themselves and use appropriate language when referring to individuals or communities.





## Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 1

### Creating a Culturally Safe Environment for Aboriginal Children

Child Safe Standard 1 relates to children and young people feeling culturally safe, respected, and valued.

### What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Celebrating culture:** We include and celebrate Aboriginal culture in our classrooms/events e.g. NAIDOC Week, researching stories to share, inviting guest speakers.
- **Taking a stance:** We lead by example against racism and swiftly respond if it is observed.
- **Working together:** We contact and engage with Aboriginal families and communities to make sure our school is welcoming and inclusive. We ask families what they need to feel supported at our school.
- **Ongoing development:** Our staff receive training and knowledge to better understand and support cultural safety.



### How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Here's how you can support:

- **Familiarise** yourself with the school's child safety policies and understand how they support student wellbeing.
- **Provide feedback** when you notice something that may impact a child's safety or wellbeing.
- **Support** your child when they express their views and that their opinions are valued and heard.
- **Join in** on school activities, parent committees or forums that promote child safety and wellbeing.

### Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).

Check out these additional resources below to learn more!

- [Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation](#)
- [Koori Heritage Trust](#)
- [Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria](#)
- [AIATSIS: Miro of Indigenous Australia](#)
- [Yoorok Justice Commission](#)

