

ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 WEEK 6
FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025

During November, we remember those people who have died. We call to mind our departed loved ones, family and friends as we pray ...



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

From our Acting Principal Mrs Lisa Black

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A letter was sent home last Friday announcing my appointment as Principal of St Catherine of Siena, Melton West, commencing in 2026. It is truly bittersweet. I am extremely happy to have the opportunity to lead my own school, yet heartbroken to leave the St Andrew's community. Over the past seven years, I have been blessed to form beautiful relationships with our staff, students, families, and parish. I will forever be grateful to Michael and the entire community for their support and trust.

Next year, we will be moving away from Operoo as our communication platform and transitioning to Nforma. The Nforma portal will give us access to a wider range of applications, and our goal is for it to become a one-stop shop for all parent and school communication. As part of this rollout, you may be required to re-enter your child's details. This is a great opportunity to update any information such as phone numbers, emergency contacts, and medical details.

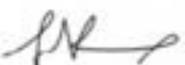
Please note that **Friday, 21 November is a school closure day**. St Andrew's Parish will be setting up for the anticipated St Andrew's Fair on Saturday. A reminder that Camp Australia will be operating on this day. We would love to see you all at the fair to support our parish community. Raffle tickets are still available until the 19th—if you're interested, Bianca has a few booklets left at the front desk.

Our new Principal, Mel, visited the school yesterday. She spent time in all classrooms, and the students were very excited to meet her. This is one of several visits she has planned before officially commencing in 2026. I am committed to ensuring a thorough handover to Mel so that St Andrew's is well positioned for continued success. She is genuinely excited to lead our wonderful school community.

On Friday, 12 December, we will hold our Step Up Day, where students will find out their 2026 class and teacher. The session will run from 9:00–10:30am. I have not yet received any placement requests from parents. If you do have a request or concern, please email me at lblack@sawerribee.catholic.edu.au.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Go gently.

Warm regards,
Lisa Black



Acting Principal





Teaching and learning about ... Stewardship

Our Year 2 students have been learning more about Stewardship, which is caring for God's Creation.

Did you know that worldwide millions of plastic straws are still used daily? In the US alone 7.5 million have been found on shorelines. In Victoria plastic straws were banned in 2023. Do you have friends and family in a country that still uses plastic straws? Maybe you could share this Stewardship message from us with them?

By Ms Boyle & Year 2



Connection to Catholic Church

As part of our connection to our parish of St Andrew's Werribee, our school is celebrating a special community mass on **Sunday 30 November at 9:30am**. Together as a school and parish community, we will come together to honour our school and parish patron, St Andrew. All families are warmly invited to attend.

- **Friday 28 November at 11:20am: Whole School Mass for the Feast of St Andrew.**
- **Sunday 30 November at 9:30am: St Andrew's Community Mass**

Mini-Vinnies: Social justice action in the community.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025 MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER TO FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER.

Dear families, we are seeking your generous support as we prepare CHRISTMAS HAMPERS for families in need. Each class is invited to create their own Christmas Hamper. Students are invited to bring in an item from the list and place it in the tub provided. We will put together the hampers and send them out to needy families.

Please see below the beautiful post from Vinnies Victoria about last term's winter appeal by Mini Vinnies. They acknowledge our wonderful generous community!

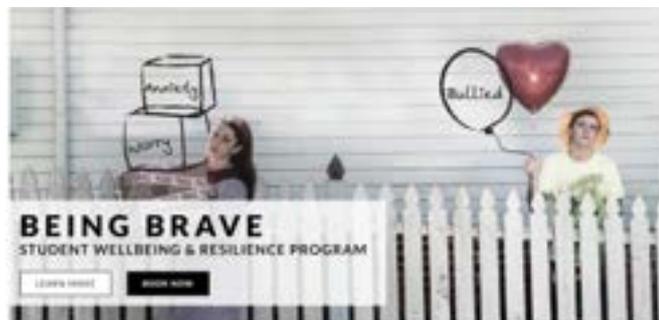


So much of our work is made possible by the incredible support of our Mini Vinnies, and the 'Hope for the Homeless' project is another shining example. The amazing students at St Andrew's Primary School in Werribee rallied their entire school community to support people sleeping rough through the coldest months of the year. Lead by the Year 6 Mini Vinnies, the students raised \$288.20 by selling 'Jesus Loves You' wristbands and keychains, each one carrying a message of hope and faith. Every dollar was donated to the Vinnies Soup Vans. But they didn't stop there. They also ran a Winter Blanket Drive and the response was overwhelming, with donations filling the entire van! These items were personally delivered by Mrs Sweeny and her daughter to the Soup Van warehouse in Kensington, where they'll be distributed to Victorians sleeping rough, delivering hope, warmth and care. Thank you to the students, staff and families of St Andrew's for your kindness and generosity.



Brainstorm Productions Incursion **Tuesday November 18 2025**

The school has booked a Brainstorm Live Production called Being Brave. Designed to support your school's existing student wellbeing program and facilitate further learning in the classroom, Being Brave empowers children to seek help and face life's challenges with confidence and compassion.



9.15am - 10.15am Year 3-6

11.15am - 12.15am Year F-2

nForma

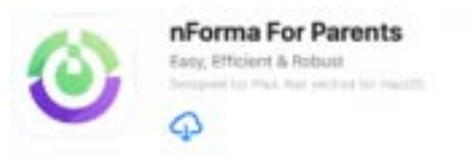
We are transferring from Operoo to nForma as Operoo is closing down at the end of the year. nForma was recommended by MACS to use as a parent information/communication system.

nForma will eventually allow parents to:

- Advise of absences
- Check First-aid reports and add Medical Information
- Give permissions for excursions
- View School Reports
- Chat with teachers in replace of Remind

Our first phase beginning in 2026 is to:

- Advise of absences
- Check First-aid reports and add Medical Information
- Give permissions for excursions



What you need to do Years F-6

- Download the app and follow the instructions below- the app is nForma for parents
- Add your child's medical info into the app- this is a great opportunity for families to update the school on your child's medical information (including medications, diagnosis, additional needs)
- Keep using Operoo for absence notifications until we advise further.
- I am here to assist with downloading the app, pop in if you need a hand- once you have updated your family's medical information your family will go into the draw to win a \$50 Coles/Myer voucher (drawn on the last day of school).

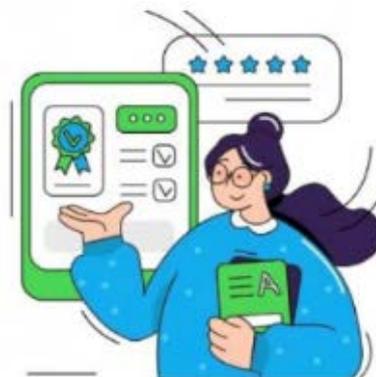


nForma continued.....

Nice and simple

Logging into the nPortal App is nice and simple. There are multiple ways that you can login to the App. The main thing to remember is to ensure that the email being used to login, is the email that is linked with the school. If you are unsure of which email address is linked to the school, you can ask the school and they can inform you of it.

1. Continue with Google – If your Gmail account is linked with the school, you can login through that button
2. Continue with Apple – If the email account linked to your apple account is the same as the one linked to the school, you can use that button
3. Email and Password – If you have a custom email domain, Hotmail, etc. you can type that in and login. If you have never logged in before, you will need to activate your account. To activate your account, click "forgot password?". This will then request an email address to send the password reset to. Input the email and submit. You will then receive an email with instructions. Once done you can use those login details and login to the app.



Welcome

Please enter your email & password.



Visit Mrs Chamberlain if you need assistance downloading the app. Once you have updated your family's medical information, your family will go into the draw to win a \$50 Coles/Myer voucher (drawn on the last day of school).

Child Safe Standards

St Andrew's school understands that appropriately screening staff, volunteers and other persons involved in child connected work is one of the strongest defences against child abuse. Our screening involves more than a Working With Children Clearance and reference checks. This includes:

- Good recruitment practices which prevent or screen out who are unsuitable to work or volunteer with children and recruit staff who uphold the School's values.
- Education and training which supports staff and volunteers to understand their responsibilities.

Child Safe Standard 6: Suitable staff and volunteers

Schools must ensure that people working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice



Social Media Age Restrictions

You may have heard about upcoming government changes in the law regarding social media accounts for children under the age of 16, which will take effect on 10 December 2025.

We are committed to understanding these new changes and working with you to ensure our students have a safe and positive digital life.

Why are these changes happening?

The new rules are all about protecting our under-16s. Many social media platforms have inbuilt design features that can:

- encourage too much screen time (like non-stop notifications or content that disappears)
- expose children to upsetting, inappropriate or difficult content through their feeds.

Experts have linked these features to problems for young people, including increased stress, less sleep, and trouble concentrating.

What is the goal?

These changes give us all a chance to help our children by:

- learning about the positive aspects of being online and the things they need to be careful of
- building their digital, social, and emotional skills so they can navigate the online world confidently and safely
- knowing where to seek help if they see or experience anything that worries them.

Are you ready to partner with us?

While social media platforms have the main responsibility to enforce the age restriction, we all play a part in teaching our children to be safe online.

The best strategies are:

- **Clear communication** – talking openly with your child about their online activities
- **Effective teaching** – helping them understand online safety rules
- **Positive modelling** – showing what responsible and kind online behaviour looks like
- **Mindful timing** – holding off purchasing your child a smart phone.

We will continue to update you as more guidance is provided. In the meantime, we encourage every family to subscribe to the [eSafety Commissioner alerts](#) so you can remain informed about the legislation change and ongoing digital trends.

Let's work together to help our children become safe, skilled and responsible digital citizens, who can navigate the online world with confidence and care.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Social media age restrictions

New rules for under-16s

- Popular platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X, and YouTube may soon restrict account access for students under 16.
- Other platforms may be added to the list impacted by the legislation.

What's still accessible

- Public content that doesn't require login.
- Educational platforms like Google Classroom and YouTube Kids.
- YouTube videos that can be viewed without signing in.

What it means for schools

- Schools may need to explore new ways to communicate with students and families.
- Teachers can still share age-appropriate educational content to support learning.

Learn more at the [eSafety Commissioner's Social Media Age Restrictions Hub](https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub)



Junior Hoop Time

Congratulations to **Archer P, Ricky B, Ben S, Happy M, Max K, Adele E, Abigail O, Livia T** and **Eliza C** who took part in the Regional Finals of the Hoop Time Basketball competition at Eagle Stadium on Tuesday. We had a very successful day with the following results:

Game 1 - St Andrew's - 8 to Strathmore Stars 9

Game 2 - St Andrew's - 22 to Wembley Wallabies 2

Game 3 - St Andrew's - 7 to Grange Gems 27

Game 4 - St Andrew's - 31 to Strathmore North Storm 2

Unfortunately despite the hard work and effort the children showed we weren't able to play finals this year.

I'd like to thank Brad Pridham for taking time away from work to coach the children. We all appreciate your effort and support.

F-2 Swimming Program

The F-2 children will be participating in a 1 week Water familiarization and Safety Program from **Monday 24th November to Friday 28th November**. Please remember to mark your child's attendance on the Operoo App and return the paper swimming assessment to your class teacher asap. A reminder also that Kingswim have requested no parents are to be in attendance at the swimming pool. Due to child safety we are unable to undress / dress your children so please take the time to practice at home.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 24th November to Friday 28th November -
F-2 Swimming Program

Friday 5th December - Senior Hoop Time State Finals



Remembrance Day Memorial - Written by the St Andrew's School Captains

On the 11th of November, the school captains, Miss Palmer and an LSO came with us to the memorial statue in Werribee to lay down a wreath. At around 10:20 we left the school and walked for about 10 minutes. When we arrived, we stood in a particular place and waited for the ceremony to start.

When the ceremony started, a few of the army soldiers came in a form and saluted to the people that had been deceased during the war, as the other soldiers controlled the flags. A few minutes in, it had started to rain, but luckily we had umbrellas.

Not long later they started calling schools and representatives to lay down a wreath in front of the statue. Then they called our school, and we slowly walked up to the memorial, got our wreath and placed it down, bowed and reverently returned back to school.



Second Hand Uniform Shop Opening Hours

The second hand uniform shop is open **8:30am to 9:30am on Mondays**. Please plan your visit during these hours only for your second hand uniform needs.



SUBWAY

Subway lunches will continue on a Weekly Friday schedule: 14, 21, 28, November
5, 12, December

Ordering Cut-Off Time:

All orders must now be placed no later than 10:00 AM the day before (Thursday)

Staff Spotlight

with Mr. Glenn Mugavin



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

Maybe 12 years; too long to remember

What is your role at the school?

Deputy Principal, Catholic Identity Leader, Compliance etc

What is the most rewarding part of your job? Seeing children learn; ensuring system works

What is your ideal way to unwind and relax? Walking my dog & listening to music.

What's your most fond childhood memory? Driving paddock-bombs on the farm

As a child, what did you aspire to be? A farmer; then an accountant; then a teacher

What was your favourite subject at school? Mathematics, history, economics

What skill would you like to master? To be able to sing like an angel; but realistically, to swing a cricket ball both ways

What book/tv series/podcasts are you into at the moment? Author Max Hastings & Podcast Empire; about the rise and fall of empires, and the events that shaped world history.

What is your favourite sport to watch or play? Cricket; Test cricket not the sugar-hit T20

If you could choose to be anything for a day, what would it be? A philanthropic millionaire, like Dick Smith, or Scott Pape, who helps every-day Australians.

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

If you were a superhero, what powers would you have? Time-travel; to change the past for a (hopefully) better present & future.

What's your favourite holiday destination? Assisi in Italy

Do you collect anything? Music memorabilia; cricket bats; pre-decimal coins; and dust



NOVEMBER



2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY	4 SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY	5 MACKILLOP TRANSITION DAY	6	7 SUBWAY ASSEMBLY PARENT CUPPA & CHAT	8
9	10	11 REMEMBER ANCE DAY	12	13	14 SUBWAY YEAR 3 EXCURSION	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY	22
23	24 F-2 SWIMMING PROGRAM	25 F-2 SWIMMING PROGRAM	26 F-2 SWIMMING PROGRAM	27 F-2 SWIMMING PROGRAM	28 SUBWAY F-2 SWIMMING PROGRAM TRIVIA NIGHT FEAST OF ST. ANDREW	29
30						

DECEMBER



2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5 MACKILLOP TRANSITION DAY WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PARENT CUPPA & CHAT SUBWAY	6
7	8	9	10 YR 6 BIG DAY OUT CHRISTMAS STALLS	11	12 STEP UP DAY GRADUATION MASS SUBWAY	13
14	15	16 ASSEMBLY 9AM LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 1PM FINISH	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			