

ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 WEEK 9
FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2025



Prayer 1

Heavenly Father, On this holy feast of Christmas May we take time to experience and enjoy the real gifts we have been given this year Our health, our home, our safety, friends and community and most of all each other. Amen.

Prayer 2

God bless our family, help us when we struggle and help us to grow to be the best version of ourselves. Amen.

Prayer 3

Joseph, strong and silent, obedient and faithful to God, living out your faith through action and love for your wife and child.

Mary, so open to God's will, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your life and take you beyond your wildest imaginings. Faithful and steadfast in your love despite the deepest of pain and suffering.

Jesus, king of nations, prince of peace, Emmanuel – God with us, truly human, truly divine.

Holy family, we can learn so much from you about love, God and living faith-filled lives.

Bless our family.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mary, mother of God, pray for us.

O come, O come **Emmanuel** into our family, our lives and our hearts this holy season.

Amen.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

From our Acting Principal Mrs Lisa Black

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Friday your child/ren will take part in Step Up Day. On this day, students will meet their new classmates, their new teacher, and visit their new classroom for 2026.

In preparing 14 class lists, we have worked carefully to create an ideal classroom for optimal learning. Your child's current teachers have spent a significant amount of time with them throughout the year. They know your child's strengths and challenges from a school perspective, and it is this knowledge, along with their observations and professional insight, that forms the basis of our class placement process.

Our teaching staff and leadership team use Class Solver software to support the creation of balanced class groups. The following factors are considered:

- Specific learning needs
- Individual differences
- Gender balance
- Relationships with other students
- Age
- Social and emotional maturity
- Academic achievement
- Family groupings
- Length of time a class or group has been together
- Class placements in previous years
- Classroom observations
- Student-teacher relationships

Our class structure aims to:

- Create an equal range of abilities in each class and year level
- Keep average class sizes as low and as even as possible
- Allow for planned and unplanned increases in enrolments
- Ensure students requiring additional support are, where possible, evenly distributed across classes



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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The formation of classes requires considerable time, collaboration, and thought. Staff use their professional judgement and expertise—along with relevant information provided by parents—to create effective class groups that balance the needs of individuals with the needs of the wider cohort. No single factor determines a placement, nor can every preference be guaranteed.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Principal to make final decisions regarding class structures and student placements.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

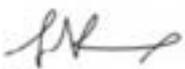
Early Leavers

To help us maintain a calm and supportive learning environment for both staff and students, I ask that you please take the following into consideration when arranging appointments or early pickups:

- Students are not to be collected between 3:00–3:15pm. This is an important time in the classroom when learning is being finalised and students are preparing for dismissal.
-
- Students are not to be collected during break times (10:30–11:00am and 1:10–1:40pm). If you arrive during these times, we respectfully ask that you wait in the office until students return to their classrooms.
- If your child has a recurring appointment, please ensure you inform their classroom teacher. We can then arrange for your child to be ready and waiting in the office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email principal@sawerribee.catholic.edu.au.

Go gently and God bless,



Lisa Black
Acting Principal





Teaching and learning about ... the Liturgical Season of Advent

This week our Year One students led an Advent prayer service, sharing their learning about the symbols associated with Advent, with their parents and families.

- Advent Wreath by Archer. The Advent Wreath is a circle which represents God's love never ending
- Purple colour by Lincoln. We light three purple candles & one pink candle; purple is the colour of waiting
- Candles by Chelsea. The Advent candles go around the wreath; we light them one by one to show getting closer to Christmas & God's love
- Prayers by Alex. Jesus wants us to say prayers & I said a prayer for my Dad at Christmas



**St Andrew's
Nativity
Play**

All Children are invited to be part of
St Andrew's Nativity Play
Rehearsals in the Church~
Monday 15th & 22nd December
6:30pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday 24th December - 4:00pm

Performance date ~
Wednesday 24th December
5:30pm Mass
SCAN TO REGISTER



Susanne ~ 0438 372 952

Connection to our Catholic Church Community

See our details for our St Andrew's Parish Christmas celebrations timetable, including masses, carol singing & reconciliation. Scan the QR code to register for the performance.





Mini-Vinnies: Social justice action in the community

St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Appeal 2025

Thank you to our families for your generous support in donating to the CHRISTMAS HAMPERS for families in need. Today our Mini-Vinnies team prepared hamper boxes with a Christmas message of hope. Mini Vinnies will put together the hampers next week and send them out to needy families. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Baptcare / Wyndham Lodge Nursing Home Visit

On Thursday 4th December, 17 choir students from Year 5 and 6 represented our school, singing at the Christmas mass for residents of Baptcare / Wyndham Lodge. The residents, staff and Fr Albert were so very grateful and our wonderful students did our school proud, spreading the hope and joy of the Christmas season to those who really need it. A huge thank you to Asini and Stephen from the parish for playing guitar for us.





Being Brave

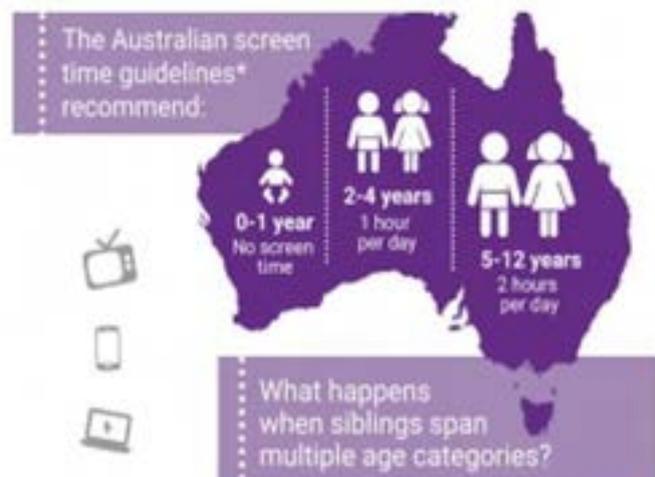
As the year draws to a close- our students are excited and a little nervous about next year. On November 18, our students watched a play by Brainstorm Productions called “Being Brave”. This was an engaging play about dealing with family separation, bullying, making friends, trying new positive things, refugee experience and being resilient.



Social Emotional Learning.

The students have been learning about Hope, Gratitude and Healthy Mind and Body. We have been looking forward to hopeful events such as holidays and Christmas. We are also exploring the importance of sleep and monitoring recreational screentime. This brings me to reminding about the Social Media delay coming in on December 10. The list of apps banned is subject to change and review. The main apps are Snapchat, Youtube, Facebook, TikTok, X and Instagram.

Sleep and Screen Stats



What time do you go to bed? How many hours a day do you sleep?



When will the age restrictions start?



On December 10th 2025, Social media apps with age restrictions will begin making sure young people under 16 cannot create new accounts and will begin removing existing under age users.

On 20th November 2025, Meta announced it is aiming to remove hundreds of thousands of accounts by the December 10 deadline, with the first accounts disappearing on December 4.

Meta to kick teens off Instagram and Facebook a week early as social media ban looms



Image from www.abc.com.au



Won't the age restrictions stop under 16s from accessing important benefits of being online?

The Australian Government is mindful of the need to balance safety with a broader range of digital rights. Under-16s will still be able to explore and express themselves on platforms that are not age-restricted, allowing connection, creativity, learning, health advice and entertainment.

Under 16s will still be able to see publicly available social media content that doesn't require being logged into an account.



For example, most content is currently available to view on YouTube without holding an account.



Another example is that anyone can see some of Facebook's content, such as the landing pages of businesses or services that use social media as their host platform.





Trivia Night

A big round of fun was had by all who attended the annual St Andrew's Trivia night on November 28. There were a lot of laughs and fantastic prizes won and YES the staff came back to win after last year's loss. We thank the P and F committee for working tirelessly who put the "fun" in fundraising! Part of the funds raised have gone to the purchase of Key Word Signs to be installed in our play grounds. The Key Word signs are an initiative by Scope and they assist children in communicating.

We are the first school in Melbourne's West to have these in our playground. We thank Bianca Corvo who drove the initiative.



THANK YOU! TO OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS





MACS
CARE
Parent/Carer Newsletter **3**

Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

**Working
together for
Child Safety**

Child Safe Standard 3

‘Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.’

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 Child Safe Standard 3:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- Children are informed about all their rights, including safety, information and participation
- The importance of friendship is recognized and support from peers is encouraged
- Where relevant to setting or context, young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs in an age-appropriate way
- Staff are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child friendly ways for children to express their views, participate in decision making and raise their concerns
- Organisations have strategies to develop a culture that facilitates participation and are responsive to input from children and young people.

The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organisations create safe environments for children and young people.

They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to, and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies, and a culture that puts children first.

As a parent or carer, you can expect organisations to involve families, empower children, train staff properly, and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.

This standard focuses on empowering children and young people by ensuring they are informed, respected, and actively involved in decisions that affect them. This participation helps build a school culture that is safe for them and values their voice.





What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Creating Opportunities for Student Voice:** We create formal structures such as student councils and leadership programs, but we also include fewer formal opportunities so all students, especially the most vulnerable, can have their voice heard.
- **Acting on Student Feedback:** We listen deeply to what students are telling us and we respond to concerns, suggestions and ideas. This includes making sure students are aware when we have acted on their feedback.
- **Building Staff Capacity:** Our staff receive professional learning, so they understand the importance and benefits of listening to and responding to, student voice. This also includes training for staff regarding how to incorporate student voice, agency and empowerment in their daily interactions and decision making.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

- **Listen and talk often:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings. Let them know it's always ok to speak up.
- **Talk about rights and safety:** Help your child understand that everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.
- **Be a role model:** Show kindness, respect, and inclusion in everyday life, children learn from what they see.
- **Stay connected with the school:** Take part in conversations or surveys about student wellbeing and safety.
- **Support student voice:** Encourage your child to get involved in school activities where their ideas can make a difference.

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](#).





F-2 Swimming Program

The F-2 children enjoyed five days of swimming and water familiarization at Kingswim in Manor Lakes.

The smiles on their faces during their lessons was a delight to see. Every child that took part loved their experience.

Below there is some information for the holiday program during January which you can directly book through Kingswim.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY SWIMMING PROGRAM

Keep your kids active, entertained and learning these holidays!

4 DAYS ONLY \$70

Mon 5 - Thur 8 Jan
Mon 19 - Thur 22 Jan

kingswim fastrack

CALL 1300 054 647 TO BOOK YOUR PLACE



WERRIBEE CENTRALS CRICKET CLUB

Cricket Blasters

Calling all 5-10 year old cricketers!
8 Week Program
Every Thursday - 29th Jan, 2026 to 19th March, 2026
4:30pm-5:30pm
Learn the basics of cricket, make some new friends and have some fun too!

FREE Come and Try Day
Thursday 18th December, 4:30pm-5:30pm



Scan the QR code for our registration link!

Werribee Mitsubishi **JUST ENERGY**



IMAGINE THE FUN

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 5th December - Senior Hoop Time State Finals



Year 3 Extended Excursion

“In the town of Werribee, a big group of children and 5 teachers plan on travelling to the Royal Botanical Gardens, Melbourne Art Centre and Sea Life Aquarium as an excursion for the end of the year. On the 14th of November, the two classes were dropped at the Arts Centre. 3A went to the Arts Centre first while 3B went to the Royal Botanical Gardens. 3A is greeted by one of the employees. The first area they went to was a small room with a big window to view the play. We saw an orchestra rehearsing for a Billy Joel Tribute Concert. The room is used for late or sick people. The next room was called the Playroom, which was coloured mangrove purple and dawn gold. All around the room were mosaics with cool patterns. The pictures around the room had a small story. One particular painting was chosen by one of the workers and he liked it so much that he hired the artist to make more similar paintings. The next room was Fairfax Studios. This was special as the grandfather of one of the students in our class was part of the construction of Fairfax Studios. We even got to see a portrait of him. Once the tour of the Arts Centre was done, we went on a very long walk to the Royal Botanical Gardens while 3B had their turn at the Arts Centre. At the Gardens, we were able to look at plants and read their scientific names. After we had lunch at the Arts Centre, we all walked to Sea Life Aquarium. The first fish we were introduced to was the Moon Jellyfish. We learnt about how they multiply quickly and how they don’t have a brain nor a heart. We went to the Mermaid Garden Oceanarium where we noticed lots of diverse fish, sharks and two big turtles. We learnt some vocabulary words too, such as extinct. We saw a sleepy stingray who was being pestered by a yellow fish. We met a big crocodile who once ate cows and its own girlfriend! We were lucky to see the penguins at feeding time. They are very good at swimming! We learnt that they attract their mates by having very orange feet from the krill that they eat. This means they are good fishers. We caught them on a bad hair day as they were all molting. Lastly, we were able to touch some shark eggs and even a starfish! After that we got on the bus and drove to Wyndham Park where we had pizza for dinner”.

Written by Joeie, 3A





Traffic Safety Alert

We would like to remind all families and community members to exercise extreme caution when driving near our school. Recently, there have been several driving incidents in the surrounding area. To help keep our students safe, please remember that Mortimer Street operates as a one-way street during school pick-up and drop-off times. During these times, the speed limit is 40 km/h, and we ask all drivers to adhere strictly to this limit. Your cooperation makes a meaningful difference in keeping our school community safe. Thank you for your support and vigilance.



The last Subway lunch for the year will take place on Friday 12th December

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



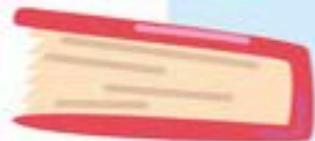
PARENTS ASSOCIATION



THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF ST. ANDREW'S OFFERS ALL OUR SCHOOL FAMILIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE RICH AND VIBRANT SOCIAL LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION ORGANISE SOCIAL EVENTS ALONG WITH NUMEROUS FUNDRAISING PROMOTIONS. THE FUNDRAISING FROM THESE EVENTS HELPS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT.

THESE FUNDS ARE USED TO PURCHASE THOSE ITEMS WHICH ARE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL BUDGET. OVER THE YEARS THIS HAS INCLUDED PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY, PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SHADE SAILS.





**ST ANDREWS
PARENTS
ASSOCIATION
MEETING DATES
2026**



**TERM 1 MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY
- AGM & MEETING**



TERM 2 MONDAY 4TH MAY

TERM 3 MONDAY 27TH JULY



TERM 4 MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER

**6.30-7.30 PM -
ENTER VIA THE FRONT OFFICE**

**ALL WELCOME - NO
RSVP NEEDED**



Staff Spotlight

with Miss Catherine Scott



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

I have worked at St Andrews for 11 years, 10 years as a LSO and 1 year as a teacher.

What is your role at the school?

Year 4 Classroom teacher

What is the most rewarding part of your job? The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the students everyday, experiencing those "Aha!" moments and watching them grow as learners but also as little individuals.

What is your ideal way to unwind/relax? I love to read and go for long walks with my dog, Odin.

What's your most fond childhood memory? My most fond childhood memory is playing in a paddling pool with my cousins during the summer, which is a rarity as summers in the UK were not always hot enough to have the paddling pool out!

As a child, what did you aspire to be? I always wanted to be a teacher, I used to teach my teddies maths on a chalkboard in my bedroom, I also used to try to teach my little brother who was 10 years younger than me.

What was your favourite subject at school? At school I had many favourite subjects but my ultimate favourite was English.

What skill would you like to master? I would love to speak another language fluently, I can 'get by' in French if I need to but I would love to converse without having to think about what I want to say.

What book/tv series/podcasts are you into at the moment? I am really into crime, thriller themes at the moment. I love Colleen Hoover as an author.

What is your favourite sport to watch or play? I love to watch Formula One & AFL, especially Geelong cats.

If you could choose to be anything for a day, what would it be? I would choose to be a cute puppy that gets cuddles all day!

If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? It would have to be steak, chips & peppercorn sauce!

If you were a superhero, what powers would you have? I would have the power to communicate with animals. I'd love to finally understand what some of the funny looks my pets give me actually mean!

What's your favourite holiday destination? I love to visit hot, tropical countries...Bali is one of my favourite places to visit.

Do you collect anything? I am a big child at heart and I actually collect Lego sets! Harry Potter sets are my most favourite!

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			

JANUARY



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			THREE WAY CONVER- SATIONS	FOUNDA- TION STUDENTS BEGIN	GRADE 1-6 STUDENTS BEGIN	

FEBRUARY



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 NO SCHOOL FOR FOUNDATION	5	6 NEWSLETTER SCHOOL MASS 11:20AM	7
8	9 PA MEETING 6:30PM	10	11 NO SCHOOL FOR FOUNDATION	12	13 ASSEMBLY	14
15	16	17 SHROVE TUESDAY	18 NO SCHOOL FOR FOUNDATION ASH WEDNESDAY MASS 9AM	19	20 NEWSLETTER	21
22	23	24 SWIMMING CARNIVAL	25 NO SCHOOL FOR FOUNDATION	26	27 ASSEMBLY 2027 PREP INFO SESSION	28