



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

17 May 2024

From the Principal



Loving God,

We thank you for our Catholic school communities in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

We pray that we may walk 'the way of the gospel' together,
as we accompany each other in our learning this year.

May the Holy Spirit guide us and give us new eyes, new ears and open hearts,
helping us to bring your love to all we encounter.

Mary, mother of the living Gospel, pray for us.

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, we celebrated both Catholic Education Week and Family Week. The theme for this year's celebrations was 'In the Light of Christ'.

Catholic education strives to make a difference in the lives of those in our schools and in the wider community by challenging young people to live out the message of Jesus and walk the way of the gospel to reach their full potential as compassionate, contributing, life-giving members of society.

It was great to see so many families visit our classrooms today, experiencing their loved ones' learning firsthand. It was a time of connection and joy as parents, guardians, and siblings engaged with teachers and students.

This week we also kicked off interviews for our Prep intake for 2025. I have thoroughly enjoyed showcasing the many wonderful facets of our school to prospective families. We still have places for 2025 so please let your friends know.

Mother's Day Stall - THANK YOU!!!

At St John's we have much to be grateful for, especially our caring and supportive parent body- PIC. Thank you to Melinda Scotto, PIC members, parents and carers who helped at the Mother's Day Stall. Our students beamed with great excitement as they carefully chose gifts for the special women in their lives. I trust St John's mums had a special day on Sunday.

Our collaboration with local secondary schools is flourishing, exemplified by our Year 4 students' recent attendance at the production of "Chicago: High School Edition." This experience has ignited excitement for our own performance later this year. Additionally, our Year 4 students will be visiting Marcellin on Friday 24 March, providing them with a sneak peek into secondary school life. We're immensely grateful for these meaningful connections

***St John's Primary School is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children,
young people and vulnerable people in our community.***

Canberra Camp: What a week our Year 5/6 students have had. Our Year 5 and 6 students enjoyed a fun and educational adventure this week whilst on camp in Canberra. While sleep may have been in short supply, laughter certainly wasn't! It was a week filled with excitement, learning and opportunities for new friendships to be formed.

Camps serve as highlights of the school year, offering students invaluable opportunities for learning, social development, and fostering independence. It's a time for disconnecting from technology, building lasting relationships with peers, and expanding horizons beyond the classroom. None of these experiences would be possible without the commitment of our dedicated staff. A heartfelt thank you to all the staff who gave up their own family time to ensure the care and well-being of our students.



Newsletter: Thank you to all who provided feedback on our newsletter format. Your insights have highlighted the desire for easy access to a calendar, mobile compatibility, and increased student involvement. We've taken note of the feedback about codes needed to gain access on the website and will discontinue their use accordingly. In response to your feedback, we'll be experimenting with new formats in the coming weeks to better cater to these preferences.

Staffing news. We're thrilled to announce that Marisa Veronese has been appointed as the Italian teacher for the remainder of the year. We are confident that her expertise and passion will enrich our students' learning experiences.

Winter school uniform: Following a recent survey sent to families, the majority of respondents have voted the addition of shorts to the Winter uniform policy. Consequently, shorts will now be an option during Terms 2 and 3, which many students will be very happy about. I kindly ask for parents' vigilance regarding uniform compliance. **It is a requirement for all students to wear a long sleeve shirt or a skivvy.** Out of uniform notices will be sent home.

Annual school report: The annual Report to the Community will be shortly available on our school website. This is an important report that provides valuable information about our school's achievements, goals, and policies. The annual Report to the Community highlights the progress we have made over the past year and showcases the dedication and hard work of our students, teachers, and staff. We encourage you to take a moment to read through the report and celebrate the accomplishments of our school community.

Student Led Conferences Term 2

The Student Led Conferences will be held on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 June. **School will finish at 1:00pm on Tuesday 25 June** as teachers meet with individual students and families. Booking details will be provided closer to the date. Please note that **1M** will have their **Student led conferences on 18 June** as Miss Menegas will be away that day.

National Reconciliation week: In a few weeks, we'll be commemorating Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week. These occasions provide our students with an opportunity to explore how we can contribute to reconciliation in Australia, fostering connections and cultivating a genuine appreciation for the histories, cultures, and futures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. **Our F.I.R.E carrier leaders will run an assembly on 27 May at 2:50pm. All families are welcome to attend. Children can wear their pyjamas and bring a gold coin donation which will support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.**

School Advisory Council

The St John's SAC invites parent feedback, suggestions and constructive comments enabling a wide range of perspectives to be shared. Please see below to email your SAC Parent Representative should you wish to provide feedback.

Level	SAC Parent Representative	Feedback Email 2024
Prep	Suze Leahy	prepsac@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au
Year One and Two	Kate Ruddell—Deputy Chairperson	year12sac@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au
Year Three and four	Silvana Micallef - Secretary	year34sac@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au
Year Five and six	Pietro Sciotto - Chairperson	year56sac@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

Children coming late and leaving early:

We've observed an increase in instances where families are picking up their children early or arriving late. While we understand that for many, these may be occasional occurrences, for some, it's becoming a regular pattern. It's important to emphasise that attending school every day is crucial for your child's education. Each day at school presents new learning opportunities, and missing out can set them back. Please prioritise consistent attendance to ensure our children's continued progress and success.

What sort of start is your child getting?

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but.....

He/She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly Half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 Weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a Half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 Weeks per year	Over 2 and a Half years

Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?

That's when every minute counts the most!!

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

School Assemblies - Monday Morning, Level and Whole School Assembly

This term our whole school assemblies for students, allowing for school wide communication, celebration, belonging and connection. Parents are welcome to attend our whole school assemblies.

Monday afternoon 2.40pm Week 3,5,7,9,11: Whole School Assembly - hall

Monday morning 8.55am Week 2,4,6,8,10: Whole School Assembly - top yard

All are welcome to join.

Lost Property

We have a lot of items in lost property. These will be given to the second hand uniform shop if not collected by Monday.

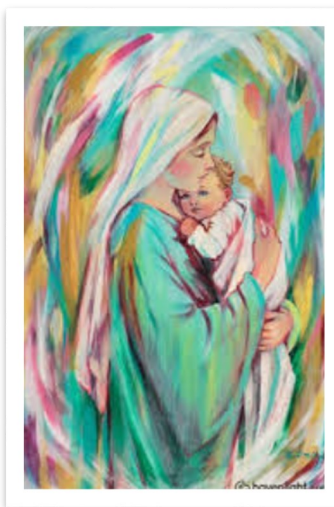
Kind regards

Alison Dean
Principal

RE News - Connie Bandiera, Education in Faith Leader

May the Month of Mary

The Church teaches that Mary is the greatest Christian saint of all. Christians have always loved and honoured Mary from the beginning of the story of the Church. The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We have prayed to her for help from earliest times. Mary is a true model of discipleship within our Church. We know how much Jesus loves her. Mary always leads us to her Son, Jesus.



Ways We Can Honor Mary:

- Pray the Rosary
- Say the Hail Mary Prayer throughout the day
- Create a Prayer Corner, placing some representation of our Blessed Mother whether that be a photo, small statue, or Rosary beads.
- Create an outdoor space, flowers in honour of Mary

Sacrament of First Eucharist - Upcoming Reflection Day

Next Monday, the Year Four students will be visiting the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne as part of their preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Here the students will learn that the Eucharist is central to the Catholic faith and Catholic tradition and how Mary MacKillop, who loved the Eucharist, lived her life as a person of the Eucharist through her thoughts, words and actions. As a school community, let us continue to keep these students in our prayers.

Sacrament Dates

First Eucharist

Saturday 1 June - Year 4P at 1:00pm and 4MT at 3:00pm

Family Faith Night - Wednesday 22 May at 6:30pm -

Details to follow

Confirmation

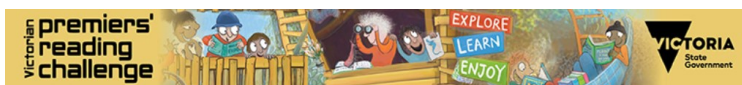
Sunday 18 August 2:00pm St Patrick's Cathedral - Year 6

First Reconciliation

Thursday 31 October - 7:00pm Year 3

Learning and Teaching

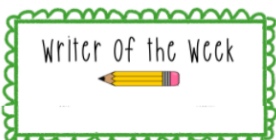
LITERACY NEWS - Connie Bandiera, Literacy Leader



Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge - Reminder

Keep up the reading stamina St John's.

Awards - A call out to all young authors at St John's!



Send all pieces to cbandiera@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au with your name and class or pass it on to your class teacher.



How do students learn best?

As a school community it is important to know how students learn, so we are better able to help our students learn and store new learning in their long term memory. All students benefit from evidence-based practices that align with the processes of acquiring, retaining, retrieving and consolidating learning.

In this article, I would like to address 4 key areas that shed light on the student learning process and how effective teaching aligns with these processes to maximise progress and outcomes.

1. Learning is a change in long-term memory

There are 2 types of memory that process information during learning: working memory and long-term memory. Working memory is the mental workspace that students use to actively engage with the facts, concepts and procedures they encounter, while long-term memory stores this knowledge for future use. As students learn, they identify relationships and connect knowledge in long-term memory to develop increasingly complex mental models.

2. Students process limited amounts of new information

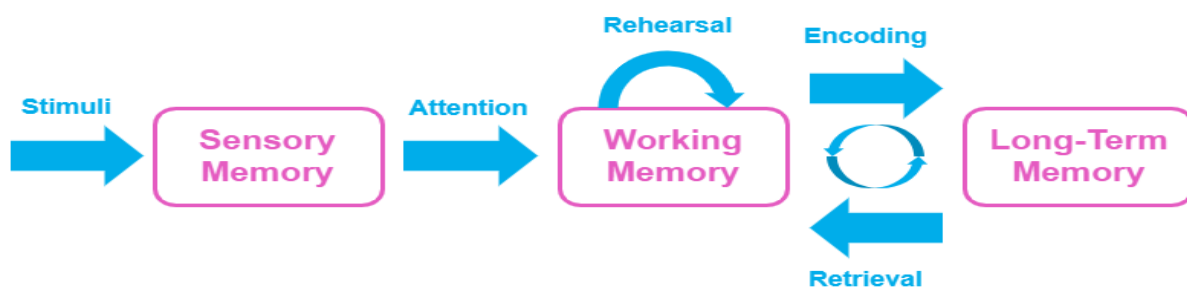
Working memory has a very limited capacity, so learning is maximised when the amount of new information students process at any one time does not overload it. At St John's teachers provide students with new information in manageable parts or steps, with guidance, feedback and opportunities to practise. This helps them to connect and retain it in long-term memory.

3. Students develop and demonstrate mastery

Developing mastery requires students to first store knowledge (including facts, concepts or procedures) in long-term memory. With repeated and varied practice, students' ability to recall and apply their learning fluently, and to transfer their knowledge to new situations, increases. Students' capacity for critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving is greatly enhanced when they have relevant background knowledge consolidated in long-term memory to draw on.

4. Students are actively engaged when learning

Transferring information from working memory to long-term memory requires students' focused attention and active engagement in a supportive and responsive learning environment. At St John's students are motivated to engage when they understand their effort leads to success, develop positive dispositions towards learning, and have positive relationships with teachers. Engagement and focus on learning are further increased when students understand the expected behaviours and routines of the learning environment, as well as the intended goals of their learning.



SPORT NEWS - Ben Friggi, Sport and Physical Education Leader Ivanhoe District Cross Country

On Monday, 13 May, forty one students from Year 3 to 6 attended the Ivanhoe District Cross Country Championships held at Chelsworth Park. The excitement on the students' faces, cheering on their fellow St John's competitors was wonderful to see. Students needed to run either 2km or 3km depending on their age group. All students should feel extremely proud and honoured to qualify and participate in the event.



A special mention to Nicholas C 3TC who finished third, Felix W 5B who finished fifth, Emilia I 5B who finished sixth and Scarlett F 5B who finished ninth in their respective races. These students will now move on to Banyule and Inner North Moreland Division Championships on Wednesday 29 May.



Student Wellbeing - Elizabeth Whiting, Student Wellbeing Leader

Here is a recount of our Better Buddy Day by Darcy and Sophia 4P

As you walk through the school gates the colour purple surrounds you. You see people who have brought in their best teddy's and Year 6's with their buddies. As the bell goes you see people rushing in with excitement.

When you get split into different classes you feel excited but nervous to meet new people and make new friends. When you walk into your new class for the day you choose a spot to sit and put your pencil case down on a table. Then you sit in a circle to introduce yourself and your teddy and learn more about kindness and including others in the school. You also listen to stories like the Kindness Quilt.



You do fun activities then the bell goes for lunch. You try to find your friends, and you play until the music goes. You walk up to your better buddies day class. You wonder what they have planned for the second session.

After lunch you walk outside to join in the games with your better buddies day class and you get to play fun games including, tunnel ball and using the parachute, fruit salad with your class and build strong bonds with different people from different grades.

Then you hear the bell go for lunch.

After play you return back to your original class, on the way in you hear everyone talking about their wonderful day. That's why we have Better buddies day to build strong bonds and relationships.



Reconciliation Week is held on **27 May to 3 June**. The theme this year is *Now More Than Ever*. This is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will —and must— continue.

This week is book-ended by two significant dates, it's an event that all Australians can be proud of – the anniversaries of the successful 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo land rights decision.

This week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. In classrooms during this week, students will explore and learn about how we can work towards achieving reconciliation in our country.

To commemorate this significant week the school will take part in a **Pyjama Day on Monday 27 May**. Students will be asked to bring a gold coin donation to take part in this day to fundraise for <https://www.indigenoussliteracyfoundation.org.au/>.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) is a national charity working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander remote Communities across Australia. They are Community-led, responding to requests from remote Communities for culturally relevant books, including early learning board books, resources, and programs to support Communities to create and publish their stories in languages of their choice.

The Year 6 FIRE Carrier and Cultural Diversity SAT will lead assembly on Monday 27 May to begin and signify Reconciliation Week at St Johns.

To learn more about Reconciliation Week visit <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

STUDENT AWARDS

Riley 3JC, Joshua 3JC, Frankie 4MT, Valentina 4MT,
Sirat 4P, Michael 4P



15 May	Leonardo 5L
16 May	Joshua 2O Melissa 5L
17 May	Sabah 6T
18 May	Christian PD Oscar 1M Jack 1M
20 May	Lilly-Jean PD Riley 3JC
21 May	Zara 6T Sarah 1M
22 May	Lucas 3H Sunday PWG
23 May	Zoe 3JC
24 May	Roman 2O Maria 6G
25 May	Xavier 2O Emma 6T
26 May	Reanna 2O Valentina 3H Alexandra 2O
27 May	Aisling 6T
30 May	Ellie 1M

What's been happening....

We hope you're all having a fantastic week.

As we embark on a journey filled with fun and learning, we're thrilled to share the latest adventures and happenings from our program.

Over the last couple of weeks, our mornings during 'Rise and Shine' have been buzzing with enriching experiences. Children eagerly participate in a variety of activities, from creating French Toast to whipping up swift pancakes. Alongside these culinary explorations, we've delved into activities suggested by the children, such as karaoke, artist trivia, and group painting.

During our afternoon sessions of 'Stay and Play,' we've immersed ourselves in a world of creativity and collaboration. From crafting edible slime and taking on the banana split challenge during our 'Flavour Fest' to engaging in group paintings and sand art for our 'Creative Inventors,' the children have been thoroughly engaged. These hands-on experiences not only ignite creativity but also foster teamwork and excitement among the group.

Last week, as part of our extended learning activities, all children participated in making a group painting, cutting little hearts, and writing cute messages for their mums. We also had a chance to make some delicious 'yum balls' for both 'Rise and Shine' and 'Stay and Play.'

Let's highlight our strong enthusiasm for outdoor recreation! We've wholeheartedly embraced our 'Super Sports' program, featuring cherished favourites such as group tag, footy, and our enduring favourite, soccer. These dynamic activities not only encourage physical fitness and well-being but also nurture teamwork and camaraderie among the children.

We are eager to extend this journey of exploration and learning with your children, crafting memorable experiences, and facilitating their development at every opportunity. Stay connected for further updates on our exciting adventures!

Regarding the school closure day on June 7th: We regret to inform you that due to insufficient expressions of interest, we will be unable to proceed with a pupil-free day on June 7th. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Have a lovely weekend! -Warm regards, -Maria & Emma

Happy Snaps...



Next week's activities and menu 20/5/24

NEXT WEEK AT OSHCLUB

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

MONDAY
Brain Booster: Songs Trivia
Breakfast club: Porridge

TUESDAY
Eco Warriors: Blocks Adventure Model
Breakfast club: French Toast

WEDNESDAY
Creative Inventors: Paper doll Cutout
Breakfast club: Breakfast Smoothies

THURSDAY
Flavour Fest: Rainbow Pancakes
Breakfast club: Pancakes

FRIDAY
Power Teams: Paper building Blocks
Breakfast club: Hash Brown

RISE THEN SHINE

Enrol or Book Now **Child Care Subsidy**




NEXT WEEK AT OSHCLUB

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

MONDAY
Creative inventor: Rainbow Making Card
Snack squad: Cheese Pizza Muffin

TUESDAY
Power Teams: Group Paintings
Snack squad: Pasta w/ Veggies

WEDNESDAY
Global Kids: Guess the Flag
Snack squad: Fried Rice

THURSDAY
Flavour Fest: Banana Bread
Snack squad : Cheese toasties

FRIDAY
Fun Friday: Explode a Bag Experiment
Breakfast club: Popcorn

STAY AND PLAY

After School Care

Enrol or Book Now **Child Care Subsidy**




Serious stuff! Medical Management Plan and Medication

For the safety and well-being of all children in our care, it is imperative that we adhere to strict guidelines regarding medical conditions. Any child who has been diagnosed with a medical condition, including asthma, allergies, anaphylaxis, or chemical intolerances/food sensitivities, must provide the following:

- A completed Medical Management Plan, accompanied by a recent colour photograph.
- Any necessary medication in their original packaging.

Please note that it is a legal requirement under the Educational and Care National Regulations and the terms and conditions for bookings/enrolments that these documents are provided. In the interest of child safety, we reserve the right to refuse care on the day should the appropriate documentation or medication not be supplied.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated as we prioritise the health and safety of all children in our care.

Term 1 2024	
Week 6	
Monday 20 May	Year 4 Excursion - Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
Wednesday 22 May	First Eucharist Family Faith Night 6:30pm
Friday 24 May	Year 4 Excursion - Secondary School Taster Session
Week 7	
Monday 27 May	Reconciliation Week - Pyjama Day - Gold Coin Donation Assembly - 6G 2:40pm
Friday 31 May	PIC Meeting 2:30pm
Saturday June 1	First Eucharist - 4P 1:00pm & 4MT 3:00pm
Week 8	
Friday 7 June	School Closure Day
Week 9	
Monday 10 June	School Closure - King's Birthday
Week 10	
Tuesday 18 June	Student Led Conferences - 1M ONLY
Week 11	
Monday 24 June	Assembly 4P 2:40pm
Tuesday 25 June	Student Led Conferences - Students dismissed 1:00pm
Wednesday 26 June	Student Led Conferences
Friday 28 June	End of Term 2 - STUDENTS DISMISSED 1:00pm

Additions/Amendments are shown in RED

Term 3	
Week 1	
Monday 15 July	Term 3 begins 8:45am
Wednesday 17 July	PIC Meeting 6:15pm
Week 3	
Wednesday 31 July	Year 3 to 6 - House Athletics Carnival
Week 5	
Wednesday 14 August	Year 5 and 6 Human Development- Puberty facilitated by Choicez. Online at 6:30-7:30pm
Thursday 15 August	Confirmation Mass Rehearsal - St Patrick's
Friday 16 August	National Day against Bullying
Sunday 18 August	Confirmation - St Patrick's Cathedral 2:00pm
Week 6	
Friday 23 August	Better Buddies Day - Book Week Parade/ Grandparents Day
Week 7	
Wednesday 28 August	St John's School Performance 7:00pm
Thursday 29 August	PIC Father's Day Stall - TBC St John's School Performance 7:00pm
Friday 30 August	School Closure Day
Week 8	
Wednesday 4 September	PIC Meeting 2:30pm
Week 10	
Friday 20 September	Footy Colours Day End of Term 3 - STUDENTS DISMISSED 1:00pm
Term 4	
Week 1	
Monday 7 October	Term 4 Begins 8:45am
Wednesday 9 October	PIC AGM 6:15pm
Week 3	
Thursday 24 October	Prep 2025 Parent Information Evening
Week 4	
Thursday 31 October	Reconciliation - Year 3 - 7:00pm
Week 9	
Wednesday 4 December	School Closure Day
Week 10	
Monday 9 December	Christmas Carols 6:00pm
Week 11	
Monday 16 December	Year 6 Graduation
Tuesday 17 December	Year 6 and Prep Big Day Out
Wednesday 18 December	End of Year Assembly 9:00am Year 6 Farewell End of Term 4 - STUDENTS DISMISSED 1:00pm