



# Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee

Newsletter No. 3  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Families,

We have had a couple of big weeks in the school in our learning and in our living.

Beginning with Lent – Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, whole school Mass and liturgy, District Swimming and of course the newspaper article in The Age, highlighting the MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools) launch of the Vision for Instruction, and Bethany as a school experiencing success in this learning. We have much to be proud of as a school community – our students for their enthusiasm for learning, our educators for their capacity to be open to new ways of learning and teaching to improve student outcomes, for our instructional leaders, who ensure the professional learning undertaken is embraced and embedded in our practice, and for you the families for your continued trust. You may like to read the article here. [The big change coming to the way Catholic school kids are taught](#)

We also have our Prep 2025 Information Sessions- 9:30am and 6pm, tomorrow- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February. This will include information about Bethany, a school tour, and the process and criteria for enrolment. If you have a sibling beginning school in 2025, you are welcome to attend or if you know of a family wishing to enrol their child please pass on the information. We are very much looking forward to meeting new and prospective families to Bethany.

A thank you to all those families using the Redford St “Drop and Go” for that purpose, the traffic each morning has flowed so much better as a consequence. Again, if you wish to walk your child in, please use the Car Park. It is a little slower to get out of, but it serves the purpose.

We have begun library borrowing for students, if you are able to assist with the covering of new books, restocking the shelves, or tidying shelves, please complete the eform on the Newsletter 3 Operoo.

We have Open Night next Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March from 3-5pm, for families to visit their child's learning space, see some of their learning and to connect with their hub teacher. We look forward to seeing you then.

Thank you again for your continued support. Take care. God bless

Joanne Webster  
Principal

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## Prayer:

God of love, you love each of us at every moment of our lives,  
Give us confidence in that love, and help us to love as you do.  
As we listen to the needs around us with our physical ears,  
open the ears of our hearts to receive and  
respond to those who come to us in their time of need.  
In your all-loving name, we pray.  
Amen.

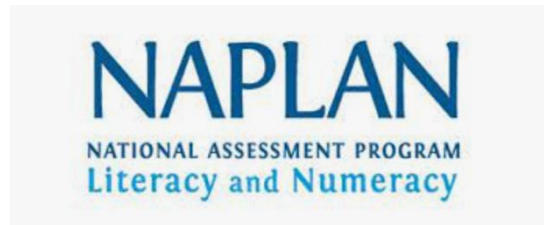
## Staff News

We welcome Kym Young back to school from LSL next week. We hope she is well rested and re-energised for the year ahead. Jo Allison is currently on LSL, preparing for and celebrating, Jesse's (her daughter's) impending marriage to Tom. Congratulations to all.

## School News

### NAPLAN

The National Assessment program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. Naplan is completed online for all students, except the Year 3 Writing, in which the students are able to complete on paper. The Naplan dates are **Wednesday 13th March - Monday 25th March** and all students in Year 3 and 5 will undertake the NAPLAN tests. More information will be sent to families closer to the date.



### Shrove Tuesday

On Shrove Tuesday we got to make pancakes from Prep to Year 6 but in the leadership centre we got to make our own pancakes. Our group was with Suzie outside and when it got windy, we moved inside. It was a very fun and exciting morning. We were able to flip our own pancakes, make the batter and pour on the frying pan. We added other toppings like maple syrup, butter and strawberry jam, which gave us lots of energy to go swimming.

[Hayley and Laela MacKillop Hub](#)



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### Prep Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Following the Whole School Ash Wednesday Liturgy last Wednesday, the Exploration Centre marked the start of the Lenten season with their own Ash Wednesday Liturgy for Foundation students on Thursday. We are so proud of the way that the newest members of our community sat, listened and participated in the prayer experience calmly and reverently. During the liturgy, they explored the symbols of Lent including the Palm Leaves, ashes, purple cloth and cross. They are learning about prayer and building their understanding of their relationship with God and their identity as part of our Catholic school community.



### Bethany Day Celebrations

On Monday, March 25th, the school will be celebrating Bethany Day - a wellbeing day where the children will participate in Kaboom Sports activities as well as learning about our school saints - Mary, Martha and Lazarus, who came from the town of Bethany and were good friends of Jesus.

As part of our Bethany Day celebrations, we are requesting if parents could send shoe boxes to school. Children will be using the shoe boxes as part of an Art activity on that day. Your support is much appreciated! A note will go home to families shortly outlining the events of the day and an invitation to you attend.

### Bridging Centre (Years 3/4) News

What a busy start to the school year it has been in the Bridging Centre!

In Year 3, students have been exploring ways to make their writing more engaging for their intended audience. When writing a persuasive piece, structural elements such as sizzling opening and closing statements, strong arguments and rhetorical questions assist writers to convey their opinions in an effort to convince their reader to believe the same as they do. Using our newly delivered Chromebook devices, students have practised their touch-typing skills to publish completed work.

*I wrote a persuasive piece trying to convince people that soccer is the best sport. I think that I was about to convince some of my friends to believe me. **Aiden** (Murray Hub)*

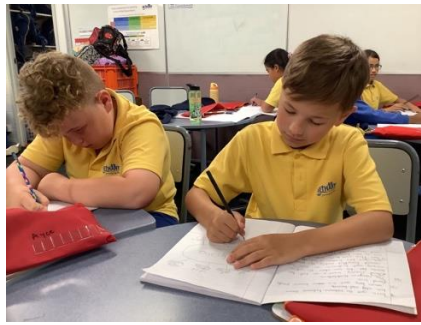
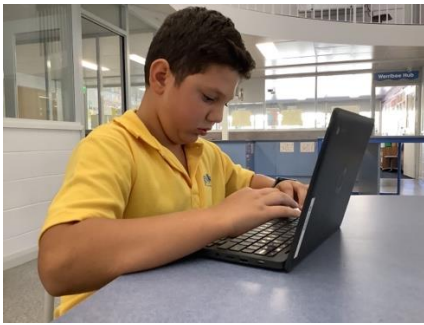
Through their investigation of the narrative genre, Year 4 students have focussed on ways to build suspense and action in their writing pieces. Developing a wider repertoire of vocabulary has been a key focus; using a thesaurus to identify different synonyms, adjectives and adverbs they could use to elevate the quality of their narratives.

*Here is my sizzling starter: "I was asleep when suddenly... I was late for Godzilla's wedding. Even worse... I was the bride." **Ayce** (Todd Hub)*

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It's important to use paragraphs in our narrative stories because they help the reader to know where the orientation, complication and resolution are found. **Swara** (Jordan Hub)



### The Discovery Centre- Phill Cristofaro - Apple Distinguished Education

In the Discovery Centre, the teachers and students worked with Phil Cristofaro from Apple Education.

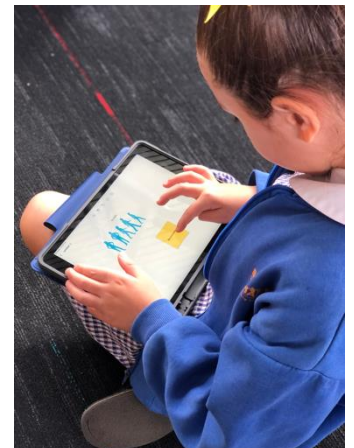
Students spoke to Phill about their Inquiry unit- What makes a community successful?

They spoke about the rights and responsibilities of others in our community and how they can help their community.

Year 1 students used the Keynote app to create slides about their family, school and community.

The Year 2 students explored the app Freeform to create a concept map of different communities. Students created colourful sticky notes, used the drawing tools and grouped objects to create their concept map.

We look forward to seeing and working with Phill again in three weeks' time.



### Chicken Inn Update

Currently 125 students in the Bridging Centre have put their hands up and volunteered to help care for our school chickens on a rotational basis. During Week 4, six students from Werribee Hub (Year 3) have been tasked with this responsibility. Each day, they have been working collaboratively to ensure that the chickens have fresh water to drink, pellets to eat, some fruit and

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vegetable treats collected from the Discovery Centre, clean up the poo in the roosting box and collect the eggs. This opportunity will support students to further develop their independence, collaboration and responsibility throughout the year when it is their turn to care for these beautiful animals.

*I have really enjoyed having the chance to feed the chickens every day. Our school chicken Goldie is always the hungriest!* **Shehneez** (Werribee Hub)

*I have learnt how to tip out and change the water in the chicken's drinking containers. I have had to give the containers a good scrub so that they are really clean.* **Isaac** (Werribee Hub)

*Watching the chickens run around the veggie garden has been fun. They like to walk around; scratching the ground while looking for worms.* **Selina** (Werribee Hub)



### District Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday the 21st of February, the Bethany swimming team travelled together to the Werribee outdoor pool to take on eight other schools in the Truganina District swimming competition. 24 Bethany students competed strongly in all four strokes, as well as medley and freestyle relays. After a day of consistent performances, Bethany came out as eventual victors. Well done to all who participated on the day and the many who progressed to the Wyndham Division Finals.



### Swimming Program 2024

This week our Years 1-4 are experiencing the Swimming Program. Next week our Year prep students will be going to Aqua Pulse for their lessons. Parents, please ensure you have given permission on Operoo,

DATES	YEAR	TIMES
Week 6 Monday 4 – Friday 8 March	Prep	12:00 -1:30 2 Lesson times

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Swim & survive is a comprehensive swimming and water safety program, which seeks to encourage the development of swimming and water safety skills of children to prevent drowning and to increase their participation in safe aquatic activities.

### Positive Behaviour for Learning PBL

The students have settled back into our school routines nicely. They demonstrate a strong understanding every day of what it means to **Be Safe, Be Respectful** and **Be Responsible** at Bethany. You may notice some of your children coming home with our special Positive Behaviour for Learning stickers. When a sticker is awarded, this is acknowledging the positive behaviours we are seeing throughout the school day. The students are working together to collate their stickers and turn them into house points and into personal rewards! If your child comes home with a **Be Safe, Be Respectful** or **Be Responsible** sticker, open the conversation with them and talk about their achievement. They will be delighted to share with you why they received their sticker!



### The Resilience Project

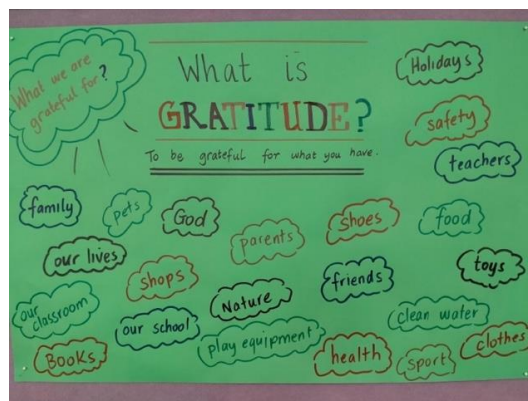
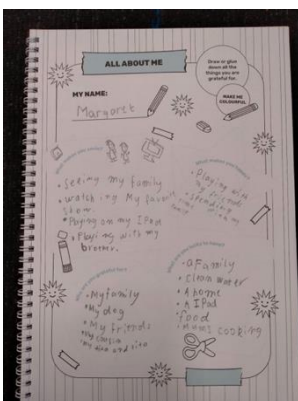
During Weeks 4 and 5, students were introduced to The Resilience Project and the meaning of 'Gratitude', the first of its four key concepts. Gratitude can be defined as 'the practice of being thankful and focusing on what we have in our lives, not what we don't.' ([Gratitude and the benefits of journaling](#), *The Resilience Project*, 2022.) So far, students have listened to [the DIS story](#), a story of a young boy named Stunzin, who demonstrated gratitude for the little things in his life, such as shoes on his feet, a bowl of hot rice for lunch and playing with his friends. It is important for us all to pause in our busy lives and take stock of the small things we are grateful for, like a fresh cup of coffee, a smooth run to work without too much traffic or the warmer weather we have been experiencing lately. What are three things you are grateful for this week? (You may like to share these as a family over dinner one night.)

*I am grateful for having a cosy bed and a good life.* **Zander M (Yarra Hub)**

*I am grateful for having a loving family and having a roof over my head.* **Evie D (Yarra Hub)**

*I am grateful for my family and the food I have to eat.* **Ayo A (Jordan Hub)**

*I am grateful for helping others when they are feeling down.* **George P (Jordan Hub)**



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## Family News

### Second Hand Uniform Sale

We will be holding a second-hand uniform sale on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Second hand uniforms can be dropped off to the Admin Office from tomorrow 29<sup>th</sup> February. Please ensure any items for sale are in good condition, clean and clearly labelled with the following information:

- Family name
- Eldest child's hub
- Size
- Price

The second-hand uniform sale will run during school drop off and school pick up on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March the basketball court and items can be purchased with CASH ONLY. Cash is required as we endeavour to return all funds directly to families who have sold uniform. We thank you for your understanding.

### Caritas Donations

God of love, you love each of us at every moment of our lives,  
Give us confidence in that love, and help us to love as you do.  
As we listen to the needs around us with our physical ears, open the ears of our hearts to receive and respond to those who come to us in their time of need.  
In your all-loving name, we pray.  
AMEN.



As part of our Almsgiving focus in Religious Education during this season of Lent, staff, students and families are invited to take action to help those in need.

Bethany has again partnered with Caritas, an Australian charity whose mission is to make a difference by empowering people living in poverty. Caritas uses donations to fund projects and initiatives that improve the wellbeing and livelihoods of various disadvantaged communities around the world.

Students are encouraged to bring a donation to school and place it in their hub's special Project Compassion donation money box. Parents can also donate online by accessing our fundraising page at <https://schools.projectcompassion.org.au/o/bethany-catholic-primary-school>

or using the QR code:



The school's Social Justice leaders from the Leadership Centre will be helping lead these fundraising efforts and will announce extra fundraising initiatives to help raise money for Caritas towards the end of this term.

#### DONATE TODAY

<b>\$35</b>
<small>CAN PROVIDE HAND SANITISER TO INCREASE HYGIENE AND SANITATION FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN SAMOA</small>
<b>\$65</b>
<small>CAN HELP PROVIDE A GOAT FOR A FAMILY IN RURAL MALAWI</small>
<b>\$250</b>
<small>CAN PROVIDE A TOILET TO ONE FAMILY IN SAMOA</small>
<b>\$500</b>
<small>CAN PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING TO 15 PEOPLE FOR INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS START-UP BUSINESS SUPPORT IN THE PHILIPPINES</small>

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## Happy Families

This week's article is called Low Effort, High Pay-off Parenting. Its content is about not parenting harder but parenting smarter. By balancing efficiency and effectiveness, you can be the best parents without burning yourself out in the process. Enjoy the read, we hope you pick up a few ideas.

You can access the website at <https://schools.happyfamilies.com.au/login> and the password is happybcps

## Assemblies:

Assemblies are held on Mondays, generally fortnightly at 2:25pm. Please find the Assembly Schedule.

Our next assembly is on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March and is a Leadership Assembly, announcing our Social Justice Leaders and our Student Representative Council members from Year 2-6. A new initiative for the 2024 school year to strengthen student voice and initiatives around the school.

All families are invited to attend. These are generally held on the basketball court or in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

ASSEMBLIES - 2024								
	TERM 1		TERM 2		TERM 3		TERM 4	
WEEK	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS
1			15 APRIL		15 JULY		7 OCTOBER	
2	5 FEBRUARY	Principal - JOANNE	22 APRIL	Year 5/6 Kolbe/Mandela	22 JULY	Year 6 Teresa/Little	14 OCTOBER	Year 5 Chisholm/MacKillop
3	12 FEBRUARY		29 APRIL		29 JULY		21 OCTOBER	
4	19 FEBRUARY	PBL	6 MAY	Year 2 Gold / Violet	6 AUGUST	Year 2 Indigo/Blue	28 OCTOBER	Prep Sky/Ocean
5	26 FEBRUARY		14 MAY		13 AUGUST		4 NOVEMBER	
6	4 MARCH	Leadership Assembly	20 MAY	Year 3 Werribee/Yarra	19 AUGUST	Year 4 Jordan/Sepik	11 NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY- Leadership Centre
7	11 MARCH	HOLIDAY	27 MAY		26 AUGUST		18 NOVEMBER	
8	18 MARCH	Year 1 Red/Orange	3 JUNE	Year 1 Yellow/Green	2 SEPTEMBER	Prep Earth/Star	25 NOVEMBER	Year 3/4 Todd/Murray
9	25 MARCH		10 JUNE	HOLIDAY	10 SEPTEMBER		2 DECEMBER	PP DAY
10			17 JUNE	PE / Art	16 SEPTEMBER	BOITE/Italian	Thurs 12 DECEMBER	End of Year Assembly JOANNE
11			24 JUNE				16 Dec	

## Matters Financial

### Student Levies

All student levies (\$395.00 per student) were expected to be finalised by **Friday, 2nd February**. Payment can be made over the phone by credit card or in person between 8.30am – 4:00pm.

### Health Care Card Holders (CSEF)

Parents who hold a Health Care Card that is current on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 may be eligible for the CSEF. This grant offers \$125 per student. The payment is made directly to the school and as such would offset \$150.00 of the student fee.

Families with a Health Care Card are asked to make an application for the Sport / Excursion grant on either at the beginning of the school year. It is important that you have your Health Care Card with you when making an application. Successful applicants will then only need to pay \$245.00 per student fee.

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**If you received this payment in 2023 you do not need to reapply. You will automatically receive this payment if your Health Care Card is still valid.**

### **Concessional Fee Policy**

The concessional fee policy was introduced to support families struggling to pay school fees. Concessional school fees are available to any family that meets the below eligibility criteria:

- Holding a valid HCC and eligible for CSEF
- Experiencing severe financial hardship
- Holding a DVA Gold Card
- Identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard
- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage

You will also be required to complete a form as a part of the process to determine eligibility. Should you wish further information re this funding or if you have questions as to whether you are eligible, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to Joanne Webster.

### **First Instalment School Fee**

If you opted to pay your school fees by three instalments, the first instalment **\$590.00** was due by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**.

### ***Parent in Partnership and School Advisory Council***

**Parent in Partnership Meetings for the 2024** will be held on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 6:45pm in the Staffroom
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 6:45pm in the Staffroom
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 6:45pm in the Staffroom
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

**School Advisory Council Meetings** will be held on:

- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March – 6:45pm – 8:15pm
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May – 6:45pm – 8:15pm
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August – 6:45pm – 8:15pm
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – 6:45pm – 8:15pm

### **Important Dates-**

#### **2024 Dates**

#### **February**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February – 2025 Prep Information sessions: 9:30am & 6:00pm

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## March

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Year Prep swimming program  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Leadership Assembly 2:25pm  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform Sale – Basketball Court – school drop-off & pick-up  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Division swimming  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March – 3-5pm School Open Night  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Labour Day Holiday  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Catholic Education Week  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Assembly 2:25pm (Red & Orange Hubs)  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Leadership Centre Camp Adanac  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Bethany Day  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Last Day Term 1 – students finish at **12:30pm**  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday

**Last day of Term 1: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30pm**

## April

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Term 2 begins – 8:45am start  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Athletics Carnival  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Legacy ANZAC Service (School Leaders)  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Assembly 2:25pm (Kolbe & Mandela Hubs)  
Wednesday 24 April – School Photo Day  
Thursday 25 April – ANZAC Day holiday

## School Closures for 2024

The following dates are school closure days for 2024. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES:**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June- Learning Conversations  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Professional Learning Conference  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Professional Learning Conference  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Assessment & Report Writing  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – 2025 Planning Day

## Public Holidays for 2024

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Labor Day Public Holiday  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April – ANZAC Day Public Holiday  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June – King's Birthday Public Holiday  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

## Sacrament Dates 2024 PLEASE MARK IN YOUR DIARIES

**First Communion** – Year 4 Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 5:00pm and 7:00pm at St Andrew's Church  
**Confirmation** – Year 6 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August 5:00pm and 7:00pm in the Bethany School Hall  
**First Reconciliation** – Year 3 Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 5:00pm and 7:00pm in St Andrew's Church

## Family Nights for Sacraments 2024

**Eucharist Family Night**- Year 4 students and parents/carers- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 6:45pm School Hall **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**  
**Confirmation Family Night** – Year 6 students and parents/carers –Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 6:45pm School Hall  
**Reconciliation Family Night** – Year 3 students and parents/carers –Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 6:45pm School Hall  
**All students and families celebrating these sacraments are required to attend.**

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## LUNCH ORDER PRICELIST 2024

HOT FOOD	
Party Pies	\$2.00
Sausage Rolls	\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce	\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce & Cheese	\$6.00
Schnitzel Sandwich	\$6.50
Schnitzel Sandwich with Lettuce & Mayo	\$7.00
Extras:     Sauce	\$0.20
Mustard	\$0.20
Paper Bag	\$0.20

CAKES	
Iced Donuts	\$1.20
Cinnamon Donuts	\$1.00
Jam Donuts	\$3.00
Chocolate Jam Donuts	\$3.50
Croissant	\$3.00
Lamington	\$4.00
Apple Cake	\$4.50
Mini Mud Cake	\$4.50
Hedgehog	\$4.50
Muffin (Chocolate Chip & Blueberry)	\$4.50
Happy Face/Neenish Tart	\$3.50

DRINKS	
Prima (Orange or Apple)	\$2.50
Prima (Apple & Raspberry)	\$2.50
Kids Milk (Chocolate or Strawberry)	\$3.00

SANDWICHES	
Ham or Chicken	\$4.00
Ham or Chicken & Cheese	\$5.50
Ham or Chicken, Cheese & Salad	\$7.50
Cheese & Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber & Carrot)	\$7.50
Cheese & Bacon Roll	\$2.00
Cheese Roll	\$1.80
Cheese & Vegemite Scroll	\$4.00

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