

Dear Families,

Welcome to the final newsletter for Term 1. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you- the students, the families, the staff, for the learning and teaching fostered, for the learning and living you have all contributed to our community and most of all for the positive and seamless beginning we have had to the 2025 school year. Very grateful for each of you and the blessings you bring to this community.

We have our **School Community Mass on Saturday 29th March at 6:00pm at St Andrew's Church**. This evening is an opportunity for all to celebrate Mass as a community of Bethany, forming our student's/children's faith in partnership. We will have our school leaders and choir leading the readings and hymns. We would love to see you and your family at the Mass,

Thank you to all those who have purchased tickets for our first fundraiser of the year, the Easter Raffle. To support the prizes for the raffle a **casual dress day will take place this Friday 28th March, with an Easter Egg Donation. Raffle tickets due to school by Monday 31st March. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 3rd of April, at 12:00noon**. Our fundraising efforts this year will go towards refurbishing the Discovery and Exploration Centre - hubs and spaces.

Our whole school **Athletics Day** takes place on **Monday 31st March**. On this day we showcase the athletic ability of all our students. Students are asked to bring their lunch and snacks in a disposable bag, wear a hat, sports uniform and the coloured t-shirt signifying the House they belong to. A great day ahead. Thank you to all the families who have volunteered their assistance on this day.

To continue to demonstrate prayer, we will celebrate **Holy Week**, as a whole school with the **Stations of the Cross**. This will take place at **9:30am on Friday 4th April**. All families are invited. An invitation from your child will follow. We look forward to sharing this with you on the day.

Our annual **Mother's Day Breakfast** will be held on **Thursday 8th May** beginning at 7:45am in the school hall. All mothers or significant women in the children's lives are invited to attend along with their children. An Operoo requesting numbers for this went home on Monday, please confirm asap for catering purposes. If there are any dads or father like figures who would like to assist on the day, please complete the form on the Operoo or let Admin know on 9742 9800.

Over the holidays the Oval will be resurfaced. This is an enormous job, and a much needed one. We will have the top layer scrapped off, and new turf planted. To ensure the turf establishes itself, students will be unable to use the oval for the first four weeks of Term 2. **The playgrounds will also be out of bounds for all students and families after school** for the four first weeks to ensure all stay off the newly planted grass.

The last day of the term is Friday 4th April. Students finish school at 12:30pm. There will be NO LUNCH ORDERS.

To thank the students for their enthusiasm with their learning and living in Term 1, the Student Representative Council has made the decision that **Friday 4th April** will be **Funky Feet Friday**. All students are invited to wear casual clothes and SOMETHING FUNNY ON THEIR FEET.

This could be

- Odd socks
- Colourful socks
- Odd shoes
- Interesting shoes

Looking forward to seeing all of the interesting feet on Friday!



The First Day of Term 2 is Tuesday 22nd April — 8:45am start.

We will have our **Bethany Day Celebration** on **Thursday 24th April**. This day celebrates our patron saints- Martha, Mary and Lazarus- Jesus' best friends. On this day we learn about Bethany and these saints and their love for Jesus, as well as spending time in Houses launching our leadership team. All families are welcome. An Operoo with all the details will go home to families shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy, safe and Holy Easter. May it be a time of joy, renewal, and reflection, filled with the hope of new beginnings and the love of God, as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

I ask you to pray for me as I follow the journey of St. Paul, visiting the places where he preached and spread the Gospel. I look forward to sharing this faith filled experience with you all upon my return. I will be away from Wednesday 26th March until the end of term 1. Kate Flanders will act as Principal in my absence. I thank you for your prayers as I embark on this journey, and for your continued support of the leaders and staff at Bethany.

Enjoy the remainder of the week and the week ahead.

Take care. God bless.

Joanne Webster
Principal

Prayer

Lent Week 4

God who created me,
You offer me new life through your Son
and through the gift of your sacraments.
While I see new life all around me,
I don't always recognize the new life you offer me.
Help me to grow this Lent in an awareness
of the gifts you place in my life
and in a greater appreciation for your care.
Give me the courage to ask for help.
Amen

Staff News

We wish Brenton Payne and Simon Beraldo all the very best as they embark on Long Service Leave for the remainder of the term and in term 2. May this time bring them rest and renewal and we look forward to seeing them both refreshed for the year ahead upon their return.

School News

Transition to Winter Uniform

The students will have the beginning of term 2, Tuesday 22nd April until Friday 2nd May to transition to Winter uniform. This means for the first two weeks of term the students may wear winter or summer uniform. All students begin wearing Winter uniform on **Monday 5th May**. We will have a Second-Hand Uniform sale on **Tuesday 29th April at 8:45am and 2:45pm**. This will allow families to purchase winter uniform for their children.

Holy Week Liturgy- Stations of the Cross- Friday April 4th

Stations of the Cross - Friday April 4th

To commemorate Holy Week in the lead up to Easter, students will be participating in a Stations of the Cross Pilgrimage which will be led by Year 6 student leaders and reenacted by some Year 4 students at different points around the school.

The Stations of the Cross is a significant prayer time because it allows us to reflect on Jesus Christ's suffering and death on the cross. It is a devotional practice in which we spiritually walk with Jesus on His journey to Calvary, deepening our faith, gratitude, and understanding of His sacrifice.

The times that each hub will be visiting the different stations are below:

Hubs																	
	9:15	9:20	9:25	9:30	9:35	9:40	9:45	9:50	9:55	10:00	10:05	10:10	10:15	10:20	10:25	10:30	10:35
Star/Ocean/Violet									1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Earth/Sky/Gold								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Green/Red/Orange							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Yellow/Blue/Indigo						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Werribee/ Jordan/ Yarra					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
Sepik/ Murray/ Todd				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9					
Chisholm/ Teresa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
MacKillop/ Little		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9							
Mandela/ Kolbe	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9								

We believe that your presence will support our students and enrich your own spiritual journey as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. It will also allow us to celebrate the end of Term 1 together as a community. We hope to see you there.

Masses, Sacraments and Family Nights for 2025

2025 Bethany Masses & Sacrament Dates Updated

Sacraments: Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation / Year Level Mass / Whole School Mass / Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass Wednesday March 5th 10am (Week 6) Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church Saturday March 29th 6pm (Week 9) TBC Holy Week Liturgy Friday April 4th 9:30am (Week 10)	Eucharist Family Meeting Wednesday April 30th at 6:45pm (Week 2) Year 1 & 6 Level Mass Thursday May 8th at 10am (Week 3) Our Lady Help Of Christians Mass Whole School Mass Friday May 23rd at 10am (Week 5) Reconciliation prior to Eucharist Thursday June 5th at 12pm (Week 7) Sacrament of Eucharist Thursday June 12th at 5pm St. Andrew's (Week 8)	Confirmation Family Meeting Wednesday July 23rd at 6:45pm (Week 1) Reconciliation prior to Confirmation Thursday July 31st at 12pm (Week 2) Bethany Saints Feast Day Whole School Mass Friday August 1st at 10am (Week 2) Sacrament of Confirmation Thursday August 7th at 5pm (Week 3) Prep, Year 3 & 5 Level Mass Thursday August 21st at 10am (Week 5) Year 2 & 4 Level Mass Thursday September 4th at 10am (Week 7) Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church Saturday September 13th at 6pm (Week 8) TBC	Reconciliation Family Meeting Wednesday Oct 22nd at 6:45pm (Week 3) Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday 29th Oct at 5 pm (Week 4) Thanksgiving/ Grandparents Day Whole School Mass Thursday November 13th at 10am (Week 6)

Assembly

Assemblies are held on Mondays, generally fortnightly at 2:25pm. Please find the Assembly Schedule. All families are invited to attend. These are generally held on the basketball court or in the school hall. Assemblies begin again in Term 2 on Monday 28th April at 2:25pm.

ASSEMBLIES - 2025								
	TERM 1		TERM 2		TERM 3		TERM 4	
WEEK	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS
1			22 APRIL		21 JULY		6 OCTOBER	
2	3 FEBRUARY	Principal - JOANNE	28 APRIL	Year 6 Teresa/Little	28 JULY	Year 5/6 Kolbe/Mandela	13 OCTOBER	Year 5 Chisholm/MacKillop
3	10 FEBRUARY		5 MAY		4 AUGUST		20 OCTOBER	
4	17 FEBRUARY	PBL	12 MAY	Year 2 Indigo/Blue	11 AUGUST	Year 2 Gold / Violet	27 OCTOBER	Prep Earth/Star
5	24 FEBRUARY		19 MAY		18 AUGUST		3 NOVEMBER	
6	3 MARCH	Leadership Assembly	26 MAY	Year 4 Jordan/Sepik	25 AUGUST	PE / Italian	10 NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY- Leadership Centre
7	10 MARCH	HOLIDAY	2 JUNE		1 SEPTEMBER		17 NOVEMBER	
8	17 MARCH	Year 1 Yellow/Green	9 JUNE	Year 1 Red/Orange	8 SEPTEMBER	Prep Sky/Ocean	24 NOVEMBER	Year 3/4 Todd/Murray
9	24 MARCH		16 JUNE	HOLIDAY	15 SEPTEMBER		1 DECEMBER	PP DAY
10	31 MARCH		23 JUNE	Year 3 Werribee/Yarra			Thurs 11 DECEMBER	End of Year Assembly JOANNE
11			30 JUNE				15 Dec	

All students attending Bethany Primary School have the right to feel safe. The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility of all within our school.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Our new Preps have been working hard to learn and follow Bethany's Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) expectations! They can now proudly explain what each expectation means:

★ **Being Safe** – "No hitting and keeping your hands to yourself " – **Gabriel**



★ **Being Respectful** – "Being kind to others" – **Layla**

★ **Being Responsible** – "Listening to others and your teachers " – **Lucas**



They are also loving the excitement of earning PBL stickers to take home as an acknowledgement for their fantastic behaviour throughout the school day.

Well done, Preps! Keep up the great work! 🍌👏

Positive Behaviour for Learning School Wide Expectations



Let Learners Learn and Teachers Teach

	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Learning Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Line up and walk calmly and quietly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use kind words and actions Use whole body listening Follow directions promptly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look after self, others and equipment Be a responsible learner
Outside Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands and feet to yourself Use spaces and equipment correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use kind words and actions Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look after self, others and equipment Wear correct uniform Be on time & walk promptly to line up

UPDATED JAN 2024



Inform and Empower: Raising Kids in a Digital World

On Thursday March 20, Marty and Carley McGauran from Inform and Empower presented their online webinar Raising Kids in a Digital World. We thank the many parents who enrolled and participated in the webinar. The webinar covered topics such as understanding and navigating the digital world, consuming versus interacting, gaming, cyberbullying, interacting with AI, supervision and setting up boundaries at home. They spoke about the importance of setting up parental controls on all devices, ensuring children are supervised when using devices and creating a family plan at home and sticking to the family plan.

If you were unable to attend the online event, we have provided a link to access the recording of webinar.

Inform and Empower- online webinar. Raising Kids in a Digital World:

- **Replay Video:** <https://event.webinarjam.com/t/click/159qxbqobm4i82h798kh9y1f54rsn>

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

Family Activity

MINDFUL MOVEMENT: CONNECTING BODY & MIND

As a family, discuss how often when we move, we do so mindlessly. We are more focused on where we are trying to get to or the thoughts spinning around in our heads. **When we move with mindfulness, it becomes a fantastic way to bring together movement of the body and focus of the mind.**

ACTIVITY IDEA: FAMILY WALKING MEDITATION

Set aside time to take a short walk together. As you walk, practice mindful movement by focusing on each step you take. **Remind yourselves that your body is moving, while your mind remains calm and present.**

Here are some ideas to help you focus:



Pay attention to **your breath** as you walk.



Notice how your **arms swing**, your **feet lift**, and your **knees bend**.



Focus on the sensation of your foot touching the ground: heel, ball, and toes.

After your walk, talk about how it felt. Did it help you feel more centered? Where else in your daily life could mindful movement be helpful?



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:



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theresilienceproject.com.au

Happy Families - Getting Kids to Open Up: Simple Ways to Encourage Conversation

Do you ever ask your child how their day was, only to get a one-word answer - or just a shrug? You're not alone! Many children, from little ones to teenagers, go through phases where talking feels like the last thing they want to do, especially after a long day at school. But don't worry - there are simple ways to encourage conversation and strengthen your family bond.



Why Kids Go Quiet

Children often struggle to put big emotions into words, especially when they're tired or dealing with friendship ups and downs. As kids grow, their brains develop in ways that can make expressing emotions tricky - especially for older children.

How to Get Them Talking

- ★ **Side-by-Side Conversations** – Kids often open up when they're busy doing something else. Try chatting while playing, walking the dog, or driving.
- ★ **Listen, Don't Lecture** – Instead of jumping in with advice, simply acknowledge their feelings: "That sounds tricky" or "Wow, that must have been exciting!"
- ★ **Make One-on-One Time a Priority** – Just 10 minutes of focused time - reading together, sharing a snack, or shooting hoops - can make all the difference.

Most importantly, be patient! Small, regular moments of connection build trust and keep communication open as your child grows.

For more information, visit <https://schools.happyfamilies.com.au/login/bethanycps> and use the password **happybcps**.

Family News

Second Hand Uniform- Tuesday 29th April 8:45am and 2:45pm

We will be holding a second-hand uniform sale Tuesday 29th April from 8:45am and 2:45pm near the Basketball Court.

Second hand uniforms can be dropped off to the Admin Office from Tuesday 22nd April. 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 on 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.

MacKillop College Open Day

Thursday 1 May 2025

4.00pm – 6.30pm

Final Tour at 5.45pm

All welcome to attend and tour the College.

For further information regarding the College please visit the College

website: www.mackillop.vic.edu.au

Enrolments for Year 7 2027

Applications close on Friday 17 August 2025

Key Enrolment Dates for Year 5 2025 beginning Secondary School in 2027

If you wish to enrol your child in a Catholic Secondary School beginning in 2027, please observe the following dates.

- Tuesday 28th January 2025 – Applications will open for students commencing Year 7 in 2027.
- Friday 17th August 2025 – Applications will close.
- Friday 17th October 2025 – Offers will be posted to prospective 2027 Year 7 applicants.
- Friday 7th November 2025 – Final date for parents/carers to accept an offer made by a school.

If you require any further information, please see Sheree or Elaine.

Matters Financial

Student Levies

All student levies (\$420.00 per student) were expected to be finalised by **Friday 31st January 2025**. We would appreciate you attending to this matter if you have not already done so.

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 29th January, 2025 may be eligible for the CSEF. This grant offers \$154.00 per student. The payment is made directly to the school and as such would offset \$154.00 of the student fee.

Families with a Health Care Card are asked to make an application for the Sport / Excursion grant 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 \$266.00 per student fee.

If you received this payment in 2024 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.

Instalment School Fee

If you opted to by your school fees by three instalments, the second instalment **\$615.00** is due by **Friday 2nd May, 2025.**

Important Dates –

School Dates for 2025 **NEW**

March 2025

Thursday 27th March – Yr 5 MCG excursion

Friday 28th March – Casual Dress Day and Easter Raffle donation

Saturday 29th March – Bethany Community Mass at St Andrew's 6:00pm

Monday 31st March – Bethany Athletics Day

April 2025

Thursday 3rd April – Easter Raffle Drawn

Friday 4th April – Stations of the Cross 9:30am – 10:30am

Friday 4th April – Last day of Term 1 – Casual Dress – 12:30pm finish – NO LUNCH ORDERS

Tuesday 22nd April – First Day of Term 2 – 8:45am start

Wednesday 23rd April – PIP Meeting – 1:30pm in the Resource Centre

Thursday 24th April – Bethany Day

Friday 25th April – Anzac Day – Public Holiday

Tuesday 29th April – Second Hand Uniform Sale – 8:45am & 2:45pm **NEW**

Wednesday 30th April – First Eucharist Family Night 6:45pm – School Hall

May 2025

Wednesday 7th May – District Cross Country

Thursday 8th May – Mother's Day Breakfast 7:45am – School Hall

Friday 9th May – Mother's Day Stall

Wednesday 14th May – Year 1 Werribee Zoo excursion **NEW**

Thursday 15th May – Year 3 Melbourne Zoo excursion

Friday 16th May – Year 5 Mad About Science incursion

Monday 19th May – Year 6 Victorian Space Science Education Centre excursion

Tuesday 20th May – Year 6 Victorian Space Science Education Centre excursion

Wednesday 21st May – PIP Meeting – 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Thursday 22nd May – Wyndham Cross Country

Thursday 22nd May – Exploration Centre Animal Land Children's Farm excursion

Friday 23rd May – Our Lady Help of Christians whole school mass 10:00am

Tuesday 27th May & Wednesday 28th May – Lady Northcote Camp Year 4

Wednesday 28th May – SAC Meeting – 6:45pm in the Staffroom

June 2025

Monday 2nd June & Tuesday 3rd June – School Closure days – Professional Learning – School Vision

Thursday 5th June – Reconciliation for Eucharist 12 noon

Thursday 12th June – Sacrament of Eucharist at St Andrew's Church – 5:00pm

Monday 16th June – Wednesday 18th June – Year 5 Anglesea Camp

Wednesday 18th June – Friday 20th June – Year 6 Anglesea Camp

July 2025

Thursday 3rd July – School Closure Day – Learning Conversations

Friday 4th July – Last day of Term 2 – Casual Dress – 12:30pm finish – NO LUNCH ORDERS

Monday 21st July – First Day of Term 2 – 8:45am start

Wednesday 23rd July – Confirmation Family Night 6:45pm – School Hall

Wednesday 30th July – PIP Meeting – 1:30pm in the Resource Centre

Parent in Partnership Dates for 2025

Term 2

Wednesday 23rd April – 1:30pm

Wednesday 21st May – 6:45pm

Term 3

Wednesday 30th July – 1:30pm

Wednesday 20th August – 6:45pm

Term 4

Wednesday 15th October – 1:30pm

Wednesday 12th November – 6:45pm

School Advisory Council Dates 2025

Wednesday 28th May – 6:45pm

Wednesday 3rd September – 6:45pm

Wednesday 19th November – 6:45pm

School Closures for 2025

The following dates are school closure days for 2025. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES:**

Monday 2nd June and Tuesday 3rd June – Professional Learning – School Vision

Thursday 3rd July – Learning Conversations

Monday 3rd November – Report Writing Day

Monday 1st December – 2026 Planning Day

Public Holidays for 2025

Monday 21st April – Easter Monday

Friday 25th April – ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Monday 9th June – King's Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 4th November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Sacrament Dates 2025 PLEASE MARK IN YOUR DIARIES

First Eucharist – Year 4 Thursday 12th June at 5:00pm at St Andrew's Church

Confirmation – Year 6 Thursday 7th August at 5:00pm in the Bethany School Hall

First Reconciliation – Year 3 Wednesday 29th October at 5:00pm in St Andrew's Church

Family Nights for Sacraments 2025

Eucharist Family Night – Year 4 students and parents/carers – Wednesday 30th April 6:45pm School Hall

Confirmation Family Night – Year 6 students and parents/carers – Wednesday 23rd July 6:45pm School Hall

Reconciliation Family Night – Year 3 students and parents/carers – Wednesday 15th October 6:45pm School Hall

All students and families celebrating these sacraments are required to attend.

LUNCH ORDER PRICELIST 2025

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