

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 3!

It has been a joy to see our students return from their break looking well-rested, refreshed, and ready for the term ahead. The calm and settled start to the term has created a positive and peaceful atmosphere across the school, and we are grateful for the way our children have embraced the new term with such enthusiasm and focus.

As a Catholic school, we begin this term with hearts full of gratitude—for the gift of rest, for the support of our families, and for the opportunity to continue nurturing our students in faith, learning, and wellbeing.

Next week, our Year 6 students will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation—a significant step in their faith journey as they receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this sacred occasion, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and strengthen them throughout their lives.

This term holds many exciting opportunities for learning, celebration, and growth. From hub learning and sporting events, the Prep 100 days, camp for Year 3s, masses and times of prayer and reflection: we look forward to all that lies ahead.

As we commemorate our 30th anniversary, we are reaching out to our community to help us celebrate. We are looking for foundation families *and* past families who may have photos or memories of the school throughout the years. If you have any photos, stories, or memorabilia that capture the spirit of our school over the past three decades, we'd love to include them in our special anniversary exhibition. Please get in touch—we'd be honoured to feature your memories as part of this milestone celebration!

New School Campus

We are pleased to share some exciting news about the future of Catholic education in our local area. Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) has recently purchased land on Hogans Road, Tarneit (near Riversdale Drive) for the purpose of building a primary school, which will also include a MACSEYE Early Years Education Centre.

Following thoughtful consideration and consultation with Father Albert, Parish Priest of St Andrew's Parish, MACS and myself as Principal of Bethany, a decision has been made that this new site will become a second campus of Bethany.

This exciting development will allow for shared decision-making across both campuses regarding staffing, enrolments and finances, and will provide future families with expanded options for Catholic education from Kindergarten to Year 6 within St Andrew's Parish.

We want to reassure our current families that there will be no impact on existing enrolments or the strong relationships that make Bethany such a special place.

Construction of the new campus will take place throughout 2025 and 2026, with the official opening planned for 2027. We will continue to keep our families and parish community informed as the project progresses.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Father Albert, MACS or myself, and we would be happy to assist.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we take this exciting step forward together.

May Term 3 be a time of peace, purpose, and joy for all in our school community.

Enjoy the remainder of the week

Take care. God bless.

Joanne Webster
Principal

Prayer to beginning Term 3

Loving God,
As we begin Term 3, we thank You for bringing us safely back to our school community.
We are grateful for the rest and renewal of the holidays, and for the chance to begin again.

Bless our students, teachers, and families.
Help us to open our hearts and minds to all that this new term holds—
New learning, new friendships, and new opportunities to grow.

In this winter season, when the days are shorter and colder,
May we be a warm light for one another—
Showing kindness, sharing joy, and walking in hope.

May our classrooms be places of wonder and discovery.
May our words be filled with encouragement.
And may our hearts be open to Your presence in all that we do.

Mary, Mother of God, walk with us this term.
Jesus, our teacher and friend, guide our learning.
Holy Spirit, fill our school with peace and love.

Amen.

Staff News

We would like to congratulate Catherine Wills and Aaron on the birth of Alice Valerie born on Monday 14th July. Mother and baby are doing well.

Student News

Masses, Sacraments and Family Nights for 2025

Thanksgiving For Our Grandparents: Whole School Mass is on Friday August 1st, 10:00am

Grandparents hold a special place in our lives and in our hearts. Some grandparents are very close and are a big part of our lives. Other grandparents might live a long way away and we only see them every now and then. Our grandparents love us and spoil us and make us feel very special and we thank them for their influence in our lives. **All parents, carers and grandparents are invited to this special whole school mass.**



Prep, Year 3 & Year 5 Prayer Time - Caring For Our Common Home

In Week 5 on **Thursday August 21st at 10am in the Hall**, Prep, Year 3 & Year 5 students will celebrate a special **prayer time** together. The liturgy will be related to what the students are studying in Religious Education - "We Are All Brothers & Sisters, Caring for Our Common Home". All families are most welcome to attend. This will not be a Mass.

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)	Eucharist Family Meeting Wednesday April 30th at 6:45pm (Week 2)	Confirmation Spirituality Day Wednesday July 23rd and Thursday July 24th (Week 1)	Reconciliation Family Meeting Wednesday Oct 22nd at 6:45pm (Week 3)
Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church Saturday March 29th 6pm (Week 9)	Year 1 & 6 Level Mass Thursday May 8th at 10am (Week 3)	Confirmation Family Meeting Wednesday July 23rd at 6:45pm (Week 1)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday 29th Oct at 5 pm (Week 4)
Holy Week Liturgy Friday April 4th 9:30am (Week 10)	Our Lady Help Of Christians Mass Whole School Mass Friday May 23rd at 10am (Week 5)	Reconciliation prior to Confirmation Thursday July 31st at 12pm (Week 2)	Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church Saturday November 8th at 6pm (Week 5) TBC
	Reconciliation prior to Eucharist Thursday June 5th at 12pm (Week 7)	Grandparents Day Whole School Mass Friday August 1st at 10am (Week 2)	Bethany 30th Year Anniversary Whole School Mass Thursday November 13th at 10am (Week 6)
	Sacrament of Eucharist Thursday June 12th at 5pm St. Andrew's (Week 8)	Sacrament of Confirmation Thursday August 7th at 5pm (Week 3)	
		Prep, Year 3 & 5 Level Prayer Time Thursday August 21st at 10am (Week 5)	
		Year 2 & 4 Level Mass (Passion Of St. John The Baptism) Friday August 29th at 10am (Week 6)	

Book Week: Book An Adventure:



Book Week 2025: "Book an Adventure"

Throughout the term, all students have been engaging with a wide range of books, sparking their imagination and encouraging them to discover the adventures that stories can offer.

As part of our Book Week celebrations, students will take part in both a **Book Week Parade** and an exciting **Book Week Performance**.

Book Week Parade – Friday 22nd August

All students are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character for our Book Week Parade, held in the school hall from **9:00–10:30am**.

Families are warmly welcome to attend. Parents and toddlers are also encouraged to dress up and join in the fun during the special family section of the parade.

Book Week Performance – Monday 25th August

Students will enjoy an interactive musical performance titled **"Treasure Hunt"**, which celebrates the 2025 Children's Book Week theme: *Book an Adventure*.

The performance will feature a selection of the **CBCA 2025 Shortlisted Books** and take students on a journey exploring themes such as sustainability and our connection with the natural environment, while also highlighting how books build understanding and bring people together.

Jess lives by the ocean. George lives in the forest. One morning they both wake to find that something is missing – something terribly important. It appears their world may have changed ... and not for the better! Together they set off on a quest to find the treasure that has disappeared from their homes. On their hunt, and despite their differences, George and Jess share a common need. However, they must first overcome their distrust, obstacles and greatest challenges. Fortunately help is waiting from a most unexpected source...

Assemblies:

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. **Our next assembly will be on the 11th of August - Gold and Violet Hubs.**

Please note change in Assembly for Book Week. There will be NO assembly on Monday 25th August and for Week 8 for Earth and Sky.

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 Sky/Star
5	24 FEBRUARY		19 MAY		18 AUGUST		3 NOVEMBER	
6	3 MARCH	Leadership Assembly	26 MAY	Year 4 Jordan/Todd	25 AUGUST	Book Week Incursion	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	HOLIDAY	8 SEPTEMBER	Prep Earth/Ocean	24 NOVEMBER	Year 3/4 Sepik/Murray
9	24 MARCH		16 JUNE	Year 1 Red/Orange	15 SEPTEMBER		1 DECEMBER	PP DAY
10	31 MARCH		23 JUNE	Year 3 Werrabee/Yarra			Thurs 11 DECEMBER	End of Year Assembly JOANNE
11			30 JUNE				15 Dec	

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

At Bethany, Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) is more than just following rules — it's about helping students grow into respectful, kind, and confident individuals. One important part of this approach is teaching social and emotional skills that help children thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is all about helping children understand and manage their emotions, make responsible decisions, build positive relationships, and show empathy for others. These skills are just as important as learning to read or solve maths problems — and they're closely linked to positive behaviour.

When students can identify how they're feeling, use words to express themselves, and solve problems calmly, they're more likely to make good choices and stay engaged in their learning. Through our PBL framework, we teach these skills explicitly and weave them into everyday school life — in the classroom, on the playground, and even during group activities.

For example, students might learn:

- How to recognise when they're frustrated and use strategies like deep breathing or asking for help.
- How to show kindness by including others in play.
- How to listen respectfully and work as a team.

You can support this at home by:

- Talking about feelings openly with your child.
- Celebrating small moments of kindness, honesty, and perseverance.
- Modelling how to stay calm and solve problems together.

By combining clear behavioural expectations with strong social-emotional learning, we're giving students the tools they need to become not only successful learners — but caring, thoughtful people too.

Positive Behaviour for Learning School Wide Expectations



Let Learners Learn and Teachers Teach

	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Learning Spaces	• Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself • Line up and walk calmly and quietly	• Use kind words and actions • Use whole body listening • Follow directions promptly	• Look after self, others and equipment • Be a responsible learner
Outside Area	• Keep hands and feet to yourself • Use spaces and equipment correctly	• Use kind words and actions • Be a good sport	• Look after self, others and equipment • Wear correct uniform • Be on time & walk promptly to line up

UPDATED JAN 2024



Cyber Safety

Keeping Kids Safe on Social Media and Popular Apps

As children and teens increasingly engage with the digital world, it's important for families to stay informed about the risks and safety features of popular apps and social media platforms.



Most platforms are designed with algorithms that prioritise keeping users online as long as possible — not necessarily with their wellbeing in mind. Content (whether positive or negative) is tailored to maximise engagement, which can expose children to harmful material.

While some platforms such as Messenger Kids are designed for younger users, the legal minimum age for most platforms is 13, with new Australian laws coming into effect in late 2025 that will raise this to 16 years. Despite these rules, many children still find ways to access social media, or use other apps with internet and chat features.

Even when apps offer built-in protections for under-18s, these are not always enabled by default. It's essential for parents and carers to regularly check and adjust **privacy and safety settings** to ensure children are using the strongest protections available.

Helpful Safety Features by Platform:

Discord: Offers a **Family Centre** where parents can view child activity (friends, groups, calls) but not message content.

This is especially useful for children involved in online gaming communities, where interactions often happen quickly and in real time.

Facebook & Messenger: Supervision tools allow time tracking, content filtering, and friend-only communication for teens. Messenger also includes options to view contacts and schedule breaks.

New teen accounts automatically include several built-in protections like limited messaging and screen time reminders to support healthy use.

Instagram: Supervision is available with teen consent; parents can view activity and set limits but cannot see messages or search history.

Parents can get a sense of who their child is engaging with and when, while still respecting their privacy.

Snapchat: Through the **Family Centre**, parents can see contact lists and manage content settings; My AI chatbot controls also included.

It helps monitor interactions on a platform where messages disappear quickly, making real-time awareness especially important.

TikTok: Family Pairing allows parents to manage screen time, filter content, and set messaging restrictions (DMs only allowed from age 16).

This is particularly helpful on a platform driven by short videos and trending content, some of which may not be age-appropriate.

Reddit: No parental controls, but users can increase privacy and filter inappropriate content manually.

Parents should talk with children about the types of forums they visit, as Reddit covers a vast range of topics—some suitable, others not.

X (formerly Twitter): No formal controls, but allows blocking, muting, and reporting. Under-18s in Australia are restricted from direct messaging and sensitive content.

Encourage your child to use the built-in safety features to manage what they see and who they interact with.

YouTube & YouTube Kids: Offers robust parental controls, including time limits, content filters, and privacy settings.

YouTube Kids is a safer starting point for younger children and allows parents to more closely guide their viewing habits.

What You Can Do

- **Check settings regularly** – don't assume protections are automatic.
- **Talk with your child** about what they're seeing online and how they're feeling.
- **Use parental tools** offered by most major platforms.

Visit **eSafety.gov.au** for detailed platform-by-platform guidance via the **eSafety Guide** and access to tools and tips to support your family online.

By staying informed and involved, we can help ensure children explore the digital world safely and responsibly.

The Resilience Project

The Power of Grit: Building Resilience in Our Children

Grit is the passion and perseverance to achieve long-term goals, even when things get tough. It's about sticking with challenges, learning from mistakes, and bouncing back - key traits that help children grow into resilient, confident adults. Grit and resilience go hand in hand; both help children face setbacks with courage and keep going when things don't come easily.

At home, there are simple ways to help nurture grit. Encourage your child to try new things, even if they're hard. Praise their effort rather than just the outcome, and model persistence by sharing how you've worked through your own challenges. Remind them that mistakes are part of learning and celebrate progress, not perfection.

By supporting our children to develop grit, we're helping them build the inner strength to face life's ups and downs with confidence and determination. Together, we can foster lifelong learners who never give up!

Happy Families – The Two People Who Can Change Your Child's School Life

We often focus on academics, extracurricular activities, or even which school they attend. But research suggests something far simpler—and far more powerful—can shape your child's school experience, for better or for worse:

Two people. That's all it takes for a better school experience. If your child has:

1. One adult at school they're excited to see (and who is excited to see them), and
2. One peer who welcomes them, includes them, or simply says, "Come sit with me," ...then your child is far more likely to enjoy school, participate, cope with challenges, and grow in confidence.

Together, these two people form a simple, meaningful support network that builds resilience, boosts wellbeing, and makes school a place your child wants to be. As parents and carers, we can create opportunities and open doors.

1. **Help your child build a connection with an adult at school.**

Encourage positive teacher-student relationships. Support your child to show interest in class, ask questions, or share something they enjoy with a teacher.

Share positive feedback re your child's learning and interests with their teacher

Reinforce respect and gratitude. Model how to say "thank you" and "hello" to staff and encourage your child to do the same.

2. **Create Space for Peer Friendships**

- Ask gentle, open questions: "Who did you hang out with today?" or "Who do you enjoy talking to at recess?"
- Arrange occasional playdates, walks home, or weekend get togethers
- Celebrate kindness, not popularity. Encourage inclusive behaviour: "I saw how you invited Jordan to play. How did that make him feel?"

3. **If It's Not Happening, Take Action**

If your child doesn't have these two people, don't panic—but don't ignore it either.

- Talk with your child about how they feel and what they wish was different.



- Partner with the school. Teachers and support staff can be intentional about pairing kids up or facilitating small group activities.
 - Consider extracurricular opportunities where your child can connect with like-minded peers or a new mentor figure.
- School doesn't have to be perfect. For most children, it won't be. But if your child walks through the gates and feels a little spark of joy at seeing one trusted adult and one friendly peer, everything changes.

Family News

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.

MacKillop College: Year 7 – 2027 Information Evening

Parents and guardians of current Year 5 students are warmly invited to attend MacKillop College's Information Evening on **Wednesday, 30 July at 7:30pm** in the Moreno Performing Arts Centre. Please see attached flyer.

For further details, please visit our website at www.mackillop.vic.edu.au or contact our College Registrar on 8734 5200.

Matters Financial

Student Levies AND School Fees are now **OVERDUE**

All student levies (\$420.00 per student) and School Fees (1,840.00 per Family) are now overdue. 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. Should you be experiencing any difficulties finalising these payments please do not hesitate to speak to Joanne Webster.

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.

Important Dates – School Dates for 2025 **NEW**

July 2025

Thursday 31st July – Year 2 Melbourne Museum excursion

August 2025

Friday 1st August – Mass for Grandparents 10:00am

Thursday 7th August – Sacrament of Confirmation in the School Hall 5pm

Friday 8th August – 8:00am Prep Camp

Monday 11th August – Year 2 Violet/Gold assembly 2:25pm

Thursday 15th August – Year 5 Parliament incursion

Thursday 21st August – Year Prep, 3, 5 Level Mass

Friday 22nd August – Book Week parade in the School Hall 9:10am

Monday 25th August – Book Week Treasure Hunt performance

Thursday 28th August – Discovery Centre Flying Bookworm incursion

Thursday 28th August – Prep Excursion – Scienceworks

September 2025

Thursday 4th September – Father's Day breakfast

Thursday 4th September – Year 2 and 4 Level Mass **tbc**

Friday 5th September – Father's Day stall

Monday 8th September – Prep Earth/Ocean assembly 2:25pm **NEW**

Thursday 11th September – Wyndham Athletics Carnival

Thursday 18th September – Year 3 camp sleepover

Friday 19th September – Last day of Term 3 – 12:30pm finish

October 2025

Monday 6th October – First day of Term 4 – 8:45am start

Monday 13th October – Chisholm/MacKillop assembly 2:25pm

Wednesday 15th October – Reconciliation Family Night – Online 6:45pm

Thursday 23rd October – Pre Prep Visits

Friday 24th October – Year 5 Science works excursion

Monday 27th October – Sky/Star assembly 2:25pm

Wednesday 29th October – Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Andrew's Church 5pm

Thursday 30th October – Pre Prep Visits

November 2025

Friday November 7th – Colour Run **NEW**

Monday 10th November – Leadership Centre Remembrance Day assembly **NEW**

Thursday 13th November – 30th Anniversary Whole School Mass **NEW**

Friday 14th November- 30th Anniversary Celebration **NEW**

Monday 24th November – Sepik/Murray assembly 2:25pm

December 2025

Monday 1st December – 2026 Planning Day **SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY**

Thursday 4th December – Bethany Christmas Family Event

Friday 5th December – Orientation Day

Wednesday 10th December – Yr 6 Graduation 6pm

Thursday 11th December – End of Year assembly 2:25pm

Parent in Partnership Dates for 2025

Term 3

Wednesday 20th August – 6:45pm

Term 4

Wednesday 15th October – 1:30pm

Wednesday 12th November – 6:45pm

School Advisory Council Dates 2025

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 3rd November – Report Writing Day

Monday 1st December – 2026 Planning Day

Public Holidays for 2025

Tuesday 4th November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Sacrament Dates 2025 PLEASE MARK IN YOUR DIARIES

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

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

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