

Dear Families,

As we enter Week 5 of the Term 1, we approach the halfway mark of Term 1 and feel grateful for all we have learned and experienced as a school community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all families for their continued contribution to our school community.

Next week our prep students will have their very first full week at school. We congratulate each and every one of them for their seamless transition to school, and to their families for their continued encouragement and partnership with the school to make this happen.

In this week's newsletter I have attached the Parent Code of Conduct. I would like to begin by thanking the majority of parents/families/carers for the respect they show towards each other, towards the students and towards the staff. However, over the last few weeks the behaviour of some adults in our school community has been unacceptable. We teach the students, using PBL (Positive Behaviours for Learning) to be respectful, responsible and safe. Unfortunately, the attitude and communication of some adults in our community towards others- staff- admin, teachers and leaders, as well as other parents is both unacceptable and disrespectful. Our Parent Code of Conduct outlines what is acceptable and what is not. In my role as Principal, the most significant aspect of my role is safety and I must say that the behaviour of some adults in our community has left others feeling unsafe as well as disrespected. This behaviour will not be tolerated and if demonstrated members of the community will be issued with a breach of the Parent Code of Conduct. An outline of the acceptable behaviours we would like to see observed by all, is listed and the document in which you were all asked to sign off on, as a part of enrolment of your child is attached. I continue to thank all those who are always respectful and safe.

Expected conduct of all parents / guardians /carers

It is expected that every parent/guardian/carer will:

- *uphold the school's core beliefs and values,*
- *behave in a manner that does not endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves or others,*
- *abide by all health and safety rules and procedures operating within the school and other locations at which they may visit while representing the school,*
- *ensure that their actions do not bring the school into disrepute,*
- *respect school staff and accept their authority and direction within the exercise of their duties at the school,*
- *observe all school rules as required,*
- *strictly adhere to the school's policies and procedures as required,*
- *behave with respect, courtesy, and consideration for others,*
- *refrain from all forms of bullying and harassment,*
- *refrain from any form of verbal insult or abuse and from any form of physical abuse or intimidation*

A few reminders to all:

1. We have our Prep Enrolment 2026 Information Session today **Wednesday 26th February at 9:30am and 6:00pm**. Existing families may also like to attend if they have a child entering school for 2026. If you would like to book into one of these sessions, please go to the school website and complete. [Prep 2026 Information Sessions](#). **For existing families, you may like to collect an enrolment pack from the office.**
2. Swimming Carnival for selected students on Thursday 27th February.
3. Shrove Tuesday – Tuesday 4th March
4. Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass is on **Wednesday 5th March at 10:00am**. All are welcome.
5. **Open Night on Wednesday 12th March from 3pm-5pm**. On this evening the school is open for families to visit their child's hub and the school as a whole to see the learning and learning spaces.
6. NAPLAN takes place for Year 3 and Year 5 from **Wednesday 12th March up until Monday 24th March**. More information will follow soon for these students and their families.
7. **School Photo Day is on Thursday 13th March**. Full summer uniform is required on this day. No sports uniform. Please bring runners in your child's bag if they have sport on the day.

Enjoy the remainder of the week and the week ahead.

Take care. God bless.

Joanne Webster
Principal

Prayer

We begin Lent next Wednesday with Ash Wednesday Mass at 10am in the School Hall.

Lent is a sacred season in the Christian/Catholic tradition marked by **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving** as a way to prepare for Easter. Each of these practices has deep spiritual significance:

- **Prayer** strengthens the relationship with God and fosters reflection.
- **Fasting** is a form of self-discipline that helps us grow spiritually by detaching from worldly comforts.
- **Almsgiving** encourages charity and service, emphasizing care for the less fortunate.

These practices help us renew our faith and grow closer to God

A Prayer for the Beginning of Lent

Heavenly Father,
As we enter this sacred season of Lent,
we come before You with humble hearts,
seeking renewal and grace.

Help us to walk this journey with faith,
embracing prayer to grow closer to You,
fasting to strengthen our spirit,
and giving to serve those in need.

Cleanse us from sin,
 fill us with Your love,
 and guide us to a deeper understanding of Your mercy.

May this Lent be a time of transformation,
 leading us to the joy of Easter,
 where we may celebrate the victory of Christ.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

School News



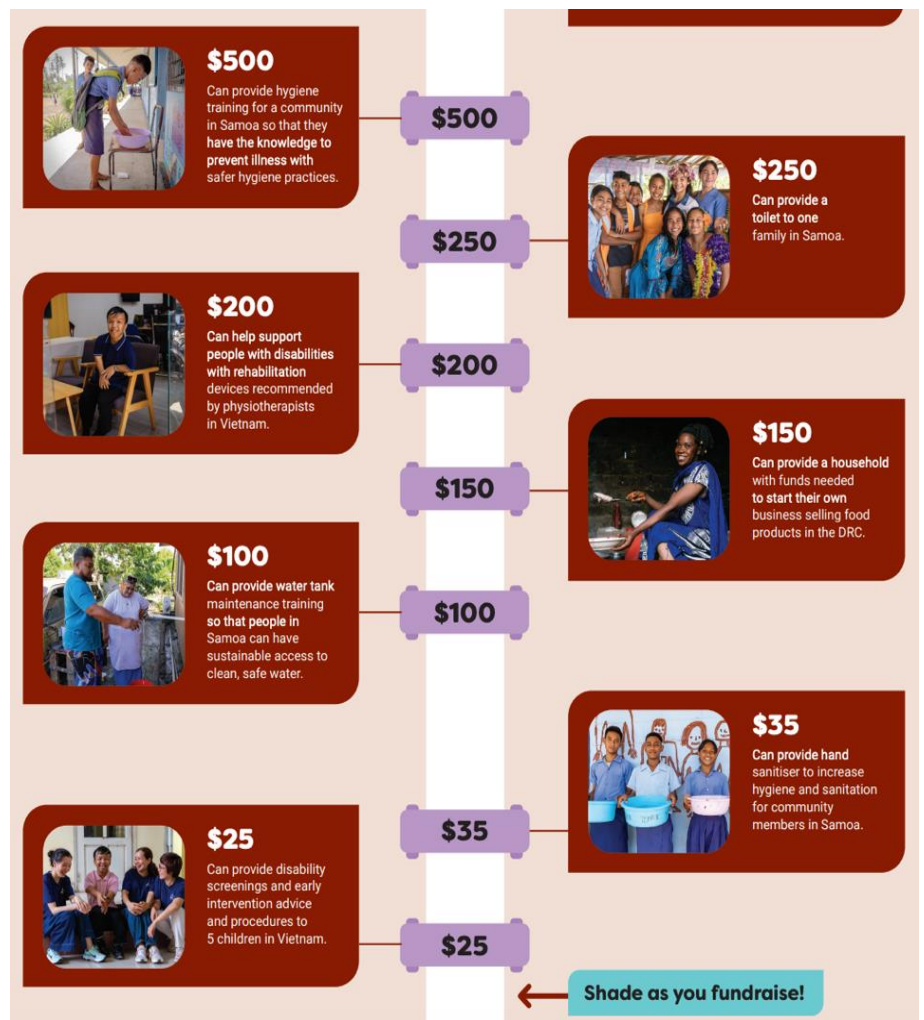
Caritas AUSTRALIA | **PROJECT COMPASSION**

🏠 fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au 📞 1800 024 413 📍 #projectcompassion

In preparation for the transformative season of Lent, students have been learning about the importance of Almsgiving - taking action to help others who are less fortunate.

This year staff, students and families are once again invited to donate to the Australian charity Caritas, whose mission is to make a difference by empowering people living in poverty. Caritas will use 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 gold coin donation to school and place it in their hub's special Project Compassion donation money box. The school's Social Justice student leaders will lead these fundraising efforts.



\$500
 Can provide hygiene training for a community in Samoa so that they have the knowledge to prevent illness with safer hygiene practices.

\$250
 Can provide a toilet to one family in Samoa.

\$200
 Can help support people with disabilities with rehabilitation devices recommended by physiotherapists in Vietnam.

\$150
 Can provide a household with funds needed to start their own business selling food products in the DRC.

\$100
 Can provide water tank maintenance training so that people in Samoa can have sustainable access to clean, safe water.

\$35
 Can provide hand sanitiser to increase hygiene and sanitation for community members in Samoa.

\$25
 Can provide disability screenings and early intervention advice and procedures to 5 children in Vietnam.

← Shade as you fundraise!

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

Swimming Program 2025

Bethany students will once again participate in a **compulsory** five-day intensive swimming school Aquatic Education and Water Safety Program conducted at Aquapulse indoor pool. The program adopts the Swim & Survive program and will run for the following times:

Week 6 Monday 3 rd March – Friday 7 th March	Prep & Yr 1 Green	11:25am – 2:45pm 3 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. Further information will be provided via Operoo shortly to relevant hubs.

Inform and Empower

Bethany Catholic School – Inform and Empower Digital Safety and Wellbeing online webinar – Thursday 20th March, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

INFORM&EMPOWER
Cyber Safety & Digital Wellbeing

In 2025, students across the school will take part in the Inform and Empower Cyber Safety and Digital Wellbeing program. They will participate in engaging and interactive live streamed incursions each term. These incursions are designed to help create safer and more positive online experiences for the students. The content covered in the live incursions aligns with child safe standards, ensuring a comprehensive approach to developing critical skills and knowledge for student success while protecting and empowering young people.

Throughout the year the incursions will focus on:

- Healthy digital habits
- Critical thinking
- Digital citizenship
- Cyberbullying
- Digital literacy
- Safety and security
- Consent and being an upstander.

Live stream incursions for this term:

Foundation: My Screen and Me: making good screen time choices, caring for our devices and sharing devices.

Years 1/2: The Internet and You: what is the internet? Early warning signs and trusted adults.

Years 3/4: Digital Citizenship: Understanding the internet, rights and responsibilities, digital footprint and identity.

Years 5/6: Digital Citizenship: rights and responsibilities, public and permanent, internet and the law and our digital footprint.

Each term students will bring home a parent education tip sheet explaining what the students learnt at school and some conversation starters to use at home.

A reminder that the parent Inform and Empower webinar -

Raising Kids in the Digital World is on Thursday 20th March, 7:30pm – 9:00 pm.

Please register using the link sent out via Operoo. Once registered with your name and email address you will be sent the link to the live webinar.



RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Social media

Online gaming

Strengthening Family communication

Impacts of screen time

Cyberbullying

Managing devices at home

Child & tween online trends

Explicit/adult content

Bethany Catholic School
Thursday 20 March | 7.30 - 9.00 pm



Webinar registration:
bit.ly/parents20march

*This session is strictly for parents and carers only as the content is not suitable for children.



Presented by
Martin McGauran,
primary teacher and
digital safety educator
and Carley McGauran,
psychologist and mum
to 3 school-aged kids.



An evening that provided some reality checks! A few new changes in our home this week! - Parent

Marty and Carley were simply sensational. Their presentation was relevant, honest and informative. A MUST for each school, every year. - Principal

Incredible session.. Should be essential for all parents! - Parent

INFORM&EMPOWER
informandempower.com.au | hello@informandempower.com.au

Trusted eSafety Provider
esafety.gov.au

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. We look forward to seeing you there. At our next assembly on Monday 3rd March, we celebrate our Leadership Centre and introduce our SRC from Years 2-5. This will be held at 2:15pm. We invite you to be a part of this.

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	

Positive Behaviour for Learning - Superheroes Lead the Way in Positive Behaviour!

On Monday, February 17th, our school community gathered for a captivating assembly performance that brought our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) and Resilience Project superheroes to life!

Students and staff were entertained as our teachers humorously demonstrated unexpected behaviours - including tossing pencils in class, getting distracted with their devices and calling out to gain teacher attention. But fear not! Our superheroes, Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Resilient, were ready to save the day!



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



Using guidance from our school's PBL matrix, the superheroes shared practical and positive ways to reteach behaviours so that our school remains a safe, happy, and inclusive learning environment. Their powerful messages reminded us all of the importance of making good choices, treating others with kindness, and showing resilience in challenging situations.

The Resilience Project - Resilient Youth Survey (Years 3 - 6)

As part of our Resilience Project lessons, our Year 3 to 6 students recently participated in the Resilient Youth Survey - an anonymous survey designed to provide our school with a valuable snapshot of our students' mental health and wellbeing at home, at school, and in the local community.

The survey explores three key areas:

- **Connected** – Encouraging students to reflect on their positive relationships, social skills, and self-awareness.
- **Protected** – Assessing their sense of safety, physical and mental wellbeing, and engagement in learning.
- **Respected** – Exploring whether they feel a sense of belonging, have positive values, and contribute positively to society.

The insights gained from this survey will help us continue to support and strengthen our students' resilience, wellbeing, and personal growth. We are committed to fostering a school environment where every child feels safe, supported, and empowered to thrive.

We thank our students for their thoughtful participation and look forward to using these findings to enhance our wellbeing programs!

Happy Families - The Power of Belonging: Helping Our Children Feel Connected at School

A strong sense of belonging at school is one of the most important factors in a child's happiness and long-term mental health. Research from Monash University found that students who feel connected at school experience fewer mental health challenges in adulthood, regardless of academic success or family background.

When children feel like they belong, they are more engaged in learning, build strong friendships, cope better with stress, and develop confidence and resilience.

How Can We Support Belonging?

We can help our children feel connected by staying involved in their school life—keeping in touch with teachers, attending school events, and advocating for them when needed. At home, quality time, open conversations, and encouragement go a long way in making them feel valued. Supporting their friendships, hobbies, and passions also helps them develop confidence and a sense of identity. By working together, we can ensure every child feels safe, valued, and connected at school—setting them up for a happy, healthy future!

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

Family News

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 28 January 2025 – Applications will open for students commencing Year 7 in 2027.
- Friday 15 August 2025 – Applications will close.
- Friday 17 October 2025 – Offers will be posted to prospective 2027 Year 7 applicants.
- Friday 7 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. **First**

Instalment School Fee

If you opted to by your school fees by three instalments, the first instalment **\$615.00** was due by **Friday 14th February**.

Important Dates –

School Dates for 2025 **NEW**

February 2025

Monday 24th February – Friday 28th February – Yr 5/6, Yr 2, Yr 1 Red, Yellow, Orange Hubs Swimming

Wednesday 26th February – Prep 2026 Information sessions at 9:30am and 6:00pm

Thursday 27th February – District Swimming Carnival

March 2025

Monday 3rd March – Friday 7th March – Prep and Yr 1 Green Hub Swimming

Monday 3rd March – Leadership Assembly 2:15pm in the School Hall **NEW**

Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday Mass at 10:00am

Thursday 6th March – Wyndham Swimming

Wednesday 12th March – Monday 24th March – NAPLAN Yr 3 and Yr 5

Wednesday 12th March – Bethany School Open Night 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Wednesday 12th March – School Advisory Council meeting 6:45pm – 7:45 pm **NEW**

Thursday 13th March – School Photos

Monday 17th March – Year 1 Yellow and Green Assembly 2:25 in the School Hall **NEW**

Tuesday 18th March – Summer Gala Day **NEW**

Wednesday 19th March - Parents in Partnership 1:30pm – 3:00pm **NEW**

Thursday 20th March – Inform and Empower parent webinar 7:30pm – 9:00pm **NEW**

Thursday 27th March – Yr 5 MCG excursion **NEW**

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

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

Thursday April 24th – Bethany Day **NEW**

Friday 25th April – Anzac Day – Public Holiday **NEW**

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

May 2025 **NEW**

Wednesday May 7th – District Cross Country

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

Friday May 9th – Mother's Day Stall

Friday May 16th – Year 5 Mad About Science incursion

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

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

Thursday May 22nd – Wyndham Cross Country

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

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

June 2025 **NEW**

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

Thursday June 5th – Reconciliation for Eucharist 12 noon

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

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

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

July 2025 **NEW**

Thursday July 3rd – School Closure day – Learning Conversations

Friday 4th July – Last day of Term 2 – 12:30pm finish – Casual Dress Day for Students

Monday 21st July – Term 3 begins at 8:45am

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

Parent in Partnership Dates for 2025

Term 1

Wednesday 19th March – 6:45pm

Term 2

Wednesday 23rd March – 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 12th March – 6:45pm

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 10th March – Labor Day Public Holiday

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