

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

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Newsletter—Week 7 of Term 3, August 24th 2023

Saint Mary MacKillop said,
"Never See a Need Without Doing Something About It !"

At St Joseph's We: Need to have a **Positive Attitude**
Need to be **Aware** and Need to Take **Action**.

Our next fortnight's Triple A Social Skill is **Fairness**

Our focus within the three areas are as follows

Attitude : Being a Team Player

Awareness : Of What's Right / Rules

Action : Following the Rules

Fathers and Grandfathers Day Breaky Next Friday, September 1 in the MacKillop Centre

We welcome Dads and Grandads from 8:15am for a breakfast of Bacon and Egg Muffins !!! This is also an opportunity for you all to walk through our school and to meet your child/ren's teacher/s.

"Every father should remember that one day his son will follow his example instead of his advice. Anon"



Our Saint Mary MacKillop Award Winners for 2023



Absent -
Rick

BOOK WEEK – Book Week Parade Next Thursday, August 31

Next week, week 8, is our Book Week celebration week.

A Book fair and a book character dress up day will be conducted as part of our celebrations. The Book fair will be set up in the library this year and will run from Monday 28th August- Thursday 31st September. Books will be available to purchase before school (8.30- 9) and after school (3.30-4) each day. The children will be given wishlists to complete. These can be used to make online payments. Children just need to bring them back to school after completing and present them at the book fair to receive their books. Alternatively, they can complete the list and bring it back to the Book Fair with the correct money. Or simply come along at any of the times mentioned to view or purchase books. A QR code will also be available at the Fair, as a payment method. See details for pre-payments below. The school receives commission for the books sold and this commission is then used to purchase more books for our library.

Our book character dress up day will be on Thursday, 31st August. This is always an awesome day and this year we can once again welcome our parents/guardians back on site. The parade of characters will be held in the quadrangle and will commence at 9.15 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend both the Book Fair and the parade.

Bookclub orders for issue #6 are due tomorrow, Friday 26th August.
Mary

Scholastic Book Fair Pre-Payment

Date: Aug 29 - Sept 1 Time: 8:30-9 3:30-4
Place: School Library

Books start at \$5

1 List the titles they are going to purchase from the fair.

Title	Price

2 Make a secure payment online by going to scholastic.com.au/payment or scanning the barcode below.

QR Code: [QR Code]

Book Fair Payment

3 Complete the Payment Form including the receipt number and amount paid. This form needs to be returned to the school.

Receipt Number: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] Amount Paid: \$ [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Full Name: _____
Surname: _____
School: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Postcode: _____

PLEASE BE CLEAR WHEN FILLING IN THIS FORM AS IT IS PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOL DURING THE FAIR TO COLLECT YOUR BOOKS.

Every BOOK equals RESOURCES for our school.

SCHOLASTIC

Sport News – Athletics Carnival

Preps, Grade 1 & 2

The Sports Carnival for Prep through to Grade 2 will take place on Friday 1st September on the School Oval **9.15am**.

Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6

The Sports Carnival for Grade 3 – 6 will take place on Friday September 8th on the School Oval from **9.15am**.

*Sports Uniform is to be worn with a dash of colour. eg. Ribbons, Zinc, Mascots etc.
Please ensure that your child has a drink bottle.*

Event times will be sent out with every student next week.



First Communion and Confirmation

Our nineteen students celebrate their First Communion and are Confirmed in our Church next Saturday, September 2 at 5:30pm. Our celebrant is Bishop Shane so it will be even more special.

Please keep these children in your thoughts and prayers –

Audrey Martin, Patrick Edis, Jobe Morris, Zara Morris, Edward Trimble, Caylee Rawson, Ethan Brown, Dylan Said, Lilith Beaton, Everly Smyth, Henry Bau, Lachlan Grey-Noble, Jonathon Moon, Madeleine Harmer, Ella Mionnet, Axel Ramadge, Ruby Frederickson, Lily Frederickson & Maisie Carr.

Afternoon Assembly : Monday at 2:45

Yr 6 Leaders & Class Prayer

Aug 28 : Ruby F, Jhi A & Eve B; Junior East

Sept 4 : Mason A, Elijah & Blade T; Year 5's

All Welcome!

Dates to Remember

Mon Aug 28- Thu Aug 31 Book Week & Book Fair

Thursday, Aug 31

Book Parade

Friday Sept 1

Schools Aths P-2

Saturday Sept 2

Father's & Grandpa's Breakfast

Friday Sept 8

First Comm. & Confirmation 5.30pm

Friday Sept 15

Schools Aths 3-6

Footy Colours Day

Last Day of Term 3

2.15pm Finish

Live Life To The Fullest In Christ



Office News

PRIVACY POLICY

For access please visit our website. www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au.

SCHOOL FEES:

Can Families please ensure Term 2 – 3 payments are made before the end of term.

If any family would like to commence having their fees directly debited fortnightly or monthly this can be done at any time!

Next Fortnightly Debits: 25th August & 8th September.

Monthly Debits 18th of each month.

A reminder that you can mark student absences on PAM.

The Term Planner can be viewed from the school website under news & events \ newsletters

If you have any queries, please ring Gayle or Donna at the office on 5862 1804

Preps

It has been a busy term for the Preps with many exciting learning opportunities, celebrations, incursions and excursions!

Literacy

In Reading, the students have recently begun our daily Reading Activities. The Reading Activity session adds to our current Literacy Program with an added focus upon developing a variety of reading strategies and skills for our students. Some activities include *Phonics*, *Reading Response*, *Read to Teacher*, *Read to Self* and *Read to Someone*. Please continue to read to your child daily and sign their diary.

In Writing, the students have worked through the writing process (planning, composing, recording, revising, editing and publishing) to create a recount of our recent Fauna Park Excursion. The students were so engaged and excited about discussing and then writing about a real life experience that was still very fresh in their memories. The meerkats, snakes and dingoes were three very popular animals mentioned regularly in their writing pieces.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, the students have been continuing to practice and further develop their number skills with a particular focus upon making numbers equal and also understanding that there are different ways that we can make a number. For example, the number 7 can be made up of a 5 & 2, 3 & 4 or 6 & 1. Students practice and use a variety of concrete materials (such as counters) to explore and then discuss their findings.

Religion

In Religion, the students have been learning about ways we can 'Care for God's World.' Students have been exploring ways we can appreciate and express wonder at God's creation whilst also understanding that we have certain responsibilities to live in harmony with creation.

Inquiry

In Inquiry, the children have continued their learning about 'The Living World'. We have observed some interesting and exciting results so far with our Seed Growing experiments during recent Inquiry lessons. Our seeds have begun to grow roots and some seeds have even begun to sprout green shoots. As a group we are continuing to observe and discuss various living conditions for the seeds where each had different access to air, water and sunlight. We all look forward to seeing the end results!

Fauna Park

Last Thursday our Preps traveled to the Kyabram Fauna Park to learn more about our Inquiry theme 'The Living World'. The students were so excited to go on the bus and then to see all of the amazing animals at the Fauna Park. One of the highlights of the day was the learning sessions that were led by an Educational



Park Ranger who taught us all about animals, their habitats and living needs etc. After a fun day seeing meerkats, snakes, dingoes, birds, kangaroos, wombats, and many other animals we all headed back to school for a well deserved rest.

Book Week

Book Week is fast approaching! During this week the students will spend one whole week celebrating Australian books, authors and illustrators. The students will participate in many fun activities which highlight the importance of reading. As part of these activities the students are asked to come to school dressed as their favourite book character on Thursday 31st August.

F-2 Athletics

The students have been practicing and preparing for the upcoming F-2 Athletics. They have been working on their fitness stamina and learning different kinds of track sports. The event will take place on our school oval on Friday 1st September from 9:15am. Stay tuned for further details next week via SeeSaw.

With a busy end of term ahead please ensure you check SeeSaw regularly for any upcoming events and/or general information.

Thank you for your continued support,
The Prep Team.



Juniors

We have had a busy couple of weeks in the Junior area! We were all super excited to go on our first excursion together to the Kyabram Fauna Park. What an amazing day we had exploring the park and learning about Living things!

We are also providing opportunities for your child to participate in Brain Gym before school. This is a wonderful programme where children are challenged to use both sides of their body to help improve sending messages to the brain which in turn improves their ability to process information in a more efficient manner.

St Joseph's School - Newsletter

The results are pleasing. Self confidence grows steadily. We meet at 8.30am in the Mary MacKillop Centre with Joanie. Please message your classroom teacher via Seesaw if you would like your child to participate.

Literacy

In Literacy we have been writing Recounts about our wonderful excursion to Kyabram. Previous to this we were writing procedures on how to plant a bean seed. The children have been watching their beans grow. We have been documenting the beans progress and using 'Book Creator' on our Ipad to display the information.



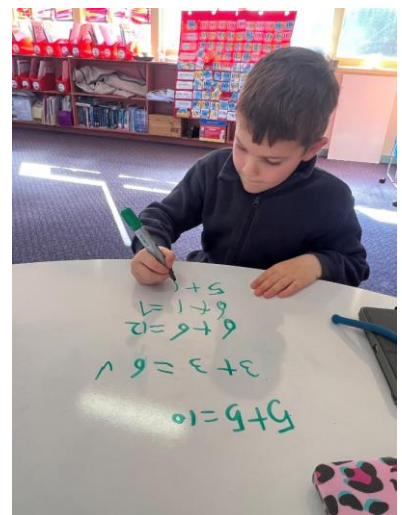
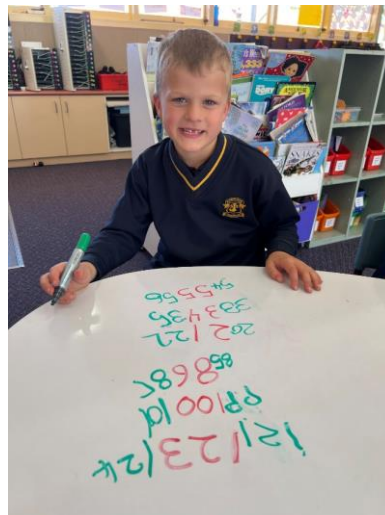
Reading

Our morning reading routine continues to run smoothly. The children enjoy participating in reading activities and it's wonderful to see the continued growth. Please continue your nightly reading and remember to check in with your child about what sound they are focusing on in Sounds Write. It is important that students are not only practicing writing their words and sounds at school but also at home at least twice a week.



Numeracy

In Numeracy, following on from our work on Addition the past two weeks, we have begun to consolidate our previous learning in Subtraction. We are using a range of mental and written strategies to solve one, two and three digit problems. Students are enjoying challenging their knowledge and stepping outside their comfort zone. As teachers it is wonderful to see their 'aha moments'. We encourage all families to count with their children and provide real life problems (shopping and cooking are great opportunities).



Religion

In Religion, we are looking at the daily life of Jesus. The children completed an activity where they could share what they already know about Jesus and what they were wondering about Jesus. We are learning a lot about his life and what it was like for Jesus growing up all those years ago. Students were very frustrated playing the old game of 'knucklebones'.

Inquiry

As a follow on from our excursion to the Fauna Park students will be creating a habitat on a plate for one of their favourite animals that they saw. We have talked about providing animals with shelter, water, food, air and care.

St Joseph's School - Newsletter

Below are some recounts of our Excursion completed by the children; enjoy.

On Thursday the 17th of August, it was a cold and wintery day. I woke up with great excitement because today was our Excursion to the Kyabram Fauna Park. We caught the bus at 9.30 am. The bus trip was very noisy but we finally made it. When we got there Izzy, the Teacher from the park greeted us and we headed to the Learning Centre for snack. After snack we split into groups and set off to explore the park. We saw lots of animals my favourites were the Meerkats, the Kangaroos, Dingos and the Peacocks. After a big walk around we went back to the Learning Centre for our session with Izzy. In the classroom we did lots of fun things like match the skull with the picture and making habitats. Finally we had lunch and quick play before we got back on the bus and drove back to school. We were all exhausted after a big but fun day exploring. By Reuben, Lincoln, Dylan, Aydan and Tyler



I was jumping with excitement. We were going on a trip to the Fauna Park. As we bustled onto the bus we were all really excited. As we entered Kyabram the bus driver pointed out a tank with a big painting of a bird on it. We finally arrived. The first spot we went was... the education centre where we put our bags. We set off in our small groups. I was in Miss O's group. First we saw the meerkat's, they were cute. Next up we saw the parrots and lots of other birds, even peacocks. After looking at all the amazing birds, we went to the reptile habitat. There was a lizard shedding its skin



and snakes. We also saw emus and wallabies. We headed down the back to see the dingoes. After looking at more amazing animals we headed down past a lake and to a hand feeding zone. I got to pat a baby kangaroo. It was very soft and cute. Everyone in my group was getting hungry so we went back to the education centre to have lunch. The animal I liked the best in the centre was the little hopping mice. They were cute when they went to sleep all cuddled together. Finally Izzy our teacher took us into the classroom and started our rotations. First I played with the minibeasts, then the x-rays that you had to match up. Next I made a habitat for a toy Kangaroo and I finally got to play with echidna spikes. Izzy showed us Timothy the possum getting fed. I was tired on the way home but it was an amazing day. By Emma R



I jumped up and stepped on the bus. I picked my seat. I sat next to Miss O. I sat on the bus for a long time. I saw a painting on a big tank. We got there. I jumped off the bus. I could smell the animals. We pushed the gate open. Then we put our bags down. We ate fruit and snack. We got into groups first we saw Kangaroos. I got to pat them. We went up the tower to take a picture. Then we got down and went through a gate. I saw a turtle and we went into the reptile house and saw lots of snakes. Then we went in a building and had lunch. After that we went into the classroom and did a few rotations. We hopped on the bus and I had a sleep. I said to myself it was the best birthday ever. By Sophie C

The Preps and Juniors went to Kyabram Fauna Park. My favourite animal was the meerkat because they can do more than most animals. It was fun. By Andrew M



A reminder next Thursday 31st August is Book Week Dress Up Day - We look forward to seeing everyone in their costumes and hearing about their favourite books.

****Also Junior East are presenting the prayer for our assembly on Monday. Hope to see you there if you can make it! ****

Specialist

Students continue to have specialist classes on **Wednesdays**. Sport uniforms will also be needed on **Fridays**.

Wednesdays

Junior West: PE/Library

Junior East: LOTE/ART

Fridays

Junior East: Sport

Junior West: Music

Please send us a message on SeeSaw if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child. We continue to work together to provide the best learning environment for your child.

Tan, James, Joanie, Sara, Makayla, Bern, Georgia, Jane and Clara.

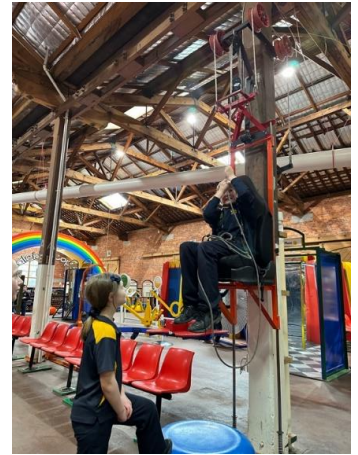
Middles



On the 10th August, the Middle School visited Bendigo Discovery and Technology Centre!
It was a great day of fun, excitement and learning!
We left school nice and early, ready for the two - hour trip to Bendigo.

The buses were full of excitement, as we all wondered what the day had in store and what types of cool things we would see, do and experience!

We explored areas such as gravity, echo, illusions, wind / water power, artificial intelligence and had an awesome experience in the AI Planetarium!





Please send us a message on SeeSaw if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child.
Mark, Ebony, Kelly, Jordyn, Sue, Allison, Amanda, Clayton & Tay

Seniors

“We are the standard!”

As we continue in our daily living and learning routines, we look forward to longer days, warmer weather and opportunities to participate in a variety of extra activities. We expect our students to continue their high standard of behaviour and uniform in the Senior School and appreciate parent/family support!



Lightning Premiership Wrap Up

The Senior students represented our school proudly at the recent Lightning Premiership in Yarrowonga.

Softball

It was a fantastic day for our softball team! They demonstrated excellent teamwork and fielding skills, even giving “sneaking” a go in their two games! Unfortunately though we just missed out on finals, and instead came in a very respectable **third place!**

Netball

We had 3 teams representing our school, all teams played well and showed great sportsmanship. Our Grade 6 Yellow team won four games, and unfortunately lost one. Our Grade 6 Blue demonstrated excellent team work and won three games. While our Grade 5 team, also proudly won three games.





Football

Our football team showed the other schools the determination and courage of the St Joseph's students. All footballers played well and had a good crack on the day. Unfortunately missing out on finals as well.

We are very proud of all who took part on the day. You all had a go and did your very best, being humble in victory, gracious in defeat and representing our school in a most fantastic way.

Soccer

Our soccer team had a brilliant day in Yarrowonga competing against a number of other schools. The day was packed full of constant movement between games and only a few breaks in between. The students did a brilliant job representing our school and had a successful day and came third overall.



Production News

Students who are involved in our Senior School production have been hard at work over the last few weeks, practising their lines and organising their costumes. For those students involved, be sure to practice at home the songs we are using via our Google Classroom.

We are excited to announce that we will be presenting our **Production on the 13th of September in the Mary MacKillop Centre.** We will be having two performances: **a school matinee beginning around 2pm,** and **a community performance around 6:30pm.** More details to come.

Science News

Students not involved in the Production have been taking part in a science unit with Mr Booth and Mr Tyndall. The topic of this unit is States of Matter. The students have been conducting experiments in class, discussing their hypothesis and drawing conclusions.

Grade 5 St Mary of the Angels Transition

Our Grade 5 students have been invited to St Mary of the Angels on Wednesday the 30th of August for a transition day. The Grade 5 students will participate in a range of activities typical of a secondary college student. More information can be found on the permission note sent home on PAM.

Literacy

In the second half of this term, we have begun our novel study on "Boy Overboard". We have been exploring the themes and characters present in the story. We have been creating a character profile about the two main characters, and will soon transition to creating our own narrative.

Thank you

Adam, Jez, Liam, Loreena, Virginia, Ray, Karlene, Di and Sam

Student of the Week

Sen S **Charlie Jenner**

For the enthusiasm and energy he brings to our classroom every day. We love having you in our class!

Elizabeth Trimble

For her excellent efforts and creativity in publishing her writing about animal adaptations. Great job Lizzie!

Sen B **Jhi Arnold**

For the fantastic Triple A attitude he showed at Lightning Premiership. He was a standout and was always encouraging his teammates on the field.

Sen K/H **Jemma Davies**

For her efforts and sportsmanship during netball at the Lightning Premiership. Super job!

Cohen Burrows

For his awesome effort publishing his information report on Mexican Axolotls.

Sen T **Dustin Newham**

For his awesome effort at the lighting premiership and showing great sportsmanship.

Bailey Hawthorn

For displaying a great work ethic and being engaged throughout the day's learning. Well done mate!

Mid H **Lily Frederickson**

For settling into living and learning routines at St Joseph's so enthusiastically! Welcome Lily!!

Viaan Maharaj

For his complete engagement and enthusiasm for his learning across the whole school day!

Mid M/H **Jess Green**

For her cheery disposition and always being kind to others.

Alex McLeod

For his brilliant reading comprehension skills and a big improvement in handwriting.

Mid N **Jaiden Ricardo**

For his consistent approach to his school work and the positive attitude he is displaying in the classroom. Keep it Up Jaiden!

Bella Curtis

For her excellent classroom participation, always having a go and trying her best. Terrific effort Bella!!

Mid S **Nathanael Hubbard**

For being an enthusiastic participant of our Discovery Centre excursion and sharing his knowledge with others.

Owen Chmiel

For the fantastic effort he is putting into improving his writing. Keep up the good work Owen!

Jun N **Isla Harris**

For the confidence she is showing in the classroom and being a great friend to her peers. Well done Isla.

Harry Handford

For applying himself to his learning and having a positive attitude in the classroom. Great work Harry

Jun P **Brydie Lawless**

For her great work during our reading groups and supporting others where possible. Well done Brydie.

Charlie Stevens-Venville

For his consistent participation in our whole class activities and willingness to socialise well with others. Well done Charlie.

Jun W **Lainey Alexander**

For taking on and accepting challenges in her learning and continuing to be a positive role model in our classroom. Well Done Lainey!

Jun O **Leland Alexander**

For having a settled week. It is great to see you smiling and taking control of your choices.

Junior West **All students**

For their excellent behaviour and participation at the Fauna Park. We had so much fun with all of you!

Prep M **Caleb Hodgkin**

For his excellent classroom participation, always having a go and trying his best. Terrific effort Caleb!

Cash Wilkinson

For his wonderful classroom participation and taking greater care with his tasks. Well done Cash!

Prep J **Tanisha Maharaj**

For always showing a positive approach towards her learning and also for helping others with theirs. Well done Tanisha!

Bede Brown

For being an excellent learner, listener and helper on our Kyabram Fauna Park excursion. Brilliant effort Bede!

Principal's Award

Term 3

Week 6: Elijah Tonkin

Week 7: Jaiden McKellar

Living out the values of Saint Mary MacKillop through what they say and what they do.



Triple A Social Skill Award

This is awarded to students in each class who display excellence in the Triple A Social Skill that we focus on each week. At St Joseph's we need to have a positive **Attitude**, need to have **Awareness** & need to take **Action**.

Congratulations to the following students who received this social skill award in Week 6

Patience: Poppy Graham, Georgia Reade, Ayla Ricardo, Evie Teasdale, Harlow Bale, Jorja Power, Caylee Rawson, Isla Culton, Avarni Peterson, Peyton Lee, Bella Brassil, Eve Boase, Phoebe Miller and Olivia Ponting.

Canteen

25th Kim Thompson

28th **CLOSED**

29th **CLOSED**

30th Helen Osborne

31st **Volunteer**

September

1st Sheree Lawless

4th **CLOSED**

5th **CLOSED**

6th Holly Brennan

7th Sarah Burkitt



8th Helen Osborne,

11th **CLOSED**

12th **CLOSED**

13th Julia Campbell

14th Gayle Morgan

15th Jody Tilley

If you are unable to attend on your day, can you please arrange a swap with someone else or as a last resort let Marcella and Donna know in advance, so they are aware that they have no helper that day. If you are unable to commit to a permanent day each month but are available to help out when you see a volunteer required, please call Marcella 0409 622 589.

St Johns Parish OSHC

Wow! Hasn't the term flown by! We have been busy with our usual activities of craft, baking, games, constructing and now that the weather is starting to warm up and the days longer, we can get outside for some games. The children are currently making gifts for their dads/carers/grandparents ready for Father's Day next week. Bookings are now open via the My Family Lounge App for Vacation Care which again shall be running in the school holidays Tuesday to Thursday 8am -5pm. Children are to bring their own snacks, lunch & water bottle. Please see Donna in the office if you need any assistance with your booking.

The Before & After School Care program is certainly filling up so please make sure that you mark your child absent if they will be away so that the spot may be able to be filled. This also assists us with staff planning.

Thanks, Sue, Georgia, Tash, Clayton, Tay, Shay & Eachan.

Community Notices



MEAT COMPANY

Community Bank
Nathalia

 Bendigo Bank

Major Sponsor

Nathalia Little Athletics Club

Presents

REGISTRATION & Come 'n' Try Day
Nathalia Little Athletics Club would like to invite past and new families/athletes to our first day for 2023. 5.00pm to 6.30pm at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve on:

Wednesday 6th September

All registrations and payments are to made online
<https://lavic.com.au/participare/how-to-register>
Fees - \$110 per child

Further More Information: Sarah Hansen - 0429 623 328 Kylie Botterill - 0418 345 497 or email nathalia@lavic.com.au

Payments plans available
Singlets - \$15



Nathalia
Coachlines



Little
Athletics
Victoria



Nathalia Little Athletics Disco

6pm to 8pm 25th August 2023

Glow Sticks - 2 for \$1 **\$5 Entry**

\$2 Lolly bags 5 to 16 years age



Community Bank
Nathalia

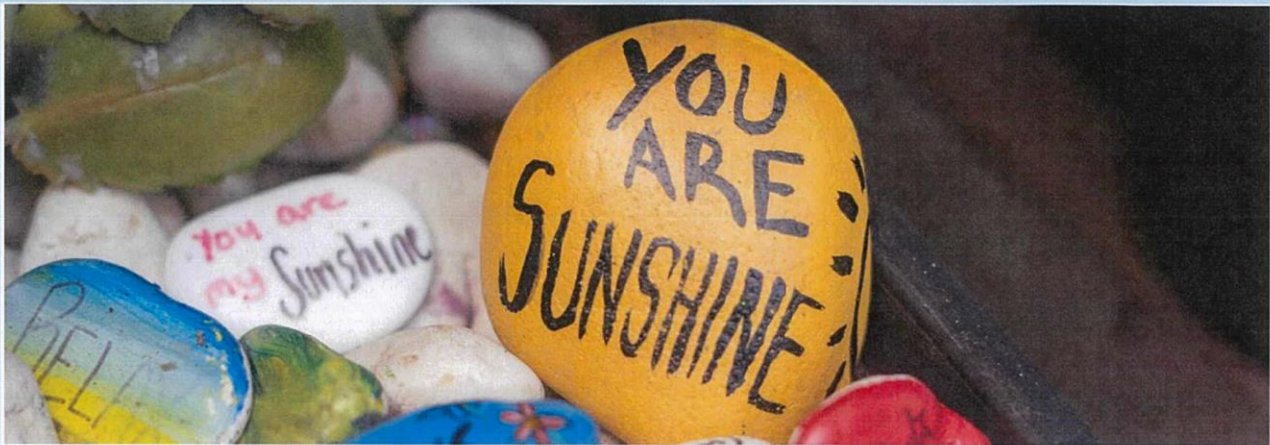
 Bendigo Bank

Dress Bright/Fluro/neon

Nathalia rec reserve club room

Glow in dark face paint(shapes) \$1

No pass outs/No alcohol



School refusal

Children and young people are sometimes reluctant to attend school and can become significantly worried or upset to the point of refusing to do so.

What is school refusal?

School refusal is not 'wagging' or truancy – it's where non-attendance is related to worry or anxiety about going to school.

Students who refuse to go to school don't typically engage in the antisocial behaviours usually linked with truancy (such as lying, stealing or destruction of property). Unlike truancy, the absence isn't usually hidden from family. In fact, families may have attempted many strategies to reduce the child or young person's anxiety to help them attend school. Refusal can be considered as an emotional problem rather than misbehaviour.

What are the signs?

It's not unusual for students to sometimes be nervous or worried about going to school.

But for some students, this worry and anxiety can be excessive and can lead to school refusal. As an educator, you might notice some of the following signs of school refusal, including:

- tantrums, clinginess, dawdling or running away on arrival (in primary school-aged children)

- frequent complaints of illness (such as stomach aches, headaches, dizziness or fatigue)
- frequent requests to go home or call a family member
- absence or lateness to school after weekends, holidays, school camps or sports days
- long, unexplained absences from school
- periodic absences or missed classes, with no explanation given
- absences on specific days (such as sports day or days with tests)
- frequent lateness to school
- long periods spent in the sick bay or the school office.

These symptoms can also be the result of other chronic health conditions. It's important to work with the child or young person's family, and liaise with other professionals who might be involved, to understand the underlying cause of these signs.

Families may indicate their child or young person is experiencing issues at home, such as morning tearfulness prior to school, difficulty falling asleep the night before or protesting going to school the next day. They may also report oppositional or

challenging behaviour from a child or young person intent on avoiding school. It's important to share information with families as soon as possible and seek their perspective on these issues.

Read about how you can [promote school attendance](#).

Be You Professional Learning

Check out tips for creating and maintaining strong relationships with families in the [Family Partnerships](#) domain.

What causes school refusal?

There are lots of reasons why a student might refuse school.

The reasons will be different for each child or young person. School refusal can happen at any age but is more likely to occur during times of [transition](#) (for example, starting primary or secondary school) or major family events (such as separation or family bereavement). Usually, there's no single event or reason, but rather various factors that contribute to a child or young person's non-attendance.

Contributing factors might include:

- anxiety about social situations
- anxiety around activities that involve performance or evaluation (such as sports days, tests or speaking in front of the class)
- peer issues, such as social isolation, bullying or conflict with friends
- difficulty or conflict with educators
- academic problems or learning difficulties
- anxiety around being separated from significant family members
- traumatic events, such as family illness, grief or parental separation/divorce, exposure to family violence
- difficulties with transition, such as moving to a new school
- mental health issues.

School refusal, non-attendance or reluctance to attend are symptoms of an underlying problem.

It's important to identify, understand and address these deeper causes when supporting a child or

young person to return to school or attend consistently. Getting help from support services within the school or local community can be a good first step, as early detection and intervention is essential. The longer the issue persists, the more difficult it can be to re-engage the child or young person with their learning.

What are the consequences?

School refusal is a serious issue that's best managed early.

Long absences mean children and young people miss out on large chunks of the curriculum. School refusal can also create conflict and strained relationships within families through disruptions to their routines. It might even affect income when family members forgo work to stay home with the child or young person.

Children and young people who miss school by refusing to attend might also face long-term problems. Research shows school refusal can contribute to mental health issues, emotional and social issues, exiting school early and employment challenges in later life.

References

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