

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

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Newsletter—Week 7 of Term 1, March 13th 2025

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 Listening
Our focus within the three areas are as follows

Attitude: I value and respect others when they are speaking Awareness: I am Aware what active listening looks, sounds feels like

Action: I will take turns in speaking and listening, showing positive body language



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Our Fun Run has come and gone for another year with the day being a resounding success. It was also a chance to showcase our new Aths Track! Woweee!!!!!

Thanks to the P&F and our Fun Run Committee ably led by Tam Martin for such a well organised event.



As we work through this time of Lent we can take a moment to reflect on our roles as parents, carers and teachers which are often difficult but certainly most rewarding in the long term. As we ask of our children, we can set our own personal goals in working to be better at what we do and being better at who we are. Our children follow our example, not always our advice!

Tomorrow Friday 14th March, we celebrate our patron, St Joseph. Mass will be at 12.30 in the MacKillop Centre.

P&F 2025

Our P&F AGM was held last night. Its function is to serve the school community and organise fun and fundraising events.

The executive for this year is:

President – Michelle McCracken Vice President – Ron Watson

Treasurer – Brooke Voigt

Secretary – Leah McGrath

Assistant Treasurer – Bern Caccianiga
Assistant Secretary – Brooke Clurey

Big thanks to Helen Osborne as she steps away as her children move to Secondary School.

SS

Staff Update

Dave Jenner will be finishing at the end of term. Due to changing family and personal circumstances, he will be moving from the area. We thank Dave for his 4 years of service to our school community

Loreena Keane will take over, working with our children on Monday through Thursday. Tracey Altoft will finish the week off on a Friday. Both are excellent teachers, great Mums and outstanding people. Loreena currently works with the children and will be an even stronger presence in the room for the remaining weeks of term 1. Tracey currently works Monday thru Wednesday at the Kinder and already knows many of the boys and girls. She will visit the class over the next weeks and make sure she is up to date with our program.

This is a most satisfactory outcome and we will have a smooth transition.

Pupil Free Days

A reminder that our school will be closed on April 2. CESL is asking all schools to be part of the continued Magnify PD Program, this time focusing on "Creating Positive Learning Environments" which is presented by Knowledge Society. On this day we will join staff from St Mel's Shepparton (hosting) and St Joseph's Cobram. All diocesan schools will meet in groupings to complete this instruction.

This is added to the three days between Easter Monday and ANZAC Day where the children enjoy extra holidays while staff continue the uptake of MAGNIFY. All Diocesan Schools will be closed for these days.

We will open our OHSC Program for these four days, 8am -5pm. It is open to those families who are working and can't have their child/ren cared by others. The sessions shall just like Vacation Care, 8am – 5pm, \$60 per session less any Child Care subsidies. Children will need to bring their own snacks and lunch. Please call or email Donna in the office to book.



Our Afternoon Assembly: Mondays at 2:45
Yr 6 Leaders & Class Prayer
March 17: Lachlan GN, Lilith B, Jay L; Junior East
March 24: Ella M, Jasmine F, Kael A; Junior West
All Welcome!

Live Life To The Fullest In Christ

8AL

Paul Arnel

Dates to Remember

Friday, March 14 St Joseph's Feast Day
Wednesday, March 19 School Board AGM
Tuesday, March 25 School Photos
Wednesday, April 2 Pupil Free Day
Friday, April 4 Last Day of Term 1

Last Day of Term 1 Early finish 2.15pm

Friday April 18: Good Friday
Saturday April 19: Holy Saturday
Sunday April 20: Easter Sunday
Monday April 21 Eater Monday
Tues – Thursday April 22-24 Pupil Free Days
Friday April 25 ANZAC Day
Monday April 28: School resumes

Tomorrow Friday 14th March St Joseph's Feast Day & Mass. 12.30pm in MacKillop Centre

Office News

SCHOOL FEES:

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: 14th & 28th March

Monthly Debits 18th of each month.

If your circumstances have changed and you are now eligible for a Health Care Card, please complete a CSEF application if you haven't already done so.

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

CARITAS

Caritas is the Catholic Church's international aid and development agency. Caritas Australia works hand in hand with the most marginalised communities in Australia and overseas, to tackle the challenges of poverty.

During Lent we are called to prayer, fasting and alms giving and Caritas focus its efforts of fundraising through Project Compassion. For the remainder of the term the children will be undertaking projects that raise money to support Project Compassion. Each area of the school will have a different focus, so stay tuned to see what the kids have planned!





Project Compassion Sunday 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. By taking home a Project Compassion donation box or envelope, you'll be answering the Gospels' call to care for our global family and walk alongside the most vulnerable.

Your generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to communities facing poverty, food insecurity, lack of education, and water shortages, while building resilience against future challenges. Together, through faith and action, we can bring compassion and opportunity to those most in need.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: <u>caritas.org.au/project-compassion</u>
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

2025 Sacramental Program

If your child is in Grade Three or above and you would like them to take part in the Sacramental Program it is time to register! Those children enrolled in the program will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during term 2 at a date to be confirmed. Confirmation and First Communion will take place on Sunday 14th September at St John the Baptist Church, Numurkah.

In order for children to undertake the sacraments they must have been baptised. If you would like your children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Communion and they have not been baptised please feel free to contact me for further information.

Please see me to obtain an Enrolment Form. Ruth Hartnett-Carr Religious Education Coordinator

Resilience Project



Gratitude involves recognising and expressing appreciation for the people, places and things in our lives.

Practising gratitude allows us to pay attention to what we have, increasing feelings of happiness and leading to a more positive outlook on life.

© RESILIENCE PROJECT.

Benefits

In 21 days of practising gratitude, you rewire your brain to start scanning the world for the positives. You become three times more likely to notice a positive.

In 42 days you:

- · Are less likely to get sick.
- Have higher levels of energy.
- Feel happier.
- Are more enthusiastic.
- Are more focused.
- Are more determined.
- Are more optimistic.
- Have a better quality of sleep.
- Have lower levels of depression and anxiety.

Rock your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day!

World Down Syndrome Day is on 21 March every year. It is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The goal is to help people understand and support those with Down syndrome better. The date being the 21st day of the 3rd month was chosen to represent the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

Believe it or not, socks get people talking! On 21 March, choose some socks that are going to get noticed!

They might be mismatched socks or your boldest and most colourful socks, whatever takes your fancy!

The idea is to start a conversation, so when people ask you about your socks, you can tell them, "I'm wearing them to raise awareness of Down syndrome".

Then, you can tell them everything you want them to know about Down syndrome.



Preps

Wow isn't the term flying by! We have been so busy living and learning in the Prep room. The children are well and truly settled into our daily routines and are confident in our wonderful learning environment. There is always something exciting happening in Prep, so we will keep you updated through the SeeSaw App.

Literacy

In Literacy, we are participating in lots of activities that support our Phonological and Phonemic Awareness. We are also participating in daily InitiaLit lessons that support the children in becoming effective readers and spellers. So far we have learned the sounds 'm' 's' 't' and very soon the vowel sound 'a'. We have continued our focus on developing correct pencil grip, formation, starting points, size and posture to support our writing skills.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, we have finished our unit on pattern and have moved onto Time. In this unit we are looking at ordering and sequencing events, learning the days of the week and discussing first, then and last.

Religion

In Religion, we have looked at how we can be more like Jesus during this period of Lent. The children have been exploring the significance of Lent and Easter and are developing an awareness of the signs and symbols associated with this time.

Inquiry

In Inquiry, we have been exploring our emotions through the use of The Resilience Project. The children have been exploring emotional literacy and how we can show our emotions and see how others are feeling

Specialist Timetable

The children have been enjoying Art, Library and Sport.

Just a reminder to bring your Library bag on Tuesday and wear Sports uniform on Tuesday and Friday.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

The Prep Team - Tan, Dave, Jai, Kloe, Clayton and Emma.

Juniors

It has been a great start to our year together in the Junior School. We are proud of each and every one of our amazing students and how they have learnt the routines of the Junior School! Thankyou to all our families who attended Parent Teacher Student Conferences. It was lovely being able to discuss your children and learn more about them and their families.

Literacy

Students are engaging well in our InitiaLit sessions. It is great to see them confident in the routine and having a go at learning activities. Both year levels have started the year with reviews on sound knowledge learnt in the previous year. Our writing program is based around our storybook for the fortnight. Year 1 students have been looking at narrative text types and using format from our storybook as a foundation to create their own version of the story.









Readers

Students are receiving decodable readers each week that cover recently taught phonics focus'. We are encouraging students to read these books (even if they are on the easier side) because it is increasing recognition of our phonics focus sound and seeing this sound used correctly in spelt words. They will change their readers and read with the teacher at least once a week on their designated reading day. This way the teacher gets to check in on their progress and make sure your child is taking home the correct reader. We ask that you continue reading with your child at home each day and make an entry in their dairy (either morning or night). We are happy for feedback on how your child is going with these texts at home.

Maths

In the past few weeks, we have been exploring Place Value. Students have been enjoying using Base 10 blocks to investigate numbers. Some popular Place Value games have been teddy steal with the highest numbers, get out of my house and place value basketball (online). We will now be moving on to addition and subtraction.









Inquiry

Our focus in Inquiry has been about ourselves. Students have been exploring identity and what makes them special. We have looked at how our brains are different and how we can build up our brain through our actions and words. We are encouraging students to use growth mindset language such as "I don't know this yet", "mistakes help me learn" and "I can try hard things". One of our activities was from the book 'Beautiful Oops". Students were given a page with different mistake markings that they had to design into something beautiful. For the last few weeks, we will be looking at the human body, features and how we can look after it.













Religion

In Religion we are learning all about Lent. On Shrove Tuesday we shared pancakes and learnt about the importance of this day. The following day, Ash Wednesday we shared a special prayer together. Students were very reverent and asking lots of questions after our prayer which was really positive. We continue to discuss Caritas and the importance of raising money for those less fortunate. We have also been looking at acts



of kindness and what we can do during Lent to show kindness to others.

Show and Tell

Our new show and tell routine this year has started well. Students are benefiting from having prepared their information before they present. A note for parents: you can scribe on their sheets if that makes the process easier. Show and tell for next term will start in Week 2 and be about their holidays. If you wish to send pictures to your child's teacher please do so on Seesaw or email.





Specialists

Students have specialist classes on <u>Wednesdays</u>. The children need to continue to wear their <u>sports</u> <u>uniform</u> every Wednesday and Friday. They also need to bring their Library bag each Wednesday.

Weeks 6-10 (Wednesday)
Junior West: LOTE/ART
Junior East: PE/LIBRARY

Weeks 6-10 (Thursday)

Junior East: MUSIC

Weeks 6-10 (Friday)

Junior West: PE

Easter Egg Raffle

As part of the Junior and Foundation area fundraiser for Caritas, we are holding an Easter Egg Raffle. We are asking for Easter themed donations (eggs, baskets, activities). Raffle tickets have been sent home. There are extra tickets available in the front office. Raffles will be drawn Monday in the last week of Term 1. Good luck!

Please send us a message on SeeSaw if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child. If it is a timely notice, please contact the front office as teachers do not always check Seesaw throughout the day. Makayla, Sara, James, Andrew, Loreena, Clara, Jane, Shay and Ally.

Middles

As we pass the halfway mark of Term 1, our learning is in full swing! Routines and expectations are well established, and our students are thriving.

In **Literacy**, we have been thoroughly enjoying our novel study on Matilda, exploring its themes and characters while developing our reading and writing skills.

In **Numeracy**, we have been consolidating our understanding of time and are now moving into multiplication and division to finish off the term.

As part of our **Religious Education**, we have been studying Lent and its significance in the Church calendar. Students have identified the three key branches of Lent, almsgiving, prayer, and fasting and have been reflecting on how they can incorporate these into their daily lives. Through discussions and activities, we are deepening our understanding of the Lenten journey and preparing our hearts for Easter.

Our recent swimming sports event was a great success, and the Fun Run was a definite highlight. The majority of our middle cohort took on the challenge, participating in either the 1km or 5km events. It was a fantastic celebration of all things St Joseph's, and we were thrilled to see our brand new athletics track in action. How lucky are we!

NAPLAN has commenced for our Grade 3 students, and we couldn't be prouder of them. Every student gave it their best effort, regardless of their strengths. Well done to all students and teachers for their hard work and perseverance.

Our **Inquiry** unit on Teamwork has been an exciting journey, as students explore how living things work together to achieve a goal. We are especially looking forward to a special visit from ex-student and social media sensation Clancy Lester. Clancy will be hosting a Bee Workshop, teaching our students about the importance of bees and how Indigenous cultures use native flora for natural functions. If you have a chance, check out his socials to see the amazing conservation work he is doing in the community!

The workshop will be a fantastic way to wrap up an incredible Term 1. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out via Seesaw or give us a call if you have any questions.

Middles Team

Seniors

NAPLAN

This week, our Grade 5s have been completing their NAPLAN tests. We commend all of our students for the excellent way they are approaching this challenge and continue to encourage them to do their best and give it a red-hot crack! Tomorrow, we celebrate our final test with Numeracy.

Buddies

Last week our Grade 6s visited their Prep buddies to spend some time completing a Nature Scavenger Hunt in the playground and our school environment. It was a great chance to see our students take up the opportunity to lead our newest students and expose them to some new learnings. We cannot wait to share even more experiences and memories with our little buddies!

Literacy & Numeracy

In Literacy this term we have been deepening our understanding of sentence structure, grammar and different text-types through our study of the novel, "War Horse". We have all been enthralled in the adventures of Joey and his mate Topthorn. We recently completed a narrative in the same style as "War Horse", and now we turn our attention to completing a persuasive text to answer the question, "Should horses have been used in World War One?"

In Numeracy, we started the term exploring collecting data and representing it as line and column graphs, before moving on to properties of number. We have focused on factors and multiples, We are using this new learning to identify prime numbers and prime factors.



Congratulations to Everly, Tess, Audrey & Jack who recently competed at the Regional Swimming event in Shepparton.

ST JOSEPH'S B WATER WALK

Project Compassion - St Joseph's Big Water Walk

This year to raise money for our Project Compassion campaign, the Senior School will be having a "Big Water Walk" event on Thursday 27th March (Week 9). This will involve groups of six, each carrying a bucket of water around our school oval. Our aim is to build a stronger awareness and understanding of the journey that millions of people go on to collect safe and clean drinking water.

We encourage families to support their child by talking about this at home. If you wish to sponsor your child and help them fundraise, you can add money to their small Project Compassion box.

Senior School Sports Championship

Now that the Athletics Track and Oval are nearly complete, we are eagerly awaiting the return of our Senior School Sports Championship! In this competition series, Senior students will play off in houses, with winning houses gaining points for the Yearly Championship. We look forward to seeing the first event in the coming weeks!

Specialist Updates

Students will be having Specialist Classes on Tuesdays. This means that students will be able to wear their Sports Uniform on this day.

Weeks 6 - 10

Tuesday

Senior North (Mr Stirton, Miss Sutton) - Art / LOTE / PE

Senior South (Mrs Tilley, Mr Mills) - PE / Library / Music

ALL STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED TO WEAR SPORTS UNIFORM ON FRIDAY

Homework

Homework will be handed out each Friday and collected the following Friday. If students need help with their homework, there will be a Homework Club run each Wednesday lunchtime in Senior North (Miss Sutton's) classroom.

If a student is away when homework is handed out, it is their responsibility to collect it.

In the Senior School our homework expectations are:

- School Diary (due each morning)
- o Reading for at least 10 minutes
- o Daily GEM reflection
- o Parent / Carer Signature
- Differentiated Maths Sheet (due each Friday)

Thank you,

Senior School Staff

Adam, Jordy, Caitlin, Jody, Alli, Trev, Karlene, Sam, Ray and Dom.

Library

Scholastic Bookclub orders for issue #2 are due in by tomorrow, Friday, 14th March Mary

Art









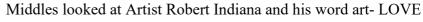


Juniors loved being outside tracing their shadow!



Middles- created self portraits blowing bubbles with bubble gum











Seniors looked at different artists portraits and chose own style to create a self portrait. Lifting the page shows whats inside the artists head. Lilith and Willa





Preps and Juniors studied the Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky - "Concentric circles in squares and used this as inspiration for our concentric hearts





Student of the Week

Sen S Rylie Fraser

An excellent start to his time at St Joseph's and settling into our living and learning routines so well! Keep it up Rylie!

Sen SP Nate Duffet

Trying his best in class and having a go at everything. Keep it up Nate the Great!

Ryan Feltham Sen M

A great start to the school year, Ryan. You have contributed to classroom discussions and asked questions when you have needed assistance. Keep up the good work.

Sen TH Willa Schulz

For having a positive attitude to all your work and being a kind and welcoming class member. Well done Willa, we are so proud of you!

Mid A Eden Doncon

Congratulations for always being ready to learn and trying your best with all tasks.

Mid L Phoebe Mulcahy

Her kind and caring personality. Your generosity and willingness to support others to make our classroom a better place. Keep up the amazing work Phoebe!

Mid MB Leo Martin

For having a go at all learning tasks and persisting with new things. Great job doing your best Leo!

Mid B Eden Feltham

For her brilliant work ethic in class and setting a wonderful standard for all.

Jun O Beau Rossborough

For making really good choices and joining in with all learning activities. Keep up the great work!

Jun W Emily Farrant

For her fabulous reading in Literacy last week.

Keep up the good work Emily!

Jun P Daivik Madarapu

For being a kind and caring student. It's wonderful to see you supporting those around you. Well done Daivik.

Jun S Poppy Graham

For always showing kindness and thoughtfulness by always helping classmates and spreading positivity in the classroom.

Prep N Oliver Jalkanen

For an amazing start to Prep. Thanks for being such a kind and inclusive person Oliver, you are a gem!

Prep J Matthew Wesselink

For working beautifully during all learning tasks. Keep up the positive approach. Excellent effort Matthew!

Prep M Zach Lyons

For the amazing Aliens and their homes drawing you have done during our story book lessons.

Awesome work Zach.

The Triple A Social Skill is awarded to students in each area 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.

The GEM award is part of our Resilience Project – Gratitude, Empathy & Mindfulness. We will alternate between the two awards.

Congratulations to the following students who received the GEM award in Week 6:

Jaxon Hoiles, Maicie Collier, Emma Reade, and Maisie Hill.



Principal's Award

Term 1

Week 4: Isla Culton

Week 5: Tess McCracken

Week 6: Maisie Hill

Living out the values of

Saint Mary MacKillop

through what they say and what they do





Triple A Social Skill & GEM Awards

Canteen

March

14th Volunteer

17th Closed

18th Closed

19th Volunteer

20th Gayle Morgan

21st Helen

24th Closed

25th Closed

26th Volunteer

27th Volunteer

28th Tammy Rees

31st Closed

April

1st Closed

2nd Sheree Lawless

3rd Gayle Morgan

4th Kim Thompson

If you are unable to attend on your day, can you please arrange a swap with someone else or as last resort let Marcella know in advance, so she is aware that she has no helper that day. Also, please let Marcella know if you are free on a day when we need a volunteer; 1 hour would really help her out and your children love to see you helping out.

St John's Parish OSHC News

The children are enjoying themselves with making all different craft, games inside & out. We have started our Easter Craft.

We recently reached our maximum limit on children in care in the afternoons, so please make sure you book early and notify us asap if your child will be absent from care, otherwise you will be charged.

Pupil Free Days

We will open our OHSC Program for these four days to relieve the stress on families. It is open to those families who are working and can't have their child/ren cared for by others. The sessions shall just like Vacation Care, 8am – 5pm, \$60 per session less any Child Care subsidies. Children will need to bring their own snacks and lunch. Please call or email Donna in the office to book.

VACATION CARE

Vacation Care shall be running again during the next school holidays, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays 8am to 5pm. Bookings are now open. The cost shall remain the same, \$60.00 per day with Child Care subsidies also provided. Spaces are limited.

If you are current users of the program, then you can book via the My Family Lounge App, or contact the school office.

If you wish to start using the program, please contact the office for enrolment information.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Sue, Bid, Tash, James.

St Johns Parish News

"The St John the Baptist Residential Subdivision Steering Committee advises that work has commenced on the 19 Lot extension to the Kilmartin Place residential subdivision, which is located behind the Parish House, with Hogan Excavations taking control of the site and commencing earthworks involving heavy machinery. The site has security fencing because it is potentially dangerous with heavy machinery operating and excavation of deep trenches. People should not enter this site without the permission and accompaniment of a representative of Hogan Excavations (call Mark on 0409886326)."

Regards Frank Malcolm Project Secretary

Community Notices

Become a Berry Street foster carer

berrystreet.org.au/fostercare





Post Separation Services

Is a free independent service that aims to minimise a child's exposure to conflictual situations by assisting separated parents with contact arrangements.

What you can expect from the service: A child friendly environment; A safe, neutral and child focused environment for supervised visits or changeovers for children of separated parents; Promotes positive interaction between children and their parents; Supports the strengthening of relationships between children and their parents.

Types of services:

- Supervised visits
- ✓ Low vigilant visits
 ✓ Facilitated Changeovers

Supporting Parents After Separation Is a free program that assists separated parents to

- Navigate the challenges of their separation Understand how conflict affects a child's development
 Learn effective co-parenting communication
- strategies.
- ✓ Self-care

Parents attend separate sessions to their former

PH: 03 58228100 E: pss@berrystreet.org.au



2025 Fun Run



We are a group of 4 Dietetics students from Monash University on placement at NCN Health for 8 weeks. We are working in collaboration with the Numurkah Community Learning Centre on the 'Growing Healthy Habits' project, where we aim to continue the great work already done to promote healthy eating in the community. We will be surveying parents and caregivers at the preschool and primary schools in Numurkah over the next few weeks. We hope to use your answers to help us understand how we can best support families and promote healthy eating in the community. We will have a short survey which we appreciate your time in filling out, the results of these surveys will guide our future programs and initiatives. We encourage as many people to complete the survey as possible, the more participation we get, the better future programs can be run. We will be at St Joseph's at school pick up time on Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th March. If you see us at school drop-off or pick ups, please come and say hi.

























Casserole Bank – 2025



Dear Parents,

Over the years there has been a wonderful group of parents who have generously made casseroles for our "Casserole Bank."

In our lives we all have times where we are overstretched due to special celebrations such as the birth of a new family member, family illness or other concerns.

As a community it has been wonderful to be able support our families by providing a meal for them – something less they need to worry about at these times.

If you are able to cook a casserole for our 'Casserole Bank' could you please let me know by returning the slip below.

In the past we have used foil / sealed containers to store / freeze the casseroles. Our school will supply the foil containers.

We only store a few at the time but it would be wonderful if you could be involved and I will let you know when I need a casserole for a family who needs our support.

Thanking You,	
Ruth Hartnett-Carr	
<i> </i>	am able to make a casserole for the Casserole
Bank when required.	

Print Name please - Thanks Ruth