

# St Joseph's School

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## Bulletin—Week 9 of Term 4, 4<sup>th</sup> December 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 **Celebrating**  
Our focus within the three areas are as follows  
**Attitude** : Enjoyment and Fun  
**Awareness** : Appreciating Achievements of Yourself & Others  
**Action** : Participating In Regular Celebrations

Yesterday was a wonderful celebration of a tradition that has been part of St Joseph's for many, many decades. Twilight Sports (back in the day) was an enormous picnic gathering event for the school and parish. Families would come with baskets laden with homemade savory and sweet delights to celebrate the end of the year. It is lovely to see this tradition continuing and it could not run but for the generosity of staff giving their time freely to enable our children to take part in something that is uniquely 'ours'. So enormous thank you to all involved!

As we enter the final weeks of the term, there is always a flurry of activity and impending change. One aspect of that exciting change is the reinvigoration of our garden bed structure as we embark on the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG). Mrs. Jody Tilley will head the program, and as a school community we look forward to developing and deepening our understanding of stewardship of our garden and sustainability of our resources.

We farewell Mr. Paul Arnel, who is retiring from the principal role after 19 years at St Joseph's, Mr. Dominic Izzard, who will embark on a new chapter in his career as Principal of St Patrick's Parish School in Albury and Ms. Jo Holland, who is returning to Grahamvale Primary School. Each of these people has made our school community a much better place for being part of it. They have generously shared their gifts and talents and selflessly given themselves to each child who walks through our school gates every day. We ask God's blessing on Paul, Dom and Jo as they take leave of us and begin their new journeys in 2026.

Have a wonderful week.  
Ruth

**Students Last day – 3.15 pm  
finish Tuesday, December 16**

### Dates to Remember

Tue Dec 9	P-6 Orientation Day 11.30am – 1pm
Fri Dec 12	End of Year Mass 9.30am
Mon Dec 15	Yr 6 Graduation 6pm start
Tue Dec 16	Last Day for Children – 3.15pm Finish
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026	First Day for All Students



## End of Year Celebrations

**School End of Year Mass – 9:30am Friday, December 12 (All Families Welcome)**

- This Mass celebrates the End of our School Year. We are all present to take time to give thanks for our community. School Captains for 2025 will also be announced.

**Graduation – Photos at 5.30pm, Graduation Ceremony starts**

**6:00pm Monday, December 15**

- This Ceremony celebrates the Living and Learning of our Year 6 Graduates in their time here at St Joseph's.

**Avenue of Honour – 2:45pm Tuesday, December 16**

- We farewell our Yr 6 Graduates

### St Joseph's School Teaching Staff for 2026.

**Principal:** Mrs. Ruth Hartnett- Carr

**Deputy Principal (Acting):** Mr. Liam Booth

**Religious Education Leader:** Mrs. Anna Andrews

**Curriculum Leader:** Mr. Adam Stirton

**Inclusive Education Leader:** Mrs. Makayla Cox

**Wellbeing Leader:** Mrs. Ebony Morrison

**Prep:** Mr. Jai Morrison, Mrs. Loreena Keane, Ms. Sue Blizzard

**Juniors:** Ms. Rachel Morrison, Ms. Soraya Cannon, Ms. Sara Whitford, Mrs. Fiona Hubbard/Mrs. Virginia Hughes

**Middles:** Mr. Tim Arnel, Mr. James Pruden, Mrs. Anna Andrews, Mr. Jeremy Tyndall

**Seniors:** Mr. Andrew Sait, Mrs. Tanya Neyland, Ms. Jordyn Sutton, Ms. Bre Levesque/ Mr. Trevor Mills

### Specialists:

**Art:** Mrs. Carol Lawless **Library:** Mrs. Mary Laidlaw **Music:** Mr. Tim Harbor **Physical Education:** Mr. Shane Merkel **Kitchen Garden:** Mrs. Jody Tilley

## Preparing for a new Class - Transitions

As the school year draws to a close, we begin to look forward to the exciting opportunities that the next year will bring for our students. While the shift from one grade level to the next is a natural part of school life, it is also a significant developmental milestone. It can bring a mix of emotions for children- excitement for a new teacher and friends, but sometimes nervousness about change or increased expectations.

### Strategies for Positive Transition

#### 1. Talk Positively About Change.

Your attitude is contagious! If you speak about the change in a positive and enthusiastic way, your child is more likely to view it as an opportunity for growth.

- Acknowledge and Validate: Let your child know it's okay to feel a little bit nervous, but gently reframe the feeling. You might say, "It's normal to feel a bit sad to leave your current class, but isn't it exciting to think about all the new things you'll learn and the new friends you might make next year?"
- Focus on the 'New' Positives: Emphasise the exciting aspects- a new classroom, perhaps specialist subjects, different school activities, or being one of the older students on the playground.

## 2. State the Routine Preparation

Consistency and structure help children feel secure, especially when other aspects of their lives are changing.

- Re-establish Bedtime Routines: As the start of the new school year approaches (especially after a long break), begin to return to your school-night bedtime and wake-up schedule a week or two in advance. This helps prevent tired, unsettled starts.
- Practice Independence: Depending on your child's age, use this time to practice skills they will need more of next year:
- Younger Students: Practising opening lunch containers, managing their school bag, putting on shoes and doing up laces.
- Older Students: Focusing on organisational skills like putting permission slips in the right spot, packing their own library bag, and remembering their hat.

## 3. Encourage Communication and Problem-Solving

Empowering your child to feel capable of handling new situations is key to building resilience.

- Be a Listener: Ask open-ended questions like, "What are you looking forward to most next year?" or "Is there anything you feel a little unsure about?" Listen without judgment.
- Brainstorm Solutions: If they express a worry (e.g., "I won't know where my new class is"), help them problem-solve. You could suggest, "That's a great question! Who is the first person you could ask for help if you're not sure where to go?" or "We can walk past the new block on the way to the park next week."
- Highlight Past Successes: Remind them of previous transitions they navigated successfully, such as starting school, changing teachers, or joining a new sports team. *"Remember when you started in Year 1? You were a little nervous then, but you made so many great friends!"*

We look forward to making the transition into the next year a positive and successful experience for all our students. We have Orientation Day on Tuesday, 9 December, at 11.30 am where all our students will go up to their new class until 1pm.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart...."

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

Liam Booth

## Giving Tree

As the season of Advent has begun, we again turn our hearts and thoughts toward those less fortunate than us by asking families to donate a wrapped gift. Gifts will be passed on to St Vincent de Paul who will distribute them to local families in need. Please fill in and attach a gift tag with the gender and approximate age the gift would be suitable for (e.g. 7yr old girl).

These gifts need to be placed under the Giving Tree located in the Mary MacKillop Centre by **Monday, December 8th.**





## Our Prep and Junior Swimming Program wraps up Tomorrow



## LOST PROPERTY

There are a number unnamed jumpers, drink bottles & camp clothing in Lost Property; please come & check if they belong to you. We can only return named items. All Lost Property will be donated to 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniforms or St Vincent de Paul on the last day of Term.



Congratulations to our Senior Girls Cricket Team who placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Regional T20 Blast School Cup





## Office News

### PRIVACY POLICY

For access please visit our website.  
[www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au).

**SCHOOL FEES:** School Fees are now due for payment, unless you have payment arrangements.

If you wish to change your current payment arrangements please contact the office. Fortnightly payments will commence in February next year. You will receive a statement at the beginning of the year.

**EFTPOS** and **CENTREPAY** are now a payment option. Please enquire at the office.


If you have any queries or concerns about your payment commitments, please do not hesitate to come in and speak to Paul. If you are wanting to amend your payment options please do so ASAP.

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

We welcome Sasha & Emma to the admin team who will work alongside Gayle & Donna.

***If you have any queries, please contact the school office on 5862 1804.***

***Reminder you are now able to Sign into PAM. You won't be able to use PAM until you have reset your password. Please see email with instructions sent on 25/11/25.***



**Health Care Card**  
**HCC 2026**

**For Primary School families**

Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd (CESL) is pleased to inform Primary School families holding a valid Health Care Card (HCC) that you are eligible for a significant reduction in School fees for the upcoming year, including all fees and levies.


We understand that many families have varying circumstances and in response to the rising cost of living expenses, we are committed to supporting those who need additional assistance.

Please be assured that this support is provided to ensure all students have the opportunity to thrive in our school community. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the school office.

**3 simple steps**

- 1 provide a copy of your HCC to the school office
- 2 complete a Camps, Sports & Excursions Form (CSEF)
- 3 set up a direct debit arrangement at the school

If you've already submitted your HCC, completed the CSEF form, and have a direct debit in place, no further action is needed – the discount will be applied automatically.



## Student of the Week

### Sen S      **Rylie Fraser**

*For the improving focus and effort he is putting into his learning each day. You should be proud of your progress and the growth you have made. Ripper efforts Rylie! .*

### **Dylan Black**

*For challenging yourself to have a week of focused learning in Literacy and Numeracy. Keep it up Dylan!*

### Sen S/P      **Edward Trimble**

*For a fantastic effort during our Sovereign Hill camp. You were enthusiastic and gave everything a red hot go! Well done.*

### **Matilda Ireland**

*Her positive attitude towards learning. It's been great to see your confidence grow throughout the year.*

### Sen T      **Maisie Hill**

*For being an amazing role model for all. You stand tall for what you believe in. May you always have the courage to make the best choices for YOU. You're a star Maisie.*

### **Indi Rodda**

*For outstanding maths work. I love watching you take on new challenges with such a determined attitude.*

### Sen M      **Mia Muller**

*For a superbly written narrative last week. A text that displayed all the literacy skills we have taught this year. Brilliant, Mia.*

### **Kael Arho**

*For a huge improvement and effort in Literacy. Great to see you reading, writing and contributing to class discussion. Keep it up.*

### Mid A      **Evie Teasdale**

*For coming to school regularly and trying her best at everything she does. Well done Evie.*

### **Lola Keane**

*For her tremendous flexibility and for being an outstanding role model for her classmates. Last week, Lola read with such confidence in front of the assembly with absolutely no practice. What an incredible example for others to follow!*

### Mid AA      **Zac Aldridge**

*For your positive attitude on camp. You showed great encouragement and support to your friends during each activity. Well done, Zac!*

### **Caleb Campbell**

*For showing initiative in the classroom and demonstrating great leadership qualities. Well done, Caleb.*

### Mid B      **Jack Glass**

*Giving his best efforts in all he does and consistently having a positive attitude at camp and school. Top efforts Jack!*

### **Dougal Alexander**

*Your excellent commitment to your learning. You worked very hard to stay focused and complete tasks. Well done mate!*

### Mid M/B      **Freddie Hill**

*For your resilience and determination on camp. Well done, Freddie – you should be so proud of your efforts!*

### **Lexi Rees**

*For being such a helpful and considerate friend to Maisie. You are always looking out for her and making sure she is happy. Well done, Lex!*

### Jun O      **Bede Brown**

*For his cheerful attitude and the way he approached the Year 2 sleepover and Activity day. You are a great class member who is always kind to others. Well done.*

### **Sylvie Smyth**

*For her fantastic participation in Swimming! You are a fish!*

### Jun W      **Charlie Kane**

*For his wonderful attitude and willingness to make the most of our Grade 2 Sleepover and Activity Day. Well done Charlie!*

### **Dustyn McKellar**

*For the effort he has been putting into his learning this Term, especially during our literacy block. You have been making some great learning choices Dusty, keep up the great work!*

### Jun P      **Izzy Dowling**

*For her dedication and willingness to improve her literacy capabilities. Keep it up Izzy, you are a star.*

### **Finn Harrington**

*For the positive attitude and effort he consistently demonstrates in our classroom. You are a fantastic leader, Finn. Keep it up!*

### **Lily Baker**

*For her fantastic efforts during our Literacy and Numeracy blocks. It is terrific to see you grow in confidence. Well done, Lily*

## Jun S      **Joel Brennan**

For his cheerful attitude and willingness to join in all activities at the Grade Two Sleepover. Great work, Joel!

## **Poppy Graham**

For giving your absolute best effort during swimming! Your determination and positive attitude was fantastic to see!

## Prep N      **Max Pettigrove**

For showing amazing growth in his confidence during class tasks and sharing his ideas with enthusiasm. Well done Max .

## **Osten Lewis**

For great enthusiasm and participation he has showed during swimming lessons. Excellent work Osten, keep it up.

## Prep M      **Lucas Simmons**

For the hard work you are putting in during our literacy block. It is visible how hard you try, and the result are showing; keep it up!

## **Maggie Martin**

For the excellent swimming you did last week during swimming lessons. No matter what you do you always try your best Maggie keep it up.

## Prep KA      **Eve Van Hattem**

For showing fabulous listening skills and respect to her teachers. You are a star Eve!

## **Maddie Clurey**

For displaying more confidence in her learning and having a go at difficult tasks! Keep it up Maddie!

## **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 8 Flexibility:**

Annabelle Smyth, Evah Tweed, Isla Harris and Lachie Grey-Noble.

**Congratulations to the following students who received the GEM in Week 9:**

Ethan Swann, Elias Pettigrove, Evie Dietrich and Gracie Few.

## Principal's Award

Term 4

**Week 8: Peyton Lee**

**Week 9: Axel Ramadge & Mia Muller**

**Living out the values of**

**Saint Mary MacKillop**

**through what they say and what they do.**

## **Canteen**

### **December**

5<sup>th</sup> **Volunteer**

10<sup>th</sup> Kim Thompson

11<sup>th</sup> Rachel Hitchcock

12<sup>th</sup> **Volunteer**

**The choices will be limited for window items as stocks run low at the end of the year.**

Thank you to all those parents who have given up their days off or time to help run the canteen. We are very lucky to have a canteen that operates 3 days a the week, providing healthy food options for our students. We are only able to do this with the help from our parents. Thank you to Crystal & Sherrin.

## **Parent Helpers**

Thank you to all our parents/guardians/grandparents that give up their time so freely during the year to help in the classrooms, volunteering in the Canteen, covering books in the library, Casserole Bank, cooking BBQ's for special events, Mother/Father's day stall, Fun Runs, P & F & School Board. It is the school community involvement that helps make our school such a great school.

Vacation Care shall be running once again. Please see the attached flyer for dates, costs etc.

We will be sorting out bookings in the last week of January for Before and After School Care for 2026. If you need to change your days and already know what days you will require, or no longer need the booking, you can log onto the Xplor App, call the office 5862 1804 or email [dmurfett@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dmurfett@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au). Places are limited so get in early if you require a permanent booking. We will assume if we haven't heard from you that you wish to continue the same as this year.



## ST JOHN'S OSHC VACATION CARE

### When?

Tuesday, Wednesdays & Thursday from the 6<sup>th</sup> January until the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025, 8am to 5pm.

### What do we bring?

You will need to bring your own snacks, lunch & water bottle.

### What activities will we do?

We will offer a range of activities including sporting games, craft, cooking, indoor games and many more!

### Cost?

It will cost \$60 per child per day, less any childcare subsidies you may receive.

### Who is the program open to?

The Vacation Care program is open to all current St Joseph's students, that are aged 12 years and under, including the current Year 6s and the new Preps.

### How do I register my child/ren?

If you are already using Before & After School Care, you can book via the Xplor Home App as you would for any casual bookings, select Vacation Care.

If you have not used Before & After School Care, you will need to contact the school office on 5862 1804 before the 16<sup>th</sup> December. Once school closes, you can email your phone number to [dmurfett@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dmurfett@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au).

Bookings are now open.





## COMMUNITY NOTICES

Numurkah Singers Theatre Inc. Presents


# LITTLE WOMEN

the  
broadway  
musical

Book by ALLAN KNEE      Music by JASON HOWLAND      Lyrics by MINDI DICKSTEIN

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by Music Theatre International (Australasia).  
[www.mtishows.com.au](http://www.mtishows.com.au)



Numurkah Town Hall  
November 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Tickets @[trybooking.com/DGPOG](https://trybooking.com/DGPOG)

### NUMURKAH LIONS CHRISTMAS CAROLS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 6.00PM – 9.00PM  
NEWMAN SQUARE NUMURKAH  
BBQ & COLD DRINKS SNOW CONES. FACE PAINTING &  
VISIT FROM SANTA.  
BYO RUGS, CUSHIONS, CHAIRS  
THIS AN ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT & EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME.



**Piano Teacher for beginners.** Beginner adult and children from 6 years of age .

I have permanently relocated to the Goulburn Valley from interstate where I taught in a small country town, and where my students were regular winners in the local Eisteddfod . I don't charge the earth, and special rates for a family with more than one student. \$15 for half an hour (sometimes goes over, not always strictly adhered to). If you don't have a piano, keyboards can be used for a fraction of the cost.

I will travel to your home. I hope to have enough students in Numurkah/Nathalia on any day to make the travel worthwhile.

Violin: I will also teach beginner violin.

Telephone: Valerie: 0400 429 284

GROW LANGUAGE AND LITERACY  
SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

## SPEECH THERAPY

Speech Sounds  
Language  
Literacy  
Social Communication

**GROUPS & 1:1**  
Grow Language and Literacy will be providing appointments on site at your child's school in 2026

**Your child may benefit from speech therapy if:**

- They have difficulty following instructions
- Their stories are hard to follow and understand
- They have difficulty finding the right words
- Their speech sounds are not developing as expected
- They have difficulty navigating friendships

**How to access speech therapy:**

- Complete a registration form using the QR code
- Engage in a conversation with Nicole to discuss your child's individual needs
- Accept an individual or group appointment for 2026



**FEES PER SESSION**  
Groups - \$70-80 per child  
Individual - \$193.99

[www.growlanguageandliteracy.com.au](http://www.growlanguageandliteracy.com.au)  
[nicole@growlanguageandliteracy.com.au](mailto:nicole@growlanguageandliteracy.com.au)  
0400 147 635

NDIS Private Funding Medicare Rebates\*  
\*1:1 appointments only

### Online Netball Club Registrations

The Katunga Football Netball Club invites all new and past players to participate in our 2026 season. This year we will once again require online registrations for ALL netballers to assist coaches for senior grade selections and trials.

Please share with any new players who may be wishing to join the KFNC.

Please complete the online Club Registration Survey which you will find on our website at [www.katungafnc.com.au](http://www.katungafnc.com.au).

For further information please contact please contact Kellie Salter on 0400 750 218 or Dani Henderson on 0422 210 597 or email [katungafnc@outlook.com](mailto:katungafnc@outlook.com).





## TWILIGHT SPORTS

# BUSH NIPPERS 2026

1 PROGRAM, 2 GREAT LOCATIONS

### COBRAM

JANUARY 2026  
6-8 & 13-15



### YARRAWONGA

JANUARY 2026  
20 - 22



SCAN QR CODES TO REGISTER!

