



Thursday, February 12th 2026 | Volume 2

MacKillop News

St. Joseph's Primary School, Numurkah



Principal's Message

Ruth Hartnett-Carr

As we move further into the school year, it has been a joy to watch our students settle so confidently and happily back into school life. Classrooms are buzzing with curiosity, routines are taking shape, and there is a genuine sense of calm purpose across the school. Our children are already demonstrating a strong commitment to their learning and to one another, which is wonderful to see.

A highlight of the past week was our Swimming Carnival. It was great to see our students embodying the words of Fr Frank Jones (one of our past Parish Priests) "You don't have to be

the best, just do your best." through having a go and being resilient, celebrating personal achievement and cheering on others.

Thank you to our staff, families, and parent helpers for making the carnival such a success. We look forward to the many wonderful moments still ahead as the year continues to unfold.

"Be a gift of love and compassion for one another" St.

Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Ruth Hartnett-Carr

St. Joseph's Primary School

16 Tocumwal Rd, Numurkah, Victoria, 3636

Ph: (03) 5862 1804

Email: admin@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au



Car Park Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

Morning Routine

Drop Off Options

Car Park - Park in the Middle and bring your child/ren into class

OR

Use a **Kiss and Drop Zone** - Front of school or Bus Lane in the Church Car Park

Please do not drop off or park in the bus space in the mornings.

Afternoon Routine

Pick Up Options

Car Park - Park in the Middle and come to collect your child/ren.

Kids are not to walk into the Car Park unescorted.

(Do not park in Bus Lane)

Park on the Street

School side - all spaces available as Bus Bay applies to morning only

Far side - Use the children's crossing.

Not doing this tells all children that this is ok!

It is not ok!!!

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: 13th & 27th Feb.

Monthly Debits 18th of each month.

If you have unexpected circumstances for the fortnight or month and need to stop a Direct Debit please note they are processed two days before the due date and so you will need to contact us prior to that, to put a stop on them.

If you are paying your fees in full, yearly fees are due by 3rd April 2026

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

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

If you have moved address, changed your occupation or any other details, please contact our office by Friday 21st February. We need the correct information as the funding we receive from the government is based on these details.

If you are eligible for the Camp Sports Excursion Fund (CSEF) please complete an application & hand into the office.

(healthcare/pension card required). If you applied last year and your circumstances haven't changed, eg number of children attending school is the same, then you don't need to complete the application again.

If you have any queries or concerns about your payment commitments, please do not hesitate to come in and speak to Ruth. 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

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





2026 Swimming Carnival

In hot and dry conditions, our Swimming Carnival was held at the Numurkah Pool on Friday 6th February.

Every student was required to swim in either a 50m, 25m or Novelty Event for Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly.

A strong contingent of parents and supporters were present to witness the 59 races that were held. An emphasis was made on the students challenging themselves and this was apparent on the day and throughout the practice sessions.

As the scores came in, it was clear that the final standings would come down to the final event. Rohan House was able to hold onto their lead to achieve a hard earned victory.

1st Rohan – 175 2nd McCarthy – 166 3rd Cremin – 161 4th O'Connor – 105.



Parent Student Teacher Race





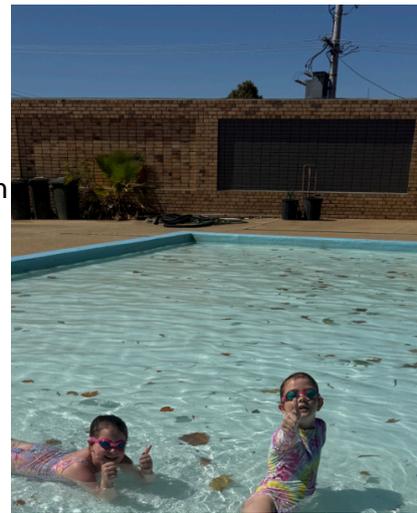
Our fantastic staff worked tirelessly in blazing conditions and with the great help from our Year 9 SMOTA helpers, our students were able to enjoy a fun and successful day.

The day concluded with the 4 x 25m Staff v Parents v SMOTA v Grade 6 Relay. With pride at stake, our Staff (James Carpenter, Jordyn Commadeur, James Pruden and Sam Robertson) were able to hold off a strong finishing Parents team and take bragging rights into 2027.

We have selected a team of 13 to take part in the Shepparton Division Finals on Tuesday 17th February and we wish the swimmers all the very best in their individual and team events.

The team is:

<u>9/10 Years</u>	Evie Clurey	April Caccianiga	Olive Trimble
	Harper Gledhill	Erin Nugent	Leo Martin
<u>11 Years</u>	Lexi Rees	Bridget Simmons	Oliver Tilley
<u>12 Years</u>	Audrey Martin	Lily Frederickson	Carter Booth
	Jack Robertson		





Foundation School News

Sue, Jay, Loreena, Karlene and Kloe

Welcome to the 2026 School Year!

We are thrilled to welcome all new and returning families to the 2026 school year! It has been exciting getting to know our students and families over the past few weeks. We are so pleased with how well the Prep students have settled into their classroom environment and routines. It's a privilege to guide them through their first year of learning and growing at St Joseph's.

A huge thank you to all our Prep parents and carers for ensuring their children have had a smooth start to their schooling. Your support and efforts are greatly appreciated!

COMMUNICATION

We are no longer using the Seesaw app. If you need to contact Loreena or Jai, please feel free to visit them before or after school – their doors are always open! Alternatively, you can email them at:

Jai Morrison: jmorrison@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au

Loreena Keane: lkeane@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au

For urgent matters, please call the office, and they will either pass on your message or connect you directly with the teacher you need.

LITERACY

In Literacy, students have been introduced to our program, **Initialit**. This whole-class literacy program provides all students with the essential knowledge and strong foundations they need to become successful readers and writers.

Students have already begun learning about words, how they are used to convey meaning, and rhyming words. At our upcoming Parent/Teacher catch-up, we will share more information about our literacy focus for 2026.

In addition to Initialit, students have also been learning about concepts of print, such as the front cover, title, and where to start reading on a page. They've been focusing on how to correctly hold a pencil, as well as practicing the formation of lowercase letters through both tracing and independent work.

NUMERACY

In Numeracy, students have been working on 2- and 3-part patterns, as well as learning to count and make numbers from 1–10. They've had many hands-on opportunities to create and explore patterns using a variety of materials.

RELIGION

In Religion, students have been exploring prayer and who Jesus is.

INQUIRY

In Inquiry, students have been focusing on setting classroom expectations and routines. They've also been learning about positive habits and the importance of being a good friend to everyone. We've discussed how displaying appropriate behavior creates a safe and happy environment for all students.

BUDDIES

Last week, our Prep students were introduced to their Grade 6 Buddy. These Grade 6 students are leaders in our school and will provide guidance and support throughout the year. We are excited to see these friendships develop through various activities.

SPECIALIST CLASSES & UNIFORM

Art & Library: Tuesdays. Please remember to send your child with their library bag and book, as they will not be able to borrow a new book without them.

Sport Uniform: Tuesdays and Fridays.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

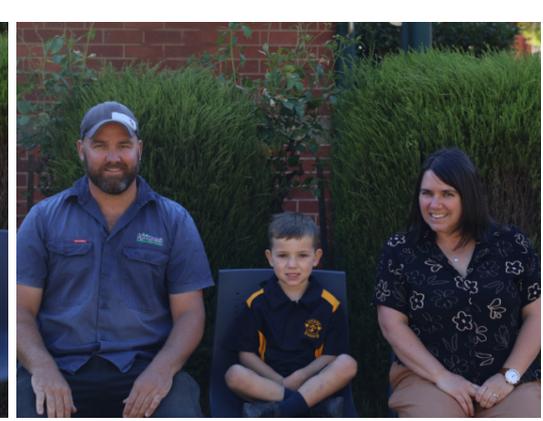
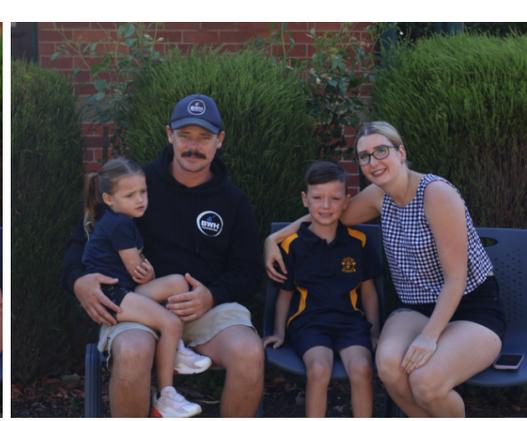
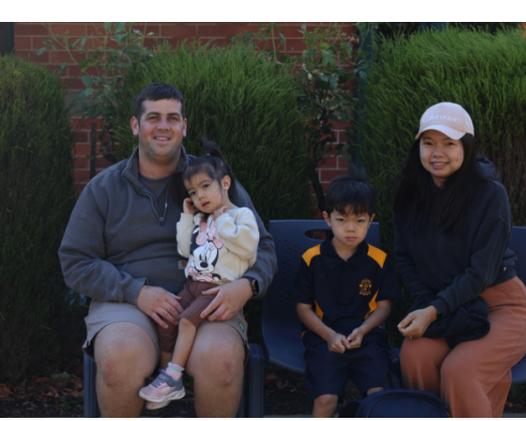
One final note: Parent/Teacher Interviews will take place in Week 4, on Wednesday February 18th during the day. Bookings can be accessed through PAM. If you have any questions or issues with booking a time, please let us know, and we will assist you.

We look forward to working closely with you this year to build a happy, supportive learning environment for all our students.

Thank you,
The Prep Team









Junior School News

Rachael, Sara, Soraya, Fiona, Virginia, Shay,
Emma, Ally, Sam and Shannon

Dear Families,

We've had a fantastic start to living and learning in the Junior Cohort! The students have settled beautifully into routines, made new friendships and shown great enthusiasm for all areas of school life. We are excited for the wonderful term ahead.

Literacy

This week, students completed their InitialLit assessments, which help us understand each child's literacy skills. Students have now begun InitialLit learning, a structured and research-based program that systematically builds skills in phonics, reading, spelling and comprehension. InitialLit supports all learners by providing explicit instruction and plenty of opportunities to practise and consolidate new skills.

Grade 1 will begin Initial Write next week, a writing approach that builds confidence in planning, recording and sharing ideas.

Grade 2 writing lessons will follow a similar structure, building on the skills they developed last year.

Home readers will be sent home at the end of this week. Please enjoy this time reading together - it makes a big difference!

Families will also receive a Term 1 Diary, along with a note explaining how it will be used to support home-school communication.

Mathematics

Grade 1 students are beginning their unit on Data, learning how to ask questions, collect information and represent results in simple graphs.

Grade 2 students are learning about Place Value, developing a deep understanding of tens, hundreds and thousands as they work with numbers in increasingly flexible ways.

Across the cohort, we are using Ochre, which supports our teaching and learning through hands-on and visual strategies.

Religion

In Religion, we are exploring how we grow in God's love, focusing on the idea of God's love shown through friendship. Students are identifying their own personal gifts and strengths and thinking about how they can share these with others to create a caring, welcoming classroom.

Inquiry

Our Inquiry unit this term is centred on Belonging and Community. Students are learning what it means to belong—to a class, a school, a family, and a wider community. We are discussing how our actions help everyone feel safe, valued, and included. Through stories, group tasks and reflection the children are exploring how they contribute to a positive, connected classroom community.





Specialist Classes

We are very fortunate to offer students a rich Specialist program including:

- Music / LOTE
- Art
- Library
- Sport
- Kitchen Garden

These sessions allow students to discover new interests, develop important skills and express their creativity in many different ways.

Mrs Whitford / Junior W

Mrs Whitford will be away on a trip of a lifetime to Antarctica! While she is away, Mrs Cox will be replacing her in the classroom. We can't wait to welcome her back in Week 6 and hear all about her incredible adventures.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

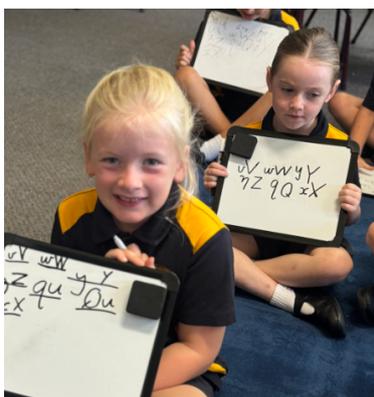
A reminder that Parent-Teacher Interviews are coming up soon.

- Junior M and Junior H (Grade 1) will hold their interviews on Wednesday 18th February.
- Junior C and Junior W (Grade 2) will hold their interviews on Wednesday 11th March.

We are very much looking forward to meeting with you, discussing your child's learning and celebrating their wonderful start to the year.

If you have any questions throughout the term, please reach out. Thank you for your continued support—we are off to a wonderful start!

Thank you,
Junior Staff.





Middle School News

Tim, James, Jeremy, Anna, Adam, Abby, Clayton and Sam

A Wonderful Start to 2026

Welcome back to all our Middles families for what promises to be an exciting and rewarding year ahead. A warm welcome to our Junior families joining us for the first time and to all new families joining our Living and Learning Community at St Joseph's. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to partnering with you throughout 2026. This year offers a wide range of engaging learning opportunities across the curriculum. As we continue to roll out our Magnify Project, our aim is to deliver purposeful, connected and meaningful learning that empowers every student to shine.

Swimming Sports Success

Our Swimming Sports last week were a wonderful success. We extend a sincere thank you to Mr Merkel for his excellent organisation and to all Middle School students for the enthusiasm and positive spirit they displayed on the day. For our Grade Three students, this was their first experience of the Swimming Sports and they embraced every moment with confidence and a willingness to try. At St Joseph's we value having a go, giving your best and celebrating effort. Whether students consider themselves a fish like Mr Pruden or more of a rock like Mr A, what matters most is stepping in and trying. It was fantastic to see students shine,

support one another and remain resilient even in the heat.

Curriculum Overview for Term One

In English, students begin the term with our new spelling program SpellEx which supports confident and accurate spelling through explicit instruction. Our novel study begins with Kensuke's Kingdom which links reading, vocabulary and narrative and persuasive writing. Later this term, students will explore Wongutha Tales to support the development of explanatory writing.

In Numeracy, students will focus on Counting and Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Time and Multiplication and Division. Each area aims to build fluency, strengthen reasoning and develop real world problem solving skills.

In Humanities, which now sits as its own dedicated subject, students begin with Contributions to Community. They explore what community means, how people contribute locally and globally and why active citizenship matters.

In Science, students begin the year investigating Heat and how materials change. Later in the term they will explore Gravitational Forces and how gravity influences movement and energy in everyday life.

In Religion, students explore the season of Lent and begin preparing for Easter. Students involved in the Sacramental Program will complete their First





Reconciliation in Term Two and their First Eucharist and Confirmation in Term Three.

Wellbeing and The Four Rs

This year we transition from The Resilience Project to our new wellbeing approach known as The Four Rs. These include recognising emotions, responding respectfully, regulating feelings and building positive relationships. This framework supports students as they settle into the year and strengthens their capacity for empathy, resilience and positive interactions with others.

Meet the Middles Team

In Middle South, we welcome Jeremy Tyndall who joins us while continuing to train for the Wheelchair Basketball World Cup and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. He works alongside Anna Andrews who returns after a highly successful first year in the Middles.

In Middle North, we welcome James Pruden from the Junior School. James brings strong existing relationships with many students and is working alongside Tim Arnel who continues as Middle School Leader.

We also welcome Adam Stirton as our Plus One Teacher. Adam coordinates literacy intervention programs and provides targeted support for students across the Middles.

Our Learning Support Officers for this year are Abby Commadeur, Sam Robertson and Clayton Patching. Their support plays an essential role in ensuring strong learning outcomes for all students.

Connecting With Families

Our Parent and Teacher Interviews will be held next Wednesday. This will be an important opportunity for us to connect with all families, learn more about

your child and begin setting meaningful learning goals for 2026. These conversations help establish strong partnerships that support each student's progress and wellbeing throughout the year.

Student Birthdays

Students whose birthday falls on a school day are welcome to wear casual clothes on their birthday to help make their day special.

Communication in 2026

This year we are not using Seesaw. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office to book a time to talk, email your child's teacher during school hours or speak with us before or after school. Clear communication helps us support your child's learning and wellbeing.

Looking Ahead

In Term Two students will visit Twisted Science in Echuca as part of our Living and Non Living Things unit, and students in the Sacramental Program will complete their First Reconciliation.

In Term Three students participating in the program will receive their First Eucharist and Confirmation.

In Term Four our Middle School Camp will take place at Harrierville. For many students this will be their first experience being away from home for several nights and we will prepare them carefully to ensure the experience is positive, supported and memorable.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, challenge, fun and growth. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to help your child shine in 2026 and beyond.

Thank you,
The Middle Team!





Senior School News

Andrew, Tanya, Bre, Caitlin, Trevor, Jordyn, Ebony, James, Bern, Jordyn C and Amanda,

The Senior School has had a very active start to the school year. In Mathematics, the students have been learning about data and statistics. Transferring the information to graphs has seen the students learn the basics of displaying data in a clear, easy-to-decipher form.

In Literacy, the students have started reading our class novel 'A Ghost in My Suitcase' and answering relevant comprehension questions. Spelling, grammar and handwriting have also commenced.

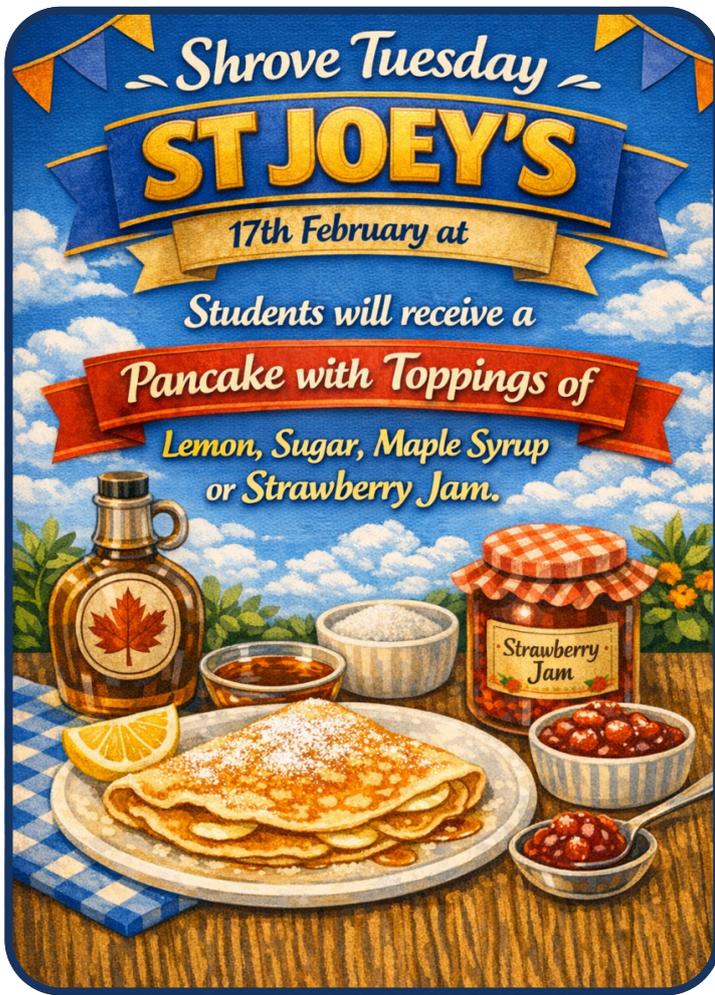
The students have also begun our new subject, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden (SAKG), with Mrs Tilley. This involves gardening and

learning about horticulture. The usual specialist subjects of Art, Physical Education, Music and Library have all begun as we settle into routine for the term.

The students are looking forward to Mass on Friday, 20 February, where the leaders and groups will be inducted for 2026. The Grade 6 students have paired up with their buddies for the year. Classroom routines are being implemented to ensure learning and teaching can be at their best for the year. All Senior Team members are also looking forward to meeting parents and carers at next Wednesday's meetings.

Regards Senior Team

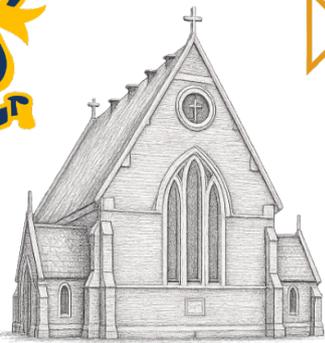
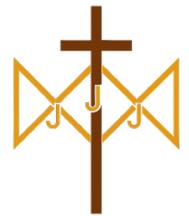




Beginning of Year Mass & Leaders' Induction

FRIDAY FEB 20th

Our Beginning of Year Mass and Year 6 Leaders' Induction will be on Friday, February 20 at 9:30am in the MacKillop Centre. Families are invited to attend.



UNITE 
AGAINST
POVERTY
this Lent

PROJECT
COMPASSION

The theme of Project Compassion 2026, Unite Against Poverty, is both a call to action and a reminder that lasting change happens when we work together. Serving those in need is how this call comes alive.

Jesus reminds us that when we care for those who are vulnerable, we are serving Him.

Lent invites us to respond through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through Project Compassion, we live out this call together. Alone, we can make a difference, but united, we can transform lives. Join us in 2026 as we Unite Against Poverty and walk alongside our global family.

Library

I'd like to remind everyone that all orders for issue #1 Bookclub are due back at school by tomorrow, Friday 13th February. Orders can be made online via LOOP. You can also fill out the form on the Bookclub pamphlet, send it back to school with the appropriate amount of money. Please remember to include your child's name and grade on the sheet.

Mary

 SCHOLASTIC

Book Club LOOP for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:

www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP



RITCHIES IGA + LIQUOR



NOMINATE US TODAY

AS PART OF THE RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM

and help us generate extra funds.

- 1 Download or update the Ritchies Card App



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play

- 2 Search and select our name when prompted to nominate a club, school or charity

- 3 Every time you shop at Ritchies and scan your app or card, Ritchies will contribute a percentage of the total to us*



*CONDITIONS APPLY. Go to ritchies.com.au/loyalty for further information.

Katunga Football Netball Club Training and Registrations

The Katunga Football Netball Club advises that training has commenced and registrations are now open!

For the latest updates on training nights, times, and to complete registrations, please visit www.katungafnc.com.au or follow us on Facebook: [Katunga Football Netball Club](https://www.facebook.com/KatungaFootballNetballClub)

Football Training - Currently training **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**

Seniors: 6:15pm start

Thirds: Wednesdays – 5:15pm start

(Players are encouraged to train with Seniors on Mondays)

Fourths: Wednesdays – 5:00pm start

Fifths: Date to be advised – 5:00pm start when football schedules change to Thursdays

Auskick: 5:00pm start, commencing Thursday 30 April

Netball Training

Seniors: 6:15pm start, Mondays & Wednesdays

(Changing to Tuesdays & Thursdays from 17 February)

17/U's, 15/U's, 13/U's:

5:00pm start, commencing Wednesday 11 February

(Changing to Thursdays from 17 February)

11/U's: 5:00pm start, commencing Thursday 5 February

NetSetGo: 5:00pm start, commencing Thursday 30 April

(Please keep an eye on our socials or website for updates)

KATUNGA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

SWANS





KITCHEN GARDEN

Dear St Joseph's Families,

We are excited to share that this week all students at St Joseph's have taken part in their introductory lesson for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. The enthusiasm has been wonderful; there is already a real buzz among the students as they begin this hands-on learning journey!

The Kitchen Garden Program is built on four key principles:

- Growing** – Students learn how to care for plants, understand seasonal produce, and develop respect for the environment.
- Harvesting** – They experience the joy of picking fresh, home-grown ingredients directly from our garden.
- Preparing** – Students work together in the kitchen to cook simple, delicious dishes using the produce they've grown.
- Sharing** – Perhaps the most special part—sitting together to enjoy the food they've prepared, celebrating teamwork, community, and healthy eating.

We warmly invite families to share your enthusiasm, ideas, or suggestions for our growing garden spaces. Whether you have gardening knowledge, creative ideas, or simply a love of nature, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to share feedback, comments, excitement, ideas or questions, please email me: jtilley@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au

Visit the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation website for further details, resources, and inspiration. <https://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/>

Donations Welcomed

As we set up and grow our Kitchen Garden spaces, we would greatly appreciate any items families may be able to donate.

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

- MIXING BOWLS
- MEASURING CUPS/SPOONS/JUGS
- CHOPPING BOARDS
- KITCHEN UTENSILS
- BAKING TRAYS, LOAF PANS, PIZZA TRAYS, ROASTING PAN OR MUFFIN TINS
- PASTA MACHINE
- BAMBOO STEAMER
- ELECTRIC FRYPAN
- RICE COOKER
- TEA TOWELS & OVEN MITTS
- STICK MIXER
- INDUCTION COMPATIBLE COOKWARE

GARDEN SUPPLIES

- SEEDLINGS OR SEED PACKETS
- WATERING CANS
- SMALL GARDEN TOOLS
- POTS OR PLANTER BOXES
- CLEAN YOGHURT POTS OR CONTAINERS FOR SEED RAISING
- HARVEST BASKETS

WE ARE ALSO CREATING SOME MAGICAL & INTRIGUING GARDEN SPACES.

- TINY CREATURES OR ANIMALS
- FAIRY ORNAMENTS
- FAIRY FENCES OR TREES
- LITTLE HOUSES OR DOORS
- GARDEN GNOMES
- SMALL DECORATIVE PIECES FOR OUTDOORS
- GARDEN ORNAMENTS
- CRAFT MATERIALS FOR GARDEN ART
- OUTDOOR CUSHIONS / MATS



Warm regards,

Jody Tilley, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program Teacher





Birthday Cupcake Classroom Treats!

Make your child's birthday extra special with a sweet classroom surprise!



What's Included:

- ✦ 24 delicious Vanilla Cupcakes \$30
- ✦ Choice of Vanilla or Chocolate icing with sprinkles
- ✦ Delivered directly to your child's classroom!



Availability:

Only available Wednesday to Friday



Order Cut-Off:

Please order 2 days in advance



How to Order:

Order easily through the My School Connect app

NUMURKAH



FUN RUN



2026



SUNDAY 1ST MARCH
RUNNERS • SENIORS • WALKERS • KIDS • ELITE
EVERYONE WELCOME



Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/4kcfmzmv> **OR Contact:** St Joseph's 03 5862 1804

GREAT PRIZES PLUS

- First 200 Entries receive dry fit singlet • Family BBQ

TEAM EVENT

- 5km races • Minimum 4 entries
- Fastest four across the line.

Events: 10 km run & 5 km run or walk

Kids: Grade 2 & Under - 500m, Grade 3-6 - 1km

Venue: St. Joseph's PS Numurkah

Cost: \$50 Adults - U/16s 5km \$10 or \$40 with singlet.

START TIMES

9am 5 & 10 Km events - 10.15am 500m & 1 Km events

Pre-registration by Thursday 27th Feb 4pm

Entries accepted on the morning additional \$5

Kids: 500m & 1km events - no rego required, \$2 on the morning



MAJOR SPONSORS





Join the Numurkah Junior Soccer Club for the

2026 Season

The wait is over, and we are thrilled to announce the start of the 2026 soccer season at Numurkah Junior Soccer Club! Whether you're a returning player or new to the game, we can't wait to see you on the field, ready to showcase your skills and have fun.

Information and Registration night 25/2 5-6:30pm

Pre-Season Training 4/3 and 11/3 at 5-6pm

Season training nights are Wednesday's from 5pm

Games in SJSA League on Saturdays in Shepparton

16 rounds competition + 2 weeks of finals

Age groups from Under 5's up to Under 15's + our Open Girls Team

See you at the Numurkah Show grounds

@ the club rooms



Numurkah Knights Soccer Club