



Thursday, May 7th 2026 | Volume 7

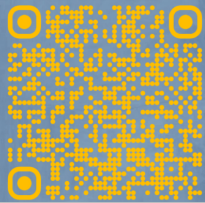
# MacKillop News

St. Joseph's Primary School, Numurkah

## St. Joseph's School

### Enrolments

### NOW OPEN 2027



*Book a tour and  
come see learning in action!*

*Part of a community that knows no  
bounds you will laugh, and play in  
the most beautiful grounds*



### ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN

### Principal's Message

Ruth Hartnett-Carr

This week we join schools across the Sandhurst Diocese in celebrating Catholic Education Week, with the theme "Seek Peace and Pursue it." As autumn settles gently around us, there is a sense of quiet renewal in our community: a season that invites reflection, gratitude and purposeful action. The theme calls us to live peace not only as an ideal, but as something we actively choose in our words, our relationships and our learning.

In the spirit of Saint Mary MacKillop, we are reminded to "never see a need without doing something about it." Mary MacKillop's life teaches us that peace is built through faith in action, trust in God's providence and a deep commitment to education for all. Her legacy continues to guide us as we strive to create classrooms and playgrounds where dignity, respect and compassion flourish.

We have been fortunate to welcome two important visits recently, from MultiLit and the Knowledge Society, both valued partners with us through Magnify. These visits affirmed the strong growth we are experiencing in our learning and teaching practices. Our staff are to be sincerely commended for their ongoing commitment, professionalism and openness to improvement, always with student learning at the heart of their work.

Thank you to all families who continue to support our procedures by entering through the front office and signing children in and out when required. This is an important part of keeping our community safe.

A reminder also that our literacy block begins promptly at 9:00am each day. Arriving on time ensures students gain the maximum benefit from this vital start to the learning day. Your support in helping children arrive punctually is greatly appreciated.



St. Joseph's Primary School

16 Tocumwal Rd, Numurkah, Victoria, 3636

Ph: (03) 5862 1804

Email: [admin@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au) | Website: [www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au)



As we journey through this beautiful autumn season, may we continue to seek peace and pursue it together, guided by faith, learning and community.

**"Be a gift of love and compassion for one another"**

*St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop*



Ruth Hartnett-Carr

## Office News

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: 8th & 22nd May**

**Monthly Debits 18<sup>th</sup> 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 now due.

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

**If your circumstances have changed and you are now eligible for a Health Care Card as of the 20th April please complete a CSEF application if you haven't already done so. Applications close June 19.**

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 call the office on 5862 1804

## Dates to Remember

**Friday May 8:** From 8.15am, Mother's Day Breakfast & Stall, followed by P-2 Cross Country

**Tuesday May 12:** School Photos - Full Winter Uniform

**Friday May 15:** 3-6 Cross Country from 12:15pm at Recreation Reserve

**Wednesday May 20:** School Open Day

## School Uniform & Presentation

In this period where the seasons are changing, we use common sense in deciding what to wear. It's either full summer or winter uniform in maintaining our high standards of presentation. This also includes hair styles and ties, jewellery and nail polish. Shoulder length hair is to be tied back.

Full winter Uniform will be required to be worn week commencing Monday 11th May.



**1 WEEK**  
UNTIL MSP PHOTOGRAPHY  
VISITS OUR SCHOOL

Please call MSP on 5482 3190 if you have any questions.



### WELLBEING NEWS

**Watch and Read**

Topic: **School Refusal**

Read: [School Refusal Key Points](#)

Watch: [video link](#) ( 5 minutes)

**Listen**

Podcast: [When your kid hates school](#)

Topic: **School Refusal**



*Seek Peace and Pursue it!*



## Triple A Social Skills

Saint Mary MacKillop said,

*"Never See a Need Without Doing Something About It!"*

At St Joseph's, we Need to:

Have a positive **Attitude**, be **Aware** in all situations and take **Action**, especially when it matters

Our next fortnight's Triple A Social Skill is:

### **Manners**

Our focus within the three areas are as follows

Attitude: Polite to Others

Awareness: I need to use good manners

Action: I will use my manners (please and thanlyou)

Weeks 3 & 4



## St. Joseph's School Numurkah ADVISORY COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM - 2026

*Nominations close 4.00pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026.  
Please return to School Office*

I wish to nominate ..... to be a parent/guardian/carer representative on the St. Joseph's School Advisory Council.

Nominator's Name: .....

Nominator Signature: .....

I ..... accept the above nomination for the St. Joseph's School Advisory Council.



*Seek Peace and Pursue it!*



## Foundation School News

Welcome back to all of our students and families! The children have made a fantastic start to Term 2 and have settled back into school routines beautifully. Our living and learning at St Joseph's continue to thrive, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of our amazing Prep students.

### Literacy

We have been so impressed with the students' continued growth in Literacy. In our InitialLit sessions, children are not only learning sounds and letter names, but they are also developing their reading and writing skills. Students have been focusing on reading simple sentences and are now taking home decodable readers. Each child will bring home two decodable readers per week. These books contain words that children can 'sound out', allowing them to apply their knowledge of letter-sound relationships taught in class. We have already sent home a helpful guide with tips on how you can best support your child's reading at home.

### Numeracy

In Numeracy, students have been exploring part-whole numbers and the different ways numbers can be partitioned. We have continued building our understanding of numbers from 1-10, including how they can be represented in collections and how our number system works. Over the coming weeks, our focus will remain on part-whole relationships, along with an introduction to shapes. Students will use a range of materials such as counters, MAB blocks, and Unifix blocks to count, break groups into parts, and solve simple problems.

### Religion

In Religion, students have been exploring the unit "Our Catholic Church" They have been learning about celebrations in the church liturgical calendar as well as the church itself, its characteristics and their purposes. Through this unit, students are developing a sense of understanding of celebrations and understanding of the different things in the church and their importance.

### Inquiry

In Inquiry, our focus has been the unit "Changes over time." Students have been exploring different changes that have occurred over time in their lives as well before they were born. Students have also been encouraged to discuss how places can change over time and be different over time. In the coming weeks, students will investigate changes in transport and other daily activities. They will also get the chance to head to the historical society in town to investigate the changes that have occurred in our daily lives over the years.

### Specialist Classes

Art, Library, and LOTE: Tuesdays  
Sport: Prep M Tuesdays. Prep K Wednesdays  
Music: Thursdays

We ask that students come to school dressed in their sports uniform on their sport day and Fridays.

### Uniform

As the weather begins to change, we ask families to use a common-sense approach when dressing children for school. The correct winter uniform includes the school polo shirt, navy pants or skirt, navy jumper, and black shoes. Please ensure all jumpers are clearly labelled. We ask that all students are in full winter uniform by Monday 11th May ready for school photos on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### Mother's Day Celebration

On Friday 8th May, we will be celebrating Mother's Day with a special breakfast starting at 8:15am, followed by an assembly prayer presented by our Foundation students at 8:50am. After the assembly, families are warmly invited to stay and support the children as they participate in their first Cross Country event on the oval. Children will also have the opportunity to purchase a gift from the Mother's Day stall. As always, please feel free to contact us via email if you have any questions or concerns.

### The Prep Team





## Junior School News

The Junior School has had a fantastic start to Term 2, with students settling back into routines and showing great enthusiasm for their learning. It has been wonderful to see the classrooms alive with curiosity, creativity and collaboration.

### Literacy

We would like to remind families that daily reading at home and regular practice of tricky words continues to be an important focus. These home reading routines make a significant difference to students' progress. Student diaries are a helpful resource to support this, with a range of activities at the back of the diary, as well as guidance included within students' readers. Each reader also outlines key sound and word focuses at the beginning to help reinforce the skills being practised.

Across Grades 1 and 2, students are continuing their learning through the InitialLit program, building confidence and consistency in their reading and spelling skills. In Writing, Grade 1 students have been working on imaginative stories inspired by the text *Two Legs Too Many*. They have used a story track with pictures and key words to help plan their ideas before organising them into the correct order.

Grade 2 students have begun exploring informative texts, using the text *Chooks in Dinner Suits*. They have focused on identifying key information and using descriptive adjectives to make their writing more engaging.

### Mathematics

In Mathematics, Grade 1 students are developing their understanding of counting and place value, working with two-digit numbers and exploring the concepts of one more and one less, as well as partitioning numbers to better understand how numbers are made.

Grade 2 students are also focusing on counting and place value, extending their understanding to three and four digit numbers. They are beginning to develop skills in rounding numbers, supporting their ability to estimate and reason.

### Religion

In this unit, students are learning about the role of the Holy Spirit in the mission of the Church. They are exploring the story of Pentecost as a time to celebrate the beginning of the Church and are learning how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples, just as he promised.

### Humanities

Students have begun learning about how places change over time. They are exploring natural, managed and built places, and learning how weather, natural events and people can cause places to change. Students are also learning why it is important to care for places, especially those affected by people or the environment.

### Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationships

Through this learning area, students are developing positive coping strategies. They are learning to identify their own strengths and the strengths of others, understand how these contribute to family and school life, and explore ways to care for others, including making and keeping friendships.

### General Reminders

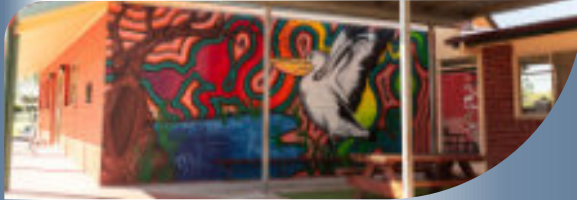
As the colder weather arrives, families are reminded that winter uniform is now expected. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled.

It is a busy term ahead, so please keep an eye out for school emails, the MacKillop News and our social media posts for important updates and information.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another wonderful term of learning in the Junior School.

### The Junior Team





## Middle School News

It has been a fantastic first few weeks of living and learning at St Joseph's, with plenty of sunshine, beautiful weather, and students well and truly hitting the ground running. With routines now firmly established, classes have been able to settle quickly into purposeful and high quality learning as we move towards the midpoint of the year.

In English, students are currently engaged in the novel study *Uncle Xbox*, using this text to develop their understanding of factual recounts. Later in the term, students will move on to the novel study *The Arrival*, where they will explore and write within the narrative genre.

In Mathematics, our current focus is on fractions, before moving into length and area, followed by data representation. We will finish the term by revisiting and strengthening understanding of addition and subtraction.

In Science, students are studying distant forces, while Humanities this term focuses on healthy habits. This unit has been thoughtfully linked to our public speaking focus, providing strong real world connections for students.

As many of you are aware, students are now two weeks into the Lions Club Junior Public Speaking Competition. This year's topic asks, *If you could go anywhere in Australia, where would it be and why?* Students have selected their destinations, learned how to structure an effective speech, and are currently researching and drafting their presentations. These speeches will be delivered to classmates in Week 7, with six students progressing to the next stage. Those students will then compete at the club level in Week 3 of Term 3, which is a very exciting opportunity.

We would also like to warmly welcome Christopher Thompson to St Joseph's. Christopher has made a wonderful start to life and learning in the Middle School and has settled in seamlessly. Congratulations on such a positive beginning, Christopher. We look forward to watching you continue to grow and flourish throughout the year.

We also wish Mr Stirton all the very best as he begins a well deserved period of long service leave. Mr Stirton will be travelling through Europe for the final seven weeks of this term and will rejoin us on day one of Term 3. We are also pleased to report that he has kindly agreed to continue running his MacqLit group via Zoom from a beach of his choosing.

In Religious Education, families with students in Grade 3 are asked to keep an eye out for information regarding the commencement of their sacramental journey. Students who wish to receive the sacraments will begin with Reconciliation this term, before moving into Confirmation and First Communion next term.

It is shaping up to be a busy, exciting and rewarding term for the Middle School community.

### The Middle Team





## Senior School News

We have truly hit the ground running in the Senior Learning Community this term. Students have settled back into school routines with enthusiasm and a positive mindset for learning. It has been wonderful to see their readiness to engage and support one another as the term begins.

This week, students were reminded of the importance of regular reading at home. Reading frequently helps to build comprehension, fluency and vocabulary, allowing students to better understand and engage with a wide range of texts across all learning areas. Establishing a consistent reading habit also supports the development of a regular homework routine, which is an important skill as students prepare for the increased expectations and independence required throughout their schooling life.

### Literacy

Our focus text for the first five weeks of this term is the novel 'Us Mob Walawurru' by David Spillman and Lisa Wilyuka. This text explores themes of friendship, identity and belonging through the perspective of Aboriginal children living in Australia. The story provides rich opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of characters, themes and cultural perspectives. Drawing on the Indigenous themes within this text, students have also been learning about the 1967 Referendum. This was a significant moment in Australia's history when Australians voted to change the Constitution so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples could be counted in the national census and the federal government could make laws for them. Students are using this learning to structure a factual recount, developing their research, note taking and informative writing skills.

### Numeracy

So far this term, students have been developing their understanding of area and perimeter of both regular and irregular shapes. They have also learnt how to convert improper fractions to mixed numerals and order fractions on a number line to support a deeper understanding of value. Next week, we will begin a week-long focus on 3D objects, where students will identify and draw nets of shapes and sort objects based on their features. Following this, students will commence learning about decimals, including representing thousandths on a number line, rounding numbers with more than two decimal places, and writing numbers to three decimal places in expanded and standard form.

### Religion

To begin the term, students have unpacked the unit The Risen Christ. Through this unit, students learn how Jesus' followers responded to His crucifixion, explore the significance of the Resurrection, and reflect on how the Resurrection invites Christians to live with hope, forgiveness and new life in their own daily actions.

### Respectful Relationships

This term, students have commenced the Respectful Relationships program, which focuses on developing positive relationships, emotional awareness, resilience and social responsibility. The program encourages students to recognise and manage emotions, build empathy, and communicate respectfully with others. The Respectful Relationships program replaces the Resilience Program previously utilised across the school and aims to further strengthen students' wellbeing. Occasionally, there are topics within this program that teachers will deem important to notify parents about. When this occurs, families will be contacted via email prior to the lesson to allow time for any questions or discussions with classroom teachers. So far this term, students have been learning about positive coping strategies they can use during times of difficulty. In the coming weeks, they will explore problem-solving methods to help them navigate challenges both at school and beyond.

### Humanities

Students have commenced the unit Changing Communities, where they are exploring why communities exist, how they have changed over time, and the roles of local, state and federal government. Students will also learn about laws, rules and the role of local government in supporting and maintaining communities.

### Upcoming events

11th of May- St Mary of the Angels information night  
12th of May- School photos  
20th of May- St Mary of the Angels Open Day  
3rd of June- St Mary of the Angels Transition Day (all year 6 students)

### The Senior Team



# Canteen

A reminder that the canteen is open Wednesday, Thursday & Fridays only.

If you are unable to attend on your day, can you please arrange a swap with someone else or as last resort let Crystal or Sherrin 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 contact the canteen or the office.

## May

8th Gayle Morgan

13th **Volunteer**

14th **Volunteer**

15th Rachael Hitchcock

20th **Volunteer**

21st **Volunteer**

22nd Gayle Morgan

27th **Volunteer**

28th **Volunteer**

29th **Volunteer**

Before and after school care are both quite busy this term. Please remember to mark your child absent via the app if care is not required, as this allows us to offer casual places to other families.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Emma, Sue and the OSHC Team.

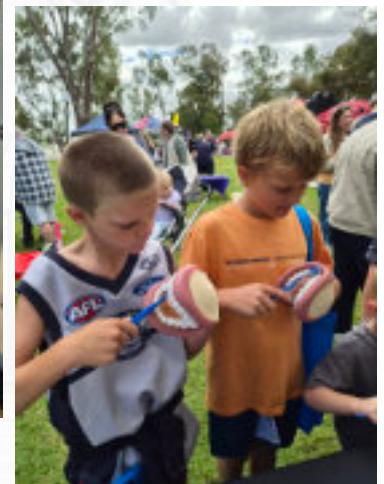


# OSHC News

Our Vacation Care program was a very busy and enjoyable two weeks! The children participated in a wide range of activities each day, including cooking, craft, sports and board games. We also loved getting out into the community with a shopping trip to buy ingredients before making our own pizzas and a couple of visits to the local playground, including for the Moira Shire Active April activity day which is always a highlight.

Our two major excursions to Rebound in Shepparton and the Cobram Cinema were very popular, with the children especially excited for these days. We would love to hear any suggestions or ideas you may have for activities or excursions you'd like to see offered in the next school holidays.

As we have returned to the school term, we have settled back into the routine of before and after school care. The children have been busy creating Mother's Day gifts and enjoying the last of the beautiful autumn weather before the cooler days draw us indoors.





## Years 3-6 Cross Country

Friday 15th May

Students walk to Sports Ground, 12.15pm Start

### Order of events

12 year Girls (3 km) 12 Year Boys (3 km)

11 year Girls (3 km) 11 Year Boys (3 km)

10 year Girls (2 km) 10 Year Boys (2 km)

9 Year Girls (2 km) 9 Year Boys (2 km)

Finish approx 2.00pm

**\*We require volunteers to supervise at Checkpoints on the track. Please contact school and leave your details.**



## Faith and Formation

Anna Andrews

Preparations for our Sacramental program will begin shortly. If you have a child in Year 3-6 who has been baptised and would like to receive the Sacraments, please contact the school.

Alternatively you can email Anna Andrews (Religious Education Leader)

[aandrews@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au](mailto:aandrews@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au)

### CARITAS Update

Our school has raised \$2165.30 for this year's CARITAS appeal. This money goes directly toward practical projects such as providing clean drinking water, supporting education programs, and helping communities rebuild after emergencies.

Thank you to every family who contributed. Your generosity means real support for people who genuinely need it, and it shows the strength and compassion of our school community.

## Community Notices

**Your Health Matters!**  
**Cervical Screening available in Numurkah**

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women worldwide, but it is also one of the most preventable. **Free** cervical screening tests (formerly called pap smears) are available for Medicare card holders, with self-collection options and no referral required. Screening is recommended for anyone with a cervix aged 25-74 who has had sexual contact.

Appointments are available at Community Health @ GV Health, 121 Corio Street, Shepparton, or at their outreach clinic's at NCH Health Numurkah, 2 Katamatite Road, on

- May 25<sup>th</sup>
- July 27<sup>th</sup>
- September 28<sup>th</sup>
- November 21<sup>st</sup>

To book an appointment today, call the GV Health Service Access Unit on 1800 222 262 (option 4). By keeping up with cervical screening, you are taking an important step to protect your health and wellbeing.

**The test is quick, simple, and could save your life.**

Logos for Cancer Council, GV Health, and NCH Health are visible at the bottom.



*Seek Peace and Pursue it!*



St Mary of the Angels  
Secondary College  
Nathalia

### Why choose St Mary of the Angels?

Authentically Catholic

Forming the whole person

Safe and inclusive  
Community

Academic and Applied  
Programs

High Expectations

Affordable, All  
Inclusive Fees

Every Student, Every Day

Chapel Street, Nathalia 3638  
Phone: (03) 5866 2222  
Email: info@smota.vic.edu.au  
www.smota.vic.edu.au

### Year 7, 2027 Information Sessions

Nathalia

St Mary of the Angels,  
Chapel St, Nathalia  
Monday 4th May, 2026  
(7.00pm)

Cobram

St Joseph's Primary  
School, Broadway St,  
Cobram  
Wednesday 6th May, 2026  
(7.00pm)

Numurkah

St Joseph's Primary  
School, Tocumwal Road,  
Numurkah  
Monday 11th May, 2026  
(7.00pm)

Tocumwal

Tocumwal Golf Club,  
Barooga Road, Tocumwal  
Wednesday 13th May,  
2026 (7.00pm)

## OPEN DAY

Wednesday  
20th May, 2026

Session Times 9.30am, 11.30am  
and 2.30pm  
Bookings can be made via the QR  
Code below or at  
www.smota.vic.edu.au



**ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN - [www.smota.vic.edu.au](http://www.smota.vic.edu.au)**

## Inclusion Fundraiser



Featuring...



Mr Arnel & Mr Tyndall

\$5 from every book  
sold goes back to  
our school!

### Purchase

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/mirandajanebooks>

Scan the QR code



At checkout USE CODE:

STJNUMURKAH

See our newsletter for more information!

ORDER BY FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2026

THE BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT SCHOOL ON MONDAY MAY 25<sup>th</sup> 2026

## Inclusion Fundraiser



### About:

"Crikey! Isn't it Cool..." is a newly published children's book by one of our previous staff members that features our much loved past principal Mr Arnel & our Teacher Mr Tyndall. It is a book that celebrates diversity, belonging and inclusion!

We are inviting you to purchase a copy, as the author will donate \$5 from every book to our school's inclusion program.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support inclusive education while enjoying a story that reflects and celebrates inspiring educators from our very own school community.

♥ Book title: Crikey! Isn't it Cool...

♥ Cost: \$29.95 (\$5 per book goes directly to our school)

♥ How to order: Visit the website or Scan QR code. Use the code STJNUMURKAH at checkout to get free delivery & to ensure it counts toward our school fundraiser!

Thank you for supporting inclusion at our school.

### Contact:

Email: [mirandajanebooks@gmail.com](mailto:mirandajanebooks@gmail.com)

### To Purchase:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/mirandajanebooks>

Scan the QR code



At checkout USE CODE:

STJNUMURKAH

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