

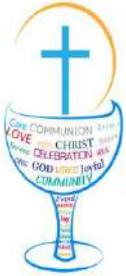


ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

St Paul's Primary School is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community

**Bless the children
coming forward to receive Holy Communion
for the first time.**



**May you always know the PEACE of JESUS,
the LIGHT of HIS LOVE
and the JOY of HIS LIFE within YOU!**

AMEN

Term 1 - 2026 Dates Friday, 30 January - Thursday, 2 April

MARCH

Wednesday, 11 - 23	NAPLAN (Year 3 & 5)
Monday, 23 March	ASSEMBLY 5/6H presenting.
Monday, 23 - Wednesday, 25	'The Way of the Cross' - Stations of the Cross 8.30-8.50am - Families welcome to view!
Thursday, 26	The Big Water Walk - Senior students Caritas fundraiser
Tuesday, 31	Holy Week & Easter Musical Play 9.15am (Church)

APRIL

Wednesday, 1	Learning Showcase Focus: Literacy & Numeracy 2:45 - 3:15pm
Thursday, 2,	Pyjama Day Fundraiser for Royal Children's Hospital
Thursday, 2	End of Term 1 - 1pm finish
Friday 3 - Friday 17	Term One SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

TERM 2

Monday, 20 April - PUPIL FREE DAY - STAFF FAITH DAY
Tuesday, 21 April - School begins for all students

SACRAMENTAL DATES

Tuesday, 19 May	Year 3 FIRST RECONCILIATION
Sunday, 22 March - 12.30PM	Year 4 FIRST EUCHARIST St. Paul's Church
Friday 23 October	Year 6 CONFIRMATION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MARIA MERCURI

FIRST EUCHARIST SACRAMENT - We pray for our Year 4 students as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time this Sunday. This sacrament is one of love, as the children prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Over the past few weeks, students have been working alongside their parents and teachers to learn about this sacrament and the scripture stories associated with receiving the Eucharist. We wish all the children preparing to receive their First Eucharist the very best. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

FIRST EUCHARIST CANDIDATES 2026

**James, Josh, Ivy, Alannah, Elyssa,
Brent, Samantha, Channelle, Anthony.**

MONDAY, 23 - WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH

Next week parents are invited to join us for **St Paul's - "The Way of the Cross" - Stations of the Cross at school**. Doors open at 8:30 AM - 8:50 AM each morning.

Each class has created their own Stations of the Cross. The children and teachers have worked together to represent each station in a way that is meaningful to them. We invite students and families to walk around to each station to view, reflect and pray together.

This we celebrate **Catholic Education Week**. Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to celebrate their Catholic identity, the important role we play within our local community and the strength of the system. The theme for Catholic Education Week 2026 is:

'Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of Saint Patrick.'

The theme celebrates the significance of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of our Cathedral in Melbourne. Saint Patrick's Cathedral, our mother Church, is a reminder that Australia's migrants have always brought their religion with them. St Patrick's legacy offers us powerful lessons in love, faith and courage.

Lenten Prayer of St Patrick

Christ be with me today.

Christ be in my heart.

Christ be in my friends.

Christ be in those who need help.

Christ be in the lonely and afraid.

Christ be in everyone I meet.

Amen.

A big feature of this week is the **MACS Creative Arts Exhibition**. This exhibition celebrates the enormous creative talent of students in our Catholic schools. **Franca Erneste**, our Art teacher, has entered some of our students' creative pieces and we have been awarded some major prizes. Please check out the fabulous entries from our 2025 Art program in the following pages of this newsletter.

Harmony Week This week our school community reflected on the important message of Harmony Week. We celebrated our cultural diversity; each class unpacked and made a commitment to ensuring we are all inclusive and respectful of one another. Our children were invited to wear their national costume or wear a splash of **orange**.

LAST DAY OF TERM 1 - THURSDAY, APRIL 2 - 1.00PM FINISH

MACS CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION

As part of Catholic Education Week, the MACS Creative Arts Exhibition showcases the extraordinary artistic talents of students from Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

We are proud to have a number of St Paul's student artwork featured in this year's exhibition. What an amazing achievement! **Thank You** to wonderfully talented **Mrs Franca**, whose teaching has inspired the students along the way. St Paul's students have won the following categories:

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Photography and Media Arts Award

Winner - Primary

(Year 6, 2025)

St Paul's Primary School, Coburg

Title: Expressions in Transition

Student Artists:

Alexandra Z, Gwen S,
Louvelle Y and Thomas C D S



National Gallery of Victoria Award for Creativity

Winner - Primary (*Group Award*)

(Year 6, 2025)

St Paul's Primary School, Coburg

Title: Tote-ally Me!

Student Artists:

Louvelle Y, Daniel F, Estelle J and
Aoibheann O'D (Year 5, 2025)



MACS CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION

Little Bots, Big Feelings (Prep 2025)

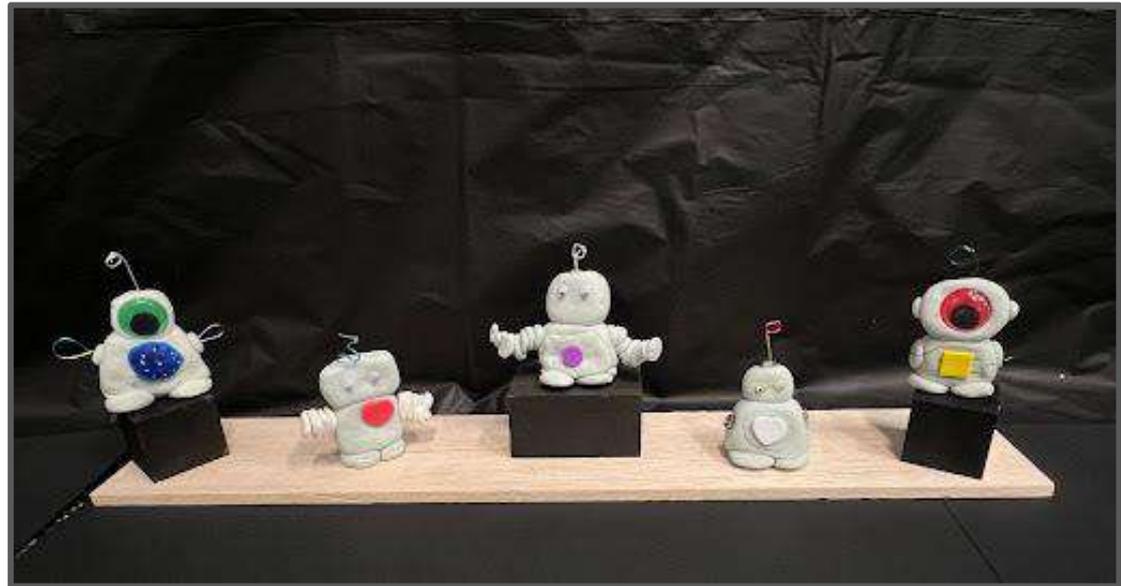
Zane M
(blue dot-hope)

Amelia D
(red heart- love)

Adele K
(purple dot - hope)

Annabelle H
(white heart- love)

Harryson P
(yellow square -
courage)

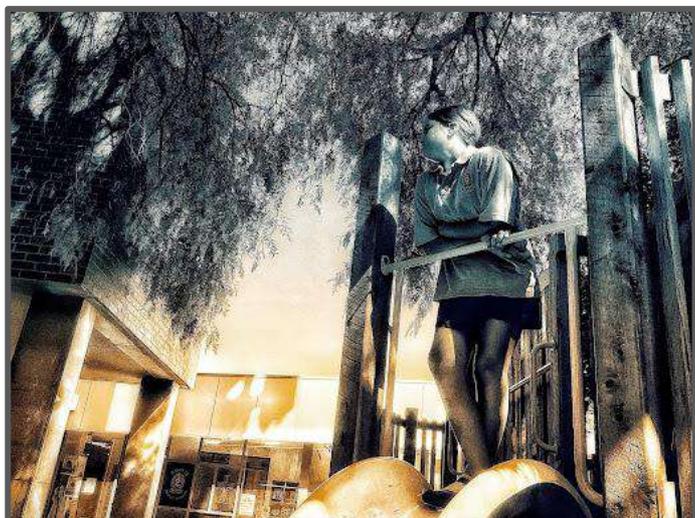


Faithlight: Perspectives in Focus (Year 6, 2025)

Valentina M

Estelle J

Moira W



MACS CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION

Layered Blossoms

Adam Ibrahim
(Year 2, 2025)



CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION

The MACS Creative Arts Exhibition celebrates the artistic talent of students from Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, showcasing works that express story, spirituality, culture and hope through the arts.

Open to the public during Catholic Education Week
15–21 March 2026
Celtic Hall, Catholic Leadership Centre
576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Scan to book tickets
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1547329>



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Rachel Kau, St Aloysius College
North Melbourne – Metamorphosis

If you have the opportunity, we encourage all families to visit the Creative Arts Exhibition and celebrate the amazing artistic gifts of our St Paul's students.

Venue: **Celtic Hall,**
Catholic Leadership Centre,
576 Victoria Parade,
East Melbourne:

- Friday 20 March 12:00pm
– 7:00pm
- Saturday 21 March
11:00am – 4:00pm

HARMONY DAY



On Thursday, our students celebrated Harmony Day at St Paul's, coming dressed in a splash of **orange** and a variety of cultural outfits. It was wonderful to see our community represented so proudly.

Throughout the day, we celebrated our diverse cultures, with music playing across the school and classroom activities that recognised and honoured our many cultural backgrounds. It was a joyful and meaningful way to acknowledge the rich cultural diversity that makes St Paul's such a special place.



ONLINE SAFETY

Digital Technology & Online Safety

Online Safety: Parental Controls

Parental controls are digital tools, settings and software built into devices, apps and networks, that allow parents to manage their children's online safety. They enable the blocking of inappropriate content, setting screen time limits, managing app usage and tracking location to ensure age appropriate, secure digital experiences. However, it is important to understand their limitations and use them in combination with other protective strategies.

The following tips and advice from the eSafety Commissioner can help in keeping your child safe online:

[Parental controls | eSafety Commissioner](#)

[Learn how to use parental controls and other tools to maximise online safety in your home.](#)

www.esafety.gov.au



Student Use of Mobile Devices at School

It is important to remember that students are not permitted to use mobile devices, including smartphones and watches to communicate with parents and vice versa, during school hours. Parents who need to contact their child during school hours should do so by placing a call to school administration. Mobile phones and other personal devices are to be left at school administration for safe keeping during school hours.

Parents are reminded that in the event of an emergency, the school's administration is the most appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and supported appropriately.

Thank you to the parents and students for supporting us in this regard. Every day a growing number of students are in the practice of leaving their mobile devices at the school office, for safe storage until dismissal.

STUDENT AWARDS

WEEKLY BE RULES

TO BE PRESENTED AT ASSEMBLY ON
MONDAY, 23 MARCH @ 2.45PM

This week's **FOCUS** is:
BE RESPONSIBLE

by coming to class ready to learn.

Class	Name
Prep P	Sebastian G Julia P
Prep T	Elijah M Penelope M
1/2C	Zane M Sofia E
1/2E	Harryson P Penelope B
1/2F	Leo V Atreya D
3/4MH	George T Antonio N
3/4B	Pablo G Olivia W
3/4D	Agam S Lucas Z
5/6J	Tina N Aoibheann O
5/6T	Maya T Meghna R
5/6H	Emily H Caitlin L



MARCH

Giuliano T - 17th

Santiago C - 19th

Arion T - 19th

Mia H - 20th

Jason W - 20th

Aikan K - 22nd

Lillyanna O'B - 22nd

Selena M - 24th

Anton M - 27th



ZOOPER DOOPER FRIDAYS



Order Zooper
Doopers via
CDFPay

Scan the QR Code
to download
the App



HELLO FROM MR FARACI - SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Year 4 Students Prepare for First Holy Communion and Make Bread Together!

This Sunday, our Year 4 students are getting ready to receive their First Holy Communion - a very special moment in their faith journey. They will receive the Eucharist for the first time, deepening their relationship with Jesus and the church.

As part of their preparation, the students took part in a Bread Making Day at school. It was a day of prayer, learning and creativity to help them understand the meaning of the Eucharist.

The children mixed, kneaded and shaped the dough by hand, learning how care and patience are part of the process.

The bread making also brought up lovely memories of family traditions. Many children shared stories of cooking with loved ones and how food connects us with family and love.

We invite families to keep these conversations going at home:



- What special family recipes or food traditions do you have?
 - Do you have memories of cooking with loved ones?
 - How does sharing a meal bring your family closer?
- How does making and breaking bread remind us of Jesus?



Let us keep our Year 4 students in our prayers as they prepare for this sacred day. May they feel God's love and joy as they take this important step.

A Prayer for Our Year 4 Students:

Loving God, bless our children as they prepare to receive Jesus for the first time.

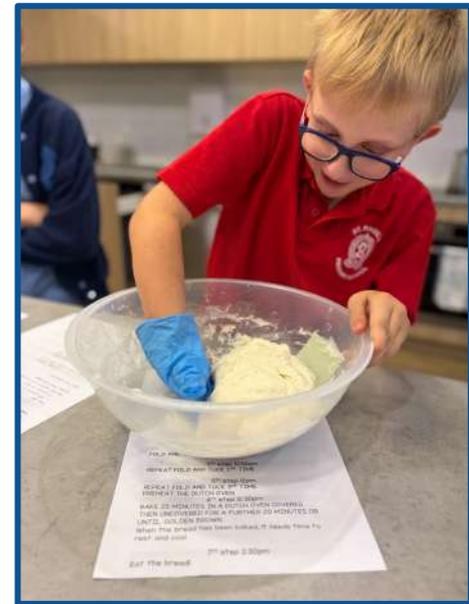
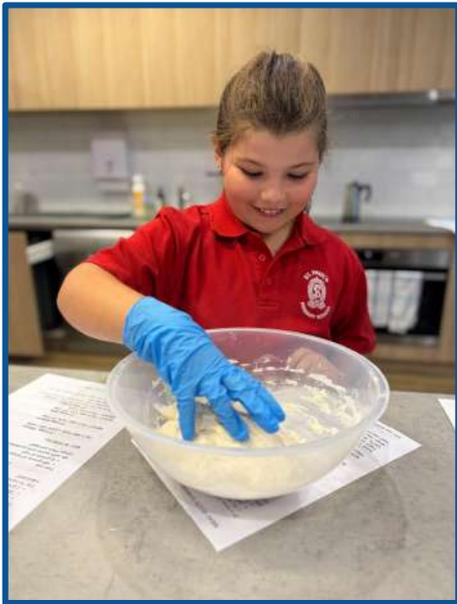
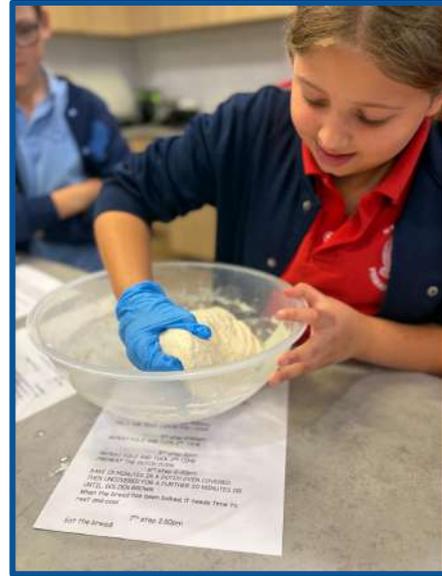
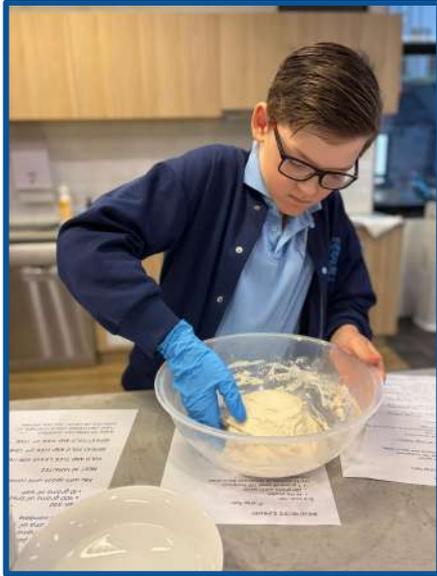
Fill them with joy and surround them with love. May they always follow the light of Christ.

Amen.



HELLO FROM MR FARACI - SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Year 4 Students Prepare for First Holy Communion and Make Bread Together!



EDUCATION IN FAITH

HOLY WEEK EVENT



Dear Parents,

We warmly invite you to join our St Paul's community for the following Holy Week and Easter events:

TUESDAY, 31 MARCH - 9:15 AM

Holy Week and Easter Musical Play - "That We Might Live"

This will be performed by our students in the church. It is a whole school musical and dramatic interpretation of the events leading up to and including, Jesus' death and resurrection. All families are welcome to join us in the church.

MONDAY, 23 MARCH - WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH

St Paul's - **"The Way of the Cross" - Stations of the Cross at School**

Doors open at 8:30 AM - 8:50 AM each morning.

Each class has created their own Stations of the Cross. The children and teachers have worked together to represent each station in a way that is meaningful to them. We invite students and families to walk around to each station to view, reflect and pray together.

We kindly ask parents to leave the building at **8:50 AM** as learning begins at this time.

We hope you will come along and join us as we celebrate these special moments together as a school community.

If you have any questions please contact - ksimpson@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au

Kind regards,

Kim Simpson.
Education in Faith Leader



**ST PAUL'S
MINI VINNIES**

INVITES STUDENTS TO SUPPORT:

**School
Pajama
Day**



**THURSDAY
2 APRIL**

LAST DAY OF TERM 1!

FUNDRAISING FOR:

**THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL





Play



Create



Autumn Adventurers

School Holiday Program

Prep to Grade 6



Have fun!



Explore

Don't miss out!

Book your child's adventure today.
Find your nearest location



ST PAUL'S PLAYGROUP



**Playgroup
returns on
Friday 6th
February 2026**

**GOLD COIN
DONATION**

**9.30am-11.00am
(During School Terms)**

**Includes sensory play, art and craft, pretend play, block play,
books, story/song session and outdoor play.**

**For Inquiries: Call 9354 8970 or
playgroup@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au**

Held in the School Hall

Parking in school grounds-Enter via Sydney Road

Facilitated by Rita Ravida (Early Childhood Teacher)

BYO: drink bottle, snack and sun hat.



UNIFORM

SUMMER UNIFORM

SUMMER UNIFORM - In Term 1 all children wear Summer uniform. We have a 'No Hat, No Play' policy. Children must wear a hat when outdoors.

Please ensure your child has a school hat for outdoor play and activities.

Hats can be purchased from the office (Limited stock)

School Shoes: Black shoes - all black soles - are part of the St Paul's uniform. Children can wear runners on their sports day. Some black school shoes examples include:



Jewellery

Only **stud earrings** can be worn. For safety reasons no dangling earrings to be worn.

Necklace that displays religious symbols eg: crucifix, etc.

Watches - Smart watches must have connectivity switched off.

Hair

Hair of shoulder, or longer, length must be tied back with hair accessories in school colours - black or blue hair ties. Hair should not cover eyes.

Hair colour must be of natural colouring - no extreme hair colours.

All hair accessories (eg. clips, ribbons, headbands) to be blue, black or white in colour.

Decorative hair accessories must not be worn.

Thank you for supporting our uniform policy.

SECONDHAND UNIFORMS - \$10 an item - Packed and processed on Wednesday only

Email - office@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au

NEW UNIFORMS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM SPARTAN WORLD UNIFORM SUPPLIER

To place an order, please visit: [Spartan School World](#)

Select your school in the **FIND MY SCHOOL** list

Shop: Spartan School World 97 Main Road, Lower Plenty

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12pm - 5pm

1st Saturday of every month: 9am - 12pm

- Spartan deliver to school or home for a delivery fee of \$12.50
- Returns of incorrect sizes can be arranged directly through Spartan
- Free school delivery weekly, during school terms



Victoria Police

Merri-Bek Neighbourhood Policing Forum



VICTORIA POLICE

The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum welcomes local services and community members to talk with police about what issues are important in your community.

The forum will explore topics including:

- Current crime trends and crime prevention
- Young people
- Family violence
- Road policing
- Drugs and drug related crime.

The Neighbourhood Policing Forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel and questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event.

Registration is a must.

To attend, please register by sending your details to:

MERRI-BEK-LAC-OIC@police.vic.gov.au

or scan the QR code.

To submit a question prior to the forum:

[Merri-Bek NHP questions](#)

Event details

Date:
23rd April 2026

Time:
6:00pm – 9:00pm
(Doors open 5:45pm)

Location:
Merri-bek Civic Centre
Bagung-bulok & Kulin-bulok rooms
90 Bell Street, Coburg



Scan here to
register your
attendance



Got a question for police?

Scan the QR code to submit
prior to the forum



A SAFE VICTORIA