



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

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. It is a special time when we remember how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with joy, waving palm branches and calling out, "Hosanna!"



Dear Lord,

On this Palm Sunday, we wave our branches and shout, "Hosanna!"

We welcome you, Lord Jesus, into our hearts and lives. Help us to live with love, compassion, forgiveness and service.

Give us courage to put others before ourselves. As we begin this Holy Week, guide us to follow you faithfully. Help us to see you in every person we meet.

May our words and actions share your kindness and joy. Teach us to serve with humility and generosity.

Eternal God, may we always welcome Jesus with open hearts.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

MARCH

Monday, 30 March	ASSEMBLY Year 5/6J presenting.
Tuesday, 31	Holy Week & Easter Musical Play 9.15am (Church)
APRIL	
Wednesday, 1	Learning Showcase Focus: Literacy & Numeracy 2:45 - 3:15pm
Thursday, 2,	Pujama 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
Friday 23 October	Year 6 CONFIRMATION



St Paul's acknowledges that our school is on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MARIA MERCURI

SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

Congratulations to our wonderful Year Four children who received the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time on Sunday, at St Paul's Church. Thank you to the parents, teachers and Father James for preparing our children to receive their special sacrament. It was wonderful to see the church filled with family and friends supporting our children. They all looked beautiful, we are so proud of them.



COLOUR RUN

What a fabulous day the children had during the COLOUR RUN last Friday. The school yard was filled with so much excitement, laughter and plenty of colour. Our Colour Run was a huge success. It was wonderful to see all our families sharing the colour fun with their children. Lots of **TEAM** work went into making this event a success.

THANK YOU: to **Mrs Brunina** for organising this event, with support from **Danielle**, our Colour Run parent coordinator, and the **team of parents**. We truly appreciate their excellent planning, sourcing of prizes and their efforts in setting up and running the event. **All our parents** who turned up to support their children had an enormous amount of fun; **our wonderful staff** who wore their white T-Shirts and had more fun than the children running the course and getting coloured and squirted with water; and of course...**our awesome children**, who were brilliant, the smiles on their faces said it all – it was priceless.

THANK YOU to all our St Paul's community for donating money and supporting us in our efforts to raise money to replace the artificial grass.

LIFE SAVING EDUCATION

Our Year 3/4 students had a wonderful and engaging experience on Tuesday as they participated in the Life Saving Victoria Education Program at Sandridge Beach. This water safety program was facilitated by Lifeguards from Life Saving Victoria. They gave our children some extremely valuable water safety information. Our students learned a range of essential water safety skills and knowledge. The program focused on important concepts such as: identifying rips and currents, understanding how to stay safe in and around water and learning the basics of CPR.



Sad News:

This week we were informed about the very sad passing of Neil our school crossing supervisor.

Neil was a generous, honest and humble person. He enjoyed his job immensely and was a familiar face at our crossing for over a decade.

He will be missed by many.



Our St Paul's community will keep Neil and his family in our prayers.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING US SAFE NEIL

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

TERM 2

Please note the following important dates:

- **Monday 20 April** – Pupil Free Day
- **Tuesday 21 April** – Classes resume for all students

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MARIA MERCURI

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

Parents please join us on
TUESDAY, 31 MARCH - 9:15 AM in the church

This will be performed by our students in the church and 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.



THE BIG WATER WALK



The BIG Water Walk - On Thursday, our senior students participated in the **Caritas Big Water Walk**, at school.

The BIG Water Walk was a meaningful way to engage our students in learning and action this Lent. This challenge was an opportunity for our students to:

- act in solidarity with students and families across the world who lack access to clean water;
- learn about social justice and live out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching;
- raise vital funds to support communities across the world who dream of a better future.



E-SCOOTER ROAD RULES - YOUTH ROAD RULES:

The Proactive Policing Unit has provided all schools with information to share with families about e-bike and e-scooter safety. This is a very timely reminder as we approach the Easter holiday break, given the high incidence of accidents involving children using these bikes.

This is just a friendly reminder that you must be 16 years of age to ride an e-scooter and that e-bikes must be pedal assisted and follow the same rules as a non-powered bicycle. Children of primary school age and the adult accompanying them can ride their bikes or regular unpowered scooters on the footpath. Anyone over the age of 12 (not including an adult accompanying a child) must ride on the side of the road or on a bike path. Helmets must be worn at all times while riding a bike or scooter. [Please see further information in this newsletter](#)

STUDENT AWARDS

WEEKLY BE RULES

TO BE PRESENTED AT ASSEMBLY ON
MONDAY, 30 MARCH @ 2.45PM

This week's FOCUS is:
BE RESPONSIBLE

by looking after our belongings and
school property.

Class	Name
Prep P	Max C Valencia S
Prep T	Declan N Aikam K
1/2C	Aliyah A Kate H
1/2E	Miles T Oscar C
1/2F	Dom L Mia Z
3/4MH	Mia D Yianni K
3/4B	Maiya H George C
3/4D	Alexander N Eva B
5/6J	Zara H Daniel R
5/6T	Ava B Ally Z
5/6H	Elyssa D Ava D



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH

Aikan K - 22nd

Lillyanna O'B - 22nd

Selena M - 24th

Anton M - 27th

Alexander N - 27th

Mariella S - 27th



Our Colour Run last Friday was a fantastic success and a truly joyful community event. The excitement on the students' faces was wonderful to see and it was great to have so many parents getting involved, not just cheering from the sidelines, but running alongside their children and sharing in the fun.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all and created a vibrant, positive atmosphere across the school.



A special thank you to Danielle, our parent coordinator, for leading the team and for bringing together and guiding the parent team to ensure its success.

We also extend our sincere thanks to all the parent helpers pictured, whose time, energy and enthusiasm made the day possible. It was wonderful to see our school community come together in such a positive way.

It was a beautiful example of what we can achieve together as a community.





ST PAUL'S

LEARNING SHOWCASE

A Celebration of Student Learning!

We warmly invite you to join us in the classroom for our Term 1 Learning Showcase.

This special event is a chance for students to share their work, reflect on their progress, and celebrate their achievements.

Come along to explore their learning journey, see their creativity and effort firsthand, and share in the pride of all they've accomplished this term.



*Come
Celebrate
Learning!*

**Wednesday
1st April
2:45 -3:15 pm**

**ST PAUL'S
MINI VINNIES**

INVITES STUDENTS TO SUPPORT:

**School
Pyjama
Day**



**THURSDAY
2 APRIL**

LAST DAY OF TERM 1!

FUNDRAISING FOR:

**THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL



PARENTS & FRIENDS



Easter is fast approaching and we're excited to be partnering with **Bakers Delight Coburg**, for a Hot Cross Bun Drive this Easter.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with and support our local community.

Bakers Delight is known for their high quality products, using only the finest ingredients, and we're pleased to be able to offer this to our school community.

Traditional (with fruit) 6 Pack \$10.00

Apple & Cinnamon 6 Pack \$10.00

Choc Chip 6 Pack \$10.00

If you would like to place an order, please do so via CDF Pay.

Orders open until Monday, March 30.

All hot cross buns will be delivered to the school on **Wednesday, 1 April.**

If you would like to order and pay cash, please collect an order from from the office.

Thank you for your support!

Parents & Friends.



eSMART WEEK



National eSmart Week 2026

During National eSmart Week, we encourage families to talk with their children about staying safe and respectful online. Ongoing, open conversations at home about kindness, privacy and responsible use help children build the skills they need to navigate the digital world safely.

Some helpful tips include:

- Keep devices in shared family spaces where possible
- Set clear expectations around screen time and app use
- Remind children not to share personal information (e.g. full name, school, address)
- Encourage them to speak to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right
- Check privacy settings on apps and games
- Know who your child is communicating with online
- Encourage strong passwords and keeping them private
- Model positive and respectful online behaviour
- Balance screen time with outdoor play, hobbies and rest
- Talk about how to recognise scams, fake accounts or suspicious links
- Encourage critical thinking about what they see online
- Set up parental controls where appropriate
- Charge devices overnight outside of bedrooms to support healthy sleep
- Remind children to ask permission before downloading apps or making purchases

Working together, we can support our students to be safe, responsible and confident digital citizens.

The Alannah & Madeline Foundation offers a range of resources to support Australian families in reducing the risk of exposure to online harm and empower children to navigate the digital world safely.



Child Safe Standard 1



Establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.



Play your part visit: care.macs.vic.edu.au
Reviewed: January 2026

*“To act justly and
to love mercy
and to walk
humbly with
your God.”*

Micah 6:8



Parent/Carer Newsletter



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Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Working
together for
Child Safety

Child Safe Standard 1

“Establish culturally safe environments in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children, young people and students are respected and value”

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Overview of the Victorian Child Safe Standards

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must meet. These standards are designed to:

- Prevent child abuse and harm
- Make child safety a shared responsibility
- Support the wellbeing of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with disabilities
- Promote the participation and empowerment of children and young people

These standards apply to all school staff, volunteers, contractors, and anyone working with children in schools.

Our Commitment

Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This vision is driven by the Gospel message of love, justice and abundance, beautifully reflected in the words of John:

“I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full”

(Jn 10:10)

Note: The term ‘Aboriginal’ includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is important to be respectful of how individual children, students, their families and community refer to themselves and use appropriate language when referring to individuals or communities.



Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 1

Creating a Culturally Safe Environment for Aboriginal Children

Child Safe Standard 1 relates to children and young people feeling culturally safe, respected, and valued.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Celebrating culture:** We include and celebrate Aboriginal culture in our classrooms/events e.g. NAIDOC Week, researching stories to share, inviting guest speakers.
- **Taking a stance:** We lead by example against racism and swiftly respond if it is observed.
- **Working together:** We contact and engage with Aboriginal families and communities to make sure our school is welcoming and inclusive. We ask families what they need to feel supported at our school.
- **Ongoing development:** Our staff receive training and knowledge to better understand and support cultural safety.



How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Here's how you can support:

- **Familiarise** yourself with the school's child safety policies and understand how they support student wellbeing.
- **Provide feedback** when you notice something that may impact a child's safety or wellbeing.
- **Support** your child when they express their views and that their opinions are valued and heard.
- **Join in** on school activities, parent committees or forums that promote child safety and wellbeing.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).

Check out these additional resources below to learn more!

- [Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation](#)
- [Koori Heritage Trust](#)
- [Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria](#)
- [AIATSIS: Map of Indigenous Australia](#)
- [Yoorrook Justice Commission](#)





Play



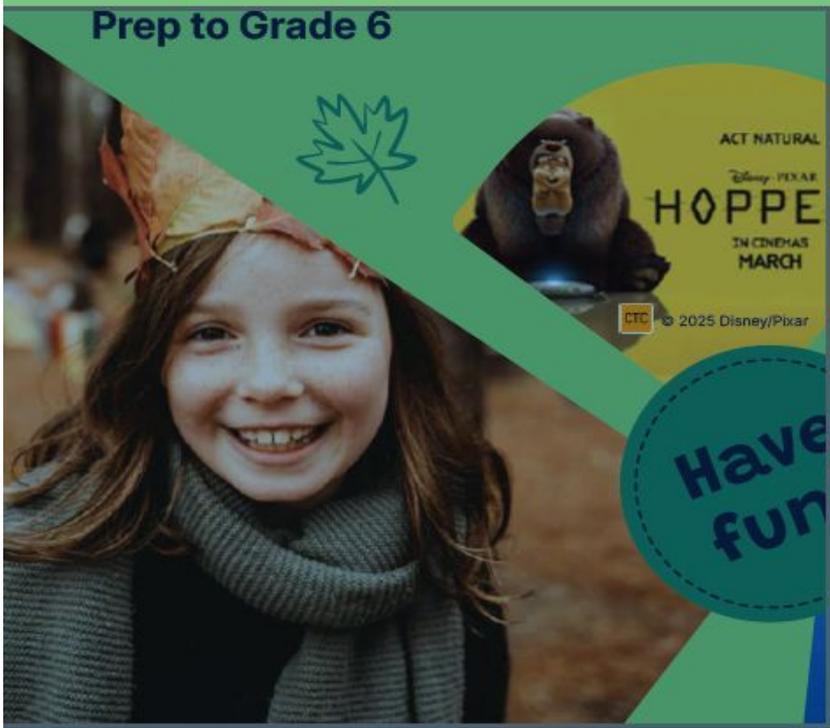
Create



Autumn Adventurers

School Holiday Program

Prep to Grade 6



Explore



Have fun!

Don't miss out!

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



PARISH NEWS



You are invited to ALPHA which starts in our parish on Wednesday 15th April, in St Oliver's Parish Centre, Pascoe Vale at 6.30pm.

It is a series of videos and conversations focused on the questions of life, faith and meaning.

It is a non judgemental and open environment where it's easy for anyone who is simply curious about faith to explore questions of life with new friends.

After a successful ALPHA program last year, we are pleased to be able to offer it again this year.

To register please contact:

Paul 0408 680 976 - paul@gasgep.com.au



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?

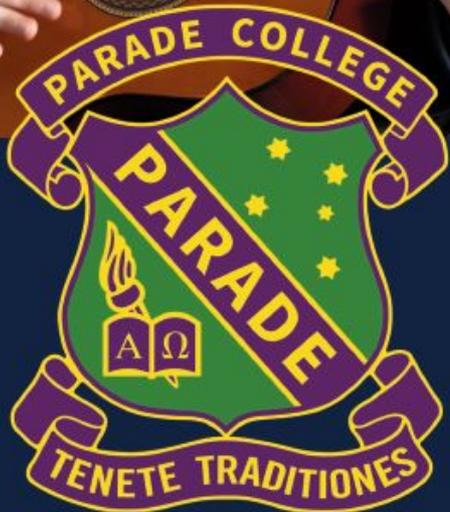
Scan the QR code to submit
prior to the forum



A SAFE VICTORIA

SNAPSHOT PROGRAM

Come & Try



WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL
4:00PM - 5:00PM

- Sport
- Community Action
- Music



Youth Road Safety

Fact Sheet



VICTORIA POLICE

Whether you're biking or riding an e-scooter, follow these simple road safety tips to stay safe and have fun on the move!

MODIFIED OR PETROL POWERED BICYCLES

- Illegal.



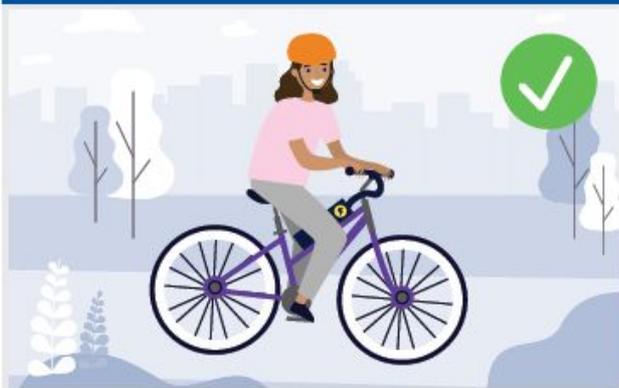
MOTORBIKES

- To ride on or off-road it must be registered with a full or recreation registration
- Helmet must be worn at all times.



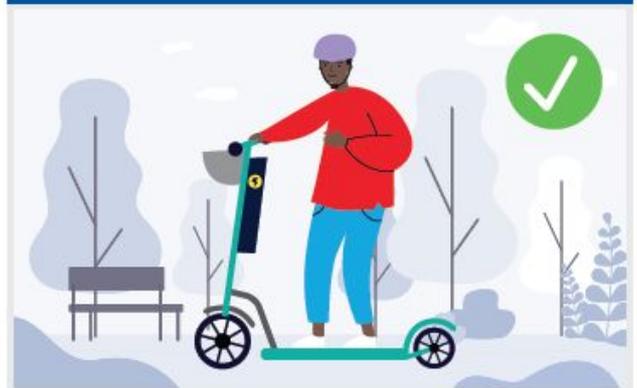
E-BIKES

- 25 km/h MAX speed
- Motor cannot provide power at speeds higher than 25km/h
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.



E-SCOOTER

- Be aged 16 yrs or over
- Max speed 20 kmph
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.



For more information, visit [police.vic.gov.au/road-safety](https://www.police.vic.gov.au/road-safety)

E-scooter Road Rules

Tougher penalties as e-scooters are made permanent.

e-scooter riders cannot

- Ride on the footpath
- Use a mobile phone while riding
- Ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Carry passengers or animals or ride in tandem
- Ride a high-speed e-scooter, one capable of more than 25 km/h
- Ride on roads that have a speed limit over 60 km/h

e-scooter riders must

- Be aged 16 years and over
- Not exceed the maximum speed of 20 km/h
- Ride only on shared paths and roads that have a speed limit up to 60 km/h
- Wear a helmet at all times
- Follow traffic rules
- Use lights and reflectors



Scan the QR code to learn more

For more information (including community language translations) transport.vic.gov.au/Road-rules-and-safety/E-scooter-road-rules



Department of Transport and Planning