



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

Prayer for Our Prep Children – 100 Days at St Paul's



Thank You, God, for our school
and for our Prep children as they celebrate 100 days at St Paul's.
Thank You for all the new things they learn each day.
Thank You for their teachers, who help and guide them
and for their friends, who play with them and make them laugh.
Thank You for our families, who love and care for them.



Thank You for our safe school, where they can learn, grow and belong.

Help them to be kind to their classmates, to share and to include anyone who is playing alone.

Give them listening ears, focused minds and hearts that are ready to try their best.

When work feels hard, give them patience and courage to keep trying, even when they make mistakes.

Forgive them when they hurt others and help them to forgive those who hurt them.

Thank You for their minds that are growing every day.

Help them to be curious, gentle and excited about Your world.

Amen.

Term 3 - 2026 Dates - July 13 - September 18

	AUGUST
Friday, 14	Parents & Friends Meeting 9am
Wed, 19 - Friday, 21	Year 5/6 camp
Mon, 17 - Friday, 21	Bullying No Way Week
Thursday, 27	Book Week Dress Up Day & Parade
Monday, 31 - Sept 4	Australian Teacher Aide Appreciation Week
	SEPTEMBER
Tuesday, 1	Book Week Incursion P - 6
Friday, 4	Book Week Story-Sings Incursion - P -2
Tuesday, 8	Whole School Photo
Thursday, 3	Father's Day Breakfast Father's Day Stall
Friday, 18	Footy Colours Day - Last Day of Term (1.00pm finish)
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

PREP 100 DAYS BRIGHTER, SMARTER AND MORE AWESOME!

On Wednesday we celebrated our Year Prep 100 days of learning! It was fantastic to see so many excited Prep children dressed in their home made 100 days smarter, brighter and more awesome T-Shirts, (check out the [photos](#) in this newsletter.) The Preps engaged in many activities reflecting on their 100 days of learning. *Thank You to Adele (Adam & Ayla's mum) for making the delicious 100 days cookies.*

A big Thank You to Miss Taylor, Mrs Penny, Tess, Briana, Elicia and Katy for all you do for the Prep children and for making this day a special celebration.

Thank you also to our wonderful Prep families for embracing the celebrations with such warmth and enthusiasm.

Most importantly, a huge CONGRATULATIONS to our wonderful Prep children. In just 100 days of school, you have grown in confidence, independence, resilience and kindness. We are so proud of all you have already achieved and we can't wait to see how you continue to grow, learn and shine throughout the year.



We are already in the process of organising our class structure for 2027. If your child will not be returning to St Paul's in 2027, please communicate this formally in writing and email me at your earliest convenience. **This does not include our Year 6 students moving to secondary school.**

Lithium-ion battery safety

Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) have asked schools to share an important safety message with our community.

FVR developed a short video and information focused on lithium-ion battery safety. As many students and families use devices such as laptops, phones, e-bikes and e-scooters, it is important they understand how to safely charge and maintain them. Please read [this important information](#) in the newsletter.

Help keep families safe
Lithium-ion battery fire prevention

Farewell Miss Tess - We wish Tess Torrance our LSO all the very best as she leaves St Paul's to pursue the next chapter of her teaching career. Tess has been at St Paul's since 2025. Thank you for all your work with the children and staff at St Paul's. *We hope your time at St Paul's has been rewarding and we pray for God's blessing on your future journey in education.*

Welcome To St Paul's!

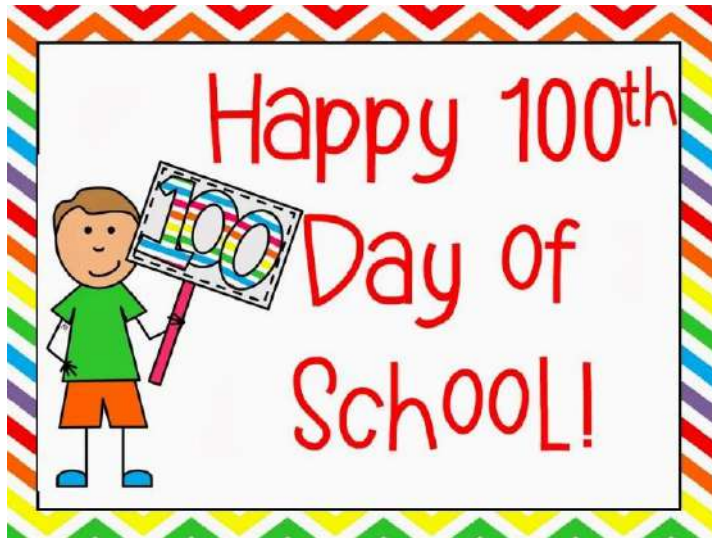
We welcome new student
Charlie Yr 3/4.

May your time at St Paul's be blessed and filled with new learning experiences, friendships and laughter.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

NO Monday assembly in Term 3 due to our production rehearsals.
Student Of The Week will be awarded at **Friday Morning Gathering.**

Have a fabulous weekend,
Maria Mercuri



We are so proud of our Preps!



STUDENT AWARDS

Student of the Week

Student of the Week awards will be presented at our Friday Morning Gathering at 8:45am.

Be sure to check our Friday newsletter each week to see if your child's name is featured.

Families are welcome to attend the Friday Morning Gathering at 8:45am.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS WEEK'S CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

Class	Name
Prep P	Sebastian G
Prep T	Miki
1/2C	Rigzin KC
1/2E	Chloe S
1/2F	Stavros G
3/4MH	Mia D
3/4B	Emily L
3/4D	Agam S
5/6J	Alexander P
5/6T	Audrey B
5/6H	Conor H

CONGRATULATIONS to the following reading rockstars!

25 nights	50 nights
Ethan M - 3/4MH Yianni K - 3/4MH Johnny G - Prep T Anna H - Prep T	Amelia D - 1/2F Esme W - Prep T
75 Nights	100 nights
Leon S - 1/2E Miklos P - Prep T	Leon S - 1/2E Mariella S - 1/2C
125 nights	150 nights
Leon S - 1/2E Mariella S - 1/2C	Leon S - 1/2E Mariella S - 1/2C



AUGUST

Liliana C, Sebastian G, Isaiah J - 3rd

Saksham L, Ciara O'D - 5th

Nico M - 6th

Georgia M - 7th

Annabelle H, Poppy V - 8th

Pablo G - 9th



WELLBEING

Wellbeing at St Paul's

At St Paul's, we believe wellbeing isn't a program we deliver, it's part of our culture. It's reflected in the way we learn, connect, support one another and build positive relationships every day.

At St Paul's, we know that wellbeing plays an important role in every child's learning. We believe every child should feel safe, happy, connected, supported and ready to learn every day.

This term, we've made a small but important change to the way we teach SEL. Students participate in a 10 minute wellbeing session every day. These daily check ins help students build emotional awareness, strengthen relationships and develop positive habits.

Students also participate in a 30 minute weekly SEL lesson, where teachers explicitly teach the term's focus. This term, students are exploring cultural diversity, identity, inclusion and respectful relationships. These important concepts are then reinforced through our daily wellbeing sessions and our whole school initiative, *Stories That Shape Us*.

STORIES THAT SHAPE US

One of our new whole school wellbeing initiatives this term is ***Stories That Shape Us***.

Every Friday at 2:30 pm, every classroom pauses for a shared read aloud, creating a special moment where our entire school community comes together through the power of story.

Throughout the year, students will explore books that encourage conversations about:

- emotions;
- friendships and relationships;
- resilience;
- empathy;
- identity and cultural understanding;
- inclusion and belonging.

Each story is followed by a short class discussion, giving students the opportunity to reflect, share their thinking and strengthen their understanding of themselves and others.

Together, these shared experiences help build empathy, develop a common language around emotions and reinforce the values that make St Paul's a caring, inclusive and connected community.



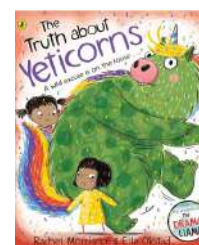
Here are a few books you may like to read together at home. These stories help children build empathy, emotional understanding and resilience.



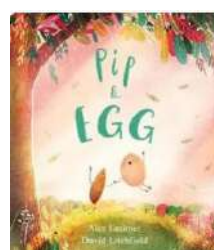
Managing anxiety and worry



Resolving Conflict and apologising



Resolving Conflict and apologising
Honesty and telling the truth



Navigating changing Friends

HELLO FROM MR FARACI, SCHOOL COUNSELLOR



Dear Families,

During Term Three, the children and I are exploring the idea of finding our way through challenging times.

This is a life skill that we continue to develop throughout our lives. We understand that things happen.

We hope that most of the time, things are good. We also understand that sometimes they are not. When things are not good, it is okay to feel angry, sad or disappointed. Those feelings are part of being human. They remind us that something matters to us.

What matters is what we choose to do next.

Most of us have heard the expression "bounce back." We often think of bouncing back as getting back to where we were before we became stuck.

But what if it is something even better than that?

Bouncing back isn't just about returning from the place you became stuck. It's about leaping forward.

Every challenge gives us the opportunity to learn something new about ourselves. We might discover a different way to solve a problem, a better way to manage our feelings, or the courage to try again. When we learn from a difficult experience, we are better prepared to handle the next challenge that comes our way.

In this way, finding our way is not simply about bouncing back—it is about growing, learning and leaping forward.

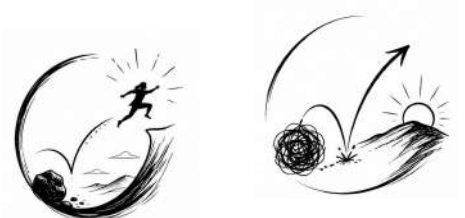
As parents, teachers and carers, perhaps one of the most important questions we can ask our children when they become stuck is:

"What is one thing you can learn from this experience that will help you do better next time?"

Helping our children answer this question gives them valuable feedback about themselves. Every challenge then becomes an opportunity, not just to bounce back, but to leap forward.

Regards,

Edward Faraci



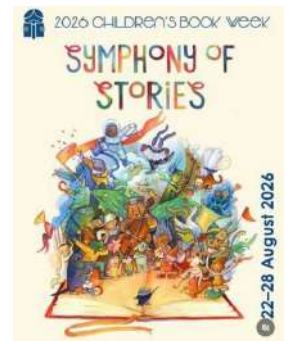
BOOK WEEK



This year's Children's Book Week theme is **Symphony of Stories**. It celebrates the magic that books can bring and the stories that inspire and entertain.

The 2026 artwork has been created by award winning Australian author and illustrator, Briony Stewart. Her colourful illustration brings the theme to life with a lively collection of unique characters and imaginative musical instruments. This demonstrates how every story has its own special voice.

At St Paul's, we believe every child has a unique story to tell. This year's Children's Book Week theme reminds us that, like a symphony, our school community is made up of many voices and experiences. The theme captures a vast colourful collection of characters bursting out of a book, celebrating the wonderful stories that bring people together.



St Paul's highlights this special annual event with a week long celebration. Some highlights include: the whole school **Book Week Dress Up Parade**, **family reading afternoons** and **read arounds**, where students will visit different classes to listen to and respond to many of the shortlisted books. On **Tuesday 1 September**, the school will host Perform Education, the official partner of The Children's Book Council of Australia. This production company will present an interactive and engaging performance, titled, **Something Special**.

ART COMPETITION

Students from Prep - Year 6 are invited to create an artwork based on the theme **Symphony of Stories**. Entries are due **Monday, 31 August**. Details on the next slides.

Prep - Year 2 Author Visit

Author and storyteller, **Anna Manuel**, will visit St Paul's on **Friday 4 September**. Anna will run an interactive and engaging storytelling session with our junior students.

Dina Rubini and Angela Gangi

BOOK WEEK

ST PAUL'S

BOOK WEEK
ART COMPETITION -
PREP - YEAR 6

CREATE AN ARTWORK
BASED ON THIS YEAR'S
BOOK WEEK THEME:

SYMPHONY OF
STORIES

HAND IN BY:
MONDAY 31 AUGUST

SEE ENTRY CRITERIA
ON FOLLOWING PAGE

BOOK WEEK

ST PAUL'S

BOOK WEEK

ART COMPETITION -

ENTRY CRITERIA

YOUR ARTWORK SHOULD:

**BE INSPIRED BY A BOOK, STORY, CHARACTER
OR THIS YEAR'S BOOK WEEK THEME.**

SHOW YOUR OWN IDEAS AND CREATIVITY.

BE COMPLETED MOSTLY INDEPENDENTLY.

**DEMONSTRATE CRAFTSMANSHIP,
CARE AND EFFORT.**

**CREATE ARTWORK USING EITHER
PHOTOGRAPHY, DRAWING, PAINTING,
PRINTMAKING, COLLAGE, SCULPTURE &
CONSTRUCTION, FIBRE & TEXTILES
OR MIXED MEDIA.**

LITERACY

Structured Literacy in Year 1/2

Structured literacy is an evidence based method for teaching children how to read and write, through **explicit, systematic and cumulative instruction**.

It breaks language down into its smallest parts and teaches content in **small manageable steps**, building in **worked examples**, **opportunities to respond** and regular **checks for understanding**.

Phonics
Handwriting
Fluency
Vocabulary
Spelling & Grammar
Read To using a mentor text
Sentence level independent writing



Christian practices handwriting, focusing on letter formation, positioning on the line and correct entry and exit points. His teacher roves and provides feedback.

Why is handwriting so important?

When students can write letters and words automatically, they can focus on planning, organising and expressing their ideas in writing. When handwriting feels difficult or slow, students appear less motivated to engage in writing tasks.

In the early years of school, handwriting is closely connected to reading and spelling. As students learn to correctly form letters, they also strengthen their understanding of letter sounds and words. Developing confident handwriting skills helps build a strong foundation for literacy success.

Just as fluent decoding is essential for successful reading, fluent handwriting is essential for successful writing.

What are fluency pairs?

Learning phonics (the alphabet code) helps students read words accurately and becoming a **fluent reader takes regular practice**. Reading fluency is the ability to read accurately, smoothly and with expression. It is a skill that needs to be taught and practised daily, particularly in the early years.

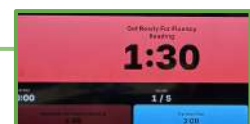
Research shows that **fluent readers are better able to understand what they read** because they can **focus on the meaning of the text rather than decoding each word**.

At St Paul's our literacy program includes **dedicated fluency practice**, as well as phonics instruction. Students are assigned a daily fluency partner. The teacher selects an appropriate text and set the timer, giving each students time three minutes to read, followed by one minute to provide feedback. The teacher roves and/or reads with particular students.

Together, these skills help students develop as confident and capable readers.



These two students are fluency partners. They read a decodable text to practise fluency and follow this up with a free choice of an authentic text to foster a love of reading.



Dina Rubini - Literacy Leader

LEARNING & TEACHING

Science in Action



Question ▪ Explore ▪ Discover

At St Paul's, Science is about more than learning facts. Students develop their understanding of the world by asking questions, investigating, making observations, analysing information, solving problems and sharing what they discover.

We use a central inquiry question to connect learning across different curriculum areas and deepen students' understanding.

Here's a snapshot of what our students are exploring in Science this term, along with the questions guiding their learning.

PREP - THE LITTLE SEED

Biological Sciences

 **BIG QUESTION:** How do plants grow and survive?

Students are exploring what plants need to grow and survive and developing their understanding of living things.



YEARS 1-2 - MARVELOUS MIXTURES

Chemical Sciences

 **BIG QUESTION:** What happens when materials are mixed together?

Students are investigating materials and exploring what happens when they are combined, changed and separated.



YEARS 3-4 - CONNECTED BY NATURE

Biological Sciences

 **BIG QUESTION:** How are living things connected within their environment?

Students are exploring the connections between living things and their environments and how they depend on one another.

YEARS 5-6 - AMAZING ADAPTATIONS

Biological Sciences

 **BIG QUESTION:** How do living things survive and adapt in a changing world?

Students are exploring how living things have adapted to different terrains and environments, how their physical features and behaviours help them survive and thrive and how changes in environments can impact their survival.



SCIENCE SKILLS WE ARE DEVELOPING

Across all year levels, students are learning to **ask questions, investigate, observe, analyse, problem solve and communicate**, as they explore Science through meaningful inquiry.

ONLINE SAFETY

Kindness Counts Online Too!

Children are kind, caring people. Yet, in a moment of frustration, disappointment or anger, even the nicest child can send a message they later regret.

One of the challenges of communicating online is that we don't get the benefit of facial expressions, body language or tone of voice. A message that takes only a few seconds to send can cause hurt that lasts much longer.



As parents, one of the best conversations we can have is not, ***"Don't be mean online,"*** but rather, ***"What sort of person do you want to be online?"***

A few simple questions can help children pause before they press 'Send':

- Would I say this if they were standing in front of me?
- Would I be happy for mum, dad or my teacher to read this message?
- Am I solving the problem or making it bigger?

Children also need to know that making a mistake doesn't make them a bad person. If they send something hurtful, encourage them to own it, apologise sincerely and learn from the experience.

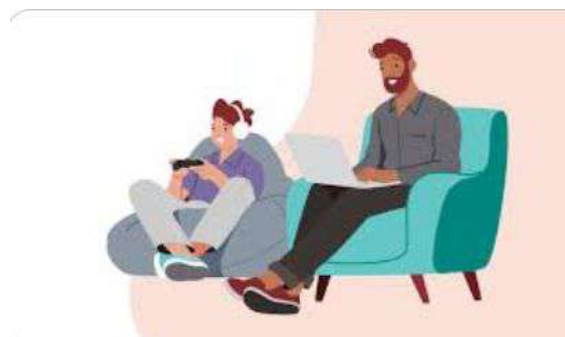
These moments, while uncomfortable, are often where the greatest growth occurs.

At school, we spend a great deal of time talking about kindness, empathy and respect. These values don't stop at the school gate, they matter just as much in group chats, online games and social media.

By working together, we can help our children understand that every message they send is an opportunity to build someone up rather than tear them down.

Having regular conversations about your child's online experiences can sometimes feel challenging, especially as technology and online trends are constantly changing. The **eSafety Parents Hub** provides practical advice, support and conversation starters to help you better understand and navigate your child's online world.

[Visit the eSafety Parents Hub](#)



SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Balancing Life & Technology: Screen Time

Parents are invited to join this **free webinar** exploring what healthy screen time can look like for children.

The session will provide practical, realistic strategies to help families support children to develop **safe and healthy screen time habits** and find a balance between technology and everyday life.

Online Parent/Guardian Webinar
Monday 10 August 2026
7:30pm

All registered participants will also receive **28 days' access to the webinar recording**, so you can watch it at a time that suits you.

A great opportunity to gain practical ideas and support for managing screen time at home.

CYBER SAFETY PROJECT

Balancing Life & Technology

SCREEN TIME

GAMING BATTLES

VIDEOS & SCROLLING

SLEEP & BEDTIME

TECH CONFLICT

FINDING BALANCE

**LIVE
PARENT
WEBINAR**

MON 10th AUG
7:30PM AEST



REGISTER NOW

bit.ly/CSP10AUG



CNA
Catholic Network
Australia

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Help keep families safe

Lithium-ion battery fire prevention



As the school year continues, many students are using devices such as laptops, tablets, phones, e-bikes and e-scooters. Most of these devices contain lithium-ion batteries, which have become part of everyday life, but need to be used safely.

Fire services are responding to an increasing number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries, often caused by incorrect charging or leaving devices unattended. That's why fire safety at home is especially important during the school year.

You can help reduce the risk by:

- only using the charger and battery designed for each device;
- unplugging devices once fully charged ;
- never charging devices on soft surfaces like beds or couches;
- not charging devices overnight, or when no one is home ;
- charging larger devices such as e-bikes and e-scooters away from living spaces and keeping them clear of exits;
- regularly checking devices and stopping use if a battery looks damaged, swollen or overheats .

You can watch Fire Rescue Victoria's safety video [here](#)

It's also important to make sure smoke alarms are working and tested every month. Fire Rescue Victoria recommends installing smoke alarms in bedrooms, living rooms and near areas where devices are charged. **Remember working smoke alarms save lives.**

For more tips on lithium-ion battery safety, visit:

<https://www.frv.vic.gov.au/battery-safety>

A few simple habits can help protect your home and your loved ones.



LIBRARY

PREMIERS' READING CHALLENGE

It is wonderful to see our students enthusiastically tackling the PRC! Every single book read boosts our school's total and opens up exciting new worlds for our readers.

Fantastic job, everyone!

Our latest whole school book tally is 1447 books!

Have you signed up for the PRC?

Please contact me if you don't have your PRC log in details
& would like to join the Challenge!

Ms Angela - Library

agangi@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au

**Congratulations to the following students
who have completed the PRC!**

PREP P: Aleksander F Ciara O'D	3/4B: Phoebe L George C Gabriella C Luca L N
3/4D: Miles S Adam T Samantha G-O Gabriela J H Harrison G Adam I Riva B Alexander N	3/4MH: Harriet V Anh L Milania P 
5/6H: Zoe C	5/6J: Aoibheann O'D Alexander P
5/6T: Henry V Gwen S	

We Completed the PRC!



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Time is flying by and we have already reached the end of Week 4! Over the past two weeks, we have enjoyed a wide range of fun and engaging activities.

One of our favourite projects has been working on our MACSEYE Board, an initiative started by our wonderful educator Lezley, together with the children. You can now find the children's self-portraits, which they created with Lezley's support, along with photos of our recent activities, profiles of our Coordinator and Educators, as well as some key information about our service.

Lezley and the children worked together to display everything on our MACSEYE Board, which you can find in the hall. We warmly invite you to stop by, have a look and enjoy the wonderful photos and displays from our service.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Kind regards,

Rina & Lezley

How to enrol:

Complete the [enrolment form](#).

Contact: MACSEYE 1300 501 029

enrolments@macseye.vic.edu.au

macseye.vic.edu.au



SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is wonderful to see our students wearing their uniforms with pride. Our school uniform is an important part of our identity, fostering a sense of belonging for every child.

To ensure we all maintain these high standards, please take a moment to review our current guidelines:

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.

**NEW UNIFORMS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM
SPARTAN WORLD UNIFORM SUPPLIER**

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



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

Email - office@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au

Thank you for supporting our uniform policy.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NOTICES



Merri-bek
City Council

Help shape the future of Active Merri-bek

Active Merri-bek and Merri-bek City Council are developing a new four-year Aquatics and Leisure Strategic Plan and we'd love to hear from as many members of our community as possible.

The Strategic Plan will help shape the future programs and services offered across our aquatic and leisure centres in Brunswick, Coburg, Fawkner, Oak Park and Pascoe Vale, ensuring they continue to meet the needs of our diverse community. Community feedback will directly inform the development of the plan and help guide future improvements to programs and service delivery.

We're reaching out to local schools to ask if you would be willing to share the consultation with your school community through your newsletter, parent communication platform or other communication channels.

The consultation can be accessed here:

<https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/aquatics-leisure-strategy>

We would greatly appreciate your support in helping us reach families and community members across Merri-bek. Every piece of feedback will help ensure our centres continue to provide programs and services that reflect the needs of our community.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Kelly Parker

National Community Development Manager

NSW/ ACT/ QLD/ WA Belgravia Leisure

Active Merri-bek Community Engagement Coordinator

Telephone: 0407 893 477

Email: kelly.parker@belgravialeisure.com.au

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NOTICES



Year 7 Enrolment

for 2028

Unlock Your Child's Learning Potential



Apply now
Visit Our Website 
www.mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au

- **Applications Close**
14 August 2026
- **Offers Sent**
16 October 2026
- **Acceptances Due**
6 November 2026



Apply Now



**YEAR 7 2028
ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS
CLOSE FRIDAY 14 AUGUST**

SAVE THE DATE
Parish Dinner

Friday, 16 October 2026

Join us for an
evening of fellowship,
joy, and community

All are warmly welcome

Details to follow