

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*Staying Connected No.10, 03 July, 2025*

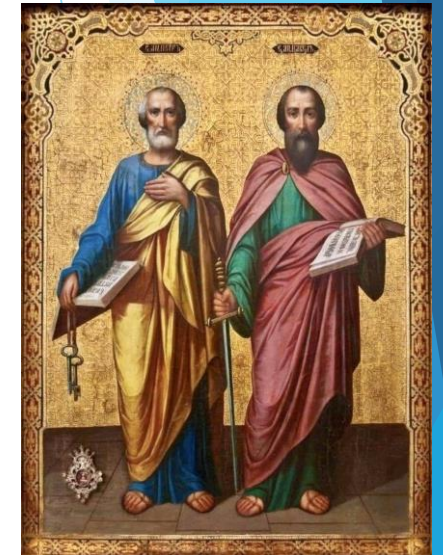
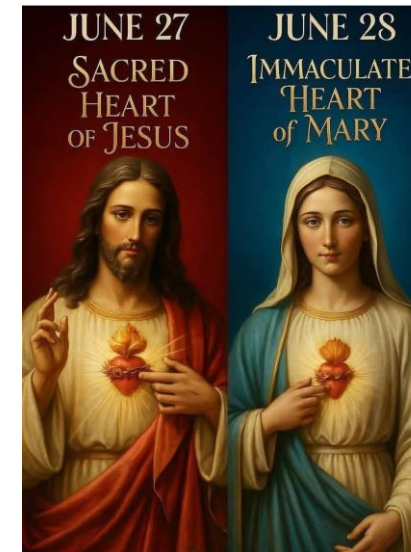
Hello Everyone,

As it comes to the end of Term Two; I thank the children for their engagement. Recently, the Western Regional Manager visited our school and commented most positively on the behaviour and level of engagement our children demonstrated. I appreciate there are occasionally 'hiccups' as children navigate their way through life, but in the main our kids are respectful and responsible.

I thank all our staff for their dedication and commitment to your child's care and education. We truly do have an exceptionally positive staff group of generous, kind and giving people. I also thank our priests, Monsignor Portelli and Fr. Vinh who support the children in celebrating the Sacraments.

This first half of the year, in particular, has seen our priests support our children in Years 3 and 6 with the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time and the Sacrament of Confirmation. I know many families send their children to Catholic schools to ensure their children receive the Sacraments of the Church. It truly is a time of celebration for us all.

As a Catholic school we have recently celebrated some significant Feast Days in the Church.



As I grow older, I appreciate more and more the significance of the saints who have modelled the way for us. The **Sacred Heart of Jesus** and the **Immaculate Heart of Mary** remind us of the great love and compassion Jesus and his mother; Mary have for each one of us.

St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.

**St Peter** reminds us that even in our weakness and failure—like when he denied Jesus—we can be forgiven, strengthened, and called to lead. His life is a testimony to faith, humility, and steadfast love.

**St Paul** reminds us that no past is beyond redemption. Once a persecutor of Christians, he was transformed by Christ's light and became one of the greatest evangelisers the Church has ever known. His life speaks to courage, conviction, and the power of conversion.

Together, they remind us that **God calls each of us—despite our flaws and differences—to be bold witnesses of the Gospel**. Their feast invites us to live with passion, to speak truth with love, and to place our trust in God's plan for our lives.

**Remember;**

School finishes for Term Two at 1:00pm tomorrow Friday 4 July 2025.  
We look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term Three on Tuesday 22 July 2025.

Please try and have some rest over the next two weeks. I know how busy it is, juggling all the responsibilities associated with your children. I will also be busy juggling the expectations of six grandchildren! However, it is good not to be rushing in the morning and maybe moving at a slightly slower pace.

Go well everyone and keep safe,



**Anthony McCluskey**  
**Principal**

## **SCHOOL CLOSURE-MONDAY 21 JULY** **NEXT TERM COMMENCES ON TUESDAY 22 JULY.**

Staff from Catholic schools in our zoned region will be participating in an Accreditation School Closure Day on Monday 21 July at Hyatt Place Essendon Fields.

This day is being facilitated by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and promises to be a rich and dynamic experience with keynote speaker Dr Joel Hodge, targeted workshops, an engaging panel session, and a concluding *Instructional Eucharistic Liturgy* led by Fr Mark Reynolds. The event aims to support spiritual growth, pedagogical excellence, and missional clarity for all participants.

This is essential learning in our Catholic context and is necessary to ensure all of our staff remain accredited to teach in a Catholic school, as mandated by MACS. Thank you for your support.





# SMMPS BIG FREEZE DAY

MND



A big shout out to our incredible community for coming together to raise awareness and funds for this fantastic cause, led by our SRC!

Together, we created a sea of Big Freeze 11 merch and winter woolies, raising the incredible amount of **\$650.60**

to fund research into a cure and treatment for MND, **on top** of what was generously given to purchase the **Big Freeze merchandise!**

What an effort!

A big shout out to this year's ice-bucket volunteers:

**Miss Cultrera, Miss Brooke and Mr McCluskey!**

An even bigger shout out to our children and families for their engagement, encouragement and participation in this challenge.







MND

SMMPS



BIG FREEZE DAY





# year 2 expo

Last week, our Year 2 students proudly hosted a special Sustainability Expo, inviting parents and families into the classroom to celebrate their learning. The students showcased their incredible dioramas and posters, around the theme of habitats and how we can help protect our oceans, rivers and waterways.



Throughout the term, students have been learning about sustainability, pollution and the impact of rubbish on our natural environments. The expo was a wonderful opportunity for students to share their knowledge, creativity and share simple actions we can all take to care for the planet.



## She Who Belongs She Who Thrives



Now accepting enrolments Year 7 2027  
Applications close 15 August 2025



Book a College Tour today:  
14-22 Vida St, Aberfeldie, VIC, 3040  
(03) 9331 9300  
[registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au)



## She Who Explores TERM 3 SESSIONS



Come and see what it's like to be an Ave girl through our after school program, **She Who Explores**.

Designed specifically for Year 4 and 5 students, this is a fantastic opportunity for our future students to explore the curriculum and co-curriculum at Ave Maria College.

We hope that you will join us for our final sessions for 2025.



**Thursday, 24 July 4:00pm-5:00pm STEM or Netball**  
**Wednesday, 6 August 4:00pm - 5:00pm STEM (repeat)**  
**Thursday, 7 August 4:00pm - 5:00pm Netball (repeat)**



For more information, please email Assistant Principal (Community and Partnerships), Mrs Natalie Meddis, [AssistantPrincipalCommunity@avemaria.vic.edu.au](mailto:AssistantPrincipalCommunity@avemaria.vic.edu.au) or register via the QR.





**Children of Fatima**

# Winter Fun Night

**Location :** St Paul's Catholic Church 230-240 Sunshine Ave, Kealba VIC 3021

**When:** Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2025  
At : 5pm - 7pm

**Year level : 5-9**

**Dress code:** warm clothing, bring a jacket & wear comfortable shoes

**Next fun night**  
Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2025  
At: 5pm - 7pm

**Please RSVP by the 4th of July 2025 @12pm**  
**Contact : Stephanie Dellachiesa**  
**ChildrenOfFatima.STMA@gmail.com**

meet up with friends  
make new friends  
& bring a friend!



## PLAYGROUND USE BEFORE SCHOOL – REMINDER

Please note that all of the Junior and Senior Adventure Playgrounds are **not to be used before school**.



This is the Junior Adventure playground.  
It is only for use by students from Prep to Year 2.



The climbing frames can be used by all students.


This is the Senior Adventure Playground.  
It is only for students in Years 3 – 6.



Parents are required to actively watch their children when using the equipment after school.



## REMINDERS

- The basketball court is used as a carpark in the morning and afternoon. The safety of our children is of utmost importance and therefore I ask that you take extra care when driving in the carpark areas. The speed limit is **5km per hour** and there is to be no double parking at all. Please only park in the designated parking spots and do not park on the **artificial turf or in pedestrian walk ways**. Thank you for taking the safety of our children seriously.
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- From time to time our children forget to bring their lunch to school or a lunch order is ordered for the wrong day and we ask parents to bring in the missing lunch. In order to continue with our healthy eating expectations we ask that parents **do not bring in take away food** such as McDonalds, KFC etc. If you do need to purchase lunch for your child we ask that you purchase things such as sushi, sandwiches or wraps.
  - The School opens at 8.30am and children can enter the classroom at 8.50am. **Please do not drop children off prior to 8.30am.** If you need to bring your child to school before 8.30am please book them into the before school hours program.
  - St Mary MacKillop is a 'Smoke Free Zone' and smoking on the school grounds is not permitted. According to the law, 'The Tobacco Act 1987 bans smoking or vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.'  
**Please do not smoke or vape on the school grounds.**

- If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school it must be handed into the teacher in the morning where it will be stored in a secured location and returned to them in the afternoon. Please refer to the Mobile phone policy on the school website.
- As there is no supervision on the playground area and the oval are in the morning, these areas are out of bounds and children are not to play on the playground or the oval before school.
- The front drive through area between the Church and the School operates as a drive through zone only before school.
- Due to a few near misses, those who wish to park and bring their child into class must **use the back car park area.** There is now no parental parking in bays outside the front of the Church.

## 2025 Term Dates

**Term 3: 21 July-19 September 2025**  
**Term 4: 6 October-16 December 2025**  
**(Year 6 finish Friday 12 December)**



## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund APPLICATION Form

School Name

School REF ID

### Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb  State  Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

-  -  -  **OR**

☐ Foster parent\* **OR** ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)\*\*

\*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

\*\*Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

### Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders.

I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
  - This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
  - I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
  - If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DE.
  - Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.
- You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant  Date  /  /

## Camps, Sports and Excursions fund eligibility

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

### Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible\* for the fund, a mature minor of sixteen years of age or over, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one; or
  - on the first day of Term two.
- Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder; or
  - Be a temporary foster parent; and
  - Submit an application to the school by the due date.

\* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Eligibility | education.vic.gov.au](#)

Mature minors or parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

### Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and seventeen years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and eighteen years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students' attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooling, or TAFE.

### Eligibility Date

For concession card holders, CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (see [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Policy | education.vic.gov.au](#)).

## Payment amounts

### CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

The CSEF is paid directly the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. Please refer to the policy for the current rates.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts | education.vic.gov.au](#)

**Foundation and Year 7 government school students** who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents, so please register your interest at the school.

## How to complete the application form

### NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

- Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.  
Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.  
If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
- Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
- Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.



## Upcoming Events 2025

**Term 2: 22 April-04 July 2025**

**Friday 04 July**

Last Day of Term 2

Students finish @ 1pm

**Term 3: 22 July-19 September 2025**

**Monday 21 July**

**School Closure Day-see message from the Principal**

**Tuesday 22 July**

First day of Term 3-school starts @ 9am

**Monday 28 July (note change of date)**

Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30pm to 6pm

**Wednesday 30 July**

Parent Teacher Conversations 12.30pm to 6pm

**Tuesday 05 August**

100 days of Prep

**Friday 08 August**

Mary MacKillop Feast Day

**Friday 15 August**

Feast of the Assumption

## Upcoming Events 2025 Cont....

**Monday 18 August**

**School Closure Day-All Staff First Aid Training**

**Monday 25 August to Friday 29 August**

Book Fair

**Friday 19 September**

Last Day of Term 3

Students finish @ 1pm