

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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[www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au)  
T: 03 9367 6199



*Staying Connected No. 9, 26 June, 2025*

Dear School Community,

Over the weekend, many of our Year 6 students received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a significant milestone in their faith journey and a true highlight of our school calendar. We were honoured to welcome our Regional Bishop, Martin Ashe, who conferred the Sacrament and officially confirmed the children as full members of the Catholic Church.

Last week, I spoke to our Confirmation candidates. About the importance of taking a name in Confirmation.

As I wrote to them in a Memo reinforcing my teaching:

You have chosen a Saint's name to take in Confirmation.

**Remember always, this Saint is your friend for life.** There must be something that inspires you about the Saint you have chosen. Always look to your Saint, as your Guardian Angel; there to walk beside you, protect and support you and to continue to offer inspiration right throughout your life. **Pray often.** Ask your Saint to intercede for you and to look out for you and your loved ones. And always remember to say thank you to your Saint and live with an attitude of gratitude. **Your Saint is your friend for life.**



In the words of St. Mary MacKillop,

***"Believe in the whisperings of God to your own heart."** 1868*

This is very much St. Mary MacKillop's invitation to listen to the Holy Spirit.

We ask that the children always listen to the Holy Spirit and respond accordingly.

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.

Congratulations to all children who were Confirmed on Saturday.



## THE NATION'S BEST TEACHERS

We are very excited to announce that our very own **Eileen Marner** has been named as one of Australia's best teachers. Eileen was nominated and after a selection process was named amongst the nation's best teachers.

We are very proud of Eileen and know that she rightly deserves this recognition.



 Eileen Marner

Eileen Marner creates nurturing classrooms where children thrive academically and emotionally. Her patient, creative approach builds lifelong learning foundations while maintaining strong communication with families, making lasting impacts on students' character, confidence and development.

**Congratulations Eileen!**

## THANK YOU

I extend my sincerest thank you to all the parents and carers of the children in Years Prep, 1 and 2 for your support last week.

The teachers in these levels engaged in some excellent professional learning in preparation for the rollout of InitialLit P-2. This program which is being introduced next term will ensure all children in Years Prep-2 will have direct and explicit instruction in all aspects of Literacy.

Next term we will also be rolling out Ochre Spelling and Grammar Programs 3-6 to support the children with direct and explicit instruction to further develop their writing skills. Ochre is MACS framework for Literacy and Maths.

We have also been doing explicit Ochre Vocab in Reading in Year 4 and we will roll this out in Year 3 also. Plans are afoot for Years 5 and 6.

Look out for more news and detailed explanations as we rollout MACS Vision for Instruction

As you can see; lots of exciting things are happening in learning and in our community at our wonderful school.

Go well everyone,



**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.



## PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS 2025



 **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*  
*ChildrenOffFatima.STMA@gmail.com*

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





# SMMPS BIG FREEZE DAY

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June

**MND**

Support the cause!

**Buy Big Freeze  
merchandise**

(Bunnings, Coles  
and online)

OR **bring a  
donation** on

**Big Freeze Day**

**Wear** your  
winter  
woolies or Big  
Freeze merch

on  
**Big Freeze  
Day**



AN SRC INITIATIVE





## Important Update: Revised Victorian Curriculum Mathematics Version 2.0



### Victorian Curriculum Mathematics Version 2.0

Now fully implemented  
in all MACS schools

Working towards our strategic goal to enable all students to acquire Mathematics proficiency, the revised curriculum makes it easier for teachers to assess and report on student learning.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

MACS are pleased to share an important update regarding the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) Mathematics Curriculum. Our school has now fully implemented **Mathematics Curriculum Version 2.0**, bringing key changes to how student learning is assessed and reported from Foundation to Year 6.

What You Need to Know:

- **New Achievement Standards:** Teachers will assess and report student learning based on updated achievement standards, across all six strands of Mathematics.
- **Aggregated Reporting:** Unlike previous reports, where students received multiple scores for Mathematics, student progress will now be reported as a **single, overall score** in both Semester 1 and Semester 2. Teachers use evidence from each semester's learning to make a well-rounded judgement of your child's progress in Mathematics Version 2.0.
- **Alignment with Our Curriculum:** Teacher judgements are aligned with our Mathematics program to ensure consistency and accuracy.
- **Reporting Changes:**
  - **Semester 1 reports** will reflect achievement only.
  - **Semester 2 reports** will show both achievement and growth for the strands covered in Semester 1.

The VCAA believe these updates will offer a clearer, more comprehensive view of your child's learning journey. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please feel free to contact the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best regards,

Kirsten Mifsud  
Mathematics Leader

## 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.



## She Who Explores

### New Term 2 Sessions added!

Come and see what it's like to be an Ave girl with 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 subjects that they will be able to study at Ave Maria College.

We hope that you will join us for one or two of the following sessions.

**Thursday, 26 June, 4:00pm - 5:00pm - Creative Spaces (Library)**  
**Monday, 30 June, 4:00pm - 5:00pm - Food Technology (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.



## She Who Explores

### TERM 3 SESSIONS

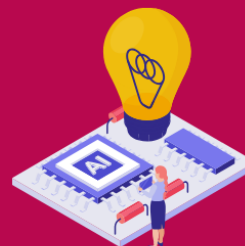
Come and see what it's like to be an Ave girl through our after school program, **She Who Explores**.

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.





## 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.
- 
- 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 1: 31 January-04 April 2025**  
**(Good Friday 18 April-Easter Monday 21 April)**  
**Term 2: 22 April-04 July 2025**  
**Term 3: 21 July-19 September 2025**  
**Term 4: 6 October-16 December 2025**  
**(Year 6 finish Friday 12 December)**



**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)



# **WINTER HOLIDAY CAMPS - HOSTED BY STRIKE SOCCER**

**WE HAVE TWO BIG LOCATIONS COMING UP - 9AM-1PM EACH DAY**

**ABBOTSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL GROUND**

**14TH & 15TH OF JULY**

**DAREBIN INTERNATIONAL SPORT COMPLEX**

**17TH & 18TH OF JULY**



**JOIN NOW VIA  
OUR WEBSITE**

[strikesoccerschool.com](http://strikesoccerschool.com)

**CONTACT US: [admin@strikesoccerschool.com](mailto:admin@strikesoccerschool.com) / 0405 765 943**



## 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.





# VU school holiday sport program

7-11 & 14-18 July 2025

**Ages 5-12**

Multi-sport

Netball

Soccer

Basketball

Play, swim & craft

AFL

Scan for more info



**Early bird prices  
end June 9!**



# VU school holiday sport programs

7-11 & 14-18 July 2025

**Week 1**

7/7 - multi-sport

8/7- soccer

9/7- multi-sport

10/7- multi-sport

11/7 - play, swim & craft

**Week 2**

14/7- netball & basketball\*

15/7 - play, swim & craft

16/7 - AFL

17/7 - play, swim & craft

18/7 - multi-sport

**Early bird prices end June 9!**




**book online  
today!**




\*separate programs





**MID SEASON ENTRY IS NOW OPEN!**



**THE PERFECT  
TIME TO GIVE  
IT A GO!**

**PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK**

## Upcoming Events 2025

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

**Monday 30 June**

Teeth on Wheels

**Monday 23 June and Wednesday 25 June**

Prep 2026 Existing Family Interviews

**Friday 04 July**

Last Day of Term 2

Students finish @ 1pm

**Term 2: 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

**Tuesday 29 July**

Parent Teacher Conversations 12.30pm to 6pm

**Wednesday 30 July**

Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30pm to 6pm

**Tuesday 05 August**

100 days of Prep

**More dates to come.....**