



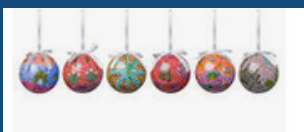
Term Four, Newsletter 31
Friday 15th December, 2023

St Ambrose Parish School

Our Vision: Centred by Faith, In Partnership with Community, We Provide Excellence in Learning.



Christ born in a stable is born in me, Christ accepted by shepherds accepts me, Christ receiving the wise men receives me, Christ revealed to the nations be revealed in me, Christ dwelling in Nazareth You dwell in me, Christ, grant that people may look at me and see Your Presence. Amen.



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Message from the Principal

Dear families, parishioners, and friends,

I would like to acknowledge and express my deep appreciation for everything you have all done to support our vision, 'Centered by faith, in partnership with the community, we provide excellence in learning'. You our students, teachers, ESO staff, office ladies, and families, collectively have ensured our school could continue to thrive.

What an event-filled year we have had! With Covid and the major part of the building works behind us it has been great to strengthen our connection with you through our sporting events, on-site activities, and working with our PFA who initiated the disco, canteen lunches, family picnics and carols. Our school production Safari showcased the diverse gifts and talents of our students and was an impressive portrayal of how we can make the world a better place by caring for our earth.

It certainly was a highlight and I have received many emails about how talented our students are! Book week is always such fun too along with the learning activities teachers plan for each week! Our recent kite and block construction workshops were also very well received.

We are thankful that we were able to continue with our camps, excursions, and incursions as well as further develop our student initiatives and leadership allowing further voice and agency through establishing our SRC.

It has been great to continue consulting with our SAC and to re-establish our PFA. We look forward to working with you to enact our school's mission into the future. We are also super excited about our fete next year!

We welcomed mums, dads, grandparents, siblings, and friends at our assemblies, Mother's and Father's day liturgies, and other events. We thank you all for your contributions this year which further enriched the culture of St Ambrose. Your support and positive input to the school creates an encouraging environment in which our children can learn. Indeed, together, we have achieved a great deal and our children have made steady gains.

We hope your children that you feel proud of all they have achieved this year. We also hope that they can see themselves as life-long learners and feel that school is a place where their curiosity is aroused. We intended that they would be active in their learning and would question and look for different ways to find solutions. Overall we hope that St. Ambrose is a happy & and nurturing place and that our students enjoy coming to school. Indeed, with our building project nearing completion and painting, carpeting, and new furniture arriving over the holidays, we will have a beautiful, contemporary, and flexible learning environment to enjoy.

We say goodbye to Mr. Lawlor who has started a very promising career as a teacher with us over the past two years. We thank him for his care, for nurturing his student's learning, and for sharing his pets with us! We wish him contentment and happiness in his life in Ballarat and in his work at St Francis Xavier School. We will miss you Mr. Lawlor as well as your puppets and dragon! We sincerely thank Mrs. Watts who stepped into years 1-2 this year and with dedication and passion inspired her student's growth. Mrs. Lewis has also been a highly valued staff member along with Kerrie who has worked as an ESO. We look forward to having you ladies come back from time to time as CRTS!

We thank you too and wish you well!

The Story of Christmas



Our final advent liturgy celebrated the birth of Jesus as our prep class reenacted the story of Christmas so beautifully. It was terrific to share this prayerful experience with so many of our parents. It truly did bring the message of Christmas alive.

To our families leaving us this year after their time at St Ambrose: your contribution is appreciated and will remain within the spirit that is St Ambrose.

Thanks to our staff, teachers, specialists, admin & ESOs. It is my and the children's privilege to work with you. You collectively have such a broad skill set and great expertise. Your dedication to our school is enormous and your energy, enthusiasm, and concern for humankind is inspirational.

To our year 6 graduates...CONGRATULATIONS!

Your graduation liturgy and presentations celebrated the magnificent people you are!

I hope that you can reflect with satisfaction on all you have accomplished and now we look forward with hope to the summer break. Take some time to relax and enjoy family time over the holidays. May you have lots of reasons to smile, laugh, have fun with friends, and rest. May the new year that awaits bring new learnings, possibilities, and hope.

Happy Christmas!

Green Hat Workshop Construction Fun!

Make sure you look over the amazing constructions your children engineered later in this newsletter...I wonder what is inside?



Year Six Award Recipients

Mary-Anne Thomas MP Resilience Award 2023 - Viviana W

Viviana's resilience has been demonstrated throughout her time at St Ambrose. Having decided to leave her other Primary School to explore her connection to faith, Viviana has faced the challenges of such a decision with grace, patience, and commitment. Time and time again, Viviana has proved to herself and those around her, that she has the strength, the curiosity, and the determination to show up and follow what's important to her, even when it feels hard to. We are very pleased to announce Viviana as the female recipient of the Mary-Anne Thomas MP Resilience Award.

Mary-Anne Thomas MP Resilience Award 2023 - Cooper B

Cooper is kind and respectful and is highly recognised as a valued St Ambrose student. He is an engaged learner who enjoys learning new things and will occasionally ask questions to develop his knowledge further. When called upon Cooper will make valuable contributions to class discussions and is considerate when listening to others and acknowledging their ideas.

Anne-Marie McKinnon Positive Behaviour for Learning Award 2023 - Emmy Y

Emmy has been a very responsible role model for all this year as the St. Ambrose School Captain. As part of this leadership role, Emmy has represented and been a part of various school and community events. For example, the ANZAC Day Celebration and Remembrance Day Memorial.

Emmy is a very kind and compassionate young girl who is always the first to offer her help or assistance to anyone in need, both students and teachers. Emmy is an enthusiastic learner and always tries her very best in all curriculum areas.

CWA Woodend Eves Community Scholarship Award 2023 - Tahlia J

Tahlia is an excellent student who always does her best in class. One of her outstanding qualities is that she is very community-spirited. In the classroom, Tahlia is a supportive classmate, on the playground she looks out for the younger students to make sure they are being treated fairly. In the community, Tahlia is a fine sportsperson on Sundays she plays the Firsts Under 13s Woodend Hawks Netball team which has been selected for the interleague competition, and on Saturdays she plays Under 13s Division 1 netball at Strathmore.

Rotary Achievement Award 2023 - George S

George is to be congratulated for the way he has actively joined in all learning experiences offered this year and for his positive, enthusiastic, and mature approach to all set tasks. He is a leader in promoting social justice in our community and has been an asset to the Tech Team. Over the year George has demonstrated a selfless attitude and has made an effort to make a difference, whether that be within the class, in our school, or in the wider community. He is reliable and truthful and treats others politely and respectfully at all times.

Rotary Achievement Award 2023 - John P

Throughout John's primary school years at St. Ambrose, he has shown a kind and gentle personality. He always treats staff and visitors with great respect and consideration. John has a positive mindset and will work to the best of his ability in all areas of his schooling. He has enjoyed the opportunity to take on classroom responsibilities and is always willing to lend a helping hand to ensure the smooth running of his class.



Lions Club Achievement Award 2023 - Angus W

Angus is a very interested and inquisitive young man. He has a thirst for knowledge of the world around him and loves to question and make connections between his learning and personal experiences. Angus is a strong contributor to all classroom discussions, which supports not only his learning but the learning of those around him. Angus is a proud Carmel House Leader and has always led by example.

Lions Club Achievement Award 2023 - Alexandra M

Alexandra is a very respectful and considerate young girl, who has achieved great success in her learning this year. She has been a very responsible Faith Leader this year, assisting in the preparation of whole school para liturgies and masses. She has been a wonderful friend to their prep buddy and demonstrates care and thoughtfulness to the junior members of our school. She has shown excellent communication skills, and a willingness to be involved in school and community events, from ANZAC Day celebrations to participating in Cobaw sporting events.

Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey Community Leadership Award 2023 - James K

James is an engaged student who enjoys learning new things. He is a role model to his classmates, he is an honest and hardworking student who always tries his best. When working in a group he consistently pays full attention to the task at hand and understands that for a group to be successful, each member needs to take an active role, respect opinions, and acknowledge others' ideas.

Sacred Heart Scholarship Award 2023 - Catalina S

Catalina has always shown a dedicated approach to all areas of her learning. She contributes positively to her school community through her participation in interschool and Cobaw Sports Days, which they do with quiet confidence and willingness to have a go. Catalina demonstrates genuine commitment, compassion, and respect for all within the school and the wider community. She is a very positive role model for not only her prep buddy this year but for all those within our school. Catalina is a very thoughtful and understanding young person who demonstrates kindness and consideration to others while having fun and enjoying themselves.

St Ambrose General Excellence Award 2023 - Micah W

Micah has had an excellent year of learning. He always sets a good example and is an excellent role model to all students within the school. He is a thoughtful and understanding young person who demonstrates kindness and consideration to others in everything he does. Micah is a dedicated student who presents work of a good standard in all subject areas. During the past two years, Micah has been involved in school activities and extracurricular duties, such as our school production, Cobaw Sports Days, class and school masses.

School Sport Victoria Academic & Sporting Achievement Medal 2023 - Tahlia J

The recipient of this award has demonstrated:
Dedication and enthusiasm as a high achiever in academic and sporting studies.



Introducing our 2024 Student Leaders

We congratulate the following students who have a formal leadership role in 2024. They will receive their badges at our commissioning Mass early in term one. We will announce our 2024 SRC and our FOSSALs at the beginning of the new year.

School Captains	Sustainability Leaders
Ava R	Mary G
Elijah E	Joseph M
Sports Captains	IT Leaders
Alani F	Hayden L
Angus T	Bailey P
Lourdes Captains	Dash B
Indie R H	Assistant to DP
Bruno B	Eva P
Fatima Captains	Sidney M
Ruby P	Faith Leaders
Dash B	Audrey C
Mercy Captains	Mary G
Charlotte N	Cultural Leaders
Harry M	Audrey C
Carmel Captains	Charlotte N
Arlia M	Social Justice Leaders
Austin S	Violet D
Arts Leaders	Maeve D
Violet D	Angus H
Bailey P	Spencer R

Shaving to Find a Cure for Cancer

We are constantly inspired by the generosity of our families. Your support for the greatest shave has been greatly appreciated. Thank you to Kai and all of our students and families for your donations. You all make a difference.



The following note from one of our families encapsulates the goodwill amongst our very special St Ambrose community. Thank you!

This money was raised by Oli and Asher. They collected and packaged up Marigold seeds, then created a 'gold coin donation' stand selling the seeds at Mountain View Garlic, raising money for the Cancer Council. When hearing about Kai's incredible effort with the Greatest Shave, it was an easy decision to donate the \$137 to Kai.
Great job to Kai and his family!
Enjoy the new buzz cut!

2023 Reports

A link to your child's 2023 semester two report will be emailed to you on December 19th at 3.00pm. Please contact Micheal Portelli via email: micheal.portelli@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au if you don't receive your link by 5.00 pm on this date.



2024 Parent Buddy Program

Thank you to all the families that offered to be a part of the New Parent Buddy Program for 2024. Given the amount of preps starting with us that are from existing St Ambrose families, we had more offers of support than we needed. The amount of offers just highlights the beautiful and supportive community that St Ambrose is. Our chosen supportive families have been allocated their new family, and they will be reaching out over the summer break.

It's a Boy!

We congratulate the Seychell Family on the birth of baby Jonathan. Mel and Jonathan are doing well and thank you for your well wishes.

Edward sends the message below:

Praise the Lord! On Sunday we welcomed the arrival of baby #5: Jonathan Noah - meaning; "God has Given" or "Gift of God".

Jonathan was born on the feast of the Climactic Message. This is when Baby Jesus appeared with Our Lady to Sr. Lucia of Fatima and said His desire was that the Heart of His Mother be honoured side by side with His own...
The devotion of the Two Hearts!



Love is born
With a dark and troubled face.
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born,
Love is always born.



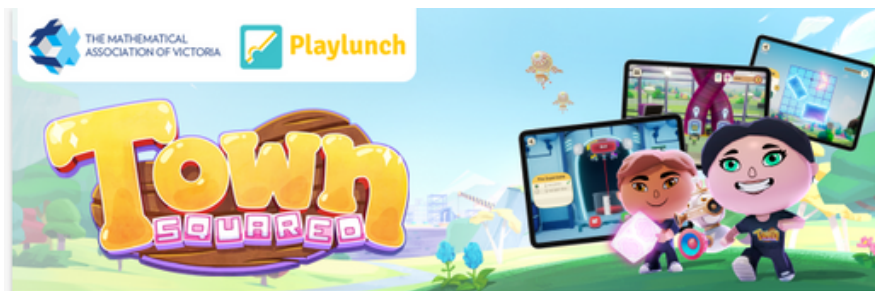
Bronwyn Phillips
Principal



Congratulations Year Six!



Congratulations Year Six!



A GREAT MATHS OPPORTUNITY AND RESOURCE.

Build maths confidence the fun way these holidays
We take readers home to build literacy skills, but how do we help our children practise maths regularly without feeling like more schoolwork? Town Squared makes maths a reward!
Our school has the opportunity for families to access this world-class resource at a heavily discounted rate.

Sign up at <https://www.townsquaredgame.com/my-school-offer>

And use our code SUMMER50 to access the discount.

Keep your child's maths momentum going over the break!

2024 Term Dates

Term 1	10 wks.	Monday 29th January (Staff Day on 29 th , Classroom set up 30 th , Literacy Testing 31 st Jan & Feb 1 st . Classes begin on Fri. 2 nd Feb)	Wednesday 27th March 2.30 finish
Term 2	11 wks.	Monday 15th April	Friday 28th June 2.30 finish
Term 3	10 wks.	Tuesday 16th July	Friday 20th September 2.30 finish
Term 4	12 wks.	Monday 7th October	Thursday 19th December (Classes finish on December 13 th . Numeracy testing on December 16 th & 17 th)

Public Holidays 2024

Term 1	Monday 11th March	Labour Day
Term 2	Thursday 25th April	ANZAC Day
Term 3	Monday 10th June	King's Birthday
Term 4	Tuesday 5th November	Cup Day

Time in Lieu Closure Days 2024

Term 3	Monday 15th July
Term 4	Thursday 19th December

School Closure days 2024 (4 allocated for professional development)

Term 1	Thursday March 28th	Literacy
Term 2	Monday 13th May	Maths
Term 3	Friday 30th August	Religious Ed
Term 4	Monday 4th November	Report Writing Moderation

2024 School Fees

- Family fee: \$2,030.00 per family
- Student Levy: \$665.00 per student
- Gr 3/4 camp \$ 260.00
- Gr 5/6 camp \$ 500.00
- Swimming Levy \$30.00

There is an increase of \$60 in the family fee and \$40 in the curriculum fee. This is a 3.9% increase which is within the recommended 5% increase.

Thank you for your efforts to keep your payment of fees up to date. This greatly assists us to meet our costs, update resources, and to continue to deliver quality programs for your children.

Note all outstanding fees for 2023 should now be paid unless a payment plan has been negotiated.

Concessional School Fees for Eligible Students

Students of eligible families are entitled to concessional school fees.
See Karen at the office to find out more about concessional fees.

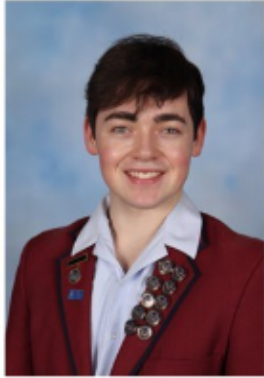


2024 Term 1 Dates

Friday 15 December 2023	Last day of term Students dismissed 3.30pm Grade 6 Graduation Celebration 5.30pm (parent run)
Monday 18 December 2023	Numeracy Testing (by appointment)
Tuesday 19 December 2023	Numeracy Testing (by appointment)
2024 Term 1	
Monday 29 January 2024	Staff return
Tuesday 30 January 2024	Pupil free day – classroom set up
Wednesday 31 January 2024	Literacy testing (by appointment)
Thursday 1 February 2024	Literacy testing (by appointment)
Friday 2 February 2024	Students commence Prep students finish at 12.30pm
Wednesday 7 February 2024	Prep rest day
Monday 12 February 2024	Cobaw tennis x 4 Gr 5/6 students
Wednesday 14 February 2024	Ash Wednesday Prep rest day
Friday 16 February 2024	Subway lunch ordering open
Tuesday 20 February 2024	Parent-Student-Teacher interviews
Wednesday 21 February 2024	Prep rest day
Thursday 22 February 2024	Parent-Student-Teacher interviews
Monday 26 February 2024	Cobaw Summer Sports – Gr 5/6
Tuesday 27 February 2024	Classroom information sessions 3.45-4.30pm
Wednesday 28 February 2024	Prep rest day
Thursday 29 February 2024	Classroom information sessions 3.45-4.30pm
Wednesday 6 March 2024	Prep rest day
Monday 11 March 2024	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 12 March 2024	Grade 5/6 Phillip Island Camp
Wednesday 13 March 2024	Grade 5/6 Phillip Island Camp
Thursday 14 March 2024	Grade 5/6 Phillip Island Camp
Saturday 16 March 2024	St Ambrose Fete 9am-1pm
Wednesday 20 March 2024	School Photos
Sunday 24 March 2024	Palm Sunday
Tuesday 26 March 2024	Grade 5 visit to Sacred Heart College
Wednesday 27 March 2024	End of Term 1 - students dismissed at 3.30pm
Thursday 28 March 2024	School closure day – Literacy PD
Friday 29 March 2024	Good Friday
Saturday 30 March 2024	Easter Saturday
Sunday 31 March 2024	Easter Sunday
Monday 1 April 2024	Easter Monday
Monday 15 April 2024	Term 2 commences



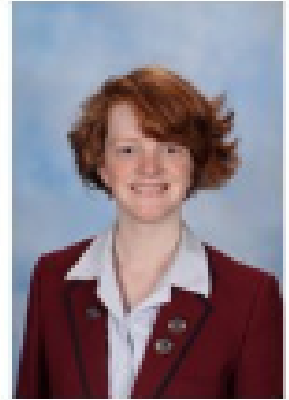
Congratulations to our former St Ambrose students on their Year 12 results



Cai Rowland
Dux
95.8



Noah Cooper



Vio Buerger



Sacred Heart College



Orientation Day





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

16 December	Amelia S
17 December	Jack B & Riley W
18 December	Elsie A
19 December	Anabelle W
20 December	Ferghus B
22 December	Harper C & Sailor C
30 December	Marli P



This term the Grade 3/4s did a reverse advent calendar where instead of pulling something out each day they would put something into it. These donations were themed around their RE unit with one box being for Joseph, one box for Mary and one box for baby Jesus. We thank all the families for the generous donations, which are going to the Woodend Foodbank.



Lost Property



Please contact
the office if these
items belong to
you.





Thank you from Kai

Proudly supporting

**WORLD'S
GREATEST
SHAVE™**

Thank you so much for supporting me in raising money to help fight cancer.

I have lost family to cancer as I know many have, or are going through it themselves, hopefully this money can be used to help someone who needs it.

St Ambrose and many families have been so generous in supporting me in this cause, I am nearly at my \$2500 target to donate to brain and blood cancer.

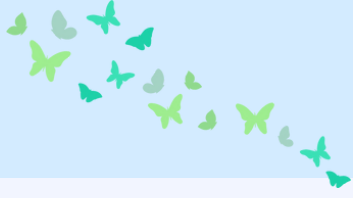
I am so lucky to live in such an amazing community and go to such a supportive school who have helped along the way.

Big shout out to Asher and Oli who raised a large donation by harvesting and selling seeds to support cancer. Also many other brilliant students that also contributed.

I would like to thank all of you for the donations, I did not think it would come this far. From the bottom of my heart thank you, you are all awesome.

Kai Zirnsak x

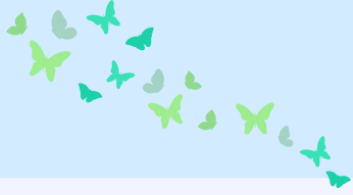




AROUND THE SCHOOL

GRADE 6 DAY OUT





AROUND THE SCHOOL



GREEN HAT PLANKS INCURSION





Mental Health & Wellbeing at St Ambrose

Erin Brass

Support and Care During the Holiday Season

The holiday season can be a stressful time for many, and for some, it may bring emotions that are challenging to navigate. As the holiday season unfolds, let's take a moment to acknowledge the importance of mental health—an integral aspect of our overall well being. If you, or someone you love are struggling over the holiday season, the following organisations are available to offer a listening ear, sound advice and supportive resources.

Lifeline Australia ☎: 13 11 14

Offering 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.

Beyond Blue ☎: 1300 22 4636

Providing information and support for anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention.

SANE Australia ☎: 1800 187 263

Extending support and information to those affected by mental illness.

Headspace ☎: 1800 650 890

Offering support to young people aged 12-25 and their families coping with mental health challenges.

Kids Helpline ☎: 1800 55 1800

A 24/7 helpline for children and young people to share their concerns and challenges.

Suicide Call Back Service ☎: 1300 659 467

Providing professional counseling and support for those affected by suicide.

MensLine Australia ☎: 1300 78 99 78

A support service for men navigating relationship issues, family problems, and mental health challenges.

Carers Australia ☎: 1800 242 636

Offering support and resources for family and friends caring for individuals with mental illness.

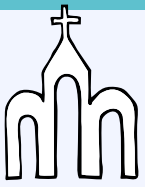
QLife ☎: 1800 184 527

Delivering support for LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families.

Butterfly Foundation ☎: 1800 33 4673

Extending support for individuals contending with eating disorders and body image concerns.





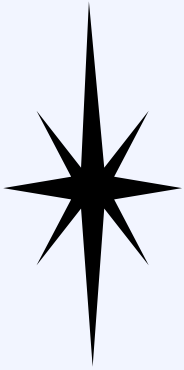
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST AMBROSE CHURCH

Wednesday 20th December 7.30pm
– Advent Reconciliation



Sunday 24th December 6pm
– Christmas Eve Family Mass



Sunday 24th December 9pm
– Carols in the church

Sunday 24th December 10pm
– Christmas Eve Mass

Monday 25th December 9am
– Christmas Day Mass

Individual reconciliation can be arranged
directly with Father Martin.

