



# St Ambrose Parish School



Centred by Faith, In Partnership with Community  
We Provide Excellence in Learning

🐝 Respectful 🐝 Responsible 🐝 Resilient 🐝 Kind

Pictured below is Asher with her parents showing the bicycle she won for her work being selected as the winning picture out of over 500 submissions for this years ride to school Victoria poster!

**St. Ambrose School**

**Acknowledgment of Country**

We acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land we learn, play, meet and live on. We pay our respects to elders past, present, and emerging and say thank you for sharing this beautiful country.



**CONGRATULATIONS Asher!**

**NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY**  
Friday 22 March 2024

**IT'S SO FUN!**

**RIDE2 SCHOOL**  
ride2school.com.au

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**Our next newsletter will be published on Friday, March 8th.**

## A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and stronger compassion.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

In your sacred name, I pray. Amen.

# 2024 Term 1 Dates

2024 Term 1	
Monday 26 February 2024	Cobaw Summer Sports – Gr 5/6 School Nurse to visit Prep students
Tuesday 27 February 2024	School Nurse to visit Prep students Classroom information sessions 3.45-4.30pm Reconciliation Workshop 6.30pm
Wednesday 28 February 2024	Prep rest day
Thursday 29 February 2024	Grade 3/4 Mass 9.30am Classroom information sessions 3.45-4.30pm Grade 5/6 camp information meeting 4.30-5.30pm
Monday 4 March 2024	School Nurse to visit Prep students Parent Helper Course 9.00am & 2.30pm
Tuesday 5 March 2024	School Nurse to visit Prep students
Wednesday 6 March 2024	Prep rest day
Friday 8 March 2024	Grade 1/2 Mass 9.30am Prep Reading Information Session 2.40pm (change of date)
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 Sacrament of Reconciliation Practice 11.45am NAPLAN Grade 3
Thursday 14 March 2024	Grade 5/6 Phillip Island Camp Sacrament of Reconciliation 12.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation Afternoon Tea 1.30pm NAPLAN Grade 3
Saturday 16 March 2024	St Ambrose Fele 9am-1pm
Monday 18 March 2024	NAPLAN Grades 3 & 5 Palm Sunday Liturgy (Grades 1/2) (change of date)
Tuesday 19 March 2024	Whole School Sports Day
Wednesday 20 March 2024	School Photos NAPLAN Grades 3 & 5 Holy Thursday Liturgy (Grades 3/4)
Thursday 21 March 2024	NAPLAN Grade 5
Friday 22 March 2024	National Ride to School Day
Sunday 24 March 2024	Palm Sunday
Monday 25 March 2024	NAPLAN Grade 5 Good Friday Liturgy (Grades 5/6) 2.45pm
Tuesday 26 March 2024	Grade 5 visit to Sacred Heart College Easter Sunday Liturgy (Prep) 2.45pm
Wednesday 27 March 2024	End of Term Mass 9.30am End of Term 1 - students dismissed at 3.30pm
Thursday 28 March 2024	School closure day – Maths 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

# Message from the Principal

Dear families, parishioners, and friends,  
It's almost fete time and we need your help to make this day possible!

Our enthusiastic and multi-skilled school fete committee has dedicated many hours to plan a Fete to enjoy and remember and now we need you to offer 1-2 hours of your time on this day to make this event run smoothly.

Our focus is on bringing the community together to celebrate and enrich our school and community spirit through socialising and having fun. Funds that are raised will be used to support projects that benefit the students.

Our Fete is a whole school community event, which recognises that everyone has something to contribute—time, baking skills, craft skills, prize donations, business contacts to sponsor the Fete or assisting in obtaining wholesale goods, etc.

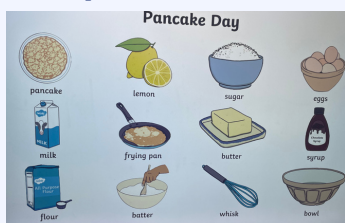
Our vision is, “Centred by faith, in partnership with community, we provide excellence in learning”. The feedback I have received is that our families welcome opportunity for our community to build and reinforce friendships, while utilising their broad interests and skill base in working toward a common goal. Indeed we as a staff welcome every opportunity to work in partnership with you and our fete is one of those opportunities. Becoming involved can be very rewarding and can lead to life-long friendships. Isn't it great that we can work together on running a school fete for the common good again!

Thank you to all of you who have contributed so far. We hope to get a good response in our call out to man the class stalls.

I met with our canteen committee last week to discuss how we can sustain this service and offer our families a weekly canteen lunch option. The canteen will re-open after the fete and offer lunch orders on Wednesday March 20th and 27th. Moving into term 2 we will be asking for volunteers to help by committing to a Wednesday for a few hours to assist in the canteen. You will be invited to add your name to a date on the roster which will be sent out after the fete.

## Shrove Tuesday

The children enjoyed making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday which sparked much discussion! We use such concrete experiences to add context, motivate and connect our students to reading, writing and maths learning. Thank you to our parent volunteers.



# Introducing Our Captains



Hello everyone

My name is Elijah and I am one of your School Captains for 2024. I'm looking forward to working with our school community in the year ahead and making lots of fun activities for everyone to enjoy.

Some of my goals are to listen to everyone's thoughts and ideas and to bring back S.T.A.M Day - which I first thought up in 2022. Last time it was a day for grades 3- 6 and it focused on Social Wellbeing, Technology, Art, and Music and was pretty awesome. This year, I'd like to bring back STAM day for the whole school.

I hope to see you around school!

My name is Ava and I will be one of your school captains for this year, 2024. I am looking forward to enjoying another year at St Ambrose and working with the school community. One of my goals this year is to make all of the students at St Ambrose enjoy all aspects of learning. I would also like to do some awesome fundraisers and make a good impact on the school to the best of my abilities.



## Ash Wednesday Mass

Together as a faith community in the middle of last week we paused to observe Ash Wednesday by participating in Mass. We have begun our journey through Lent after experiencing the tradition of Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes. Like any organised traveller, we want to pack our bags to make sure we have everything to make our six-week journey towards Holy Week and Easter make a difference.

Ash Wednesday however is about leaving baggage behind and braving the unknown, carrying nothing but the mark of God's love with more respect, love, generosity, openness, hospitality, and hope in our hearts.

We prayed that our gathering would remind us of the constant love of Jesus and that knowing this, gives us the courage to spread joy and with every act be compassionate members of society. We remembered those who are enduring great hardship at the moment; the people of Ukraine and Russia as well as those in Israel.

Together we, a faith-filled and connected St. Ambrose school community can choose the way of the gospel and make this year one where we bring the gospel values to life in our relationships with each other.

Our school leaders and staff were also commissioned and we formally welcomed in the new school year as part of the focus which is our tradition at St. Ambrose.



## We welcome you to our Fortnightly Assemblies



You are all welcome to attend our fortnightly assemblies held in the library at 3.00 pm. Our next assembly is this Monday and is being led by 1-20.

## Subway Lunches

When you order Subway lunches please make sure that you get a digital receipt so that you know your payment has gone through and your order will then be submitted.

## Parent Teacher Conversations

We are very happy that so many of you made time to meet with your child's teachers.

These appointments are a great way to allow communication between school and home, meet with your child's teacher, and share with them information that will assist them in learning to know your child. These conversations have the purpose of assisting us to hear about your child from you and enable us to work together toward your child's learning and social well-being. If you were unable to book in on the days allocated you can make an alternative date with your child's teacher.

## Parent Helper Training

Note that Debbie Geisler will be offering two training sessions on March 4th at 9.00 am and 2.30 pm in our meeting room. Please email Debbie on [debbie.geisler@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au](mailto:debbie.geisler@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au) if you are going to attend.

## School Improvement - Peer Observations

To empower teachers to be engaged and reflective practitioners our teachers are actively participating in cycles of Performance and Development to improve their teaching and student outcomes.

In order to support this and to develop a whole-school approach to Learning and Teaching we release teachers so that they can observe or model for their peers before engaging in critical colleague conversations. This is one strategy we use to improve our teaching and learning outcomes. Teachers pre-set goals before these sessions and learn from each other in the process. We are also working on establishing a consistent and sequential structure for our reading, writing & numeracy blocks.

### Peer observation supports teachers to:

- engage in professional learning to improve teaching.
- enhance students' learning through reflective practice.
- demonstrate leadership by observing and supporting other teachers.
- celebrate excellent teachers and varied skillsets.
- gain feedback on significant teaching or course changes.
- enhance the culture, and form a community around teaching and learning.

### As an observer participating in peer observation, you may:

- see teaching practices that they can emulate.
- learn about teaching technologies.
- demonstrate leadership in teaching and learning.
- support colleagues.
- take dedicated time to watch and reflect on teaching.
- gain a student's perspective.
- connect with colleagues in other levels.

Next week a number of our teachers and leadership team will engage in peer observation and modelling best practice sessions. It is fantastic that our staff are all open to continuing to learn and grow as professional practitioners.

## Parents as helpers



Our children both enjoy and benefit from the help of our parents. It is super to work with our volunteers and great to have you in the school. Thank you.

## Our History: Quilt



Lizzy is pictured above standing next to our St Ambrose Parish Woodend Commemorative quilt 1866-2016. This beautifully crafted quilt tells in part the history of Catholic life in Woodend between 1866 - 2016 and the construction of the first St Ambrose Church and School House. We thank

Lizzy's grandmother Sharon Simpson for making and donating the quilt to the school. You can enjoy the history depicted in it next time you visit if you like! It is provoking discussion amongst our students!

## Classroom Information sessions

Classroom Information Sessions will be offered on after school on Feb 27th and Feb 29th. It will allow further opportunities to learn more about how your children's teachers support your child in their learning, classroom routines, and expectations. We encourage you to attend the sessions relevant to you. We hope that you will gain further clarity and insight into how we can work together to support your child's growth.

## Playground Security: Please shut the gates

So that we keep our playground secure we ask that you shut the gates when you have dropped off your children. We are having two additional gates installed near the senior playground as well as near the bike stands in the coming weeks. By closing these securely our younger children are less inclined to go offsite.

## Our Multi Purpose Space

Our new shelving has arrived and the soft furnishings will be delivered in a couple of weeks. Our children will soon be able to borrow books from the library and enjoy this beautiful space.



## Smart Watches

We have several children who are bringing mobile phones and wearing smartwatches to school. We ask that you read the school's Mobile Phone & Smart Watch policy [Mobile Phone/Smart Watch & Electronic Device Policy](#) and make contact with your child's teacher if you have any questions about this.

## PFA

If you are keen to join our Parents and Friends Association we would love to hear from you! Please email your interest to me on:

[principal@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au)

The primary function of the PFA is to plan some fundraising as well as social opportunities to connect as a community. Our next meeting is at 2.30 pm on February 28th. You are welcome to come along!

## Music Lessons



The Ranges Music Network is excited to be back making music with all of our creative individuals in Term 1!

We have an exciting new program replacing our group lesson format -- called Launchpad! It is a hybrid of individual and ensemble learning that will launch your musicians into the world of 'speaking' and sharing in the language of music. We're all very excited for what opportunities it will bring.

For younger musicians just getting started our play-based Discovery Club is a fun way to try a bit of Guitars, Keyboards, Drums, Voices, and more to explore and develop our musical vocabulary. Foundation musicians can join in the fun from Term 2.

To get started please reach out via email to [shaun@rangesmusic.net](mailto:shaun@rangesmusic.net) or text 0449922425. You can learn more at <https://rangesmusic.net>.

Thanks as always for your support. If you have any questions just drop me a line here.

See you soon  
Shaun Evans



## Our 2024 Student Leaders

Our 2024 student leaders who were commissioned into their roles and received their badges at the Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday, February, 14th are pictured below.



## Vegetable Garden

Thank you to Seona and family for their work in our garden. Any amount of time helps and it can be done over the weekend out of hours if you prefer. Let me know if you are keen!

We aim to resume garden club & garden-based learning opportunities as part of our social/emotional and inquiry learning programs soon. We will keep you informed. THANKYOU!

## St Ambrose Parish Community

We are all part of the parish of St. Ambrose and value our relationships with local parishioners. It is great to have a senior parishioner listening to children's reading. We are keen to build on those connections.



We are all also welcome to be active in the wider parish. Included in this edition is a message from one of our parishioners Maurice which is relevant to us all.

## Newsletter

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday, March 8th.

“

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

Charles Dickens



Bronwyn Phillips  
Principal



## Student Initiatives

### Star Wars Club

The STAR WARS CLUB is a group that meets every Wednesday at lunch in the garden at the rock circle. This gives students an opportunity to show how they can be a good leader and have more things to do at playtime. We leaders of the club ensure that all students can express their ideas for games and have social time with other students and make new friends with the same interests. It inspires kids to use their broad imagination since nothing is actually real.  
Founders Dash and Riley.



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

24 February Alice C, Sidney M  
25 February Bruno B, Seb M  
27 February Sonny b Rex R  
3 March Harriet B  
4 March Tilly N  
6 March Hugh F, Emily S

## Student Awards

- Prep K Chase K for having a positive attitude and being willing to have a go!
- Prep K Amy M for being a friendly member of Prep K!  
Prep T Madeline Q for being a great helper in the classroom.
- Prep T Julian G for a positive start to Prep and always trying his best.
- 1/2CM Elise M for showing great confidence as she has settled into Year 1!
- 1/2CM Reuben T for the fantastic way he has started the year. Excellent!
- 1/2O Mollie H for consistently showing all of our positive behaviours for learning. Thanks Mollie!
- 1/2O Ben C for showing resilience in his learning. Well done Ben!
- 1/2S Jack B for always trying his best and never giving up. Well done!
- 1/2S Lily M for being a kind and caring class member.
- 3/4M Alice C for her wonderful Friday writing about her family.
- 3/4M Augie L for a wonderful start to Grade 3!
- 3/4R William C for always being ready to offer a helping hand!
- 3/4R Jessica F for having such a positive start to 2024!
- 3/4R Tillie J for her positive attitude to starting at St Ambrose!
- 3/4TW Alice L for demonstrating kindness and responsibility by continually looking out for others.
- 3/4TW Arthur H for working hard in writing and creating detailed sentences using adverbs.
- 5/6M Emily B for always being prepared to share her knowledge with his peers.
- 5/6M Amity C for being a kind and caring friend to all.
- All of 5/6P for an excellent start to the year.
- 5/6P Walethwa N for settling in well in 5/6P.
- Sports Star of the Week - Reuben T for stopping a game to help a friend! Great sportsmanship Reuben.





## Cobaw Tennis

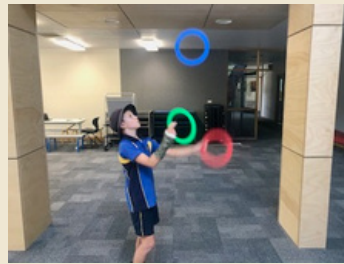
Four students (from Grade 6 went to Cobaw Tennis last Monday, 12th February. 2 boys and 2 girls. Bailey P, Gus H, Mary G and Charlotte N were the kids that went.

It took place at the Kyneton Tennis Club. There were about 20 boys and 20 girls there. The top 2 boys and top 2 girls represent Cobaw in the next level of tennis, which is at Bendigo. Unfortunately, none of the St. Ambrose kids reached the next level. However, we all had a great day and enjoyed participating in the competition.



By Gus and Bailey 5/6M

## Performing Arts - Terms 1 Circus Unit



In Term 1 P - 6 students will be participating in a Circus Unit and hands on learning about the spectrum of circus acts and the many skills attached to it. Circus Acts students will be focussing on include:



- Hoops
- Juggling Balls
- Fly Balls
- Juggling Scarves
- Spinning Plates
- Juggling Rings
- Bean Bags
- Juggling Clubs
- Poi
- Devil Sticks
- Team Tube
- Tin Can Stilts
- Rod jumpers
- Trampoline and Gymnastics
- Eurythmy Ribbons
- Bean Bag Scarves
- Acrobalance



By the students participating in Circus it will improve their four areas of mental wellbeing: stress relief, self-esteem, confidence, and socialisation. It will improve their overall fitness level, hand-eye coordination, concentration, throwing and catching skills, and ambidexterity.

It will develop persistence and perseverance and allow students opportunities to learn something new and make friends.

Students will also be collaborating with other students to choreograph circus routines and perform them in front of an audience so as there is a purpose and something to aim for. Throughout 2024 students will be skilling up on circus skills to ultimately perform in a circus based 2025 school production.

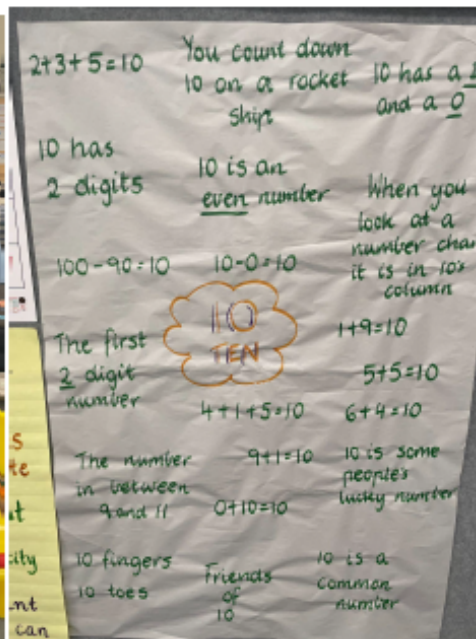




# 1/2CM Classroom Feature

## 1/2CM Number Talks!

We have been exploring lots of number knowledge and understanding in 1/2CM through our daily Number Talks. The students have worked independently, in pairs and in small groups to explore numbers in our everyday lives and share the different strategies we use to break, make and understand numbers. We have enjoyed discussing as a whole class and playing number games in small groups. In particular we are becoming experts at the game 'Egghead!'





# AROUND THE SCHOOL



# SCHOOL EVENTS



## St Ambrose Parish School Fete

**SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2024**

**9AM-1PM**

- Fun & Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Market Stalls
- Live Entertainment

**St Ambrose Parish School  
18 Templeton Street, Woodend**

**@STAMBROSEPARISHSCHOOLFETE**


# St Ambrose Parish School Fete

**Book SALE**  
BEFORE DONATING PLEASE CONSIDER

- Is this something I would re-purchase?
- Is it free from scribble and markings?
- Does it look nice?
- Is it still relevant?
- Is it unstained and non-yellowed?

IF YES TO THE ABOVE THEN PLEASE LEAVE AT SCHOOL RECEPTION!

If you have any queries, contact Joale on 0414 628 535



IF YOU HAVE BOOKS THAT AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO RE-SELL, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

Using illustrated books as wrapping paper for small gifts;

Donating to local childcare centres

Creating Christmas ornaments and artwork with them (there's lots of ideas on Pinterest and TikTok)

Using picture books for kids' craft

Recycling them in the yellow bin- all books have a lifespan and sometimes you just have to let them go!



SKIP THE QUEUE AND DON'T MISS OUT.

PRE-ORDER HOMEMADE SCONES.

PICK UP IS AVAILABLE FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON MARCH 16TH AT THE SCONE AND JAM STALL AT THE ST AMBROSE FETE.

PLAIN SCONES - HALF A DOZEN LOVINGLY HOMEMADE SCONES. ADD YOUR FAVOURITE JAM AND YOUR AFTERNOON TEA IS SORTED. PRICE \$10

JAM ALL \$5 EACH.


ALL FRUIT IS SOURCED FROM THE MACEDON RANGES.

HOMEMADE STRAWBERRY AND RHUBARB  
HOMEMADE APRICOT JAM  
HOMEMADE RASPBERRY JAM  
HOMEMADE PLUM JAM  
HOMEMADE BLACKBERRY  
HOMEMADE LEMON CURD

[PRE-ORDER HERE](#)



# St Ambrose Parish School Fete



We are looking for donations of good quality women's, men's, kid's clothing and footwear. We would prefer name brand clothing, if possible, rather than fast fashion items. No stains, rips etc. All clothing must be sellable and clean when donated. All donations can be given to either Renee Young, Gemma Rolfe or Rachel Migga by 29 February 2024. Donations can also be dropped off at the School office in the allocated tub.



WE WOULD LOVE ANY DONATIONS OF HONEY OR HONEY RELATED PRODUCTS.

THANK YOU!



**DONATIONS OF PLANTS, BULBS, SEEDS, SEEDLINGS & POTS WELCOMED.**

## TRASH & TREASURE

DO YOU HAVE ANY

- 
- TOYS
  - GAMES
  - BRIC A BRAC
  - HOMEWARES
  - ORNAMENTS
  - JEWELLERY & ACCESSORIES

DROP AT THE OFFICE OR CONTACT SANDY  
0414 932 103.



TO DONATE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS, PLEASE CONTACT SOPHIE LYNCH  
0478 313 191  
SOPHIELYNCH1981@GMAIL.COM



DON'T FORGET TO RESPOND TO OPEROO TO HELP IN CLASSROOM STALLS

PREP - GUESS THE NUMBER OF JELLY BEANS IN THE JAR/S

GRADE 1/2 S - SHOWBAGS

GRADE 1/2 O - CRAZY HAIR STATION

GRADE 1/2 CM - TEMPORARY TATTOOS

GRADE 3/4 M - GUMBOOT THROW/SACK RACE/EGG & SPOON RACE

GRADE 3/4 R - NAIL STATION

GRADE 3/4 TW - BADGE MAKING

GRADE 5/6 - EASTER EGG HUNT IN HAY



CAN YOU BAKE DELICIOUS TREATS FOR OUR CAKE STALL? PLEASE CONTACT KATE FORBES  
KATECFORBES@GMAIL.COM



## HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME MORE RESILIENT

MAKE IT YOUR DAILY TASK TO VOCALIZE YOUR MISTAKES AND DO-OVERS AROUND YOUR CHILD:

I spilled water all over myself. So frustrating!! I'm going to take a few breaths.

Oops! I forgot to shut the door, I better fix that.

My laundry pile fell over...It happens.



## NORMALIZING MISTAKES IS KEY!

Children need to hear that mistakes are learning experiences and opportunities to try again.

Even my parents make mistakes. It's okay for me to fail and try again.



SO NEXT TIME YOU MAKE A MISTAKE NARRATE IT AROUND YOUR CHILD:

I lost my car keys today. What a day. I really had to problem solve.



A CHILD WHO DOESN'T FEAR MISTAKES AND HAS COPING STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH FRUSTRATION IS A RESILIENT CHILD!



JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS

# Faith & Family

## Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,  
 You have given the human race  
 Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.  
 He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man  
 And giving His life on the Cross.  
 Help us to bear witness to You  
 By following His example of suffering  
 And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.  
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.  
 Amen.



## **Gospel Reflection:** Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:12-15 (18th February - The 1st Sunday of Lent)

Today's Gospel is simple and direct. Jesus tells us what we are called to do to enter into this season: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." By proclaiming this reading at Mass today, on the first Sunday of this new liturgical season, the Church brings us back to the true reason for Lent, to use these forty days to grow closer to our Lord in His suffering.

Small moments of prayer throughout the day, little sacrifices chosen in the moment, turning toward Jesus as you go about the duties of your family routine - these are all beautiful ways to enter into this season, and to allow Jesus to transform your life.

This Lent, when you are tempted to judge yourself harshly for all that you are not doing, remember the simple message of today's Gospel reading and refocus your energy on doing what our Lord asks, in any small way that you can. An act of repentance doesn't have to be grand to be beautiful.

*(Excerpts by Katie Fitzgerald, taken from "Catholic Mom: Holy Cross Family Ministries")*

## Special Prayers:

We ask that you pray for the following children who attended the Commitment Mass last Sunday, 18th February and who committed to learn about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and its importance in their journey of faith.

We pray for: Jacob W, Matilda C, Alice C, Sebastian C, Felix D, Alice L, Deon S,  
 James B & Remy B.

These children will celebrate their First Reconciliation later this term.

## RELIGIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS THIS TERM

Date	Details	Time
25th February	Reconciliation Commitment Mass 2	11:00 am
27th February	Reconciliation Night	6:30 pm
13th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation Practice	11:45 am
14th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation (and Afternoon Tea)	12:30 pm
18th March	Palm Sunday Liturgy (Grades 1 & 2)	2:45 pm
20th March	Holy Thursday Liturgy (Grades 3 & 4)	2:45 pm
24th March	Palm Sunday	11:00 am
25th March	Good Friday Liturgy (Grades 5 & 6)	2:45 pm
26th March	Easter Sunday Liturgy (Preps)	2:45 pm
27th March	End of Term 1 Mass	9:30 am

## Wondering:

**In what small ways can I repent and devote myself more fully to the Gospel this Lent?**

Woodend Parish Newsletter  
Children's Liturgy.



JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS

# Faith & Family

## ST AMBROSE PARISH WOODEND

### FINAL WORDING

#### 1ST WEEK OF LENT - MASS MESSAGE BY LAY PERSON

I'm Maurice Fanning, a parishioner here at St Ambrose for 2 and a half years.

Thanks Fr Martin for inviting parishioners to talk during Lent.

Just as today's Gospel from Mark tells us that when Jesus returned from his 40 days of sacrifice, danger and temptation in the Wilderness, and he asked the people of Galilee to repent and believe in the Good News that the Kingdom of God is at hand, we here in Woodend, in 2024, are also asked by God for the same thing.

We, as a parish community of believers, understand that this involves a calling to us all, a ministry, to spread the same message and live a conscious life of belief in God and in respecting and helping our Neighbour in this place. We have had a recent calling to assist more in the running of the Parish, as our Priest and Pastor, Father Martin, has experienced some recent health challenges.

A Parish Lay Team has been convened and has met to identify the actions and ministries needed to keep our wonderful parish as a vibrant, working hub of Catholic community and Catholic practice, here and now.

And, after some further discussion, there will soon be an invitation for interested parish members to be a part of this, by a sharing of the gifts and talents of parishioners, to ensure our Parish remains alive, active, welcoming and growing. We will expand more on this, and will be taking inspiration from the Lenten Gospels, during the Masses of the coming weeks.

Father and I will be here in the Church foyer after Mass, if anyone wishes to chat further today.

Thank you Fr Martin and thanks everyone.





# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Is your child interested in playing basketball this year?

Registration for the Winter Season closes Thursday 29 February

Registration is currently open for the **2024 Winter Junior Domestic Season**. Details have been sent to parents of all current Woodend Hawks players, as well as those on the wait list.

*[Please check your junk mail if you can't locate this email.]*

The link for registration is provided below. Any queries can be sent via email to the coordinator.

**Register:** [www.bit.ly/WHB\\_2024WinterRegistration](http://www.bit.ly/WHB_2024WinterRegistration)

**Or contact:**

[coordinator@woodendhawksbasketball.org.au](mailto:coordinator@woodendhawksbasketball.org.au)



**Winter Season:** commences Saturday 20 April 2024 and runs throughout Terms 2 & 3.

The Mount Players presents

# Wild

written by Mike Bartlett  
directed by George Benca  
23rd February - 10th March 2024

Tickets: [www.themountplayers.com](http://www.themountplayers.com) or 5426 1892  
Venue: The Mountview Theatre, 56 Smith St, Macedon  
By arrangement with Origin Theatrical

## Sacred Heart College Kyneton

### Growing up Online

Members of the local community are invited to attend this event.

**Guest Speaker: Susan McLean**  
(CyberSafety Solutions)

An educational and entertaining session for parents and carers, covering the positive benefits of technology as well as what parents need to be aware of.

Topics include:

- Cyberspace 101
- What are kids doing online
- Online Grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Problematic Internet use & Gaming
- Exposure to damaging content

**When:** Thursday 7 March  
**Time:** 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
**Where:** Mary Moloney Theatre  
Sacred Heart College, Kyneton

**Tickets:** This is a free event but seats must be booked via [www.trybooking.com/CPIHG](http://www.trybooking.com/CPIHG)

A Ministry of Mercy Education Limited - ABN 69 154 531 870

Parent Engagement Partnership

# Be Sun smart: Apply Sunscreen

During term one and term four, we ask that our children apply sunscreen before they come to school. Each class also has a supply of sunscreen which is reapplied before going out to lunch. Children need also to wear their St Ambrose sunhat when outdoors. Your child may also bring their own sunscreen from home if you prefer a particular brand or if your child has skin allergies. You can access our SunSmart policy via this link - [SunSmart Policy](#)

## Bushfire Procedures for the Bushfire Season

St. Ambrose Parish School is listed on the 2023-24 BARR and will be required to close on days with a fire danger rating listed as Catastrophic.

The following information will help us plan and prepare our school to support the safety of staff, students, and the wider community.

Assessing bushfire and grassfire risk Schools and early childhood education services are categorised based on their risk of bushfire and grassfire in line with the Victorian Education Facility Bushfire Risk Methodology and review this classification annually. To inform this classification, we have used the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) analysis informed by the Bushfire Management Overlay, Victorian Fire Risk Register, and terrain and fuel type exposure.

Our school is rated as CAT 3. This means that St. Ambrose Parish School:

- Must close on days forecast as 'Catastrophic' by the Bureau of Meteorology within our designated fire district. Australian Fire Danger Rating System In September 2022, Australia introduced a new fire danger forecasting system, the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). A nationally consistent system will more accurately predict fire danger and produce clear, simple messages for communities. Victoria has been using a 6-tier system for fire danger ratings, from 'Low' or 'Moderate' to 'Code Red'. The AFDRS have replaced the Victorian system this year and uses 4 tiers of fire danger, from 'Moderate' to 'Catastrophic'.

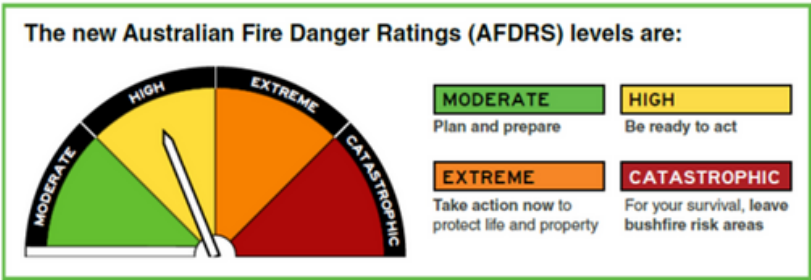
### What can parents do?

- Make sure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website <https://www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au/> and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan. You can access more information about school closures on the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) website. For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

**Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They are important because they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires.**

From September 1, Australians will have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.

**The new Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:**



<b>MODERATE</b> Plan and prepare	<b>HIGH</b> Be ready to act
<b>EXTREME</b> Take action now to protect life and property	<b>CATASTROPHIC</b> For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

- The AFDRS will also introduce 'off' for those days where no proactive action is required by the community. On these days, you will still need to abide by local seasonal laws and regulations, but there is little or no risk of a fire that starts spreading in a dangerous or life-threatening way.
- The AFDRS is informed by one of Australia's largest social research projects which found that most Australians do not understand the current system, and would prefer a simpler, action-oriented set of fire danger ratings.
- The AFDRS is being implemented consistently across Australia and will mean that wherever you are across the country, you will be able to understand the threat posed on any given day and make appropriate decisions to keep you and your family safe.