

Term Four, Newsletter 30
Friday 8 December, 2023



St Ambrose Parish School

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



We acknowledge and respect the past and present Elders, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and custodians of this land the Dja Dja Wurrung people. Thank you for protecting and preserving our land Australia in the past, for sharing it now and educating us for the future.



Lord of wind and spirit, your playful breath refreshes us, carrying away our many cares and lifting the burden of hectic schedules. Let us rejoice in its animation and experience the liveliness of your Spirit. Blow into our hearts with your life-giving Word. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Monday 11 December 2023	Grade 6 Graduation Liturgy 6.30-8pm
Tuesday 12 December 2023	Sacred Heart College, Gisborne Secondary College, Kyneton Secondary College & Maribymong College Orientation Day Reports go out
Wednesday 13 December 2023	Canteen closed Green Hat Planks incursion workshop – whole school Advent Paraliturgy 2.30pm
Thursday 14 December 2023	Grade 6 Graduation Day Out
Friday 15 December 2023	Last day of term No Subway orders today Whole school assembly 2pm in the church 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)

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Message from the Principal

Dear families, parishioners, and friends,

This is such an exciting time of the year with so much happening before we finish the school term! What a week it has been! Celebrating St. Ambrose Day with a special lunch and icy poles thanks to our wonderful canteen committee has been a highlight. A heartfelt

thanks to you all especially Katie Desira who has volunteered her time to cook for our students each week and to Danielle Galle who has co-ordinated rosters and attended every week to make sure the team gets lunches out to our children. You are all awesome and we thank you very much! We planned for cross-age collaboration throughout St. Ambrose Day enabling our children to connect whilst creating their kites together. Indeed, it was a joy witnessing the older children assist the younger people, and supporting our children as they enjoyed flying the kites they made was a magical experience.

With a premier's visit, site meetings, PFA, Step-up morning, parent-as-helper training, a visit to the park, creating budgies, singing, dancing, picnicking, sketching, riding bikes, and flying kites it has been a week of engagement and diversity!

The fantastic growth in the children's learning is worth celebrating! I can see the progress in writing across all classes this year. Not only have the children been adding adjectives before nouns, but there has also been tremendous development in the details students include when writing. I had the pleasure of reading some of the work across the classes and the descriptive language was so impressive! I could paint a very clear picture in my mind of what they were describing. The growth in sentence structure is also evident... well-done children!

Our sincere thanks to our PFA, Fete Committee, and SAC for their commitment to our school. You have all generously given time to assist our school to thrive. We will be seeking your assistance early next year to make our fete memorable for our children. The committee would like to list volunteers for the BBQ before we finish this year. Please add your name to the Operoo we will send out on Monday if you can join the BBQ team for this event.

During this time of great activity may we all draw a sense of purpose and peace grounded in the sacredness of the Christmas spirit. The children will bring the story of Christmas to life at next week's liturgy in the church at 2.30pm when they will re-enact the nativity.

2023 Reports

A link to your child's 2023 semester two report will be emailed to you on December 12th at 3.00pm. Please contact Micheal Portelli via email: micheal.portelli@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au if you dont receive your link by 5.00 pm on this date.



From our Captains



What a year it has been!

From cross country, sports days, Cobaw Sports, food drive, camps and fun days-which without teachers and parents help, these days would not have been possible. It has been great being one of your school captains.

Everyone has achieved so much this year and I wish everybody a fun holiday and happy year in their new classes next year.

I would like to thank all of the teachers who have helped me this year (and for all the years I have been at St Ambrose) and all the parent helpers who have made all of the events run so smoothly.

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2024!

From, Emmy

Announcement of 2024 Student Leadership

Our year five students did an outstanding job delivering their leadership speeches earlier this week. 2024 positions will be announced at the end of our final assembly on Friday, December 15th. This assembly begins at 2.00 pm.



Step up for 2024

We hope that your children are feeling comfortable with their class grouping for 2024. They certainly looked happy and settled throughout this morning.



St Ambrose Day Celebrations



Our celebrations will continue next Wednesday with our Green Hat (block construction) workshops planned. This will enable more teamwork, interaction, and fun!

Building Update

We will be clearing all of the older classrooms for re-carpeting and painting during the holidays. It will be super to have all areas fresh and inviting. I will communicate where 2024 classes will be located in next week's newsletter.

We hope that our new library furniture will arrive before the beginning of 2024. Our students will be enjoying the more open library/flexible learning space from term 1!

PA & Wifi Upgrade



We thank Mrs. Byrne for her work with our Ukulele group to lead the carol singing at our family picnic on Thursday evening. We also thank Mrs. Old for preparing the Auslan presentation, our PFA and our students and families for coming together for a relaxed evening to connect, play, sing, and enjoy zooter doopers! The vibe is always extra special on a beautiful summer evening.

Once the building works are complete our wifi will be upgraded and our outdoor speakers and PA system will be replaced. This will mean that you will be able to hear the children more clearly in 2024!

Premier's Reading Challenge

Pictured is our local member and former teacher Mary-Anne Thomas presenting our FOSSALS with two books to commend our students for the number of books they read for the premier reading challenge.



Uniform ordering through Flexischools

You can now place your uniform order online through Flexischools - <https://flexischools.com.au/>

[Uniform information](#)

2024 term Dates

For your forward planning school dates for the 2024 year are listed below for you to add to your calendars. TIL (time in lieu) needs to be acquitted for staff additional hours as outlined in previous newsletters in line with the 2022 CEMEA and all schools are allocated a further four days for professional development.

Term 1	10 wks.	Monday 29th January	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 29th August	Religious Ed
Term 4	Monday 4th November	Report Writing Moderation

2024 fees are set as follows:

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

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 School Fees

We need happy moments and happiness in our lives; however, I'm growing more convinced that the pursuit of happiness may get in the way of deeper, more meaningful experiences like joy and gratitude. I know, from the research and my experiences, that when it comes to parenting, what makes children happy in the moment is not always what leads them to developing deeper joy, grounded confidence, and meaningful connection.

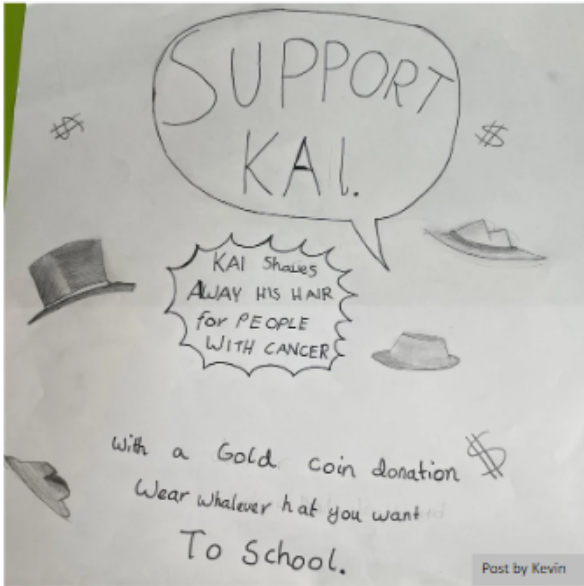
Brené Brown



**Bronwyn Phillips
Principal**



Shave for a Cure



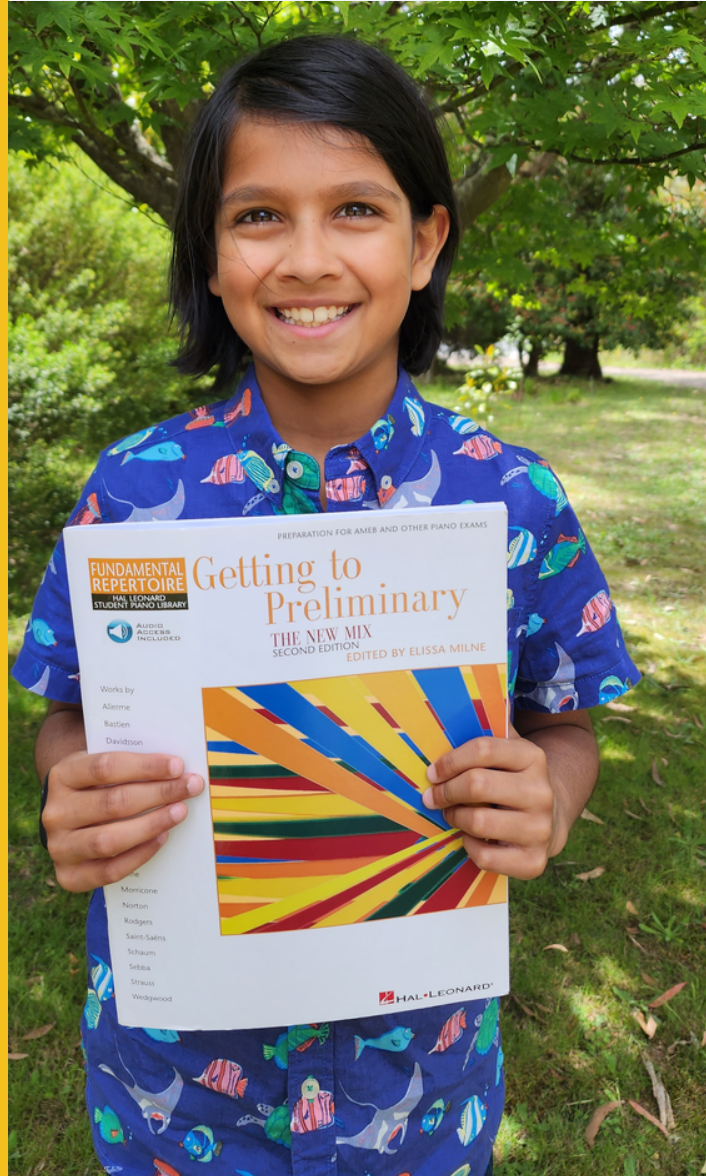
Grade 5/6 Students are urging everybody to support Kai and his fund raising for Brain and Blood Cancer research.

On the last day of school, he will have his head shaved.

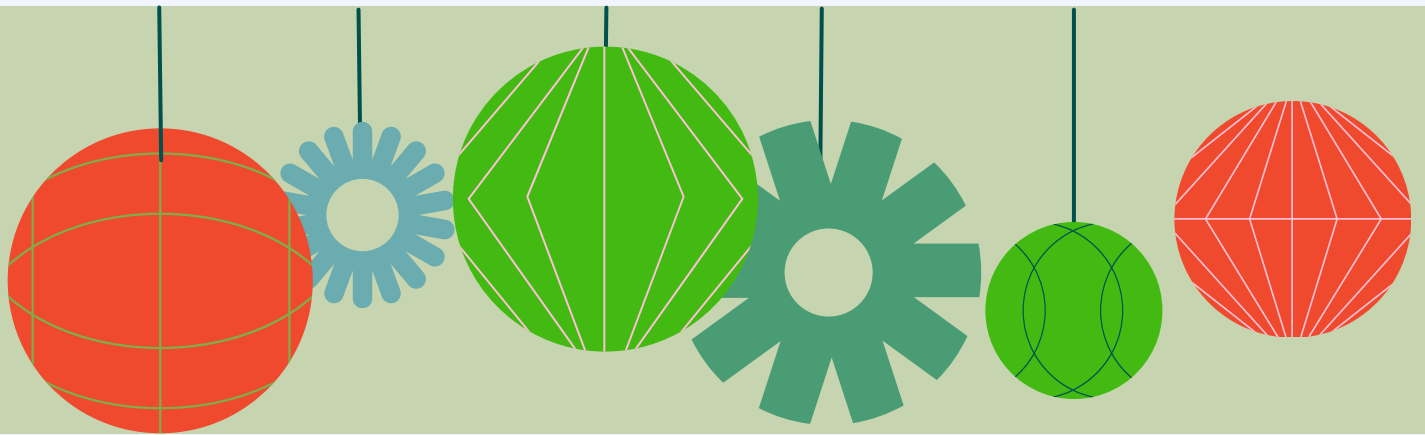
You can support Kai by wearing your favourite hat and donating a gold coin for his cause.



Congratulations Amari



- 9 December Vivi W
- 10 December Annie D & Seth X
- 11 December Elke F
- 12 December Maeve D
- 13 December Harry R



Congratulations to our Christmas Raffle winners!

1. Tahlia J
2. Kathryn W
3. Kristy M
4. Susan F
5. Lily M
6. Lachie G
7. Iona T
8. Julie N
9. Charlie P
10. Katherine C

11. Molly H
12. Samantha M
13. Emily S
14. Elise R
15. Cavric family
16. Leo H
17. Samantha M
18. Georgia B
19. David H
20. Kate O



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2024
9AM-1PM

St Ambrose Parish School Fete

Thank you so much to those parents who have come forward to offer assistance and support for the 2024 School and Parish Fete.

The committee need your help and this is a wonderful and rewarding way to meet other parents and contribute towards our wonderful community. Don't forget to follow along on Facebook [@stambroseparishschoolfete](https://www.facebook.com/stambroseparishschoolfete)

BBQ

Are you handy with the tongs? The Fete Committee are seeking a school parent who can take ownership of the BBQ at the Fete. This role would include gathering together your team of helpers and ensuring all of the gear is ready to go for a busy morning of cooking. The committee will offer plenty of support in the lead up to the day.

Please contact Amanda Lee 0420 415 761 or Sophie Lynch 0478 313 191 if you can take on this role.

SILENT AUCTION

We are seeking donations from within the School and Parish community. Do you have a service you can offer or are you willing to donate a prize?

We would be so grateful for any and all donations.

Please contact Sophie Lynch in person or on 0478 313 191

SECOND HAND BOOKS

Jodie Warner is generously co-ordinating the book stall. Have you got any good quality second hand books to donate to help make this stall a success? These can be left at the front office.

FACE- PAINTING

We are seeking a few more creative parents to help out. Do you have a hidden talent you'd like to share? If so, we'd really love to hear from you.

Sensational scones and summer fruits for the fete.

Summer is coming and we would love to hear from anyone that has a garden with bountiful summer fruits to come such as; apricots, raspberries strawberries or plums. Or anyone who has a lemon tree that fruits all year.

All in the name of Jam.

Do you make sensational scones like grandma used to make?

Or are you a jam whiz in the kitchen? We would love to hear from you.

A traditional school fete isn't complete without Devonshire tea!

Please call Anita La Forgia 0403967885 or Amy Cairns 0402 516 766

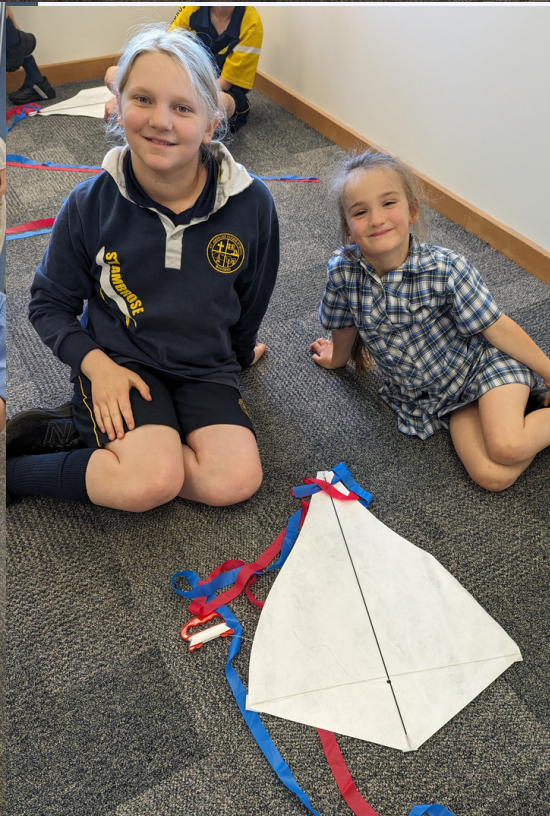
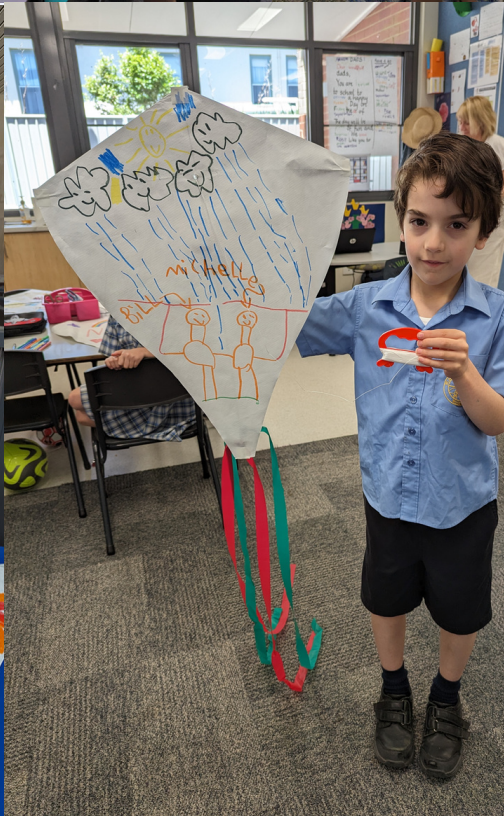
Now is the time to start taking cuttings and dividing plants so they are looking fantastic come March. We will really appreciate your contributions.

If you need pots or other supplies please get in touch with Helen Morrongiello on 0433 698 476.

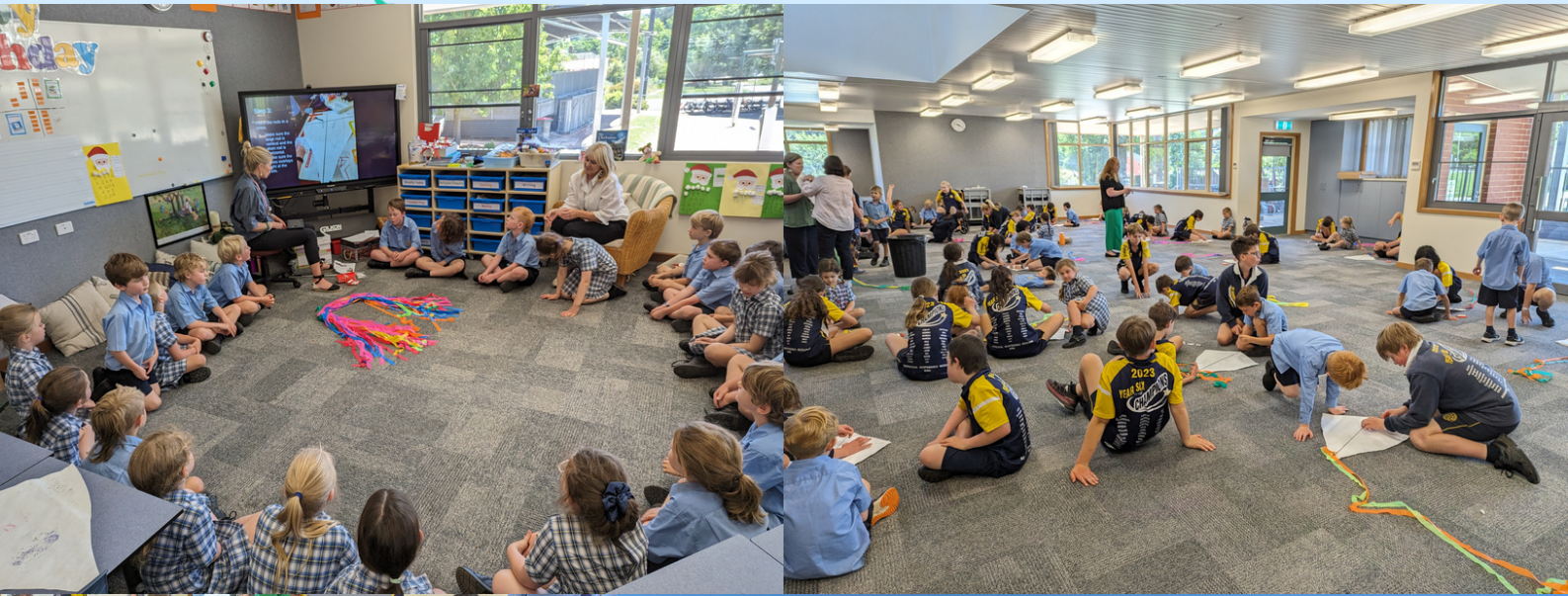
AROUND THE SCHOOL

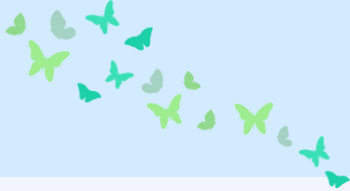


AROUND THE SCHOOL



AROUND THE SCHOOL





CYCLING EDUCATION



A VISIT FROM OUR PREMIER



BUDGIE SKETCHING



FAMILY CAROLS & PICNIC





FORCING YOUR CHILD TO SAY "THANK YOU" DOES NOT TEACH THEM TO **BE THANKFUL**

Raise a genuinely grateful child who doesn't just say the words.



STOP asking: "What do you say?"
And instead, ask this magic question:
"How do you feel about that?"

"Your friend said he likes your new shoes. **How do you feel about that?**"

"Your sister helped you find your missing toy. **How do you feel about that?**"

NEXT, CONNECT THE DOTS BETWEEN
THE FEELINGS AND EXPRESSING THANKS:

"Was it fun to play with your friend? Did you tell them that?
Let's tell them."

"Did you feel happy when you got grandma's present? Does she know that?
Let's tell her!"

WHEN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD RECOGNIZE HOW GRATITUDE REALLY **FEELS INSIDE...**
...THEY'LL SAY "THANK YOU" WITHOUT BEING FORCED BECAUSE THEY'LL **FEEL THANKFUL.**





JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS

Faith & Family

Lord,
 teach us to be vigilant and
 watchful,
 awaiting Your return with faith
 and readiness.
 May we align our actions with
 Your will,
 staying connected in prayer
 and reflection.
 Grant us the strength to live
 faithfully,
 honouring Your example,
 and find joy in serving others.
 Amen.

Wonderings:

Advent Reflection

"Advent is not about a sentimental waiting for the Baby Jesus," Richard Rohr asserts. Advent is a time to focus our expectations and anticipation on "the adult Christ, the Cosmic Christ," who challenges us to empty ourselves, to lose ourselves, to surrender. (Richard Rohr)

As we begin this season of Advent, Let us not prepare for the Christ of tomorrow but 'keep watch' for the Christ who comes to us every day.

Contemplating on Mark's gospel narrative, will Christ discover you alert and attentive in your spiritual life or asleep?

How can you prepare for Christ's return today?

Term 4 Important RE Dates:

Monday 11th December -
 Gr6 Graduation Liturgy -
 6.30pm

Wednesday 13th December -
 4th Advent Liturgy 2.30pm
 - 'Love' & Nativity Play.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:
MARK 13:33-37

"BE ON GUARD! BE ALERT! YOU
 DO NOT KNOW WHEN THAT TIME
 WILL COME."

WOODEND PARISH NEWSLETTER

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

For all Faith & Family related matters, please email: nicole.sherlockbyrne@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au



COMMUNITY NEWS

Macedon Ranges
Summer holidays

Creative Writing Workshops & Competition

Workshops are for children aged 8 to 14 years old and are a \$50 investment for 2 hours. All materials are provided. Dates and times are to be announced but will be in the week starting 15 January.

Poetry Basics: Students will undertake hands on activities which will have them explore haiku, odes, limericks, pantouns and more. They will receive examples and templates, look at common literary techniques used in poetry and leave with a folio of works, of which they could submit several into the Summer Writing Competition.

Short Story Editing: Students are encouraged to bring their work in progress or completed short story to refine, shape and polish with the option to submit to the Summer Writing Competition due in on 27 January 2024.

Email kbuttigieg@macedonrangeswriters.com to register your interest.

Poetry and Short Story Competition:
Opens November 27th, closes
January 27th and is open to Grades 3 to 8.
Entry is FREE. Scan the QR Code to view
the Terms and Conditions and entry form.

