



# St Ambrose Parish School

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

🐝 Respectful 🐝 Responsible 🐝 Resilient 🐝 Kind

**Our Fish have Arrived!**



**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.

**Prayer for Peace**

Peace go with you.  
God's quiet within the noise.  
God's hope within uncertainty.  
God's rest within the toil.  
God's presence within your soul.  
Peace go with you.

**Lent**

Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.  
Romans 12:12



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2024 Term 1	
Monday 11 March 2024	<b>Labour Day Public Holiday</b>
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	<b>St Ambrose Fete 9am-1pm</b>
Monday 18 March 2024	NAPLAN Grades 3 & 5 Palm Sunday Liturgy (Grades 1/2)
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

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday, 22 March.

## Message from the Principal

Dear families, parishioners, and friends,  
The date is fast approaching and there is plenty to look forward to – scrumptious food stalls, fun activities, crafts, coffee, music, entertainment, face painting, obstacle course, ice cream, a giant slide, a dunking machine, and more! If you haven't already done so, put the date into your calendar and come along to celebrate our fantastic community.

Everything for our young and senior citizens! Catch up with friends and enjoy happy times in a great atmosphere. This is OUR fete – a chance to bring out the St Ambrose spirit and share it with the whole community. It's all about connecting...students, families, staff, and friends working together to create a great time for everyone. Our fete committee has put much thought and effort into planning the day. Let's all continue to work together and make it a day to remember!

Last week some of our middle school who are students making their sacrament of reconciliation attended an information evening about this sacrament with their parents. Pauline Cicuitta facilitated the discussion. We pray for our children as they prepare for this special sacrament.

We have had our first SAC meeting this year. I value these meetings where our school benefits from the discussions we have regarding school matters. I have attached the minutes of this meeting and I will include photos of our School Advisory members in our next newsletter for your reference.

Our preps who will begin full-time schooling from Tuesday next week celebrated their first paraliturgy with their buddies on Tuesday. Local member Rob Mitchell also visited us on this day to raise our new flags and speak with our leaders.

Our year 5-6 classes are going on camp to Philip Island next week. This year marks the beginning of our updated camp cycle as outlined last year. We wish our students a happy and engaging sea side camp. Click on the link in red ink to last years newsletter to re-read about why our camps needed to change:



[Link to 2.6.23 newsletter \(page 5\)](#)

## March 16th



### From Our Captains

I hope you have all been enjoying Term 1.

As many of you know the school fete will be on the 16th of March from 9am to 1pm, and a big thank you to all of the donations that have been brought in over the past couple of weeks. I hope you all enjoy the fete.

Ava

I hope everyone is looking forward to the school fete there is going to be so much fun had there as I am sure you already know. I know I am going to have so much fun at the dunking machine and the bookstore.

Hope you have fun at the fete!

Elijah

### We welcome you to our fortnightly assemblies



The children enjoy this time to connect and celebrate their achievements. Pictured are our year 1-2O class leading our last assembly. We welcome you to attend our next assembly which **3-4T-W will lead on March 18th at 3pm.**

# 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.

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 skill sets.
- gain feedback on significant teaching or course changes.
- enhance the culture, and form a community around teaching and learning.

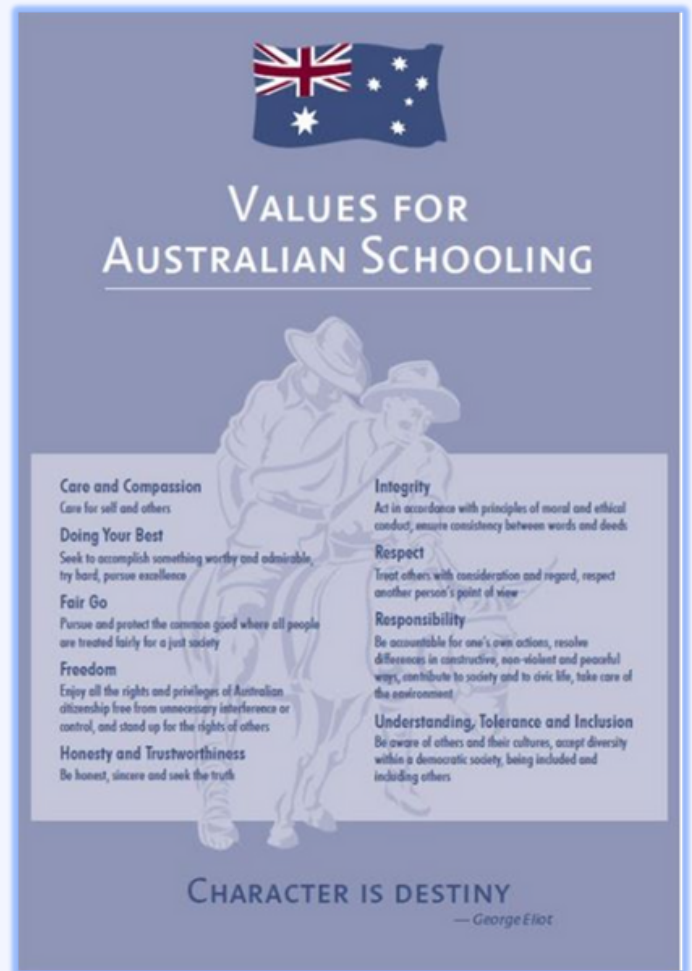
## As an observer participating in peer observation, you may:

- 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.

Our teachers and leadership team have engaged in peer observation and modeling best practice sessions. It is fantastic that our staff are all open to continuing to learn and grow as professional practitioners.



# Democratic Principles



In compliance with the values for Australian schooling, programs and teaching in our school supports and promotes the principles and practices of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

1. elected government; and
2. the rule of law; and
3. equal rights for all before the law; and
4. freedom of religion; and
5. freedom of speech and association; and
6. the values of openness and tolerance.

- Our Identity Statement articulates important values for Catholic Education at St. Ambrose Parish School.
- Our Curriculum outlines the importance of Civics and Citizenship within the curriculum.
- Source of Life and the Victorian Curriculum form the base for our school's curriculum.
- Our Through lines encompass a study of democratic principles through Personalised Learning.
- Our Senior Student Leadership team respectfully raises and lowers the Australian, Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Islander flags at significant events.
- Catholic Values and Values for Australian Schools are displayed in the Administration Area.
- The National Anthem is led by the students at fortnightly assemblies.

# Drop-off & Pick-up Protocols

A reminder that children can be dropped at school **from 8.30 am** and picked up at 3.30 pm & **no later than 3.45 pm**. Your children are not supervised outside of these hours. If your child walks or rides home they should leave straight after school. We have had some children unsupervised playing beyond 3.45 pm. Of course, we welcome you to stay and enjoy the playground after school. If parents are present and supervising that is fine. If your child is being picked up later than 3.30 pm they need to wait at the front of the school where there is a teacher on duty until 3.45 pm. If you are running late we ask that you call the office. Thank you for your support in enabling us to comply with our child safety standards and our duty of care.

## St Ambrose Sporting House Colours & History

Each child at St. Ambrose is allocated to a 'house' or sporting team which is allocated a colour. Your child competes in these teams on St. Ambrose's whole school sports day, cross country, and possibly some other events over the year. The following information outlines the history and meaning of the house colours and the people they are named after.



The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy began when Catherine McAuley used an inheritance to build a large house in Dublin, Ireland, as a school for poor girls and a shelter for homeless servant girls and women. She was assisted in the works of the house by local women. There was no idea then of founding a religious institution; McAuley planned to establish a society of ordinary ladies who would spend a few hours daily in instructing the poor. The Sisters of Mercy first came to Australia in 1846. Dedicated to serving people who suffer from injustices related to poverty, sickness, or lack of education, they have continually endeavored to respond to a range of local and global needs.



Our Lady has many names and one of them is Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This title commemorates her role as Patroness of the Carmelite Order. The Carmelites dedicated a chapel to Mary, whom they affectionately called, "The Lady of the Place." Eventually, she was given the official title of "Our Lady of Mount Carmel."

The Carmelites look to Our Lady of Mount Carmel as the ultimate model of the interior life consisting of prayer, contemplation, and virtue. As a loving Mother, she leads all of us, her children, to her Son! Mary wants us all to be like her- to love Jesus as much as she loves Him herself!



Of course, Mary, Jesus' mother, is the greatest saint. She has appeared to many people over the centuries. Each place she has appeared she has been given a different title. Our Lady of Lourdes was the title she was given after she visited Bernadette Soubirous, a fourteen-year-old girl in 1858. Bernadette lived in a very poor house in Lourdes, France, with her parents, two brothers, and a sister. (It used to be a jail!)

One day Bernadette was out with her sister and a friend to gather wood for the fire. Bernadette, who suffered from asthma and was often sick, did not cross over the stream to gather wood on the other side with her sister and friend. While they were gone, Bernadette heard a noise near a cave-like area, and she went to investigate. There, Bernadette saw a lovely lady dressed in white who had a blue sash around her waist and a rose on each foot.

Bernadette prayed the rosary with this lady before she disappeared. The lady asked her to come back again. The lady appeared to Bernadette a total of eighteen times. Bernadette was teased and laughed at; many believed that she was either imagining the appearances of Our Lady or making it up.

When a spring miraculously appeared after one of the visions, many who doubted her began to believe. Those who bathed in the spring were often cured of serious sickness or disability. Eventually, the lady identified herself as the Blessed Mary. It was then that people realised for sure that it was Mary, the mother of God, appearing to Bernadette.



Our Lady of Fatima is also known as Our Lady of the Rosary. She appeared to three little children named Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. She asked them to pray the rosary every day and make sacrifices so that sinners could go to heaven. Many people did not believe the children's stories about her, so she granted a miracle and made the sun dance in the sky.

Your children are preparing for the athletics sports coming up on March 19th. Mrs. Cavric will send out information in the coming weeks.



## Naplan Time Table

Our year three and five students will sit their Naplan testing in the coming two weeks. We approach NAPLAN calmly and in a supportive manner with our students. Your children will benefit from plenty of rest and good nutrition. Some children will take these days in their stride while others may feel tired and irritable. Understanding and encouragement from all of us will assure them. Contact your child's teachers if you have any wonderings. An information flyer has been emailed to families. See the timetable to the right for the testing schedule

## Bullying NO WAY!

Planning for a safe and supportive school community requires a whole-school community approach. Whole-school responses to bullying prevention build positive and supportive school environments by incorporating strategies for intervention at all levels, inclusive of students, teachers, parents and carers.

Three key characteristics outlined in the national definition of bullying distinguish bullying behaviours from other forms of peer aggression behaviours which do not constitute bullying. The key characteristics of bullying include:

- power imbalance
- deliberate intent to cause harm, and
- ongoing and repeated behaviour.

While the following behaviours of peer aggression do not constitute bullying, these behaviours may still be serious and require intervention at home and school:

- arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance)
- single acts of social rejection or meanness, or
- isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

Our entire school community, including our staff, parents, carers and students needs to have a clear understanding of the definition of bullying to be able to distinguish these behaviours from peer aggression, and correctly identify and respond to incidents of bullying.

As a staff, we reinforce positive behaviours and expectations through our PBL work daily. You can find all of our policies on our website by going to:

<https://www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au/enrolment-information/policies/>

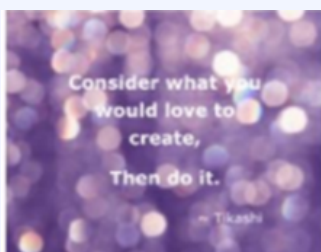
For our anti-bullying and student behaviour policies scroll down to:

Care, Safety and Welfare of Students:

Then look at:

School Anti-bullying Policy (Including-Cyberbullying) v2-0-2022

School Student Behaviour Policy v2-0-2022



## Naplan Testing Schedule

	<b>Wednesday 13th March</b>
Writing	Grade 3 9:30 (Paper)
No Testing	<b>Thursday 14th March</b>
	<b>Friday 15th March</b>
Writing	Grade 5 9:15
	<b>Monday 18th March</b>
	(Grade 3 and 5 catch-up Writing Tests must be completed on this day)
Reading	Grade 3 9:30 (Online)
Reading	Grade 5 12:00 (Online)
	<b>Tuesday 19th March</b>
Conventions of Language	Grade 3 9:30 (Online)
	Grade 5 12:00 (Online)
	<b>Wednesday 20th March</b>
Numeracy	Grade 3 9:30 (Online)
	Grade 5 12:00 42 Min. (Online)
	Except for Writing, all other catch-up Tests can be completed up to Monday the 25th of March

## Listening to Your Child Read Parent Information Session



It was great to meet with our prep parents at our information session on How to Listen to and Support your Child's Reading Development. We look forward to journeying with you as your children develop as readers and writers.

## Classroom Information sessions

Your children's teachers appreciated the opportunity to meet with you last week at the class information sessions.

We hope that you found these informative.

## St Ambrose Parish Community

Parishioner Sharon Simpson spoke at mass last Sunday. You can read her account of the gospel in the faith and family section of this newsletter.

## Next Newsletter

**Our next newsletter will be published on Friday, 22 March.**

**"THERE IS NO PATH TO HAPPINESS. HAPPINESS IS THE PATH."**



**Bronwyn Phillips**  
Principal



## Student Awards

- Prep K Grace Y for sharing her ideas with the class and making great 3-part patterns in Maths.
- Prep K Lachie E for settling in well and always being willing to help others.
- Prep T Matteo T for showing good listening and engaging in his work.
- Prep T Anna M for being a positive and helpful member of the class.
- 1/2CM Felicity F for being a very kind and caring class member!
- 1/2CM Coby S for putting his hand up to answer questions. Excellent!
- 1/2O Bill R for being resilient in his learning and trying new things.
- 1/2O Taj M for always being responsible in his learning.
- 1/2S Agatha W for her thoughtful show and tell presentation. What a great effort!
- 1/2S Maggie C for her creative ideas when planning a narrative. Well done!
- 3/4M Molly M for having a positive attitude to her maths.
- 3/4M Emrys G for dedication to improving his handwriting.
- 3/4R Olivia C for being a responsible learner and asking questions!
- 3/4R A.J. S for writing interesting because, but, so sentences!
- 3/4TW George L for demonstrating “out of the box” thinking during Maths chat.
- 3/4TW Isabelle M for demonstrating all of the PBL qualities all the time.
- 5/6M Isaac C for being resilient and coming up with strategies to complete set tasks with a broken arm.
- 5/6M Ruby P for her understanding of factors and multiples and having a go at “Macca's Crackers”.



Sports Star of the Week - Leon G for excellent volleyball skills! / Excellent engineering skills helping Mrs Cavric with sports equipment!

PBL Bronze Award - Mollie H, Mack R



## Division Tennis

Bailey P attended Division tennis in Castlemaine today; Whilst he didn't progress through it was deuce back and forth many times! Well done Bailey.

Results:

- 4-3 L
- 4-2 L
- 4-3 W
- 4-2 L



## Goldfields Division Swimming

On Monday 4th March, Ruby P represented St Ambrose in the Goldfields division swimming meet in Bendigo. Ruby's Mum wrote that Ruby swam an amazing race, it was neck and neck the whole way. It was time based between the 2 heats in her event. She came 2nd in her actual race and 2nd overall out of the 2 groups. Thank you so much for organising this for her and giving her the opportunity.



## STAR WARS CLUB!

The STAR WARS CLUB is a group that meets every Wednesday at lunch in the garden at the rock circle. This allows students to show how they can be good leaders and have more things to do at playtime. We leaders of the club ensure that all students can express their ideas for games, 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 real.

Founders Dash and Riley.



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## CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE PROGRAM

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The conveyance allowance is a form of financial assistance to help families in rural and regional Victoria with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest appropriate school/campus. The conveyance allowance is available to eligible students travelling by public transport, private car and private bus. The conveyance allowance is also available to eligible students whose nearest school is not serviced by a free school bus.

### **Eligibility criteria**

The eligibility criteria varies depending on the type of school attended and where it is located.

Students attending a government or non-government school must:

- attend their nearest government or non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level at which admission is permissible
- be enrolled at a school/campus outside Melbourne's metropolitan conveyance boundary
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended
- be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria.

If you believe you are eligible, please collect a form from the school office.

If you completed a form in a previous year, you do NOT need to fill in another one. Any questions, please ask Karen at the school office.



## Great Beginnings in 3/4M

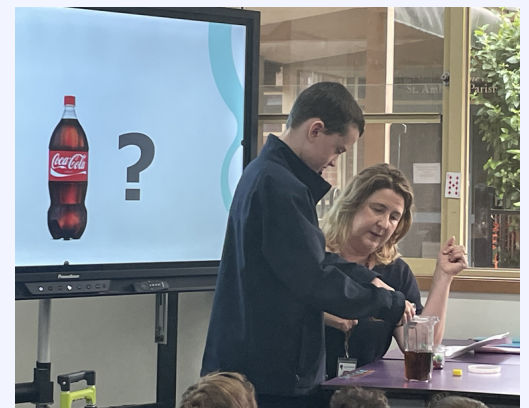


### Shrove Tuesday

Early in the term, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday with some delicious pancakes. This was both an important part of remembering the special time of Lent and also coming together as a cohort to share an enjoyable morning. We all helped in creating the batter and used our knowledge of measurement and fractions. A big thank you to our parent helpers!

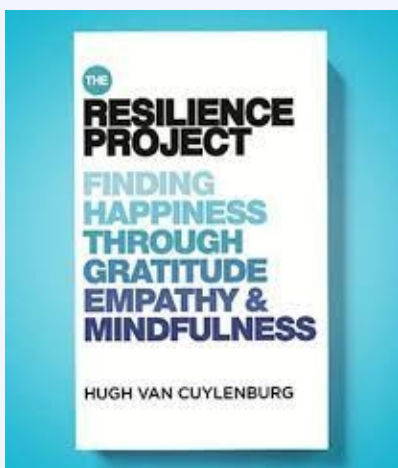
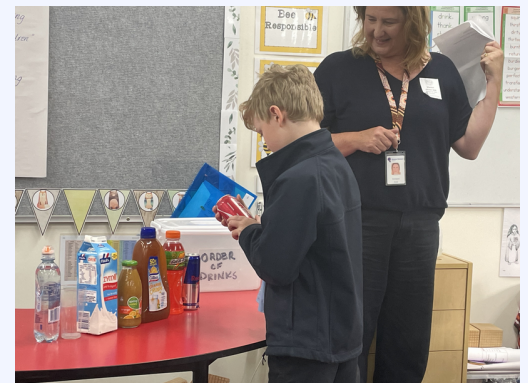
### Why Water is Wise

Kirsty from Western Water came to visit all the 3/4 grades and shared some surprising facts about what we drink. We learned about how important water is to our health and how drinking water helps us learn and grow. Kirsty also surprised us by demonstrating just what goes into Coke. Plenty of colours and additives, but most importantly 9 teaspoons of sugar in just one cup! We now have a greater understanding of why water is the best choice.



### Shared Spaces

As part of our focus on our own wellbeing we have enjoyed our wonderful outdoor spaces in our school. We are using our courtyard and grassed areas for eating and learning. We have also spent time in our garden area trying out mindfulness activities. As part of our inquiry, we are using our collaboration skills to create games, join groups and make connections across the year levels.

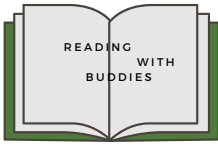


### Dis!

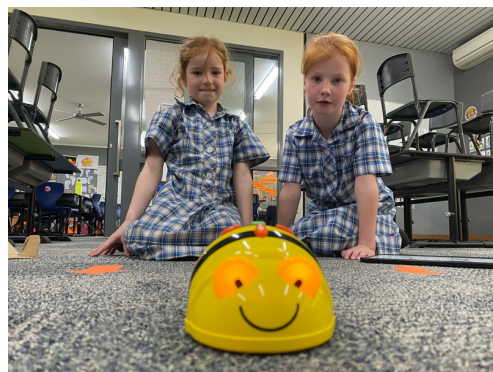
The Resilience Project has been met with great enthusiasm in 3/4M. We have begun practising being grateful for the small things we are lucky enough to experience or have. Our challenge is to try and find as many 'dis' moments as we can in each day.



# AROUND THE SCHOOL



AUSLAN - LEARNING EMOTIONS 1/2





# SCHOOL EVENTS



## 2 WEEKS

UNTIL MSP PHOTOGRAPHY  
VISITS OUR SCHOOL

Please call MSP on 5333 5577 if you have any questions.

### PHOTO DAY: Wednesday 20th March 2024

Students are to wear summer uniform.  
Jumpers will be removed for the photo.

#### HOW TO ORDER

Ordering online is quick and easy using the steps below!

##### Step 1

Click on the link below to access your ordering portal.  
<https://stambroseppswoodend-vic.msp.photos>

##### Step 2

Click 'Sign in with Student Details'

Enter your child's surname and date of birth. You will be prompted to create an account.

If you have an existing account, please use those login details.  
Once logged in, you will be able to add additional children and place sibling photo orders.

Please note that sibling photo orders must be placed by Midnight on Tuesday 19th March 2024.

The portal does not have a cut off ordering date, however, once the job has gone to the lab for printing, any late orders will incur a later order charge.

# SCHOOL EVENTS

## St Ambrose Parish School Fete

**SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2024 9AM-1PM**



St Ambrose Parish School principal Bronwyn Phillips with school captains Elijah and Ava. (Damjan Janevski) 389729\_03

## School fete brings old-fashioned fun

Woodend residents are invited to have some good old-fashioned fun at the St Ambrose Parish School Fete on Saturday, March 16.

The event promises to have something for all ages to enjoy, including plenty of activities for the kids, from art and crafts and face painting, to an obstacle course and dunking machine.

There will also be plenty of stalls to choose from, including books, clothing, plants, bric-a-brac, honey, show bags and more.

School principal Bronwyn Phillips said the school community is delighted to be able to

open its doors for everyone to enjoy a fete to remember

"Our main aim is to bring people together to connect, have fun, reinforce friendships, and celebrate our local town and wonderful school," she said.

"Our fete is entirely volunteer-driven, under the management of a dedicated event committee made up of conscientious parents.

"[They] are working tirelessly to ensure the event is both successful and enjoyable for everyone involved."

Ms Phillips said the funds that are raised will be used to support projects that benefit the whole school.

Other highlights include a silent auction with plenty of amazing prizes up for grabs, along with live entertainment, including DJ tunes.

Residents are encouraged to make a day of it and enjoy tasty treats all day long, with a BBQ, coffee van and scones and jam all on offer.

The fete will take place from 9am until 1pm. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/StAmbroseParishSchoolFete/>

**@STAMBROSEPARISHSCHOOLFETE**

Click on the link below to keep updated on Facebook.

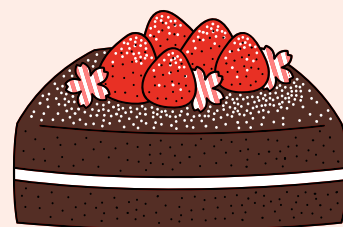
[@stambroseparishschoolfete](https://www.facebook.com/stambroseparishschoolfete)



PRE-ORDER OF SCONES AND JAMS [HERE](#).  
LOCALLY SOURCED FRUIT AND LOVINGLY MADE!



WE ARE WELCOMING DONATIONS OF GOOD QUALITY AND GOOD CONDITION BOOKS THAT YOU WOULD PURCHASE YOURSELF! THANK YOU!



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

# SOME OF THE ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

## WRISTBANDS AND TICKET SALES

Get in early and purchase your wristbands and tickets! A stall will be set up out the front of school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next week, from 3:30pm until 4:00pm. To help you start planning, a list of items and activities that can be purchased using tickets will be advised next week.  
Note: EFTPOS only for any pre-sales.

## SILENT AUCTION

OUR ONLINE SILENT AUCTION WILL OPEN FOR BIDDING ON 12 MARCH. LOTS OF AMAZING DONATIONS TO BID FOR!  
DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED NEXT WEEK.



## DUNKING MACHINE

## GIANT SLIDE



## OBSTACLE COURSE

## SHOW BAGS

## FAIRY FLOSS

## BBQ & CANTEEN

## FACE PAINTING





## THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

### Gratitude

*Working on gratitude helps us to be thankful and appreciate what we have in our lives, rather than focusing on what we don't have or what we want. When we practise being grateful, we start to scan the world to look for positives – this only takes 21 days! Practising gratitude every day increases our levels of energy, helps us to feel happier and more focused, determined and optimistic. It even helps us have a better sleep, lowers levels of anxiety and depression and we are less likely to get sick. So many benefits – let's all try to be grateful for the things and people in our lives every day!*

#### Whole Family Activity:

##### Gratitude Scavenger Hunt

- As a family create a scavenger hunt list of things that make you happy or you are grateful for, you can make your own list or use the examples below:
  - Something that makes you happy
  - Something you love to smell
  - Something you enjoy looking at
  - Something that is your favourite colour
  - Something you like in nature
  - Something that is useful for you
- Each member of the family uses the list, and has to find as many things as they can.
- You can hunt for things inside or outside, or both. You can hunt for real things, or you can also do this using magazines or pictures from the internet.
- After a set amount of time hunting, come back together, have a look at what each person collected and let them explain why they are grateful for each item.

#### Family Habit Builder:

Every night at dinner, have each person talk about their favourite thing about that day.



JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS

# Faith & Family

Prayer for the Third Week of Lent:  
 Holy One, creator of the stars and seas,  
 your steadfast love is shown to every living thing:  
 your word calls forth countless worlds and souls;  
 your law revives and refreshes.  
 Forgive our misuse of your gifts,  
 that we may be transformed by your wisdom  
 to manifest for others  
 the mercy of our crucified and risen Lord.  
 Amen.

Gospel Reflection: John 2:13-25

In today's Gospel, the Jews ask Jesus for a sign, and he blithely comments, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." One of the most startling claims that Jesus made about himself is that the people of Israel should come to him for those goods that they formerly sought in the temple: forgiveness, teaching, and healing. And he confirmed this identification when making this statement after purifying the temple of the money changers.

The temple known to Jesus and his followers would be obliterated just forty years after the time of Christ. But the temple of Jesus' Body, the Church, will endure forever.

(Excerpts by Bishop Robert Barron, taken from "Word on Fire")

### Special Prayers:

We ask that you pray for the following children who attended a Commitment Mass over the last couple of weekends and who committed to learn about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and its importance in their journey of faith.



We pray for: Rose A, Myles L, Augie L, Sofia M,  
 Holly M, Evelyn C and George L.

These children will celebrate their First Reconciliation later this term.

### RELIGIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS THIS TERM

Date	Details	Time
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

### Wonderings:

If you saw someone being teased or treated badly, what would you do?  
 Would you join in and make fun of them too?  
 Would you just stand quietly by and say nothing?  
 Or would you try to stop the teasing?

[Woodend Parish Newsletter](#)  
[Children's Liturgy](#)

# ST AMBROSE PARISH WOODEND BY SHARON SIMPSON

John's Gospel 2: 13-25 3rd Sunday of Lent, 2024

In the two previous Lenten Gospels we heard John the Baptist's ministry come to an end with his imprisonment and awaiting execution, while Jesus' ministry comes to the fore having spent forty days in the wilderness. Jesus was surrounded by the power of Spirit in this wilderness and protected from all that might endeavour to harm him. Last week we listened as Abraham was put to the test and spared having to make a blood sacrifice of his son Isaac. In the first reading this week Moses receives the 10 Commandments on the mountain top, these Laws were issued to him as a sign of God's Covenant with his people. Jesus enters in the Sanctuary at Passover, not as a pilgrim, but as the Son of God. The Passover is an annual remembrance event, where the people in slavery in Egypt were saved by a blood sacrifice.

It is here in the Sanctuary that Jesus encounters the religious authorities, the market sellers and the money changers who have set up shop there. Jesus is less than impressed by what he sees.

He immediately sets about imposing his authority within the temple, which is his Father's House. He upends the money changers tables, drives out the cattle and sheep and insists that the caged doves be removed. Interestingly the caged birds could be symbolic of Noah's rescue after the flood, where the dove returns with a sign of renewed life, and a new Covenant. It could also symbolize the nature of the Spirit surrounding Jesus, or it is possible that the caged birds might also hint at what is to come, as Jesus follows the path set out for him by the Father.

Challenging the market place sets Jesus on a collision course with the religious authorities because he has disturbed the economic balance. The removal of the animals and birds indicates that there is no further need of an animal blood sacrifice, but rather that Jesus himself now fully present in the Sanctuary will become the new and everlasting sacrifice, he is the new covenant.

By driving out the market sellers he begins the process of cleansing and purification in his Father's House. The religious authorities ask Jesus to validate his actions perhaps by expecting signs or miraculous events, but Jesus says he will 'tear down the temple and then raise it up again in three days.' This is resurrection language. Jesus is referring to himself as the temple that will be torn down, crucified, and then restored, in his resurrection, in three days.

For us today the Sanctuary offers us all that we need. We come here physically to listen to the Word of God and to share in the Eucharist, the body and blood of Christ, but we also take a part of the Sanctuary with us where ever we go in our daily lives. It was bought for us by Jesus through his death and resurrection and manifest in our Baptism. On this Lenten journey some of us will discover the wilderness places and the mountain top through our everyday encounters with those in our families and the broader community. It's not easy to live out our faith in this day and age where there is so much anger and violence in the world. It's not easy to say I am a person of faith because in doing so we risk ridicule and mockery.

For some people around the world to acknowledge their faith is to risk death, and many still suffer martyrdom in doing so. The world is a very busy market place, the risk is to travel the road that Jesus walked and be brave enough to let the Spirit that surrounded Jesus, surround us and shine in us in our everyday.





# COMMUNITY NEWS



## YOGA FOR TWEENS TEENS AND PARENTS

TERM 1 2024

This flow embraces the practice of asanas (physical poses) and pranayama (breath work) as a foundation to explore how balance, strength, flexibility and focus on the mat can help create ease and peace off the mat.

The shared time also explores how mindfulness and meditation can enhance adaptability and balance through the seasons of life.

### DATE & TIME

Wednesdays during term, 8 PM

### LOCATION

47 Forest Street, Woodend VIC 3442

### PROVIDER

Woodend Neighbourhood House  
in collaboration with Shanti Studio

### CONTACT

The team at the Woodend Neighbourhood House  
Phone: [03 5427 1845](tel:0354271845)  
Email: [reception@woodendnh.org.au](mailto:reception@woodendnh.org.au)



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## CREATIVE YOGA FOR PARENTS & KIDS

TERM 1 2024

Explore yoga practices to connect with mind, body and breath including asanas (physical poses) and pranayama (breath work).

This practice will invite steadiness, confidence and mindfulness into life - a lovely way to enjoy sharing the gift of time together!

### DATE & TIME

Wednesdays during term, 4:30 PM

### LOCATION

47 Forest Street, Woodend VIC 3442

### PROVIDER

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### CONTACT

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**MACEDON RANGES BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

**DOMESTIC WINTER 2024**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

**ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME**

- SEASON COMMENCING WEEK OF SUNDAY 28TH OF APRIL
- 16 WEEK SEASON (INCLUDING GRADING AND FINALS)
- \$195 (PLUS BV, BA AND PLAYHQ FEES)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION - [WWW.MRBA.ORG.AU](http://WWW.MRBA.ORG.AU) OR CONTACT [DOMESTIC@MRBA.ORG.AU](mailto:DOMESTIC@MRBA.ORG.AU)**

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Healthy Minds and Well-Being Supports

ABN: 50 542 757 707

**BRICK CLUB**

**SATURDAY MORNINGS STARTING TERM 2**

Connect, Play and Grow

A research informed group activity that may support neurodiversified children to play & further develop skills in managing emotions and social communication



Email Belle at [Healthy Minds and Wellbeing Supports](mailto:belle.hmws@gmail.com) for more information or to join our Brick Club

[belle.hmws@gmail.com](mailto:belle.hmws@gmail.com)



140 Mollison St Kyneton  
Email Belle: [belle.hmws@gmail.com](mailto:belle.hmws@gmail.com)

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# SAC Meeting- 28/2/24 Minutes

Present: Bronwyn Phillips, Mike Boudrie, Ellen Vernon, Danielle Perrin, Rilla Healy, Jodie Warner  
Apologies: Michelle Lancefield, Libby Nuttall, Debbie Geisler.

1. Bronwyn welcome back- overview of class structure/ advertising in local media/ now in new building can expand. New acknowledgement of country/ new totems/ indigenous sanctuary/ naming of three rooms done in conjunction with local DjaDja Warrung community.

2. Positive Primer warm up- Berry St (trauma informed) training. When did we last learn something new?

3. Principal's Report-

a. Mandated focus across state- Numeracy improvement plan. School will work with Michael Weimer (maths guru). Thurs last day of term now a TIL and Monday 15th April now a numeracy PD day.

b. Resilience Project- free year of resources now doing this rather than respectful relationships (some units still from this RR).

c. Fete- committee doing a great job, still not a lot of volunteers. Suggested need explicit idea of what is involved in each stall.

d. BP explained rationale behind numeracy EOY testing.

4. SIP- 2024-2027. Strategic intent

a. Priority 1- catholic learning community

b. Priority 2- Performance and development culture

c. Priority 3- Student agency

This has been published in newsletter.

5. Marketing- ads/ new website/ newsletter/ ST Ambrose FB page new

6. Garden space- Volunteers have tidied up/ Erin Brass working on integrating it as wellbeing/ staffed on duty as a quiet area

7. Finances- paying back loan from MACs interest free/ 15 years/ in good position

8. Canteen- reopening later this term/ Katie D has looked at menu and re-worked to make less labour intensive. This year a trial to see going forward how this will work.

9. New Deacon- assigned to Lancefield/ Romsey and help here as needed. Fr Martin retiring this year. BP meeting with him this week.

AOB- JW raised "home readers" in Prep. Don't get readers until know some sounds based on new phonics teaching method. Decodables being sent home with preps now/ readers are going home this week/ literacy games have been sent home too/ setting up for success.

Actions- Danielle to talk to Super Sushi to see about packaging options.

Next meeting- Before end of term, date TBC.