

St Ambrose Primary School



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

Respectful Responsible Resilient Kind



"As we gather to celebrate Christmas on the traditional lands of The Dja Dja Wurrung people, we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge their ongoing connection to Country."



God grant you the light of Christmas,
which is faith; the warmth of
Christmas, which is purity; the
righteousness of Christmas, which
is justice; the belief in Christmas,
which is truth; the all of Christmas,
which is Christ.

WILDA ENGLISH

Southern Living

Term 1 dates: Pg 2
Message from the Principal:
Pg 3-11

5/6P Classroom Feature: Pg 12
Around the School: Pg 13-16
Birthdays & Student Awards:
Pg 17

Mental Health & Wellbeing: Pg 18
Faith & Family: Pg 19
Christmas Masses: Pg 20
Community News: Pg 21

Our first newsletter for
the year will be published
on Friday 13th February
2026.

Term 1 dates

Tuesday 27 January 2026	Staff commence. Pupil free day.
Wednesday 28 January 2026	Literacy Testing (by appointment)
Thursday 29 January 2026	Literacy Testing (by appointment)
Friday 30 January 2026	Students commence. Preps finish at 12.30pm
Monday 2 February 2026	Preps finish at 12.30pm
Tuesday 3 February 2026	Preps finish at 12.30pm
Wednesday 4 February 2026	Classroom information session senior school (Grade 5/6) 3.45-4.45pm Prep Rest Day Canteen open
Thursday 5 February 2026	Preps finish at 12.30pm
Friday 6 February 2026	Preps finish at 12.30pm
Monday 9 February 2026	Preps finish at 3.30pm from now
Tuesday 10 February 2026	Classroom information session middle school (Grade 3/4) 3.45-5.30pm Parent Helper Course 4.45-5.30pm
Wednesday 11 February 2026	Prep Rest Day Assembly (5/6W leading) 2.55pm
Monday 16 February 2026	Cobaw Tennis Kyneton x 20 Grade 5/6 students Hot Shots Tennis GF x 18 students
Tuesday 17 February 2026	Parent Helper Course 3-3.45pm Classroom information session junior school (Prep-Gr 2) 3.45-4.45pm
Wednesday 18 February 2026	Ash Wednesday Commissioning Mass 9.30am Prep Rest Day
Wednesday 25 February 2026	Prep Rest Day
Thursday 26 February 2026	Reconciliation meeting 6.30pm
Saturday 28 February 2026	Reconciliation commitment mass 5-6pm
Sunday 1 March 2026	Reconciliation commitment mass 11-12pm
Tuesday 3 March 2026	Buddies Mass (Prep & Gr 5/6) 9.30am
Wednesday 4 March 2026	Grade 5/6 Phillip Island Camp Prep Rest Day Middle Years Mass 9.30am
Thursday 5 March 2026	Grade 5/6 Phillip Island Camp
Friday 6 March 2026	Grade 5/6 Phillip Island Camp
Monday 9 March 2026	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 10 March 2026	Preps start full time
Wednesday 11 March 2026	Junior Mass 9.30am Prep Parents' Morning Tea 10.30-11.30am NAPLAN
Thursday 12 March 2026	NAPLAN
Friday 13 March 2026	NAPLAN
Monday 16 March 2026	Palm Sunday Prayer Service 2.45-3.15pm NAPLAN
Tuesday 17 March 2026	NAPLAN
Wednesday 18 March 2026	NAPLAN
Thursday 19 March 2026	NAPLAN
Friday 20 March 2026	NAPLAN
Monday 23 March 2026	NAPLAN Sacrament of Reconciliation Practice 10.30am-11.30am
Wednesday 25 March 2026	First Reconciliation & Celebration 12.30-1.30pm
Saturday 28 March 2026	School Fete
Sunday 29 March 2026	Palm Sunday
Monday 30 March 2026	Good Friday Prayer Service (Gr 5/6) 2.45-3.15pm
Wednesday 1 April 2026	End of Term 1 Mass 9.30am
Thursday 2 April 2026	Holy Thursday End of Term 1 – dismissal 3.30pm
Friday 3 April – Sunday 19 April 2026	School holidays
Friday 3 April 2026	Good Friday
Saturday 4 April 2026	Easter Saturday
Sunday 5 April 2026	Easter Sunday Daylight savings ends
Monday 6 April 2026	Easter Monday



SCHOOL CALENDAR

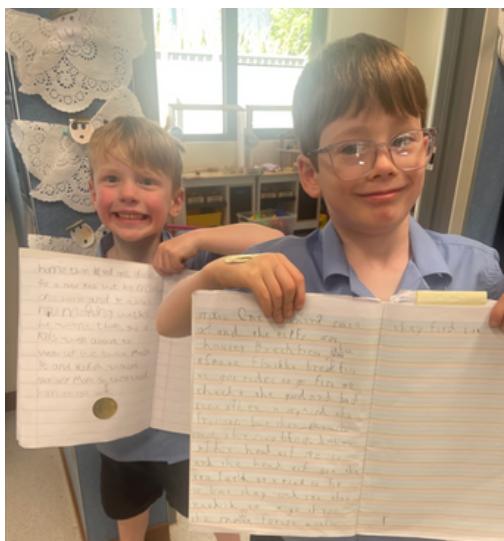
Message from the Principal

Dear families, parishioners and friends,

As we gathered for our final assembly of the year, I began by saying thank you—to every member of our school community. St Ambrose continued to be the caring, vibrant place it is because of the people who learned, worked, supported, and connected here every day.

Our fantastic students were congratulated for a wonderful year. They have worked hard, grown enormously, and approached their learning with courage and a growth mindset. They showed that mistakes were opportunities to learn and that perseverance paid off.

Students were encouraged to reflect on challenges they faced earlier in the year—whether a tricky maths problem, a new skill, or learning to be more patient—and to recognise how far they had come. Through persistence and belief in themselves, they did not give up and continued to improve.



It was a pleasure to read student reports, and I shared how proud we were of their achievements—not only academically, but also in their kindness, teamwork, respect, and resilience.

Indeed we are blessed with dedicated and talented teachers. Their passion, professionalism, and care make a lasting difference in the lives of our students, and their role as mentors and role models is deeply valued.

Our ESO staff were also thanked for their important work, often carried out quietly behind the scenes.

Their encouragement, patience, and many small moments of support helped every child they worked with succeed.

Special thanks were extended to our administrative staff, Justine and Karen, for keeping the heart of the school beating and for creating a welcoming atmosphere for all who entered. Their work ensured the smooth running of the school each day.

We also expressed our gratitude to Katie, our canteen cook and coordinator, whose delicious meals and warm hospitality brightened many school days.

Our hardworking Leadership Team—Mrs Macca, Mrs Callinan, Ms Seddon, Erin, Ms Albani, and Mrs Geisler—were acknowledged with deep appreciation. Their guidance, wisdom, and commitment to staff, students, and the wider school community were evident throughout the year. Their steady leadership, genuine care, and willingness to give of their time ensured that our school continued to run smoothly and that everyone felt supported.

Mrs Geisler was recognised in particular for her professionalism, kindness, and presence, which strengthened our school community in immeasurable ways.

I also acknowledged our wonderful CRT staff, thanking them for stepping in, supporting students, and helping the school continue to thrive.

Our families were warmly thanked for their trust, support, and partnership throughout the year. Through involvement in the SAC, PFA, classrooms, sporting events, Huff and Puff, the canteen, the library, and behind-the-scenes support, families helped make St Ambrose a true community.

I expressed our appreciation to our parish and wider community members for their generosity and goodwill. It was especially rewarding to have senior parishioners listening to reading across classrooms, a program the children looked forward to and which supported growth in comprehension and fluency.

Fr John was thanked for his faith leadership, humour, warmth, and belief in our school community. His presence and support have been greatly valued.

This year also marked farewells to our Year Six students and several valued staff members.

Ms Seddon was thanked for her commitment, care, and energy over the past two years, with best wishes shared as she moved on to her new school.

Mr Portelli was farewelled after 16½ years of incredible service. We expressed deep gratitude for the many lives he touched and the significant contribution he made to our school community. He will be deeply missed and will always remain an important part of the St Ambrose story.

As the year comes to a close and the sounds of summer arrive, we wish all members of our community time to rest, recharge, and enjoy being with family and friends.

We look forward to the coming year with excitement knowing that it brings new opportunities, challenges, and adventures, which we will face together with determination, curiosity, and courage.

It was a joy to work alongside such a wonderful community in 2025, and we look forward to supporting our students and families again next year.

We wish everyone a happy Christmas and a safe, relaxing summer break.



Twilight Picnic & Carols



What a wonderful community twilight picnic we enjoyed together! The warm evening and our beautiful school grounds created the perfect setting, made even more special by the St Ambrose Choir spreading Christmas cheer with their carols.

A heartfelt thank you to Tim and Oliver for setting up the sound system, to Mrs Byrne for preparing our talented choir, and to all our amazing choir members for their joyful performance even when challenged by gusty winds!.

Thank you also to our families and staff for joining us. The children clearly loved playing and spending time together on a lovely summer evening. It was a truly happy and memorable community celebration.



Year Six Splash

Our year six students enjoyed much fun at SPLASH last week for their special day out. Today we bid them a final farewell as students at St Ambrose. We will miss them and hope they know that they are welcome to visit us. We certainly wish them every success into the future.



Year Six Student Awards - CONGRATULATIONS!

Mary-Anne Thomas MP Resilience Award

This award is presented to two students who have overcome challenging learning situations and triumphed in the face of adversity. The recipients of this award have demonstrated innovation, strength, and perseverance, and helped to make our school a better place, despite the restrictions.

Jack B
Evie M

St Ambrose General Excellence Award

The specific criteria are as follows:

- Dedication to school work
- Commitment to ethos of the Catholic school
- Contribution to school community
- Involvement in school activities
- Friendly, polite considerate of staff, parents, their peers and younger students.

Asher J

St Mary MacKillop Positive Behaviour for Learning Award

The specific criteria are as follows:

- Consistently upholding the school expectations of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and kindness and being an excellent role model for others.

Cosette D

Sacred Heart Scholarship Award

The specific criteria outlined by the college is as follows:

- Confirmed enrolment at SHC for Yr 7
- Dedication to school work
- Commitment to ethos of the Catholic school
- Contribution to school community
- Involvement in school activities
- Friendly, polite considerate of others.

Sonny B

CWA Woodend Eves Community Scholarship Award

The specific criteria suggested are as follows:

- Commitment to their community.
- An advocate on community issues, sustainable development and the protection of the environment.
- An advocate for social issues.
- A student with a focus on friendship and personal development.
- A vibrant student who empowers and supports their community, peers, and teachers, and is a role model and leader to younger students.

Sophie V

Rotary Club Achievement Award

The awards are for leadership, community service, great work at school and a positive attitude toward community involvement.

Amity C
Tyler T

School Sport Victoria Academic and Sporting Achievement Medal for 2025

For dedication and enthusiasm as a high achiever in both academic studies and sport.

Tom L

Lions Club Achievement Award

Awarded to a student who has a strong work ethic, positive attitude toward community involvement, demonstrates respect for others and themselves, and advances goodwill and peace amongst others.

Madeline D
Phoebe G

Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey Community Leadership Award

Ellie B

2026 Student Leadership - CONGRATULATIONS!

At St Ambrose we work purposefully to allow opportunities to enable student voice and agency. Our Year Six Student Leaders Roles are key to bringing student feedback and ideas to us and in supporting teachers and students actively which contributes to a thriving learning environment.

Today we announced our 2026 student leaders. Indeed, they led a very impressive campaign and are capable and well deserving of the roles they have been successful in achieving.

School Captains

Eire B
Amari B

Sports Captains

Aston M
Varli F

Lourdes Captains

Jim G
Cooper L

Fatima Captains

Oliver J
Alejandro S
Tora C

Mercy Captains

Isabelle M
Archer B

Carmel Captains

Scarlett M
Jett M

Assistant to DP

Mirabelle S
Josh R

Faith Leaders

Ruby ZW
Leon G

PBL Leaders

Alice C
Patrick F
Ryan K

Arts Leaders

Olivia C
Billie H

Sustainability Leaders

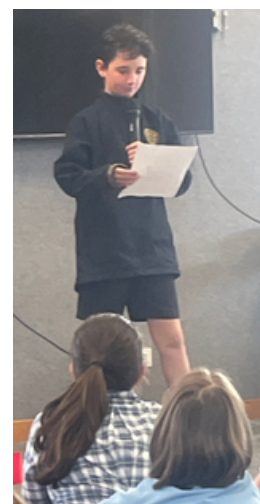
Caleb S
James B

IT Leaders

Angus N
Walter G

Social Justice Leaders

Haley C
Felix D
Jorel L



Bike Education



Mrs Cavric and Mrs O'Callaghan facilitated the final bicycle education session with a 7km ride around town for each of the 6 grade 3-6 classes.

It was a very warm day and our children had varying riding abilities and different types of bikes.

The children have completed 4 sessions of bike Ed & should be congratulated on their commitment & resilience to complete the ride. A big thank you to all the parent volunteers who gave up their time today to accompany our students on the ride!

Happy St Ambrose Day!

We began celebrating the Feast of St Ambrose on Monday morning by having loads of fun together in our beautiful grounds. Thanks to

Sam and Tara from KABOOM and to our awesome staff! The children also enjoyed their special canteen lunch on Wednesday after our end of year mass.



2026 School Fete 28th March



Saturday 28th March 2026

Plans are underway for our Bi-annual fete. Make sure you save the date for what will be a great day filled with fun for our families and community.

Please email Sophie Lynch on sophielynch1981@gmail.com if you would like further information.

Pillowcase workshop



On last Wednesday the grade 3/4's took part in the *Pillowcase Program* run by the Red Cross.

This program is used to teach students how to prepare for a major emergency like a bushfire or hurricane. It was inspired by a story of university students who, in response to Hurricane Katrina, packed all of their most important belongings into a pillow case.

Students talked about what might be needed in an emergency and were each given a pillowcase to decorate. Students decorated their pillowcases with things they might need in an emergency, or just things that made them happy. One student even decorated theirs with the quickest evacuation route from their house.

A big thanks to the Red Cross for teaching us emergency preparedness. If you would like more information please visit

<https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare/>

Peace Pole Ceremony



Rotary Peace Pole Ceremony – Students from St. Ambrose Primary School Woodend were pleased to attend this special ceremony in our beautiful children's park.

The Peace Pole Project began in Japan in 1955, inspired by Masahisa Goi's desire for world peace after WWII, promoting the universal message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," often on poles in multiple languages, with Rotary International significantly boosting its global spread from the 1980s onwards, leading to over 250,000 poles in nearly every country as symbols of global harmony.

Three of our students read out the messages on the Peace Pole in English Dja Dja Wurrung & Bislama (Vanuatu) which translates to "May Peace Prevail on Earth".

Our year five students were also asked to share what 'PEACE' means to them:

"A smile for a friend,

A hand to help out,

No need to right or to shout.

With kindness we'll share,

And love will bloom bright,

Making the whole world feel right.

So that's what peace means to me." (SM)

"Peace means to me that everything is fair, equal and right." (BH)



"Peace to me means to respect each other's differences and cultures which creates a harmonious environment." (HC)

"What does peace mean to me? It means that people in Ukraine and Gaza are not afraid to step outside." (EB)

"Peace means:

No being rude, no yelling,

Just happiness and laughter,

And caring for others,

So, we can all look after the world,

And we know that peace is love to us all so we can have a ball!" (RZW)

"Peace to me is not only a symbol, it's a way we connect with each other with love and calmness in our every day lives." (JB)

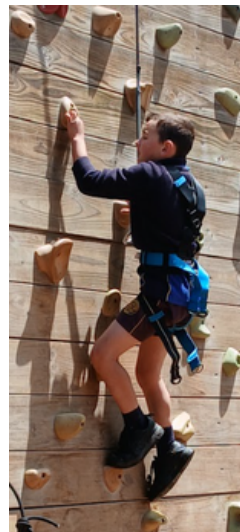
"Peace to me means community coming together and uniting, showing kindness and love to everyone." (AB)

We sincerely thank Woodend Rotary for all the great work they do.



Year 2 Fun at PGL

Much delight was experienced on the zip-wire, climbing wall and playing aero ball recently at Campaspe Downs near Tylden. Our year two students has a great day!



Class Structures & Staffing 2026

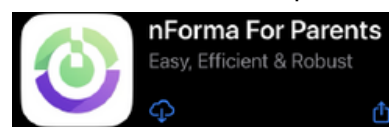
Role	Name	TF	Days	ESO Staff
Prep O	Mrs. Kate Old	1	Full Time	Joanna Roch
1-2 T	Mrs. Debbie Taylor	1	Full Time	Richelle Poynton
1-2 S	Ms. Katelyn Sligar	1	Full Time	Jodi Wolfl
1-2 B	Mr. Kyle Baboth	1	Full-Time	Joel Dwyer
3-4 O	Mr. Pat Old	1	Full Time	Rhonda Scanlon
3-4 C	Mrs. Kate Callinan Ms. Rebecca Keenan Mrs. Emma McMahon	.8 .2 .2	Mon-Thurs Fri Term 1&2 Fri Term 3&4	Chelsey Jones
3-4 R	Mrs. Alison Raco Mrs. Kelly Woodman	.8 .2	Mon-Thurs Fri	
5-6 W	Mrs. Alissa Willan	1	Full Time	Janene Attard
5-6 BM	Mrs. Brenda McDonald	1	Full Time	Mel Gardner
5-6 JM	Mrs. Jodi Menzies	1	Full Time	
Visual Arts & Auslan	Ms. Clare Shannon	.8	Tues - Fri	
Health & PE	Mrs. Kristy Cavric	.4	Thurs - Fri	
Music & Performing Arts	Mrs. Nicole Byrne	.4	Thurs - Fri	
Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader	Ms Erin Brass	.8	Tuesday-Friday	
Finance Officer	Mrs. Karen Basa	.5	Mon-Wed	
Administration Officer	Mrs. Justine Mitchener	1	Full Time	
ICT Leader	Ms. Jodi Menzies			
Religious Education Leader	Mrs. Jocelyn Devlin	.2	Alternating Thurs & Fri	
Learning Diversity, Multi-Lit Teacher & Numeracy Leader	Ms. Chantell Albani	.8	Mon - Thurs	
Deputy Principal/ Teaching & Learning Leader	Mrs. Debbie Geisler	1	Full Time	
Principal	Ms. Bronwyn Phillips	1	Full Time	
Parish Priest	Rev Fr. John Healy			

Operoo will be replaced by nForma

Please be advised that Operoo will soon be closing down and will no longer be available as our school's primary communication and administration tool. We are completing the transition to fully utilise the robust features of the nForma app, which will become our sole communication and administration platform moving forward.

From the beginning of December, Operoo will only be used for specific NCCD communications and for booking assessment day appointments. Parents are already familiar with nForma, as it is the system used to access your child's school reports. This app will now allow you to log your child's absences, and in the near future, all first aid notifications will also be communicated directly through the nForma app, centralising all essential school-to-home interactions in one place.

To ensure a smooth transition and reliable communication, please take a moment to download the nForma app from the Google Play or Apple stores and log into the app and check that all your child's details, including emergency contacts, are correct and up-to-date.



Pupil Free Days 2026



Date	Type of Closure	
Tuesday January 27th	Staff Beg Year Meeting Day	
Friday May 8th	Staff TIL Day	(day after year 3-4 camp)
Monday 11th May	Staff PD Numeracy	(Makes 4-day weekend for
Tuesday June 9th	Staff TIL Day	(day after Kings Birthday makes 4-day weekend)
Monday August 3rd	Staff PD Day Literacy	(gives students a long weekend after our swimming program)
Thursday Sept 17th	Staff PD Day	(two days before Sept Holidays) Religious Education Retreat
Friday Sept 18th	Staff PD Day	
Monday November 2nd	Staff TIL Day	Monday Before Cup Day
Wednesday 16th December	Staff End of Year Meeting Day	Three Days Before the end of term 4 Summer Break.
Thursday December 17th	Staff TIL Day	
Friday December 18th	Staff TIL Day	

Step Up Fun at St Ambrose!

Our students met their 2026 teacher and spent time with their class for next year. It was great to see our children settled and having fun!



Kindergarten Visit St Ambrose



School Uniform & Fitting Days

Hip Pocket supply our uniform and have been onsite for uniform fittings. Click the link below for further uniform information.

[Uniform information](#)



Our Bin Art

Our talented students have created these stunning pictures to decorate and identify our bins. We have had the originals copied and printed into stickers to stick to our bins.

We thank our artists for their eye catching work! Our bins have never looked so good!



Sending you love, peace and joy this Christmas season

Next Newsletter

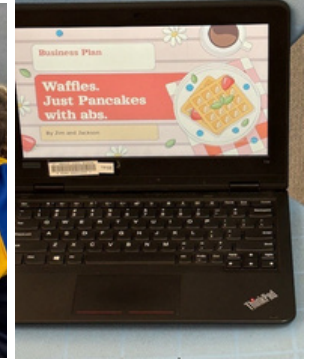
Our next newsletter will be published on Friday 13th February 2026!

For more news and photos visit our [website](#) and look at latest news by clicking on our Facebook button.



Bronwyn Phillips
Principal

5-6P CLASSROOM FEATURE



5/6P Young Entrepreneurs Pitch Their Big Ideas in an Inquiry Showcase

Throughout Term 4, our Grade 5/6 students have been exploring the world of business and economics. As part of this unit, they designed their own product and pitched it to an audience, giving them a hands-on taste of what it's like to be a young entrepreneur.

Students also examined key ideas such as the difference between needs and wants, how resources are used and managed, and the nature and meaning of work. Using this understanding, they worked collaboratively to create innovative business plans aimed at meeting real consumer needs. To ensure their designs were meaningful and appealing, students surveyed the Grade 3/4O cohort earlier in the term and used the feedback to refine their ideas.

Last week, they proudly presented their business proposals and Google Slides pitches to an enthusiastic Grade 3/4 audience. This authentic learning experience allowed our senior students to communicate clearly, think critically, and respond thoughtfully to questions from younger peers.

Creative and Innovative Business Ideas

The showcase featured a fantastic range of imaginative products and services, including:
Custom Shoes with adjustable grip for different activities

A Multi Functional Pencil Case featuring sticky tape, a sharpener, a calculator, and more

A Touchscreen Waffle Maker that creates fun-shaped waffles

A Comfy, Multi-Purpose School Bag designed for walking, riding, scooting, or everyday use

A Self-Cooling Water Bottle

A Fidget Cube with a hidden compartment

A Temperature Controlled Lunchbox managed through a parent phone app

A Phone Bottle with a screen built into the lid that can be attached to bicycle

Our Grade 5/6 students demonstrated creativity, teamwork, and a strong understanding of how financial decisions influence the world around us. Their ability to communicate complex business concepts to a younger audience showed impressive growth and confidence.

Congratulations to all students on a successful Inquiry Showcase and thank you to our Grade 3/4O audience for their thoughtful questions and enthusiastic support!

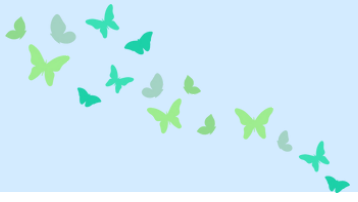
Thank you and Farewell

After 16 and a half wonderful years at St Ambrose Primary School, I will be retiring at the end of this year. During my time here, I have had the privilege of teaching across Grades 3/4 and 5/6, and it has been an absolute joy to watch so many students learn, grow, and discover their strengths.

I would like to sincerely thank all the parents and families for your ongoing support, trust, and partnership over the years. Most of all, I want to thank the beautiful children I have had the honour of teaching, your curiosity, kindness, and enthusiasm have made every day rewarding.

St Ambrose will always hold a special place in my heart, and I leave with deep gratitude for the memories, friendships, and community spirit that have shaped my journey.

Micheal.

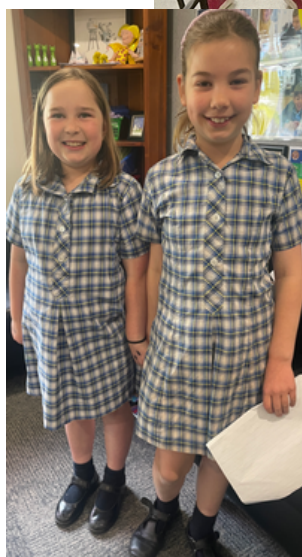


AROUND THE SCHOOL

Outstanding Exhibit at the Kyneton Show



Our Art Leaders with the ribbon from the recent Kyneton Show.





AROUND THE SCHOOL



Katie



Katie is a cook.
She's always there to make yummy food
or just to prepare the tasty hotdogs, nuggets
and pies.
When the tray comes in we all open our eyes.
The work you put in, we are all thankful for.
Everything you cook we simply adore.
The icy poles at lunch to the treats before
snack,
they're better than anything that we could pack.
Day after day you're always there to help out at
school.
It shows that you care.
We really appreciate all that you do.
You're the best.
You cook the best food.
It's for everyone is true.



AROUND THE SCHOOL

Grade

Two

EXCURSION

Campaspe
Downs
Adventure
Camp

Monday December 1st, 2025

On Monday 1st of December Grade 2KR went on an excursion to Campaspe Downs Adventure Camp. We had so much fun together zip lining, rock climbing and playing Aero Ball! We challenged ourselves, tried and learnt new things and enjoyed being outside - not even rain could stop us!

SOME THINGS WE LOVED...

I loved the zip line because it was so high up!

Elise

I liked Aero Ball because it was fun to try and shoot the ball and it was hard to jump high up on the trampoline!

Charlotte

I liked Aero Ball because when you play it you can team up in teams of two and verse other teams!

Alfred

I loved the zip line because I liked going up high and it was very exciting!

Scarlett

I loved rock climbing because you had 3 turns to try to get to the top.

Anaisia

I liked the zip line because you had a birds eye view of the lake from high up!

Oscar

I liked rock climbing because you didn't have to climb back down, you could just jump off!

Elias

We liked watching everyone climb, zip line, bounce and shoot goals with smiles on their faces.

Best - day - ever!



Birthdays & Student Awards



13 December	Harry R
16 December	Amelia S
17 December	Jack B, Riley W
18 December	Elsie A
21 December	Felix D
22 December	Harper C, Sailor C
23 December	Hellena M
24 December	Mo R
28 December	Rafy V
30 December	Marli P

Congratulations !

- P/1T Mo R for his fantastic effort all year and positive attitude.
- P/1T Valerie W for showing resilience and a positive attitude all year - well done!
- P/1S Prep/1S - the whole class for an amazing year of learning! Well done superstars!
- 2KR Amelia S for always displaying a positive and kind attitude towards others!
- 2KR Dominic O for always being willing to help friends with their learning and displaying respect and kindness in your interactions.
- 2KR Harry O for displaying a positive attitude and always joining in with all learning and activities including zip lining and rock climbing on our excursion!
- 2KR Mateo S for working hard in reading to demonstrate fluency and expression during Reader's Theatre performances.
- 2KR Baz R for always being willing to help and assist others and having a positive attitude to learning.
- 2KR Elliott N for working hard to improve his written work - keep it up!
- 3/4CW Jacques B for being a wonderful leader in the classroom! Excellent.
- 3/4CW Molly M for using teacher feedback to improve her narrative!
- 3/4CW Ryder M for being a wonderful, welcoming friend to new people in our school!
- 3/4CW Seb M for trying hard to be more resilient in the classroom!
- 3/4M Tess J for amazing resilience all term.
- 3/4M Niamh F for an amazing approach to new beginnings.
- 5/6M Amity C for always being prepared to help in and out of the classroom to support the smooth running of the school.
- 5/6M Tora C for her wonderful leadership speech and presentation.
- 5/6M Madi Y for her fabulous team work and contribution to her groups "Business Plan!"
- 5/6P Jim G for collaborative work on his Inquiry Project.
- 5/6P Jackson GS for collaborative work on his Inquiry Project.

PBL Silver Awards - Charlotte W, Amelia S, Lucas T

PBL Gold Awards - Alfred O, Elias B

PBL Rainbow Awards - Seb C, Emilia T, Ben H, Chase K, Raphael A, Willa M, Jagger J, Poppy P

PBL Diamond Awards - Bosco L



Mental Health & Wellbeing at St Ambrose

Erin Brass



Term 1, 2026
Loddon Mallee
Regional Parenting

What's On: Term 1

All programs are delivered by our qualified and passionate facilitators.

New Program for Schools!

Tuning in to Students

An exciting new program and professional development opportunity for school staff, to build emotionally intelligent classrooms through 'emotion coaching'.

Based on the highly regarded University of Melbourne suite of Tuning in to Kids programs.

Flexible delivery options available to meet the needs of your school, contact us:

(03) 5338 1300 | parenting.bendigo@catholiccarevic.org.au



Multi-Session Programs

Triple P Parenting | 8 Sessions, Mondays

From confidently handling a toddler meltdown, to learning how to control your emotions and deal with anger, Triple P empowers you with a toolbox of strategies, skills, and knowledge.

FREE | Mondays, 9 Feb - 30 March | 10.30am - 12.30pm
CCV - Bendigo, 176-178 McCrae St, Bendigo



Tuning in to Kids | 6 Sessions, Thursdays

Helping parents and carers build their skills to help their children develop emotional intelligence and recognise their emotions using 'emotion coaching'.

FREE | Thursdays, 12 Feb - 19 Mar | 10am - 12pm
Online



Parenting Together | 2 Sessions, Tuesdays

Designed especially for couples who are parenting together. It aims to build strength and connection in the adult relationship before exploring new ways to manage parenting challenges together.

FREE | Tuesdays, 24 & 31 Mar | 7pm - 9pm
Online



Term 1, 2026
Loddon Mallee
Regional Parenting

Single-Session Workshops

Connecting with Kids

Helping parents and carers learn how to use emotional intelligence to understand and guide children's behaviour.

FREE
Tuesday, 17 Feb | 1.30pm - 3pm
Bendigo Library, 259 Hargreaves St, Bendigo



Tech Strategies for Families

Reflect on the use of technology in your family; considering challenges, opportunities and how to set healthy boundaries for your family.

FREE
Tuesday, 17 Mar | 1.30pm - 3pm
Robinvale Library, 72 Herbert St, Robinvale VIC 3549



Monday, 23 Mar | 10am - 11.30am
Kangaroo Flat Library, 23 Lockwood Rd, Kangaroo Flat

Knowing your Teen

Look at the latest research around teenage development, as well as discuss strategies and tips for building and maintaining a positive relationship with your teenager.

FREE
Tuesday, 17 Mar | 7pm - 8.30pm
Robinvale Library, 72 Herbert St, Robinvale



Registrations are essential for all of our programs and workshops, places are limited.

Please call us if you have questions on 1800 123 228 or email bendigo.reception@catholiccarevic.org.au



Register:
www.catholiccarevic.org.au/workshops

Keep informed on our programs across Victoria at www.catholiccarevic.org.au
1800 123 228 | 176 - 178 McCrae Street, Bendigo VIC 3550

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JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS Faith & Family



Prayer: A Prayer for the End of School Year

God of every ending and beginning, as this school year comes to a close, we thank you, for the teachers who guided with patience, for the students who grew, and for the moments of joy, challenge, and wonder.

We pray for every child finishing a grade, every teen wrapping up exams, and every family shifting into a new season. Give rest where there's weariness, peace where there's worry, and excitement for what lies ahead.

Let this summer be a time of renewal, of laughter, stillness, adventure, and connection. And may we never forget that you are with us in every season. Amen.

By: Ally Bartlett Ruch

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for December:

For Christians in areas of conflict
Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Sacramental Dates in 2026:

If your child is making one of their Sacraments next year, please add these important dates to your diary.

Date	Details
26th February	Reconciliation Evening Meeting
28th Feb & 1st March	Reconciliation Commitment Masses
23rd March	Reconciliation Practice
25th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation & Celebration
7th May	Confirmation Evening Meeting
16th & 17th May	Confirmation Commitment Masses
29th May	Confirmation Practice
Saturday, 30th May	Confirmation @ 10 am (Please note!)
6th August	Eucharist Evening Meeting
8th & 9th August	First Eucharist Commitment Masses
10th September	First Eucharist Practice
12th & 13th September	First Eucharist Masses

Gospel Reflection: Matthew 3:1-12

May you continue to prepare yourself for the Coming of the Lord Jesus.

Advent is a time for getting ready. It is the Christian boot camp. We are being prepared to go out and remove any obstacles hindering the path of the Coming Lord. Our lives should never be the same again. Once a disciplined follower of the Lord Jesus, one should always be a disciplined follower.

So are you ready? Have you finished all of your preparations? I don't mean for Christmas and the celebration of the First Coming of the Lord Jesus to earth. I am more concerned for His final coming not just to the world as a whole at the end of time, but also for His coming to take you with Him into the Final Reign of God. Just as you are spending time preparing to celebrate Christmas, checking all your lists at least twice, decking your house and getting all things ready for eighteen days from now, so you should also be readying yourself by discipline, preparation, and thoughtful anticipation. Now is the time to get ready, for you know not when He will be coming for you.

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Ponder:

When I think about the Coming of the Lord Jesus, how prepared am I? Am I "always" prepared? Do I keep my mind on the fact that I must be ready at all times? What practical things can I do to work for the peace, justice, and unity of the Reign of the One Who has come and is Coming again?

Parish Newsletter

JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS

Faith & Family



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Wednesday 10th December, 7.00pm St Marys' Church Romsey
Wednesday 17th December, 7.30pm St Ambrose Church Woodend
Thursday 18th December, 7.00pm St Brigid's Church Gisborne

CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Outdoor Mass St Mary's Church Lancefield
6pm Mass St Brigid's Church Gisborne
7pm Mass St Ambrose Church Woodend
7.45 Carols St Patrick's Church Macedon
8.30pm Mass St Patrick's Church Macedon
9pm Carols St Ambrose Church Woodend
10pm Mass St Ambrose Church Woodend
10.30 Carols St Brigid's Church Gisborne
11pm Mass St Brigid's Church Gisborne

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Mass St Mary's Church Romsey
8.30am Mass St Ambrose Church Riddells Creek
10am Mass St Ambrose Church Woodend
10.30am Mass St Brigid's Church Gisborne





COMMUNITY NEWS

AT SCHOOL PROGRAM

4 - 7 YEAR OLDS

nab AFL Auskick

REGISTER HERE

8 - 12 YEAR OLDS

AFL Superkick

REGISTER HERE

ST AMBROSE PS AUSKICK & SUPERKICK PROGRAM

SCHOOL OVAL

MONDAYS 3:45 - 4:45 AFTER SCHOOL

STARTS 23d FEBRUARY



Christmas A TIME FOR GIVING

There are many ways you can support the **Woodend Neighbourhood House** in our mission to help locals facing tough times this Christmas.

BECOME A REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR DONOR

COLLECT A BOX, FILL WITH GOODIES AND RETURN BY TUES 16 DEC



GIFT A PRESENT

WE GRATEFULLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF GIFTS FOR CHILDREN, TEENAGERS OR ADULTS



DONATE TO THE WOODEND FOOD BANK

DONATIONS OF PANTRY STAPLES, CLEANING PRODUCTS OR PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS ARE VERY WELCOME



DONATE MONEY

WE WELCOME CASH DONATIONS FROM LOCAL INDIVIDUALS OR BUSINESSES TO HELP SUPPORT OUR GIFT GIVING AND FOOD BANK APPEAL.



If you know someone in our community who would benefit from receiving a gift or reverse advent calendar box, or you would like to make a request for yourself, please get in touch with the **Woodend Neighbourhood House** via the methods listed below

47 Forest Street, Woodend | woodendnh.org.au | reception@woodendnh.org.au | 5427 1845

Dance Holiday Program

19 20 21 January

Ages 6 - 12 years

9am-12pm

Location Woodend

\$135

TO BOOK

[HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/252601099030852](https://form.jotform.com/252601099030852)

DS

SCAN ME

SCAN ME



Community Christmas Carols
19th December from 6pm
On the lawns of the
Norma Richardson Hall
15 Buckland Street, Woodend.

LIONS & SES sausage sizzle
CFA visit with Santa & Elves
PERFORMERS and Sing-a-long
Raffle Prizes
BYO picnic blanket/chair