

St Ambrose Primary School

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

Respectful Responsible Resilient Kind

God of new beginnings, as we step into this new school year, walk with us in our work and in our relationships. Give us courage when the days are demanding, kindness in every interaction and the grace to be a safe place of welcome, hope, and care for all.

All: Amen



St Ambrose Community Intentionally beginning with a “Beginners Mind” staying open and curious to what is possible.



Our second newsletter for the year will be published on Friday 27th February 2026.

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Term 1 dates

Monday 16 February 2026	Hot Shots Tennis Gr 6 x 16 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
Tuesday 24 February 2026	Whole School Sports Day
Wednesday 25 February 2026	Prep Rest Day Opening of School Year/Commitment Mass 9.30am
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	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
Tuesday 24 March 2026	Sacrament of Reconciliation Practice 10.30am-11.30am Cobaw Summer Sports – all Gr 5/6 Walking through Holy Week 10.15-10.45am / 12-12.30pm
Wednesday 25 March 2026	First Reconciliation & Celebration 12.30-1.30pm
Saturday 28 March 2026	School Fete
Sunday 29 March 2026	Palm Sunday
Tuesday 31 March 2026	Whole School Cross Country 12-3.30pm
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
Monday 20 April 2026	Term 2 commences

Parent/Volunteer as Helper Training Course on Tuesday 17th at 3.00 pm in the staffroom



A reminder for those who need to do their parent as helper training course that Debbie Geisler is running a course on Tuesday 17 February 2026 from 3-3.45pm. You need to complete this training every three years. With so many opportunities coming up to support the school we hope to see you there if you need to do the training.

If you are unsure if you are due to complete the parent as helper course, please contact the office.



Message from the Principal

Dear families, parishioners and friends,
As we begin a new school year, we are gifted with the promise of new beginnings. In Buddhist philosophy, there is the idea of a beginner's mind—approaching each moment with openness, curiosity, and optimism. This is something our children do so beautifully. Each day they arrive ready to learn, to grow, and to see the world with fresh eyes. In doing so, they bring God's colour into our world—through their kindness, creativity, questions, and joy—and they shine a light that reminds us all of what truly matters.

Our dynamic staff team has come together with great energy and purpose to begin intentionally and plan for the year ahead. Our focus is on knowing each child and understanding how they learn best.

Through a differentiated approach and a strong wellbeing-for-learning lens, we are committed to supporting our students holistically—academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually—so every child feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive.

We encourage families to stay connected by reading our fortnightly newsletters, which will keep you informed about learning, events, and opportunities to engage with school life. One exciting highlight already on the horizon is our upcoming school fete—a wonderful celebration of community and togetherness. Your support, in whatever way you are able, will be greatly appreciated and will help make this event a success for our children.

It has been super to see so many families attending our classroom information sessions which we hope have given you further insight about how your child's class operates. We also ask that you make sure that you have the Nforma App uploaded as Operoo no longer operates. Information about this has been sent already.

Together, as school and families, we create the conditions for our children not just to learn, but to flourish. With care, collaboration, and hope, we look forward to a year where our students grow in confidence and compassion, becoming true beacons of light in our world.

In 2026 may we all recognise God's Light in each other and the world. Everything can reveal the presence of God.

"Let there be Light" Genesis 1:3



2026 School Fete 28th March



Saturday 28th March 2026

Plans are well 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. We hope to see all who are co-ordinating stalls at Tuesdays meeting onsite at 7.00pm.

From our Captains



Hi everyone,

My name is Eire B and I am one of your 2026 School Captains. My favourite colour is purple and my favourite sport is netball. I've got a dog named Banjo and he is a Cavoodle. I am in Mrs Macca's class which is located near the library. I'm looking forward to listening to any of your ideas and any great suggestions to tell Ms Phillips. I can't wait for a wonderful year and I am excited to continue to help make our school a great and safe place for everyone.

From Eire 5/6BM

Hello Everyone,

My name is Amari B and I am so excited to be one of the school captains at Saint Ambrose for 2026.

I am 12 years old and I am the middle child of three. I have a two year old Golden Retriever called Lana and I love sports. I have played 5 seasons of soccer and currently play cricket for Woodend.

I am grateful for the opportunity and I hope I can make St Ambrose a better learning environment for everyone. I will take on my role with enthusiasm. I will be approachable and try to be as helpful as possible.

Before and After School Supervision

Our school is proud to be a welcoming and inclusive community. We value the strong relationships we share with families and appreciate the time many of you spend connecting with one another at the end of the school day. These connections are an important part of what makes our school such a special place.

However, we have some concerns regarding students remaining on school grounds after dismissal without adequate supervision. Once the school day has ended and staff supervision concludes at 3.30pm, responsibility for children rests fully with their parent or caregiver.

We have observed instances where children are playing in different areas of the school while adults are not directly supervising them. This presents a significant child safety risk. Direct supervision means adults are able to see and hear their child and respond quickly if redirection is necessary or a dangerous situation arises.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students, we ask that:

- Children are collected promptly at dismissal time.
- Students do not use playground equipment or other facilities after 3.30pm unless actively and closely supervised by their parent or caregiver.
- On Mondays and Wednesdays the playground areas are not available for after-school play.

Please understand that staff members are not rostered for supervision after school and we cannot assume responsibility for students once they have been dismissed.

Our priority is, and always will be, the safety of every child. We appreciate your cooperation and support in ensuring that our school remains a safe environment for everyone.

School Hours & Supervision

- Students may arrive at school from 8.30am. They should place their bags outside their classrooms and play in the designated back-of-school area where staff supervise. Children should not arrive before 8.30am as supervision is not available.
- At 8.45am students may enter classrooms to prepare for the day. Teachers are in classrooms from this time to greet students.
- Classes begin at 9.00am.
- Classes finish at 3.30pm. Students not collected at 3.30pm (and not walking or cycling home) should go to the front entrance along Templeton Street where a staff member supervises until 3.45pm. Any students not picked up will then wait in reception and parents will be contacted.

We kindly ask that children are collected promptly at 3.30pm, as staff meetings commence from 3.45pm.

For child-safety reasons we are unable to accommodate families playing on the premises after school on Mondays and Wednesdays as the back area is booked for sporting activities. If you choose to remain on site after school on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, you are responsible for actively supervising your child and ensuring they play safely. Please also note that climbing or playing on top of the tunnel slide is unsafe and not permitted.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership in supporting the safety of all children.

Sign in Requirements When Entering the School

To comply with child safe laws and to ensure we are aware of all people who are in our school between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm we require parents and caregivers who need to go beyond the reception area to sign in when they arrive and sign out when leaving. Those parents dropping off from the classroom external doors between 8.45 and 9.00 am don't need to sign in unless they are remaining in the building later than 9.05 am.

Anyone who comes in to reception should not enter the corridor before signing in and checking with the admin person. Thank you for supporting us to maintain a child safe environment.



Child Safe Standard One

As part of our responsibility to comply with our 11 child safe standards our staff will be revising each standard over the next eleven months. This month we are revising **Child Safe Standard One:** Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued. Follow this [link](#) to read in more detail.

Call for a Safe Pedestrian Crossing at Romsey Road / Avenue of Honour intersection, Woodend

We ask that you support your children to learn how to cross roads safely. Community members are currently concerned about the safety of children crossing at the Romsey road. We ask for your support in keeping our roads safe for our children to cross.

You can have your voice heard via this [link](#).

School Advisory Council Expressions of Interest

We are calling for expressions of interest from those in our community who would like to be part of our School Advisory Council (SAC).

Role of School Advisory Councils

The new governance arrangements were developed, through the consultation process with priests, principals and parents, around the critical role parish priests and the principal have in leading the school's mission with the support of the School Advisory Council. Characteristics central to its role:

- Mission
- Advisory in nature
- Educational relationships
- Wider purpose
- And its articulation

School Advisory Councils are advisory bodies and exist to provide support, review and advice to the principal. They do not have a legal identity and do not become involved in the day-to-day management of the school.

Through a process of discussion, deliberation and consensus School Advisory Councils ensure advice is authentic and congruent with who we are and our school's vision and mission.

Wider purpose ...

School Advisory Councils provide a structure and a process for shared voices leading to consensus that supports the "effective development of the strategic direction of the school" - Schedule 4 clause 15(1) (a) in *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017*.

They are an opportunity for parent voice and perspective to be available to the principal and parish priest for the good of school and parish where the wellbeing and outcomes for students is paramount.

and its articulation

Through on-going discussion, dialogue and reporting the relationship between the School Advisory Council, Priest and Principal "ensure that a school is clear about its philosophy and can articulate it to staff, students, parents, guardians and the school community" - Schedule 4 clause 16(1) in *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017*.

The School Advisory Council meets once each term at a time agreed upon by its members. If you would like to join our SAC please email me directly on

bronwyn.phillips@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au

Members of the SAC need to take part in an induction, training module which we would conduct after we have our 2026 members decided upon. Following the training we would then vote on positions which include a chairperson and a minute taker.

if you are interested but would like to know more please call me via the office.

Thankyou.

Naplan 2026

Years three and five will be sitting their Naplan assessments in the first two weeks of March. For more information about Naplan see flyer later in this newsletter.



Remembering all those who have suffered this Fire Season

In the aftermath of the devastating fires and floods that have affected so many, our hearts go out to all those who have suffered loss. We want to extend our deepest condolences and support to our neighbouring communities and those across the state who are facing these challenging times.

We pray for everyone who has lost homes, belongings, or loved ones. The strength and resilience shown by communities during such trying times is truly inspiring. Let us share what we can to rebuild in the spirit of hope and unity.

It is important to extend gratitude and admiration for the incredible efforts of the Country Fire Authority (CFA), State Emergency Service (SES), and all emergency services personnel who have worked tirelessly during the recent fires and floods.

Their unwavering dedication, bravery, and selflessness in the face of such adversity are nothing short of heroic. Many are volunteers who have put their own lives on hold to protect communities, showing remarkable strength and resilience, often working long hours in challenging conditions to ensure the safety of others.

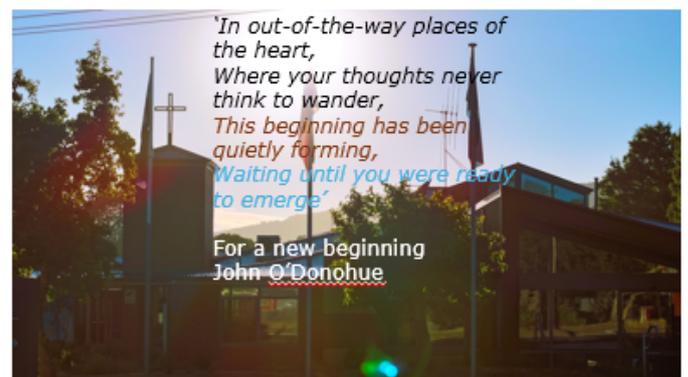
We thank them for their sacrifices, their courage, and unwavering spirit. We are deeply grateful for everything you do.

Message from the Principal

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! Thanks also to Ms. Shannon, Joel and Erin who supported the process.



Next Newsletter

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday 27th February 2026!

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



Bronwyn Phillips
Principal

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. Indeed, our Year Six Student Leaders 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

Student Leaders will be commissioned into their roles and receive their badges at our first whole school mass for the year. This will be on **Wednesday 25th February at 9.30am**. You are welcome to attend. We ask that you sit in the back two rows or upstairs to allow seating for all of our students downstairs.

PUPIL FREE DAYS 2026

Date	Type of Closure
Tuesday January 27th	Staff Beg Year Meeting Day
Friday May 8th	Staff TIL Day
Monday 11 th May	Staff PD Literacy
Tuesday June 9 th	Staff TIL Day
Monday August 3rd	Staff PD Day Numeracy
Thursday Sept 17th	Staff PD Day
Friday Sept 18th	Staff PD Day
Monday November 2nd	Staff TIL Day
Wednesday 16 th December	Staff End of Year Meeting Day
Thursday December 17th	Staff TIL Day
Friday December 18th	Staff TIL Day

Class Structures & Staffing 2026

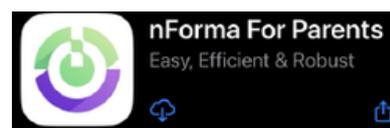
Role	Name	TF	Days	ESO Staff
Prep O	Mrs. Kate Old	1	Full Time	Joanna Roch
1-2 T	Mrs. Debbie Taylor	1	Full Time	Richelle Poynton
1-2 S	Ms. Katelyn Sligar	1	Full Time	Jodi Wolfli
1-2 B	Mr. Kyle Baboth	1	Full-Time	Joel Dwyer
3-4 O	Mr. Pat Old	1	Full Time	Rhonda Scanlon
3-4 C	Mrs. Kate Callinan Ms. Rebecca 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 has been replaced by nForma

As you will know, Operoo is no longer available as our school's primary communication and administration tool. We utilise the robust features of the nForma app, which has become our communication and administration platform moving forward.

You 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 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 reliable communication, please 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.



St Ambrose Parish School Fete

SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026

9AM-1PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are seeking parent volunteers from each year level to help staff and manage class stalls at the St Ambrose Fete on Saturday 28 March.

The fete will run from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Ideally, we are looking for four parents per year level, each volunteering for a one-hour shift, as well as a few extra helpers to assist with set-up and pack-up.

Class stalls are as follows:



- Prep: Cupcake/Cookie Decorating**
- Year 1: Easter Craft**
- Year 2: Guess the Lollies in the Jar**
- Year 3: Nail Bar**
- Year 4: Tattoos**
- Year 5: Egg Hunt (Gaga Pit)**
- Year 6: Bead Bracelets**



If you are able to help, please contact Justine in the office, and someone will be in touch with further details.

Thank you for supporting our school community — your help is greatly appreciated!



5/6BM NEWS

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a brand new school year! The Grade

5/6 team is excited to begin another year of learning, growth and new opportunities. Our classroom will be

a busy and positive place where students are encouraged to challenge themselves, work collaboratively and take pride in their learning.



We'll be focusing on building strong routines early, developing independence, and creating a respectful environment where everyone feels safe, supported and ready to learn.

Term 1 is shaping up to be a very busy and exciting one. Students will have the opportunity to attend camp at Phillip Island, where they'll build independence, resilience and teamwork while creating lasting memories with their peers. We'll also be participating in a number of district sporting events, giving students the chance to represent our school, demonstrate sportsmanship and enjoy healthy competition.

Throughout the year, students will be engaged in a wide range of learning experiences across all curriculum areas. Alongside literacy and numeracy, we'll place a strong emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving, and personal and social capabilities. We'll also be encouraging students to take on leadership roles, set goals, and reflect on their progress as they prepare for the transition to upper primary and beyond.

We're looking forward to working in partnership with families throughout the year and appreciate your ongoing support. Thank you for helping us make this a positive and successful year for our Grade 5/6 students—we can't wait to see what they achieve!

Wishing everyone a wonderful year of learning.

Brenda McDonald (5/6BM Teacher)

HUFF N PUFF AT ST AMBROSE



Join us every
Wednesday and
Friday morning
8:30am - 8:45am
to get our wiggles
out before class
starts!



Help us play
Tiggy, Octopus,
Giant Wall and
more! All students
welcome.



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

St Ambrose Primary School

We are incredibly grateful to your school community for helping the Woodend Food Bank through your Term 4 2025 Food Drive.

Your generosity made a meaningful difference to local people who needed a little extra cheer over the festive season.

WITH OUR SINCERE THANKS

15th January 2026
DATE

JENNY KERR
PRESIDENT

Collection notice for parents/guardians

2026 Student residential address and other information collection (address collection)

The Australian Government Department of Education (the department) would like to notify you that we have requested for your child's school to provide residential address and other information.

Under the Australian Education Regulations 2023, the school is required to provide the department with the following information about each student at the school:

- names and residential addresses of the student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s)
- student residential address (excluding student names)
- whether the student is a primary or secondary student (education level)
- whether the student is boarding or a day student (boarding status).

The school collects the above information by generating a unique and unidentifiable student reference number (SRN) for each student record. The school only uses the SRN for this collection. The SRN cannot be used for any other purpose. The number only indicates to the department that each record provided is for one student.

Purpose of the collection

The address collection informs Australian Government school education policy and helps ensure funding for non-government schools is based on need.

The information collected is used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data to calculate a non-government school community's anticipated capacity to contribute to schooling costs, known as the capacity to contribute (CTC) score. More information is available on the [CTC page](#).

Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (the Privacy Act). Personal information is information or an opinion about an identifiable individual. Personal information includes an individual's name and contact details.

Any use or disclosure of your personal information must occur in accordance with the Privacy Act, the *Australian Education Act 2013* and Australian Education Regulations 2023.

Your personal information provided to the department through the collection may be:

- disclosed to the ABS for the purposes of the ABS linking names and address(es) with their personal income taxation data using the capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as a part of the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA – previously known as MADIP). Find more information about PLIDA on the ABS website [PLIDA page](#)
- disclosed to an authorised person (for example, contracted auditor or identified departmental official) where the department may audit a school's collection submission. The authorised person compares the school's submission with the student enrolment information. The authorised person will not use the information for any other purpose
- disclosed to our service providers for the purpose of providing the department with information and communications technology support
- used or disclosed where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

The department does not intend to disclose your personal information to any overseas recipients.

Aggregated information will be provided to your school in the form of school level median income for the last 3 years, rounded to the nearest \$5,000. This information is provided to help your school understand their level of government funding. Your personal income information will not be provided to your school.

Find the department's privacy policy on the [Department of Education web site](#). This includes information on:

- how individuals can access and modify personal information held by the department
- how complaints about potential breaches or breaches of the Privacy Act can be made
- how the department will deal with these complaints.

In association with this, the department commissioned an independent Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA). The PIA assessed the flows of information under the address collection, compliance with the Privacy Act and measures in place to safeguard the personal information being collected. The current version is available on the [Department of Education web site](#).

What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the department with the requested details; however, you can contact the school to update your family's details.

Contacts for further information

Your school can provide additional information about the address collection process.

Alternatively, please visit the [EducationHUB address collection page](#).

[CTC Page](#)

[PLIDA Page](#)

[Department of Education web site](#)

[EducationHUB address collection page](#)

NAPLAN 2026

Information for parents and carers



Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum, and allows parents and carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with more information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working, and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content aligned to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the National Assessment Program.

Information on adjustments available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs is provided in the [National protocols for test administration](#).

Schools should work with parents, carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the National protocols for test administration (linked above), [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), and our [series of videos](#) where parents, carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN test days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by letting them know that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. However, it is not necessary for parents and carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [NAP – Public demonstration site](#).

How is my child's performance reported?

NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected of the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling.

Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school. If further assistance is required, you should contact your relevant state or territory test administration authority. ACARA cannot provide individual student reports.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students, parents and carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at myschool.edu.au.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame. **The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 11 March 2026 and finishes on Monday 23 March 2026.** Schools must schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritizing the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	Year 3 students must do the writing test on paper on day 1 only. Years 5, 7 and 9 writing tests must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing on day 1, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations).	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are given an idea or topic called a writing stimulus (or prompt) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading	To be completed after the writing test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
Conventions of language	To be completed after the reading test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	To be completed after the conventions of language test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

Links

nap.edu.au

[National Protocols for Test Administration](#)

[NAPLAN public demonstration site](#)

[Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#)

[series of videos](#)

[NAP – Public demonstration site](#)

nap.edu.au/TAA



AROUND THE SCHOOL

Our First Week Back





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 January Lachie G, Rosa M, Redmond O
2 January Lizzy D
3 January James F
4 January Scarlett M
5 January Jacques B
10 January Rose B, Neave K
11 January Mila D
12 January Lachie E, Jock R
14 January Elara P
15 January Leo H, Lucas T
16 January Patrick F, Baz R, Mack R
19 January Tess J
21 January Leon G
22 January Elliot D, Jonah M
23 January Billie H
24 January Oli J, Lucy S
27 January Amari B

28 January Violet D
30 January Emrys G
31 January Isabelle A, Ryder M
1 February Joaquin C
2 February Lachie M
4 February Teddy M
5 February Agatha W
7 February Henry B, Varli F
8 February Poppy F
9 February Rupert F
11 February Charlie C
12 February Alice C
13 February Raphael A
15 February Scarlett AG, Leah W
20 February Everly B
24 February Alice C
25 February Sebastian M

Congratulations !

- 1/2B Lachie E for consistently putting effort into class activities and staying focused.
1/2B Bosco L for leading by example and being a great role model.
1/2S Mo R for being a great role model for kindness and respect.
1/2S Thomas S for a great start to the year and demonstrating our PBLs.
1/2T Henry Q for being a responsible learner and giving every task his best go.
Well done!
1/2T Madeleine E for a fantastic start to the school year and positive attitude.
Well done!
1/2T Elle S for her positive "can do" attitude and always helping others.
3/4C Mack R for the amazing example he is setting for his peers in the classroom.
Well done!
3/4C Anaisia M for her positive and enthusiastic attitude towards her learning!
3/4R Heidi Ofor for using inferencing during our reading task!
3/4R Grace M for sharing interesting ideas in class discussions!
3/4O Harry R for showing resilience in his learning and beginning an awesome narrative.
3/4O Ruby Whitton for showing kindness and always welcoming others into her work and play.
5/6BM Evelyn C for asking great questions to further develop her understanding.
5/6BM James B for his understanding of Factors and Multiples.
5/6JM Olivia C for outstanding persuasive writing.
5/6JM Matisse E for an extremely positive beginning at St Ambrose.
5/6W Lawson N for demonstrating leadership and commitment to learning from the very start of the year. Well done on such a positive beginning!
5/6W Mirabelle S for doing an excellent job in completing your maths work in factors and multiples. Your hard work and focus really paid off! Well done!



LOST PROPERTY -
DOES THIS LOVE HEART STONE BELONG TO YOUR CHILD?
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.



Sad?

Stressed out?

Angry?

Feeling helpless?

Financial pressure?

Burnt out?

No one to talk to?

Nowhere to turn?

Alone?

It's OK if you're not feeling OK

 **1800 595 212**



To find out more go to: headtohelp.org.au

JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS

Faith & Family



From Fr. John:

During 2026 our focus for our community of faith will be based on the image of the Trinity (see our new picture). An image reflecting the community of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, calling us to be a community of WELCOME and HOSPITALITY.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for February:

For Children With Incurable Diseases
Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Sacramental Dates in 2026:

If your child is making one of their Sacraments this year, please add these important dates to your diary. Respond to the letter sent out through nForma so that each child is added to the list and is able to complete the commitments necessary prior to the Sacrament.

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 @ 1 pm (Please note change of time!)
6th August	Eucharist Evening Meeting
8th & 9th August	First Eucharist Commitment Masses
10th September	First Eucharist Practice
12th & 13th September	First Eucharist Masses

Religious Calendar of Events in Term One, 2026:

Date	Details	Time
Wed, 18th Feb	Ash Wednesday Prayer Service	9:30
Wed, 25th Feb	Mass for the Beginning of the School Year / Commissioning of Staff & Student Leaders	9:30
Thurs, 26th Feb	Reconciliation Evening Meeting for Parents and Students	6:30
Sat, 28th Feb Or Sun, 1st March	Commissioning Masses for Reconciliation	5 pm Or 11 am
Tues, 3rd March	Buddies Mass (Grs. P and 5/6)	9:30
Wed, 4th March	Middle Mass (Grs 3/4)	9:30
Wed, 11th March	Junior Mass (Grs 1/2)	9:30
Mon, 23rd March	Sacrament of Reconciliation Practice	10:30
Tues, 24th March	Walking Through Holy Week	10:15 & 12
Wed, 25th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation & Celebration	12:30
Wed, 1st April	End of Term Mass	9:30

Please note: All are welcome. If you would like to join us in any of these celebrations, you are most welcome. Please sit at the back or upstairs to make sure there is room for all the students.

Gospel Reflection:

Mt 5:13-16

"You are the light of the world". Light disperses darkness and enables us to see. Jesus is the light that has dispelled the darkness, but it [darkness] still remains in the world and in individuals. It is the task of Christians to disperse it by radiating the light of Christ and proclaiming his Gospel. It is a radiance that can also come from our words, but it must flow above all from our "good works" (v. 16). A disciple and a Christian community are light in the world when they direct others to God, helping each one to experience his goodness and his mercy. The disciple of Jesus is light when he knows how to live his faith outside narrow spaces, when he helps to eliminate prejudice, to eliminate slander, and to bring the light of truth into situations vitiated by hypocrisy and lies. To shed light. But it is not my light, it is the light of Jesus: we are instruments to enable Jesus' light to reach everyone.

By Pope Francis, Angelus, 9 February 2020
(Copyright © 2017-2026 Dicasterium pro Communicatione - All rights reserved.)

Prayer:

God of our past, our present and our future,
God of our dreams, our designs and our decisions,
Be love in us as we journey through this new school year.

Be our inner vision, that we may see life through your eyes,
Be our inner hearing, that we may listen well for your call,
Be our inner judgment, so we may discern clearly that which gives life,
Promotes growth, and nurtures love.

As we move into this school year,
fill us with hope and abiding trust that you dwell in us,
So that, in both joy and sorrow, we radiate hope.
Amen

Ponder:

How can we use our gifts to be "the light of our world" today?

Parish Newsletter



COMMUNITY NEWS

NETBALL IS BACK

Whether you're new or a pro, there is a spot for you!



NETBALL BLAST DAY

- Games & skills session
- Order & swap uniform
- Register for U9s, U11s, U13s, U16s

SUN, 22 FEB

10:30 - 11:30am

Netball courts, Tony Clarke Reserve

Register by 22 Feb



Select Macedon Junior (MIRNA) when registering



GOOD TO KNOW:

- Rd 1 - Sat, 28 March
- Break for school hols
- Rd 2 - Sat, 2 May
- Grading 14 & 21 March, ages U11 & up
- U9s open to ages 7-8
- Find us on Facebook - Macedon Junior Netball Club

macedoncatstreasurer@gmail.com - Registrator: 0422330899 - Uniform: 0422322728



SEEKING NETBALL PLAYERS

TO JOIN THE WOODEND JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB FOR THE 2026 RDFNL SEASON

WE'RE NEARLY AT CAPACITY, PLEASE EMAIL US NOW WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME & D.O.B AND WE'LL BE IN TOUCH

NETBALL@WOODENDHAWKS.COM.AU

11 & UNDER - MIXED (2015/2016)

13 & UNDER - MIXED (2013/2014)

15 & UNDER - FEMALE ONLY (2011/2012)

17 & UNDER - FEMALE ONLY (2009/2010)



Factory 4, 8 Sauer Road
New Gisborne
0410 424 589
info@studioatno4.com.au
www.studioatno4.com.au

PRIMARY STUDENTS

Tuesdays 3.45pm to 4.45pm

\$198.00 inc GST

If 3.45pm doesn't work for your child, please message me and we can chat about flexible start & finish times.



ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED

TERM 1

ART CLASSES

Awaken your sense of Adventure!



Twilight Orienteering

- 4 FEB BULLENGAROOK RECREATION RESERVE
- 11 FEB MALMSBURY SPORTING RESERVE
- 18 FEB KYNETON COMMUNITY GARDENS
- 25 FEB GISBORNE AITKEN RESERVE

- Registration from 6pm Courses close 8pm.
- \$5 per participant, includes electronic timing chip hire
- Suitable for all fitness levels, families and groups welcome
- Visit www.centralhighlands.weebly.com for more details



Ready to try something new?

Join Scouts

Macedon Woodend Scout Group is looking for young people to join their Group!

Every week, nearly half a million young people dive into exciting adventures, make lifelong friendships, and explore the great outdoors with Scouting!

Try Scouts today and enjoy 3 weeks FREE to see why the fun never stops. Whether it's camping, hiking, or tackling STEM challenges, there's always something thrilling happening.

Don't miss out, unlock your adventure today!

For more information or to join email, gl.macedonwoodend@scoutsvictoria.com.au



The Young Voices of Macedon

Join us! Choir for children aged 6 and up!

For fun with new friends, to learn good singing technique, and to perform great songs at concerts & community events.

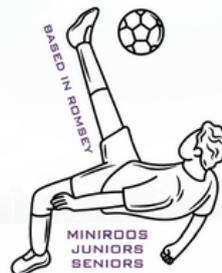
Thursdays 4.15 - 5.45 PM
247 Station St, New Gisborne
yvmacedon.org.au

KYNETON HIGH SCHOOL

"Kyneton High School is a community built on the values of Respect, Diversity, Sustainability and Excellence, and a strong commitment to learning."
- Executive Principal Ana Rees

See our school in action! Phone 5421 1100 or email kyneton.hs@education.vic.gov.au to book a place on one of our upcoming Prospective Family Information Sessions and Tours in Terms 1 & 2.

JOIN THE RANGERS



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER



MACEDONRANGERSFOOTBALLCLUB.COM.AU

#HEARTOFTHERANGERS

KYNETON DISTRICT SOCCER CLUB

SEASON LAUNCH & CLUB OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY 11AM - 2PM
BARKLY SQUARE, KYNETON
ALL WELCOME!

- INFLATABLE SOCCER GAMES
- PENALTY SHOOT OUT COMP
- GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- FACE PAINTING
- MEET THE COACHES
- 2026 REGOS OPEN
- FREE BBQ

WWW.KYNETONSOCCER.COM



COMMUNITY NEWS

Is your child turning 3 between May 2026 and April 2027?



Register for kindergarten by 31 May

To be included in first round offers for 2027

We're accepting registrations for both 3-year-old and pre-pre kindergarten for:

- Gumboots Gisborne
- Manna Gum Family and Children's Centre (Gisborne)
- Rothschild Road Kindergarten (at Willowbank Primary School)
- Swinburne Avenue Children's Centre (Gisborne)
- Kyneton Community House
- Kyneton Kindergarten
- Bug-a-Lugs (Kyneton)
- Embracks Childcare and Kindergarten (Kyneton)
- Lancefield Children's Centre
- Macedon Early Learning Centre
- Macedon Kindergarten
- Gumboots Riddells Creek
- Riddells Creek Kindergarten
- Ronsay Kindergarten
- Woodend Kindergarten

Access to a kindergarten place is easier than ever!



How to Register

Visit: mrc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego or scan the QR code.

Contact us: Kindergarten Enrolment Team on 03 5422 0239 or kinderenrolment@mrc.vic.gov.au



TERM ONE 2026 AUSSIE HOOPS
BEGINNERS 5 - 11 YEARS OLD
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

8 WEEKS - 45 MINS SESSIONS
INTRODUCTION TO BASKETBALL

SESSIONS

GISBORNE - MRSP
WEDNESDAY - 4:30PM - 5:15PM
WEDNESDAY - 5:15PM - 6:00PM
- ALL GIRLS SESSION -
SATURDAY - 8:30AM - 9:15AM

WOODEND - BUFFALO
FRIDAY - 4:45PM - 5:30PM
SATURDAY - 8:30AM - 9:15AM
SATURDAY - 9:15AM - 10:00AM
- ALL GIRLS SESSION -

FOR MORE INFORMATION - AUSSIEHOOPS@MRBA.ORG.AU



GISBORNE THUNDER SWIMMING CLUB
SWIMMING UP A STORM
2026 PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIM CARNIVAL
READINESS CLINICS

SESSION INCLUSIONS:
RACE STARTS
RACE FINISHES
BASIC STROKE TECHNIQUE
RACE ENDURANCE
RELAY CHANGE OVERS
RACE DAY TIPS

29 JAN 5 FEB
12 FEB 19 FEB

\$20 PER SESSION

SUNBURY AQUATIC LESURE CENTRE
OUTDOOR POOL
4:30PM - 5:30PM

PLACES ARE LIMITED
BOOK YOUR PLACE: president@gisbornethunder.org

The Mount Players presents
by special arrangement with Origin Theatrical

THE CEMETERY CLUB
A Comedy

Written By — Ivan Menchell
Directed By — George Bence

20th Feb - 8th March 2026
Mountview Theatre,
56 Smith St, Macedon
BOOKINGS: themountplayers.com.au or call 0419 329 052

The Cemetery Club by Ivan Menchell - A Comedy

Synopsis - 3 New York widows meet once a month for tea before visiting their husbands' graves. Ida is sweet-tempered and ready to begin a new life. Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who wants to have fun, and Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher enters the scene, along with that other woman! A story filled with laugh-out-loud humour and pathos about love, navigating grief and the challenges of moving on. The season runs from 20 Feb - 8 March.

Evening performances 8.00pm. Matinees 2.00pm.

Bookings via www.themountplayers.com or call 0419 329 052 for assistance.

Victoria Police
Macedon Ranges PSA Neighbourhood Policing Forum

The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum welcomes local services and community members to talk with police about what issues are important in your community.

The forum will explore topics including:

- Current crime trends and crime prevention
- Family violence
- Young people
- Road policing
- Drugs and drug related crime.

The Neighbourhood Policing Forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel and questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event.

Registration is a must. Please scan the QR code or visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/yts8t9vb>

A Microsoft TEAMS link will be made available via email to all registered attendees on the day of the event.

Online event details
Date: Thursday 19th February 2026
Time: 6pm - 8pm

Scan here to register your attendance

A SAFE VICTORIA