



ST. PAUL'S KEALBA

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KEEPING OUR CONNECTIONS

Friday February 7 2025

Dear Families & Friends of St. Paul's,

A very warm welcome back to school and the 2025 school year!
I hope the holiday break allowed you all to slow down a little, rest up and enjoy time with family & friends. The beginning of any year always seems to be busy time of preparation, new beginnings & familiarising.

The children have returned with great enthusiasm & excitement - seeing friends again, meeting their teachers, getting used to being a year older and moving up a year level. Thank you for preparing them for their return; staff have already commented on how settled they are & how enthusiastic they are about being back.

On Wednesday afternoon & evening most of you met your children's teacher, to tell them about your child as a learner at home. Teachers commented on how important it was for them to have the information you provided, so as to be better able to come to know & understand your children as learners. The work undertaken at St. Paul's to educate your children is only possible if it is done as a partnership between teachers & parents. As parents your part in educating your children is equally as important as our part is here at school - you are the parent educators and we are the teacher educators. So, our communication needs to be two way if your children are to thrive & flourish at school and at home; that education partnership needs to remain strong & positive throughout the year, so as to support & encourage the children's learning, growth & development.

The staff team at St. Paul's is looking forward to a 2025 school year filled with possibilities, opportunities & fun, as we learn & teach together.
Welcome to our new families; as you begin your learning & teaching journey with us, be assured that St. Paul's is a big 'family', where you will be valued, cared for and looked after.

My hope & prayer for all of us this year is that we look out for & look after each other on our learning & teaching journey.

Welcome back everyone!

Denis.

Denis J. Daly
Principal

CORE DOCUMENTS: OUR FOCUS IN 2025

ESSENCE STATEMENT

Our Essence Statement is at the heart of why we do what we do at St. Paul's and it reads as follows:
"Like Christ we believe in valuing each individual for who they are and who they can be"

VISION STATEMENT

Our Vision Statement is what we aspire to now and into the future and It reads as follows:
"As a Catholic school community inspired by the Gospels and in the spirit of St. Paul...
We believe that Christ lives in us. (Galatians 2:20)
We work together for the common good, by building deep and genuine relationships.
We work with diligence and intent to protect all children in our care,
prioritising their safety and wellbeing at all times and in every situation.
We are lifelong learners, encouraging each other's passions, talents and dreams.
We seek to make a difference."

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN & 2025 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Below are the priorities, goals, intended outcomes & key improvement strategies, from our 2023 – 2026 School Improvement Plan. Our work as a faith, learning & teaching community, will be focussed on being ever mindful of these priorities, achieving the goals, working towards the intended outcomes & putting into place the key improvement strategies:

· Priority 1 - Faith and Life Connections

Goal 1: To empower staff and students to engage in dialogue around faith and life.
Intended Outcome: That the mission of the Church and the school is lived out.
Key Improvement Strategies: Make explicit connections between faith, life and culture.

· Priority 2: Student Voice, Agency and Participation

Goal 2: To build student engagement in learning.
Intended Outcome: That students are empowered in their learning.
Key Improvement Strategies: Elevate student voice and agency.

· Priority 3: Feedback and Leadership Development

Goal 3: To build teacher capabilities as educators and leaders.
Intended Outcomes: - That teachers are reflective practitioners.
- That there is shared leadership responsibility.

Key Improvement Strategies: - The development of an explicit St Paul's feedback model.

Our 2025 Annual Action Plan is close to completion, using a new MACS template; once it is finalised you will be provided with its details.

STRATEGIC INTENT

Our Strategic Intent is a brief overarching statement outlining what we are looking to achieve over the four years of continuous school improvement, as detailed in the School Improvement Plan; it is provided it below:

Within the context of a contemporary faith community, that enables all in the community to make connections between our Catholic faith and their own lives, our intent over the four-year cycle of the School Improvement Plan is to build student engagement in learning. This will be achieved through a focus on student voice, agency and participation. To that end, we will build teacher capability as educators and leaders by strengthening and formalising a feedback process and developing a whole-school approach to building leadership capability.



WAYS OF COMMUNICATING IN 2025: OPEROO, SEESAW & INSTAGRAM



At St. Paul's we use two online platforms to communicate with families - Operoo & SeeSaw. The Operoo platform allows families to provide the school with their children's medical details and to sign permission forms. The Seesaw platform covers important school & year level-specific information, including the newsletter. Instagram is used by the School Community Partnerships Team to profile the school and showcase significant happenings throughout the year.



SUMMER UNIFORM

ALL students should be in their summer uniform by now. The summer uniform must be worn in Term 1 & Term 4. As a SunSmart School, we expect every student to be wearing a broad-brimmed school hat at all time when they are outside. Every student should be wearing school shoes unless it is their timetabled sport or P.E. (Physical Education) day; on those days students may wear runners / sport shoes with their school sports uniform

UNIFORM DONATIONS

If you have any used school uniform items which your children have outgrown and you are no longer using, we would be most grateful if you might consider donating them to the school. They are useful to have on and if a child has an accident and needs a change or for those children who may be without a uniform item due to cost.



CURRICULUM NEWSLETTERS

Curriculum Newsletters will be sent out via See Saw early next week. The newsletters will detail the learning & teaching program at all year levels for Term 1. They are a valuable source of information for families, particularly when children may ask questions or seek help with at home activities for school.

MEDICATION & MEDICAL ACTION PLANS



If your child has a need to take regular medication at school, you must provide the school with their medication and a Medical Action Plan, which will detail medication dosage and times when the medication is to administered; the Medical Action Plan must be filled out and signed by your family doctor. This is essential for conditions such as asthma and severe/life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis); Asthma Action Plans must be provided every year.



PREP 2026: ENROLMENT INFORMATION

Enrolments for Prep 2026 are open. Applying for enrolment needs to happen online on the school website at www.spkealba@spkealba.catholic.edu.au or by using the QR code below. Information Sessions & School Tours will be conducted in March, May, June & August, and can also be booked online on the school website; or alternatively, a school tour can be booked on another date by calling the school office.

2025 SACRAMENT DATES

The sacrament dates for St. Paul's for 2025 are as follows:

- 1st Reconciliation: Thursday March 27, at 12.00 pm in St. Paul's Church, Kealba
- Confirmation: Friday June 13, at 7.00 pm in St. Mary MacKillop Church, Keilor Downs
- 1st Communion: Saturday May 24, at 10.30 am in St. Mary McKillop Church, Keilor Downs



FIRST RECONCILIATION FAMILY EVENING

A First Reconciliation Family Evening will be held for Year 3 Catholic children, who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation, on Tuesday March 18, at 6.30 pm, in the school Hall. The evening will be an opportunity for parents & year 3 Catholic students to come together and learn more about the Sacrament of Reconciliation

SCHOOL FEES



All families must have filled out a 2025 Fee Agreement, detailing their agreed fee payment plan. Fee accounts will be sent out next week and deductions will commence for those families who have requested direct debits or Centre Link payments

WELLBEING NEWS

Welcome Back Everyone!

We will be trialling some new initiatives this year, detailed below:

There will be a dedicated 'Student Achievements In The Community' item at each assembly. If your child has an achievement (such as sporting awards, dance, etc.) which they would like to share with our school, please ask them to see me so we can spend a little time rehearsing what they wish to share.

We will be reintroducing PBL Awards (Positive Behaviour for Learning) each week. These awards will be written by teaching staff and given out in the classrooms by our SRC Representatives. These awards will be for students who display our PBL Always Expectations.

We are also introducing Behaviour Reflection Sheets for students who have chosen not to follow our school expectations. This reflection sheet will be completed by the student in consultation with a staff member, where they will discuss the unexpected behaviour and what an expected behaviour is. This sheet will be sent home for parents or guardians to sign and then send it back to school. Please note, this is a trial initially; at the end of the term staff will provide feedback to see if any changes need to be made. Once this happens, the reflection sheet will be completed as an electronic copy.

Check ins: Each class will have a dedicated check in area where students can plot themselves on how they are feeling each day. This check in of emotions/feelings will assist teachers to better understand how your child is feeling throughout the day.

A reminder for parents/guardians of students in Years 3-6:

We will once again be using the PIVOT platform to gain information regarding your child's social and emotional needs. They will complete a baseline survey and then weekly check ins. PIVOT provides much needed data for our school so that we can meet the needs of our students. For example, last year we found a large number of students having difficulty with sleep so this year we will be having a whole school SLEEP WEEK where we look at ways to promote good sleeping habits.

Student Wellbeing contact: jdelprete@spkealba.catholic.edu.au
Jennifer Del Prete
Student Wel



WHAT'S THE BUZZ AT ST PAUL'S IN TERM ONE

LITERACY TESTING

What a way to start the year!

Thank you to all our students for the way they shared their literacy skills and knowledge with their teachers! We have amazing results and the teachers now know where to take the students in their whole class and small focus groups. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who were able to bring their child / children to testing on time. You made the days run so easily and efficiently! The students have come back very settled and happy to see their friends and teachers.

NAPLAN 2025

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy And Numeracy) is a national annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, in Literacy (English) & Numeracy (Mathematics). It assesses Literacy & Numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and in life. The assessments cover skills in **reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation, and numeracy**. The assessments are undertaken every year. **NAPLAN assessments at St Paul's will take place between March 12th and March 24th**. We wish all our Year 3 and 5 students all the very best during NAPLAN. Our school message to all students is, "We Simply Try Our Best" and that is all we expect.



TERM 1 WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Whole School Assembly takes place every Friday afternoon, commencing at around 2.15 pm. Assembly Prayer is led by a year level; this means that if your child's year level is leading prayer you are invited to attend. An Assembly Prayer Roster will be sent home at the beginning of each term, so you will know when your child's level will be leading the Assembly Prayer.

ASSEMBLY PRAYER ROSTER: TERM 1	
Week 1	No assembly
Week 2	No assembly
Week 3	Year 3/4
Week 4	Year 6
Week 5	School Leaders
Week 6	Year 1/2
Week 7	Prep
Week 8	Year 5
Week 9	School Closure: No Assembly
Week 10	Easter Assembly

If your child is to receive a Principal's Award or a PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) Award, you are also invited to attend the assembly. Your child's teacher will let you know a week in advance if they are to receive an award.

2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

TERM 1: MONDAY JANUARY 29 - THURSDAY MARCH 28

Tuesday January 28: Staff return

Wednesday January 29: Staff First Aid Training

Thursday January 30: Students testing (by appointment)

Friday January 31: Student testing (by appointment)

Monday February 3: Student Testing (by appointment)

Tuesday February 4: Students return (Preps start at 9.30 am)

Wednesday February 5: No Preps / Parent-Teacher Conversations

Thursday February 6: Beginning the School Year Mass

Friday February 7: School Crossing Awareness Day

Tuesday February 11: Safer Internet Day / Prep Information Night (6.30 pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday February 12 - Friday February 14: Year 6 Camp (Lady Northcote Camp, Bacchus Marsh)

Wednesday February 12: Parents Group Annual General Meeting

Friday February 14: Year 3 / 4 Assembly

Wednesday February 19: No Preps

Thursday February 20: Parent Webinar, 'Raising Kids In A Digital World' (7.30 pm-9.00pm)

Friday February 21: Year 6 Assembly / 2025 WELCOME PICNIC (5.00pm-8.00pm)

Wednesday February 26: No Preps / Year 3/ 4 Parent Information Night (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday March 5: No Preps / ASH WEDNESDAY / Year 5 Parent Information Night (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Friday March 7: Year 1 / 2 Assembly

Monday March 10: Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday March 11: Preps begin fulltime

Wednesday March 12 to Monday March 17: NAPLAN

Friday March 14: School Volunteer Workshops (8.30am, & 2.30pm) / Prep Assembly

Tuesday March 18: 1st Reconciliation Family Night (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Thursday March 20: World Harmony Day Mass (9.30 am)

Friday March 21: Year 5 Assembly

Thursday March 27: 1st Reconciliation (12.00pm-1.00pm)

Friday March 28: SCHOOL CLOSURE - Reporting

Tuesday April 1 to Wednesday April 2: School Dental Van

Friday April 4: TERM 1 FINISHES



St Paul's Kealba invites you to our

WELCOME PICNIC

Gather your family, BYO dinner and picnic blanket and join us on the oval for an opportunity to mix with the school community.

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY (WEEK 4)

5.00PM - 8.00PM

ICE CREAM TRUCK & COFFEE VAN WILL BE AVAILABLE

Please note that this is strictly a non-alcoholic event

