



# ST. PAUL'S KEALBA

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## Thursday February 27 2025

Dear Parents & Friends of St. Paul's,

We're halfway there! This week - Week 5 - places us at the halfway mark of Term 1 - a ten week term.

Children and staff have settled well into the routines of learning & teaching, and the school has a positive & enthusiastic feel each day.

All year levels (P-6) have been engaged in 'Learning to Learn' units, where the learning focus has been centred on supporting the children to develop good work habits and routines, to engage with one another in a kind & respectful manner both in the classroom & outside at play and to be independent & organised learners.

Staff have commented on how calm & gentle the children have been since their return; with a special mention made regarding our Year 5 & 6 student leaders and how well they have been supporting & guiding the younger students, particularly their buddies in Prep & Year 1.

I would like to thank you, our parents, guardians & carers, for your support & guidance for the children; what a difference we can & do make in the lives & learning of the children, working together in partnership as teacher-educators & parent educators.

My hope is that we have set the tone for the remainder of the school year, with the children continuing to grow & learn together, in a spirit of cooperation & kindness.

A big shout out to families, staff & the wider St. Paul's family, for everyone's efforts in getting the school year off to a great start!

My thanks to you all!

Denis

**Denis J. Daly**  
Principal

## ARCHBISHOP'S PARISH VISIT

Every four years Archbishop Peter A. Comensolli visits parishes throughout the archdiocese of Melbourne. From Thursday March 27 through to Sunday March 30, Archbishop Comensolli will visit St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Keilor Downs-Kealba. The visit allows the Archbishop to spend time in the parish, meet parishioners, visit schools & churches and get a very good understanding of the parish, its people and its operations. St. Paul's will welcome Archbishop Peter to the school on Friday March 28.



## TERM 1 SCHOOL CLOSURE: CANCELLED

The planned Friday March 28 Term 1 school closure has been cancelled, due to Archbishop Peter Comensolli's parish & school visit.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be taken this year on Monday March 24. Students must be in their full summer uniform; no sports uniform or runners.



## RENOVATION WORKS

Last Thursday saw the completion of the renovation to & handover of Rooms 6, 7 & 8. The builders did a great job with replacing ceilings & windows, installing new joinery & carpets, painting & cleaning. Please take the time to drop in and have a look at the renovation & refurbishment works. The next stage of the works are the Year 1 / 2 classrooms and shared learning space; hence, the need to cordon off a part of the basketball / netball carpark for the builders' work site compound.



# YEAR 6 CAMP

Our Year 6 students spent 2 nights & 3 days on camp, at Lady Northcote YMCA Camp, at Gilford, just outside of Bacchus Marsh. They had a great time and really showed their leadership skills, as well as getting involved in all the camp activities and supporting their classmates throughout the 3 days



## 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](mailto:www.spkealba@spkealba.catholic.edu.au) or by scanning 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.

## WELCOME PICNIC

ALast Friday evening, February 21, we held our Family Welcome Picnic - the first in a very long time! It was a very relaxed and friendly evening for all those families who braved the heat! Thank you to those families who were able to be there; I hope you enjoyed the time together as a St. Paul's 'family'. We will look to making next year's picnic even bigger and better!



# THE 2025 YEAR OF JUBILEE: A SPECIAL TIME FOR CATHOLICS

In 2025, the Church will celebrate a special time called the Year of Jubilee. This is a time when Catholics around the world will focus on forgiveness, helping others, and drawing closer to God. The Year of Jubilee happens every 50 years and is a way to celebrate God's love and mercy. The 2025 Year of Jubilee theme is, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," is about going on a special journey filled with hope and dreams for a better future. A pilgrim as someone who travels to a holy or important place, somewhat like a big adventure with a purpose. In this theme, "pilgrims" are people who are on a journey, not just with their feet, but with their hearts and minds. They are looking for peace, love, and a better world. "Hope" means believing that good things can happen, even if times are tough. So, the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" is about everyone going on a journey together, helping each other, and believing in goodness and hope for a bright and joyful future!



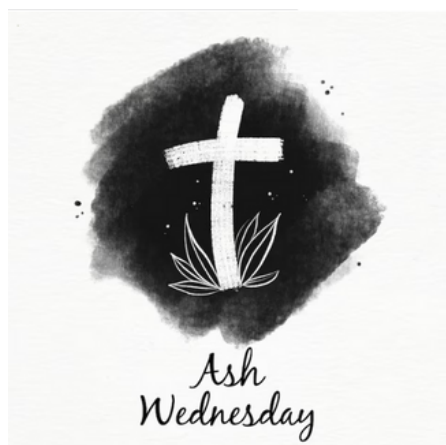
## 2025 SACRAMENT DATES

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 MacKillop 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.



## ASH WEDNESDAY

This year Ash Wednesday is next Wednesday March 5. Ash Wednesday is a very important day in the Catholic Church. It marks the beginning of Lent, a season where we prepare for Easter, which is the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead. On Ash Wednesday, we go to church, and the priest puts ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. These ashes come from the palms that were used the year before for Palm Sunday (the day we remember when people waved palm branches to welcome Jesus). The ashes remind us of something very important: that we are not perfect, and we need to ask Jesus for help to be better. The ashes are also a symbol of repentance. This means saying sorry for the bad things we've done and trying to be kind, loving, and good. It's a way of telling Jesus, "I'm sorry, and I want to be closer to You." Ash Wednesday reminds us that life is short and that we should think about how we can be more like Jesus. During Lent, we try to grow in love and do special things, like praying more, helping others, and making small sacrifices (like giving up candy or something we really like). This helps us get ready to celebrate the joy of Easter when we remember how Jesus died for us and then came back to life! So, Ash Wednesday helps us start this special time of Lent by focusing on being kind, loving, and trying to be more like Jesus.

# WELLBEING NEWS

## **PBL: BEHAVIOUR REFLECTION SHEETS**

As a part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning we have introduced Behaviour Reflection Sheets where students along with their parents/guardians can discuss the unexpected behaviour that occurred and what the expected behaviour should be. Parents/Guardians are asked to sign this form and return to school. Please see the following links for our Behaviour Reflection Sheets.

[Behaviour Reflection Sheet P-2](#)

[Behaviour Reflection Sheet Years 3-6](#)

## **BRIMBANK COUNCIL RESILIENCE SURVEY**

On Monday our students in Years 3-6 completed a survey run by Brimbank Council. There are 17 Primary Schools in Brimbank that take part and more than 4000 schools in Australia. This data will provide insights into how Connected, Respected and Protected our students feel at school and within the community. It will guide our school to ensure our Wellbeing Programs are aligned to the needs of our students.

## **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 be 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.



# LEARNING DIVERSITY



Learning Knows No Bounds

## INTERVENTION AT ST. PAUL'S IN 2025

At St. Paul's we implement a multi-tiered system of support to ensure the needs of all students are identified and met; this support is provided across the domains of health & well-being and behaviour & learning; we call this approach, 'intervention'.

At St. Paul's, the interventions currently planned and in place include:

- Classroom teacher support and instruction: individual and small focus groups in the classroom
- Learning Support Officers support and instruction: individual and small focus groups in the classroom
- Student Wellbeing Leader planning with and supporting teachers and students
- Learning Diversity Leader planning with and supporting teachers, students, parents, guardians & carers
- Literacy Leader planning with and supporting teachers and students
- Maths Leader planning with and supporting teachers and students
- Social & Emotional Groups, inclusive of Dungeons and Dragons for senior students & self-advocacy for our juniors and middle school students
- Mental Health in Primary School Program support for students, through mediation
- Speech Therapist consulting with and supporting speech needs of students and completing Speech & Language Assessments
- Psychologist consulting with and supporting teachers, students, parents, guardians & carers
- MACS Learning Consultants supporting students with diagnosed learning challenges
- MACS Learning Consultants supporting students identified as gifted or talented
- Canine Comprehension program to support students' emotional regulation and to further develop their resilience
- Sensory Pod to support students with sensory input / overload, the need to develop self-regulation skills and to support preparation for social and academic settings.

The Interventions listed above are in place to allow every student to fully flourish.

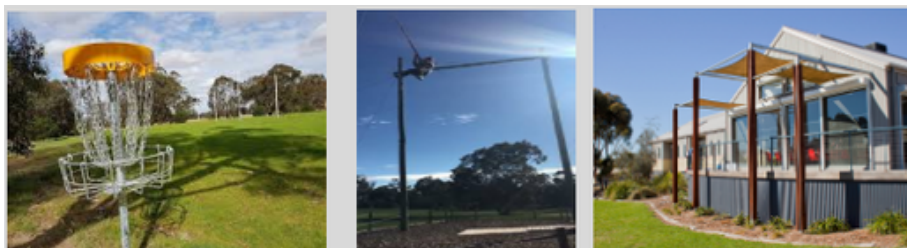
Like Christ we believe in valuing each individual for who they are and who they can be (St. Paul's Essence Statement);

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

## Year 6 Camp

Our Year 6 students and teachers headed to the Lady Northcote Discovery Camp from Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th of February.

The bush adventure camp is located in the picturesque Rowsley Valley in Glenmore. The students were involved in a variety of fun activities including catching yabbies, hut building, low ropes course, frisbee golf, giant swing, pizza making, a night walk and movie night. They came home exhausted but had a wonderful time working together and building friendships.



Find out what some of our Year 6 students thought about camp.

Camp was fun! I loved the giant swing, the Amazing Race and the food. I loved the pasta! (Deanna)

Camp was amazing! I loved the giant swing, the raft building and the Amazing Race. (Rosy)

Camp was fun! I loved the giant swing, the Amazing Race and the kitchen garden. (Annabel)

Camp was awesome! I loved the giant swing, the raft building and the kitchen garden. (Jade)

Camp was fun! I loved raft building, the survival challenge and making pizzas. (Justin T)

Camp was amazing! I loved the giant swing, rafting building and the Amazing Race. (Marseel)

## DATES FOR 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). The assessments cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation, and numeracy.

<b>NAPLAN TIMETABLE FOR OUR YEAR 3 &amp; YEAR 5 STUDENTS:</b>	
<b>WRITING</b>	<i>Wednesday, the 12th of March</i>
<b>READING:</b>	<i>Thursday, the 13th of March</i>
<b>CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE</b> <i>(spelling, grammar and punctuation)</i>	<i>Friday, the 14th of March</i>
<b>NUMERACY</b>	<i>Monday, the 17th of March</i>
<b>NAPLAN CATCH UPS</b>	<i>Wednesday 19th - Thursday 20th March</i> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Good luck to all our NAPLAN students in Year 3 & Year 5!**  
**Remember to just try your best!**

# TERM 1 WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

We have added a new item to our weekly whole school assembly agenda titled, 'Student Achievement In The Community'. This is an opportunity for students at all levels to share with the school community their achievements in the local and / or wider communities. It may be achieving a new belt in Taekwondo, their gymnastics medal or ribbon, a certificate from their Scout Group, etc. The image below is of the first of our young friends who were / are proud of their community and achievements, at last week's assembly. Congratulations kids!



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	No Assembly
Week 10	Easter Assembly



# 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

## 2025 TERM DATES

Term 1: Tuesday January 28 to Friday April 4

Term 2: Tuesday April 22 to Friday July 4

Term 3: Monday July 21 to Friday September 19

Term 4: Monday October 6 to Monday December 15

## 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 full time

Wednesday March 12: Year 6 Parent Information Night

Wednesday March 12 to Monday March 17: NAPLAN for our Year 3 & Year 5 students

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

Tuesday March 18: 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Family Night (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday March 19 & Thursday March 20: NAPLAN Catch Ups

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

Friday March 21: Harmony Day Celebration/special lunch/Dress up/Whole school multicultural Incursions

Friday March 21: Year 5 Assembly

Monday March 24: School Photos

Thursday March 27: 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation (12.00pm-1.00pm)

Friday March 28: Archbishop visiting St Paul's

Tuesday April 1 to Wednesday April 2: School Dental Van

Friday April 4: TERM 1 FINISHES





# VU school holiday sport program

7-11 & 14-17 April 2025

ages 5-12

multi-sport

netball

soccer

dance

basketball

play, swim & craft

AFL

scan for more info



early bird prices  
end March 10!

