



Newsletter

St. Vincent de Paul Primary School
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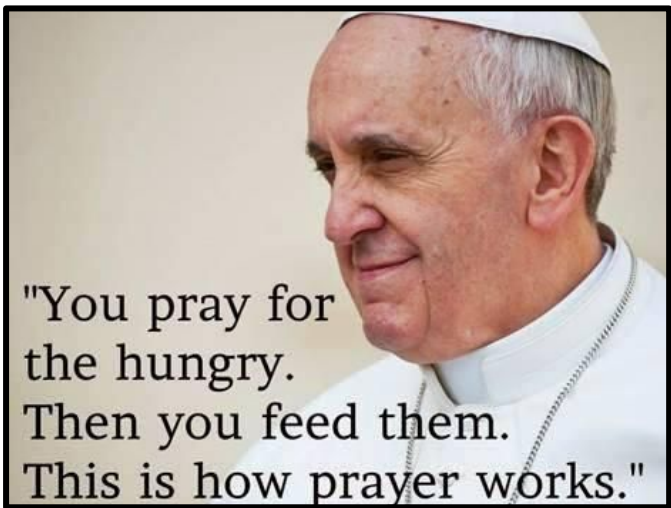
Reflection



What is prayer? Why is it important to pray? To ‘Pray’ means to ‘Communicate’ and in this context it means to ‘communicate with God’. Remember always that communication is two ways – you have to convey your message, but you also have to LISTEN to the other person’s message. One way to build a strong relationship with God is through prayer. Through prayer we can show our love towards God, we can feel joy when we experience God’s love, we can ask God for guidance and we can thank God for the goodness in our lives.

Why did Jesus pray? One reason he prayed was as an example so that we could learn from him. The Gospels are full of references to the prayers of Christ, including these examples:

- “After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.” - Matthew 14:23
- “Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’” - Matthew 26:36
- “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” - Mark 1:35



‘Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.’ John 13:34

Dear Families,

This year our Year 6 Mini Vinnies Leaders have been working towards a way of giving to those most in need. The St. Vincent de Paul Society has requested the donation of winter apparel to give to people most in need this winter and we felt that this would be a great way for our school to contribute.

We are asking families to donate **ONE** item per family from the list below:

- Gloves (children and adult sizes)
- Scarves (children and adult sizes)
- Beanies (children and adult sizes)
- Flannelette PJs (children and adult sizes)
- Women’s PJs
- Socks (children and adult sizes)
- Children’s slippers
- Adult/Children’s jackets

It would be great if all of these items were new items.

It would be very much appreciated if your donation could be brought to school by **Monday 8th August**.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs. Petrie and The Mini Vinnie’s Leaders

Principal: Shane Byrne
Email: principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Rev Anthony J Doran
Email: strathmore@cam.org.au
Website: www.cam.org.au/strathmore

PRESBYTERY
2 The Crossway
Strathmore 3041
Telephone: 9412 8460
Fax: 9379 1574

Principal’s Message

After a number of delays it was terrific to see work on the replacement of the Woodland Street wall begin last week. The demolition is progressing well and should take a another week to complete before foundations for the wall begin to be created. Thank you to everyone who has been able to adapt to the new drop off and pick up arrangements which operate as part of our traffic management plan. The first day of its implementation saw its challenges, with the roadworks that VicRoads are currently involved in with Woodland Street resulting in side road closures. The school was unaware that the side roads would be closed.

To help with the smooth flow of traffic at drop off and pick up we ask that children who are exiting cars have their bags with them rather than collecting them from the car boot. This delay, although small, can have the impact of banking up traffic. We would encourage parents to use the Senior Yard drop off/pick up area because it is less congested.

We again thank you for your understanding, patience and cooperation as we ensure the safety of all in our community. Below are some images of the work.



ILLNESSES

Since the children have returned this term the school has been impacted by COVID and the flu, which is reflective of what is happening in the wider community. Our data shows that we have had more children and staff away due to COVID in the first couple of weeks in Term 3 than what the school had for the entire Term 2. This is creating challenges for staffing with casual relief teachers also being in demand and not available in the numbers we require. Therefore, other staff, including intervention teachers, specialist teachers and members of the School Improvement Team have been, and will continue to be used to cover some of the classes when required. This may mean that some of these programs will not operate as they usually would. At times classes may also need to be split when staff are not available. We are trying to minimise the impact to the children so as to continue onsite learning. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

ASSEMBLIES

As a result of the increase in COVID cases the school has decided to move the assemblies to online for Term 3 only. A link for the assembly will be sent via the Skoolbag app to families.

FIRST COMMUNION INFORMATION NIGHT

Last Thursday children preparing for the sacrament of Holy Communion, together with their parents, were involved in an information evening in preparation for this important step in the children’s faith development. Thank you to all those who were part of this evening and to our staff Laura Petrie, Michelle O’Rourke, Nathan Zucarelli and Steph Veltre for facilitating the session.



THE WORK THE CATHOLIC CHURCH DO IN AUSTRALIA

Last week I attended the second half of a professional learning course in Brisbane with many presenters who were experts in their fields. The areas which were explored in the workshops included:

- Responsible Stewardship
- Building a Culture of Safety and Wellbeing
- Building a Culture of Performance

One of the presenters was Fr. Richard Leonard who discussed the importance of the role everyone plays in continuing the good work of the Catholic Church as stewards of the church. He talked about the current role of the Church and what it achieves. Some of the facts he presented included

- the Catholic Church is the 3rd largest employer in Australia employing 221,000 people of which 75% are women
- they provide 10,500 hospital beds, 25,000 aged care places and 7,000 retirement and independent living units
- the Catholic Church is the largest welfare provider outside Government, providing care for 1 million clients in 2021
- Caritas Australia raised \$34 million for the poor in 2021
- Catholic Mission raised \$15 million for the poor in 2021
- Australian Catholic University is the fastest growing national university producing the largest number of teaching and nursing graduates
- St. Vincent de Paul Society is the largest and most extensive volunteer welfare network in the country with 18,209 members and 30,910 volunteers

It is important that we are all aware of the support the catholic Church is providing people in our communities across Australia and the world. It is also important that we encourage members of our community to continue this work in support of others.

Principal's Message (Cont.)

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools
– School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS):
Monday 29 August – Friday 16 September 2022



Throughout each year, we pause to listen to our students, families and staff to gauge how our learning community is travelling. This feedback is invaluable to our progress as effective school communities and is backed by evidence-based research and best practices.

A significant and formal way in which we engage and gather data is through MACSSIS, the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys.

MACSSIS is a set of surveys that have been built specifically for Catholic schools in Melbourne by the Learning Services team at MACS, in partnership with researchers at Learning First and in wide consultation with principals in our schools.

In 2022, students, families and staff are invited to participate in MACSSIS via our secure and purpose-built online platform. The online platform is where our school leaders will access the summary reports that visualise the results of the student, family and staff surveys.

The MACSSIS survey platform is operated by an independent supplier, ORIMA Research Pty Ltd. The platform meets with the high security and privacy standards for handling student and school data. Participating schools are in the process of updating their privacy policy to ensure school communities are fully informed and protected.

Students at our school will be provided with supervised sessions, where teachers are on hand to help and answer any questions. Families and staff can complete the survey anytime over the three-week window via an emailed link and password. Feedback has indicated that previous surveys were completed across a range of mobile devices and different web browsers. Schools will be providing more information about MACSSIS throughout the term.

Our community’s opinions are critical to understanding how our school is performing – MACSSIS is a key data source for guiding the ongoing work to improve our school. All participation is invited, welcomed and 100 per cent voluntary. The surveys are not a test; they are an inclusive way to support the work we are already doing to improve our school. Everyone has the right to refuse to participate, or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during or after completion of the survey. Please notify the school if your child does not wish to participate. If you would like more information, please contact the school.

Shane Byrne
PRINCIPAL

Worry Dolls

*I'm your little worry doll
Keep me by your side
When worries pop into your head
Don't let the tears slide
I will always listen
I'm here right next to you
Tell me how your feeling
No need to feel so blue
Tell me all your secrets
And things you love to do
I'm your little worry friend
Let me comfort you*



All of us worry, it is completely natural and normal, and our children are no different. We mustn’t underestimate the impact of the last two years and how our children have lived through extraordinary times. It is completely understandable that everyday events are causing children to worry as they have been safe at home with you for such a long time.

One resource that I have found incredibly helpful is worry dolls. Worry dolls are a beautiful idea that originated in South America. The classic way of using them is children putting them under their pillow at night, to take their worries away. However, there are lots more ways of using them than that, and they are a fantastic tool for alleviating stress and anxiety in children.



The idea of a worry doll is that it is some kind of small figure that you tell your worries to. The doll then absorbs this worry. This is not teaching children that worries and anxiety do not exist. Quite the opposite! This process helps children to manage their worries, and helps them to vocalise them. In many ways, it works in the same way as psychotherapy. By talking about our worries, we learn how to process and manage them. There has been research carried out that has concluded positive findings in linking a release of worry in children to talking through and accepting what we are worried about.

Worry dolls are readily available to purchase at many retailers but a great way to gain benefit from them is for children to make them themselves.

There are many mindful meditations that involve sending your worries away on a boat or on a journey. This is another way to use worry dolls, by physically placing the doll on a small boat and pushing it across a water tray or bath tub. Children can also write a letter about their worry or draw a picture about it. They then give this letter or picture to the dolls.

As you can see, there are lots of ways to use worry dolls and any strategy that makes them feel more in control or balanced is worth a try. Click on the link below for some instructions on how to make a worry doll.

<https://happyhooligans.ca/homemade-worry-dolls/>

Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Rebecca Glenton

The Resilience Project

One of the main elements of The Resilience Project is GEM. With the current illness rate increasing and the uncertainty of what another COVID wave will bring, it is important for us to stop and pay attention to what we are doing while we are doing it.

The latest copy of Project X from The Resilience Project contains information for parents and carers about mindfulness practice, mindfulness activities and information about online safety from the eSafety Commissioner. The family tech agreements are a great tool to use together as a family. [The copy of the article can be found here.](#)

In addition to this, you might be interested in the following events that are happening in the Term 3 holidays. Tickets are on sale for The Resilience Project Kids Show Tour with Martin Heppell. The show will continue to support student mental health with the first ever high energy kids show tour around Victoria. ‘3 Happy Tricks’ with Martin Heppell. Tour tickets are available now, and you can catch us in the Term 3 school holidays in [Frankston](#), [Moonee Ponds](#), [Narre Warren](#), [Shepparton](#) & [Wodonga](#). [More information can be found here.](#)



Enrolments Guide

To assist your decision making in relation to your child's education for 2023 and beyond, please find below a link to the 2022 edition of the Enrolments Guide.

CLICK HERE:
<https://victoriaschoolguides.starcommunity.com.au/enrolments-guide/>



Term 3, 2022 School Fees

A reminder that Term 3 school fees are due on **Friday 12th August**.

If you have any concerns about your financial situation and are experiencing hardship, please contact Mr Shane Byrne (principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au), so that a confidential financial arrangement can be discussed.

Skoolbag App Reminder

The SkoolBag App is one of the main methods of communication from the school to parents. Could all parents please ensure that they have downloaded the app and selected their child's new year level group for 2022 on the Skoolbag app. You will find the year level groups in the school Groups tab of the app.



How to get started

- Download SkoolBag**
From your phone, navigate to the [Apple App Store](#) (iPhone users) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android users) and search for "SkoolBag: School Communication" to download the free app.
- Create an account**
Open the app and follow the prompts to set up your account. You'll need your email to get started.
- Add our school**
Click on the **ADD/REMOVE** icon to search for the organisation by name and press enter. Tap the plus icon to subscribe to the school.
- Enable notifications**
You'll be prompted to allow SkoolBag to send you notifications. Ensure you select **allow** so you don't miss any crucial information!
- Subscribe to Groups**
Click on our logo to navigate to our profile page. Click on the Groups tab to find and select the required groups to receive news as a member of that group.

Awards

Please find listed below the names of those students receiving awards at the [online](#) assembly on **FRIDAY 5th August**.



PREP BLUE	Sienna Atkinson Luca Gervasi	THREE BLUE	Xavier Leahy Nikala Martin
PREP GOLD	River Armstrong Jessica Nfila	THREE GOLD	Haythi Shein Levi Watts
PREP GREEN	Joshua Barkho William Forcone	FOUR BLUE	An Nguyen Xavier Menon
ONE BLUE	Olivia Scerri Annie Neal	FOUR GOLD	Marli Harris Joseph Karamicov
ONE GOLD	Willow Johnson Renae Regio	FIVE BLUE	Ky Hosford Olivia Zammit
ONE GREEN	Alexia Abela Adrian Caruso	FIVE GOLD	Jamison Morrell Alba Kheir
TWO BLUE	Ruben Trimboli James Saghir	SIX BLUE	Alessandro La Vita Micah Samaha
TWO GOLD	Xavier Drill James Laverde	SIX GOLD	Emily McKnight Thomas Freeman
TWO GREEN	Tahlia Piccolo Lucas Mangano		

St Columba’s College - Enrolment Year 7 2024

Year 7
2024



Applications for
enrolment close
19 August 2022
columba.vic.edu.au



St Columba's
College

125 YEARS
— GOING TO THE MARGINS —

AN INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC GIRLS' SCHOOL | YEARS 7-12
2 LESLIE ROAD, ESSENDON VICTORIA 3040 | P 03 9337 5311

Important Dates

JULY 2022						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Term 3 Commences	12	13	14	15 Prep Parent's Night Out	16 Year 1 Parent's Night Out	17
18 PA Meeting 7:30pm Fete Meeting	19	20 Year 6 Gold Mass	21 First Communion Info Evening 7:30pm - ONLINE	22 Assembly - Yr 6	23 Year 4 Family Mass 6pm	24 Year 4 Family Mass 9:30am
25	26	27 Year 6 Blue Mass School Advisory Council Meeting	28	29 Prep 100 Days of School School Disco - POSTPONED TO 7TH OCT	30	31

AUGUST 2022						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3 Year 5 Gold Mass	4	5 Assembly - Yr 5	6	7
8	9	10 Year 5 Blue Mass	11 Hot Food Day Wonders of Living - Yr 6 ONLINE	12 Term 3 School Fees Due	13 Holy Communion Mass 6pm	14 Holy Communion Mass 9:30am
15 PA Meeting 7:30pm	16	17	18	19 Assembly - Yr 4	20 Holy Communion Mass 6pm	21 Holy Communion Mass 9:30am
22	23	24 Year 4 Gold Mass	25 School Closure Day	26 Book Week Parade	27	28
29 Fathers Day Stall	30 School Concert Night 1 - 7:30pm	31 School Concert Night 2 - 7:30pm				

SEPTEMBER 2022						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2 Fathers Day Breakfast Assembly - Yr 3	3	4 Father's Day
5 School Closure Day	6	7 Year 5 Camp Year 4 Blue Mass	8 Year 5 Camp	9 Year 5 Camp	10	11
12	13	14 Year 3 Gold Mass	15 Footy Colours Day	16 Last Day of Term 3 1:30pm finish	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



BASKETBALL PROGRAM AT THEIRCARE

I am pleased to report that the children are really enjoying The Titans Basketball Program at Theircare. We still have two more weeks until the program will conclude on the 8th of August, this program is run at after school care on Monday's from 4:00pm – 4:45pm.

The TC Titans is an exciting program designed to build skills and confidence for the children in our care at no added cost!

Simply book your child into after school care on these dates for your child to participate. Book now at <https://theircare.com.au/>

PUPIL FREE DAYS - THURSDAY 25TH AUGUST & MONDAY 5TH SEPT

Theircare will be running pupil free days **on Thursday the 25th of August and Monday the 5th of September** in the hall as per normal BSC and ASC sessions. You will be able to drop off and pick up your child/children anytime between 7am-6pm. Bookings are now open and if parents/guardians could please book ASAP to organise staffing accordingly that would be greatly appreciated.

A friendly reminder to ensure bookings for BSC and ASC are made **well in advance** as numbers are dramatically increasing. This will help staffing as there is an increase of educator shortage in the childhood education sector. If we cannot staff accordingly, we may have to cancel late bookings and cap sessions.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Kirsten on 0474 007 664.

Have a great week 😊

Kirsten & Lisa