



# Newsletter

**St. Vincent de Paul Primary School**  
Principal: Shane Byrne  
A: 94-112 Woodland St, Strathmore  
E: [info@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au)  
P: 9379 5723 F: 9374 2389  
W: [www.strathmore.catholic.edu.au](http://www.strathmore.catholic.edu.au)



## Reflection



### 1st Sunday of Advent



This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. Jesus warns his disciples to be vigilant, to stay awake. This is not just a call for the disciples of Jesus' time but for us today. Life is full of unpredictable events, both tragic and joyful.

#### Gospel - Mark 13:33-37

If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

#### Reflection on the Gospel reading:

At times, we can be impatient with God's plan. We wander. We choose our own plans instead. God is faithful though. He calls us to return to Him. God's plan is not about getting what we want. It is about God restoring the whole world to himself. In our lives we will experience events which we don't understand.

There will be senseless tragedies and undeserved triumphs. We must be vigilant and ready for those, especially for trials and difficulties. There are always uncertainties in life. We must be ready at all times to serve Christ when we encounter the Lord in our daily lives.

#### Mass readings for the 1st Sunday of Advent:

- First Reading – Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7: "No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him."
- Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 80: "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."
- Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9: "He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- Gospel – Mark 13:33-37: "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at dawn, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping."

#### Reflection Questions for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year B

- How can I use the good things in my life to serve others?
- When are some times when I had to lean on others and let them be Christ for me?
- What can I do to be more prepared to serve God in the ups and downs of life?



**Principal:** Shane Byrne  
**Email:** [principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au)

**Parish Priest:** Rev Anthony J Doran  
**Email:** [strathmore@cam.org.au](mailto:strathmore@cam.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.cam.org.au/strathmore](http://www.cam.org.au/strathmore)

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



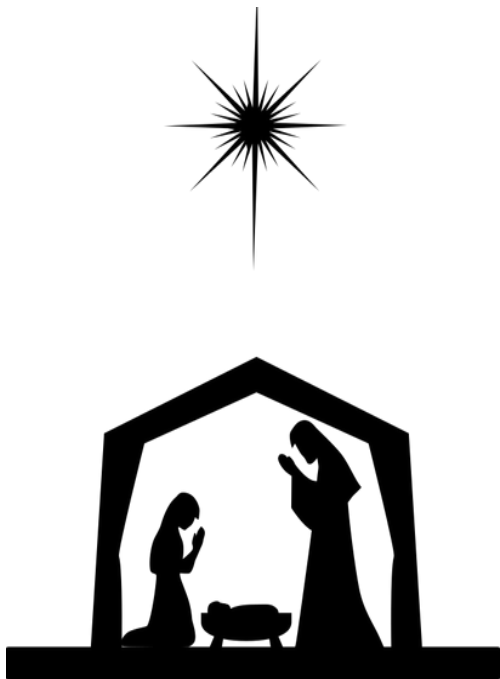
Principal’s Message

STAFFING 2024

With the changes to staffing which I have outlined in previous newsletters, we are pleased to announce that Sonia Di Cosmo and Grace Harrington will be joining the staff in 2024. At the end of last year Sonia accepted a position at a school closer to home after teaching at St. Vincent’s for 5 years. We are delighted she is returning to the school as a classroom teacher. Grace will be working as a Learning Support Officer and is currently studying teaching at ACU. She is also a past pupil of St. Vincent’s and we welcome her back to the school.

NATIVITY PLAY

On Tuesday December 12 the Prep children will be presenting the Nativity Story in the Church. There will be 2 sessions - the first beginning at 11:45am and the second beginning at 12:30pm. Parents are invited to attend this important event which recounts the events leading up to the first Christmas.



WHOLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Last Thursday the children participated in the Athletics Carnival at Aberfeldie. The weather was perfect and the children participated with great enthusiasm and energy. Thank you to all the parents and staff who helped out on the day to make it such a successful event. A special thanks to Michelle Graham who made the day run so seamlessly because of the work she had put into preparing the children. Congratulations to Walsh Team for winning the Team Spirit Award and to Donovan for winning the overall points award.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

At the final School Advisory Council meeting, four council members were appointed after submitting their Expressions of Interest to be part of the council. We welcome Deb Nolan and Lachlan Hastings to the council for the first time and look forward to them sharing their talents and knowledge with the council. Leeanne Sands and Maree Mendola will also continue on the council after being reappointed for another 2 years. Georgia Peel and Joe Grgic have decided not to renominate. We would also like to thank both Georgia and Joe for their contribution to the council over the long period they have been a part of it. Their knowledge and expertise has contributed significantly to what the council has been able to achieve during their tenure.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION YEAR LEVEL REPS

In preparation for 2024 the school is asking for parent volunteers to be Parents Rep on the Parents Association for 2024. The Parents Association plays such an important role in our school community and the success of events is dependent on the volunteers and the role that the Parents Reps play is vital.

TRANSITION DAY

On Wednesday December 13, children will meet their 2024 classroom teacher. Details will be sent home about the classroom teachers for 2024 on the same day.

SCHOOL PICNIC

Our school picnic will take place on Thursday December 14. Children will walk to Woodlands Park and be involved in a number of activities on the day. Parents are welcome to attend and each class is looking for volunteers to walk down to the park with the children. If you are able to volunteer we ask that you indicate this on your child’s online excursion consent form.

FINAL ASSEMBLY

The Final Assembly for the year will be held at 12 noon on Friday December 15 in the hall. This will be an opportunity to farewell our graduating Year 6 children and other families who are leaving the school.

REPORTS

The Student Reports will be available to access through the Parent Portal on Wednesday December 13. The teachers have been very busy collating data and identifying achievement levels of all students. This involves taking data from standardised testing including PAT-Maths and PAT-Reading, Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessment and Essential Assessment. The teachers also use pre and post data from units covered as well as anecdotal notes recorded throughout the semester. This extensive data is combined to give an accurate assessment of each child’s level of learning. Details have recently been sent to parents via the Audiri app to explain how to access the Parent Portal.

BEGINNING OF 2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Next year the school will again begin the year with testing children on their understanding of Mathematics. The Maths Online Interview (MOI) was completed at the beginning of this school year and provided important information on each student’s strengths and challenges in this curriculum area. This testing will be conducted on Tuesday January 30 & Wednesday January 31 for all children in Years 1-6. Therefore, for children in Years 1-6, the first day of school will be Thursday, February 1. Details of how to book your child in for testing on the Tuesday and Wednesday will be provided in coming newsletters. It is important that children are available for this testing as it guides the teaching and goal setting for each and every student. Prep children will begin school on Tuesday January 30. Testing for the Prep children will take place on Wednesdays during the month of February.

CLOSURE DAY

A reminder that Wednesday December 6 is a closure day with staff involved in planning for the 2024 school year.

Shane Byrne  
PRINCIPAL

“St Vincent de Paul School empowers students to become lifelong learners facing life with faith, hope, humility and resilience.”



St Vincent’s Christmas Appeal - Last Day Tomorrow

As a school community, we will be supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal.

We are hoping that each family will consider donating ONE item per family from the following list:

- Board games

- Dolls/figurines

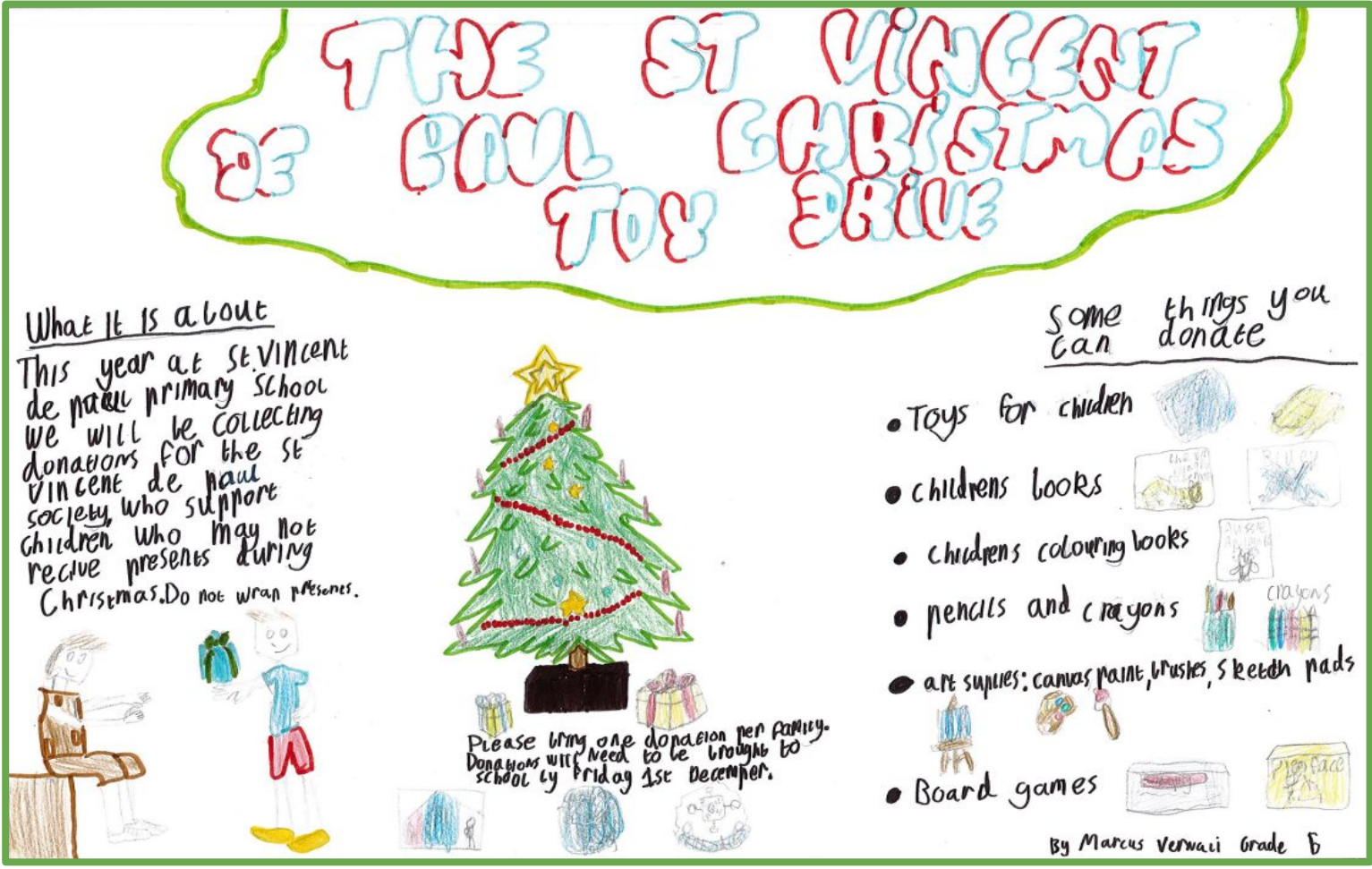
- Colouring books & textas

- Lego

- Children’s books

**Please note that donated items must be unwrapped and new items. Please donate these items between Monday 6th November and Friday 1st December to your child’s classroom.**

The items will be collected and donated to the St. Vincent de Paul society. Thank you for your support of this important initiative.



2024 Sacramental Dates

Year 3 Reconciliation

- Parent Information Evening:
  - 7:00pm Wednesday 28th February
- Year 3 Family Mass:
  - 6:00pm Saturday 2nd March
- Sacrament of Reconciliation:
  - 3:45pm - 5:30pm Tuesday 5th March
  - 3:45pm - 5:30pm Thursday 7th March



Year 6 Confirmation

- Parent Information Evening:
  - 7:00pm Thursday 2nd May
- Year 6 and Prep Family Mass:
  - 6:00pm Saturday 4th May
- Sacrament of Confirmation Masses:
  - 10:00am and 12:00noon Saturday 1st June

Year 4 First Holy Communion

- Parent Information Evening:
  - 7:00pm Thursday 22nd August
- Year 4 and Year 1 Family Mass:
  - 6:00pm Saturday 24th August
- Sacrament of First Holy Communion Masses:
  - 6:00pm Saturday 12th October
  - 9:30am Sunday 13th October
  - 6:00pm Saturday 19th October
  - 9:30am Sunday 20th October

Transitions

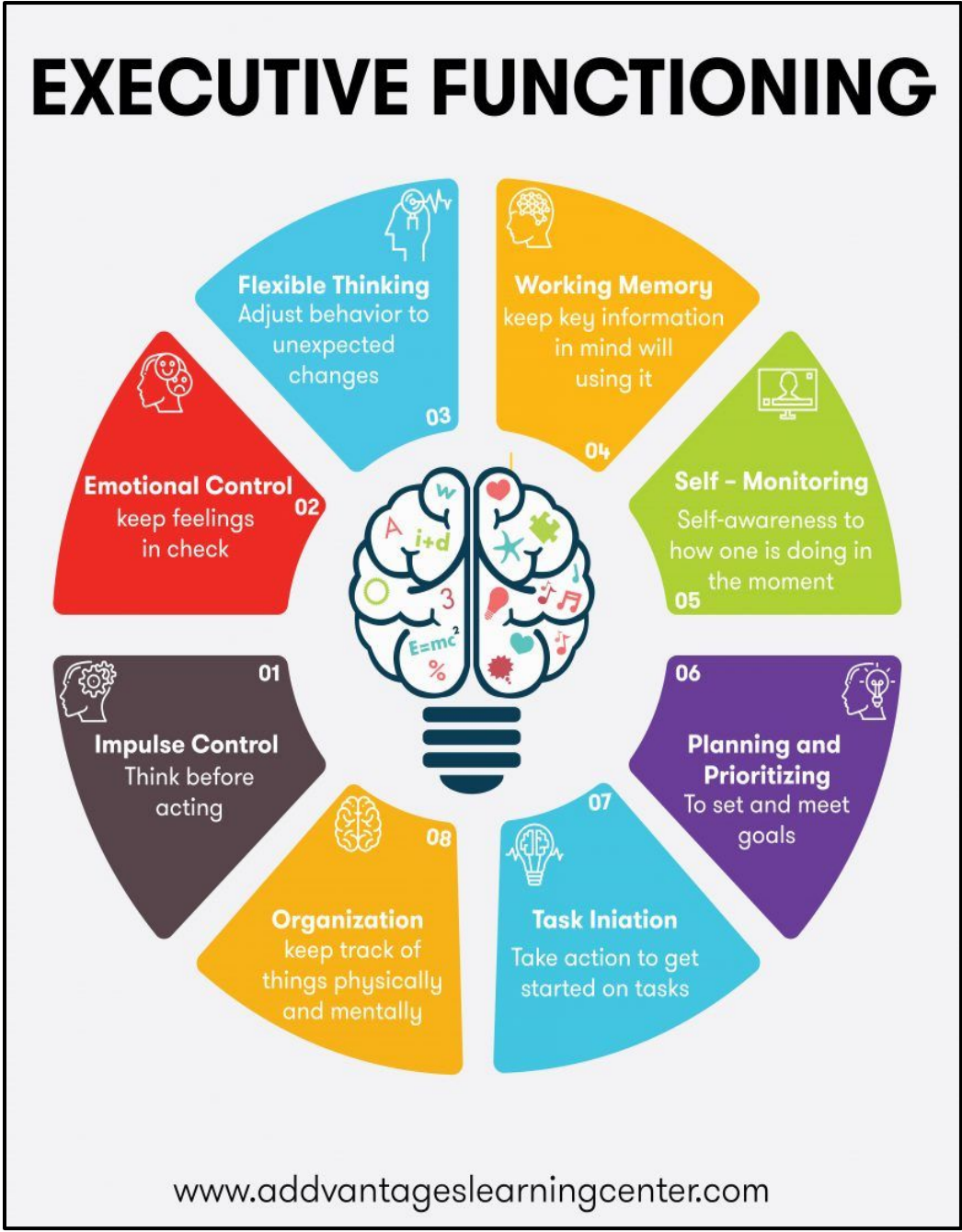
Each and every day, all of us experience many transitions. From home to school, bell times, moving from one class to the next, school to home, changes to a TV program, having visitors and bed time are just a few. Some people find transitions more challenging than others and transitions may appear more difficult on some days or in some places due to other pressure and expectations. Each young person will cope with transitions and change in different ways and some transitions will require more detailed planning than others.

With the transition of 2024 approaching, I thought I would offer some advice to ensure a smooth process.

Executive functioning can have an impact on how a young person copes with changes and transitions and we can teach executive functioning skills to our students.

Executive functioning skills are performed by our brain and help us to control and manage our thoughts and actions.

Teaching executive functioning skills includes showing children how to use a planner, helping them to create checklists for everyday tasks, setting time limits, establishing a routine and using a reward system.



To enable a smooth transition, the following steps can help to ease any worries your child might have:

- Take a photo of the new environment, the people who will be there and the activities they may be asked to do
- Use a diary or calendar to countdown the days/weeks leading up to the change
- Meet up with other students in the class over the break
- Wake up slightly earlier on the days leading up to the first day to avoid rushing
- Wear in any new shoes in the days leading up to the first day
- Use visual aids at home to support organisation
- Use social stories to talk about the first day
- Practice the school routine beforehand
- Practice packing lunchbox

If you require any support in the lead up to the new school year, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Rebecca Glenton  
Learning Diversity and  
Student Wellbeing Leader





Athletics Carnival



2024 Term Dates

TERM 1

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January (Prep)  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February (Yr 1–Yr 6) – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
(Note: Easter 29<sup>th</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> April)

TERM 2

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June  
(Note: ANZAC Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April)

TERM 3

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

TERM 4

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Term 1, 2024 School Closure Day

- Wednesday 6th March
- Tuesday 20th August
- Monday 4th November

Year 2 Swimming Program

**Lily B:** I really enjoyed the swimming lessons because we got to do freestyle and dive into the pool!

**Lucy and Keira R:** The Grade 2s had swimming lessons every day for a week in Week 7. It was sooooo much fun because we got to learn how to do freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and dolphin kicks. We even got to practice different dives and play games in the water. The swim teachers at Windy Hill were really nice and we loved it!

**Jacob S:** I really enjoyed going swimming at Windy Hill. My favourite part was learning how to dive into the water and I loved learning freestyle.

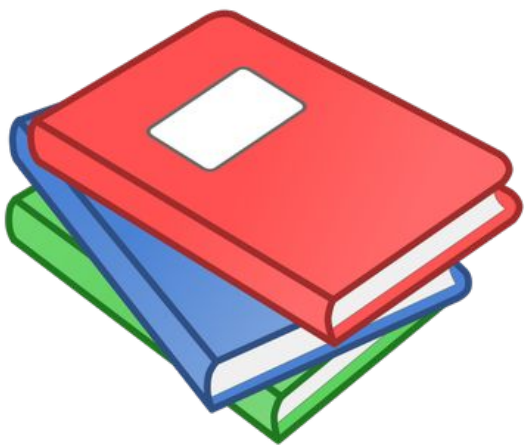


Reminder to Download Reports & Portfolios

Parents of students who are leaving the school are reminded to download and archive reports and portfolios (ie from nForma and SeeSaw) before the end of the year while there is still access to these documents.  
Access will not be available in 2024.

Library Books and Take Home Readers

Please ensure that all school library books and take home readers are returned before the last day of school.  
Thankyou



Lost Property Cupboard

The lost property cupboard is overflowing and a lot of the items are unnamed making it difficult to return to the owner. Please ensure that all items are labelled with your child’s name (including clothing, food containers, drink bottles etc). Anything unclaimed by the end of term will be donated or thrown out.





2024 Booklist - Items from Home

Please note that the 2024 booklist items have been purchased in bulk, through Campion, as communicated to parents earlier this year. Therefore, please see the list below for items to be purchased or retained from the previous year. These items are to be brought to school on the first day of school next year. Please also note that items, such as tissue boxes, will now be provided by the school.

Year Level	Items to bring from home
Prep, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Waterproof art smock (labelled)</li><li>1 soft pencil case (labelled)</li><li>(Library bags will be provided by the school)</li></ul>
Year 1, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 large pencil case</li><li>Blue folder (retain from previous year)</li><li>Headphones (retain from previous year)</li><li>Art smock (retain from previous year)</li><li>Library bag (retain from previous year)</li></ul>
Year 2, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 large pencil case</li><li>Blue folder (retain from previous year)</li><li>Headphones (retain from previous year)</li><li>Art smock (retain from previous year)</li><li>Library bag (retain from previous year)</li></ul>
Year 3, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 large pencil case</li><li>Blue folder (retain from last year)</li><li>Headphones (retain from last year)</li><li>Art smock (retain from previous year)</li><li>Library bag (retain from previous year)</li></ul>
Year 4, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 large pencil case</li><li>Headphones (retain from last year)</li><li>Art smock (retain from previous year)</li><li>Library bag (retain from previous year)</li><li>Australian Children’s Mass book (retain from previous year)</li></ul>
Year 5, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 large pencil case</li><li>Art smock (retain from previous year)</li><li>Library bag (retain from previous year)</li><li>Australian Children’s Mass book (retain from previous year)</li><li>Protractor (retain from previous year)</li></ul>
Year 6, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 large pencil case</li><li>Art smock (retain from previous year)</li><li>Headphones (retain from previous year)</li><li>Australian Children’s Mass Book (retain from previous year)</li></ul>



St Bernards Junior Football Club



# GIRLS FOOTBALL IS RETURNING TO ST BERNARDS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB IN 2024!

**GIRLS WE WANT YOU!**

U/10, U/12, U/14 AND U/16 GIRLS TEAMS

NUMBERS ARE GROWING!

BE PART OF THE BERNIES FAMILY & THE NEXT GENERATION OF INSPIRING FEMALE FOOTY STARS #FOREVERSTRONG

CONTACT JO HARDWICK : [GIRLSFOOTY@STBERNARDSFC.COM.AU](mailto:GIRLSFOOTY@STBERNARDSFC.COM.AU)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS TO STAY UP TO DATE ABOUT CLUB NEWS, INCLUDING GIRLS PRE-SEASON TRAINING SESSIONS

 St Bernards Junior Football Club

 @stbernardsjfc



Christmas Carols in Napier Park

# 31st Annual Street Party & Christmas Carols in Napier Park

DATE

Saturday 16th December, 2023

TIME

7.30 pm

LOCATION

Noble Avenue side of Napier Park



**Everyone is welcome to come along, meet your neighbours and share in this wonderful community event!**

**Come early & bring along a seat, food, drink & torches!**

Please note: Noble Avenue will be closed to traffic between Glenbervie Ave & Bruce St during the evening.

This event has been coordinated by the *Friends of Napier Park*, in conjunction with some dedicated local musicians and singers.

The flyers and programs have been printed courtesy of your local Federal Member of Parliament, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, and the event could not have been held without the generous financial support of your local Community Bank. Our flyers were designed by local business, That Design Lady.

Proudly Sponsored By

Strathmore Community Bank\* Branch

 Bendigo Bank

St Columba’s College - 2024 Tours

# Term 1 2024 Tour Dates Now Open

Visit [www.columba.vic.edu.au](http://www.columba.vic.edu.au) to book your St Columba’s College tour today

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Important Dates

NOVEMBER 2023						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 Year 2 Green Mass	2 Music Soiree	3 Zooper Dooper Day	4	5
6 School Closure Day	7 Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday	8 Year 1 Gold Mass Prep 2024 Information Evening	9 Whole School Athletics Day - Postponed to 23 Nov	10 Zooper Dooper Day Prep Assembly Nominations for School Advisory Council CLOSE	11 Remembrance Day	12
13	14	15 Year 1 Blue Mass Parents Association AGM	16 Prep 2024 Orientation School Advisory Council Meeting	17 Zooper Dooper Day	18 Year 2 and Year 5 Family Mass - 6pm	19
20	21	22 Prep 2024 Orientation Year 1 Green Mass	23 Whole School Athletics Day	24 Zooper Dooper Day GEMS Assembly Parents Night Out 7pm	25	26
27	29	29 Prep Mass	30 Christmas Carols 6pm - 7:45pm			

DECEMBER 2023						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1 Zooper Dooper Day	2	3
4	5 Prep 2024 Orientation	6 School Closure Day	7 Graduation Ceremony & Dinner	8 Zooper Dooper Day	9	10
11	12 Nativity Play 11:45am & 12:30pm	13 Transition Day 2024	14 School Picnic	15 End of Year School Mass 10am Year 6 Assembly 12:00 noon Last Day of Term 4 1:30pm finish	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2024						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Australia Day	27	28
29	30 Preps only begin school Yr1-Yr6 - Testing Day	31 Preps only at school Yr1-Yr6 - Testing Day				