



Newsletter

St. Vincent de Paul Primary School

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Reflection

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years...

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believes that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wants everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39)—can breathe life back into weary souls.

This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5).

The 40 days of Lent correspond to Jesus' own 40 days spent in the desert. On this First Sunday of Lent the gospel speaks of the temptations of Jesus in the desert. Forty is a significant number in Scripture and usually means a necessary and not-so-comfortable prelude to something new. For Jesus, it was a period of preparation for his coming mission, one which would be governed by the law of the Spirit rather than a law chiselled in stone. By preaching a message that was so different, Jesus was making things very uncomfortable for many. Perhaps this includes us too!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for 40 days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone".' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him".'

The Church provides Lent almost like an annual retreat, a time for deepening the understanding of our Christian faith, a time for reflection and renewal, a time to make a fresh start. Jesus was tempted in the desert, but He remained true and faithful to God.

Let us pray:

Loving God, help us to welcome your call to live as you have taught us to live. Open our hearts to be more loving, caring and accepting of others. Pope Francis tells us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again." Let us go forth from here sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.



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Principal's Message

Last Tuesday and Thursday the children in Year 3 celebrated the Sacrament of Penance-The Rite of Reconciliation for the first time. The children had been well prepared by their teachers, families and our parish priests so they could come to an understanding of the significance of the sacrament. Thank you to Ms Spiller, Mrs Rahill, Mrs Caven, Ms Lewis, Mrs Petrie, Ms Glenton, Fr Tony and Fr. Gerard for their support of the children in their faith journey.

TRAFFIC

As I communicated last week, one of our students was struck by a car while crossing Woodland Street. This was a result of congestion caused by adults failing to abide by the expectations when picking up in the pink zone. The following day we still had adults double parking and beckoning children to enter their cars whilst weaving through moving vehicles. We also had other parents who left their car unattended to enter the yard to pick up their children. These occurred in the very same week the child was struck, despite the school's request to follow the expectations which are outlined on the street signs. The police will be fining those people who choose to put other children's lives at risk. Thank you to the majority of parents who consistently follow the processes that are in place.

THE SCIENCE OF READING

The Monday before last the staff worked with Dr Lorraine Hammond from Western Australia's Notre Dame University. Lorraine is an expert in teaching reading and she shared her expertise in the field from decades of research. The Science of Reading refers to a body of research from multiple fields - including cognitive psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, and education - that examines how people learn to read, what processes are involved, and what instructional methods are most effective. It draws from decades of studies that investigate how the brain processes written language, how reading skills develop, and what types of teaching strategies best support literacy development for all learners. Lorraine explained the research into the Science of Reading which affirmed the importance of the Explicit Direct Instruction the school has adopted as part of our change in pedagogical approach.

EXPLICIT DIRECT INSTRUCTION

As explained in the the previous newsletter, the school's new approach to learning and teaching has meant changes to our teaching practices. One of these changes is the structure of each literacy and numeracy lesson. Each lesson has 4 parts to it. The lesson begins with a daily review which, as the name suggests, is a review of previously taught material. It is periodic review spread out over time and involves repetition to support the cognitive load of the children. It is an opportunity for the children to retrieve information from their long term memory and revise learnings. The lesson then moves into the teacher explicitly teaching the concept or skill identified as the learning intention for the lesson (the 'I do' part of the lesson).

This involves constant interaction with the children who may be chorally reading, writing responses on whiteboards, discussing answers with partners or responding individually. This interaction continues as the lesson moves into the next stage where students complete tasks with the teacher (the 'We do' part of the lesson).

Throughout these parts of the lesson the teacher is checking for understanding to ensure the children are understanding what is being taught. They are being guided in their practice.

The next part of the lesson is the independent practice (the 'You do' part of the lesson) where the children are set tasks to complete independently which may be the same task modified to cater for the different levels in the class. One of the more significant changes to this approach is the extra time spent by teachers expliciting teaching children as a class. Whereas this used to take about a quarter of the lesson before teachers moved to small group teaching, the Daily Review, I Do, You Do takes about three quarters of the lesson. This will involve the children building their learning stamina over time and the teachers adapting their practices to this new rigorous approach to learning and teaching. As always, the aim is to get even better outcomes for the children as we implement this evidence based pedagogical approach.

DEIRDRE BRANDNER-ATTENTION AS A SUPERPOWER

The school is delighted to announce that Deirdre Brandner will again be presenting at the school on **April 30**. As a renowned Australian child psychologist, author, and parenting expert, Deirdre Brandner has devoted over 30 years to serving children, adolescents, and their families. Deirdre last presented at the school in 2023 and the feedback from parents who attended was overwhelmingly very positive and some of the best advice some parents had ever had. Parents who were not able to attend were very disappointed once they found out how beneficial it was to their parenting. In this seminar Deidre will support parents in harnessing their child's attention and focus, enabling them to excel academically and in all aspects of life. This is a free session and begins at 7:00pm in the hall. Please put it in your calendars and do not miss a renowned expert in her field.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This year our Stations of the Cross will be held on Wednesday, April 2. At this important event, each grade takes on the responsibility of presenting one of the Stations of the Cross. This is one of our school traditions and gives all in our community a chance to reflect on Easter and the sacrifice Jesus made.

The event will commence at 11:45am in the senior yard and the area around the church. Parents are invited to attend. This is a very solemn and reverent recount of the events leading up to and including Jesus' death and resurrection.

CAMP

This week the Year 6 students are on camp at Campaspe Downs near Kyneton. They are having a fun time involving themselves in the variety of activities they have the opportunity to participate in. These include raft building, abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing, giant swing and flying fox. We look forward to their safe return tomorrow.

NAPLAN

This week and at the beginning of next week the children in Year 3 & Year 5 will participate in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The testing will again be conducted online with the exception of the Year 3 writing, which will still be a paper and pen format.

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

Principal's Message continued.....

The assessment began on Wednesday March 12 and will conclude on Monday March 17. Although this provides important information to our school about trends in student learning over time, it is a snapshot of any individual student's learning. It should be considered in conjunction with our own school reports and the extensive data we collect on all children throughout the year.

LEARNING CONFERENCES

This year the learning conferences will be held on April 1 and will be an opportunity for parents to receive feedback on their children's progress. Children are expected to attend the learning conferences with their parent(s). These conferences are an opportunity for students and teachers to identify how children are progressing in their learning. The children in Year P-2 will attend the conferences with their parents and the teacher will facilitate the meeting. The children in Years 3-6 will also attend the conference and will facilitate the first part of the meeting with the teacher facilitating the second part.

The school will be closed on this day with the learning conferences beginning at 11:00am and concluding at 6:00pm. Details on how to book for the conferences was sent out via the Audiri app on Monday February 24.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

This year's school photos are scheduled to be taken on Wednesday March 19. Children are expected to be in full summer uniform. Should your child have PE/sport on the day, we ask that they bring their runners to change into and not wear the sports uniform.

PHONES/SMART WATCHES

A reminder that if a child brings a phone or smartwatch to school that the child is required to hand the phone/smartwatch into the teacher at the beginning of the day and collect it from the teacher at the end of the day.

Shane Byrne
PRINCIPAL

Learning Diversity & Student Wellbeing

Understanding and Managing Separation Anxiety in Children

Separation anxiety is a common experience for children, especially during transitions like starting school, moving to a new home, or when there are changes in routine. As parents, caregivers, and teachers, understanding separation anxiety is essential to support children through these challenging times.

What is Separation Anxiety?

Separation anxiety refers to the intense fear or distress children feel when they are separated from their primary caregivers or familiar environments. This anxiety is completely normal in younger children, particularly in the early stages of school. However, it can also be seen in older children and even adolescents when faced with unfamiliar situations or changes.

Signs and Symptoms of Separation Anxiety

Children with separation anxiety may show a variety of emotional and physical symptoms. These can include:

- Crying or clinging to parents when it's time to leave for school
- Complaints of headaches, stomach aches, or other physical discomforts

Learning Diversity & Student Wellbeing continued.....

- Excessive worry about being away from home
- Refusal to go to school or other social events
- Fear of being alone, even in familiar places
- Nightmares or trouble sleeping

It's important to remember that while some level of anxiety is natural, excessive distress that interferes with daily life may require professional support.

Why Do Children Experience Separation Anxiety?

Separation anxiety often arises from a combination of developmental factors, temperament, and changes in the child's life. Some children are naturally more sensitive or have difficulty adjusting to changes in routine.

Other factors include:

- Significant changes in their environment (e.g., a move to a new school or home)
- Stress or disruption in family life (e.g., divorce or the arrival of a new sibling)
- Lack of confidence or fear of the unknown

How Can We Help Children Cope?

Fortunately, there are many strategies that can help children manage and overcome separation anxiety:

1. **Establish a Routine:** A predictable routine helps children feel secure. Consistent wake-up times, meal times, and bedtime rituals can create a sense of stability.
2. **Give Lots of Reassurance:** Comfort your child with words of reassurance, but avoid long, drawn-out goodbyes. A brief and positive departure can help reduce anxiety.
3. **Create a Transitional Object:** A small item like a favorite toy or blanket can provide comfort when the child is away from home.
4. **Practice Separation:** Gradually increasing the time spent apart can help ease children into new experiences. Start with short separations and increase the duration over time.
5. **Encourage Independence:** Praise small steps toward independence and acknowledge the child's bravery. This will help boost their confidence.
6. **Talk About Feelings:** Encourage your child to express their feelings. Open conversations about fear and worry can help children understand and manage their emotions.
7. **Seek Professional Help If Necessary:** If your child's separation anxiety persists or worsens, consider consulting a school counselor or child psychologist. Professional support can help develop coping strategies and address deeper issues.

Conclusion

Separation anxiety can be a challenging but temporary phase in a child's development. By providing a supportive, understanding environment, we can help children feel secure and confident as they navigate transitions and grow into resilient individuals. With patience and encouragement, children can overcome their fears and develop the skills needed to thrive in new situations.

Rebecca Glenton
Learning Diversity and Student Wellbeing Leader

2025 Term 1 Learning Conferences



Dear Parents,

Term 1 Learning Conferences will be held on **Tuesday 1st April between 11am-6pm**. The Learning Conferences will be held in your child's classroom. **Please note that this is a School Closure Day for the students.**

You can now book interviews for the times that suit **YOUR FAMILY**. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

BOOKINGS WILL OPEN on Tuesday 4th March at 9:00am
BOOKINGS CLOSE on Friday 28th March at 1pm.

Booking code:  Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
 Enter the school event code. Then follow the 3 simple steps.

1 Enter your details
2 Choose teachers
3 Choose times

When you click **finish**, your interview time will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

Please note:
 All students are expected to attend the Learning Conference with their parents.
 Learning Conferences are strictly 10mins. If you require more time, please contact the teacher directly and make alternative arrangements.

2025 School Photos - Wednesday 19th March

School photos will be taken on Wednesday 19th March at St. Vincent de Paul Primary School. Please note that your child is required to come to school in their **full Summer school uniform**. If your child has Physical Education on this day, please place their runners into their school bag for them to change into.

Please see the information below on how to order your child's school photos.

order your school photos now
 to order visit: www.advancedlife.com.au
 enter code: **DY9 RG7 NXP**



scan to order
advancedlife
 school photography & print specialists

Harmony Day

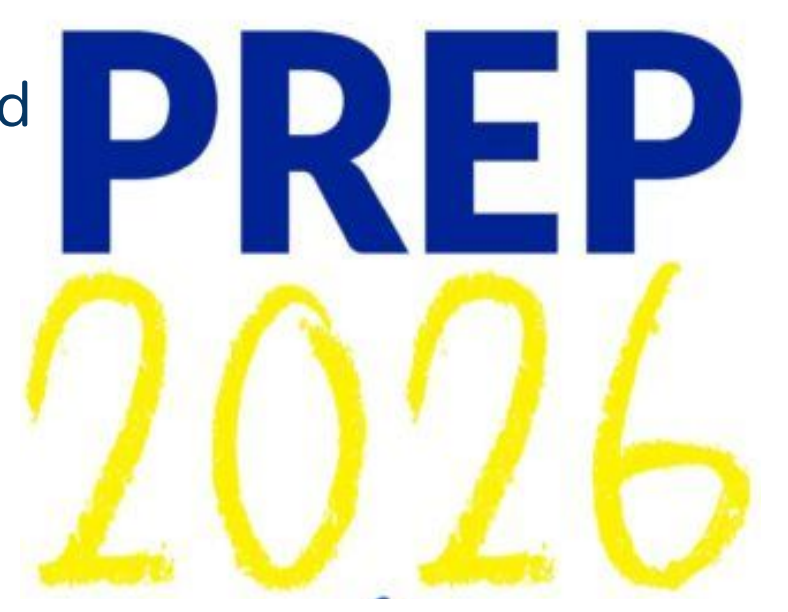
Harmony Day is held every year on Friday 21st March. Harmony Day celebrates Australia's amazing cultural diversity. During this week, schools celebrate inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians, from the traditional custodians of the land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

We invite all of the children to wear a touch of orange on this day. That might be an orange t-shirt, orange socks or an orange ribbon in their hair. Students should wear their normal school uniform along with their orange accessory.



Prep 2026 Enrolment Applications

Enrolments are now open for Prep 2026. Applications are to be submitted via the online enrolment application form on the school website:



[Prep 2026 Online Enrolment Application Form](#)

Applications close on **Thursday 3rd April 2025**.

Move In March



MOVE IN MARCH
 Walk, scoot, cycle or skate to school, kinder and childcare in March 2025
 JOIN THE CHALLENGE NOW!
 LET'S GO ZERO MOONEE VALLEY City of Moonee Valley

This month, we are participating in Move in March, presented by Moonee Valley Council. With over 8000 students registered already, thousands of families are taking up the challenge by walking, scooting, cycling or skating to and from school as many times as possible during March for the chance to win awesome prizes.

Your child should have come home with some information and we look forward to celebrating the winning class each Monday at Assembly with the Golden Boot Trophy. Please remember to fill in the card that came home to win prizes.

Awards

Please find listed below the names of those students receiving awards at the assembly on **FRIDAY 21st March at 2:25 pm** in the hall.

PREP BLUE	Jamie Echeverria Sienna Porter	THREE GREEN	Ashton Melideo Mackenzie Hawken
PREP GOLD	Jack Maver Amelia Fiscaro	FOUR BLUE	Mika Orlando Lachlan Grech
PREP GREEN	Gabriel Angiolino Maeve Bush	FOUR GOLD	James Micevski Isla Randles
ONE BLUE	Felix Orlando Nandi Donga	FOUR GREEN	Lila Colombi Xavier Portelli
ONE GOLD	Sonny O'Connor Leila Cirelli	FIVE BLUE	Caitlyn Nguyen Lucas Mangano
TWO BLUE	Leila Diseris Daniel Muccillo	FIVE GOLD	Christian Gervasi Olivia Zara
TWO GOLD	Claudia Ambrosino Noah Woolley	FIVE GREEN	Eva Haydon-Callegari Jayden Tran
THREE BLUE	Jordan Cilia Eva Katsalas	SIX BLUE	Charlotte Micevski Marc Vacirca
THREE GOLD	Austin Saliba Penelope Garbett	SIX GOLD	Xavier Leahy Indiana Pell



2025 Term Dates

TERM 1

Wednesday 29th January (Prep)
Friday 31st January (Yr 1–Yr 6) – Friday 4th April
(Note: Easter 18th - 21st April)

TERM 2

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 4th July

TERM 3

Monday 21st July – Friday 19th September

TERM 4

Monday 6th October – Tuesday 16th December

2025 School Closure Days

- ❖ Tuesday 1st April (Learning Conferences)
- ❖ Wednesday 21st May
- ❖ Thursday 31st July
- ❖ Wednesday 17th September (Learning Conferences)
- ❖ Monday 3rd November
- ❖ Thursday 4th December

Strathmore Secondary College - Tours

Strathmore Secondary College tours are now open for booking on the College website under the Enrolment tab.

Please see the link below for direct access.

<https://www.strathmore.vic.edu.au/enrolment/collegetours/>

The tours will commence in April and will operate through April and May to coincide with the Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Process.



St Bernard's College - Year 7, 2027 Applications

St Vincent's Tennis Club Memberships

Year 7 2027

Apply Now






Applications due 9 May 2025.

Book a College Tour or Discover more




sbc.vic.edu.au





ST VINCENT'S TENNIS MEMBERSHIPS

LOVED THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN?
JOIN ST. VINCENT'S TENNIS CLUB AND ENJOY A WEEKEND HIT WITH YOUR FAMILY! AS A MEMBER, YOU'LL GET ACCESS TO OUR COURTS, PLUS THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN A COMPETITION TEAM.

BOOK YOUR COURT ONLINE ONCE YOU'RE A MEMBER!

JOIN NOW **\$0** JOINING FEE FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS SAVING \$20

SIGN UP NOW FOR **ONLY \$45** UNTIL JUNE 30TH 2025, THEN ENJOY ALL CLUB BENEFITS FOR ONLY \$190 ANNUALLY!

REGISTRATION ENQUIRIES
STVINCENTSTENNISCLUB@HOTMAIL.COM
0400 585 204 - TANNITH

Ave Maria College - After School Events for Year 4 & 5 Students

She Who Explores: SCIENCE




Come and see what it's like to be an Ave girl through our after school program, **She Who Explores**.

Designed specifically for Year 4 and 5 students, this is a fantastic opportunity for our future students to explore subjects that they will be able to study at Ave Maria College.

Meet our fantastic STEM and Science teachers and current students as we explore the world of STEM and Science.

Monday, 24 March 4:00pm-5:00pm

For more information, please email Assistant Principal (Community and Partnerships), Mrs Natalie Meddis, AssistantPrincipalCommunity@avemaria.vic.edu.au or register via the QR.

She Who Explores: Food Technology

Come and see what it's like to be an Ave girl with our after school program, **She Who Explores**.

Designed specifically for Year 4 and 5 students, this is a fantastic opportunity for our future students to explore subjects that they will be able to study at Ave Maria College.

Meet our fantastic Food Technology teachers and current students as we cook up a storm in our purpose-built kitchens.

Monday, 31 March, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

For more information, please email Assistant Principal (Community and Partnerships), Mrs Natalie Meddis, AssistantPrincipalCommunity@avemaria.vic.edu.au or register via the QR.





Important Dates

MARCH 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3 School Closure Day	4 Walk to School begins Yr 3 Reconciliation 3:30-5:30pm	5 Ash Wednesday - Mass 10am Yr 3-6 - Paraliturg 2:30pm Prep-Yr 2 (School Hall)	6 Yr 3 Reconciliation 3:30-5:30pm	7 Zooper Dooper Day Gala Day 2 (Year 5) Year 4 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	8	9
10 Labour Day Holiday	11 Yr 6 Camp	12 Yr 6 Camp NAPLAN (Yr 3 & Yr 5)	13 Yr 6 Camp NAPLAN (Yr 3 & Yr 5) School Advisory Council Meeting	14 Yr 6 Camp NAPLAN (Yr 3 & Yr 5) Zooper Dooper Day	15	16
17 NAPLAN (Yr 3 & Yr 5) Second Hand Uniform Sale 2:45-3:45pm (Hall)	18	19 School Photo Day	20 Prep Information & Parent Helper Workshop	21 Harmony Day Zooper Dooper Day Year 5 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	22	23
24	25	26 Year 6 Mass 10am	27	28 Sushi Food Day	29	30
31						

APRIL 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Learning Conferences (School Closure Day)	2 Stations of the Cross	3	4 Easter Raffle 12 noon Last day of Term 1 1:30pm finish	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday	19 Easter Saturday	20 Easter Sunday
21 Easter Monday	22 Term 2 Begins	23 Year 5 Mass 10am	24 ANZAC Day Ceremony	25 ANZAC Day	26	27
28	29	30 Year 4 Mass 10am				

MAY 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 School Advisory Council Meeting	2 Yr 6 Winter Sports #1	3	4
5	6 Mother's Day Stall	7 Year 3 Mass 10am	8	9 Mother's Day Breakfast Yr 6 Winter Sports #2	10	11 Mother's Day
12	13	14 Year 2 Mass 10am	15 Year 6 Confirmation Info Evening 7pm	16 Yr 6 Winter Sports #3	17	18
19 Parents Association Meeting 7:00pm Online	20	21 School Closure Day	22	23 Yr 6 Winter Sports #4 Movie Night	24 Prep & Yr 6 Family Mass 6pm	25
26	27	28 Year 1 Mass 10am	29	30	31	



TheirCare
where kids love to be!

AUTUMN HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Our autumn holiday program is only 4 weeks away.

We have amazing excursions happening such the:

- The Melbourne International Comedy Festival
 - Funtopia
- The movies Minecraft Garrett “The Garbage man”

There will also be incursion and in house fun days.

Bookings are now open online,
please book as early as possible for availability for excursions.

Looking forward to an amazing 2 weeks on of fun.

Lisa - Coordinator

Tulay - Educator