



# Newsletter

St. Vincent de Paul Primary School

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#### Reflection



MARY,
OUR MOTHER



May will always be a special month, the month that the Church dedicates to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and our mother.

Another aspect to consider is that Mary, the most humble of all women, is a model for everyone, today, in the here and now. In the words of Pope Paul VI, May is "a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God."

# Ways We Can Honour Mary:

- Pray the Rosary
- Say the Hail Mary Prayer throughout the day
- Create a Prayer Corner, placing some representation of our Blessed Mother whether that be a photo, small statue, or Rosary beads.
- Create an outdoor space, flowers in honor of Mary

Today, each child will be bringing home a Mother Mary prayer card to use as a guide when praying to Mary. Please take some time to use the prayer card, throughout the month of May, to pray to Mary, our Mother.

# A prayer for our earth

All powerful God, you are present in the universe

and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,

that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with your peace, that we may live

as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,

so precious in your eyes.

Driver beeling to any lives

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty,

not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united

with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle, for justice, love and peace.



POPE FRANCIS

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# Principal's Message

## **CONFIRMATION**

This term the children in Year 6 will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on June 28. The newly appointed Bishop Rene Ramirez will be celebrating the mass together with Fr. Gerard. This is an opportunity for the children to confirm the baptismal promises made by their parents and godparents at the time of their baptism. The children have been preparing for this final step in the Sacrament of Initiation throughout the year having celebrated their First Holy Communion in Year 4. As a school we support parents in helping their children develop an understanding of the importance of this sacrament in their own lives. Part of the preparation involves parents attending the Confirmation Information Evening on May 15. The session will be held in the hall and begins at 7:00pm. Jude Caspersz will be facilitating the evening. We ask that you keep the children and their families in your prayers as they prepare for this important step in their faith journey.

## **MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST**

The school community is looking forward to celebrating Mother's Day at tomorrow's Mother's Day breakfast. Thank you in advance to those who have been and will be involved in helping organise this important event and acknowledging the incredible role that mothers play in the lives of their families. Following the first session which begins at 7:10am and concludes at 7:50am children will make their way to the junior Yard where they will be supervised by staff until the 8:50am bell. Due to the limited parking we would ask that families walk to school where possible. We look forward to the breakfast being another successful Parents Association event and hope that all the mums/carers enjoy the morning.

# **PREP MEETINGS**

Beginning next week we will be meeting with families intending to have their children begin Prep in 2026. This is an important step in helping them understand the community we have at St. Vincent's and the reasons for sending them to the school. We look forward to meeting both new and current families.

# PREP AND YEAR 6 FAMILY MASS

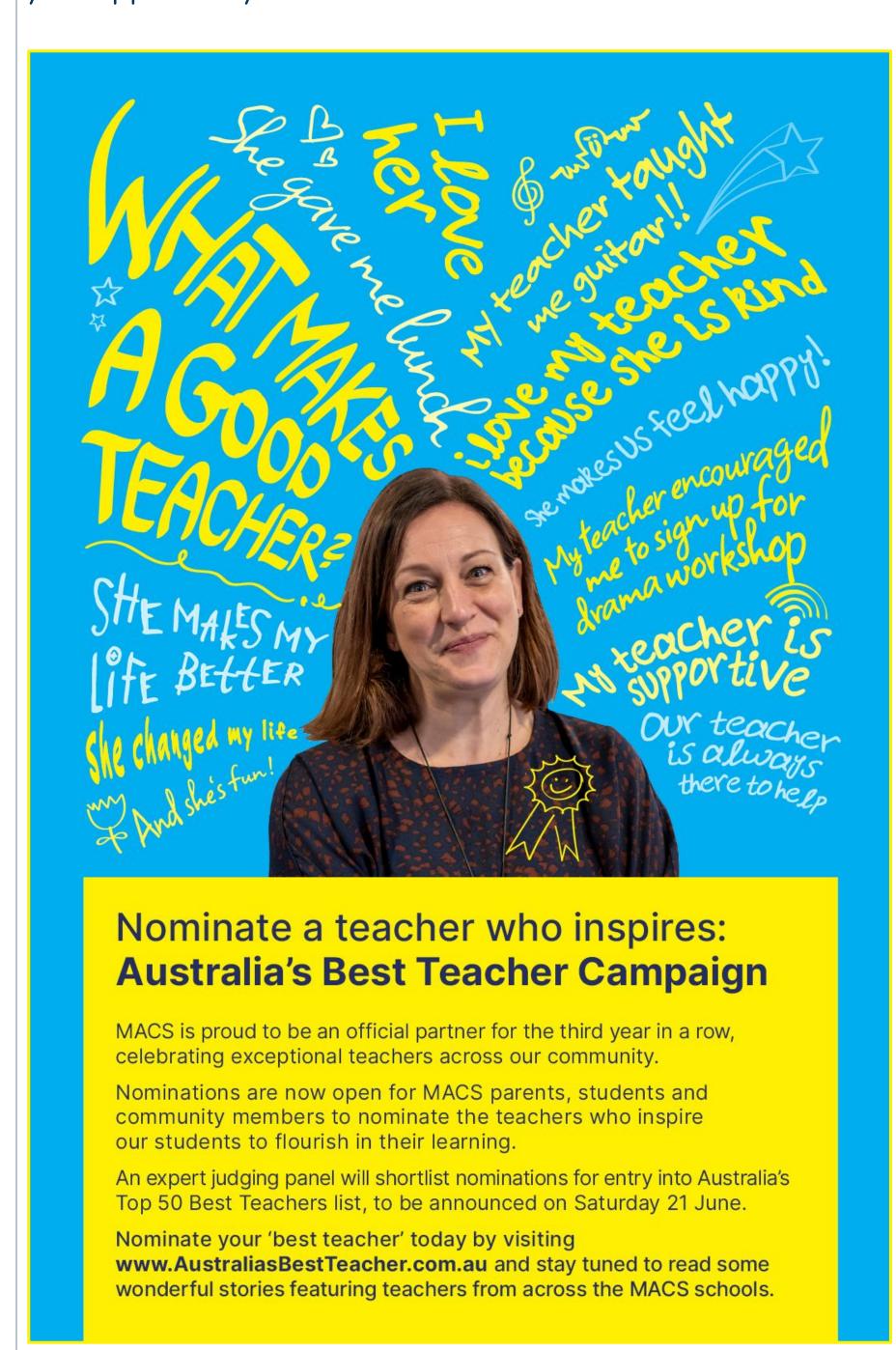
On May 24 we have our Year Prep & Year 6 family mass which will be celebrated at the Saturday 6:00pm parish mass. This is an opportunity for children, their buddies and the families to gather together at the same mass and celebrate the Eucharist as a community. We look forward to seeing all Prep and Year 6 families attend this mass.

## **PARENT HELPERS**

We have a number of new library books which need to be covered. We are asking for volunteers who would be kind enough to help out with this task. If you are able to help there will be a workshop on Thursday in the library on May 22 beginning at 11:30am.

## **BEST TEACHER NOMINATION**

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools are again partners in the Australia's Best Teacher Campaign. If you would like to recognise the exceptional work that any of our teachers do this is your opportunity to nominate via the website listed below.



## **CLOSURE DAY**

The staff will be visiting the Mary Mackillop Centre in East Melbourne to explore the work of Mary Mackillop as an educator and her service to others. One of the goals of the school identified in the Annual Action Plan this year is to improve the understanding of the children's role as Catholics in the community. Through investigating the work Mary did in her role and discussing how her teachings and life inspire others choices and actions, staff will use this experience to support the children in nurturing the development of the values Mary displayed in their own lives.

Shane Byrne PRINCIPAL

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

# **Learning Diversity & Student Wellbeing**

## **Attention as Superpower**

Last week, a large number of parents attended the workshop with Deirdre Brander - Attention is Superpower. Deirdre spoke about how demand for attention in all people is increasing and the session gave practical tips on how to increase attention in both ourselves and our children.

We learnt that not being able to pay attention is not a flaw of the person, it is a flaw of the world. If we look back to 30 -40 years ago, when many of us were children, there were fewer choices to make on a day to day basis and our attention was not taken up by the constant notifications, messages and instant gratification. One example of this is the choices we had on the TV, 30 years ago compared to now. Having to wait for the next episode in a TV series was the norm which allowed us to be much more patient and less demanding. Children today don't have to wait and are not used to waiting, but - it is not their fault!

Deirdre spoke about the two key elements that help us when vying for our children's attention:

- 1 Connection
- 2 Competition

As parents, and educators, we need to realise that connecting with children is vital and giving them undivided attention models to them how to do this. We must also understand that there are many factors that compete for their attention and therefore we need to pick our time and engage with them in meaningful ways.

Attention is crucial for learning and multitasking is not a great thing. You can only truly focus on one thing at a time and we therefore need our children to work smarter, not harder.

Deirdre gave some tips on how to improve the attention of our children which can be found below:

- Limit the number of after school activities. Try not to overschedule
- Ensure children up to age 8 are in bed by 7:30pm and children up to age 12 are in bed by 8:30pm. Sleep is the most crucial part of maintaining attention
- Give children time to create, wonder, problem solve and be bored!
- Ensure children are getting enough protein this helps the brain to attend
- Give children lots of opportunities to be in green space in nature. Green space reduces cortisol levels
- Play board games as a family
- Reduce distractions

Deirdre recommended the book 'Stolen Focus' by Johann Hari and a <u>35 minute summary of this book can be found here.</u>

Rebecca Glenton Learning Diversity and Student Wellbeing Leader

## **Sport News**

## **District Cross Country**

Congratulations to the 91 students across Years 4 - 6 who tried out for the District Cross Country team in Week 2. The Year 4 students completed a 2km trial whilst the Year 5/6 students completed a 3km trial. We wish all students competing in the District Cross Country event at Maribyrnong Park all the best on the 20th of May in their races.



**District Cross Country Team** 

## **Interschool Sports**

Last week the Year 6 students and some of the Year 5 students kicked off their Interschool Sports campaign at home against Essendon North Primary School. The students have the opportunity to participate in either Netball, Tee Ball, AFL or Soccer over a 5 week period. Congratulations to all teams on a fantastic start, with each coming home with a victory! We look forward to the next fortnights games against St Monica's Primary School (away) and Essendon Primary School (home).

# Week 1 Scores:

Girls Netball: STV 13 - 1 ENPS
Mixed Netball: STV 12 - 2 ENPS
Teeball: STV 15 - 10 ENPS
AFL: STV 158 - 20 ENPS
Girls Soccer: STV 6 - 0 ENPS
Mixed Soccer: STV 2 - 1 ENPS

Daniel Igoe

Sports / PE Co-ordinator

# 2025 Term 2 School Fees

A reminder that Term 2 school fees are due on Friday 23rd May. For details please refer to the statement that was emailed on 6th February 2025.

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.

#### **Awards**

Please find listed below the names of those students receiving awards at the assembly on FRIDAY 16th May at 2:25 pm in the hall.

PREP BLUE	Jamie Echeverria Allegra Dix	THREE GREEN	Faith Habib Jack Clutterbuck
PREP GOLD	Ruby Brigg Henry Sullivan	FOUR BLUE	Brooklyn Cintolo Maggie Bui
PREP GREEN	Victoria Sheppard Arthur Fensom	FOUR GOLD	Ayla D'Orazio Jordan Liu
ONE BLUE	Dante Muscat Aria Cimino	FOUR GREEN	Tobias Campbell Ella Kemp
ONE GOLD	Mia Smit Alyssa Laverde	FIVE BLUE	Evie Macheda Xavier D
TWO BLUE	Piper Nolan Sebastian Sands	FIVE GOLD	Tahlia Piccolo Levi Vitali
TWO GOLD	Isabelle Correia Fabian Cicione	FIVE GREEN	Joshua Casaletto Nerija Skimbirauskas
THREE BLUE	Lincoln Ong Raph Azzopardi	SIX BLUE	Interschool Sport
THREE GOLD	Lola Dimasi Ryder Armstrong	SIX GOLD	Interschool Sport

# Chess Club - Term 2, 2025



# **2025 Term Dates**

## TERM 2

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July

## TERM 3

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September

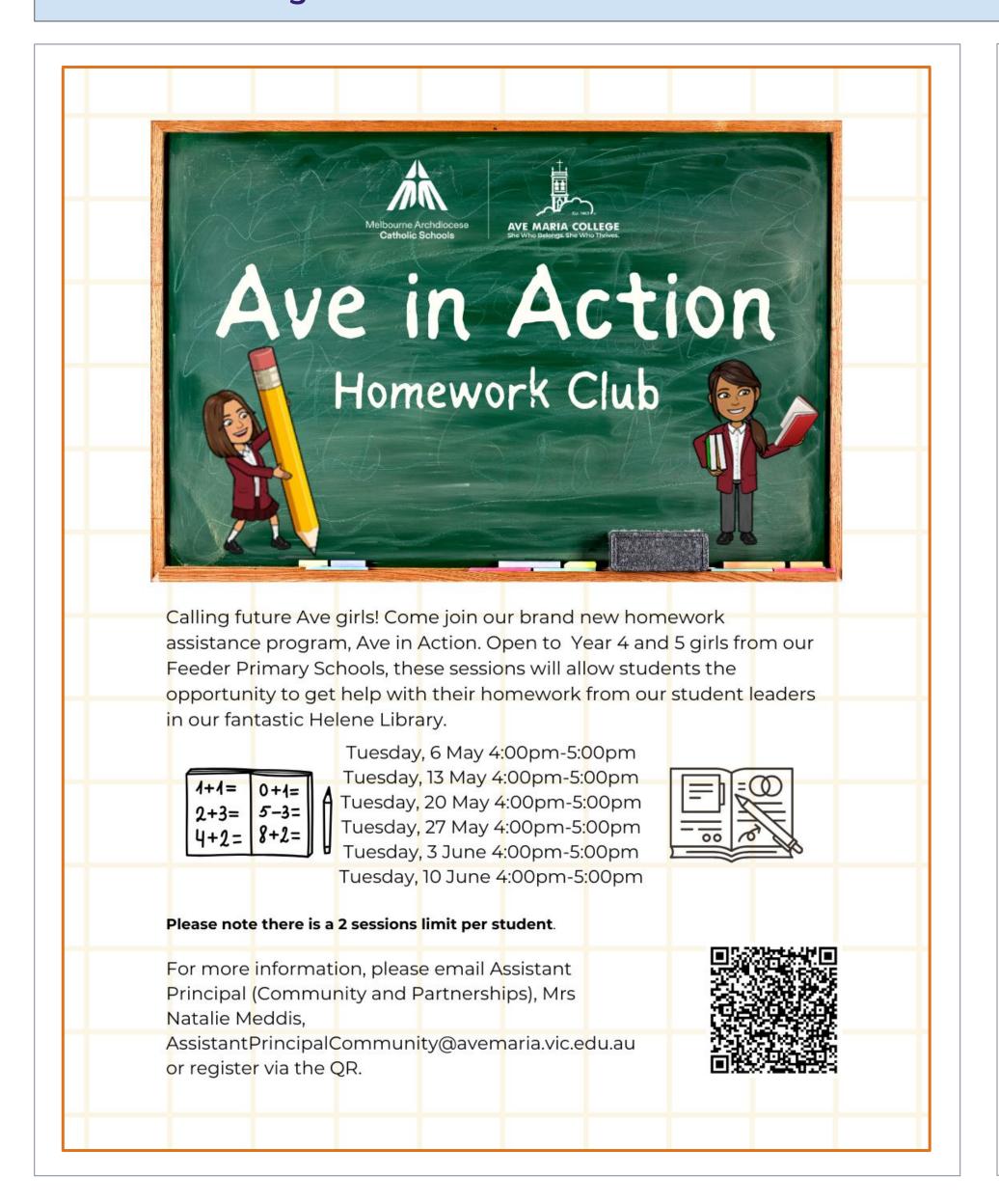
## TERM 4

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

# 2025 School Closure Days

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

# Ave Maria College





## St Bernard's College - Year 7, 2027 Applications



## St Columba's College Scholarship Program



# **Important Dates**

			MAY 2025			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 School Advisory Council Meeting	2 Yr 6 Winter Sports #1 Year 3 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	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 Second hand uniform sale 8:30am	15 Year 6 Confirmation Info Evening 7pm	16 Yr 6 Winter Sports #3 Year 2 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	17	18
19 Parents Association Meeting 7:00pm Online	20	21 School Closure Day	22	23 Kids Movie Night	24 Prep & Yr 6 Family Mass 6pm	25
26	27	28 Year 1 Mass 10am	29	30 Year 1 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	31	

			JUNE 2025			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3	4 Prep/Yr 6 Mass 10am	5	6 Yr 6 Winter Sports #4	7	8
9 King's Birthday Holiday	10	11 Yr 5 Gold Mass 10am	12 Hot Food Day School Advisory Council Meeting	13 Prep Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	14	15
16	17	18 Yr 5 Blue Mass 10am	19	20 Parent's Trivia Night	21	22
23	24	25 Yr 5 Green Mass 10am	26	27 Year 6 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	28 Year 6 Confirmation Masses - 6 Gold 10am - 6 Blue 12noon	29
30						

JULY 2025							
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
	1	2	3	4 Last day of Term 2 1:30pm finish	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21 Term 3 Begins	22	23 Yr 6 Gold Mass 10am	24 School Advisory Council Meeting	25	26	27	
28	29	30 Yr 6 Blue Mass 10am	31 School Closure Day				

## TheirCare News



# SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY - Wednesday 21st May

We will be running a pupil free day on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Care will be provided from 7:00am-6:00pm. Please ensure your child is provided with a morning snack, lunch and a drink bottle. We will provide breakfast until 8:45am and afternoon snack will be served at approximately 3:45pm.

#### **BOOKINGS**

A friendly reminder that bookings for BSC and ASC must be made 48 hours in advance to be able to roster staff accordingly. Our numbers for term 2 have increased dramatically. If we are at capacity for the session, please be aware that we cannot accept children that are not booked in for the session.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

If your child is booked in for after school care and your child will be absent for the session, we kindly ask that you please call us or leave a text message (0474 007 664) before 3.20pm. Please be aware that if we are not able to locate a child, or parents do not respond to us trying to contact them, that we only have a 25 min time frame from dismissal bell that we must contact the police.

Lisa and Tulay