



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL
FAITH AND LOVE
STRATHMORE

Newsletter

St. Vincent de Paul Primary School
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Reflection



Advent is a season of hopeful waiting, preparation, and reflection as we anticipate the Christmas celebration. While the focus can often drift toward shopping lists and festive events, this is also a powerful time for our families and especially our children to embody the true spirit of the season: compassion, service, and generosity.

More Than Just Receiving: Why Giving Matters

Teaching our children the importance of giving to those in need is one of the most valuable lessons we can impart.

- **It cultivates gratitude:** By actively engaging in acts of service, children gain perspective on their own blessings. Seeing the needs of others helps them feel grateful for what they have, shifting the focus from "what I want" to "what I have."
- **It builds empathy:** Giving is a concrete action that connects us to our community. When children help select toys for a drive or volunteer time, they learn to step outside their own experiences and feel compassion for others.
- **It reflects the true meaning of Christmas:** The story of Christmas is fundamentally about the ultimate gift. By giving our time, resources, and love, we participate in that same spirit of selfless giving.



2025 St Vincent de Paul
Christmas Appeal

This year at St. Vincent de Paul Primary School we will be collecting donations for the St. Vincent de Paul society and the Caroline Chisholm charity, who both support children who may not receive presents during Christmas.

To support both charities, it would be fantastic if you could bring **ONE donation per family** from the list below:

- Toys for children
- Children's books
- Puzzles
- Dress up costumes
- Children's colouring books & pencils and crayons
- Art supplies: canvas, paint, brushes, sketch pads
- Board games
- Items for older children (teenagers) - deodorant packs, beach towels, perfume spray packs, Christmas stockings, body lotions, caps or hats

We would very much appreciate it if these items were **new**. Please **do not wrap** the items as per the request of the charity.

Please bring your toy donation to school with your child. **Donations will need to be brought to school between Monday 10th November and Friday 5th December.**

Thank you, Mini Vinnies and Mrs. Petrie



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Email: principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr Nhan Le
Email: strathmore@cam.org.au
Website: www.cam.org.au/strathmore

PARISH OFFICE
22 Robinson Street
Moonee Ponds 3039
Telephone: 9370 5035

Principal’s Message

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Last week the Year 2 children participated in the swimming program at Windy Hill. It would not have been possible to run the program without the support of our parent helpers who accompanied the children to the pool. Thank you to those parents who were able to support the children in this way. Also thank you to Ms La Porta and Ms Nevill for their support of the children in their involvement in the program.

PREP INFORMATION EVENING

Last Thursday parents of the children beginning Prep in 2026 attended an information evening in preparation for their children commencing school. This was well attended by both families new to the school and current families. The parents were provided with a range of information to help support their children’s transition to the school environment. On Tuesday the 2026 Prep children attended the first of 3 orientation sessions to help them become familiar with the school environment. The children were very settled and with them attending the school again over the next 2 weeks we look forward to their smooth start next year.

NATIVITY PLAY

On Tuesday, December 9, the Prep children will be presenting the story of the Nativity. This is to help remind us of the events of Jesus’ birth and the reason we celebrate Christmas. There will be 2 sessions of the Nativity play - the first beginning at 11:45am and the second session beginning at 12:30pm. Parents are invited to attend one of the sessions and share in the celebration of Jesus’ birth.

PLANNING DAY

A reminder that the school will be closed on December 4 as staff work on planning for the 2026 school year.

STAFFING

As is the case at this time of the school year, there will be a number of changes in the 2026 staffing.

Sonia Di Cosmo has taken a position at St Peter Julian Eymard which is very close to where she lives. After travelling across the other side of the city for 8 years Sonia has decided driving up to an hour each way every day is not something she can continue to do. We thank Sonia for her outstanding work with the children, staff and families in her time at the school. The energy and enthusiasm that she has for all that she is involved in will be missed. She brings a breadth of knowledge and skills to her new school who are lucky to have her.

After 15 years at the school Nicole Kaso has taken a position at St. Therese’s in Essendon as Vision for Instruction Leader. Nicole is currently the Learning and Teaching Leader in Mathematics. She has also been a classroom teacher and Deputy Principal in her time at the school.

Her outstanding leadership is something that the school has benefitted from over a number of years and we are very grateful for her commitment, talent and dedication to the school. Nicole’s professionalism, organisation and knowledge are just some of her many talents which staff, children and parents have benefitted from. We know her many talents will be recognised and appreciated by her new school.

Alannah Moon has also decided to take a position at St. Monica’s in Moonee Ponds. Alannah is currently one of the Prep classroom teachers and has also taught in the Year 2 level. Alannah joined the school as a graduate teacher and has established herself as a very talented teacher with an incredible work ethic. Her teaching ability is beyond her years of experience and her attention to detail is always of the highest standard.

We wish all these staff members the very best in their new positions and thank them for the positive impact they have had on our school community.

BEGINNING OF 2026 SCHOOL YEAR & TESTING

This year the children in **Years 1 & 2** will again be required to book in for numeracy testing on either Wednesday January 28 or Thursday January 29, 2026.

Included in today’s newsletter is the booking details for Years 1 & 2 only.

The numeracy & literacy testing for children in **Years 3-6** will be the same arrangements as this year:

- All children whose surname begins with A-K will be required to attend school from 9:00am - 12:00pm on Wednesday January 28.
- All children whose surname begins with L-Z will be required to attend school from 9:00am - 12:00pm on Thursday January 29.

There is no need to book the children in for these sessions. They are expected to attend on the days indicated.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Our 2025 Christmas Carols take place next Thursday evening in the Senior Yard. We ask that children arrive no later than 5:45pm for a 6:00pm start.



This year the children will be sitting with their classes throughout the carols. We encourage the children to eat something prior to the start with the carols expected to take an hour. Families are welcome to stay on until 7:40pm.

Children can wear a Christmas hat or headband if they want to. Children are asked to wear their sports uniform to the carols.

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

Principal’s Message cont....

TRANSITION DAY

On Monday December 15, children will meet their 2026 classroom teacher. Details will be sent home about the classroom teachers for 2026 on the same day. In the creation of the classes for 2026 staff are involved in an extensive process to address a number of criteria to ensure there is a balance across the different groupings. This includes considering friendships which the children have listed. The classes will not be changed and we ask that parents support the school in the extensive process used to create the classes. Classes are created keeping in mind inclusiveness and acceptance as underlying values which the school commits to.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION AGM

Next Monday, November 24 the Parents association will be holding its Annual General Meeting beginning at 7:00pm in the staffroom. We will be asking for nominations for the treasurer’s role after Jodie Jinnette announced that she will not renominate for the role. Jodie has done a great job of managing the PA finances over the past 2 years and we are very grateful for all her work in this voluntary position.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Graduation ceremony for the Year 6 children graduating this year will take place on December 11. The ceremony will be held in the Church and will begin at 6.00pm. The Graduation Dinner will be held at Melrose Receptions in Tullamarine and will begin at 7:30pm.

The children in Year 5 are also expected to attend the Graduation Ceremony (not the dinner) together with the Year 6 children who will be graduating. The Year 5 children have an important role to play in the ceremony and we need their support in maintaining this tradition. We ask that parents of Year 5 & 6 children mark this date on your calendars to ensure your child is able to attend.

ACTIVE PATHS

Active Paths are coming to St Vincents De Paul Primary in 2026! We are working with Moonee Valley City Council to implement Active Safe Routes to our school.

The Active Paths initiative aims to make it easier for students who want to ride, walk, scoot or skate to school. Council will work with us to identify paths to school which are direct, safe, and fun and based on where students live. Footpath decals will guide students along the way.

To help us plan for the routes, we would be grateful if you could complete this very short survey.

Follow this link:
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8577920/St-Vincent-De-Paul-Primary-School-Active-Paths-Survey>

Shane Byrne
PRINCIPAL



Yr 1/2 Maths Assessment Interview-Booking Information



Book School Interviews Online

Dear Parents

Maths Assessment Interview testing will be held on **Wednesday 28th January and Thursday 29th January, 2026** between 9:00am until 3:20pm for **Year 1 and Year 2 students only**.

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

BOOKINGS WILL OPEN on Tuesday 16th December, 2025 at 8:30am
BOOKINGS CLOSE Friday 23rd of January, 2026 at 1pm.

Booking code:

r7xnw

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



When you click **finish**, your interview timetable 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.

Reminder: Please be on time for your appointment as interviews are strictly 20 mins only. Please take your child to their classroom for their interview.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Carols

ST VINCENT DE PAUL
PROUDLY PRESENTS
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
IN THE SENIOR YARD
27 NOVEMBER 6PM

- Students to wear sport uniform
- Picnics welcome.

Learning Diversity & Student Wellbeing

The Brain and Emotions

When I am talking to the children about their emotions, I always find they are greatly interested in learning about the brain. This article will share some of the terminology I use with the children and it might be something you like to explore at home.

Have you ever wondered what happens in your brain when you feel *happy*, *scared*, or *angry*? It turns out, different parts of your brain work together to help you feel and understand your emotions!

The Amygdala: Your Emotion Alarm

The Amygdala is like the brain's alarm system. It looks around for things that might make you feel something, and then helps send messages to your body. It's especially busy when you feel **fear** or **anger**. Because it works so fast, you might react (like yelling or jumping) *before* your brain has even fully understood what's going on.

The Hippocampus: Memory meets emotion

Do you remember your last birthday or a really fun day at the park? That's your **episodic memory** in action, and it's helped by a brain part called the **hippocampus**. This part of your brain links your memories to how you felt at the time, so when you remember something, you might feel emotions all over again.

The Hypothalamus: Making your body match your feelings

Have you noticed your heart racing when you're *excited* or *nervous*? That's your **hypothalamus** working behind the scenes. It helps your body react when you feel strong emotions, like speeding up your heart, and then calms things down once the feeling passes.

The Cerebral Cortex: Thinking about feelings

When you *think* about how you feel, like figuring out you're sad because your friend moved away, that's your **cerebral cortex** hard at work. Different parts of the cortex light up depending on which emotion you're experiencing. Scientists can even take pictures of the brain while people feel different emotions to see which parts are active!

What this means for us!

- **Emotions are more than just “feelings”**, they're connected deeply to how our brain works.
- Because the amygdala works so quickly, it's okay if you sometimes react strongly and then calm down later.
- Remembering things isn't just about the fact, but also **how you felt** when it happened!
- Talking about our feelings helps: when we use our thinking brain (the cortex), we can understand our emotions better.

Rebecca Glenton
Learning Diversity and Student Wellbeing Leader

Sport News



SVDP Athletics Carnival

Last Thursday, St Vincent's transformed into a festival of athletics as the whole school came together for a day of excitement and celebration at our Whole School Athletics Carnival. Under clear blue skies, students from Prep to Year 6 put on outstanding displays of skill, enthusiasm and teamsmanship. Even the teachers got into the spirit, joining the captains' relays. Although a few may have celebrated a little too hard, judging by the calls of "*I've done a hammy!*" echoing afterwards.

It was a wonderful day all round with the students in Years 3–6 taking to the track and field in the morning, competing in sprints, hurdles, long jump, discus and more. There was great sportsmanship on display and plenty of healthy rivalry between the house teams. Meanwhile, the Prep to Year 2 students tackled novelty relay races in the middle of the oval, working together in their houses to complete eight different challenges. After lunch the juniors and seniors swapped activities with the Prep to Year 2 students enjoying mini races, rubber chicken throwing, long jump and other fun events.

The day came to a close with the mixed-age relays and the captains and staff relay, each one met with plenty of excitement and friendly rivalry. The sidelines were buzzing with cheers and laughter, giving the track that Olympic atmosphere! It was a brilliant finale to a day that truly brought the whole school together.

Congratulations to all students for their efforts, and a big thank you to the staff and parent helpers for their support in making the day such a success. The final tally was incredibly close, with Donovan (Red) House coming out on top and Parker (Blue) House taking home the Team Spirit Award.

Daniel Igoe (Sports / PE Co-ordinator)

SPS Speechbox



Supporting Developmental Language Disorders

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is when a person has difficulty using and/or understanding language. It can affect everyday communication and learning. Over the years, it has been called different names, but since 2017, the internationally agreed term is DLD (Bishop et al., 2017).

Facts:

- DLD is lifelong and affects 1 in 14 people (Norbury et al., 2016).
- 6.4% of Australian 10-year-olds have DLD and it is 5 times more common than Autism (Calder et al., 2022; McGregor, 2020).
- There is no clear cause of DLD.
- The term DLD is used when language difficulties cannot be explained by another condition such as Autism, Intellectual Disability, or brain injury.
- Speech Pathologists are the professionals who assess and diagnose DLD.

What does DLD look like?

- Difficulty putting sentences together, finding the ‘right word’, telling stories.
- Difficulty following spoken instructions and understanding spoken information (answering questions, listening to stories or following what someone is saying in a conversation or in a lesson).
- Challenges communicating in conversations, joining in play, building and maintaining friendships, and working through social situations.

Strategies to Support Students with DLD:

- Use short, clear sentences.
- Give one or two instructions at a time and pause between steps.
- Use visuals, gestures, or written cues to support understanding.
- Ask the student to repeat instructions back to check understanding.
- Revisit and use new words often through games, visuals, or quick review tasks.
- Use visual organisers (story maps, sequencing charts, cause-and-effect diagrams).
- Check understanding with “Who/What/Where/When/Why/How” questions.
- Model full sentences instead of correcting (“Dog run” → “Yes, the dog is running”).
- Provide sentence starters (e.g., I think that..., This happened because...).

[Download PDF](#)

2025 School Fees

Thank you to all those families that have paid their school fees. A reminder to those with outstanding fees that all school fees are now overdue.

Please contact the school office if you are unable to finalise your payment.

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.

2025 School Closure Days

- ❖ Thursday 4th December

2025 Term Dates

TERM 4

Monday 6th October – Tuesday 16th December

Napier Park Christmas Carols



Awards

Please find listed below the names of those students receiving awards at the assembly on **FRIDAY 28th November at 2:25 pm** in the hall.

PREP BLUE	Evie Marino Ava Pappalardo	THREE GREEN	Max Haynes Sophie Pell
PREP GOLD	Athena Senda Angus Lambert	FOUR BLUE	Collette Pettinella Mila Tadikamalla
PREP GREEN	Sonny Gittens Isla Coombe	FOUR GOLD	Eden Schepis Isla Randles
ONE BLUE	Hugo Duncan Mila Di Natale	FOUR GREEN	Isabella Dos Santos Tobias Campbell
ONE GOLD	Leila Cirelli Sonny O'Connor	FIVE BLUE	Alexander El Madi Xavier D
TWO BLUE	Adrian Piaia Piper Nolan	FIVE GOLD	Antonio Travanca Dante Barone
TWO GOLD	Allira Thompson Fabian Cicione	FIVE GREEN	Angus Mizzi Grace Russell
THREE BLUE	Hugo Metcalfe Victoria Liistro	SIX BLUE	Mila Atkinson Jordan Georgiou Oliver Torres
THREE GOLD	Evan Sfirlas Matilda Duncan	SIX GOLD	Ashley Zucchi Arabella De Maria



BlueFit Swimming



Learn To Swim

Enrol and receive

2 LESSONS FREE



Strathmore Junior Football Club



U10 – U16'S BOYS + GIRLS

SUMMER TRAINING



New Players Welcome!

Pre-Season summer training sessions are starting soon and new players are welcome to come along and try AFL footy at Strathmore!

COME & JOIN IN!

BOEING RESERVE

Runners Only. Bring Water Bottle.

STARTING DATES:

U10 BOYS - FRI 21 NOV

U14 BOYS - MON 24 NOV

U10 GIRLS - FRI 21 NOV

U14 GIRLS - MON 24 NOV

U12 GIRLS - FRI 28 NOV

U16 BOYS - MON 24 NOV

U12 BOYS - MON 17 NOV

U16 GIRLS - MON 17 NOV

Check our Facebook/Instagram pages for exact session times and details.
All enquiries to juniors@strathmorefc.com.au

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Important Dates

NOVEMBER 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3 School Closure Day	4 Melbourne Cup Day Holiday	5	6 Whole School Athletics	7 Zoooper Doopers Nominations for School Advisory Council CLOSE	8	9
10	11 Remembrance Day	12 Yr 1 Blue Mass 10am Music Soiree	13 Prep 2026 Information Evening	14 Zoooper Doopers Year 5 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	15 Yr 2 & Yr 5 Family Mass 6pm	16
17 Italian Week	18 Prep 2026 Orientation - Session 1	19	20 Hot Food Day School Advisory Council Meeting	21 Zoooper Doopers	22	23
24 Parents Association AGM 7:00pm - School Staffroom	25 Prep 2026 Orientation - Session 2	26 Prep & Yr 6 Mass 10am	27 Christmas Carols	28 Zoooper Doopers Year 4 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	29	30

DECEMBER 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3 Prep 2026 Orientation - Session 3	4 School Closure Day	5 Zoooper Doopers	6	7
8	9 Prep Nativity Play Session 1: 11:40-12:10pm Session 2: 12:30-1pm	10	11 Year 6 Graduation Ceremony & Dinner	12 Zoooper Doopers	13	14
15 2026 Transition Day	16 *End of School Year Mass 9:15am (please note change of time) *Year 6 Assembly 12:00 noon (Hall) *Last Day of Term 4 - 1:30pm Finish	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28
29	30	31 New Years Eve				

JANUARY 2026

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 Preps only begin school Yr1-Yr6 - Testing Day	29 Preps only at school Yr1-Yr6 - Testing Day	30 Yr 1-Yr 6 begin school All students at school	31	