





Newsletter

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



Reflection



Feast of St Mary MacKillop

This Saturday, 8 August, we celebrate the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first saint. We remember Mary receiving her teaching qualifications in 1863, a milestone that enabled her to dedicate her life to educating children and transforming communities through faith and learning. We ask St Mary MacKillop to pray for us, our students and all those involved in the ministry of education.

From a young age, Mary understood the life changing power of education. Having experienced hardship and poverty herself, she believed that education was the pathway to hope, dignity and opportunity for all. Guided by her deep faith, compassion and respect for every person's worth, she devoted her life to empowering those most in need. Her example reminds us to **"Never see a need without doing something about it,"** encouraging each of us to use our gifts to serve others with courage, kindness and hope.

"But those who are waiting for God will have new strength; they will get wings like eagles."
Isaiah 40:31

Prayer

Loving God,

We thank You for the gift of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Through her courage, faith and dedication to education, she showed us how to recognise the dignity of every person and respond with kindness, compassion and hope.

Help us to follow her example by noticing the needs of others, using our gifts to serve our community, and having the courage to **"never see a need without doing something about it."**

May St Mary MacKillop pray for us as we grow in faith, learn with grateful hearts, and strive to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Thank You – Winter Appeal

A heartfelt thank you to our St Vincent de Paul Primary School community for your incredible generosity in supporting our Winter Appeal. Thank you to all the families who kindly donated Coles and Woolworths gift vouchers. Your generosity will provide much needed support to individuals and families experiencing hardship this winter.



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

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

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

Principal’s Message

SCHOOL FETE

Our annual School Fete is only months away, and we need your help to make it a fantastic day for our students, families and wider community.

The fete is one of the highlights of our school calendar. It's a wonderful opportunity to bring everyone together, raise valuable funds for the school and create lasting memories for our children. However, an event of this size can only happen with the support of our amazing volunteers. Whether you can spare an hour or a whole day, every helping hand makes a real difference. We are looking for volunteers to assist with setting up, running stalls, serving food and drinks, supervising activities and packing up at the end of the day. No previous experience is needed - just a willingness to get involved and have fun!

Volunteering is also a great way to meet other families, connect with staff, and be part of the vibrant school community. Even a small amount of your time will help ensure the fete is a success for everyone. If you're able to volunteer, please contact your Year Level Rep whose contact details are contained in the Parents Association Newsletter. Alternatively you can contact Gemma and Josephine by using the fete email fete@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au. Be sure to let us know your availability and any areas you'd particularly like to help with.

PLANNING FOR 2027

You may be aware from media reports that currently, all Catholic schools are undertaking planning and budgeting for the 2027 school year to ensure we are well positioned to support our staff, students and school communities. As part of this process, we are also considering the potential impact of a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) for school staff.

We recognise the financial pressures many families are currently experiencing and remain committed to balancing these challenges with the ongoing delivery of a high-quality Catholic education. We will continue to keep our community informed as planning progresses. As always, our priority is to foster strong, connected school communities while providing every student with the opportunity to thrive in a supportive and enriching learning environment.

FAREWELL

Over the past 13 years, Meredith Catena, has made an outstanding contribution to our school, supporting countless students and staff with kindness, patience, professionalism and unwavering dedication in her role as a Learning Support Officer. Her positive attitude, willingness to help wherever she was needed, and genuine care for the wellbeing of our students have left a lasting impression on our community.

While we will be sad to see Meredith leave, we are thrilled that she has the opportunity to begin an exciting new career with QantasLink. We have no doubt she will bring the same warmth, commitment and exceptional work ethic to her new role. On behalf of our entire school community, we sincerely thank Meredith for her years of dedicated service and the many ways she has enriched our school. We wish her every happiness and success as she embarks on this exciting new chapter.

SCHOOL CONCERT PHOTOS

Thank you to Vanessa Trombetta who has taken some wonderful photos of the children on both nights of the school concert. Families are able to access these photos using the links and codes below.

NIGHT ONE PERFORMANCE
Access Code: NIGHT ONE
Access Link:
<https://venessatrombetta.pic-time.com/client/a-world-of-our-own-night-one-photo-gallery>

NIGHT TWO PERFORMANCE
Access Code: NIGHT TWO
Access Link:
<https://venessatrombetta.pic-time.com/client/a-world-of-our-own-night-two-photo-gallery>

VICTORIAN REPRESENTATIVE

Congratulations to Louie Howard on his outstanding achievement of being selected in the State Under 12 AFL team and, even more impressively, being appointed captain of the side.

This is a wonderful recognition of Louie's talent, dedication and leadership. This week, he will represent his state in Canberra, competing against the best Under 12 teams from across Australia. We wish Louie and his teammates every success throughout the carnival. We know he will represent his family, our school and his state with pride, and display the outstanding leadership qualities that earned him the honour of captaining the team.

100 DAYS OF PREP

Tomorrow the Prep children will celebrate their 100 Days of Prep. This event marks the incredible learning that they have been involved in since the beginning of the year and their level of development as students at the school. We expect that they will be looking significantly older tomorrow because of all the effort they have put into their learning.

CLOSURE DAY

Last Monday, our staff participated in a professional learning day focused on Prayer. The day was facilitated by Anne Slingo, who brings over 40 years of experience across a variety of educational and ministry roles.

Throughout the day, teachers explored a range of practical strategies and resources to support students in developing a deeper understanding of prayer. The sessions also encouraged staff to help children make meaningful connections with God through prayer, fostering both spiritual growth and personal reflection.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Attached to today’s newsletter is a letter from the Victorian Catholic Education Authority. This letter outlines the need for the State Government to provide substantial funding to Catholic Schools to provide facilities that families who send their children to a Catholic school deserve. Please take the time to read it.

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

Wellbeing at St Vincent de Paul

At St. Vincent de Paul, our commitment to the protection of students includes ensuring that children, families and community members can raise complaints and concerns safely, are listened to respectfully, and understand how to access child-focused complaint processes that prioritise children’s voices and wellbeing. Our Catholic communities uphold clear, accessible and child-centred policies and procedures for responding to complaints and concerns, supporting staff and volunteers to act promptly, lawfully and with integrity so that child safety and wellbeing are central to every response.

Child Safe Standard 7

“Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused.”

Why is it important that complaints and concerns are child-focused?

- Children are safest when they know that adults will **listen** to them, take their concerns **seriously**, and act in **their best interests**.
- When schools have clear and child-focused processes for handling complaints and concerns, children and families are **more likely to speak up early**.
- This helps schools respond **quickly**, provide **appropriate** support, and **prevent** harm.
- Child-focused processes also **promote fairness, transparency, and trust**, ensuring that concerns are addressed respectfully and with care for everyone involved.

Child Safe Standard 7

Child Safe Standard 7 reminds us that children and young people have the right to be heard, listened to, and responded to with care and justice. As scripture tells us:

“Learn to do good; seek justice” (Isaiah 1:17)

This teaches us that safeguarding children is not only about protection, but about acting justly when concerns are raised. It calls us to listen attentively, respond wisely, and place the dignity and wellbeing of children at the center of our actions.

By ensuring that complaints and concerns are handled through clear, accessible, and childfocused processes, Child Safe Standard 7 supports a school culture where children feel safe to speak up, families feel confident to raise concerns, and issues are addressed promptly and fairly, strengthening trust across the whole school community.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- Clear and accessible policies and processes: We provide simple, child-friendly and family-friendly ways to raise concerns or make complaints, including clear information about who to contact and what to expect.
- Listening and taking concerns seriously: All concerns raised by children, parents, carers, staff, or community members are treated with respect and care.
- Timely and thoughtful responses: Concerns are responded to promptly and thoroughly, with appropriate action taken to support safety and wellbeing.
- Appropriate reporting and cooperation: Where required, concerns are reported to relevant authorities, and the school cooperates fully to ensure children are protected.

Will Kingston

Learning Diversity and Student Wellbeing Leader

Learning Diversity & Student Wellbeing

Many parents ask the same question at pick-up or around the dinner table: **"How was your day?"** More often than not, the answer is a quick "Fine," "Good," or "I don't know."

After a busy day of learning, socialising and concentrating, children can find it difficult to recall everything that happened or know where to begin. Asking more specific, open-ended questions can help spark meaningful conversations and give you a better glimpse into your child's school day.

Here are five questions to try instead:

1. What made you smile today?

This question encourages children to reflect on positive moments, whether it was a funny classroom experience, playing with friends, or achieving something they were proud of. It helps build the habit of noticing the good things that happen each day.

2. What was something new you learned today?

Children learn much more than reading, writing and maths. They might have discovered an interesting fact, learned a new skill, or practised being a kind friend. This question reinforces that learning happens in many different ways.

3. Who did you spend time with today?

Friendships play an important role in children's wellbeing. Asking about the people they spent time with can open conversations about friendships, teamwork and social experiences without putting pressure on children to talk about problems.

4. What was the most challenging part of your day?

Every day includes opportunities to stretch and grow. This question helps children recognise that challenges are a normal part of learning and provides an opportunity to talk about perseverance, problem-solving and resilience.

5. Is there anything you'd like my help with today?

Sometimes children carry small worries home without mentioning them. This question lets them know you're available to listen and support them, whether it's practising spelling words, sorting out a friendship issue or simply talking about their feelings.

A Few Helpful Tips:

- Give your child a little time to unwind after school before asking lots of questions. A snack, some quiet play or the car ride home may be a better time for conversation than the moment they walk through the door.
- Share something about your own day too. Children are often more willing to open up when conversations feel like a two-way exchange.
- Don't worry if your child doesn't answer every question. Sometimes the best conversations happen later in the evening, during a walk, or at bedtime.

The goal isn't to gather a full report of the school day, it's to create regular opportunities for connection. Small, everyday conversations help children feel heard, valued and supported, strengthening the relationship that helps them thrive both at home and at school.

Rebecca Glenton
Learning Diversity and Student Wellbeing Leader

Sports News

Congratulations to all students across Years 4-6 who tried out for the District Athletics team throughout Weeks 1 -3 of this term.

A big well done to the 51 students who have been selected to represent our school at the District Athletics Carnival on Tuesday of Week 6 at the Keilor Park Athletics Track.

We wish all students competing at the Carnival the best in their events. Parents, please keep an eye out on the Audiri App for the permission form which will be posted this week.

Daniel Igoe
Sports / PE Co-ordinator

Term 3 Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will be coming up in Week 10 on Wednesday 16th September. This will be a pupil free day for all students. Below you will find information on how to book. Please note that bookings will open at 8:30am on Tuesday 28th July and will close on Thursday 10th September at 1pm.



Book School Interviews Online

Dear Parents,

Term 3 Learning Conferences will be held on **Wednesday 16th September 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 28th July at 8:30am
BOOKINGS CLOSE on Thursday 10th September at 1pm.

Booking code:

s5kqd



Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au

Enter the school event code. Then follow the 3 simple steps.

1Enter your details

2Choose teachers

3Choose 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:
Students in Years 3-6 must be present at the Learning Conference. The students in Year Prep, 1 and 2 are also expected to attend the Learning Conferences with their parents, however the teacher will be facilitating the Conference, rather than the students.

Learning Conferences are strictly 10mins.

Please note that bookings can also be made with the Specialist teachers and/or Extension and Intervention teachers (if your child is part of these groups) by following the booking process outlined in this flyer.

2026 Term Dates

TERM 1

Wednesday 28th January (Prep)
Friday 30th January (Yr 1–Yr 6) – Thursday 2nd April
(Note: Easter 3rd–6th April)

TERM 2

Monday 20th April – Friday 26th June

TERM 3

Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September

TERM 4

Monday 5th October – Tuesday 15th December

2026 School Closure Days

- ❖ Tuesday 31st March (Learning Conferences)
- ❖ Thursday 28th May
- ❖ Monday 27th July
- ❖ Wednesday 16th September (Learning Conferences)
- ❖ Monday 2nd November
- ❖ Wednesday 2nd December

2026 Sacramental Dates

Year 3 Reconciliation

- 3:30pm - 4:30pm Tuesday 24th March (3 GOLD)
- 3:30pm - 4:30pm Thursday 26th March (3 BLUE)

Year 4 First Holy Communion

- 6:00pm Saturday 23rd May
- 9:30am Sunday 24th May
- 6:00pm Saturday 30th May
- 9:30am Sunday 31st May



Year 6 Confirmation

- 6:00pm Saturday 24th October
- 9:30am Sunday 25th October

2026 Term 3 School Fees

Term 3 school fees are due on **Friday 21st August**. For details please refer to the statement that was emailed on 16th February 2026.

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.

2026 Family Masses

Please note the following 2026 Family Mass dates for Year Levels other than Sacramental years (Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6). The dates for the Commitment Masses for Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 year levels has been sent to families via Audiri.

PREP FAMILY MASSES:

- Saturday 22nd August 6pm/Sunday 23rd August 9:30am

YEAR 1 FAMILY MASSES:

- Saturday 2nd May 6pm/Sunday 3rd May 9:30am

YEAR 2 FAMILY MASSES:

- Saturday 14th February 6pm/Sunday 15th February 9:30am

YEAR 5 FAMILY MASSES:

- Saturday 12th September 6pm/Sunday 13th September 9:30am



Parish Bulletin

Please see below for a link to the St. Vincent de Paul Strathmore and St. Monica's Moonee Ponds parish bulletin.
<https://www.stmonicasparish.com.au/newsletter.html>



Penola Catholic College - Year 7, 2028 Enrolments

Penola is Excellence.

Enrolments
for Year 7, 2028 are now open

Applications close Friday 14 August, 2026.

Click on the icon to complete the online enrolment process.

Important Dates 2026

Friday 14 August 2026
Applications close. Enrolments must be received by the College.

Friday 16 October 2026
Letters of offer will be sent to families.

Friday 6 November 2026
Final date for families to accept offer from the College.

NOTE: LIMITED PLACES FOR YEAR 7, 2027 AVAILABLE.

Junior Campus (Years 7-8)
35 William Street, Glenroy

Senior Campus (Years 9-12)
29 Gibson Street, Broadmeadows

Penola
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
1911-1965

T 03 9301 2777 E registrar@penola.vic.edu.

Awards

Please find listed below the names of those students receiving awards at the assembly on **FRIDAY 14th August at 2:25 pm** in the hall.

PREP BLUE	Gia Ganchi Max Robinson	FOUR BLUE	Kane Nguyen Cierra Petrou
PREP GOLD	Dante Stuto Chelsea Rottura	FOUR GOLD	Ryder Armstrong Faith Habib
PREP GREEN	Alexandra Fam Kobe Liu	FOUR GREEN	Calvin Smit Jessica Nfila
ONE BLUE	Henley Caparello Havana Batticciotto	FIVE BLUE	Poppy Hegarty Scarlett Attard
ONE GOLD	Jude Layton Heidi Toro Portelli	FIVE GOLD	Curtis Coleman Renae Regio
TWO BLUE	Mischa Conhyedoss Tilly Kuret	FIVE GREEN	Mika Orlando Leo Wu
TWO GOLD	Mila Di Natale Mia Smit	SIX BLUE	Ruby Bastola Geordie Katsalas
THREE BLUE	Excursion	SIX GOLD	John Paul Healy Chloe Bevelander
THREE GOLD	Excursion	SIX GREEN	Anja Bosevski Noah Nguyen



St Columba’s College - Applications for Year 7, 2028

As a founding institution of girls’ secondary education in Melbourne’s north-west, St Columba’s College has spent almost 130 years empowering young women to grow with confidence, compassion and purpose.

Applications for Year 7 2028 are closing on Friday 14 August 2026.

We warmly invite families of current Grade 5 students considering St Columba’s College for their secondary education to submit their application before the closing date.

Experience our vibrant Essendon campus; thoughtfully designed to connect students, inspire creativity and foster a genuine sense of belonging.

- ✓ Purpose-built STEM laboratories
- ✓ Dedicated music and performing arts spaces
- ✓ Commercial kitchens and contemporary learning resource centres
- ✓ Strong wellbeing and pastoral care programs

While our upcoming College Tours are currently fully booked, families are warmly encouraged to register their interest with our Head of Admissions at registrar@columba.vic.edu.au.

See our campus and discover why generations of families continue to choose St Columba’s College.



Important Dates

AUGUST 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Yr 6 Green Mass 9:15am	6	7	8 Feast of Mary McKillop	9
10	11	12	13 Second Hand Uniform Sale 8:30am-9:15am (Hall)	14 Year 5 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	15	16
17	18	19 Yr 3 Blue Mass 9:15am	20 Confirmation Parent Information Evening 7pm	21 Casual Clothes Day (Fete donation)	22 Prep Family Mass and Yr 6 Commitment Mass (Enrolment) 6pm	23 Prep Family Mass and Yr 6 Commitment Mass (Enrolment) 9:30pm
24 Parents Association Meeting (online) 7pm	25	26 Yr 3 Gold Mass 9:15am	27 Father's Day Stall School Advisory Board Meeting	28 Book Week Parade Year 4 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	29 Battle of the Saints	30
31 Year 5 Camp						

SEPTEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Year 5 Camp	2 Year 5 Camp Yr 4 Gold Mass 9:15am	3	4 Father's Day Breakfast	5	6 Father's Day
7	8	9 Yr 4 Blue & Yr 4 Green Mass 9:15am	10	11 Year 3 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	12 Yr 5 Family Mass and Yr 6 Commitment Mass (Creed) 6pm	13 Yr 5 Family Mass and Yr 6 Commitment Mass (Creed) 9:30pm
14	15	16 School Closure Day - Learning Conferences	17 Footy Colours Day	18 Last Day of Term 3 - 1:30pm finish	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 St Vincent de Paul Feast Day
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Term 4 Begins	6	7	8 St Vincent de Paul Feast Day Celebrations	9	10	11
12	13	14 Yr 2 Gold Mass 9:15am	15 School Advisory Board Meeting	16 Prep Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	17	18
19	20	21 Yr 2 Blue Mass 9:15am	22	23	24 Year 6 Confirmation 6pm	25 Year 6 Confirmation 9:30am
26 Parent's Association Meeting	27	28 Yr 1 Mass 9:15am	29	30 Year 1 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	31	