ST. PAUL'S KEALBA

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KEEPING OUR CONNECTIONS

Thursday 12th November, 2026

Dear Families & Friends of St. Paul's,

Let us begin with a prayer, reminding us to love our God and love our neighbour:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to *Matthew*.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.'
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Families and friends,

On Friday the 20th of November, our Year 6 students will hold a 'Market Day' in the Hall where they have organised games, activities and toys to share.Your children may bring a maximum of $20 (preferably smaller change) to spend at the market; their money should be in an envelope or snap-lock bag, clearly labelled with their name and grade. It is advisable that, on arrival at school, students in Prep and Year 1/2 give their money to their teacher to look after.The school will take no responsibility for lost or stolen money.The money raised at the Market Day will be used to purchase new sports equipement for each class. This initiative with the Year 6 students is to leave a positive mark at the conclusion of their primary school journey.

Kind regards,Patrick Pantalone, Andrew Curmi, Marlene Spiteri, Tiarne Briffa, Natalie Lynch, Adele Garofalo

Peace,
Mr Patrick Pantalone
Principal

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

St Paul's Primary School Kealba

TERM 4 DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

Thursday 8th: Market Manoeuvres Incursion for Grade 6
Monday 19th: Courage to Care Incursion for Grade 5/6
Wednesday 20th: Regional Athletics
Friday 22nd: Mission Mass at 9.30am
Friday 30th: D Day for Daniel

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd: School Closure Day (No Students)
Tuesday 3rd: Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Friday 6th: Kaboom Sports Day
Monday 9th: 2027 Prep Orientation Session #1
Monday 16th: 2027 Prep Orientation Session #2
Tuesday 17th: Grade 6 Water Safety Excursion
Monday 23rd: 2027 Prep Orientation Session #3
Monday 30th: Grade 6 Luna Park Day
Monday 30th: 2027 Prep Orientation Session #4

DECEMBER

Friday 4th: St Paul's Christmas Carols 5-8pm
Monday 7th: School Closure Day (No students)
Thursday 10th: Grade 6 Graduation Mass
Friday 11th: Last day of school for Grade 6
Friday 11th: End of Year Mass, 9.30am
Monday 14th: Step Up Day & 2027 Prep Orientation Session #5
Tuesday 15th: Last Day of School, 1.40pm finish.

*Please note that these dates and times may vary.
We will inform the community of any changes.

Message from Dr Edward Simons

For school newsletters

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Please share the following message with your school communities.

A special message from Dr Edward Simons
Executive Director, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

As schools communicate their fees for the coming year, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic education and to reaffirm our commitment to keeping Catholic schooling accessible and affordable for families.

Thank you for choosing to be part of our Catholic education community of more than 120,000 young people across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Today, one in five Victorian families choose a Catholic education, and in the past year alone almost 2,000 additional students have enrolled in a MACS school. Together, we share a commitment to providing an education grounded in faith, where every child is known, valued and inspired to flourish.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant work undertaken by principals and school leadership teams across MACS as they finalise plans and budgets for the year ahead. Their careful stewardship helps ensure our schools continue to provide outstanding learning opportunities, strong wellbeing support and vibrant faith communities for every student.

Like many families, our schools continue to face rising costs. We know that cost-of-living pressures continue to place strain on household budgets, and we remain committed to keeping school fees as affordable as possible. At the same time, we have a responsibility to attract, support and fairly reward the teachers and staff who make such a profound difference in the lives of our students each day, including maintaining pay parity with their colleagues in government schools.

Across MACS, we continue to review the way we operate, seeking efficiencies and making thoughtful decisions so that resources are directed where they matter most: teaching and learning, student wellbeing and the faith formation of young people.

Thank you for the trust you place in your school and in Catholic education. The continued growth in enrolments across our system is a sign of the confidence families place in Catholic education and the outstanding work of our principals, teachers and staff. As we continue to grow, our focus will remain on responsible stewardship, strong partnerships with families and a shared commitment to excellence. In doing so, we can ensure that Catholic education remains strong, sustainable and accessible, offering thriving communities of faith and learning for generations to come.

macs.vic.edu.au



If you have any leftover funds in flexischools, please call them on 1300 361 769 to organise a refund.

BEGINNING OF 2027 TESTING DATES
FOR YOUR DIARIES and CALENDARS

In 2027, the Foundation to Year 6 DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) testing will be conducted on Thursday 28th of January and **Friday 29th of January.** Your child will be required to attend a short testing session on one of these days. The testing will consist of a set of measures for assessing reading skills. The assessment will be conducted individually, with the classroom teacher facilitating the testing. The testing will run for 20 minutes per student from Foundation-Year 6. **Each student will be given a specific time to come to school to complete the testing on one of the days.** A hard copy of the testing times will be given to each student at Step Up Day: Monday 14th of December. Please put this flyer on your fridge!! We will try our best to have testing times for siblings at around the same time.

The data gained from these assessments is invaluable, as it assists teachers in establishing Literacy groupings for the commencement of the 2027 school year; it will also highlight students who will benefit from small group teacher instruction and intervention.

If your child/children will be away on holidays during this time, please let Narelle White know via email nwhite@spkealba.catholic.edu.au ASAP.

Normal classes for the 2027 school year will begin on Monday, the 1st of February.

Kind regards
Narelle White & Leanne Polidano

MACS CARE

Parent/Carer Newsletter 11

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Working together for Child Safety

Child Safe Standard 11

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

As Catholic educators, our commitment to child safety is not only expressed in our values, but clearly articulated in the policies and procedures that guide our daily practice. Child Safe Standard 11 ensures that our approach to safeguarding is transparent, structured, and consistently applied across all aspects of school life.

We recognise that strong intentions alone are not enough. Our child safety policies clearly outline expected behaviours, reporting processes, complaint handling procedures, and support pathways for children and families. These documents ensure that every member of our school community understands their responsibilities and knows how to respond if concerns arise.

By maintaining clear, accessible, and well-communicated policies, we create a safe and predictable environment where children's wellbeing is prioritised, and families can feel confident in the systems that protect their children.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they help keep children and young people safe, and how schools governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are prioritising and achieving this.

Overview of the Child Safe Standards:

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must adhere to.

These standards are designed to:

- Promote the participation and empowerment of children, young people and their families
- Prevent harm and abuse of children and young people
- Ensure child safety is a shared responsibility
- Support the wellbeing of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with disabilities

These standards apply to all school staff, volunteers, contractors, and anyone working with children in schools.

Child Safe Standard 11 *reminds us that safeguarding requires more than good intention, it requires clear action. As Scripture tells us in James 2:17, "Faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead." In the same way, our commitment to child safety must be reflected in practical, documented procedures that guide how we prevent, identify, and respond to concerns. Our policies translate our values into action. They set clear expectations for behaviour, outline reporting pathways, and ensure that every adult in our school community understands how to act in the best interests of children. When policies are visible, understood, and consistently applied, they create clarity, accountability, and protection.*

Why is it important that our child safety policies are clearly documented?

Clearly documented policies ensure that everyone in our school community understands how child safety is upheld in practice. They provide consistent guidance, reduce ambiguity, and ensure that concerns are handled in a fair and transparent way. Written procedures also strengthen accountability, ensuring that safeguarding does not depend on individual judgement alone, but is embedded across the whole organisation.

Reviewed: March 2026

Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 11

"Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people."

Child Safe Standard 10 ensures that safeguarding is embedded in formal documentation that is accessible, clear, and consistently applied. These policies outline codes of conduct, complaint processes, reporting obligations, and risk management strategies. By documenting how we act to protect children, we strengthen transparency, promote shared understanding, and ensure continuity, even as staff or leadership change.

What does this look like?

- **Clear Codes of Conduct**: Expectations for appropriate behaviour and professional boundaries are documented and communicated to all staff and volunteers
- **Accessible reporting pathways**: Step-by-step processes outline how concerns are raised, recorded, and escalated.
- **Complaint handling procedures**: Transparent procedures explain how complaints are assessed, investigated, and resolved.
- **Mandatory reporting guidance**: Staff receive clear written guidance on legal and organisational reporting obligations.
- **Regular communication**: Policies are made accessible to families via school websites, enrolment materials, and community updates.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved:

Child Safe Standard 11 works best when families understand and engage with the school's policies and procedures.

Families can help by:

- Familiarising themselves with the school's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Raising questions if any process is unclear
- Using established complaint and feedback channels if concerns arise
- Encouraging children to speak openly about their experiences at school
- Partnering with the school to ensure shared understanding of expectations and boundaries

When schools and families work together within clear and transparent frameworks, children benefit from consistent, coordinated support.



Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we document and implement our child safety processes, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the Social Services Regulator website

Working together for Child Safety

Reviewed: March 2026

WHAT'S THE BUZZ AT ST PAUL'S IN TERM FOUR

OUR LOCAL FIREMEN CAME BACK TO VISIT

On Friday, the 30th of October, our Prep students and teachers welcomed some special 'Community' visitors to our school!
Some of the local firemen came back to St Paul's with their fire truck!

The students were able to see the truck up close and heard the siren.
They also all had a go at using the hose!

Find out what some of the Prep students thought!

I liked using the fire hose. We got to spray the fence. The hose was long and heavy. (Everly)
The fire truck was big. It had special equipment. The siren was loud! (Elliana)
Using the fire truck hose was so much fun! (Kingston)
I liked using the water in the fireman hose. (Jason)

The fire trucks' lights were flashing red and blue. (Paul)
The water in the hose was going up high. The water went over the fence. We got to hold the hose. We sat in the fire truck too! (Tomi)
The firemen were wearing their fireman suits. (William)
There was so much water in the fire hoses. (Natalia)





KABOOM SPORTS DAY

On Friday, the 6th of November, our students and teachers enjoyed Kaboom Sports Day! The Team from Kaboom created a high-energy, tabloid-style sport experience designed to engage every single student, no matter their age or ability. The programs are inclusive, engaging and action-packed, where nobody stood still. Every activity is thoughtfully designed to keep students moving, collaborating and smiling.

Find out what some of our students thought!

Kaboom was really fun! I liked the rainbow parachute. (Jayda PFR)
Kaboom was amazing! I loved doing all the activities. It made me feel joy! (Evelyn 1/2SD)
Kaboom was fun! I liked it because I got to hang out with my friends! (Eva 3/4AM)
Kaboom was fun! Mrs Briffa was the best teacher dancer! (Mia L 5/6TB)
Kaboom was fun. We were able to have fun and be energetic! (Oliver 5/6SC)

BABY CHICKS HAVE ARRIVED THIS WEEK!

On Monday, the 9th of November, the Preps had eggs delivered to their classrooms. The Henny Penny Hatching program gives the students the opportunity to watch eggs hatch in a specially designed incubator and then observe the hatched chicks at play in a large, clear-sided brooding pen. This program fosters empathy and care.

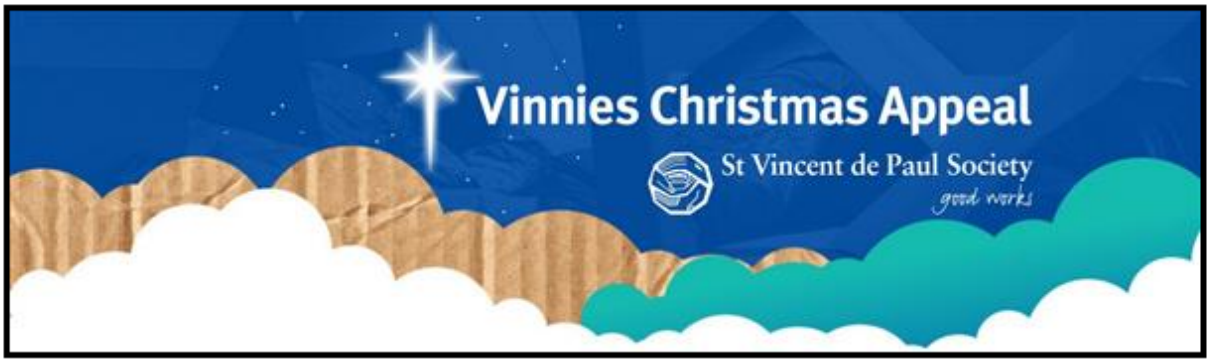
Find out what some of the Prep students think about the chicks!

The chicks are cute! The chicks 'cheep' a lot. (Ellie)
I like the chicks because they are so cute! (Jason)
We have named 5 of the chicks. I love the chicks. I want to keep one! (Lucinda)
Cocoa is fluffy. Cocoa is one of our chicks. I love the chicks. (Zac)

The chicks have hatched. 2 chicks hatched on Monday and 3 chicks hatched on Tuesday. (River)
The chicks are cute! I like the brown chick. I got to hold the brown chick. (Jazmyn)
We have 5 chicks. There will be more. (Anton)
The chicks are really cute! They are yellow with black spots. We have a brown chick too. (Emma)







A BIG Thank You to St. Paul's School Community! We have had great success with donations of items for our Vinnies Christmas Appeal. We were inundated with so many items which will make Christmas brighter for many in our local community. A big thank you to our SRC who helped collect and sort items.

Here is our SRC pictured with just some of our donations.



INSTAGRAM

Join Our School on Instagram!
We're excited to share the wonderful moments and special events happening at our school!
Follow us on our school Instagram page, to see photos and highlights of our students' learning and achievements and celebrations within our school community.
Stay connected and celebrate with us.

Share in the joy of our school community.
We'd love for you to like, follow and share our page with family and friends so everyone can be part of the journey!
Find us here: @sp_kealba.
Install the Instagram APP to follow our photos and videos.
https://www.instagram.com/sp_kealba?igsh=djVlazU2cHAyYjg=&utm_source=ig_contact_invite



PRIMARY MUSIC INSTITUTE

Prize draw

Win a free term of music lessons for 2027.



Thinking about activities for next year? **Primary Music Institute runs weekly music lessons conveniently on-site at your school.** We're giving one family a free term of lessons for Term 1 2027.

- Lessons on-site at your school
- Patient, auditioned teachers
- Instruments supplied for lessons

Scan to enter

freeterm.primarymusicinstitute.com.au

Takes one minute. Enter any time over the summer holidays.

Entries close 15 January 2027.

- Since 1995
- 100,000+ students taught
- Melbourne schools

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Catholic School Parents Victoria Newsletter



full newsletter linked here

https://cspv.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/CSPV-Newsletter-Volume-2.pdf

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Choose **Great**

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE SYDENHAM

The Senior Secondary Specialists



Monday
23 November

6:00pm

Catholic Regional College Sydenham

380 Sydenham Road, Sydenham.

Year 11 and 12 2028 Enrolment Evening



Want the best for your child's future?

Join us for a 30 minute Information Session followed by College tours.

Enrolments will open on the night for Year 11 and 12 2028.



How to enrol and what to expect

Sydenham Scholarship Information



Learn about our VCE and VCE VM offerings

REGISTER NOW

Join us ***and speak directly to the Principal, Deputy Principal and College Captains.***

Supporting Local Business



We'd love to stay connected with you!
Follow us on Instagram @karamelacandyboxes

Thank you for your recent order and for supporting our small family business.

Every order is created with love, care, and a whole lot of sweetness - just for you.

Stay Sweet!
Helen & Vicki x

