



ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL

**TERM 1 WEEK 6
FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2024**

Principal's Message

From our Principal Mr Michael Gavaghan

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we reach the halfway point of the Lenten season, let us take a moment to reflect on our journey thus far. Lent is a time of introspection, self-reflection, and spiritual growth. It's an opportunity for us to pause, evaluate our actions, and strive for personal renewal. As we continue our Lenten observance, let us remain committed to our prayers, sacrifices, and acts of kindness. Let's use this time to deepen our connection with our faith, to cultivate compassion for others, and to strengthen our resolve to live with greater purpose and meaning. Wishing you all continued blessings on your Lenten journey.

Next week is Catholic Education Week. This year, Catholic Education Week will be celebrated from Sunday 10 March to Sunday 17 March. Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to celebrate their Catholic identity, the pivotal role they play within their local community and the strength of the sector. The theme is 'In the light of Christ'. On Friday 15 March, our student leaders will join with student leaders from across the Melbourne Archdiocese at a special student mass to be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral by Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

The school community gathered in great numbers for last week's Beginning of the Year School picnic. It was a highly successful night, the weather was perfect and it was great to get around to the many groups of families and have a chat. Thank you to the staff for being available and for creating the activities to entertain the students, especially Lisa Black and her team. Also a big thanks to the Parent Association for their organisation of food trucks and snow cones on the night. The aim was not fundraising but building up our community, something that was very evident by the turn out.

There has been a quiet evolution happening in the classroom of St Andrew's and this year it will escalate, St Andrew's is implementing the science of learning. This innovative approach combines research findings from psychology, neuroscience, and education to enhance teaching and learning experiences. By understanding how students learn best, our teachers can tailor their instruction to optimize retention and comprehension.

Through strategies such as spaced repetition and review, retrieval practice, and metacognition, students will develop more effective study habits and critical thinking skills. Teachers will incorporate these evidence-based techniques into their lesson plans, fostering a more engaging and enriching learning environment.

Throughout the year our teachers will join with teachers from many other Catholic primary schools throughout the western region to learn and improve together. This initiative is part of the broader Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools' Vision for Instruction, titled Flourishing Learners. We believe that embracing the Science of Learning will empower our students to become more autonomous learners, equipped with the tools they need to succeed academically and beyond. Stay tuned for updates as we embark on this exciting journey together! Find out more [here](#).

At the beginning of 2024 St Andrew's was also identified as eligible to participate in the Mental Health in Schools program. [Mental Health in Primary Schools](#), or MHiPS, is a partnership between the Victorian Government, the Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and the Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) at the University of Melbourne. By participating in this program St Andrew's has been funded to appoint a teacher, part time, as a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader. I wish to congratulate Nicole Sciberras for being selected for this role for two days a week. Elwyn Blackley has been sharing the class this term as Nicole has trained.

At our latest Parent Association meeting the discussion turned to parking and safety around our school. I wish to remind all parents to abide by the parking regulations in place. I especially wish to highlight Mortimer St, outside the Foundation classrooms. **Between 8:15am - 9:15am & 3:00pm - 4:00pm cars should not enter Mortimer St from Werribee St, it becomes one way.** Enter from Greaves St Nth and exit via Werribee St.



I also ask that cars are not parked on the nature strips and driveways of the Penola Hub, the parish building next to the school. Parking inspectors patrol the area and they will book you.

Finally, just a reminder that dogs are not permitted on the site of St Andrew's Primary School. We have students and staff who have phobias and fears of dogs so please respect our request not to bring dogs on site unless authorisation is given.

Happy International Women's Day and enjoy this week's long weekend.

Michael Gavaghan



2024 School Photos - Monday March 25th

Next week families will receive important registration information for our 2024 school photos.

There is no need to return any forms or payment to the school before photo day, however it is important to register each year to link to your child's new images.

SCHOOL FEES & LEVIES

CSEF & Concessional School Fees

Families with a valid, current health care card are eligible to apply for the Camps, Sports, Excursion Funding and concessional school fees.

The CSEF is paid to schools by the State Government to eligible students. Each eligible student is entitled to \$125 towards camps, sports and excursions.

Concessional fees for eligible students is:

- 1 child family \$ 780.00
- 2 child family \$1196.00
- 3+child family \$1560.00

Eligible families must complete an application form, available from the school office, and present their valid, concession card with their completed application form to the school office.

Direct Debit Payments

Families wishing to establish direct debit payments and those families needing to re establish their direct debit arrangements for 2024 can do so by visiting or contacting the school office.



SUBWAY lunches can be ordered for the rest of the year through the Canteen Hub website:

<http://app.canteenhub.com.au/login>

You can place an order up until 5pm on the Wednesday before the Friday delivery date, our next delivery date is:

Friday 15 March.

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3 & 5 participate in NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy & Numeracy). This year's NAPLAN will be held between 13 - 25 March. At St Andrew's the following test program will be followed:

Wed 13 March 9:30am - Writing

Mon 18 March 9:30am - Reading

Tues 19 March 9:30am - Numeracy

Wed 20 March 11:30am - Language Conventions

Parents are asked to keep these dates and times in mind when making other arrangements. If a student is unable to take a test at the designated time with a valid reason then make up times are available.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to your child and NAPLAN please make an appointment with your child's teacher or Carolyn Martin (Learning & Teaching leader), Beth Du Plooy (Literacy Leader), Brittany Holland (Mathematics Leader) or Steve Dalton (Learning Diversity Leader).

2025 Foundation Enrolments are NOW OPEN!

Any families with a child who will turn 5 before 30 April 2025 should be enrolling them to start school next year.

Existing families will be encouraged to complete an Enrolment Enquiry online any time from March 1 until the end of Term 1.

Catholic Schools Guide 2024

Students in Years 4 & 5 will bring home this year's Catholic School's Guide that contains information about Catholic Secondary Schools. We hope this assists you in making your choices for your child's future Secondary education.

Office Hours

Please note that office hours are
8:00am - 4:00pm Monday to
Friday.



Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader



Mrs Sciberras

Promotion (raising awareness)

Encompasses actions that seek to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children, with a focus on positive development. This involves building children's social and emotional skills, competencies and the creation of supportive environments.

Prevention

Focuses on preventing the development of common mental health disorders. Prevention approaches tend to target risk factors and early signs of mental health concerns while fostering protective factors that contribute to improved mental health and wellbeing.

Hello!

My role is to build the capability of the whole school with regard to mental health and wellbeing (identification, promotion and prevention). Part of my role includes strengthening our universal practices at St. Andrews by building teacher capacity to better identify and support students with mental health concerns. I will work closely with classroom teachers in providing support to students who have been identified as in need. I will work in partnership with families, in creating clear pathways for students who may need further assessment and intervention with the school and external providers.



Good



Coping



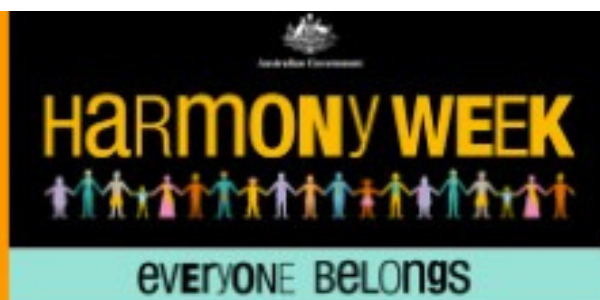
Struggling



Overwhelmed

The Children's Wellbeing Continuum is an evidence-based tool that helps parents, teachers, and children to discuss and reflect on wellbeing. It can be used as a snapshot of a child's social-emotional wellbeing at a point in time.





Dear Families,

To celebrate Harmony Week on Friday 22nd of March we are having a dress up day. Your children can come to school wearing either:
A traditional costume that celebrates your



culture
OR



A colour that represents your culture



OR



Something orange to celebrate Harmony Week



This is not 'casual clothes day'. If you do not want to wear one of the above, school uniform is perfectly acceptable!

Catholic Identity News

From our Deputy Principal Mr Glenn Mugavin

Teaching & Learning about LENT

I was visiting our Foundation classes during the week and our newest students were eager to share with me a new word that they learned in Religious Education lessons: **compassion**.

Compassion is an important term for our students to understand in Lent. It is more than sympathy, which is feeling sorry for someone; it is more than empathy, which is feeling the same as someone; it is to see the need of someone and be moved to do something about it. And our youngest learners are on the way towards this.

Connection to the wider Catholic Community

Catholic Education Week 2024: In the Light of Christ

*Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to celebrate their Catholic identity, the pivotal role they play within their local community and the strength of the sector. Catholic Education Week will run from Sunday 10 March to Sunday 18 March. The theme is 'In the light of Christ'. The **Student Mass of St Patrick for Schools is on Friday 15 March 2024** at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne.*

Next Friday, our School Captains and some members from our Mini-Vinnies Team are representing our school at the Catholic Education Week mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. Last year's attendees (pictured with our regional bishop, Martine Ashe) were in awe of the number of schools who attended and of the beauty of the stained glass windows in the cathedral which tell our Christian story.



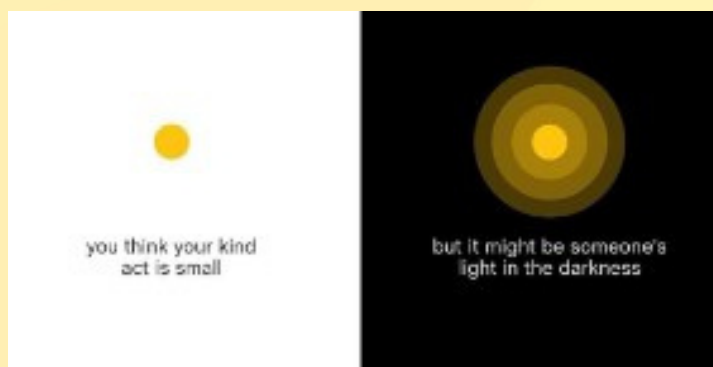
Lenten Practices

In this season of Lent, we grow closer in relationship to God through three actions:

1. Prayer: pray more often; attend mass
2. Sacrifice: give something up
3. Almsgiving: give to someone in need

A small kind act may be someone else's light in the darkness

This kind action, which can be as simple as a smile, can brighten someone's day.



The Wyndham

Festival for Healthy Living

SATURDAY MARCH 16TH - 12 PM TILL 6PM

YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE, 86 DERRIMUT ROAD, HOPPERS CROSSING

The Wyndham Festival for Healthy Living is a partnership between The Village Festival, The Royal Children's Hospital Mental Health, 4 schools and many community groups in the region

Free!!

GREAT FOOD!!

ARTS & CRAFT

Kindly funded by Wyndham City Council & Victorian State Government - Empowering Communities

Free!!

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

Free!!

FREE combined schools family arts and community wellbeing festival



The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne



EXPLORE ALPHA AT ST. ANDREW'S



Starting 21 Feb 2024 | 7 - 9 PM | Penola Hub



Get connected and explore faith with others

- 01 GATHER TOGETHER AND GET CONNECTED
- 02 WATCH AN EPISODE ON A TOPIC OF FAITH
- 03 ASK QUESTIONS AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Penola Hub
33 Mortimer Street, Werribee

COME AND SEE.

This is open to everyone.

Alpha has impacted both church-goers and those who do not go to church alike. It welcomes everyone regardless of race, religion, or cultural affiliation.

Alpha is a safe-space where you can ask any question.

Alpha can help individuals explore topics about life, death, faith, and many more.

Alpha will run strictly from 7:00PM to 9:00PM only. Sessions are FREE and includes dinner.

Limited slots only. Scan and register now.

KEY DATES FOR THE COURSE

- 21 Feb 2024 Is there more to life than this?
- 28 Feb 2024 Who is Jesus?
- 06 Mar 2024 Why did Jesus die?
- 13 Mar 2024 How can I have faith?
- 20 Mar 2024 Why and how do I pray?
- 27 Mar 2024 Why and how should I read the Bible?
- 17 Apr 2024 How does God guide us?
- 20 Apr 2024 WEEKEND RETREAT
- 24 Apr 2024 How can I resist evil?
- 01 May 2024 Does God heal today?
- 08 May 2024 Why and how should I tell others?
- 15 May 2024 What about the Church?

Wednesday Nights
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM only

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Explore.

Join a one-of-a-kind, open-ended, open-minded, open-hearted, pressure free, small group conversation.

COME AND SEE.

ALPHA @ ST. ANDREW'S STARTS ON 21 FEB 2024 7PM TO 9PM | PENOLA HUB

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Powlin

I have a great passion for teaching and singing. My kids love and come here with my husband and 2 year old son in 2009.

The Alpha sessions offered great insights for prayer and soul-strengthening reflections. I have loved and enjoyed every session.

I invite you all to come and experience this journey!

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COME AND SEE.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Cora

I'm a St. Andrew's graduate since 1988. On a sabbatical leave gardening and looking after our 3 year old grandson.

I have completed 2 Alpha courses which I'm immensely enjoyed.

Alpha has deepened my appreciation and practice of my Catholic faith. I strongly recommend it to anyone who wants to know more about the real meaning of life.

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COME AND SEE.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Sherine

I'm from India and I came to Australia in 2006 to settle here with my family. I love music and yummy food.

Alpha has enriched my spiritual journey with our great God. I enjoy a clear and stronger relationship with God who is most caring but intentionally close to each of us.

Come and experience this journey!

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COME AND SEE.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Maria

I have three wonderful kids and a loving husband.

Alpha has allowed me to go deeper into my faith journey and to be closer to God.

I enjoyed the Alpha sessions and have met amazing people who share the same faith as I do.

Come join this journey with us!

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COME AND SEE.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Fr. Huy

I started my priestly vocation in 2002 in Nha-Trang, Vietnam and moved to Australia in 2003. I was ordained a priest in 2002. I love reading books, playing table tennis and fishing.

Alpha is a fantastic venue where you can open yourself up in exploring the faith, asking life's big questions and experiencing the life-changing power of God's love.

If you never try, you'll never know.

ALPHA @ ST. ANDREW'S STARTS ON 21 FEB 2024 7PM TO 9PM | PENOLA HUB

COME AND SEE.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Susanne

I'm happily married and we have three gorgeous girls. I'm also a primary school teacher and I love sharing my Catholic faith with others.

I've done Alpha twice and I loved it! Meeting people, sharing delicious food, open dialogue and conversations about deeper questions of life.

It's been so much fun and really fulfilling. Can't wait for the next Alpha course 2024! See you there!

ALPHA @ ST. ANDREW'S STARTS ON 21 FEB 2024 7PM TO 9PM | PENOLA HUB

COME AND SEE.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Jim & Titus

After decades of professional work, we are now much more focused on community life, evangelisation and mission.

Having been to a number of spiritual seminars, we have found Alpha as a very down-to-earth approach to the evangelisation faith.

We encourage you to make this your first meeting point with the Lord or your re-connection with Him.

ALPHA @ ST. ANDREW'S STARTS ON 21 FEB 2024 7PM TO 9PM | PENOLA HUB

COME AND SEE.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Philo

I've got three kids and my job is family counselling.

Alpha over the years transformed my life as I found power through the Holy Spirit during the sessions by hearing people share their stories.

I strongly encourage you to take part and complete ALPHA.

ALPHA @ ST. ANDREW'S STARTS ON 21 FEB 2024 7PM TO 9PM | PENOLA HUB

COME AND SEE.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ALPHA.

Alpha

Eric

I enjoy travelling, reading and basketball.

In recent years I've had a lot of questions about God and my faith. I found Alpha to be a fantastic platform to meet like-minded people and freely ask those questions about God.

If you're someone looking to explore the faith, Alpha is a great place to start!

ALPHA @ ST. ANDREW'S STARTS ON 21 FEB 2024 7PM TO 9PM | PENOLA HUB

COME AND SEE.



St. Andrew's Primary School Calendar

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i>					1 Parent Assoc. Welcome Picnic 5:30pm SUBWAY Day	2
3	4 Parent Assoc. Meeting 7pm Zooper Dooper Day	5 School Evacuation Drill	6 Year 4 Camp Anglesea	7 Year 4 Camp Anglesea Year 6 The Huddle	8 Year 4 Camp Anglesea	9
10	11 LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	12 South Sudanese Community Forum 7pm	13 NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5 - Writing	14 St Andrew's Athletics Carnival Years 3-6	15 Year 6 Summer Gala Day SUBWAY Day	16
17	18 NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5 - Reading Zooper Dooper Day	19 NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5 - Numeracy	20 NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5 - Language Conventions	21	22 Sacrament of Confirmation 6:30pm	23
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25 School Photo Day	26	27	28 Term 1 finishes at 1pm	29 GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	30