



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Excellence, Nurture, Community

29 Smith St, Daylesford, Vic 3460

Phone: (03) 5348 1261

Website: www.smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

Email: admin@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

Friday August 15th 2025

Prayer to Saint Mary MacKillop

Ever generous God, You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop
to live her life in service to others,
especially those in need.
May we follow her example of faith and courage,
trusting in Your providence each day,
and remaining open to the challenges of the Gospel.
Help us to see with the eyes of Christ, to love with His heart,
and to act with His compassion.
Saint Mary MacKillop,
pray for us.
Amen.

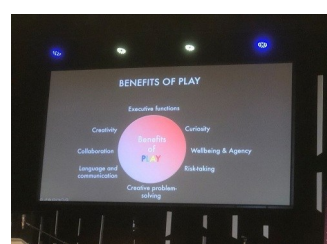
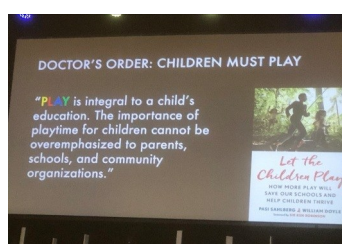
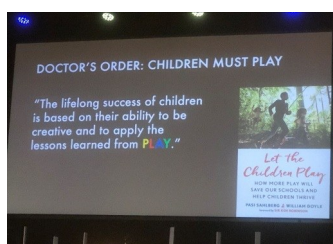


Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of Week 4 and almost half way through the term! At assembly this morning, we were able to acknowledge a number of students who had demonstrated actions in keeping with our St. Michael's 5. With a particular focus on: 'We take pride in our own appearance and the appearance of our school environment,' **Jesse Meechan, Xavier Hughes, Mason Booth, Poppy Irving and Harvey Irving** were all acknowledged for 'seeing a need in our school and doing something about it.' These students responded to the need of a bin that had been knocked over, picking up rubbish without being asked to do so by a teacher. We also acknowledged **Joel Ware** for going further with his spelling when using the whiteboards in our learning street.

Finally, we officially farewellled Karinda Van Gulick who has now commenced maternity leave. SAC Chairperson Andrea Gardiner presented Karinda with a gift on behalf of the SAC and the school.

I am currently in Horsham for the quarterly Diocesan Leadership Gathering. Principals had the opportunity to listen to world renown education expert Pasi Sahlberg who spoke about the decline in children's creative play over the past 20 years - creative play that doesn't involve the use of a device. We then spent time looking at skills young people will need in order to experience success in the 21st century and could see a direct link between these skills and the qualities required for children to engage in free play.



Next Tuesday-Friday I will be in Cairns for the Australian Catholic Education Conference. Many thanks to Shay King who will be leading the school in my absence.

Staff News

Claire O'Connor continues to recover from a recent operation. We look forward to welcoming Claire back to school in Week 6.

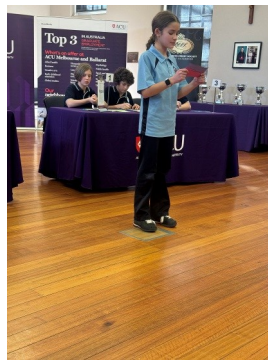
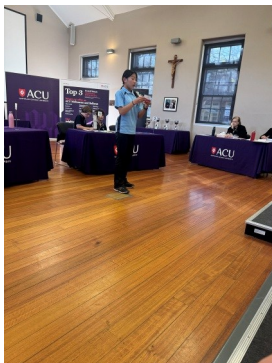
Little Feet Big Footprints

Well done to the students in Year 6 who participated in Day 3 of our Little Feet Big Footprints program. Students attended Mass at St. Brigid's parish in Ballan to celebrate the feast day of Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop. Fr Justin then led a session on Catholic Social Teaching Principles and sparked thoughtful discussion amongst the students regarding possible ideas for their project. Many thanks to Louise Morris for supporting the students so well with this initiative.



Debate Team

Congratulations to Vernisia Chen, Myla Comelli, Syd Harris and Beckett O'Brien who represented our school extremely well at the Royal South Street Debate Competition held at Australian Catholic University last Monday. Whilst we did not progress through to the next stage of the competition, the feedback received from the judges was very encouraging. A big thank you to Karinda Van Gulick who worked with these students and supported them at the competition.



Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair this week. We have raised of \$300 towards additional resources for the library.

Dates for Term Three

Week 5

Monday August 18: Book Week begins, Discovery 1 and Discovery 2 excursion to the Daylesford Library (10:40am-1:00pm) and Year 5 SEED visit to Damascus College (8:30am-2:30pm)

Friday August 22: Book Week Parade in the Presentation Centre: 9:05am-9:35am and Playgroup in the Presentation Centre (10am-11am)

Week 6

Tuesday August 26: Ballarat Catholic Secondary School's transition day

Wednesday August 27: MPower day for girls in Years 3-6 (in the Presentation Centre) and 2026 Foundation Information Night in the Presentation Centre (5:30pm-6:30pm)

Thursday August 28: Selection of students from Connection visiting Guide Dogs in Kew and Year 5 and 6 Transition Day at Daylesford Secondary College (10am-2pm)

Friday August 29: Discovery 1 Assembly beginning 9:05am in the Presentation Centre and Playgroup in the Presentation Centre (10am-11am)

Week 7

Friday September 5: Father's Day/Special People's Breakfast at school (8am), Father's Day/Special People's Liturgy (9:05am) and Playgroup in the Presentation Centre (10am-11am)

Week 8

Thursday September 11: Art Show in the Presentation Centre from 2:15pm-5:30pm

Friday September 12: Discovery 2 Assembly beginning 9:05am in the Presentation Centre and Playgroup in the Presentation Centre (10am-11am)

Week 9

Tuesday September 16: Winter Sports for Years 3-6 students

Friday September 19: Show Your Colours Day and final day of Term Three (2:15pm finish)

The first day Of Term Four for students will be **Monday October 6**

LEARNING & TEACHING

100 Days of Learning

Congratulations to the Discovery 1 students and staff who celebrated 100 days of learning at St. Michael's in style! It was wonderful to see the students dressed up and having fun whilst remaining focused on their learning - most definitely worth celebrating.



Writing Moderation

Each term our staff gather to moderate writing samples of students from each class. Writing moderation in primary schools provides a range of benefits for both teachers and students. It plays a key role in improving consistency, fairness, and the quality of teaching and learning. Here are the main benefits:

Ensures Consistency and Fairness in Assessment

- Teachers collaboratively agree on what different standards of writing look like.
- Promotes fair grading across classes and year levels.
- reduces subjectivity in marking.

Supports Teacher Professional Development

- Encourages professional dialogue around curriculum standards and assessment criteria.
- Builds confidence in making judgements about student writing.

Improves Student Outcomes

- Teachers gain a clearer understanding of what students need to do to improve.
- Informs planning, feedback, and differentiation.
- Students receive accurate and constructive feedback.

Enhances Curriculum Alignment

- Ensures that writing tasks and assessments are aligned with curriculum expectations (national standards).
- Promotes consistency across schools.

Builds a Collaborative Teaching Culture

- Strengthens collaboration and shared understanding within teaching teams.
- Encourages reflective practice and continuous improvement.

Identifies Gaps in Teaching or Learning

Allows teachers to spot patterns in student performance.

Identifies areas where teaching practice can be adjusted or improved.



Book Week - Beginning Monday August 18

Book week this year will take place from Monday August 18 - Friday August 22. The theme is **'Book an Adventure'**. There are a number of shortlisted books that we will be reading and celebrating during book week here at school.

On **Friday August 22**, we will be having a Book Week celebration which will include a **dress up day** for all students. Parents and carers are welcome to join us for our parade which will take place in the Presentation Centre at 9:05am. We are inviting all students to dress as their favourite book character, book title or even something related to the theme of book week.

WELLBEING

Student Led Clubs

A number of our middle level and senior students continue to offer a variety of different clubs during recess and lunch breaks. These clubs continue to be well received and provide a variety of different opportunities from netball to art clubs.

Medication

A reminder that if your child requires medication at school, you will be notified the same way you would receive a notification if any first aid treatment was required for your child following a visit to our sick bay.



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

St. Vinnies Winter Appeal

Donations of good quality clothes, toys and household items (no electronics) can begin to be brought to school as of next week. Thank you in anticipation of your support for this worthy cause.

Mini Vinnies

Well done to Mila O'Halloran, Lacey Geurts and Xavier Paparousis who visited the Daylesford Kindergarten this week. Inspired by Book Week, Mila, Lacey and Xavier assisted the kindergarten students in creating their own picture story book. Many thanks to Laura Buby who accompanied the students.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Playgroup

Sessions will continue on Fridays from 10am-11am throughout the term. All new and existing families are most welcome to attend.

Parent helpers wanted

With a number of events taking place this term, there are 2 in particular that require additional support:

Friday September 5: Fathers Day/Special People's Breakfast

Tuesday September 16: Winter Sports (Years 3-6)

Both events require parents or carers to assist in cooking BBQs and we will also need parents and carers to assist with the canteen for Winter Sports. If you are available to help out, even if only for a short amount of time, please email: thogan@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

Thanks in anticipation of your support.

Science Week at Daylesford Library

Today our Grade 5 and 6 students were invited to take part in a Science Week workshop at Daylesford Library. The workshop guided participants in constructing a simple automaton that mimics the rotational motion of the Sun, Earth, and Moon. This session will introduce basic mechanical engineering principles and encourage the development of fine motor skills, spatial awareness, and attention to detail.



LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Accounts

Thank you to the families who have attended to this matter already this year. It is imperative that fee obligations are met by families as a means of maintaining the normal function and operation of our school. If you have outstanding fees, could you please attend to those ASAP. Alternatively, if you are having trouble paying your fees, please contact me to discuss further.

Our NAB account details are **Account Name: St Michaels General BSB 083 004 Account No 711437401**.

Our preferred fee paying method is direct debit, these forms are available from the office. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Have a great weekend!

Tim

Hello, on behalf of the SAC (Student Advisory Council)

Last year was a busy one in fundraising, plenty of community involvement with some big ones- a Trivia night, Fete and lastly our Glenlyon Sports Day – they all took place in raising most important funds to support our school. This Term we will be partaking in a PIE DRIVE – look out soon for the form in your child's bag, you may wish to fill your freezer for some winter goodies of meat pies, sweet pies and other treats. In the past this fundraiser is an easy one to conduct with a considerable profit for the school.

GLENLYON SPORTS DAY - 1st January 2026

Josh and myself are happy to go ahead with the main organisation of the Glenlyon Sports Day.- this involves our school cooking food/ running the canteen for this local event. However, before we commit to the running of this event, we need to divide the roles especially over the Christmas break (we are away) and need to secure a mass cohort of volunteers on the day. This has been an annual tradition and an immense fundraiser for the school. It's a shame if we lose this event for our school, but this ***will not go ahead*** without the help of the St Michael's Community. As a school fundraiser going forward, we will potentially look at doing this every second year in conjunction with another school. So far we haven't been successful in securing another school.

Please advise Tim, Leah or email/text me how you would like to contribute to Glenlyon 2026 **by end of August please**. Thank-you to the families who have already committed /donated to this event.

Slicing Onions – *Chen family.*

Preparation of Coleslaw – *Chen Family.*

Donations of small goods- *Istra/ Jurcan family.*

Donations of eggs -

Donations of drinks (cans, primas etc)-

Donations of icypoles/iceccreams etc -.....

Donations of home made slices/ cakes /items to sell at the canteen – (*can be before end of the school year- we can freeze home made goods*)

Cool room mobile fridge on trailer – (*to be located on a families property a few days before the event*)

Cool room – transportation on 1st January - (this is on a trailer- so will need a ute /similar vehicle)

Volunteers on the 1st January :(ideally shifts of 1-2 hours)

Set up of Tents, Barbecues, canteen, *Gardiner family;*

Canteen – serving food/drinks – *Andrea Gardiner,*.....

Barbecue – serving food -

Barbecue- taking orders -.....

Barbecue – cooking on the BBQ s (meats, eggs, bacon, onion etc)– *Josh Gardiner,*

Feel free to reach out at any time offering your thoughts, suggestions or support. We continue to bring forward ideas/ thoughts at our SAC meetings to represent our whole school community.

Many thanks,

Andrea Gardiner

Chair of the SAC 2025

Parent to Zahra Year 4, Eliza Year 3



Tuning in to Kids - Daylesford

Eager to learn how to help your child manage feelings and emotions and develop emotional intelligence?

Children with emotional intelligence have greater success making and keeping friends, are more able to be calm when upset or angry and have better concentration at school.

In this program you will find out how to help your child understand and manage feelings such as frustration, worry and anger through the concepts of emotional intelligence and Emotion Coaching.

✓ Support

✓ Strategies

✓ Understanding

Program Details:

Date: Thursdays 23rd October – 27th November

Time: 12.00am-2.00pm

Location: Daylesford Neighbourhood House

Paddock Room – 13 Camp Street, Daylesford.

Register:

W [Tuning in to Kids - CatholicCare Victoria](https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/tuning-in-to-kids)

P (03) 5337 8999

E parenting.ballarat@catholiccarevic.org.au

This program has six weekly sessions.

Early registration is recommended. Express your interest via the QR code or contact us.



www.catholiccarevic.org.au

(03) 5337 8999 | 4-6 Peel Street North, Bakery Hill Vic.