



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Excellence, Nurture, Community

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Friday August 21st 2026

A Prayer for our School Community

Loving God,
Thank you for our St Michael's community
and for the many people who make our school a place of belonging.
Help us to see the goodness and uniqueness in every person.
Give us the courage to stand up for what is right,
the kindness to include those who may feel alone,
and the wisdom to choose words and actions that build others up.
May we remember that we all have a part to play
in creating a school where everyone feels safe, respected and valued.
Guide us to be compassionate, welcoming and understanding,
and help us to celebrate the gifts that each person brings to our community.
May our words bring encouragement,
our actions bring kindness,
and our hearts remain open to others.

Dear Families,

We prepare for a busy finish to our term with a number of excursions and activities taking place over the next few weeks. Students are excited for our BookWeek Parade taking place in our Presentation Centre next **Friday August 28 beginning 9:05am**. We ask students to dress up as a character inspired by a book and, if possible, bring this book along to the parade. We have also reminded students that money does not need to be spent on new costumes and we encourage creativity - using clothing and materials that may already be available at home.

Award Winners

Congratulations to Keith Undy, Xavier Curwen-Walker, Seraphina Nikolettopoulos and Ollie Hartmann who received awards at assembly this morning.



STEM MAD Showcase

Last Thursday, our Year 4 students attended the STEM MAD Showcase at Damascus College, where they explored how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) can be used to make a positive difference in our everyday lives.

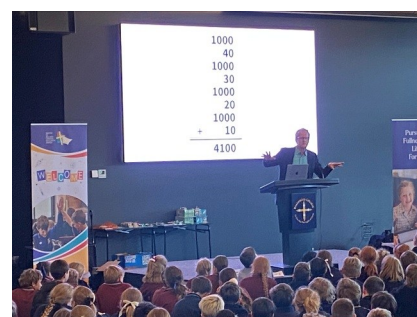
The showcase brought together students from across the Diocese, with projects developed by students from Emmaus and St Columba's demonstrating how STEM can be used to address real-world challenges and Make a Difference (MAD) in our communities.

Throughout the day, our Year 4 students engaged enthusiastically with the projects on display. They listened carefully, explored new ideas and asked thoughtful and meaningful questions of the students who had developed the projects. Their curiosity and willingness to engage demonstrated the wonderful learning that can occur when students are given opportunities to connect classroom learning with real-world innovation.

Following the showcase, our Year 4 students returned to school and shared their learning with our Innovation 2 class. They presented their findings and reflected on the ideas that had inspired them throughout the day.

The experience provided our students with a valuable opportunity to see STEM in action and to understand that innovation is not simply about creating something new—it is about using our knowledge, creativity and problem-solving skills to make a difference in the world around us.

We are very proud of the way our Year 4 students represented St Michael's and embraced this wonderful learning opportunity. A big thank you to Claire Allen who supported the students with this opportunity.



Daylesford Secondary College Transition Day

It was pleasing to hear many positive comments about the way in which our Year 6 students participated in the Physical Education Transition Day held at Daylesford Secondary College last Thursday. Many thanks to Sarah Mooney, Lorelle Griffin and Kim Grimes who accompanied and assisted the students.



Father's/Special People Day

We look forward to welcoming Fathers and Special People to school on **Friday September 4**. We will have breakfast at the **back of the school beginning at 8:00am** and our **liturgy in the Presentation Centre will commence at 9:05am**. If you would like a photo (maximum of 2 per family) of the children and their father/father figure to be included in the Father's Day Liturgy photo slideshow, please send these in no later than **Friday the 28th of August 2026 by 3pm** to ensure these can be included. Photos are to be sent via email to Sarah Mooney:

smooney@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

School Production Uniforms

There is not long to go until our School Production. A big thank you to the many parents who have volunteered to assist in a variety of ways! Please see below for the costume requirements of your child's class.

Discovery 1 – "Dream Machine" Song

Costume: Pyjamas & Soft Toys

Students will need:

- Pyjamas – any style or colour
- Dressing gown – optional
- Slippers – if safe and suitable; otherwise, sneakers are perfectly fine
- **One soft toy** that your child is happy to bring to school
- Sleep mask – optional, worn on the forehead
- Optional: a few glow-in-the-dark or silver stars attached to the pyjamas to add to the space theme

Discovery 2 – “Space Shuffle” Song - Costume: Astronauts Base Costume

- White painter’s coveralls – these are available inexpensively from hardware stores or paint suppliers
- White sneakers
- White socks

Optional painter’s coverall example:

[White Disposable Coveralls – Example](#)

Accessories

- NASA-style or **“Planet X” mission patch** on the chest
- Australian flag or school logo patch on one sleeve
- Silver duct tape around the wrists and ankles to create a spacesuit effect
- Black belt or webbing belt
- Black gloves – optional

Headwear – choose one

- White baseball cap
- Silver headband
- Soft white beanie

Connection – “ET 2 U and Me” Song—Planet X Spirit Squad

Instead of traditional Earth cheerleaders, our students will become the **welcoming team of Planet X**, celebrating the arrival of the astronauts and bringing lots of energy to the stage!

Costume

Cheerleader-style outfit in one of the following colour combinations:

- Blue, silver and white, **or**
- Purple, silver and turquoise

Students will also need:

- White sneakers
- Hair tied back with metallic ribbons or bows

Accessories

- Hand-held ribbon streamers – silver, blue or purple
- Metallic hair bows
- Silver wristbands
- Glitter stars on the cheeks – optional

Prop Ribbon streamers

Innovation 1 – “You Got a Friend” Song

Costume: Stars, Moons & Planets

Black Base

- Plain black T-shirt
- Black pants or leggings
- Black sneakers

Students can decorate their black clothing with:

- Sparkly silver and gold stars
- Glitter moons
- Colourful planets
- Comets or constellations

Decorations can be attached using fabric glue, Velcro or safety pins so they can be reused.

Accessories

- Silver star headband or simple silver hair ribbon
- Star wristbands
- Small constellation brooch or friendship badge – optional

Innovation 2 – “Green Machine” Song

Costume: Green Machine Aliens

This costume is nice and simple!

Students will need:

- Green T-shirt to wear over their existing costume
- Alien headband
- Green ribbon streamer

The green T-shirt can simply be pulled over their existing costume and removed after the performance.

Important Costume Deadline

All costumes and accessories must be brought to school in a clearly labelled plastic bag with your child’s name on it.

Please give the labelled costume bag to your child’s **classroom teacher no later than Wednesday, 2 September.**

We appreciate your support in helping us prepare for what promises to be a wonderful **Planet X** production. We are very excited to see the students bring their characters and costumes to life on stage.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Rizio family following the recent death of Ed (Grandfather of Jack).

Key Dates for Term 3

Week 7

Monday August 24: Book Week begins and Year 5 SEED visit to Damascus College

Wednesday August 26: Year 5 SEED visits to Loreto and St. Patrick's College and 100 Days of Learning dress up day for Foundation students

Thursday August 27: Kavisha (Italian Singer) to perform for the whole school: 11:30am-12:30pm

Friday August 28: Book Week Parade (9:05am in the Presentation Centre)

Week 8

Monday August 31: Excursion to Parliament House for students in Years 4-6

Wednesday September 2: Information Night for 2027 new and prospective families: 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Presentation Centre and SAC meeting (5:30pm-6:30pm)

Friday September 4: Father's Day/Special Men breakfast and Liturgy: 8:00am-9:40am

Week 9

Wednesday September 9: Division Athletics for qualifying students and no lunch orders

Thursday September 10: School Concert at the Daylesford Town Hall: Lunch performance at 1:00pm and evening performance at 6:00pm

Week 10

Tuesday September 15: Winter Sports Day for students in Years 3-6

Wednesday September 16: No lunch orders

Thursday September 17: Final day of term for students - Show Your Colours Day (3:15pm finish)

Friday September 18: School Closure Day (staff PD)

School Closure Days

A reminder of our final school closure days for the year:

Friday September 18th

Monday November 2nd

Please note that **Thursday December 17** will be the final day of the year for students.

LEARNING & TEACHING

Our Year 6 students have been embracing an exciting and innovative learning experience through the creation of their very own Tiny Town. Each student has developed a unique business model, with these individual businesses coming together to form a thriving community.

Each week, students are presented with a range of real-world dilemmas that challenge them to think critically, collaborate with others and develop creative solutions. Recently, the students faced an unexpected crisis when the cows from Irving's Farm escaped and began running rampant through the town!

Rather than simply focusing on solving the immediate problem, students were challenged to consider how their decisions could support the wellbeing of the entire community. Drawing on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the importance of community, human dignity and the common good, students considered how each business could continue to thrive while also supporting those experiencing hardship.

Working collaboratively, students developed a range of innovative ideas and solutions. They had to listen to different perspectives, negotiate, problem-solve and consider the consequences of their decisions.

This hands-on learning experience is helping our students understand that successful communities are built when people look beyond themselves and work together to raise others up. Through Tiny Town, our Year 6 students are developing valuable skills in critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and decision-making, while also putting our Catholic values into action.

It has been wonderful to see our students embrace the challenges presented to them and recognise that, just like in a real community, we all have a role to play in helping one another thrive.



WELLBEING

Bullying No Way Week

This week at St Michael's Primary School, we acknowledged Bullying No Way Week, an important opportunity for our students to reflect on what it means to create a safe, respectful and inclusive school community.

Our focus this year has been on the important role each of us can play in preventing bullying. While it is important to know what bullying looks like and how to seek help, we have also encouraged our students to be upstanders rather than bystanders.

An upstander is someone who notices when another person is being treated unfairly and chooses to do something positive to help. This might mean including someone who is feeling left out, speaking up when something is not right, getting an adult to help, or simply showing kindness and friendship to someone who needs it.

At St Michael's, we recognise that small actions can make a big difference. A welcoming smile, an invitation to join a game, standing beside someone who is alone, or using respectful words can help another person feel valued and included.

Being an upstander does not mean putting yourself at risk or confronting someone directly. It means having the courage to do what is right and seek help when it is needed. We want our students to understand that everyone has a responsibility to contribute to a community where all people feel safe, respected and valued.

As a Catholic school community, this connects strongly with our call to love and care for one another. We are reminded that each person is created with dignity and deserves to be treated with compassion, kindness and respect.

This week has provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to think about the type of community they want to be part of—and, more importantly, the type of community they can help create.

At St Michael's, we encourage every student to Be Kind. Be Courageous. Be an Upstander.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Parent helpers wanted

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

Friday September 4: Fathers Day/Special People's Breakfast

Tuesday September 15: 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.

Rotary Concert – Wednesday October 14

We are excited to announce that the **Rotary Concert** has been scheduled for **Wednesday October 14**.

The concert will begin at **6:00 pm** and conclude at approximately **7:30 pm**.

Students who would like to perform are warmly encouraged to participate. If you would like your child to enter the concert, please notify the school **as soon as possible** so that we can finalise arrangements.

Echoes of Courage

On Tuesday November 10, an 'Echoes of Courage' event will be taking place at Daylesford Town Hall. All St. Michael's students will be involved in producing art work with a focus on Remembrance Day. We are looking for some additional students who might feel confident enough to share their individual talents to commemorate this event. This could be playing a musical instrument, reciting poetry, performing a play etc. If your child would like to be involved, please email: thogan@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

Playgroup

Playgroup continues in the Presentation Centre each Thursday from 9:30am - 11:30am. All families with pre-school aged children are most welcome!

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Students from Foundation to Year 6 have continued to engage thoughtfully in our Religious Education lessons. A particular focus of our Religious Education learning is continuing to help students understand that faith is not simply something we learn about—it is something we live. Students are encouraged to consider how their choices and actions can make a positive difference to those around them. Whether it is showing kindness to a classmate, welcoming someone who feels left out, caring for creation or standing up for what is right, students are discovering practical ways to put their faith into action.

Our students also have daily opportunities to participate in prayer and liturgy, allowing us to come together as a school community to celebrate our faith. These experiences help students recognise that they are part of something greater than themselves and strengthen our sense of belonging as a Catholic school community.

Through Religious Education, we aim to nurture students who are curious in their learning, confident in their faith and compassionate in their actions. We are proud of the thoughtful questions, meaningful conversations and genuine acts of kindness we see emerging from students as they continue to grow in faith.

At St Michael's, Religious Education helps us to live our school mission each day: learning together, growing in faith and making a difference in the world around us.

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Uniform

There is an expectation that the correct winter uniform is worn until the end of Term 3.

Sport/PE days: students may wear either tracksuit pants or shorts, and runners.

All other days: students must be in full correct winter uniform - NO shorts, and NO runners.

A note must be provided to your child's teacher in the instance where this cannot be adhered to. Thank you for your support with this.

School fees

Those families who have a health care card are eligible for family fee assistance and the camp/school excursion fund. If you have a health care card please supply the office with a copy for our records so that we can adjust statements as required.

Our fee payment preferred method is direct debit. Forms are available from the office to set up a payment plan, with a frequency and amount of your choosing. We also have an EFTPOS machine at school where they can be paid by card.

2027 enrolments

If you have a child or know someone that is interested in enrolling at St Michael's for 2027, could you please contact Leah (admin@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au or ph 5348 1261) and she will organise an enrolment for you to complete.

Have a good weekend!

Tim

Get your diary,
save the date

FOR THE 2026 ST MICHAEL'S FETE!



Sunday November 8

The biannual Fete and major school fundraiser will be held on Sunday the 8th of November 2026.

The fete is a fabulous way for us to work together as a community and showcase our school.

Preparations have commenced



Many hands make light work,
we kindly ask all families
to get involved



If you would like to be a part of the
Fete Working Group
we would love to have you!



fete@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

WHAT DOES THE FETE INVOLVE?



As we prepare for the Fete here are some ideas of what has been included in the Fete previously.

Trash & Treasure Rides Silent Auction Live Entertainment
Spinning Wheel Plant Stall BBQ Craft Activities
Face Painting Carnival Food Second Hand Clothing Stall
Novelty Toys Live Auction Dunk Tank Second Hand Book Stall
Cake Stall

Do you have any additional ideas or skills that can help?

We are looking for people from our amazing community to assist in making the day a great success.

Are you interested in joining the Fete Working Group?

Do you have a flare for design?

Can you coordinate a stall or activity?

Are you happy to run odd jobs?

Throughout the year we will be looking for the assistance of all families, in some way, shape or form. Now is the time to get involved!

PLEASE CONTACT

FETE@SMDAYLESFORD.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU

Put November 8 in your calendar!!



**REGISTER
NOW FOR
2027**

Chat with the educators at Hepburn Kindergarten about the 3yr & 4yr old **FREE KINDER** program in 2027

5348 3750 / 0417 539 531

hepburn.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

2 Golf Links Road, Hepburn Springs



Scan below to
register now for
Kinder In 2027



Hepburn Kindergarten
is a member of





DEAN KITE FESTIVAL

Sunday September 6th 2026
12 Noon - 4pm

Kite Making Workshops \$10
 Kite Demonstrations
 Sausage Sizzle & Afternoon Tea

Dean Recreation Reserve
 1370 Daylesford / Ballarat Road
 Dean, Victoria

Hepburn
 SHIRE COUNCIL

IGA CRESWICK

Fundraiser on day for local charity

enquiries: Jon Rofe, p: 0428 340 596 e: rofey@bigpond.com

NEWSTEAD YOUNG WRITERS FESTIVAL

2026
SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER
 AT NEWSTEAD ARTS HUB

20+ WORKSHOPS + TALKS + MENTORING
 STORY PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED
 BOOK SHOP + FOOD STALLS + ALL DAY
 STORYTELLING + CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

PLUS FESTIVAL EVE SPECIAL EVENT:
SAT 10TH OCTOBER
 SONGWRITING MASTERCLASS
 WITH MO'JU & ELIZA HULL!
 Limited Tickets - Ages 12yrs+

GENERAL ENTRY FOR ALL AGES
 PRE-BOOKED WORKSHOPS (AGES 5-18)
 SONGWRITING MASTERCLASS (AGES 12+)

FOLLOW US
 FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM

REGISTER NOW FOR WHEN TICKETS DROP:

www.newsteadyoungwritersfestival.com

Proudly supported by:

Mount Alexander Shire Council, Rotary Castlemaine, RRTC Rural Transaction Centre Inc., Community Bank Maldon & District, Bendigo Bank, Australian Government, Fisheries Australia

Patron: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC Governor of Victoria

Could You Give a Few Hours on Friday Afternoons?

RDA Daylesford is looking for volunteers — no experience needed



Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Daylesford is a volunteer-run organisation based at Boomerang Ranch that has served people with disability in this community for 32 years.

Every Friday afternoon, 18 riders with varying disabilities come to ride, build confidence and experience a freedom unlike anything else in their week. Right now, we have a shortage of volunteers for our three Friday sessions and we need your help.

"Coming here is the highlight of my week. The horses don't see my disability — they just see me."
 — RDA Daylesford participant

WHEN
 Every Friday
 Approximately 1:00 — 4:30 pm
 Boomerang Ranch, Daylesford

WHAT
 Three lessons, 18 riders
 Children and adults with a wide range of physical, intellectual and other disabilities.

WHO WE NEED
 Anyone who loves horses and is comfortable around them
 ✓ No experience necessary

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- A love of horses and being comfortable around them
- Willingness to work with people of all ages and abilities
- Reliability — our riders count on their volunteers every week
- A warm, patient and encouraging manner

INTERESTED? THINK YOU CAN HELP IN ANOTHER WAY? WE'D LOVE TO CHAT.

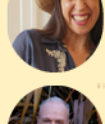
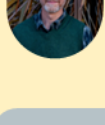
James Foster Mob: 0410 690 164 Email: rdadaylesford@gmail.com
rdav.asn.au/rdav-centres/daylesford/

Please pass this flyer on to anyone you think might be interested.

Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria — Daylesford Centre | ABN 20 130 814 132

Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria ABN 20 130 814 132
 400 Epsom Road, Flemington VIC 3031
 (03) 9258 4730 | admin@rdav.asn.au | rdav.asn.au | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rdav.vic) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/rdav.vic)

Kids & Young Folks Program

	Jasper Peach STORYTIME Friday 28 August 10:30am Daylesford Library FREE	Ages 0–5 years old.
	Dee White STORYTIME Saturday 29 August 10am Senior Citizens Centre FREE	Ages 0–7 years old.
	Michelle Pleasance STORYTIME Saturday 29 August 10:45am Senior Citizens FREE	Ages 0–5 years old.
	Emma Gourlay '250 WORDS' WORKSHOP Saturday 29 August 11:30am–12:30pm Senior Citizens Centre \$5	Ages 8–13 years old.
	Stuart Orr 'MAKING WORLDS' WORKSHOP Saturday 29 August 1:30pm–2:30pm Senior Citizens Centre \$5	Ages 12–18+ years old.



Curiouser Creations
 EXHIBITION OF WRITINGS
 AND CREATIONS FROM
 LOCAL STUDENTS AND U3A
 WRITING GROUP
 Open Wednesday 26 August | 4:30pm–7pm
 Sat 29 and Sun 30 August | 10am–4pm
 Senior Citizens Centre | FREE



Festival Opening
 LISTEN TO DAYLESFORD
 COLLEGE STUDENTS READ
 THEIR ORIGINAL WRITINGS
 Wednesday 26 August
 5pm–6:30pm
 Daylesford Town Hall | FREE

Proudly supported by Springs Medical