



Friday February 20th 2026

## Prayer for Lent

Loving God,  
As we begin the season of Lent,  
help us to slow down and make space for You.  
Teach us to reflect on our choices  
and to grow in kindness, patience, and love.  
May this Lenten journey  
draw us closer to You  
and help us become the people  
You are calling us to be.  
Amen.



Dear Families,

This week we observed **Shrove Tuesday** and **Ash Wednesday**, two important days in the church calendar.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent begins. Traditionally, families use up rich ingredients like eggs, milk, and sugar before the more reflective season of Lent starts—hence the tradition of making and enjoying pancakes! The word “shrove” comes from “shriven,” meaning to confess or seek forgiveness, as people prepare their hearts for the season ahead. Many thanks to the parents and carers who made pancakes for all students - it was greatly appreciated!



On Ash Wednesday, our students in Years 1-6 participated in Mass at St. Peter's Church. This day marked the beginning of Lent—a 40-day period leading up to Easter. A small cross of ashes was placed on our foreheads as a symbol of reflection, repentance, and a fresh start. Fr Marcello spoke about Lent being a time when people may choose to give something up or take on a positive habit, focusing on kindness, gratitude, and spiritual growth.



These observances remind us of the importance of reflection, community, and preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter.

### Thanks

A big thank you to the parents and carers who have given up time out of their days to help us with tidying garden beds, whipper snipping, fixing sprinkler systems or assisting with a variety of tasks in the classrooms. Your contributions towards helping our school look its best and assisting in providing rich experiences for students are always welcomed and appreciated.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Mila O'Halloran who has progressed to the state championships for Little Athletics. Following yesterday's Sovereign and Eureka Swimming Competition held in Ballarat yesterday, Mila has also progressed to the regional championships for butterfly. We wish Mila all the very best!



## Dates

### Week 5

**Tuesday February 24:** Little Feet Big Footprints excursion (Year 6 students)

**Wednesday February 25:** Camp for students in Years 3-6

Foundation rest day

No lunch orders

**Thursday February 26:** Camp for students in Years 3-6

**Friday February 27:** Camp for students in Years 3-6

### Week 6

**Monday March 2:** PSGs (Day 1)

**Tuesday March 3:** PSGs (Day 2)

**Wednesday March 4:** Final Foundation rest day

**Thursday March 5:** Information Sessions and Welcome Night

**Friday March 7:** Connection Assembly in the Presentation Centre beginning 9:05am

Clean Up Australia Day

### Week 7

**Monday March 9:** Labour Day Public Holiday

**Tuesday March 10:** Reconciliation Sacrament meeting at St. Peter's Church Hall, 5:00pm-5:30pm

**Wednesday March 11:** NAPLAN begins for students in Years 3 & 5

Foundation students begin full time

**Thursday March 12:** School photos

### Week 8

**Thursday March 19:** School Closure Day

**Friday March 20:** School Closure Day

### Week 9

**Thursday March 26:** Athletics Carnival

### Week 10

**Monday March 30:** Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Peter's Church beginning 5:00pm

**Thursday April 2:** Easter Liturgy in the Presentation Centre: 1:20pm-2:15pm

Final day of Term One (2:15pm finish)

### **School Phone**

If you call the school during office hours and have difficulties getting through, please call our mobile: 0493621722.

## Uniform and Hats

All children are expected to be in full school summer uniform in Term 1. This includes wearing a hat for all outside play. The uniform requirements are detailed in the School Information Booklet, as well as on our website. Please note particularly the requirements for school shoes – casual slip ons, skate shoes, multi-coloured sports shoes, etc are not part of the school uniform. ***Students should not be wearing runners on any day that is not a designated sport/PE day, and any student not in uniform should bring an explanatory note.***

PE lessons for classes will take place on the following days:

**Discovery 1:** Thursday and Friday

**Discovery 2:** Tuesday and Thursday

**Connection:** Thursday and Friday

**Innovation 1:** Monday and Thursday

**Innovation 2:** Monday and Thursday

Please see the attached link to the uniform page on our website for pictures and further information:

<https://www.smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au/uniform#uniform-1>

## Swimming

Well done to the students who represented St. Michael's at the Sovereign and Eureka Division Swimming competition yesterday. Many thanks to the parents and carers who assisted these students over the course of the day.



## Food at School

It has been great to see students bringing to school a piece of fruit they can eat in the morning. Students in each class will typically stop at 10am for a short break where they are encouraged to eat a piece of fruit or vegetables. Yoghurt would not be eaten at this time but would be a suitable snack at recess.

We remain a 'nut aware' school. We do have students and staff at St. Michael's who have anaphylactic reactions to nuts so we ask that all nuts, nutella or peanut butter are not sent to school.

We are also an 'egg aware' school as we have a student who is allergic to eggs. We ask families to consider alternatives to sending boiled eggs as a snack to school. Finally, we ask students not to share their food at school. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

## LEARNING & TEACHING

### Student Led Conferences

This week, it was wonderful to see students eagerly sharing their goals for the year ahead with parents/carers and teachers. A great deal of preparation went into these conversations. I commend the teachers on providing opportunities for students to adequately prepare for their sharing of where they are currently at as learners and what steps need to be taken to make both social and academic gains.



### Sovereign Hill Camp

Our preparations for Sovereign Hill camp are now complete! Students in Years 3-6 have been given a medical administration form along with a list of what to bring. **We will not be participating in the costume/dress up school experience this year.** Should your child require any medication whilst we are on camp from February 25-27, please complete the medical administration form and return it to school by **Friday February 13**. A reminder that students will need to bring their morning tea and lunch for the first day of camp.

### Information Sessions and Welcome Night

On **Thursday March 5**, we will be providing information sessions for each class. These sessions will provide families with important information for the year ahead. A slightly longer session has been allocated for our Discovery 1 families. Sessions will take place in classrooms at the following times:

**3:20pm-4:00pm:** Discovery 1 (40 minute session)

**4:00pm-4:20pm:** Discovery 2

**4:20pm-4:40pm:** Connection

**4:40pm-5:00pm:** Innovation 1

**5:00pm-5:20pm:** Innovation 2

Before or after your child's/children's information session/s, a free BBQ (available from 4pm) will be provided. Be sure to head to the undercover area for a bite to eat!

## **WELLBEING**

On Wednesday, I had the opportunity to attend the Central Zone Wellbeing Network Day in Ballarat as part of our commitment to Mental Health and Wellbeing at St Michael's. It was a valuable day of learning, connection and resource sharing, all aimed at strengthening the support we provide for our children. I look forward to bringing these ideas back to our school community. Helen Kelly, Wellbeing and Learning Diversity Leader.



## **Pastoral Care**

Helen Kelly will continue in her role as Co-Learning Diversity Leader and Wellbeing Leader throughout the year. Should you wish for your child to speak with Helen at any stage throughout the year (regarding wellbeing matters), student referrals can be made via emailing Helen or Tim:

[hkelly@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au](mailto:hkelly@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au)

[thogan@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au](mailto:thogan@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au)

## **Clubs**

It was terrific to see the return of clubs this week! Clubs will continue every Wednesday afternoon on even weeks throughout the year.



## Medication

In regards to medication and due to policy updates, we can no longer store or administer medications such as Panadol, Nurofen, pharmacy only medications (including zyrtec & claratyne) or other non-prescribed medications at school. The First Aid and Infection Control Policy states:

*Non-Prescribed: School staff are not permitted to store or administer any non-prescribed medications including analgesics (paracetamol and aspirin).*

This is because analgesics and other non-prescribed medications can mask signs and symptoms of a serious illness or injury.

As a result of this policy; medications will only be allowed on school property with a document signed by your doctor. This could include an action plan, letter or treatment plan. This means that we are unable to accept medications for your child without doctor's instructions. This also applies to school camps and excursions. We thank you in advance for your support.

## Appointments during school time

Could all parents and carers who need to pick up and drop off children for appointments during school time, please inform the class teacher **at least 1 day prior**. This will allow the teacher to make any modifications during learning time, along with having the child ready for collection. The teacher can be notified via email

## IMPORTANT - Transport

Please let the office know ASAP if:

- your child is being collected by someone else (other than yourself) after school or
- has any other change to their normal pick up arrangements eg not travelling on the bus for a particular reason.

As a school we have a duty of care until children are collected and there can be times when we are unclear about how they are getting home. We are asking for your vigilance with this as a high priority by means of communication. Also, students who are being picked up are not permitted outside the gate until the person collecting them comes over to meet them and take them back to the car. Thank you.

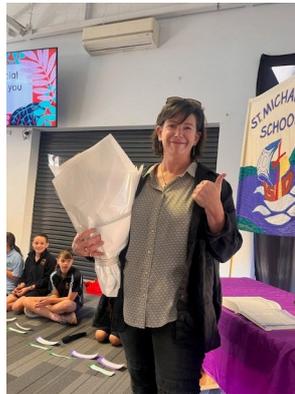
## Devices and communication between home and school

If your child wears a smartwatch that has capabilities to send messages, we ask that this is switched to 'school mode' during school hours. Should you need to convey a message to your child during school hours, please do so via notifying the office. We thank you in anticipation of your support and understanding.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **School Advisory Council**

At assembly this morning, we acknowledged the efforts of Andrea Gardiner (SAC Chair) and Linda Kucka (Secretary/Treasurer) who have completed their respective 2 year terms with the SAC. We thank Linda and Andrea for the valuable contributions they both made during this time. We are now looking for any parents and carers who would be willing to join the SAC and share new ideas! For more information, please email: [thogan@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au](mailto:thogan@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au)



### **Footy Tipping**

St. Michael's families, friends and staff are welcome to join our footy tipping competition for 2026. There is no entry fee and the prize at the end of the season will be bragging rights! Click on the following link: [https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/SMD\\_Footy\\_Tipping\\_2026](https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/SMD_Footy_Tipping_2026)

### **Lunch orders**

We require parent volunteers to pick up and drop off lunch orders from the Secondary College each Wednesday. Please let Leah know if you are able to help. This service does rely on the support of parent volunteers. It would only take up a few minutes of your day. Please click on: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6igYB53Ujmx0AJtnUwnY3XOcc-d9Ck6nuoIDXbjpbJJYGWw/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Thank you in anticipation for your assistance.

### **Soccer Team**

Jazmine (Year 6) with the assistance of her father, Garry, would like to form a fun group - develop individual skills and play friendly games. It's all about fun and achieving goals together as a group and as individuals too. Garry and Jazmine would like to convey to families an expression of interest in forming a junior soccer team. It will be a safe and fair little club, inclusive to players and parents. We will need a name, get uniforms, players, a committee and have a bunch of fun doing what kids love! This club will be all about having fun, in safety, with accurate and transparent accountability. Let us know if you would like to take a leap into something that could be magical and kick some goals!!!

Contact Garry or Jazmine. [garryeyles@outlook.com](mailto:garryeyles@outlook.com)

## **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

### **Laudato Si Leaders**

Our role 'Laudato Si leaders' means that:

1. We share God's call to us to care for creation and one another.
2. We can explain and help other children and people in our school to recognise that small actions can make a big difference.
3. We can be inspired as student leaders to take simple, faith-filled actions to care for our common home and help you be inspired too.

Pope Francis' key message through *Laudato Si'* is:

***"God gave us a wonderful world. We can look after it by caring for the Earth, helping others, and being kind to all living things."***

***"The earth is God's gift to us, full of beauty and wonder.***

**And it belongs to everyone. But what we see today is that our common home has never been so hurt and mistreated.**

**We have developed at a greater speed than we could have ever imagined, and have treated the earth like it has an unlimited supply of resources...."**

*Pope Francis' Laudato Si' has been carried on by Pope Leo, and he highly values, shares and follows on with Pope Francis' message in Laudato Si.*

### **Laudato Si' Fortnightly Actions**

Each fortnight, the Laudato Si' Leaders will identify a need within our school and address this need by:

1. Raising awareness through Ecological Education
2. Setting an Action Goal
3. Monitoring its success
4. Acknowledging the most successful class at the following Assembly.

Our Laudato Si' Fortnightly goal is that out on the yard at break times, some students are catching and keeping skinks as pets. These skinks are not being treated fairly or justly, and sometimes die.

### ***We will be Raising awareness through Ecological Education now:***

Skinks are part of God's Creation, Skinks have an important part in Creation like all living and non living things.. Skinks have a role to play in the relationships and the interactions between other living organisms, including humans, and their physical environment. When skinks are being caught or taken from their environment, this is not showing human dignity or care for God's Creation.

### ***Set an Action Goal***

We have decided that as a school our goal will be to observe, so just look at the skinks. We can watch them, respect them, but we don't touch them. We will be watching out for this during break times for the next two weeks.

At the next assembly we will acknowledge the class that does the best job.

Thank you everyone.  
Maksym, Mala and Poppy



## Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on **Monday March 30, 5pm** at St. Peter's Church for all Year 4 students who have been baptised and are yet to receive this Sacrament. Prior to this, a parent meeting will be held at the St. Peter's Church Hall on **Tuesday March 10 beginning 5:00pm**.

## LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

### 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.

***Please note that the student fee of \$260 is payable by today.***

### 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](mailto:admin@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au) or ph 5348 1261) and she will organise an enrolment for you to complete. We will be active in the kindergarten communities this year and will be keen to say hi to these kids when we drop in.

Enjoy your weekend!

Tim



# JOIN THE STAMPEDE

**THE BALLAN BRUMBIES BASKETBALL CLUB WINTER 2026 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**



WHETHER YOUR NEW TO THE CLUB, OR RETURNING FOR ANOTHER SEASON REGISTER YOUR INTENT TO PLAY VIA OUR WEBSITE, OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW.

WITH TEAMS RANGING FROM U8 - U19 BOYS AND GIRLS IT'S NOW TIME TO JOIN THE STAMPEDE



WWW.BALLANBRUMBIES.COM.AU



## INSIDE OUT DANCE THEATRE

*Release your Creativity!*

**Enrol now for Dance and Drama**  
with Inside Out Dance Theatre, Daylesford

- \* Creative Dance from Pre-school to Teens
- \* Contemporary Dance, Gr 3 – Yr 12
- \* Ballet, Prep – Gr 6
- \* Drama, Prep – Yr 12

For full schedule and online enrolment go to: [insideoutdancetheatre.com.au](http://insideoutdancetheatre.com.au)

Enquiries: [admin@insideoutdancetheatre.com.au](mailto:admin@insideoutdancetheatre.com.au)  
Ph: 0428 330 640

## 2027 OPEN NIGHT

**DAYLESFORD COLLEGE**  
shape the future



**THURSDAY 5TH MARCH AT 5:30PM**  
**INFORMATION SESSIONS**  
**MEET THE COLLEGE LEADERSHIP TEAM**  
**ATTEND A SCHOOL TOUR**