



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Excellence, Nurture, Community

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Friday November 28th 2025

*King is your word, not mine;
Servant I am, no one beneath me,
feet washer and waiter,
serving the least,
love is my kingdom.*

(Feast of Christ the King - Sunday November 23)



Dear Families,

It has definitely been an action packed fortnight at St. Michael's! It is hard to believe that our swimming lessons have come and gone. Students were quickly able to establish effective routines before and after swimming and many positive comments were made by the Kyneton swimming instructors.

We now turn our attention to our Going Up Day on Tuesday. We are fortunate to have dedicated and committed teachers in each of our classes and this should be a day that is approached by students with great excitement and enthusiasm. Parents and carers are invited to gather in the Presentation Centre for morning tea on Tuesday. SAC Chair Andrea Gardiner will share important information regarding parent/carers involvement for future school fundraising initiatives. You can also pick up a copy of our 2026 information booklet. The morning will take place from 9am-11:30am.

Our Advent Liturgies commenced this afternoon in the Presentation Centre. We thank Sarah Mooney for preparing these special gatherings for our school community which will take place over the next two Friday afternoons beginning 2:40pm.

Student Achievements

Congratulations to Sienna O'Keefe who won a \$10 prize for her terrific colouring at the Daylesford Show. Congratulations also to Hideki Tsuya on receiving the Connection class award for consistent high achievement.

Condolences

We pass on our deepest sympathies to the O'Brien family following the recent passing of Andrew's father (Leni and Beckett's grandfather).

We also extend our deepest Sympathies to the Williams family on the passing of Roy's Great Grandmother.

Dates

Please take note of the following dates for this term: New date underlined

Week 9

Monday December 1: Mini Vinnies choir visit to Hepburn House (1pm-2pm)

Tuesday December 2: Going Up Day (9am-11am) all families are invited to gather for morning tea in the Presentation Centre during this time

Wednesday December 3: Discovery 1 and 2 excursion to Sovereign Hill and Final lunch orders for the year

Friday December 5: Advent Liturgy 2 in the Presentation Centre: 2:40pm-3pm and School Disco in the Presentation Centre: 3:30pm-5:30pm

Week 10

Tuesday December 9: Daylesford Secondary College Transition Day

Thursday December 11: Year 6 Graduation

Friday December 12: Discovery 1 Assembly in the Presentation Centre at 9:05am, Advent Liturgy 3 in the Presentation Centre: 2:40pm-3pm

Week 11

Monday December 15: Year 6 Fun Day

Wednesday December 17: Final day for students, end of Year Mass (9:30am-10:30am), and Awards (10:30am-11am) at St. Peter's Church, whole school picnic at Jubilee Lake (11:30am-1:30pm) and reports home

Thursday December 18: Final day for staff

School Closure Dates - 2026

Our closure dates for 2026 are as follows (public holidays have not been included):

- Wednesday January 28 - First day of school for students in Years 1-6
- Thursday January 29 - First day of school for students in Foundation
- Thursday March 19 Collaboration Day 1 - Positive Partnerships (St. James, OLHC, St Mary's and St. Michael's)
- Friday March 20 - Collaboration Day 2 - Positive Partnerships
- Thursday May 14 - Staff RE Retreat - Laudato Si with Sarah Page
- Friday May 15 - Staff RE Retreat - Laudato Si with Sarah Page
- Friday September 18 - ReLATE closure day
- Monday November 2 - Curriculum Day
- Thursday December 17 - Final day for all students

Camp - save the date

Our 2026 camp for Years 3-6 students will be taking place at Sovereign Hill from Wednesday February 25 - Friday February 27.

End of year awards (at our Final Assembly)

This year we will again be presenting awards for the following:

**Catherine King Award for Community Service - parent/staff member*

**Student homeroom award - 1 x high effort, 1 x class spirit and 1 x high achievement, for each learning team.*

The following 4 awards are open to all senior students at St Michael's. They are presented by 4 community groups and are symbolic of the qualities of excellence, *nurture and community*. We use *nurture, excellence and community in all that we do at school to help keep us grounded in our vision and mission*.

**1. St. Peter's Parish Award (Nurture)*

Nurture: we recognise the recipient of this award as someone who is faith inspired to think of and care for others, as well as our environment. This person is humble and inclusive. This person promotes Gospel values in the relationships they form, and seek to promote justice and peace. This person supports both the school and parish community through their participation and service.

**2. RSL Award (Excellence)*

Excellence: we recognise the recipient of this award as someone who strives for excellence in their efforts and application. This person is self motivated and well organized. This person seeks resources to assist in fulfilling their objective and go about their efforts with authenticity and integrity. This person's efforts are driven by high standards they set themselves and a genuine endeavor to improve. This person sees setbacks and failure as both temporary, and integral, to achieving excellence.

**3. Stephen Haintz and David Baxter Award (Community): We recognise the recipient of this award/s as someone who takes great pride in being a member of the St. Michael's School community. This person may reach out to others on a regular basis, take pride in their uniform and display care for our school grounds. This person may also volunteer their time to assist at special school events held throughout the year.*

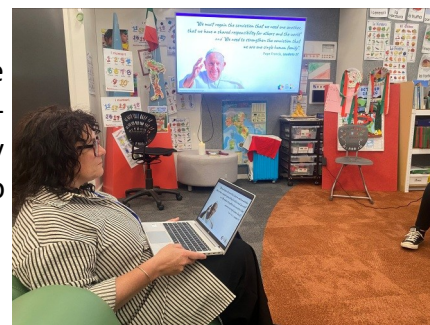
**4 Rotary Award (Community)*

Community: we recognise the recipient of this award/s as someone who fosters positive and respectful relationships amongst all members of the school community. This person enhances our school community through their enthusiasm and positivity, consistently active in the life of the school. This person takes great pride in their own learning and is eager to support other learners as well. This person greatly respects our physical spaces, including our natural environment, and makes a conscious effort to ensure these are well presented and cared for.

LEARNING & TEACHING

Laudato Si Action Plan

On Wednesday, teachers had the opportunity to work with Sarah Page (Catholic Education Ballarat) on our Laudato Si Action Plan. This provided a great opportunity to reflect upon the great work we are already doing in relation to 'hearing the cry of the poor and the earth.' We also spent time setting goals for next year and beyond.



Recycling



Yesterday we welcomed Sophie Pritchard to our school to talk to students about Recycling. Sophie guided an informative session for students in Connection, Innovation 1 and Innovation 1 before leading another engaging session for our Discovery students.

Reports

Teachers are currently in the process of gathering evidence which will be used to formulate Semester Two reports. I commend the teachers for the detailed and thorough process they are each going through in order to produce accurate assessments of each student's learning progress over the course of the semester. Reports will be made available on the final day of school for students - Wednesday December 17.

WELLBEING

Initiating conversations about respectful relationships with children is crucial for their emotional and social development. By addressing topics like kindness, empathy, and communication, parents create a foundation for healthy interactions. These discussions promote awareness of boundaries, consent, and mutual understanding, fostering a safe environment where children can thrive. Teaching respect from an early age equips kids with essential skills to navigate friendships and romantic relationships, building a future based on empathy and equality. Open dialogues about respect empower children to recognise and value their own feelings and those of others, cultivating a positive and harmonious approach to all relationships. For more information, visit: <https://smdaylesford.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/respectful-relationships>

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Sacramental program

Congratulations to Maksym, Belle, Mackenzie and Tristan who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at St. Peter's Church last Sunday.



All the best to Hudson who will be receiving the Sacrament this weekend.

Advent

The word advent comes from the old Latin word 'adventus', which refers to an 'arrival, an approach or a coming'. In the context of the leadup to Christmas, it refers to the coming of Christ. For some of us, perhaps, Advent is not a season we fully engage with. As the work year hurtles towards its conclusion, Advent tends to recede into the background. Advent is a time of spiritual renewal: a chance to start again, to come home if we've drifted away, to rediscover the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Jesus comes to make his home among us and within us. Advent offers us a chance to rediscover this.

Mini Vinnies

A large number of Mini Vinnies students have been working with St. Peter's Parishioners Millie and Jude as we continue to work towards preparing a Christmas concert to be shared with the residents of Hepburn House on Monday.

Daylesford Kindergarten Visit

Well done to Joel and Eliza who visited the Daylesford Kindergarten and assisted the students in creating some Christmas decorations. Many thanks to Helen Kelly who accompanied the students.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

November 21

Congratulations to Syd and Beckett who organised a successful fundraising event at school last Friday. With the addition of money raised prior to this day, over \$1000 was raised for the Hepburn Animal Shelter - a phenomenal effort!



Christmas raffle

The Community Team are once again supporting local businesses by purchasing vouchers which will be the prizes for our Christmas raffle at our Awards Assembly on Wednesday December 17. All school families will be entered into our raffle.

Hamper for St Vinnies

As in previous years, St Vinnies have asked us to contribute to their hampers for those less fortunate in our community. We are more than happy to help collect non-perishable items and spread some joy and cheer for those who are doing it especially tough at the moment. We look forward to presenting this hamper at our end of year Mass to be held at St. Peter's Church on Wednesday December 17. If you are able to donate any items to go towards our hamper, please bring them to the office. Thanks in anticipation of your support.

Glenlyon

Sign up sheets are now on display in our school foyer. Thanks in anticipation of your support for this great tradition.



LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

2025 School fees

Many thanks to the families who have paid any outstanding school fees for 2025. We ask that all families who are yet to pay their school fees for this year to **finalise payment by December 17**. Our NAB account details are **Account Name: St Michaels General BSB 083 004 Account No 711437401**. Please make contact with the school should you have any queries.

2026 School fees

Family Tuition Fee

This fee is charged on a family basis. In 2026 it will be **\$1100 per year**. This may be payable in weekly, fortnightly or quarterly instalments via direct debit.

Funds from the Family Tuition Fee provide the bulk of our local contribution towards the cost of the day to day operation of the school.

The State and Commonwealth Governments also provide funds for this purpose.

Family Capital Fee

This fee is charged on a family basis and is **\$ 290 per family**.

Funds from the Family Capital Fee assist in meeting the building and grounds improvements and maintenance. This fee is payable in the same way as the Family Tuition Fee.

Technology Fee

This fee is charged on a per student basis and is **\$100**

Funds from the Technology Fee go towards the purchase of notebooks, hardware, software, licences and maintenance of these items.

Swimming Fee

This fee is charged on a per student basis and is **\$90**

Student Fee

This fee is charged on a per student basis and is **\$260**.

Funds from the Student Fee go towards the cost of student requisites for class and school programs throughout the year.

This fee is due for payment by Friday February 20, 2026

Camp Fee (students in Years 3-6): \$300

Students Commencing Year 3 in 2026 will receive a Chromebook computer **(cost to be advised)**

2026

To assist with our planning for 2026, for any families that won't be returning to St. Michael's next year, we ask that you let us know as soon as possible. Thanks in anticipation.

Enjoy your weekend!

Kind regards,
Tim

12 Dec

Sue's TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKET

Supporting local charity-
Daylesford Community Op Shop

The perfect spot for some
unique Christmas gifts!

Daylesford
Masonic Hall
16 Vincent Street,
Daylesford

5-8 pm

0448 994 304 Sue's Twilight Christmas Market, Daylesford

DAYLESFORD COMMUNITY
OP SHOP

TREE OF GIVING

Unwrapped gifts for children aged 1 day to 11 years
Gift cards for youth (12-17)

Community Christmas Day Lunch

Registrations from Mon 17th Nov - Fri 12th Dec

Cash Donations - DCOS BSB:633 000 Acct:145943866 ref Xmas

variety the children's charity

Daylesford Op Shop COMMUNITY

daylesford neighbourhood centre

DAYLESFORD FNC

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

PRESEASON TRAINING

UNDER 12S FOOTBALL

THURSDAYS 5.00- 6.00PM
VIC PARK, DAYLESFORD

Running from 20 November to 18 December then back in Term 1, 2026

Under 12s football caters for children aged 8-12.
We offer a fun and supportive environment that caters for all skill levels and abilities

New players welcome - come down and see what we're all about. Great coaches, great crew, great club

GET IN TOUCH WITH JESS
0411 349 070



Sault Restaurant has a beautiful range of flower seedlings available right now! Grown on-site, ready to plant - great for Christmas.

They have a variety of Foxgloves (not edible) plus Viola's (whose petals are edible, great in salads or decorating desserts etc) and a range of Snapdragons in the following colours; Royal, Orange, Apple Blossom and Lavender. Snapdragons also have edible petals.

Just pop into the restaurant either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. 1 for \$4 or 3 for \$10 - while stocks last

