



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Excellence, Nurture, Community

Friday October 16th 2026

Dear Lord,

As we begin this new school term,

We thank You for the gift of rest and renewal.

We are grateful for the opportunities that lie ahead—

To learn, to grow, and to become the best version of ourselves.

Bless our students with curiosity, courage, and joy in learning.

Bless our teachers with wisdom, patience, and passion in their teaching.

Bless our parents and carers with strength and grace as they support and guide.

And bless our school community with unity, kindness, and peace.

Help us to face each day with open hearts,

To treat one another with respect and compassion,

And to remember that every challenge is a chance to grow.

Walk with us through this term,

And may everything we do bring light, hope, and love.

Amen.



Dear Families,



We have enjoyed a terrific start to Term 4 and it has been great to see students return from the break with positive energy and enthusiasm. Congratulations to Shay King who became a Grandmother over the holidays following the arrival of Freya Rose!

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Scott Walker, a teacher from Siena Primary School in Ballarat, who will be joining us at St Michael's each Friday for the remainder of the term.



Scott will be working alongside our students and staff to help get our new vegetable garden up and running. This exciting project will provide students with valuable opportunities for hands-on learning, developing their gardening skills and deepening their understanding of sustainability, healthy eating and caring for our environment.

We look forward to seeing our vegetable garden grow and flourish as our students take an active role in planting, nurturing and caring for it. We are grateful to Scott for sharing his knowledge and expertise with our school community and look forward to watching this wonderful project take shape!

Thanks

Many thanks to Jim Milesi who spent some more time over the holidays removing the weeds from the garden beds around the Presentation Centre.



Congratulations



Congratulations to Mila O'Halloran and Xavier Paparousis who competed in the Regional Athletics event held in Ballarat last Friday. After coming 1st in the 800m and 1500m, Mila has now progressed to the State Championships which will be held later this month.



Well done also to our award winners who were announced at this morning's assembly.



Looking Ahead to 2027 at St Michael's

As we begin planning for the 2027 school year, here is an update about our class structure. While our overall student enrolments are expected to remain stable, we will be moving from five classes to four classes in 2027. Our planned class structure will be:

- Foundation/Year 1
- Year 1/2
- Year 3/4
- Year 5/6

This change will see our average class size increase from approximately 19 students to 23 students. We remain confident that this structure will allow us to continue providing a positive, inclusive and engaging learning environment where every child is known, valued and supported to achieve their best.

Educational research indicates that an increase in class size such as the one planned for St Michael's, does not automatically disadvantage students. We will continue to focus on quality teaching, strong relationships, targeted learning support and meeting the individual needs of our students. Our commitment to providing high-quality learning experiences and nurturing the wellbeing of every child remains at the heart of all our planning.

As we finalise our staffing and class arrangements for 2027, we kindly ask any families who know that their child or children will not be returning to St Michael's next year to notify the school office as soon as possible. This information will greatly assist us in planning effectively for the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support, trust and partnership as we look forward to another wonderful year of learning and growth together at St Michael's.

Important Parking and Safety Reminder

Please be reminded that there is no parking in our 'Bus Only' area between 8:00–9:15am and 2:45–3:45pm.

These restrictions are in place for an important reason – the safety of our children, families, staff and wider community during our busiest drop-off and pick-up times.

We ask all parents, carers and visitors to please use the allocated parking spaces during these times, even if you are only running into the school for a few minutes to collect your child.

Keeping this area clear ensures safe visibility and access at the front of our school. We appreciate everyone playing their part in keeping St Michael's a safe environment for all.

Swimming

We look forward to swimming lessons taking place each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during Weeks 6 & 7. We ask that students make sure they bring the following items with them to school on swimming days:

- Swimwear appropriate for physical activity (to be worn under school uniform)
- Towel
- Spare underwear
- Plastic bag for wet bathers/towel
- Goggles are optional.
- Comb or brush, if needed

All items need to be clearly labeled. Swimming caps will be provided.

Lunch Orders

A friendly reminder to all families to please ensure that online lunch orders have been fully submitted. Please take a moment to check that your order has been completed successfully so that your child's lunch can be prepared and delivered as expected. Thank you for your assistance and support with this.

Year 6 Fundraising Day – Little Feet, Big Footprints

Our Year 6 students are excited to be holding a fundraising day on Friday, 30 October to support their Little Feet, Big Footprints projects.

This initiative provides students with a wonderful opportunity to put their ideas into action, make a positive difference in the community and develop their understanding of social responsibility and helping others.

We look forward to sharing more details with families soon, including further information about the activities planned for the day.

Thank you for your ongoing support as our Year 6 students work towards making a meaningful difference through their Little Feet, Big Footprints projects!

School Closure Days

A reminder of our final school closure day for the year: **Monday November 2**

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

Dates for Term 4

Week 3

Monday October 19: School Nurse Visit (Foundation) and golf practice on the oval for students competing on Wednesday October 28

Wednesday October 21: No dancing and SAC Meeting

Thursday October 22: Puberty Session (Years 5 & 6) and after school Auskick begins

Friday October 23: Golf practice on the oval for students competing on Wednesday October 28

Saturday October 24: Swiss Italian Festa

Sunday October 25: Eucharist Enrolment Mass

Week 4

Monday October 26: PSGs Day 1

Tuesday October 27: PSGs Day 2

Wednesday October 28: Mt Xavier Golf Tournament for selected students

Thursday October 29: Puberty session (Years 5 & 6) and Auskick

Friday October 30: Innovation 1 Assembly and Year 6 Little Feet Big Footprints fundraising day

Sunday November 1: Dismissal Mass 1 for Eucharist

Week 5

Monday November 2: School Closure Day

Tuesday November 3: Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Wednesday November 4: Foundation 2027 Transition Day

Thursday November 5: Final Puberty Session (Years 5 & 6 girls) and Auskick

Sunday November 8: School FETE and Dismissal Mass 2 for Eucharist

Week 6

Monday November 9-Wednesday November 11: Swimming at Kyneton

Tuesday November 10: Little Feet Big Footprints - Yr 6 Presentation at OLHC Wendouree

Wednesday November 11: Remembrance Day

Thursday November 12: Final Auskick

Friday November 13: Discovery 2 Assembly

Sunday November 15: Dismissal Mass 3 for Eucharist

Week 7

Monday November 16 - Wednesday 19: Swimming at Kyneton

Sunday November 22: Sacrament of Eucharist

Week 8

Monday November 23: Life Education Van

Tuesday November 24: Life Education Van and Transition Morning Foundation 2027

Friday November 27: Innovation 2 Assembly

Week 9

Tuesday December 1: Whole School Going Up Day

Week 10

Thursday December 10: Year 6 Graduation

Friday December 11: Discovery 1 Assembly

Week 11

Wednesday December 16: Year 6 Fun Day

Thursday December 17: End of year Mass, picnic and final day for students

WELLBEING

Walking Safely To and From School

As we begin a new term, it's important to remind our students and families about safe walking habits. Whether walking alone, with friends, or with an adult, safety comes first!

Safety Tips for Students:

- Use sidewalks and crosswalks. Always walk on the footpath and cross at marked pedestrian crossings
- Look both ways before crossing
- Make yourself visible - especially on cloudy days or during early mornings and late afternoons
- Avoid distractions. Don't use phones, headphones, or other devices while walking across roads.

Reminders for Parents & Carers:

- Practice the route. Walk it with your child until they are confident and know where to cross safely
- Talk about 'stranger danger'. Remind children never to go anywhere with someone they don't know, even if the person says it's an emergency
- Set a routine. Agree on the time your child should leave and arrive, and what to do if plans change.

Staying Safe Around Snakes

As the weather warms up, snakes may become more active. While most snakes are not aggressive and prefer to avoid people, it's important to know how to stay safe.

What To Do If You See a Snake:

- Stay calm and still. Don't try to touch or chase the snake
- Keep your distance. Back away slowly and give the snake space to move away
- Tell a teacher.

We ask that these points are reinforced with children at home.

Clubs

This week, students participated in their final clubs rotation for the year. It has been wonderful to see such a high level of engagement across all activities provided. We look forward to the return of clubs, next year.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Fete Donations

We are now accepting good quality 'trash and treasure' donations that can be sold at our school fete. Donations can be dropped off at the office.

Swiss Italian Festa

The Hepburn Swiss Italian Festa is being held on the weekend of 22nd - 25th October.

We invite families to come along and walk together with the St Michael's school group. **If you would like to join the parade, meet at 11:45am on Saturday October 24, for 12:00pm start, on the corner of Main Road and Sixth Street Hepburn** (Beside the Savoia Hotel).

This Festa is a community festival that celebrates the enduring contribution of Swiss Italian migrants who came to the Hepburn Springs/Daylesford region during the 1850s gold rushes. These Italian speakers came from the villages and towns on either side of the Swiss Italian border. The Hepburn Swiss Italian Festa was first staged in 1993 and has run for 25 years.

The Street Parade held on the Saturday morning of the festival is an opportunity for the community to celebrate together and for the local schools and kindergartens to participate in the parade walking in their school groups. Students and their siblings could dress in clothes of the Italian colours of red, white and green, if they have them. Please let me know if you need any help with this, I have spare t-shirts etc)

The parade will proceed along Main Rd and end at the Mineral Springs Reserve, where the festival will take place. The parade is estimated to take about one hour. The festival continues for the afternoon, with music, food and fun activities. Kavisha Mazzella, who performed at school last term, will be performing. She is aiming to include as many people as possible performing the Tarantalla at once, to break the world record. Come along to help achieve this.

Main Rd will be closed for the duration of the parade so it is recommended that you consider this in planning your parking and transportation. (Parking is available at the reserve.)

Please let me know via the school office, if you have any queries and also if you plan to attend.

Kind regards
Signora Claire



Playgroup

Playgroup has resumed in the Presentation Centre and will continue each Thursday for the remainder of the term from 9:30am - 11:30am. All families with pre-school aged children are most welcome!

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Sacrament of Eucharist

This term, a number of our Year 4 students will be preparing for the special celebration of the Sacrament of Eucharist, an important milestone in their faith journey and a wonderful opportunity for our school, students and families to come together.

The preparation begins with an Enrolment Mass at St. Peter's Church on Sunday, October 25, at 10:30am. This will be followed by the Dismissal Masses, which will take place at the same time on Sunday, November 1, November 8 and November 15.

Finally, the celebration of the Sacrament of Eucharist will take place on Sunday, November 22. This will be a very special occasion as our Year 4 students take this important step in their faith journey and participate more fully in the life of the Church.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful journey with our Year 4 students and their families, and we encourage our whole school community to support and pray for the students as they prepare for this significant sacrament.

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Uniform

TERM 4 - NO HAT, NO PLAY policy.

There is an expectation that the correct summer uniform is worn in term 4. Due to the current unpredictable weather, we will have a 3 week period where both winter and summer can be worn.

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

All other days: students must be in full correct summer uniform. A note must be provided to your child's teacher in the instance where this cannot be adhered to. Thank you for your support.

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 great weekend,
Tim

After School Craft Club – Term 4 bookings open

A WEEKLY AFTER-SCHOOL CREATIVE CLUB FOR CURIOUS AND CRAFTY KIDS.



Join us in term 4, for eight weeks of joyful making, painting, drawing playing, experimenting and getting seriously stuck into some snack platters 😊

Craft club runs for 8 weeks per term at \$37.50 per week. All materials and snacks included.

📍 East Street, Daylesford location

5-7 YEARS

Tuesdays

3:30-4:45pm

8-12 YEARS

Thursdays

3:30-4:45pm

BOOK ONLINE OR EMAIL
HELLO@STRANGEBIRDSTUDIO.COM.AU

STRANGE BIRD Studio

STRANGEBIRDSTUDIO.COM.AU

JUNIOR NETBALL

FRIDAY NIGHT COMPETITION

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
GRADES 2 – 6

Boys and girls welcome.

ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS WELCOME!

HOW IT WORKS

WEEKS 1 – 2

📏 Skill-based sessions and game-style play to help us get to know the players, see where everyone is at and create balanced teams.

WEEKS 3 – 8

🏀 A 6-week competition, with teams formed based on skill level, age and creating a good balance across the groups.

📅 **FRIDAY NIGHTS**
From 5:30pm

👥 **GRADES 2 – 6**

📍 **COMMENCING**
Second week of Term 4

🏆 **FUN, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT**
Build skills, confidence and enjoyment of netball!

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

[CLICK HERE FOR EOI FORM](#)

This is an Expression of Interest only and does not commit you to registering. Further information about dates, costs and competition details will be provided once we have an indication of numbers.

Categories: •Kids •Decorated Cakes •General Cakes
•Cupcakes & Slices •Tarts & Pies •Special Dietaries

DEVONSHIRE TEA & LIGHT LUNCH

Lyonville Bake Off

& cake stall fundraiser

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER • 10:30AM TO 2:30PM
DROP OFF ENTRIES BETWEEN 9-10AM
LYONVILLE HALL, BREMNER AVENUE

Gold Coin Donation per entry
All entries are donated to the Cake Stall after judging
Contact Vicki: vickicj102@gmail.com
Dot: dottifuller@gmail.com

Community event with 100% of proceeds donated to the Lyonville Hall

Emergency Services Expo



Victoria Park, Daylesford | Sat 7 November | 10 am to 2 pm

Family friendly | Meet local heroes | Activities

Scan the QR code or visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/expo26



Hepburn
SHIRE COUNCIL

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CIRCLE OF SECURITY

CONNECTING FAMILIES (FORMERLY EARLY HELP)

In Partnership with Salvation Army Ballarat, Catholiccare and Grampians Health
A FREE 8-week program that aims to help parents or carers explore fostering healthy attachment with their children.

GROUP INFORMATION:

Date: Wednesdays starting 21st October
Time: 10.30am -12.30pm
Location: 515 Chisholm Street Ballarat

For referral contact us:
Family.support@cafs.org.au

COURSE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Discussions
- ✓ Child Development
- ✓ Emotion Coaching
- ✓ Parenting Techniques/Supports

1800 692 237 family.support@cafs.org.au www.cafs.org.au

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DADS BABY BAG

CONNECTING FAMILIES (FORMERLY EARLY HELP)

A FREE 6-week program that aims to help male parents or carers to explore attachment, developmental needs and positive relationship.

Group Information:

Date: Thursdays starting October 22nd
Time: 10 -12 pm
Location: 515 Chisholm Street Black Hill

For referral contact us:
Family.support@cafs.org.au

COURSE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Development
- ✓ Positive Relationship
- ✓ Practical Infant Care
- ✓ Parenting Techniques/Supports

1800 692 237 family.support@cafs.org.au www.cafs.org.au

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DADS TOOL KIT

CONNECTING FAMILIES (FORMERLY EARLY HELP)

A FREE 8-week program that aims to help male parents or carers to explore attachment, developmental needs and positive relationship.

Group Information:

Date: Tuesdays starting 13th October
Time: 10.30-12.30pm
Location: 515 Chisholm Street Black Hill

For referral contact us:
Family.support@cafs.org.au

COURSE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Development
- ✓ Positive Relationship
- ✓ Emotional Regulation
- ✓ Parenting Techniques/Supports

1800 692 237 family.support@cafs.org.au www.cafs.org.au

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TUNING INTO KIDS

CONNECTING FAMILIES (FORMERLY EARLY HELP)

A FREE 6-week program that aims to help parents or carers to understand and their Child's emotional needs.

GROUP INFORMATION:

Date: Mondays starting 19th October
Time: 6.30pm - 8pm
Location: Online

For referral contact us:
Family.support@cafs.org.au

COURSE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Discussions
- ✓ Child Development
- ✓ Emotion Coaching
- ✓ Parenting Techniques/Supports

1800 692 237 family.support@cafs.org.au www.cafs.org.au

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TUNING INTO TEENS

CONNECTING FAMILIES (FORMERLY EARLY HELP)

A FREE 6-week program that aims to help parents or carers to understand their Teens' emotional needs.

GROUP INFORMATION:

Date: Thursdays starting 22nd October
Time: 1pm - 3pm
Location: Online

For referral contact us:
Family.support@cafs.org.au

COURSE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Discussions
- ✓ Child Development
- ✓ Emotion Coaching
- ✓ Parenting Techniques/Supports

1800 692 237 family.support@cafs.org.au www.cafs.org.au

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TUNING INTO TODDLERS

CONNECTING FAMILIES (FORMERLY EARLY HELP)

A FREE 6-week program that aims to help parents or carers to understand their toddlers' emotional needs.

GROUP INFORMATION:

Date: Mondays starting 19th October
Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm
Location: 515 Chisholm Street Ballarat

For referral contact us:
Family.support@cafs.org.au

COURSE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Discussions
- ✓ Child development
- ✓ Emotion Coaching
- ✓ Parenting Techniques/Supports

1800 692 237 family.support@cafs.org.au www.cafs.org.au

parenting
groups on
offer in
term 4
@CAFS

THE 2026 ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE

IS READY TO LAUNCH

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Event Date

Sunday 8th November

