



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Excellence, Nurture, Community

Friday September 18th 2026

Dear God,

As we come to the end of this school term, we pause to give You thanks.
Thank You for the learning, growth, and friendships we've experienced.
For the challenges that helped us grow stronger,
And the joys that reminded us of the beauty in each day.

Bless our teachers, classmates, and all who support our school.
Grant us rest over the holidays—
May it be a time of peace, safety, and renewal for all.

As we look ahead, fill us with hope and purpose.
Help us return refreshed, ready to learn and give our best once
more.

Amen.



Dear Families,

Over the past few weeks, St Michael's has certainly been a hub of excitement! With two wonderful performances, Winter Sports Day and our Father's Day Breakfast, we have had many opportunities to come together as a community and celebrate the gifts, talents and achievements of our students.

It is during moments like these that we see our children truly shine. Whether performing on stage, participating in sport, supporting a friend or simply having the courage to give something a go, our students have proudly demonstrated the St Michael's 5 and what it means to follow in the footsteps of Jesus through kindness, encouragement, inclusion and care for one another.

At St Michael's, we want every child to feel safe, valued and supported, knowing they belong and can confidently be themselves. By creating a safe and nurturing environment, our children are encouraged to have a go, take on new challenges and share their own unique gifts with others.

None of these events would be possible without the wonderful support of our families, staff and wider school community. These busy and joyful weeks give us an opportunity to stop, reflect and give thanks for the many people who generously contribute their time, energy and care for the benefit of our children.

We are truly blessed to be part of such a connected and supportive St Michael's community, where our children can feel safe, learn, grow, care for others and let their own unique gifts shine.

School Production

Planet X – What a Performance!

What an incredible couple of performances we enjoyed last week! After weeks of preparation, rehearsals and excitement, our students finally took to the stage at the Daylesford Town Hall to present Planet X to their families and friends.

We could not have been prouder of the way our students embraced the experience. From our youngest performers through to our senior students, every child played an important part in bringing Planet X to life. It was wonderful to see their confidence, enthusiasm and personalities shine on stage.

A school production is about so much more than the final performance. It is about having the courage to step outside your comfort zone, working together, supporting one another and celebrating the unique gifts each person brings. Our students certainly demonstrated the St Michael's 5 throughout the entire experience.

A huge thank you to our staff, families and everyone who worked behind the scenes to make the production possible. From costumes and rehearsals to music, props, organisation and encouragement, it truly was a whole-community effort.

Most importantly, thank you to our amazing students – you were the stars of Planet X, and you certainly made St Michael's proud!



Eureka Division Track & Field Success!

Congratulations to **Mila O'Halloran** and **Xavier Paparousis**, who represented St Michael's at the **Eureka Division Track & Field Championships** held at Llanberris Reserve in Ballarat.

Mila had an outstanding day in the **Girls 9–10 division**, finishing **1st in both the 800m and 1500m events**. What an incredible achievement!

Xavier also performed brilliantly, finishing **2nd in the Boys 9–10 Discus**. His strong result has earned him a well-deserved place at the next level of competition.

We are delighted to announce that **both Mila and Xavier will now progress to the Greater Western Region Track & Field event on Friday 9 October**.

Congratulations, Mila and Xavier! We are incredibly proud of your achievements and wish you all the very best for the Greater Western event. **Go St Michael's!**



Staff Update - beginning of Term 4

As we head into Term 4, we have a few staff movements and absences across the first two weeks of term.

We are pleased to welcome Tim back on Monday 5 October following his shoulder surgery, and Helen will also return on Monday 5 October after her overseas travels.

Shay King will be taking leave to spend some very special time with her daughter and family as they welcome the arrival of her granddaughter. During this time, Fiona Cooper will be teaching Discovery 1. Breanna is travelling overseas during the school holidays and will return on Wednesday 7 October. Juliette will continue her overseas travels into the beginning of Term 4 and will return on Monday 12 October.

We wish all our travelling staff safe journeys and look forward to welcoming everyone back as we begin another busy and exciting term at St Michael's.

Important Parking and Safety Reminder

You may have noticed our new No Parking sign at the front of the school. Please be reminded that there is no parking in this 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.



Key Dates for Term 4 -

Week 1

Monday 5th October - Term 4 resumes

Week 2

Monday 12th October—Parent information Session for Eucharist (Grade 4)

Wednesday 14th October—Rotary Concert

Thursday 15th October—Puberty Session 1

Friday 16th October—Innovation 1 Assembly

Week 3

Monday 19th October—School Nurse Visit (Foundation)

Wednesday 21st October—SAC Meeting

Thursday 22nd October— Puberty Session 2

Saturday 24th October—Swiss Italian Festa

Sunday 25th October— Eucharist Enrolment Mass

Week 4

Friday 30th October— Connection Assembly

Sunday 1st November— Dismissal Mass 1 for Eucharist

Week 5

Monday 2nd November - School Closure Day

Tuesday 3rd November— Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Wednesday 4th November— Foundation 2027 Transition Day

Thursday 5th November—Final Puberty Session

Sunday 8th November—FETE

- Dismissal Mass 2 for Eucharist

Week 6

Swimming at Kyneton—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Tuesday 10th November - Echoes of Courage at Town Hall
Wednesday 11th November—Remembrance Day
Friday 13th November—Discovery 2 Assembly
Sunday 15th November— Dismissal Mass 3 for Eucharist

Week 7

Swimming at Kyneton—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Sunday 22nd November—Sacrament of Eucharist

Week 8

Monday 23rd November—Life Ed
Tuesday 24th November—Life Ed
- Transition Morning Foundation 2027

Week 9

Tuesday 1st December—Whole School Going UP Day

Week 10

Friday 11th December—Discovery 1 & Innovation 2 Assembly

School Closure Days

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

Monday November 2nd

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

WELLBEING

SchoolTV

We are now embarking on a two week school holiday break and this can be a perfect time to evaluate Family Connectedness and its importance.

Connection is vital to the wellbeing and development of children and young people. Strong relationships with family, friends, school and the wider community help build belonging, self-esteem and resilience. As young people grow more independent, these connections can change, with online relationships also playing an increasing role. By creating opportunities for meaningful connection, modelling healthy relationships and ensuring young people have trusted adults in their lives, parents and caregivers can help them feel valued, supported and better equipped to navigate life's challenges.

For more information about this topic and a wide range of wellbeing topics, visit: <https://smdaylesford.catholic.schooltv.me>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

School Performance

Our school production, Planet X, was a wonderful example of our St Michael's community coming together. We are incredibly grateful to the parents, friends and community members who generously gave their time, skills and support to help bring the production to life.

A very special thank you to **Marion Leith, Beth Whiting, Nicola Weston, Esther Halvey, Kiara Burgess, Pip Pearce, Brett Doig and Rory Johnson** for their contribution. Your willingness to support our students and school helped create a memorable experience for our children.

It is through this generosity and spirit of service that we continue to build a strong, connected and supportive St Michael's community.

Winter Sports Day

Our **Winter Sports Day** was another wonderful example of our school community generously giving their time to support our students.

A big thank you to **Joe Pastore and Rory Johnson**, who took charge of cooking the BBQs and keeping everyone well fed throughout the day.

A very special thank you also goes to **Andrea Gardiner**, who coordinated the canteen, along with the many wonderful volunteers who helped with stocking, preparing and serving food and drinks to **more than 300 children** across the day – no small task!

The generosity of our volunteers makes days like these possible. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy and enthusiasm you bring to our school and for the important part you play in creating such positive experiences for our children.

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 will resume on Thursday 8th October in the Presentation Centre and then each Thursday for the term from 9:30am - 11:30am. All families with pre-school aged children are most welcome!

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Sacrament of Eucharist

Next 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.

As part of the preparation, a Parent Information Night will be held at St. Peter's Church Hall on **Monday, October 12, from 5:00pm–5:30pm. Parents and carers are asked to attend this important meeting and bring the \$20 enrolment fee along with their child's trifold certificate.**

The preparation will continue with the 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.**

The preparation will culminate in the celebration of the **Sacrament of Eucharist 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

DAY 1 of TERM 4 - NO HAT, NO PLAY policy.

There is an expectation that the correct summer uniform is worn in term 4. We have a 2 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 - 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 great break and thank you all for your ongoing support over the past week and a half!
Shay



NEWSTEAD
YOUNG
 2026
WRITERS
FESTIVAL
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+)

OMG!

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 FACEBOOK
 INSTAGRAM

REGISTER NOW
 FOR WHEN
 TICKETS DROP:
www.newsteadyoungwritersfestival.com

Proudly supported by:



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.

HORSIN' AROUND
Applewood Equine

Bookings

Sessions for ALL Ages held all year round
 Ages for workshops 7-14yo
 Spots Limited Pre-Book

Holiday Workshops & Sessions
 Fun Equine Assisted Learning Activities guided by experienced EAL facilitator Mel Pritchard & her horses

1 Day Workshop: Wednesday 23rd September, 10-2.00pm \$220
1.5 hr Workshops: Mon 28th Sept, 10-11.30am & 12.30-2pm \$90
 Location: Tylden/Kyneton. Warm inside and undercover areas, if required.
 Learn valuable life & horsepersnship skills in a small group, on the ground with horses

* horse communication & care * catching & leading * 1 day workshop includes
 * brush & option to decorate * led obstacle course * optional mounted activity

Mindful Ponies Workshop, Yoga & Horse Activities: Tues 22nd Sept, 10-12.30 \$150

Individual, shared & group sessions for ALL ages available all year round
 Equine Assisted Learning can help with self regulation, over coming anxiety, better confidence, leadership, increased social participation and boundary awareness

Contact Mel: 0402 842 233
mel@applewoodequine.com.au
 Certified EAL Practitioner
applewoodequine.com.au

APPLEWOOD EQUINE
 Personal development and healing with horses
 Equine Assisted Learning

Mindful Ponies
Applewood Equine
Holiday Workshop
22nd September

Find calm with
Horse Wisdom and Yoga
for young people

Bookings

Kids Yoga session by Sarah Connell (Shanti Studios)
 Plus Calming, fun & mindful horse activities
 guided by experienced EAL facilitator Mel Pritchard
 Connection • Calm • Communication with horses • Community

Share space with our beautiful horses to connect on the ground with calm and confidence. No riding required.
 Share time practicing yoga in a creative way to build strength, focus & connection
 Prep for time with the horses + fun yoga supplied. Location: Applewood Equine Tylden/Kyneton
 Take home workshop booklet + goody bag with goodies from Shanti and Applewood.

10am-12.30pm \$15 Opp

Bookings Mel: 0402 842 233
mel@applewoodequine.com.au
 Qualified EAL Practitioner
applewoodequine.com.au

APPLEWOOD EQUINE
 Equine Assisted Learning

shanti
 STUDIO
 kids yoga

cafs

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

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

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CRAFT CLUB



ART ——— CRAFT ——— FUN & GAMES

9:30AM - 1:30PM

WED 23RD SEPT
FRI 25TH SEPT

LUNCH, SNAKCS & ALL

MATERIALS PROVIDED

EAST STREET, DAYLESFORD

SAVE YOUR SEAT STRANGEBIRDSTUDIO.COM.AU



STRANGE BIRD Studio

Sacred Heart College Kyneton

Raising Happy & Resilient Young People

Members of the local community are invited to attend this free event.

Guest Speaker: Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is one of Australia's highest profile psychologists, author, broadcaster and specialist in parenting, children, adolescents and mental health.



Join us for engaging presentation exploring what the science of psychology tells us about building resilience in young people, and what parents can do to incorporate these evidence based strategies into their parenting practices.

You'll also discover the 10 key messages from the positive psychology movement that parents can share with their children to significantly increase their likelihood of experiencing higher levels of well-being.

When: Tuesday 13 October

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: Mary Moloney Theatre
Sacred Heart College, Kyneton

Tickets: This is a free event but seats must be booked
via: www.trybooking.com/DPMFW



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Parent Engagement Partnership



Step inside the Australian School of Magic these Spring holidays with internationally renowned magician Cath Jamison and unlock a world of mystery, wonder and imagination. Young magicians will learn astonishing tricks, master the art of illusion, and discover how confidence, creativity and a little mischief can leave audiences spellbound.

MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Pre School of Magic

Ages 5 - 7

Magic ' Wand Making
10am - 12.30pm

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Magic Class

Ages 8 - 13

Magic ' Learn How to Perform
10am - 12.30pm

13 CAMP ST DAYLESFORD

WWW.DNCENTRE.ORG.AU/COURSES OR PHONE 53483 569

HOW CAN I HELP?

Over the holidays there are plenty of things you can do to help prepare for the fete!

Do you have second hand goods that can be donated for the Trash & Treasure or Second Hand Book Sale?

Do you have some ideas of what you might be able to make for the cake stall?

Do you know some businesses that may like to sponsor a ride or donate prize items?

These can be sent via email to fete@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

In a few weeks time the Facebook event will be launched. Mark yourself as attending, share with your friends and get the word out.