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Holy Family School

LEARN · 19 Feb 2026

In Faith, We believe, We belong, We learn, We grow

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Current News

Dear Families,

Thank you for your engagement over the last couple of weeks.

Our staff valued the opportunities to engage with you at our Parent/Teacher Conversations, Welcome Dinner and Welcome Mass. We aim to strengthen these connections throughout the 2026 School Year.

As I have mentioned previously, a child that sees his/her parents engaged with their school brings many benefits as highlighted by AITSL.

Parental engagement at school boosts student success by improving academic performance, attendance, and behavior across all age levels. Active involvement strengthens the home-school partnership, fostering better social-emotional skills, higher motivation, increased confidence, and enhanced mental health in children, while also creating a supportive community.



Successful Drop Off Routines

I have been impressed by the independence shown by our Prep students at morning drop off.

Below are some ideas that could assist you when dropping off your child in the morning.

Key Components of a Successful Drop-Off (Cove Learning)

- **Consistent Routine:** Establish a quick, predictable routine (e.g., a special handshake, hug, or wave) and stick to it to build trust and predictability.
- **Short and Confident Farewells:** Keep goodbyes brief to minimize anxiety, even if the child is upset.
- **Always say Goodbye:** Never sneak away, as this can cause panic and decrease trust.
- **Acknowledge Emotions:** Validate your child's feelings of sadness while staying positive about the day ahead.
- **Transition Objects:** Allow a comfort item, such as a favorite toy or blanket, to help with the transition.
- **Communication:** Communicate with educators about your routine to ensure consistency between home and the center.

Tips for Success

- **Plan Ahead:** Arrive with time to spare to avoid rushing, which can increase stress.
- **Play Drop-Offs:** Rehearse the goodbye routine at home using dolls or toys to make it familiar.
- **Focus on Positives:** Remind children of the fun activities they will do during the day.
- **Be Patient:** Understand that separation anxiety is normal and that consistent, loving, and firm routines will help over time.

Lent – A Family Journey of Faith

Lent is a special time in the life of the Church when families are invited to pause, reflect and prepare their hearts for Easter. Through **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**, we follow the example of Jesus and grow closer to God and to one another.

For families, Lent can be lived in simple ways—sharing prayer at home, choosing kindness, practising gratitude, and reaching out to help those in need. These small moments help children see that faith is lived each day, not just learned.

As a school community, we walk this Lenten journey together with our families, trusting in God's love and looking forward with hope to the joy of Easter.



Crossing Stephenson's Road

It has been brought to my attention that some parents are running across Stephenson's Road and not using the 'manned' pedestrian crossing. Not only is this illegal but it is extremely unsafe for you and your child. Please use the crossing available for the safety of everyone.

Colour Explosion

The excitement is building for our Annual Colour Explosion. Our Sports Leaders went around to classrooms today to commence promoting the incredible event. Watch out for further communication about this event!

Paired Fluency

This week our classes started their day with 'Paired Fluency' for 5-10 minutes. It is crucial that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss this invaluable reading opportunity.



Wellbeing Professional Learning

This year our school is fortunate to have two staff members leading the area of Wellbeing. Miss King is leading our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Framework and Ms Hancke is leading Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS).

I look forward to sharing more about our staff learning and impact on student wellbeing during this year.

School Advisory Council

I am pleased to announce the members of our School Advisory Council for 2026.

Father Justel

Julie David

Eithne King

Mark Petersen

Brooke Banbury

Daniel Trettel

Sandra Filippou

Michael Newman

I look forward to working with this Council to support our community. We have our first meeting on Wednesday 25th February at 5:30pm.

School Closure Days

We have the following School Closure Days this term -

Friday 6th March (TIL Day)

Monday 9th March (Labour Day)

Hopefully you have the opportunity to join your family and friends over this 4 day break.

Information Session

I will be hosting an Information Session for prospective families on Wednesday 4th March at 5pm. Please let your family and friends know.

Holy Family Playgroup

'Holy Family Playgroup' is happening!

This community opportunity will be held at Holy Family School once a fortnight for one hour and will be run by experienced educators and volunteers. The sessions will commence on Friday 20th February at 9:30am.

If you have a Working With Children Check and would like to go on a roster to help out please email office@hfmw.catholic.edu.au

Enrol Now



**PREP 2026/2027
ENROLMENTS
OPEN**

Growing learners with purpose,
faith and strong foundations.

Book your tour now

CONTACT US 9807 3300

Soft Plastics Recycling Pick Up

We are looking for volunteers to collect our soft plastics recycling to drop off to the Notting Hill transfer station. If you can assist with this job this term, please email Eithne King at eking@hfmw.catholic.edu.au

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend,

Julie David (Principal)

2026 Term 1 Dates

FEBRUARY

Fri 20 Interschool Sport (2)

Mini Vinnies Soccer Event

Play Group commences (9:30am)

World Day of Social Justice

Wed 25 SAC Meeting (5:30pm)

Wed 25 Prep Rest Day

Fri 27 Interschool Sport (3)

MARCH

Wed 4 Prep Rest Day

Division Swimming

P&F Meeting (6:30pm)

Thur 5 Twilight Sports Day

Fri 6 School Closure Day (Vision for Engagement)

Sun 8 International Women's Day (Give To Gain)

Mon 9 Labour Day Public Holiday (School Closed)

Wed 11 NAPLAN commences

Year 4 Reconciliation/Eucharist Info Night

Fri 13 Year 3-6 Athletic Trials

Sun 15 Catholic Education Week (Christ Beside Me-Walking in the Footsteps of St Patrick)

Tues 17 St Patrick's Day

Wed 18 Open Day (all day)

Fri 20 Community Colour Run (Major Fundraiser)

Mass of St Patrick (St Patrick's Cathedral)

Sat 21 Harmony Day

World Down Syndrome Day

Tues 24 Sacrament of Reconciliation (5pm)

Fri 27 Halogen Young Leaders Day

Summer Sport Gala Day (TBC)

Tues 31 EMR Swimming

APRIL

Thur 2 End of Term 1 (1pm finish)

Holy Thursday

Fri 3 Good Friday

Sun 5 Easter Sunday



Religious Education



Ash Wednesday

Holy Family School attended a special mass today to celebrate Ash

Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is one of the important holy days in the liturgical calendar.

Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. It takes place 40

days before Easter Sunday, and is observed by Catholics, and many other Christians as well.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolise the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

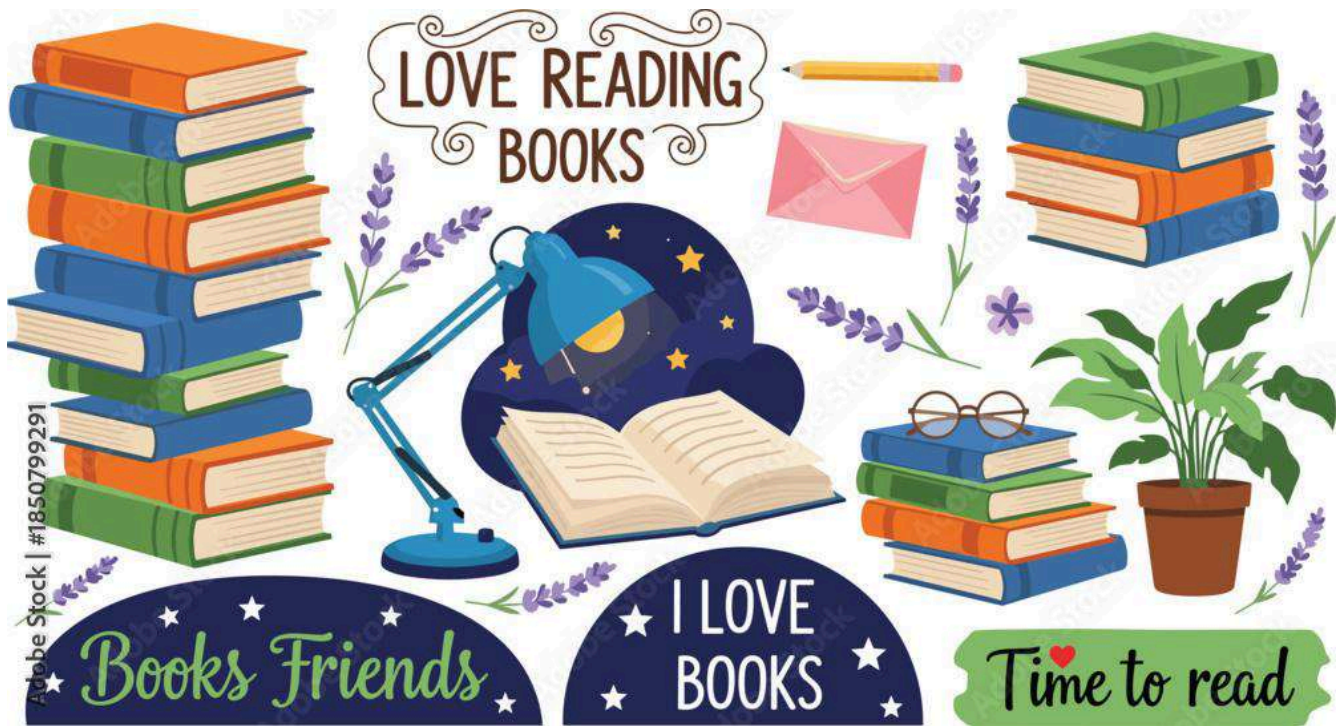
The Ashes

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolise penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts.

We are preparing with our hearts and minds in lent by participating in our **“Kick Poverty Away”** fundraiser. The students will learn about other children around the world who have less resources than we do in Australia and raise money to help them with Caritas Australia throughout lent, until the end of the term. We are looking forward to our soccer ball challenge happening this Friday, where classes will make soccer balls out of plastic rubbish collected in classrooms. Many children around the world do not have proper soccer balls so they make do with what they have. We are eager to help others in need and have fun along the way.

Vicky Pejic

Religious Education Leader



Literacy

♥ Developing a Love of Reading at Home ♥

One of the most important gifts we can give children is a love of reading. Reading regularly helps children develop their imagination, build their vocabulary, strengthen their comprehension and grow their confidence as learners. When children enjoy reading, they are more motivated to practise, which leads to stronger reading skills and greater success across all areas of learning.

The Importance of Reading Every Day

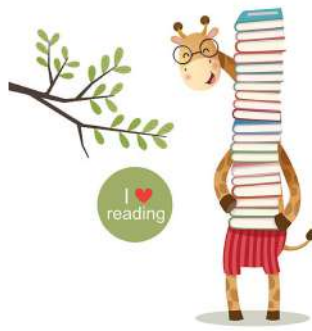
Daily reading is essential. Just 10–15 minutes each day makes a significant difference in developing your child's reading ability. Regular reading helps children practise recognising words, understand what they read and become more fluent. It also shows children that reading is a valued and enjoyable part of everyday life.

Parents Play a Powerful Role

Parents and caregivers play a vital role in developing their child's love of reading. Reading to your child—even after they can read independently—helps them hear fluent reading, learn new words, and enjoy stories in a relaxed and supportive way. Your enthusiasm for reading helps shape your child's attitude towards books.

Share a Wide Variety of Texts

Encourage your child to read many different types of texts, including:



- Picture books
- Story books
- Information books
- Comics and graphic novels
- Poetry
- Chapter books

This helps children discover their interests and exposes them to different ideas, language, and styles.

The Importance of Picture Books

Picture books are incredibly valuable for children of all ages. They help develop imagination, understanding, and vocabulary. Bedtime is a wonderful opportunity to share picture books together. This special routine builds positive associations with reading and creates meaningful connection time.

Re-reading Familiar Books

Children benefit greatly from reading familiar books again and again. Re-reading helps them:



- Build confidence

- Improve fluency
- Notice new details
- Strengthen understanding

Familiar stories also provide comfort and enjoyment.

Reading Chapter Books Together

As children grow, reading chapter books together is a wonderful way to maintain shared reading. You might take turns reading, or read aloud to your child. This allows children to enjoy more complex stories while continuing to build their listening and comprehension skills.

Talk About What You Read

Talking about stories helps children think more deeply. You can ask simple questions such as:



- What was your favourite part?
- Why did the character do that?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How did the story make you feel?

These conversations strengthen comprehension and engagement.

Building Vocabulary Together

Reading introduces children to many new and interesting words. When you discover new vocabulary:

- Talk about what the word means
- Use the word in conversation
- Encourage your child to use the word in their own sentences

Using new vocabulary in everyday life helps children remember and understand words more deeply.

Read as Much as Possible

The more children read, the stronger their skills become. Most importantly, reading should be enjoyable. Creating regular opportunities to read, sharing stories together, and showing enthusiasm for books will help your child develop a lifelong love of reading.

Together, we can support children to become confident, capable, and enthusiastic readers.

Thank you for your continued support.

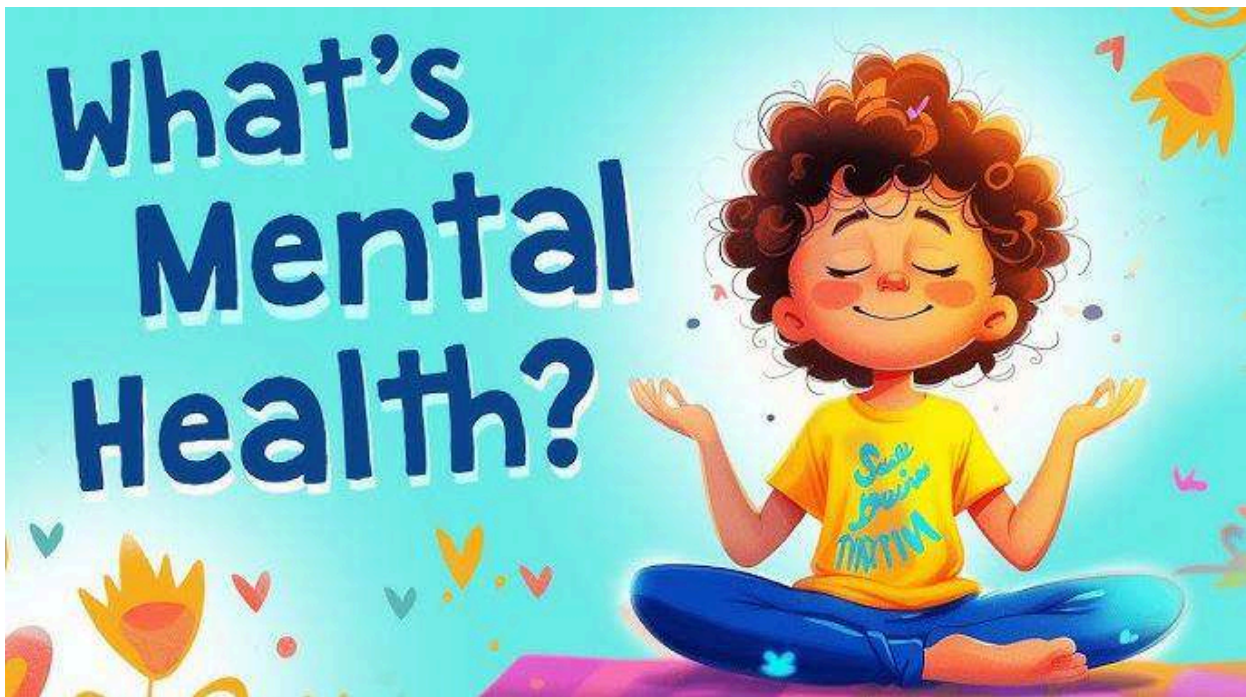
Julianne Kelly
Literacy Leader





Term One Level Newsletters

Please find the Level Newsletters linked below. Our Prep families receive a weekly newsletter.



School Psychologist



I am pleased to write that Holy Family will continue to provide psychological support to our families this year.

Dr Alexa Kambouropoulos holds a Ph.D. in Psychology. Alexa is a very passionate and empathic psychologist who works with both children and adolescents who are experiencing a range of psychological issues such as anxiety and mood disorders, autism spectrum disorders, interpersonal, learning, and behavioural disorders, study/exam stress, and adjustment difficulties (social & situational). Dr Alexa draws on psychological modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, client-centred, play and solution-focused therapy with psycho-education. Dr Alexa firmly believes that a collaborative and parental partnership approach will produce the most successful outcomes for the child.

Given Alexa's passion is baking and creative crafts, she utilizes these as part of her play therapy in individual and group sessions. Alexa finds these modalities encourage quieter children to engage in dialogue, develop their confidence and social skills.

Please find below, some brief information regarding the process of therapy:

1. GP referral and parental consent form needs to be submitted before commencing therapy. The parent, guardian and or the class room teacher can refer the child to therapy.

2. On receiving the above, Alexa meets with the child to introduce herself and build rapport.
3. Point 2 is followed up with a brief parental chat to gather more information about the child. If necessary, Alexa also seeks further insights from the classroom teacher regarding the child.
4. During the 10 sessions, Alexa regularly keeps in touch with the parent(s) and provides feedback regarding the child. Under the MHCP, there is no monetary costs involved to the parent.
5. After the completion of the 10 sessions, if the parent wishes to continue the services, Onpsych invoices the parent the same amount as what Medicare charges which is \$124.306.

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to call me (0417 011 665) and or email on: AKambouropoulos@onpsych.com.au





Lola and our Preps

Wellbeing News

Children's Mental Health Week, 9-15 February, 2026



The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is '**This is My Place**', which aims to support children and young people to help them feel they belong. CMHW was started in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and raise awareness of their mental health.

Our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school and in communities, plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing. To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need and has powerful and long lasting impacts in lots of areas in our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

The students will participate in a Mental Health Week activity to help them feel a greater sense of connection and belonging to their classmates, school and community.

When we feel we belong, we may:

- feel included;
- feel nurtured;
- be able to voice our opinions;
- feel more supported to be ourselves;





Physical Education

District Swimming - February 12th 2026

Congratulations to Amelia L and Sam G who competed at Gardiner District Swimming Carnival on Thursday February 12th at the Monash Aquatic Centre. Well done to Sam on his 3rd placing in the backstroke.

Team Vic

The selection process for students to trial for the representative team for Victoria in basketball, netball, cricket, soccer and football is **to be attended by those who are considered to be a genuine chance to be selected for the final state side – it is not just ‘a come and try’ scenario.** Parents are responsible for taking their children to the trials. To be considered students need to be playing in their club's highest representative team and parents need to consult with the school.

If you believe your child is suitable please refer to the School Sport Victoria website.

<https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic/Documents/2026TeamVicInformationSheet.pdf>

Gardiner District Summer Sport (all year 6 students and some Year 5's)

We need 1 parent to assist at each of these events.

Friday February 20 - against Mt Waverley Heights

Friday February 27 - against Glen Waverley Sth

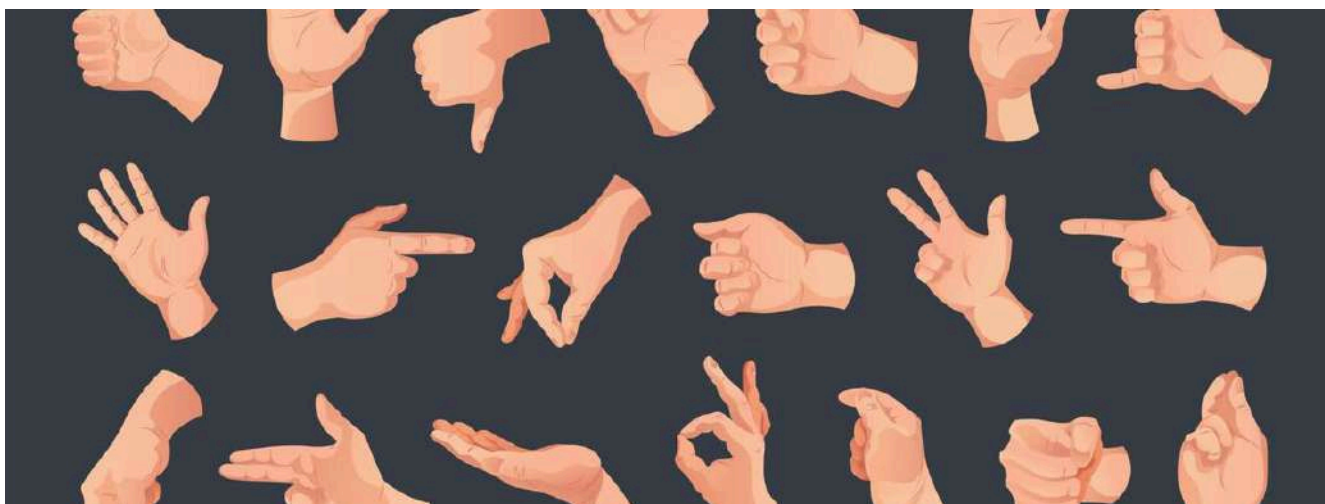
Friday March 20 - against Huntingtower (original date Feb 13)

Gala Day - Friday March 27th, 9.30am-2pm

If you can assist with coaching/umpiring T20 cricket, Hot Shots tennis or t-ball, at any of these events please let me know smichelsson@hfmw.catholic.edu.au

Running Club

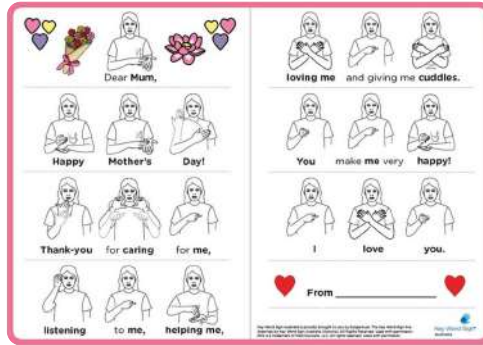
Staff, parents, siblings and students are invited to join Holy Family School's Running Club, every Friday at 8am on our school running track. Please enter via the gate by the hall.



Auslan

Over the past fortnight, students across all year levels have made impressive strides in their Auslan studies:

Foundation (Prep): Students explored the importance of the Deaf community, learning about hearing aids and the vital role of sign language. They have begun signing simple sentences regarding their families, such as 'I love my mum' and 'I have a brother.'



Years 1 & 2: The focus has shifted to interactive communication. Students practiced asking and answering questions about their families, specifically focusing on the sentence structure for 'Do you have a sister?' and 'How many sisters do you have?'



How many?

Years 3-6: Our senior students have been working on comprehensive self-introduction. This includes signing their name, age, family members, and personal hobbies. To demonstrate their progress, students filmed their introductions on their Chromebooks to share with their Auslan teacher.



Name

We encourage you to ask your child to show you their video or demonstrate some of the signs they have mastered so far!



Award Winners

Term One Week Two

Class	Student	Awarded
Prep I	Prep I	For a fantastic start to your school journey. I am very proud of you all.
Year 1F	Ysabella	For having a great start to the year and for being a kind and caring member of our classroom Well done Ysabella
Year 2B	Lucie	For being so brave and kind to everyone in your first week at Holy Family.
Year 3V	Juliana	For being such a friendly and caring class member to your peers. You have started the year beautifully!
Year 4D	Violet	Well done Violet for a great start to Year 4! You have been setting a wonderful example in our classroom. Keep it up!
Year 4LD	4LD	For a spectacular start to the year, and working hard at following our routines.
Year 5SG	Kingston	For a fabulous start at Holy Family! You have achieved so much already!
	Madelyn	For a fabulous start to 2026! You are a great, hard working member of 5SG!
Year 5PB	Elizabeth	For settling into the daily routine and making sure the class runs smoothly. Keep up the great work.
Year 6HB	6HB	For settling well into grade 6, organising your things, following routines and being good role models for other students.
Year 6L	6L	For following routines and expectations so beautifully and getting prepared for a fantastic year of learning.

Auslan	Suzi Q (5P)	For her outstanding commitment to learning Auslan. She has been spending her own lunch breaks fingerspelling with her teacher - a fantastic display of initiative and passion. Great work, Suzi!
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Term One Week Three

Class	Student	Awarded
Year 1F	Sam	For being a kind and thoughtful member of our class who always contributes and takes pride in his learning.
Year 2B	Thomas	Always approaching everything with a smile and engaging so well during learning!
Year 3V	Marcus V	For being so respectful and polite and for always giving everything 100% of your effort
Year 4D	All students in 4D	For a wonderful start to Year 4! Keep up the great work!
Year 4LD	Sophie Z	For an excellent start at Holy Family. You have settled in so well! Welcome to 4LD!
Year 5SG	Zoe B	For being such a kind and caring member of our class, always giving a helping hand to others. Thank you!
Year 5PB	Sam G	For having excellent manners and participating in District Swimming. Well Done!
Year 6HB	Jamie T	For starting the year with enthusiasm, a positive attitude and focused work ethic. Congratulations, Jamie. You must feel so proud!
Year 6L	Samantha L	For writing a fantastic explanation as to how the colony of Tasmania developed. Well done on including many of our new vocabulary words.
Auslan	Kayasha E	For showing a dedicated commitment to language immersion by having an entire conversational exchange in Auslan with her Auslan teacher.



Colour Explosion



Run, walk or dance your way through
a fun course of colour!
A Family Event!

**Holy Family
School Grounds**

**Food
Stalls**

**Kids
Activity
Stalls**

**Friday
20th March
5pm-8pm**

**Entrants
Wristbands:
\$5 From The Office**

**Food & Activity
Tokens:
Online via CDF Pay**

Fundraising Pages: [tinyurl.com/
HFMWCE](https://tinyurl.com/HFMWCE)

Funds raised go towards supporting our school!





Community News



Three Consecutive Years of Outstanding 99+ ATAR Achievement



Pictured: Sachin James (ATAR 99.05), Anton Occhiuto (ATAR 99.4), Principal Mark Ashmore, Manjyar Sabzi Vardi (ATAR 99.15)

8% ATAR OVER 95	23% ATAR OVER 90	39% ATAR OVER 80
Study Scores 40 and Above 72	ATARs 90 and Above 31	VCE & VCE VM Completion 100%

Salesian College Chadstone is proud to celebrate three consecutive years of exceptional ATAR results, with students consistently achieving scores above 99. These achievements reflect the College's unwavering commitment to personalised learning, holistic development and the nurturing of each student's potential.

Three consecutive years of elite ATAR achievement demonstrates that excellence at Salesian College Chadstone is purposeful and sustained. Expert teaching, tailored programs and a strong learning community create an environment where students are encouraged to aim high, embrace challenges and realise their potential, equipped with the skills, confidence and values to contribute positively to their future pathways and the wider community.

We congratulate our 2025 College Dux Anton Occhiuto, who achieved an outstanding ATAR of 99.4. Anton achieved a study score of 49 in Psychology, 48 in Environmental Science, 48 in General Mathematics (2024), 44 in Literature, 43 in Visual Communication Design, and 43 in Food Studies. Anton intends to study his first preference of Bachelor of Design at the University of Melbourne, majoring in Architecture and Environmental Architecture.

We congratulate our 2025 Proxime Accessit, Manjyar Sabzi Vardi who achieved outstanding ATAR of 99.15, with a perfect score of 50 in English as an Additional Language.

We celebrate our VCE VM Leader of the Year, Anthony Riccardi. Anthony has consistently demonstrated hard

work, dedication, and resilience across his classes, projects, and events. Anthony is pursuing an apprenticeship in Plumbing in 2025.

The Salesian College Chadstone community commends all students from the Class of 2025 on the completion of their VCE and VCE Vocational Major studies and acknowledges the dedication, commitment and support that staff and families have provided to ensure students reach their potential during the 2025 academic year.



NEXT GENERATION UNIFORM LAUNCHED

Salesian College Chadstone is proud to introduce our next generation uniform, created in partnership with Uniform Group, our trusted schoolwear supplier for 24 years, and renowned Australian designer Peter Morrissey.

Blending contemporary style with comfort and functionality, the collection reflects our College values and supports students as they learn, grow and take on new challenges with confidence.

Guided by Peter Morrissey's design expertise, the range respects timeless schoolwear traditions while embracing fresh, modern elements.

Developed through a genuine community collaboration, the design process invited input from students, staff, families and College leaders. Through workshops and fabric trials, each group contributed to shaping a uniform that balances style, comfort, and durability.

The result is a collection that feels familiar yet forward looking, authentic to who we are and ready for everyday school life. It combines practicality with style, supporting students in their learning, co-curricular activities and while reflecting the pride and identity of our College community.

View the new range at salesian.vic.edu.au/about-us/uniform/



INFORMATION EVENING FOR FUTURE FAMILIES

Join us for our Information Evening for Future Families on **Tuesday 3 March at 7pm**, where you'll hear from Principal Mark Ashmore, meet our students and staff, and experience the thriving, supportive community that defines us.

Register via salesian.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/

WINNER 5-STAR BEST SCHOOLS 2025

Salesian College Chadstone has been recognised by The Educator as a 5-Star School for Excellence in Education, ranking among Australia's top 34 schools for 2025.

The recognition followed a three-month review assessing innovation, student learning, wellbeing, technology, diversity, inclusion, and holistic development. Chris Sweeney, Managing Editor at The Educator, praised the College's forward-thinking approach and dedication to student growth.

Find out more via salesian.vic.edu.au/about-us/5-star-best-schools/



10 Box
Chadstone
Aust
T +61 3 9
salesian.vi

YEAR 7 20:

Limited places still
Enrol now via salesian.vic.edu.au/enrolme

YEAR 7 20:

With students set
our exciting new
campus from Ter
enrolments are
Secure your son's
and be part of
new chapter at
College Chadstone

Applications close
14 August, 2025,
via salesian.vic.edu.au/enrolment/apply

BOOK A MONDAY

Recently recogni
the 2025 Child
Empowerment I
named among the
5-Star Best Schoo
College Chadstone
to lead with ir
student voice an
focus on wellbein

Join us on a
Morning Tour to
our thriving, i
community and
Salesian is the ri
for your son's fut
Register via salesian.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/

Read more about our 5-Star Best School recognition salesian.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/