



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Robert's
Newtown

1st May 2026

NEWSLETTER

www.srnewtown.catholic.edu.au



At St Robert's, taking Jesus as our model, we **INCLUDE**, we **CONNECT**, we act with **PURPOSE**.

YEAR 1 WERRIBEE ZOO EXCURSION

Monday 4th May

Note sent 22nd April

P & F MEETING

Tuesday 5th May

Staffroom at 7:00pm

All welcome

MACKILLOP DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

Wednesday 6th May

See email sent 22nd April

My bucket has certainly been full in Week 2. We have been so fortunate to enjoy some beautiful, warm autumn weather, and it has been wonderful to see our students making the most of the sunshine. As we head into May and the final month of autumn, I hope you have also been able to spend some time outdoors over the weekends enjoying this gorgeous weather, just as we have here at school.

On Wednesday evening, I had the pleasure of joining our staff and Foundation families for Prayers in Pyjamas. It was a special time as we gathered in song, prayer and reflection, celebrating God's love for us and the ways we can show love and kindness to others. Thank you to all of our families who ventured back to school in their pajamas, it is always such a joyful evening when we can come together in faith. A sincere thank you to Ms Carolyn, Miss Chelsea and Ms Chloe for supporting and facilitating this beautiful experience.

Our Parents and Friends will gather in the staffroom next Tuesday evening at 7:00pm, and all are warmly welcome to attend. I look forward to sharing some exciting updates regarding our shed and bike shelter installation timelines, along with a garden and planting plan for our school grounds. Over the holidays, I met with Ben from Diaco's Garden Nursery, who has provided some wonderful ideas to support the rejuvenation of our gardens and outdoor spaces.

In last week's newsletter, I shared that during our recent school closure day, staff engaged in a powerful professional learning session with Emma-Rose Parsons, founder of Spectrum House. Drawing on both lived experience and clinical expertise, Emma-Rose deepened our understanding of how ADHD and autism can present in the classroom. She challenged common misconceptions and provided practical strategies to reduce stigma and strengthen inclusive practices across our school.

Building on this, during Tuesday evening's staff meeting, we revisited Emma Rose's key messages and participated in a "Show, Share and Shine" session. This was a wonderful opportunity for staff to highlight and celebrate the many strategies already being implemented in classrooms to support all learners. Miss Emma Clancy and Ms Margot Champion have also prepared an informative piece for this week's newsletter to further support our community's understanding.

We look forward to welcoming our mums, grandmothers, aunts and special women in our lives to our Mother's Day Breakfast next Thursday at 8:15am. It will be a lovely opportunity to gather and celebrate together.

I hope you all enjoy a fulfilling, calm and safe weekend in the sunshine.

Warm regards,

Rebecca O'Leary - PRINCIPAL

UPCOMING DATES

Muffins with Mum - Mothers Day Breakfast & Liturgy

Thursday 7th May - 8:15am

P & F Mother's Day Stall

Friday 8th May

Identity, Culture & Inclusion Day and Pizza Lunch Day

Monday 11th May - Order via
CDF Pay mobile app by

Wednesday 6th May

MacKillop District Athletics - Select Students

Friday 15th May - Details to
still to come

North Geelong Division Cross Country - TBC

Tuesday 19th May

Loving God,

We thank you for our parents
who sacrifice so much for us.

We understand that they always
put us first.

Forgive us when we do not show
our everlasting love towards
them.

Let them know
that we truly
appreciate
everything they
do for us.

Amen.



REPORT STUDENT ABSENCES BY 9:15AM ON THE DAY OF THE ABSENCE

Please call 5221 1075, press 1 & leave details of absence OR email: attendance@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au

OR submit via Skool Loop App Absences Tab

FAITH IN EDUCATION

Theresa Lewis

We are now in what the church calls 'Eastertide'. A season of 50 days which began on Easter Sunday.

It is a season of joy, marked in our classrooms by the change in our prayer cloths from purple to white.

Our Religious Education units focus on the theme of "Easter People - Knowing Our Story".

Whilst our students will be learning more about the parables, stories of Jesus' life and scripture, this could be a great time to re-tell some family stories or talk about some family history.

This week we also celebrated "Prayer in Pyjamas" with our Foundation families and we look forward to next week celebrating Mother's Day with our breakfast and prayer liturgy.





WERRIBEE ZOO EXCURSION

Year One students



Monday 4th May

- Bus departs from school at 9:00am and returns at 2:45pm. Students dismissed at 3:20pm
- Students to bring small backpack, lunch, healthy snack, fruit, labelled water bottle
- Please wear full sports uniform, apply and pack sunscreen even if weather is overcast
- Students will wear their school hat

PLEASE JOIN OUR

Mother's Day

BREAKFAST & LITURGY

THURSDAY 7TH MAY

♥

INSIDE THE MULTIPURPOSE SPACE

BREAKFAST FROM 8:15AM TO 8:50AM

MUFFINS PROVIDED AND A COFFEE VAN ONSITE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PRAYER LITURGY BEGINNING AT 9:00AM

ALL ARE WELCOME

PLEASE RSVP VIA GOOGLE FORM BY TUESDAY 5TH MAY

♥

P & F

Mother's Day

STALL

FRIDAY 8TH MAY

♥

HELD INSIDE THE MULTIPURPOSE SPACE DURING CLASS TIME

PLACE MONEY IN LABELLED ENVELOPE ON THE DAY

STUDENTS CAN PURCHASE UP TO 3 GIFTS AND CAN PICK FROM A VARIETY OF \$2, \$3, \$4, \$5 AND \$6 GIFTS

♥



TERM 2 PROGRAM



ST ROBERTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TUESDAY'S AFL ULTIMATE

TUESDAY'S DANCE

21ST APRIL TO 23RD JUNE

21ST APRIL TO 23RD JUNE

3:20PM - 4:30PM

11:15AM - 12PM - LUNCH TIME

\$200 + GST FOR 10 WEEKS

\$190 + GST FOR 10 WEEKS

SKILL PRACTICE - MODIFIED GAMES - MINI MATCHES

POM POM CHEER THEME END OF TERM PERFORMANCE



SIGN UP AT ANY TIME DURING THE TERM!



NOW AVAILABLE

ENROL ONLINE

WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GEELONG

QUERIES: NICK 0497 770 909
GEELONG@KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week 1

FCH	Belle	Matilda
FMC	Ayla	Belle
Gr 1 LB	Zoe	Francesco
Gr 2 RM	Mateja	Naomi
Gr 2 SC	Tom	Freddie
Gr 3 MP	Hamish	Eddie
Gr 3 SB	Lily	Xander
Gr 4 EG	Bethany	Mila
Gr 4 KR	Nastassia	Noah
Gr 5 JB	Adelaide	Milla
Gr 5 RR	Henry	Emilia
Gr 6 CL	Florence	Ari C
Gr 6 PB	Lewy	Hudson

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week 2

FCH	Della	Vance
FMC	Dion	Irvaan
Gr 1 LB	Hallie	Bailey
Gr 2 RM	Beau	Winnie
Gr 2 SC	Kylie	Charlie
Gr 3 MP	Ruby	Henry
Gr 3 SB	Easton	Elke
Gr 4 EG	Xavier	Edie
Gr 4 KR	Edward	Sadie D
Gr 5 JB	Vivienne	Olivia
Gr 5 RR	Jack M	Archie
Gr 6 CL	Louie	Finn R
Gr 6 PB	Lennox	Jack F



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEELONG

YEAR 7 2027 ENROLMENTS

Enrolments for Year 7 in 2027 are now open and will close on Friday, 8 May 2026. If you believe Joey's is the right place for your son, we encourage you to submit an application before the deadline.

Visit the College website to access the enrolment page. If you have any questions, please contact our College Registrar at registrar@sjc.vic.edu.au

sjc.vic.edu.au

All our school news in one place!

Download Skool Loop today

Simple free download: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' and choose our school once installed.

St Robert's acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders both past, present and emerging.

THE ST ROBERT'S RAINBOW

WHERE EVERY MIND MATTERS.

CELEBRATING AND UNDERSTANDING NEURODIVERSITY



The Basics

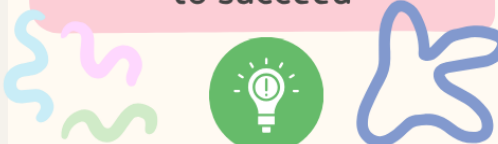
- **Neurodiversity:** The idea that all brains are wired differently. There is no "right" or "wrong" way to think or learn.
- **Neurotypical:** Brains that follow expected developmental patterns.
- **Neurodivergent:** Brains that process differently (e.g., Autism, ADHD, Specific Learning Difficulties- Dyslexia, Dysgraphia etc)



MYTH VS REALITY

Myth: "They should just do it like everyone else"

Reality: Different brains need different pathways to succeed



1 IN 5: ROUGHLY 20% OF CHILDREN ARE NEURODIVERGENT.



HOME ACTIVITY

! Noticed Game
Take turns going around the dinner table and say something great about another family member

Behaviour is Communication

What looks like "acting out" is often a child reacting to their environment.

Overwhelmed? Might be sensory overload.

Anxious? Might need a clearer routine.

The Golden Rule: Look beyond the behaviour to find the need.



Change Your Perspective

Before making a judgment, consider a different "WHY?":

Headphones? Managing noise, not being rude.

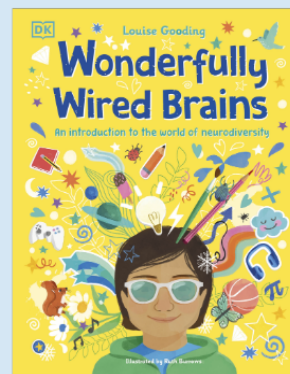
Limited Diet? Sensory sensitivity, not "picky eating."

Meltdowns? A nervous system response, not a tantrum.



Inclusion starts with curiosity, not assumptions. We all experience the world differently!

BOOK SPOTLIGHT



Wonderfully Wired Brains helps families understand that every brain works differently—and that's a strength. It builds empathy, confidence, and supports positive conversations at home.

Listen to the book here





Child Safe Standard 4

Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students ensures they have agency and voice about all matters that impact their safety. Our Catholic communities ensure systems, processes, policies and cultures encourage and respect the voices of children and young people.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Overview of Child Safe Standard 4:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- Families participate in decisions affecting their child
- The organisation engages and openly communicates with families and the community about its child safe approach and relevant information is accessible.
- Families and communities have a say in the development and review of the organisation's policies
- Families, carers and the community are informed about the organisation's operations and governance.

The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organisations create safe environments for children and young people.

They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to, and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies, and a culture that puts children first.

As a parent or carer, you can expect organisations to involve families, empower children, train staff properly, and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.

"The role of the family in building a culture of life is decisive and irreplaceable" This quote comes in the greater context of Pope John Paul's message about the family being at the heart of the ***"civilization of love"***.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Keeping families informed:** We provide parents, carers and the community with regular updates about child safety and wellbeing so everyone knows what is being done to keep children safe and so parents and carers can continue the conversation at home.
- **Inviting parent, carer and community involvement:** We create varied opportunities for families, carers and community members to participate in surveys, forums or school events that focus on child safety and wellbeing, and seek their feedback
- **Working together:** We build trust and open communication with families, carers and the wider community. We ensure families, carers and members of the community have access to a variety of communication channels.
- **Welcoming different perspectives:** We are always open and welcoming of ideas that help keep children safe. We create varied ways for people to provide us with their feedback and share their ideas. We also actively seek to go beyond the school gate to meet families and the wider community at different places of learning, so we are all walking together.



How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Child Safe Standard 4 is about making sure schools, families, carers and the wider community work together to keep children safe. Here are some simple ways families can help:

- **Stay informed:** Read school updates about safety and wellbeing
- **Keep talking:** Have regular, open conversations with your child about what safety feels like for them and how they feel when they are at school or other places away from home. Ensure they know they have trusted adults they can speak to if they are concerned. Make sure they know who these adults are.
- **Get involved:** Attend school events, take part in surveys or forums that seek your feedback. Let your children see that you prioritise this connection with the school.
- **Share your perspective:** Contact the school with any ideas or thoughts you have that will help everyone to keep children safe. You may be able to offer a unique perspective or idea that the school has not considered.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).

Check out these additional resources from below to learn more:

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AFIS): [Parents' Involvement in their Children's Education Community Engagement](#)

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL): [Strengthening Parent Engagement to Improve Student Outcomes](#)

