



# ***ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL***

**Thursday 6th June Week 8 , Term 2 2024**

## **NEWSLETTER**



### **Acknowledgment of Country**



*We acknowledge this land as the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation and we pay our respects to all elders past, present and emerging. We will respect the land, animals and waterways, from the roots of the earth to the tops of the trees.*

*Thank you for letting us learn and grow on your mother earth. We understand that if we protect and look after the country, then the country will look after us.*



## School Vision

St Peter's is a faith filled and inclusive community that embraces diversity.  
We aspire to engage and empower all to think critically and act justly, guided by our catholic values,  
on our journey as lifelong learners.

# Principal Report

Good afternoon St Peter's Community

Melbourne weather has certainly arrived. The morning is very cold as well as the recess and lunch times. It is advisable that if your child feels the cold they wear a navy jacket at school outside. It is important to allow the children to take off layers when they are in the classroom. All of our classrooms have heaters and too many layers may result in the students getting hot in the classrooms.

## Infectious Diseases

There are a number of different viruses circulating at present. We thank families for keeping their children at home when they are sick until they are well enough to return to school.

We currently have confirmed cases of slapped cheek in the junior and senior school levels. Slapped cheek is a viral infection and symptoms can vary between children. Children with slapped cheek are contagious until 24 hours after their fever has resolved. We ask that if your child has a fever and is unwell with the symptoms to please keep them at home until they are well. Please refer to the [Royal Children's Hospital Guidelines](#) for further information.

When these reports are made the students name is kept confidential - however we do notify the school community. We currently have staff and parents that are pregnant and it is important they take the necessary precautions. We appreciate all confirmed cases of infectious diseases being reported to the school office and we will take the appropriate steps to notify the community. If your child is sick please keep them home until they are well. If your child tests positive with COVID - it is recommended you let the school know. We can let our school community that are immune compromised know and precautions can be taken.

## Difficulty getting replacement staff

St Peter's like many other schools are experiencing challenges with replacement staff when staff are away sick. We do everything we can to call on our regular replacement staff to fill in when a teacher is absent. On some days we are very stretched and we call upon external replacement staff. We ensure the staff are familiar with our school protocols and the needs of students in our school. As a last resort, we sometimes have to split classes for a short period of time. We thank you for your support and understanding in this space and please be assured that your children's social, emotional and academic needs are also our priority.

## Year 6 Graduation

The graduation is to be held in December 2024. Given we have 60 students graduating this year in our parish church, a decision has been made to restrict the graduation attendance to the graduating student and two parents/guardians. (We will accommodate families who have separated and step parents are part of the students life).

We wanted to give families enough time to make graduation plans.

Thank you for your understanding - graduation in the church is a really special evening.

## School Review - Every Four Years

Over the past two weeks we welcomed a school reviewer appointed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic School to our school. Mrs Gaynor Robson Garth spent 3 days on our school site over the past two weeks. During the process our school compliance documentation, child safety standards documentation and policy documentation was reviewed.

All our teaching and learning support staff had the chance to discuss with Gaynor our school vision and reflect on our school goals and measurable targets we set four years ago. Members of the school advisory board had a voice in a conversation with Gaynor and our parents committee were invited to a morning conversation with Gaynor last Thursday from 8.15am. Gaynor also spoke with students from our senior school and junior / middle school. There were representatives from our entire school community that assisted with Gaynor's review process.

From the initial feedback Gaynor described our school as **exemplary**. Our compliance documentation was outstanding. This is largely credited to Mrs Claire Toner and Mrs Sara Brundell who have worked tirelessly in this space to ensure all documentation criteria are met.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our school leadership team Mrs Daniela Torcaso, Mrs Erin Whitbread and Mrs Melissa Gatt and staff at St Peter's for your input and participation in the review process. I look forward to sharing with you the final report that will be available in the coming months.

## New school website

It is exciting to announce to our school community that we have a new school website.

We hope this website is easier for families to navigate and for prospective families wanting to join our school community - the enrollment documentation is easier to access.

Please make sure you check out what our community says about our school and our new school BLOG. New postings every week.

[st peter's primary school epping](https://www.stpetersprimaryschool.com.au)

# Child safety standard 5 and 6



## Child Safety Requirements

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we will be sharing with you information about our Child Safe Standards in fortnightly newsletters. This week, we are looking at Child Safe Standard Five and Standard Six.

**Standard Five** focuses on creating environments where all children and young people feel welcome. Equity is a state of fairness in which all children and young people can participate freely and equally in all areas of life, regardless of their background, characteristics or beliefs. This means their safety is not dependent on their socio-economic, family or personal circumstances. To comply with this standard at St Peter’s we:

- recognise and respond to students’ diverse circumstances.
- understand that some students are at higher risk of harm than others.
- provide easy access to information.
- adjust procedures to respond to different needs.
- make sure complaints processes are child-friendly, culturally safe and easy to understand.

Children have better opportunities to fulfill their potential when diversity is valued. Negative experiences like exclusion and discrimination can be harmful. They increase the risk of harm and abuse to a child and decrease the likelihood of them informing someone and receiving an effective response. Upholding equity and respecting diverse needs are relevant in implementing all the Child Safe Standards.

**Standard Six** focuses on ensuring all staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children. Schools should make child safety and wellbeing a key consideration when recruiting staff and volunteers. To comply with this standard at St Peter’s we:

- make sure job advertisements have clear statements about the job’s requirements, duties and responsibilities regarding child safety and wellbeing
- advise job applicants about the child safety practices of the school, including the Child Safety Code of Conduct
- make volunteers aware of the school’s Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct

- screen school staff applicants:
  - sight, verify and record a Working with Children clearance if the person is required to have one or any equivalent background checks such as Victorian Institute of Teaching registration
  - collect and record proof of identify, qualifications, history of working with children and references
- screen volunteers:
  - sight, verify and record a Working with Children clearance if they person is required to have one of any equivalent background check
  - consider the child safety risks relevant to the volunteer’s role and, if reasonable and appropriate collect and record proof of identify, qualifications, history of working with children and references
- provide an induction to staff, volunteers and contractors engaged in child-related work, regarding child safety and wellbeing that is appropriate to the nature of the role
- ensure that induction addresses the school’s:
  - Child Safety Code of Conduct
  - Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
  - procedures for managing complaints and concerns related to child abuse
- make sure staff, governing body members, and volunteers engaged in child-connected work, are aware of their responsibilities for:
  - children and students
  - information sharing and reporting obligations
  - recordkeeping obligations
- provide supervision and people management of staff and volunteers that focuses on child safety and wellbeing.

## KING’S BIRTHDAY THIS MONDAY - NO SCHOOL 10th June



Have a lovely long weekend  
 Kindest regards  
 Angela Tonkin  
 Principal

# Religious Education

## Feast of Corpus Christi

This weekend the Church celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi is Latin for 'The body of Christ' This feast day is a special day in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar which celebrates the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ and honours the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Some of our Year 4 students received the blessed sacrament of Eucharist on May 25th in which they received the body of Christ.



Congratulations to the following students for taking the next step in their faith journey.

Michaela, Christian, Jake, Kristian, Anna, Zak, Daniel, Dylan and Charli

Thank you to Fr Anh and Fr Tien for celebrating mass with the school community and to the parents/carers of these students for supporting their child through their faith journey.

## Confirmation Reminders

Below are a list of reminders for Year 6 families who have a child receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation

In Preparation:

- Students are to attend a minimum of two parish masses
- Students to complete their art work (in pack)
- **Return the information for the Confirmation card to the classroom teacher**



The Ceremony:

- The Confirmation mass is on Saturday June 15th, beginning at 9:30am
- Each family will be reserved one pew which will need to include the student making their confirmation and their sponsor. Limited additional seating will be available
- Each candidate is to wear their stole. This can have a symbol included or you may like to keep it plain.

Professional Photography

- Individual and family photos will be taken in the Galilee Space between 7:45am and 9am.
- All students must return to the Galilee Space for a group photo at 9:10am
- Photos of students receiving the Sacrament will be taken by the photographer
- **There will be no opportunity to take professional photos after the ceremony**

Please email Sara Brundell [sbrundell@stprepp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sbrundell@stprepp.catholic.edu.au) or your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions.

# St Peter's 90th Anniversary

This year we are celebrating 90 years of education at St Peter's and will be having a special St Peter's day celebration on Thursday June 27th. On this day we will also celebrate the feast of St Peter. This term all classes are having a learning focus on St Peter as well as some time to explore the history and changes within the school. We look forward to sharing our learning and celebrating this milestone in our school's history.

*We welcome you to celebrate*

## St Peter's Primary School, Epping 90 Years of Education Celebration Mass



**Thursday 27th of June • 11:30 am Mass**  
**32 Wedge Street Epping, 3076**

Past and present families and staff are welcome to celebrate with a Mass at 11:30 am.

From 4:00 - 5:00pm, Learning Spaces will be open for past and present families and staff to visit the new chapter of learning.

Present staff will be on site to meet and greet visitors.

*Light refreshments will be provided.*

## Our School - The Beginnings

St Peter's Primary School first opened in 1853. The school house was a simple weatherboard building that was extended to bluestone facilities in 1871.

It was in 1924 when the enrollment was around 38 students that the Good Samaritan Sisters started teaching at St Peter's and the school was officially registered. By 1957 enrolment had grown to 214 students, and just like today, was diverse and was made up of students from various countries. The first lay principal was appointed in 1979.

These two photos are of the Grade 5 class and the teaching staff at St Peters in 1974.



## Wellbeing

### Berry Street Education Model (BSEM)

Over the past 8 months, St Peter's staff have engaged in professional learning in BSEM to support in stretching student engagement in learning through the development of positive relationships, self regulation and increased awareness of wellbeing.

From our recent professional learning day the school will focus on **gratitude** with our school community.

**Gratitude is** being thankful for the people and things in your life.

**Gratitude can**

- boost your ability to learn and make better choices
- balance our emotions and help us to feel happier and less stressed
- lead to caring actions
- help you build better relationships



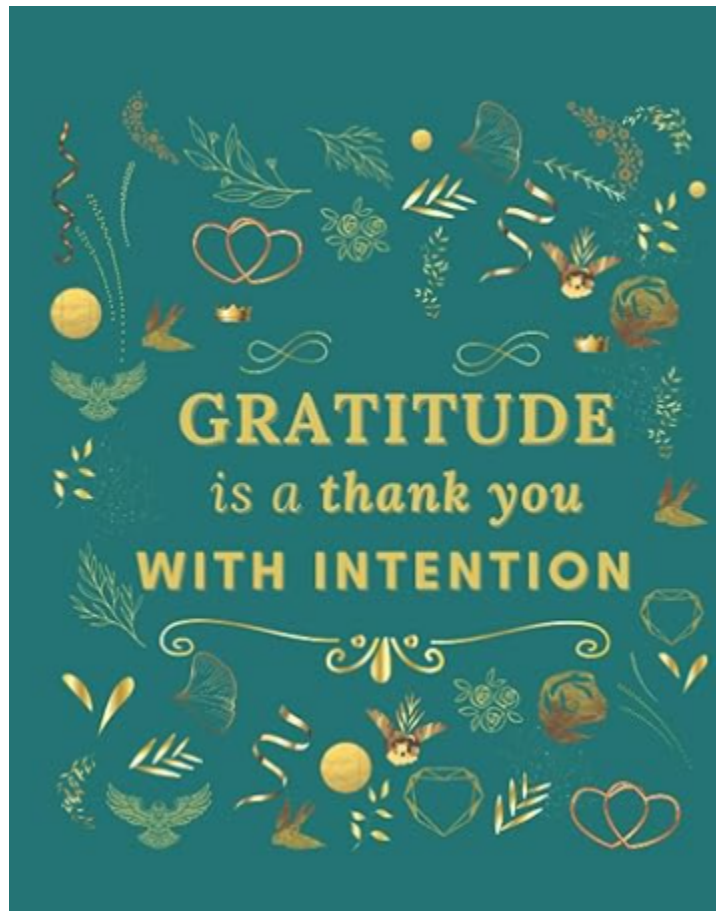


## **Make gratitude a habit**

There are many things you can do to make gratitude a part of your every day. Here are some ideas;

- Spend a few moments thinking about the people and things in your life that you are grateful for
- Stop to observe and acknowledge the beauty of wonder of something you encounter in your daily life
- Be thankful for your health, family and friends
- Thank someone for the positive influence they have in your life
- Do something kind for another person to show that you are grateful
- Pay attention to the small things in your life that bring you joy
- Pray or meditate with a focus on giving thanks

*Discuss as a family the ways that you can show gratitude*



## Reading with your child and reading to your child

The reading practice your child gains from reading the books they bring home from school every night is invaluable for their reading development. Some strategies that you can implement at home to support your child's reading while they read to you include:

- Encourage your child to sound out letters. For example, for the word 'dog', the child should say each sound individually: d-o-g. If they struggle to blend the sounds together, provide assistance by saying: "d-o-g. That's right, that makes the word 'dog'!" If a sound is incorrect or unknown, point to the letters and provide the correct sounds.
- Encourage your child to focus on letters and sounds rather than relying on pictures. Relying on pictures may encourage your child to 'guess' the word instead of actually read the word on the page (Hempenstall, 2016).

Not only can you support your child with the reading process (lifting the word off the page to read it and understand it's meaning) but you can also have discussions about the book they are reading.

### Discussion ideas when you are reading with your child:

- Discuss the cover, the author, and the illustrator.
- Ask questions about the book. Questions such as, "What do you think will happen next?" and "Why do you think that will happen?" can build inferencing and reasoning skills.
- Discuss the storyline and the pictures. This can help develop your child's critical thinking and comprehension skills. It encourages them to think about the narrative and make connections to their own experiences.
- Talk about new and unfamiliar words. This will enhance their understanding of new words and may support their ability to use a wider range when they are speaking or writing.

Along with reading with your child, it is also good practice to read to your child. Researchers Mol and Bus (2011) found that shared book reading can "Facilitate children's language, reading, and spelling achievement throughout their development". Bedtime stories, where a book or part of a book is read each night, encourage children to engage with books and build vocabulary and language skills.

### References

Mol, S. E., & Bus, A. G. (2011). To read or not to read: a meta-analysis of print exposure from infancy to early adulthood. *Psychological bulletin*, 137(2), 267–296. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0021890>

To empower students to learn  
To build teacher pedagogical practices  
To strengthen partnerships with families and the wider community

## Notification of a Planned Evacuation Exercise

On **Tuesday 11th June** at approximately 2:45pm, St Peter's will carry out a planned evacuation exercise. Practicing emergency response procedures enables staff to understand their roles and responsibilities in an emergency situation in accordance with the schools Emergency Management Plan. This also helps to prepare students and visitors to the school to become familiar with the procedures.

### **What happens in a practice evacuation at St Peter's?**

Our school Emergency Control Organisation is enacted and students follow the instructions of the classroom teacher to evacuate the building in their safety line.

A student safety line is a safety measure the school has put in place whereby our students line up in alphabetical order, which assists both students and teachers to identify when a student is not in their usual spot in the line. Students make their way outside to our assembly point (tiger turf).

Once everyone has been accounted for and the all clear has been given, students return to their learning spaces.


Students are notified of the practice evacuation as it starts and are notified when the practice has ended. If you have any concerns in relation to the practice drill, please do contact the school office: [office@stprepp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@stprepp.catholic.edu.au) or your child's teacher directly.

**If you would like to collect your child early on this day, we ask that you collect them before lunch begins at 1:45pm. Once the drill commences it will be difficult to call students to the office.**

## Second Hand Uniform Shop - change to opening hours

Due to a decrease in demand for second hand uniform items at present, the uniform shop will be open Friday mornings only between 8:30am - 9:00am.

Please submit a second hand uniform request if you require items and are unable to attend.

 [St Peter's Second Hand Uniform Request Form.pdf](#)

# St Peter's Day on 27th June



To celebrate our special event, Lunch Mums are offering St Peter's a Special 'P' Lunch day.

Ordering opens on 14th June and can be done on the my school connect app via the QR code below. Please see the attached instruction flyer to log in/make an account.

Orders will close on Wednesday 26th June @12pm

PIZZA  
PASTIES  
MEAT PIE  
PARTY SAUSAGE ROLLS  
PASTA SALAD  
PARTY PIES



Click on the link below to register via the online portal or download the myschoolconnect app. The attached flyer provides detailed instructions.

<https://myschoolconnect.com.au/register>

■ MSC REGISTRATION FLYER (7).pdf

## Key Dates Term 2 2024 (please note dates may be subject to change)

TERM 2	
Monday, 10th June	<b>King's Birthday Public Holiday</b>
Wednesday 5th June	Year 1 Year level Parish Mass, St Peter's Church 9:15 am
Thursday 7th June	Second Hand Uniform Shop 2:30 - 3:20pm CASH ONLY
Friday, 7th June	Prep hosting Assembly 2:40pm , Families welcome to attend Second Hand Uniform Shop 8:30 - 9:00 am CASH ONLY
Tuesday, 11th June	Evacuation Drill, 2:40pm
Thursday, 13th June	Year 3 Incursion - Hands on Science
Friday 14th June	Second Hand Uniform Shop hop 8:30 - 9:00 am CASH ONLY
Saturday, 15th June	Confirmation (Year 6) 9:30 am St Peter's Church
Monday 17th June	Year 2 Excursion to Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium
Wednesday, 19th June	Wacky Wednesday (Gold Coin Donation)
Friday, 21st June	Grade 1 Zoo Excursion 3 EK Hosting Assembly, 2:40 pm. Families welcome to attend Second Hand Uniform Shop 8:30 - 9:00 am CASH ONLY
Thursday, 27th June	Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul St Peter's 90th Anniversary celebrations & Special 'P' Lunch day Open classrooms for past family members and staff
Friday, 28th June	<b>End of Term 2 1:30 pm finish</b>

## Procedure for Reporting an Absence

Thank you to the families that are using the [notices@stprepp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:notices@stprepp.catholic.edu.au) email account or the 'Report an Absence' link on our website, to notify the school of an absence.

It is not always possible for teachers to access emails before they mark the morning roll or they may also be absent. By sending an email to the notices email address, the office staff can make sure the roll is updated. Please send an email for each day your child is absent, or specify a date range for their absence. A reason for the absence must be noted.

The exemption from school form is to be completed for students that are absent for more than 10 school days. The form is also available from the school office.

## Updating your personal and contact information & changes to student medical conditions

Do we have your most up to date contact details? If not, please contact the school on [office@stprepp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@stprepp.catholic.edu.au) so we can update our records. This includes parent/carers' name, address, phone numbers, email address and emergency contact details.



Please ensure any changes to student medical conditions are communicated directly to the office in person or via email. This will help to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to manage your child's medical condition.

## Feedback

We are always looking for ways to improve our school community - please email our principal Mrs Angela Tonkin if you have suggestions or feedback you would like to share. Thank you

[atonkin@stprepp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:atonkin@stprepp.catholic.edu.au) All emails will be acknowledged.





# CRICKET STAR ACADEMY

SAT 1ST JUNE  
2024 | 9AM-12 NOON

**FREE CLASS**

**FAMILY DAY LAUNCH**

FOR MORE INFO CALL 0412 364 005  
[VIC35.CRICKET@SPORTSTARACADEMY.COM](mailto:VIC35.CRICKET@SPORTSTARACADEMY.COM)

*Register  
Now* →

