

Friday, 13th September 2024 Term 3 - Week 9 of 10

This Week's Newsletter Items:

- Principal's Message
- MACISS
- Class solver
- Bullmans Road
- Breakfast Club
- Star Writer
- This Weekend's Gospel
- Term 3, Week 10 Dates
- Students Awards
- Term 4 Dates

Dear Parents, Students & Friends,

There's a change in the air and spring has sprung. The earlier sunrises and later sunsets are beginning to add energy and excitement to daily activities as we come closer to completing our term 3 learning journey at St Catherine's.

As you are aware, Des Noack our Principal, has travelled overseas to Greece on a study tour with other Principals across the Melbourne Archdiocese. He will follow in the footsteps of St Paul whilst away. We wish him a positive and enriching experience to share with us all when he returns in Term 4.

One only has to look back over the last ten newsletters this term to see all that has happened, and what we have achieved as a learning community. Next week will be our final week of the school term and there is much excitement in the air. In week 10, students and teachers will wrap up all learning experiences from the term, the Year 3 and 4 students will participate in their camp program and we will have our last school assembly on Monday 16th September at 2.30pm.

On a personal note, I must thank a few groups in particular as we approach the end of term. Firstly, to our students, the reason we meet daily at our school. Your smiles, enthusiasm to learn and collective energy makes our school community what it is. A melting pot of pure joy, I ask each and everyone one of you to have a wonderful week of learning ahead!

Secondly to the staff, teachers, LSOs and admin staff alike, who have worked collectively and collaboratively to enhance the quality of teaching and student engagement in student learning at our school. It is a privilege to lead staff who are passionate and committed to driving student outcomes in my role as Learning and Teaching Leader.

Lastly, to our community, parents, guardians and caregivers, thank you for your ongoing partnerships and allowing us to be part of the 'team' around your child.

Miss Lisa McCallin (Deputy Principal & Learning and Teaching Leader) Acting Principal



MACISS Survey

School Improvement

In recent weeks, we wrote about how our families can influence school improvement through the participation in the yearly MACSSIS School Improvement Survey.

Last year, only 16 families in total participated in the MACSSIS Survey. As of last Tuesday, with only one day of the survey being open, we have already surpassed that figure, in fact we have already surpassed the last three years of parental input (see back page for details):

Family Survey: Overall

Overall headcount	Overall responses (count completed)	Overall response rate (% completed)
334	25	7.5%

Student Survey: By year level*

Year level	Headcount per year	Responses per year (count started)
4	77	72
5	77	67
6	73	62

Please check your emails as the survey was sent to all families last Monday, 2nd September providing you with your family's personal number (PIN) for completing the survey with further instructions as to how you can access the survey site.

The survey needs to be completed by **Friday**, **20**th **September 2024**. This survey may only be completed once and takes an average of 10 minutes!

For families with more than one child attending our school, we ask that you focus on the eldest child attending St Catherine's when completing the survey.

Please know that if you do participate, your voice and feedback, together with that of our students from Year 4, 5 & 6, become part of the driving force behind school improvement for our students.

The survey is available in English, Arabic, Assyrian, Chaldean, simplified and traditional Chinese, Dinka, Falam, Hakha Chin, Karen, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Zomi.

We would really appreciate your feedback.

Class Solver



2025 Class Placement Parental Input (Closes Friday 8th November)

Your child's current teachers have spent an amazing amount of time with your child during the school year. They are aware of most, but maybe not all, of your child's strengths and challenges from a school perspective. It is their knowledge, observation and insight that provide the basis from which class structures and placement are created.

However, as a parent, your knowledge is far more profound through the simple relationship of child and parent. You hear the story of their daily experiences and know intimately of your child's strengths, challenges and amazing potential. You know of the relationships they have in and outside of school, the learning and teachers that inspire them to do their best and the friendships that either help them to flourish or, at times, struggle.

It is within this context that we invite you to write about your child's learning and social needs to assist us in the placement of your child into specific classrooms for the 2025 school year.

When receiving a letter that requests a specific teacher, knowing that the teacher may not be in the same year level the following year, we read it as a parent's way of expressing the type of teacher your child responds well to. In doing so, it affirms the quality, temperament, characteristics of the teaching staff that we wish to foster at St Catherine of Siena.

At the same time, it gives us an insight into the quality of relationship that has been formed between parent and teacher over the year(s). A positive relationship between parent, student and teacher makes a huge difference in the way a student engages in their learning and the school community.

Please note that we may not be able to provide you with exactly what you want, but we do try to do our best given the many and diverse factors that go into making up a class.

All emails must be received by Friday 8th November 3.30pm. Please title the email with the heading "Confidential – 2025 Class Placement".

The email address to use is:

dnoack@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

This year the teaching staff and school leadership team will use Class Solver software to ensure class placements take into consideration not only parent preferences around student class placements but also:

- Specific learning needs
- Individual differences
- Gender balance
- Relationships with other students
- Age
- Social and emotional maturity
- Academic achievement
- Family groupings
- Length of time a class or group has been together
- Class placements in previous years

- Classroom observations
- Student teacher relationships

Please refer to the Newsletter published in week 8 for further details regarding the schools Child Classroom Placement & Procedures Policy.

Bulmans Road: Roadworks



Your safety and the safety of all our students at St Catherines is our number 1 priority.

It has come to our attention that there are a number of families who are not crossing Bulmans Road at the designated crossing-point. This is very dangerous

Whilst we understand that it may be a longer walk to use this crossing it is the safest option we are providing to our community to uphold our responsibilities of Child Safety. We need to model pedestrian safety to our children and students in our care

Please ensure that the crossing is used to cross the road so that we can all arrive and return to home safely on a daily basis and to prevent any accidents from occurring.

Breakfast Club



Due to unforeseen circumstances breakfast club will not run in week 10 of term i.e. Tuesday, 17^{th} September.

Breakfast Club will resume in Term 4 Week 2 i.e. Tuesday, 15^{th} October.

Thank you for your understanding.



This term in Prep, the students have worked tirelessly in all Learning and Teaching opportunities. In teacher speak, Term 3 of the Prep school year is sometimes referred to as the 'Light Bulb' term.

We refer to it as this, as students begin to make independent connections to all the learning (schema and prior knowledge) that has occurred across the year thus far.

All the skills and building blocks that have be carefully selected, strategically sequenced, explicitly taught and retrieved over the year. These align and we begin to see independent application of a connected skill set emerging uniquely within each and every student.

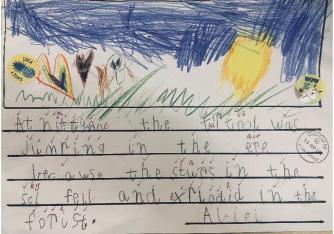
One such example is in the learning area of writing.

Over the course of the year the Prep students have been explicitly taught the following in Literacy and the interrelated connections to Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing:

- 1. Phonemic awareness has been explicitly taught. The outcome of this results in student ability to hear the sounds of the spoken English language. This pivotal learning then produces student ability to make these sounds and more importantly manipulate these sounds by segmenting, blending, isolating, deleting and substituting sounds within words.
- 2. Phonemic awareness is then linked to phonics. This is where teachers explicitly teach students to recorded the sounds in the spoken English language to letters. For example, the sound /a/ can be recorded by the letter 'a'. These letter-sound relationships are crucial.
- 3. Phonemic awareness and phonics is then the driving force for students to unpack the 'CODE' of the spoken and written English language. In reading students practice decoding words. When students see the word 'cat' they decode via segmenting and blending and read it as /c/-/a/-/t/, 'cat'.
- 4. Students then synthesis Phonemic awareness, Phonics and decoding in the new skill of encoding. This is where students beginning to record their written words experimenting with letter-sound connections to communicate a message.

This week on my travels around the school I visited the Prep classrooms. All the learning above was on display by each and every one of our students.

Here is one example:



Congratulations to Abiei in Prep A. What an amazing example of the learning that has occurred for you over the year thus far! You are a writing STAR!



This Weekend's Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 8:27-35

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

Gospel Reflection

'But you, who do you say I am?' This would have to be one of the most powerful questions of the gospels. It echoes down the centuries and is just as relevant today as it ever was. 'Who do you say I am?' Our answer to that question is perhaps the most revealing statement of our faith. Our answer no doubt changes over time as we grow in understanding and as we experience the ups and downs of life, but nonetheless, just like Peter in the gospel passage, our answer remains a clear statement of our faith. 'Who do you say I am?' Just a good guy who lived 2,000 years ago? A role model? A friend? God made flesh? The Word come down from heaven? Nobody? Everybody? Our saviour? An inspired man of God? The Messiah?

Perhaps you've never tried to actually answer the question yourself. It is a confronting question, 'Who do you say I am?' It's confronting because, as Christian people, we believe that our actions are a reflection of our beliefs and values. It's confronting because whatever we say in answer to that question has implications for the way we live. 'Who do you say I am?' You see, the question is in the present tense, not the past. It doesn't ask 'Who do you say I was?'; it asks, 'Who do you say I AM?' The very question asks us to recognise that Jesus was not just some guy who lived 2,000 years ago but rather someone who continues to be a presence in our lives today. And he stands before each and every one of us today and asks that same, demanding, confronting, purposeful question: 'Who do YOU say I am?'

Scriptural context – A Turning Point

This passage forms a crucial turning point in the Gospel of Mark. It occurs at the very mid-point of the gospel – the end of chapter 8 in a 16 chapter gospel. From this point on the gospel takes a greater focus on what it means to be a disciple and Jesus' movement towards Jerusalem. This passage in which Peter professes his faith in Jesus as the

Messiah is immediately followed by the account of the Transfiguration. From this point onwards, the gospel writer reveals the growing understanding of Jesus' identity that until now has been wrapped in secrecy.

Gospel Focus – Peter's insight

When Peter answers Jesus' question he demonstrates the disciples' dawning awareness of Jesus' true identity. It is the first occasion that the disciples are called to own what they think about Jesus. However, when Jesus begins to spell out what being the Messiah reality means – persecution and death – Peter tries to convince Jesus that he doesn't need to go down that path. Jesus turns on Peter and snaps, 'Get behind me, Satan!' It is a reminder of the desert temptation Jesus had to face at the start of his ministry when he wrestled with what sort of messiah he was called to be.

Scriptural context – Sandwich technique

The Gospel of Mark is famous for a technique of 'sandwiching' stories or sections between two related events to bring what is sandwiched into greater focus. This gospel passage falls within a significant sandwich that runs from 8:22 (the healing of a blind man at Bethsaida) to 10:52 (the healing of blind Bartimaeus). The healings of blindness that surround the sandwich reflect the lack of 'sight' that the disciples have. The 'meat' of the sandwich is all about the disciples not really understanding Jesus' mission and what it means to truly be a disciple. Read the whole section from 8:22 – 10:52 and see how it works.



Week 10

Monday 16/09

- Saints Cornelius and Cyprian
- Exec Team 9.30 11.00am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 17/09

- Saint Hildegard of Bingen
- Saint Robert Bellarmine

Wednesday 18/09

- Whole School Liturgy 9.15am
- Year 3 Camp Camp Sunnystones

Thursday 19/09

- Saint Januarius
- Year 3 Camp Camp Sunnystones
- Year 4 Camp Camp Sunnystones
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 20/09

- Last Day of Term 3
- Year 4 Camp Camp Sunnystones
- Dismissal Time 3.15pm



Prep A

Joy A - For showing patience and understanding toward your friends.

Kai A - For stepping outside your comfort zone and sharing ideas with your classmates.

Prep B

Grace D - For being a knowledgeable learner with your letters and sounds.

Achol A - For being a knowledgeable learner and trying to use punctuation in your writing.

Prep C

Aluel A - For using adjectives in your writing. Great work!

Ayor A - For doing your best to participate in our Heggerty session each morning! Well done!

Year 1A

Amelia V - For sharing numbers up to 20 into equal groups of 2, 3 and 4

Genevieve J - For answering inferential questions whilst responding to the book 'Charlotte's Web'

Year 1B

Auel A - For independently scooping phrases during fluency pairs.

Mathew P - For sharing collections using your skip counting by 2's,5's and 10's knowledge.

Year 1C

Gloria M - For trying your best to write simple sentences with support. Well done!

Evelyn P - For demonstrating your understanding in solving division problems using grouping. Well done!

Year 2A

Joshua O - For being able to use a calendar to locate specific dates and days. Awesome work! Georgia H - For being a great and supportive friend to your classmates. Your kindness hasn't gone unnoticed!

Year 2B

Levi S - For independently identifying the day and

date of specific events using a calendar. Well done Levi!

Liam D - For continuing to identify the problem and solution of a variety of different fractured fairy tales independently. Well done Liam!

Year 2C

Benjamin T - For your confidence and enthusiasm when spelling words during our Heggerty sessions. Keep it up Ben!

Mayom A - For learning to use a calendar to answer questions and locate the day and date. Great work Mayom!

Year 3A

Agot A - For successfully working in a team and building a house with a deck of cards Mikayla M - For successfully striving to understand a challenging mathematical problem

Year 3B

Fatuma J - For successfully completing your division think board in mathematics. Your hard work and persistence have truly paid off. Keep up the amazing effort!

Theoneste H - For being responsible and safe on the yard by making the right choices. Keep it up

Year 3C

Reighson F - For consistently being ready to learn by organising yourself efficiently.

Bailey M - For consistently listening and speaking respectfully to your peers and teachers alike.

Year 4A

Mia P - For extending yourself to apply the 5s division strategy of double then divide by ten to numbers beyond the thousands. Amazing effort! Khamis S - For your excellent focus and persistence in your Numeracy learning on division strategies. Well done!

Year 4B

Matilda H - For your effort in applying the mental computation strategies for division during Mathematics

Alison S - For using rhetorical questions and exaggeration when writing convincing arguments for your Persuasive topic.

Year 4C

Caitlyn S - For your contribution to the class discussion when drawing conclusions through inferring in Reading this week.

Chloe A - For your effort in applying the mental computation strategies for division during Mathematics.

Year 5A

Sean M – For always being ready to learn and engaged and trying your best to never give up Good work!

Ngong A – For working really hard on Division when dividing two digits by a one digit number, showing improvement when working independently and

staying Focus on your task. Well done Ngong.

Year 5B

Dhieu Y - For reflecting and thinking deeply about how your perception of God can change depending on our experiences. Well done on sharing a personal experience with 5B Emma M - For always participating and being engaged in your learning. Great work this week on finding key information within texts to help you to summarise.

Year 5C

Sophie H - For your positive approach to taking on new tasks is outstanding. Keep it up! Logan W - Excellent persistence during the division unit. You have made great progress.

Year 6A

Austin B - For your enthusiasm toward your learning especially at maths, what a super star!!

Madison D - For working efficiently on your narrative writing, editing and revising, keep up the hard work

Year 6B

Benedita D - For showing accelerated progress in the fraction and decimal unit. Well done on all your hard work.

Dieudonne K - For being a diligent learner every day by coming prepared to learn, working hard and encouraging others to do the same. 6B sees the fruits of the holy spirit in you.

Year 6C

Abigail T - For drafting an interesting and engaging sizzling start for your narrative. Well done!

Ayen T - For making great progress in reading a text fluently, focusing on your volume and expression. Well done!

Mathematics

Mario S - For successfully recalling all of the multiplication facts up to 12 x 12.



Week 1

Monday 07/10

- Our Lady of the Rosary
- Students Return To School

Wednesday 09/10

- Saints Denis and companions
- Saint John Leonardi
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Mr Noack returns from study leave.

Thursday 10/10

• Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 11/10

Saint John XXIII

Saturday 12/10

Sunday 13/10

• 28th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 2

Monday 14/10

- Saint Callistus I
- Exec Team 9.30 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 15/10

- Saint Teresa of Jesus
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Year 5 ASPIRE 1 incursion

Wednesday 16/10

- Saint Hedwig
- Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

Thursday 17/10

- Saint Ignatius of Antioch
- Emergency Displan Practice
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Northern Region School Improvement Network (All Day)

Friday 18/10

- Saint Luke
- Year 6 secondary school transition incursion
 120 min session 9:00am -10:45am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 19/10

- Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues
- Saint Paul of the Cross

Sunday 20/10

• 29th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 3

Monday 21/10

- Exec Team 9.30 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 22/10

- Saint John Paul II
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Parent Advisory Council 7.00pm 8.00pm

Wednesday 23/10

Saint John of Capistrano

Thursday 24/10

- Saint Anthony Mary Claret
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 25/10

- 360 Leadership Conference
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 26/10

360 Leadership Conference

Sunday 27/10

30th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 4

Monday 28/10

- Saints Simon and Jude
- Exec Team 9.30 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 29/10

Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 30/10

St Catherine of Siena Annual Art Show

Thursday 31/10

• Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 01/11

- All Saints
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 02/11

 The Commemoration Of All The Faithful Departed

Sunday 03/11

• 31st Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 5

Monday 04/11

- Saint Charles Borromeo
- School Closure Day

Tuesday 05/11

• Melbourne Cup Day - Public Holiday

Wednesday 06/11

Interrelate - Tricky Conversations: Years 3 to

Thursday 07/11

• Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 08/11

- Year Level Mass
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 09/11

Sunday 10/11

• 32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 6

Monday 11/11

- Saint Martin of Tours
- 2025 Prep Transition Session 1 9am 10am
- Remembrance Day
- Exec Team 9.30 10.30am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 12/11

- Saint Josaphat
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 13/11

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Thursday 14/11

• Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 15/11

Saint Albert the Great

• Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 16/11

- Saint Gertrude
- Saint Margaret of Scotland

Sunday 17/11

• 33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 7

Monday 18/11

- Exec Team 9.30 11.00am
- Prep Transition Session 2 9am 10am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 19/11

• Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 20/11

Thursday 21/11

- The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 22/11

- Saint Cecilia
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Sunday 24/11

 Solemnity Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King Of The Universe

Week 8

Monday 25/11

- Saint Catherine of Alexandria
- 2025 Prep Transition Session 3 9am 10am
- Exec Team 9.30 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 26/11

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Parent Advisory Council 7.00pm 8.00pm

Wednesday 27/11

Parent Support Group Meetings

Thursday 28/11

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Archdiocesan Celebration of Principalship
 2.00pm 9.30pm

Friday 29/11

• Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 30/11

Saint Andrew

Sunday 01/12

1st Sunday Of Advent

Week 9

Monday 02/12

- 2025 Prep Transition Session 4 9am 10am
- Exec Team 9.30 11.00am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 03/12

- Saint Francis Xavier
- 2025 Student Transition Day 1 (Prep Grade 5's) @ 11:30am -1pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 04/12

Saint John Damascene

Thursday 05/12

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 06/12

- Saint Nicholas
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 07/12

Saint Ambrose

Sunday 08/12

2nd Sunday Of Advent

Week 10

Monday 09/12

- The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- 2025 Student Transition Day 2 (Prep Grade 5s) @ 11:30am -1pm

Tuesday 10/12

- Our Lady of Loreto
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 11/12

- Saint Damasus I
- Carols By Candlelight 6.00pm 7.30pm

Thursday 12/12

- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 13/12

- Saint Lucy
- 2025 Prep Transition Session 5 9am 10am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Reports sent home

Saturday 14/12

Saint John of the Cross

Sunday 15/12

3rd Sunday Of Advent

Week 11

Monday 16/12

- Grade 6 Big Day Out
- Exec Team 9.30 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Tuesday 17/12

 Grade 6 Graduation Liturgy & Presentation Night 6.00pm

Wednesday 18/12

- Whole School Mass 9.00am- Advent Week 4
- End of Year Award Ceremony @ 2:00pm
- Last Day of Term 4 Dismissal Time 3:15pm