

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School - Weekly Newsletter**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Dear Parents and Friends,
I am thrilled to share with you the incredible start our students have had this school year at St. Mary's. Their demonstration of respect, enthusiasm, and eagerness to embrace learning opportunities fills me with pride. I am truly thankful for our dedicated teachers and learning support staff whose guidance is crucial to the success of our classrooms.

Under the guidance of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS), our school remains focused on two key pillars - Excellence and Equity for every student.

Recently, Christina Irwin and I attended a professional development session offered by MACS where we worked on setting goals for our AAP to enhance student learning outcomes in Mathematics. It's exciting to know that all schools in the Eastern Zone will be emphasizing Mathematics throughout 2025.

School Fees:

We would like to inform you that school fee statements for Term 1 have been emailed home. We kindly request prompt payment of these fees as they contribute significantly to supporting the diverse programs and valuable resources that we are able to offer to the students at St. Mary's School.

It is important to highlight that Catholic schools, including St. Mary's, are required to charge school fees to help bridge the gap between the funding received per student in comparison to the public education system. Public schools receive \$22,511 per student, significantly higher than the \$14,032 per student allocated to non-government schools. This stark difference amounts to approximately \$8,000 per student.

While school fees at St. Mary's contribute towards bridging a portion of this funding gap, it is essential to recognize that we provide our families and students with much more than what the public system offers. The additional resources, programs, and educational experiences we offer support the holistic development and well-being of our students, enriching their learning journey in profound ways.

As active participants in the St. Mary's School community, your timely payment of school fees enables us to sustain and enhance these enriching educational initiatives for the benefit of all students. Your continued support and cooperation in meeting school fee obligations are deeply appreciated. Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding school fees, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education and being valued members of our school community.

Prep Sibling Enrolments 2026:

We kindly request all parents with a sibling commencing in Prep 2026 to complete the enrolment process by Wednesday, March 5th. This early enrolment deadline will help us determine the available places for new families joining St. Mary's School in 2026. While all siblings are guaranteed enrolment, we require completed paperwork for official enrolment.

With significant interest from the broader community already, we anticipate our prep class for 2026 filling up swiftly. To secure your child's place, new prep families are encouraged to promptly fill out an enrolment form and submit it to the school office. The enrolment period for Prep 2026 will close on June 27th; thus, we urge you to apply early to avoid missing out on securing a spot for your child.

Please feel free to contact the school office on 5772 1500 or via email at principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au to schedule a personalised tour. Should you have any queries or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Warm Regards,
Trish Etccl
Acting Principal

**Office Hours**

8:30am - 3:30pm

Student arrival from 8:35am

Yard supervision begins 8:35am

Classrooms Open from 8:45am

REMINDERS AND NOTICES**ASSEMBLY**

Every Monday 9am
Every Friday 2:30pm

FEBRUARY

25 SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
26 FOUNDATION REST DAY
26 DIVISION SWIMMING
27 HOUSE ATHS DAY
28 ASSEMBLY 5/6W

MARCH

4 SHROVE TUESDAY
5 ASH WEDNESDAY
FOUNDATION REST DAY
REGIONAL SWIMMING
7 ASSEMBLY YR 1
10 SCHOOL CLOSURE / LABOUR DAY
11 CLUSTER ATHS DAY
12-24 NAPLAN
14 WHOLE SCHOOL MASS
NO ASSEMBLY
17 P&F AGM/MEETING
21 ASSEMBLY YR 2
28 ASSEMBLY 3/4O'C

APRIL

3 LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS TERM 1
4 SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
TERM 1 ENDS

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

10 Myrtle St Alexandria 3714
(03) 5772 1500

principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au
www.smalexandra.catholic.edu.au

At St. Mary's School we encourage an inclusive, learning community
that values safety, love and faith.

St. Marys School is committed to the protection and promotion of Child Safety.

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Weekly Church Service - Fr Jose Matthew

Ph. 0468 810 871

Tuesday:	5:00 pm	Yea	Friday:	9:00am	Alexandra	Sunday:	8:45am	Alexandra
Wednesday:	9:30am	Alexandra	Saturday: (Vigil)	5:00pm	Eildon		10:45	Yea
Thursday:	9:00am	Yea						

All families are welcome to attend Mass.

STUDENT LEADERS

2025 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Bella & Tess



HOUSE CAPTAINS

TENISON
Tameika & Charlotte



SEBASTIAN
Ben & Lila



MACKILLOP
Jayla & Clay



SRC LEADERS
Lainey & Liam



SCHOOL FEES

FEES AND CHARGES 2025

All stationery and books will be purchased in bulk through the school.

STUDENT LEVIES

Curriculum	\$275.00
Technology	\$125.00
Excursion and Incursions	\$125.00
Swimming	\$ 60.00
	<u>\$585.00 per child</u>

SCHOOL FEES: The School Family Fee for 2025 is \$1515.00 **per family**. This Fee incorporates the Capital Levy of \$200.00.

Payment: Payment of school fees and levies can be made in the following ways:

In full, Quarterly, Monthly, Fortnightly or Weekly via BPAY, Direct Debit, Bank Transfer, Credit Card/EFTPOS. Payment is due in full by the end of October 2025.

PAYMENTS	1 child	2 children	3 children	Due
In full	\$2100.00	\$2685.00	\$3270.00	22/02/2024
Term 1	\$525.00	\$671.25	\$817.50	22/02/2024
Term 2	\$525.00	\$671.25	\$817.50	16/05/2024
Term 3	\$525.00	\$671.25	\$817.50	08/08/2024
Term 4	\$525.00	\$671.25	\$817.50	31/10/2024
Weekly	\$54.00	\$69.00	\$84.00	Feb-Oct (39wks)
Fortnightly	\$111.00	\$142.00	\$173.00	Feb-Oct (19wks)
Monthly	\$210.00	\$268.50	\$327.00	Feb-Oct (10months)

Please pop into the office or email admin@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au to arrange or discuss your payment options.

MACS Concessional Fee Policy

The following families are strongly encouraged to apply for concessional school fees if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Any family of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.
- Any family holding a Health Care Card and eligible for CSEF.
- Any family holding a DVA Gold Card
- Any family identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard.
- Any family required to relocate their (Australian resident) child to St Michael's Catholic Primary School, North Melbourne, due to the child requiring long term medical treatment at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Pro-rata concession is provided for part-year attendance. An annual statutory declaration is required to confirm eligibility.
- HSS who attend a MACS primary school on a part time basis, who meet any of the criteria detailed above.

Camp Schools Excursion Fund (applications close 4th July 2025)

The Camp, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF.

Conveyance Allowance (Term 1 applications close 11th March 2025)

- An application on behalf of a student may be submitted if the student is:
- a Victorian resident;
- school aged and enrolled (3) three or more days per week at a school; and
- attending a school/campus located outside the Melbourne metropolitan conveyance boundary

A student who meets the above requirements may be eligible if they:

- attend their nearest or designated neighbourhood government school/campus appropriate to their year level, a which admission is permissible, or
- attend their nearest appropriate non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, and
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the campus attended

To apply for any of the above concessions, please contact the school office.



Week 2

Well Done!

Keep up the good work

**Harper, Mia, Ava, Leo M, Victor,
Daisy, Jasmine, Rithika.**



Week 2

Well Done!

Keep up the good work

**Dusty, Lainey, Reagan, Lincoln G, Alice,
Max, Matilda M, Asha.**

WEEK 2

PRINCIPAL AWARD

Week 4



Fletcher

It gives me great pleasure to award Fletcher with the Principal Award.

Fletcher has started the year with a positive attitude. He has been engaged in class activities, putting one foot in front of the other to 'have a go' at all learning tasks. Fletcher is using his voice to problem solve any difficulties that may arise when learning or at play.

Congratulations Fletcher and keep moving forward.



Dusty

Dusty has had a wonderful start to year 3. He enters the classroom every day with a ready to learn attitude. Dusty is often recognised by his peers for having a go, showing kindness and for being an active listener. He is a role model both in the classroom and out in the yard, consistently showing our school values.

Well done Dusty, we are so proud of your efforts

TERM 1 CALENDAR - 2025

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WEEK 5 FEBRUARY	24	25 PUPIL FREE DAY	26 FOUNDATION REST DAY DIVISION SWIMMING	27 HOUSE ATHS DAY	28 5/6 W ASSEMBLY	1	2
WEEK 6 MARCH	3	4	5 FOUNDATION REST DAY REGIONAL SWIMMING	6	7 YEAR 1 ASSEMBLY	8	9
WEEK 7 MARCH	10 LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	11 CLUSTER ATHS	12 NAPLAN	13 NAPLAN	14 NAPLAN NO ASSEMBLY	15	16
WEEK 8 MARCH	17 NAPLAN P&F AGM/MEETING	18 NAPLAN	19 NAPLAN	20 NAPLAN	21 NAPLAN YEAR 2 ASSEMBLY	22	23
WEEK 9 MARCH	24 NAPLAN	25	26	27	28 3/4 O'C ASSEMBLY	29	30
WEEK 10 MARCH/ APRIL	31	1	2	3 LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS TERM 1	4 TERM 1 END	5	6

SPORT NEWS



Well done to all our wonderful students who did their best at Cluster Swimming recently. Students who qualified will be going to Division Swimming on Wednesday 26th February. Please respond to the Operoo permission form by Tuesday 25th February. Thank you

HOUSE ATHLETICS THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY

We are looking for parent helpers on Thursday 27th February for our House Athletics Day. This day requires many hands and your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please let the office know if you can help out on the day. You must have completed the Voluntary Parent Induction course.



ICY POLES
will be sold on Tuesdays at
RECESS time for \$1

LUNCH ORDERS

Please refer to Flexi School info e-mail sent via Operoo
on - 12/02/25



COME AND TRY SESSIONS

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

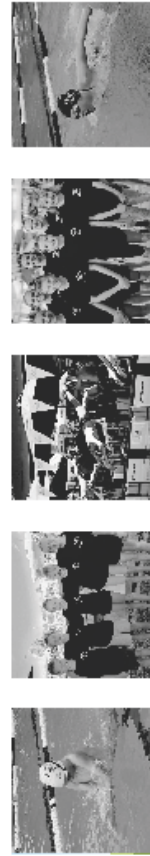
Seymour Sharks Swimming Club is a community orientated not-for-profit organisation that develops and nurtures individual swimmers across all squad levels.

We aim to instil a life-long love of swimming and to build a program of excellence in training, team unity, character development and family support where every swimmer has the opportunity to achieve their potential.

Our club is looking for new members that want to further develop their swimming skills.

Our club offers:

- ◆ **Improve swimming technique**
- ◆ **Increase fitness & endurance**
- ◆ **Prepare for school carnivals**
- ◆ **Be part of a club**
- ◆ **Flexible training program - swimmers can choose the number of nights they attend.**
- ◆ **Experienced coaching staff with the skills and attributes to take your swimming to the next level**



As a guide the minimum skills required for our squad program are as follows:

- * Aged 8 or above.
- * Ability to confidently complete 50m freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke with no stopping and correct breathing.

Contact us to organise your free trial session



PIANO/keyboard Music Lessons

Individual one-to-one or two-to-one piano/keyboard lessons.
Site reading, rhythm and technique in a fun way with an experienced qualified teacher.

Skills gained from this programme include

- Focus and concentration
- Time management skills
- Music for enjoyment and fun
- Music literacy skills
- Respect encouragement and supporting others



Prices

- Half hour lesson (pairs) - \$25
- Private 1:1 half hour lesson - \$40
- Theory Book - \$20
- Invoices per term.
- 8-10 lessons per term.

Book a place for your child in 2025!

Contact Jane

Email janeyfraga@yahoo.com.au or text 0418 584 119 with your child's first name, age and school.



DINDI DAZE

POWERED BY ALEXANDRA ROTARY

ROTARY PARK ALEXANDRA

10AM TO 6PM

1ST MARCH 2025

A FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE ALL THAT IS GOOD IN MURRINDINDI

GREAT FOOD KIDS ACTIVITIES COCKTAILS

LIVE MUSIC CRAFT BEER FACE PAINTING LOCAL PRODUCE

HISTORIC CAR SHOW PETTING ZOO ARTS & CRAFTS