

# St Ambrose Primary School

Centred by Faith - In Partnership with Community -  
We Provide Excellence in Learning

Respectful Responsible Resilient Kind



## A blessing for the new school year

May the gift of each day be a new chance to learn.  
May our kindness and compassion be a moment  
to teach each other.  
May the fragility of students, parents and staff be a place  
to build community.  
May listening and encouragement be the well-spring of leadership.  
May the passion of young people keep our hearts alive.  
May the wisdom of older people keep our feet on the ground.  
May laughter and joy spread like branches above us  
May prayer and gratitude be our deepest roots.  
May justice and peace ripen like fruit as we grow in generosity  
reaching out beyond our familiar world to help those in need.  
In this Year of Jubilee, may we be Pilgrims of Hope.  
May we find God in every class, recess,  
game, performance, meeting,  
discussion, assignment, friendship and lunch.  
May we find God's love and grace in even our most ordinary days.  
Amen.

*Written by Michael McGirr (2025)*



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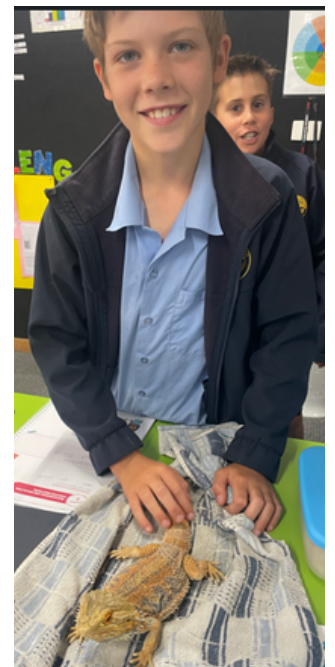


Our next newsletter for the will be published on Friday 28th February 2025.

## Term 1 2025 Dates

Tuesday 18 February 2025	Parent Helper Course 3pm Classroom Information Sessions (Grade Prep, 1 & 2) 3.45pm
Wednesday 19 February 2025	Prep Rest Day Assembly 2.50pm
Tuesday 25 February 2025	<b>Cobaw</b> Summer Sports Grade 5/6
Wednesday 26 February 2025	Prep Rest Day
Thursday 27 February 2025	Reconciliation Meeting (Gr 3 & parents) 6.30pm
Saturday 1 March 2025	Reconciliation Commitment Mass 5pm
Sunday 2 March 2025	Reconciliation Commitment Mass 11am
Wednesday 5 March 2025	Prep Rest Day Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30am Assembly 2.50pm
Monday 10 March 2025	Labour Day – Public Holiday
Wednesday 12 March 2025	<b>Buddies Mass (Prep &amp; 5/6) 9.30am</b> NAPLAN
Thursday 13 March 2025	NAPLAN
Friday 14 March 2025	NAPLAN
Monday 17 March 2025	Palm Sunday Prayer Service (Prep-Gr 1) 2.45pm NAPLAN
Tuesday 18 March 2025	NAPLAN
Wednesday 19 March 2025	<b>Whole School Sports Day</b> NAPLAN Assembly 2.50pm
Thursday 20 March 2025	NAPLAN
Friday 21 March 2025	NAPLAN National Ride2School Day School Photos
Monday 24 March 2025	NAPLAN Holy Thursday Prayer Service (Gr 3/4) 2.45pm
Wednesday 26 March 2025	Middle Level Mass (Gr 3/4) 9.30am Sacrament of Reconciliation Practice 10.30am
Thursday 27 March 2025	Sacrament of Reconciliation 12.30pm and celebration
Monday 31 March 2025	Good Friday Prayer Service (Gr 5/6) 2.45pm
Tuesday 1 April 2025	<b>Easter Sunday Prayer Service (Gr 2) 10.15am (time change)</b> <b>Whole school cross country colour run 11.30-3.30pm</b>
Wednesday 2 April 2025	End of Term 1 Mass 9.30am Assembly 2.50pm
Friday 4 April 2025	End of Term 1 – students dismissed 3.30pm

Note changes or inclusions in red made since calendar published in final 2024 newsletter.



## Message from the Principal

Dear families, parishioners and friends,  
Our new school year is off to a vibrant start. The classrooms have been filled with energy and excitement which reflects optimism and enthusiasm for a new year of learning!

Our talented and dedicated staff met on Tuesday 28th of January to set the tone for a fantastic year. Our school captains and sports leaders stepped straight into action as they welcomed our new families on their first day of school.

A very warm welcome back to the 2025 school year to all of our families. I trust that you have enjoyed your break and spent some time with your loved ones. We are so happy to see many smiles around the school grounds, as friends and staff are reunited to embark on the new academic year. We have some fantastic things planned for all of our learners this year and will do all we can to support our students to grow and flourish.

It was great to see many parents and family members at our opening of the school year Mass where we prayed that our new families find friendship and happiness here at St Ambrose. We also welcomed our new staff members, Mrs. Menzies, Ms Willan, Ms Albani and Chelsey, as well as all our continuing staff members. All staff pledged their committment to their vocation in the commissioning ceremony and our year six leaders followed by doing the same.



Not only do we mark the beginning of the school year but also the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Hope. Fr. John presented our school with a lantern to mark this year of Hope. May the lighting of this lantern of Hope symbolise the light of Christ guiding us. As we journey this year may the HOPE freely given by Jesus be the thread of our journey in faith, hope, love and learning!



## It's a Boy!



We congratulate Mrs. T (Haley), Dion and Coby on the birth of little Tommy. It was delightful to meet him last week and to see Haley again!

## School Hours

- Our school operates during the following hours:
- 8.30am – Students may arrive and play at the back of the school until 8.45am.
  - 8.45am – Classrooms open and students can go to their rooms and organise their belongings for the day.
  - 9.00am – Classes commence.
  - 11.00am – First break.
  - 11.40am – Classes resume.
  - 2.00pm – Second break.
  - 2.40pm – Children move to their classrooms while the music plays.
  - 2.45pm – Classes resume.
  - 3.30pm – End of day.

Please note that children cannot be supervised at school, prior to 8.30am. At 3.30pm children should be picked up. Children not being picked up immediately after school should wait at the front of the school where there is a supervising teacher until 3.45pm.

**All students** should be picked up by this time.

## Extreme Weather Conditions

Like all children in schools across the state, our students will be feeling the heat this week as we experience some very warm weather. We are fortunate that we have a large amount of shade available at our school, but in extreme circumstances we may ask the children to remain in classrooms during break times. This is also a good time to remind your children about the importance of wearing their hat at school and to bring a drink bottle to keep hydrated. As a recognized BARR (Bushfire At Risk Register) school we will close our school on days of catastrophic fire danger ratings.



## School Uniform

It's wonderful to see all our students looking comfortable in their summer uniforms, and I'm sure many parents were amazed at how much their children have grown over the break. At St Ambrose Primary School, we take great pride in our appearance. Learning about appropriate attire—including hair, shoes, and accessories—is an essential life skill that we instil from an early age. Our school uniform also serves as a great equalizer. In a world where brands often carry significant influence, we want our students to understand that a person's worth isn't defined by the labels they wear. The only labels that should matter are the ones with our names on them! As a mother who has guided my own three children through school, I understand that uniform expectations can sometimes be challenging. However, I've learned that the earlier we establish good habits around wearing the correct uniform, the easier it becomes as part of daily life—something that certainly helps busy parents!

## Parents as Helpers Training

We are grateful that we have you assisting with our various school programs and activities. Our students really enjoy your input. We have a further parent as helper training course scheduled on

**Tuesday February 18th at 3.00 - 3.45 pm**

We encourage any of you who are yet to do the training or need to do the refresher course to email Debbie Geisler ([debbie.geisler@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au](mailto:debbie.geisler@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au)) and book in to the appropriate course.



## Farewell Fiona Forbes



Congratulations to Fiona who has been appointed as the Kindergarten Assistant at Macedon Kindergarten! Fiona will finish with us at the end of this month. We will certainly miss Fiona but warmly wish her well as she embarks on this next chapter. We have advertised for a suitable person to step into Fiona's role.



## Classroom Information Sessions

We thank those of you who have attended the parent information sessions so far. We do hope that you have found them informative. It is our aim to work in partnership with you to achieve maximum benefits for your children. These information sessions are one of the many ways we keep you informed so that we are working together to support your children well.



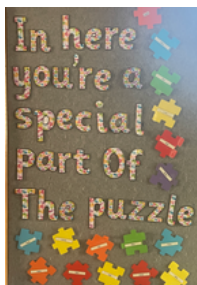
## Teaching & Learning

At St. Ambrose, our Pedagogical Understandings Align with MACS Vision for Instruction and focus on:

- Explicit Direct Instruction
- Moving knowledge from short-term to long-term memory
- Positive teacher-student relationships

### We promote:

- Strong Relationships
- High Expectations & Excellent Classroom Practice
- Positive Classroom Tone
  - Quality Feedback
- Supportive Learning Environments
  - Excellent Presentation



## 2025 School Advisory Council Calling New Members!

We are looking for additional members for our School Advisory Council. The SAC acts as an advisory council to the principal on school matters. If you are interested in joining you could call me on 54271285 or email me via [principal@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au). You could also contact our current chairperson Mike Boudrie [mikeboudrie@grangeadvisory.com](mailto:mikeboudrie@grangeadvisory.com) for more information.

All members will be required to attend the SAC induction session facilitated by MACS.

Simon Stevens, MACS Education Officer will facilitate this School Advisory Council Information Meeting.

Areas he will address are:

- The purpose of the SAC
- Roles and Responsibilities
- The Election Process and Tenure
- Meeting Protocols
- Agenda Items
- Q&A time



**To our Yr 3 & 5 families. NAPLAN 2025 begins Wednesday 12th March.**

Our year three and five students will sit their Naplan testing from March 12th. We approach NAPLAN calmly and in a supportive manner with our students. Your children will benefit from plenty of rest and good nutrition. Some children will take these days in their stride while others may feel tired and irritable. Understanding and encouragement from all of us will assure them. Contact your child's teachers if you have any wonderings. An information flyer has been included at the end of this newsletter. We will communicate the testing schedule when it is finalised.

# 2025 Student Leadership - CONGRATULATIONS!

At St Ambrose we work purposefully to allow opportunities to enable student voice and agency. Our Year Six Student Leaders Roles are key to bringing student feedback and ideas to us and in supporting teachers and students actively which contributes to a thriving learning environment.

This week our student leaders were commissioned into their role and presented with their badges at our beginning of year Mass.

## School Captains

Sonny B  
Asher J

## Sports Captains

Isaac C  
Elke F

## Lourdes Captains

Hugh F  
Madeline D

## Fatima Captains

Nick G  
Madi Y

## Mercy Captains

Joel W  
Elsie A

## Carmel Captains

Madison M  
Caysen E-S

## PBL Leaders

Tyler T  
Ellie B

## Arts Leaders

Archie S  
Phoebe G  
Cosette D

## Sustainability Leaders

Jack B  
Sophie V  
Sofia X

## IT Leaders

Oskar J  
Orlando B  
Tom L  
Riley W

## Assistant to DP

Amity C  
Emily B

## Faith Leaders

Riley W  
Hattie F

## Cultural Leaders

Ruby S  
Amelia S

## Social Justice Leaders

E  
Evie M



# St Ambrose Bushfire Rating

St Ambrose School is rated as a level 3 on the BARR scale. This means that our school will not open on a catastrophic fire day.

See the table below.



## THE FIRE DANGER RATING LEVELS ARE:

	<b>MODERATE</b>	Plan and prepare. Most fires can be controlled.
	<b>HIGH</b>	Be ready to act. Fires can be dangerous.
	<b>EXTREME</b>	Take action now to protect your life and property. Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.
	<b>CATASTROPHIC</b>	For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas. If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.
	<b>NO RATING</b>	On days where there is minimal risk, the white bar meaning 'No Rating' will be used.

Artist: Emma Bamblett (Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmarra, Ngadjonji and Taungurung)

## Fire Danger Ratings and Triggers for Action

### School triggers for pre-emptive action based on fire danger ratings

- On a Catastrophic **Fire Weather District** forecast rating schools and education entities on the BARR and Category 4 close.
- On an Extreme **Local Government Area** forecast rating schools and education entities categorised 0-2 on the BARR relocate or close.
- On a High **Local Government Area** forecast rating schools and education entities categorised as 0 on the BARR relocate or close.

		Fire Danger Rating (AFDRS)			
		Moderate Fire Danger Rating	High Fire Danger Rating (Local Government Area)	Extreme Fire Danger Rating (Local Government Area)	Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (Fire Weather District)
School Fire Risk BARR Category	0	Operational	Alternate arrangements (relocate/close)	Alternate arrangements (relocate/close)	Close
	1	Operational	Operational	Alternate arrangements (relocate/close)	Close
	2	Operational	Operational	Alternate arrangements (relocate/close)	Close
	3	Operational	Operational	Operational	Close
	4	Operational	Operational	Operational	Close

## We welcome you to our fortnightly assemblies



The children enjoy this time to connect and celebrate their achievements.

We welcome you to attend our next assembly which 5-6M will lead on **February 19th at 2.50pm**

## Next Newsletter

For more news and photos visit our [website](#) and look at latest news by clicking on our [Facebook button](#).



**Our next newsletter will be published on Friday, 28th February 2025.**

Our students are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead, and we share their optimism. My hope is that as this school year unfolds, you'll experience many moments of joy as we learn, grow, and support one another.



**Bronwyn Phillips**  
Principal



# 5-6P CLASSROOM FEATURE

## Welcome to an Exciting Year in Grade 5/6P!

A warm welcome to all our Grade 5/6P students and families as we begin another exciting school year! We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and are ready for a fantastic year of learning, growth, and new experiences.

The start of the school year is always a special time filled with fresh opportunities such as renewing old friendships and developing new ones.

The students have settled in well, and they are approaching their learning with curiosity, enthusiasm, and a positive mindset.

Our Grade 6s were very excited to meet their Prep Buddies on the playground and support them to find their feet at St. Ambrose, and our Grade 5s are looking forward to the sporting opportunities available to them as senior students.

We have been focusing on developing strong learning routines, fostering a supportive classroom environment, and engaging in exciting curriculum topics.

Some highlights include:

- **Literacy:** Students are developing persuasive writing skills, and we are reading the novel *Wonder*, which follows the story of August "Auggie" Pullman, a 10-year-old boy with a facial difference who attends school for the first time in fifth grade. Despite initial struggles with bullying and fitting in, Auggie's kindness and resilience gradually win over his classmates.
- **Numeracy:** We are working on representing and interpreting data in charts and graphs.
- **Inquiry:** Our first inquiry unit will explore the values of Australian Democracy, including the Three Levels of Government, Elections in Australia, and what it means to be a leader.
- **Religion:** Our topic is Leadership, and we will be investigating: Who are the leaders of our church? What does it mean for us to use our gifts to help the church and serve the broader community? How does God call people to live and serve as Christians?

I look forward to an incredible year ahead and can't wait to see all the amazing things our students will achieve. Let's make this year one to remember!

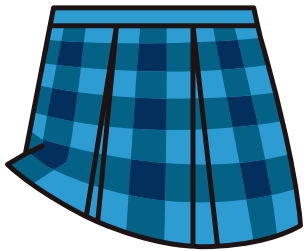
**Micheal**







1 January Lachie G, Rosa M, Redmond O  
2 January Lizzy W-D  
3 January James F  
4 January Scarlett M  
5 January Jacques B  
7 January Harriet F  
10 January Rose B, Neave K  
12 January Lachie E, Jock R  
15 January Leo H, Lucas T  
16 January Patrick F, Baz R, Mack R  
17 January Caysen E-S  
19 January Tess J  
20 January Sophie V  
21 January Leon G  
22 January Jonah M  
23 January Billie H  
24 January Oli J, Lucy S  
27 January Amari B  
30 January Emrys G  
31 January Isabelle A, Ryder M  
1 February Joaquin C  
2 February Lachie M  
4 February Teddy M  
5 February Joseph O, Agatha W  
7 February Henry B, Varli F  
9 February Rupert F  
11 February Charlie C  
13 February Raphael A  
15 February Scarlett A G, Leah W  
17 February Nick G  
20 February Everly B  
24 February Alice C  
25 February Sebastian M  
27 February Sonny B, Taran G, Rex R



## Secondhand Uniform Sale

We will have secondhand uniform items for sale at the office on

**Tuesday 18 February  
- Friday 21 February 2025**

**between 8.45am - 3.45pm**

Various condition and prices.

Get in quick to secure a bargain!



# Parish Working Bee



## WORKING BEE

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 9am-11am**

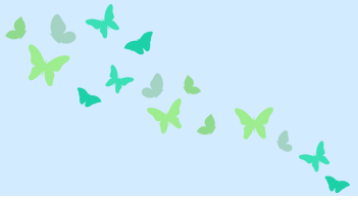
Many hands will make light work. During the working bee the following is hoped to be done.

1. Cleaning of the pews, especially the small shelf on each pew
2. Dusting of all the window sills
3. Cleaning of the devotional chapel and foyer
4. Vacuuming
5. Dusting of the high altar
6. Cleaning out and putting order to the cupboards in the work sacristy
7. General cleaning of the gardens, such as leaves and broken branches
8. Cleaning out the garage with some items going to the Opp Shop and the rest into the skip
9. The dusting and wrapping in bubble wrap the stations of the cross from the Ashbourne Church for storage.

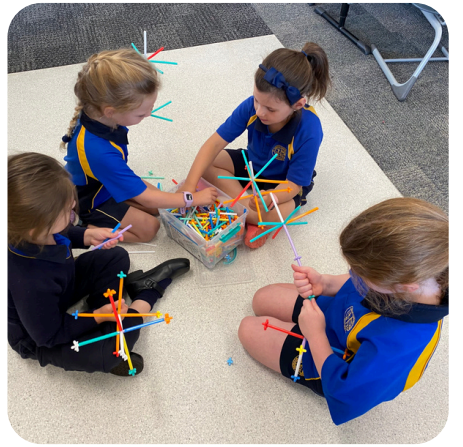
The working bee will conclude with morning tea.

***Please bring along what you think you might need to complete some of these tasks as cleaning supplies are limited in the church.***





# AROUND THE SCHOOL





## THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

We are so excited to be able to continue with The Resilience Project (TRP) in 2025. The program has been revamped and includes a lot more interactive and engaging content for all classes from prep to 6.

For those that are new to the program, TRP has 4 core focus areas that all lessons are based upon: Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness and Emotional Literacy. All lessons are linked to the Victorian and Australian Curriculum and are designed to support the students with their social emotional learning.

Parents are always welcome to check out the program as well as utilise the resources that have been made for parents and families. TRP put a lot of effort into making it easy to integrate the practices at school into all family homes.


If you are interested, please check out the parent hub here:

**THE RESILIENCE PROJECT.**


### Parent & Carer Hub

When supporting your children's mental health, we know the best outcomes happen when we **work together** and **practise**.




Head over to our **Parent & Carer Hub** to learn more about the **evidence-based strategies** being taught in the classroom, so you can enhance their impact at home. You'll find activities you can practice to support your family's wellbeing.



Scan this QR code to learn more about our **Parent & Carer Hub**.



To learn more about The Resilience project, head to:

 The Resilience Project  The Resilience Project  [theresilienceproject.com.au](https://theresilienceproject.com.au)

# JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS Faith & Family

## The Jubilee Prayer (Shortened Version)

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



## Jubilee Year of Hope:

The Pope has declared this year to be a Jubilee Year of Hope. Hope is much more than wanting something to happen. God gave the people of the Old Testament many symbols of hope. For example, during the flood, when all seemed lost, Noah's hope was restored through the appearance of the rainbow and dove. Hope is like a little candle, making light and warmth in the big, dark room. Hope keeps burning, no matter how small, even if everything around us feels like it's not going well. Jesus taught us to put our hope and trust in him.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever believes in me, will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) As long as we stay close to Jesus, we will never be lost in the darkness of sadness or negativity.

From the Year of Hope website:  
[www.iubilaeum2025.va](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va)

## Ponder:

How can I change my behavior to invite Jesus in instead of pushing Him away when I am struggling?

## Gospel Reflection: Luke 5:1-11

These fishermen are done. They are tired from physical labor and mentally exhausted with disappointment and failure. They feel that they have accomplished nothing. It is the end of a long, hard day.

Jesus steps right in. He does not ask for an invitation; rather, He invades. Jesus commandeers Simon's boat and begins to speak to the crowds.

Perhaps Simon and his crew appreciated Jesus's words. Perhaps they were too distracted to care. Maybe they were too tired to listen. Yet, even in their exhaustion and frustration, Jesus fills their space with His grace.

Let me say that again. Jesus fills their space with His grace. They let Jesus in without thinking about it. They question putting their nets into the deep, but it is grace that moves them to obey. And it makes all the difference.

Let Jesus in on the hard days.

When you are tired? Let Him in.

When you are frustrated with work or family? Let Him in.

When you feel like you have failed? Let Him in.

When the world seems to be tilting toward chaos? Let Him in.

It will make all the difference. He will permeate your world with His grace and it will change your space. It will change you. Let Him in.

Copyright 2025 Lisa Connor. (Catholic Mom: Holy Cross Parish Ministries)

## Religious Calendar of Events in Term One, 2025:

Date	Details	Time
26th February	Senior Level Mass (Gr 5/6)	9:30 am
27th February	Reconciliation Meeting (Students & Parents)	6:30 pm
1st March	Sacrament of Reconciliation Commitment Mass	5:00 pm
2nd March	Sacrament of Reconciliation Commitment Mass	11:00 am
5th March	Ash Wednesday Mass	9:30 am
12th March	Junior Level Mass (Gr P-2)	9:30 am
17th March	Palm Sunday Prayer Service (Gr P/1)	2:45 pm
24th March	Holy Thursday Prayer Service (Gr 3/4)	
26th March	Middle Level Mass (Gr 3/4)	9:30 am
26th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation Practice	10:30 am
27th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation & Celebration	12:30 pm
31st March	Good Friday Prayer Service (Gr 5/6)	2:45 pm
1st April	Easter Sunday Prayer Service (Gr 2)	10:15 am*
2nd April	End of Term 1 Mass	9:30 am

\* Please note that this time has been changed from the one in last year's Newsletter

Please note: All are welcome to our Masses. If you would like to join us in any of these celebrations, you are most welcome.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

## 2025 Annual Tuition Fee

As communicated in our last newsletter, the following details the changes in tuition fees for the 2025 academic year.

Any decision to adjust tuition fees is never made lightly, nor without careful and thorough consideration of our students' needs and our school's capacity to provide an education experience that supports every student to flourish. We are also cognisant of the financial pressures that many families have experienced this year.

St Ambrose School too, is facing increasing costs in multiple areas of school operations, including WorkCover premiums, Child Safety compliance, risk management, teacher resources and professional learning, and higher central system costs.

Our tuition fees at St. Ambrose School are also influenced by the Commonwealth Department of Education's calculation of our community's ability to financially contribute to the operating costs of our school, known as the Capacity to Contribute, or CTC, which is reviewed annually.

School funding is complex, so I have included with this letter a simple school funding "explainer" which I hope will support your understanding of how government funds Catholic (and other non-government) schools and how tuition fees support our school.

To ensure that we can continue to deliver a personalised, high-quality education that is responsive to the diverse interests and academic, social and emotional needs of our students, it is necessary to adjust our fees in 2025.

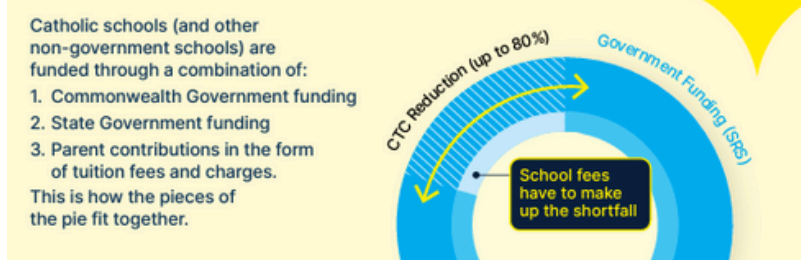
As a result, St. Ambrose School 's annual fee schedule for 2025 will be:

Fees		2025 Budget
(One payment per family)	<b>Family Fee</b>	\$2,500.00
(One payment per family)	<b>Capital Fee</b>	\$ 200.00
<b>Levies</b> (for each child)	<b>Curriculum</b>	\$ 665.00
(for each child)	<b>Swimming</b>	\$ 30.00

This is an increase of \$9.00 per week on 2024 fees for one student and less for each additional student as the family fee and capital fee is only paid once per year per family.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fee increase, or wish to discuss your individual circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact me. We remain committed to keeping tuition fees as low and affordable as possible, and to working closely with our community to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Thank you for your understanding. We are grateful for your ongoing support and trust in our school.



### Baseline funding (the SRS)

There is an agreed annual amount that government funds every school to meet its students' educational needs. This is called the **Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)**. Under this national agreement, the Australian and state governments together fund schools in line with the SRS.

The final SRS Base for 2024 was \$13,570 for each primary student, and \$17,053 for each secondary student.

In addition to this base amount, there are up to six loadings that can provide additional funding for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools.

To ensure that funding keeps up with changes in wages and other costs, the SRS base amount and loadings are indexed each year.

### The Capacity to Contribute (CTC)

For Catholic schools, the SRS base amount is then **reduced** by the school community's CTC. This can be as much as an 80% reduction.

The Capacity to Contribute (CTC) for each school is determined by the taxable income of the families attending the school, as reported annually to the ATO.

Schools are currently expected to recover the CTC shortfall in SRS funding through school fees.

Importantly, none of this government funding can be used for buildings and infrastructure in Catholic schools. Our buildings and infrastructure are funded by capital grants from the Commonwealth and/or Victorian governments, and by parent contributions through fees, school cash reserves and capital levies.

Further information is available on the School Resourcing Standard through the Australian Department of Education.

# NAPLAN 2025

Information for parents and carers



## Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with more information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working, and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

## Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.



## What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN test days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

## What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by letting them know that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [NAP – Public demonstration site](#).

## How is my child's performance reported?

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected of the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly

## What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au](#).

## Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the National Assessment Program.

Information on adjustments available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs is provided in the [National protocols for test administration](#).

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the National protocols for test administration (linked above), [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), and our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

on what has been taught in previous years of schooling. Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

## How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](#).

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](#)
- visit [nap.edu.au](#)

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](#).

## NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame. **The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 12 March 2025 and finishes on Monday 24 March 2025.** Schools will schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
<b>Writing</b>	Year 3 students do the writing test on paper on day 1 only. Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing on day 1, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations).	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with an idea or topic called a writing stimulus (or prompt) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
<b>Reading</b>	To be completed after the writing test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
<b>Conventions of language</b>	To be completed after the reading test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
<b>Numeracy</b>	To be completed after the conventions of language test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## AT-SCHOOL AUSKICK/SUPERKICK AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS STARTING SOON

Our at school Auskick/Superkick program brings the game to your school at a convenient time and location, allowing families who may have commitments on weekends or face barriers in a community setting to experience AFL.

How it works:

- Delivered and administered by AFL Victoria staff specifically for your students
- Held directly before or after school on your school grounds on a day/time that suits you (school staff not required to attend).
- Caters for prep-grade 6 and is inclusive of all skill levels
- communications and registrations handled by AFL Victoria via Play HQ.

This time we are offering a Superkick option in addition to Auskick, the programs will run side by side with Superkick for Grades 3-6 and Auskick for Prep-2. This will help transition kids into the local Superkick program which is kicking off this year at Woodend Auskick centre! It will take place on Monday afternoons from 3.45 - 4.45pm and run for 5 sessions at a cost of \$55.

- SESSION 1: Monday 24th Feb
- SESSION 2: Monday 3rd March
- LABOUR DAY PH: Monday 10th March (No session)
- SESSION 3: Monday 17th March
- SESSION 4: Monday 24th March
- SESSION 5: Monday 31st March

Please see Operoo sent out for link to register.

**CHOOSE YOUR**  
**FOOTY ADVENTURE** **AFL PLAY**  
**ST AMBROSE PARISH PS**  
**TERM 1 AUSKICK & SUPERKICK**  
**MONDAY'S AFTER SCHOOL**  
**3.46PM-4.46PM AT SCHOOL OVAL**

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER  
**nab AFL Auskick**  
Prep - Grade 2

Come find your awesome at NAB AFL Auskick. An introductory program to Australian rules football, teaching skills through fun activities and mini games.

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER  
**AFL Superkick**  
Grades 3 - 6

Level up your footy with skills and modified match play in weekly sessions. NAB AFL Superkick is tackle-free and great for Auskick grads and newbies alike.

**BEGINS MONDAY 24TH FEB**

**VISIT PLAY.AFL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT-  
AUSSIEHOOPS@MRBA.ORG.AU

**Term One REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

**AUSSIE HOOPS**

7 WEEKS | 60 MINS SESSIONS  
INTRODUCTION TO BASKETBALL

FRIDAY 4:30 - 5:30PM - WOODEND  
SATURDAY 8:30 - 9:30AM - GISBORNE  
SATURDAY 8:30 - 9:30AM - WOODEND

Woodend Library  
**Storytimes 2025**  
Nurture your child's listening and learning skills in fun-filled sessions of stories, songs and rhymes.

**BABY RHYME TIME**  
0-1 YEARS  
FRI 11-11.30am

**TODDLER TIME**  
1-3 YEARS  
TUE 11-11.30am

**STORYTIME**  
3-5 YEARS  
TUE & FRI 10-10.30am

**SATURDAY STORYTIME**  
2-5 YEARS  
FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
10.30-11am

shanti studio

**BENDY BUDDIES YOGA**

**TUESDAY MORNINGS**

9:30-10am  
2 & 3 year olds

10:30-11am  
4 & 5 year olds

**COME & TRY FREE SESSION: 11 February 2025**  
Term 1 continues for 7 weeks (\$70)  
18th February - 1st April 2025

Bookings via:  
woodendnh.org.au  
(03) 5427 1845

**ART CLUB**

JOIN PENELOPE FOR SOME CREATIVE FUN AS TOGETHER YOU SKETCH, WEAVE, PRINT, PAINT AND DRAW WITH LIKE MINDED INDIVIDUALS

**AGE 2 - 5 YEARS** **PREP TO GRADE 6**

2pm - 3pm 3.45pm - 5pm

Wednesday 5 February until 26 March 2025

\$208 for the 8 week term

The Undercroft  
Woodend Neighbourhood House





# COMMUNITY NEWS

24 January 2025



J19882 - 1488

ATTENTION: THE PRINCIPAL  
ST AMBROSE'S SCHOOL  
14-18 TEMPLETON STREET  
WOODEND VIC 3442



P.O. Box 4724, Melbourne  
Victoria 3001 Australia  
Telephone 1800 800 007  
ptv.vic.gov.au

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS AND THEIR STUDENTS USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Dear Principal,

Public Transport Victoria would like to share some public transport ticketing information which may be of use to your school and school community:

### 2025 PTV School Student ID and Student Pass application form and student pass fares

The application form is available to download now at [ptv.vic.gov.au/students](http://ptv.vic.gov.au/students).

	Victorian	Ballarat	Bendigo	Geelong	Colac	Portland	Southwest
Yearly	\$755	\$372	\$294	\$372	\$294	\$294	\$294
Half-yearly	\$393	\$186	\$147	\$186	\$147	\$147	\$147

### Group Travel Authority

School groups travelling on the metropolitan public transport network can now book online at [ptv.vic.gov.au/grouptravel](http://ptv.vic.gov.au/grouptravel). Regional bookings with V/Line can also be made online at [vline.com.au/Fares-general-info/Additional-pages/Group-Travel](http://vline.com.au/Fares-general-info/Additional-pages/Group-Travel). Victorian preschool, kindergarten and primary school excursion groups of 12 to 35 people travel for free on weekdays between 9.00am and 4.00pm (on metropolitan and V/Line services).

### Touching on and off

PTV's data shows that passengers are not touching on as regularly as they were before the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly trams and buses. Touch on/off data is used to plan the level and frequency of services for your school and sends a positive message to the broader travelling public. We ask you regularly remind students to touch on and off every time they use their myki on public transport, even if they have a myki Pass or Student Pass.

### 30 Day Travel Passes



Travel Passes are designed for community organisations and schools to provide a valid ticket for students in crisis or experiencing severe financial hardship to continue to attend school and access support services. Schools can access 30 Day Travel Passes and give them to the most vulnerable students so they can remain engaged in education. To be valid, the pass must have a hole punched on the date it is given to the student.

For more information, visit [ptv.vic.gov.au/travel-pass](http://ptv.vic.gov.au/travel-pass) or email [ticketingservices@ptv.vic.gov.au](mailto:ticketingservices@ptv.vic.gov.au)

### PTV Approved School Student ID

Hundreds of Victorian schools are participating in the PTV Approved School Student ID program, making it easier for students and their parents to access concession fares and student pass products.

The PTV Approved School Student ID is effectively your school's student ID card with the PTV logo. This flexible option means students no longer need to arrange, pay for and carry the dedicated PTV School Student ID (available from stations/ticket agents for \$9) to travel on student passes or concession fares.

Schools must apply to PTV to include the PTV logo on the school ID card. For a school's ID to be approved by PTV, it must include:

- the school's name
- the student's name
- the student's photo
- an expiry date no later than 28 February of the year after the student finishes year 12
- the PTV logo.



The ID may include other information that schools need, provided there's enough space for the PTV logo.

The existing PTV School Student ID is an option for students should your school choose not to participate.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they carry valid proof of concession entitlement (PTV Approved School Student ID or PTV School Student ID) when travelling with a Student Pass, or risk receiving a fine from an Authorised Officer. The PTV Approved School Student ID does not need to be valid for the duration of the student pass being purchased, only at the time of purchase.

For more information about having your school ID approved, email [ticketingservices@ptv.vic.gov.au](mailto:ticketingservices@ptv.vic.gov.au)

### Prepay Buses

A reminder that cash transactions have been permanently removed from myki-enabled buses in support of safer bus journeys and the rollout of all door boarding.

So parents and students can ensure they continue to travel with a valid ticket, we request you communicate the many alternatives available to cash payments onboard buses, including:

- Instant myki Money top up via the PTV app
- Online at [ptv.vic.gov.au/myki](http://ptv.vic.gov.au/myki)
- Auto top up
- myki retailers
- Quick top up machines
- myki machines
- ticket offices including train stations and PTV Hub

Using the PTV app to check a myki card balance and instantly top up with myki Money is the most convenient method for parents. For more information on using the PTV app to manage your myki, visit: [ptv.vic.gov.au/footer/about-ptv/digital-tools/mobile-apps](http://ptv.vic.gov.au/footer/about-ptv/digital-tools/mobile-apps)

Thank you for your support in sharing this information with your staff and students.

Yours sincerely

Chris Holder  
Operations Director, Public Transport Ticketing  
Public Transport Victoria



## PEER SUPPORT AFTER SUICIDE

### A SAFE SPACE FOR CONNECTION AND HEALING

Are you grieving the loss of someone to suicide? You are not alone.

Our Peer Support Group offers a compassionate space to connect with others who have experienced suicide bereavement.

Facilitated by trained peers with lived experience, these gatherings are an opportunity to share, listen, and heal in a confidential and understanding environment.

2ND MONDAY OF EVERY 2ND MONTH FROM FEB

7:00PM - 8:30AM

NEWHAM MECHANICS HALL  
1292 ROCHFORD RD, NEWHAM

#### Need Support Between Gatherings?

We're here for you. Whether it's a phone call, a walk, or a coffee with someone who understands, we can help.  
Email us: [peersupport@mrspag.com.au](mailto:peersupport@mrspag.com.au)



SCAN FOR MORE INFO