

Term 1, Week 8, 2026

Principal's News

Dear Families, We are now in Catholic Education Week, a week where we celebrate the gift of Catholic Education. We pray:

Gracious and Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of Catholic education. We thank you for our schools—places where faith and learning meet, and where every person is valued as a child of God.

We pray for our students: May they be curious in their learning, courageous in their faith, and compassionate in their friendships. Help them to discover the unique talents you have given them and use them to serve others.

We pray for our teachers and staff: Grant them wisdom, patience, and a joyful heart. May they be true witnesses of your love, guiding those in their care with grace and dedication.

We pray for our families and community: Strengthen the bonds between home, school, and parish. May we always be a community that welcomes the stranger and stands in solidarity with those in need.

Lord, as we celebrate this week, remind us that you are the source of all truth. Let the light of the Gospel shine through everything we do, so that we may build a world of justice, peace, and hope.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Tomorrow, Lina Vermeulen and I will attend the MACS Catholic Education Week Mass of St. Patrick for schools at St. Patrick's Cathedral with 100's of other schools from across Melbourne. We will also attend with our Year 6 captains- Milana, Frankie, Xavier and Scarlet. It promises to be a wonderful day and I know these leaders will represent our school well.

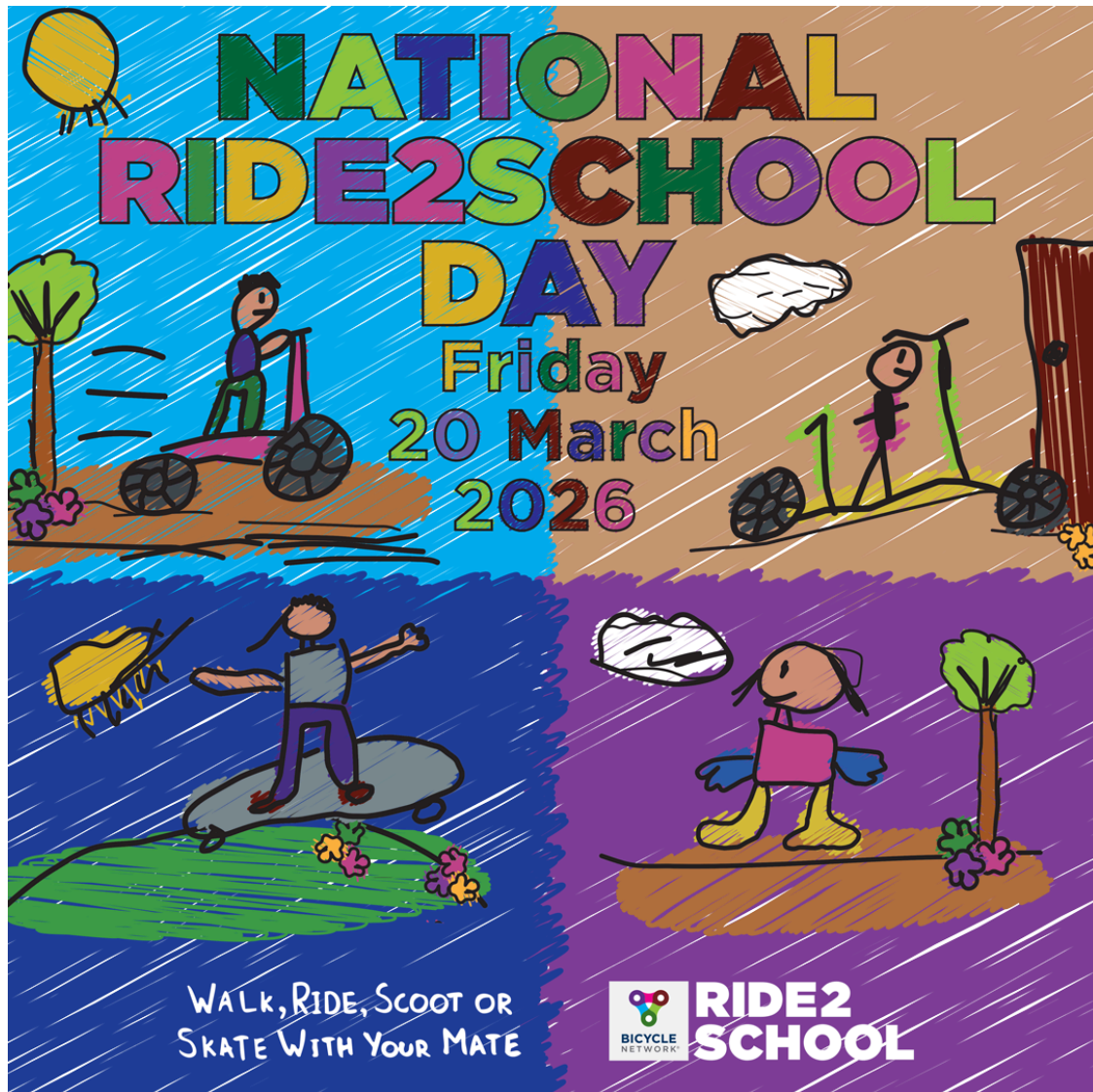


Our School Advisory Council met last week and it was a great opportunity for the group to meet and discuss matters to support the operational running of the school. School Fees and Levies were discussed and I thought I would share with you the rationale behind our Grounds and Maintenance Levy.

The \$400 Grounds Maintenance Levy is charged once per family each school year to contribute towards the operational costs of the school. The grounds maintenance levy is not specifically allocated to garden maintenance. Ground maintenance encompasses both building and grounds with garden maintenance being a small portion. Grounds maintenance is inclusive, although not limited to, the following:

- underground drainage (stormwater system and inspection pits, oval drainage),
- carparking asphalt,
- carparking line-marking maintenance,
- ground painted games,
- retaining walls,
- pathways,
- stairs,
- decking maintenance,
- handrail compliance,
- irrigation system and garden maintenance,
- CCTV
- cleaning,
- deep cleaning of student toilets,
- height access compliance requirements and inspections,
- Adhering to essential service requirements including, but not limited to:
 - regular cleaning of gutters and downpipes,
 - air-conditioning inspections and maintenance,
 - Air purifiers maintenance, sanitised and filter replacements,
 - emergency lights and exit lighting inspection and testing,
 - electrical safety testing and tagging of all appliances throughout the school,
 - fire compliance inspections and maintenance,
 - general maintenance and repairs
 - playground maintenance and compliance safety standards inspections.

Thank you to those families who consistently support the school with Child Safe Matters especially regarding the change to the drop off and pick up arrangements before and after school. I have been contacted by residents who live in Longhurst Crescent near the reserve. They are concerned that some Cana students have been pulling up sprinklers and plants in the reserve. Parents and carers are encouraged to actively supervise their children after school and to ensure that the children are looking after communal property.



Important Dates

Student Free days for the year:

Monday April 27th 2026- Staff Religious Education Professional Learning (with Father Elio Capra)

Monday November 2nd- Staff Time in Lieu

Friday November 27th- Planning and Preparation for 2027

Wednesday December 16th- Staff Time in Lieu

Thursday December 17th- Staff Time in Lieu

Term Dates:

Term 1: Monday February 2nd- Thursday April 2nd 2026- Students finish at 1pm

Term 2: Monday April 20th- Friday June 26th- Students finish at 1pm

Term 3: Monday July 13th- Friday September 18th- Students finish at 1pm

Term 4: Monday October 5th- Tuesday December 15th-Students finish at 1pm

Term 1 Dates:

Wednesday March 25th - Cana Feast Day picnic, 5:00pm - 6:30pm (more information to come)

Thursday March 26th - 2027 Enrolment applications close

Friday March 27th - Second hand uniform sale, 8:30am and 3:00pm

Monday March 30th - Easter raffle draw at assembly, 8:45am

Wednesday April 1st - Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

Thursday April 2nd - Holy Thursday - students finish at 1:00pm

Friday April 3rd - Good Friday - no school

Child Safety News

Child Safe Standard 2- Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

Creating a child safe culture is everyone's responsibility but is guided by the top down. This standard requires schools to ensure:

- **Leadership Commitment:** Leaders promote as a core value. Clear expectation, everyday practice.
- **Clear Policies:** Documents guide and create accountability at all levels. They are accessible and understood.
- **Culture of Reporting and Accountability:** Everyone is comfortable to speak up and share concerns. Staff understand their responsibilities, and this is regularly reviewed.

When staff across a whole school environment model a child safe culture we can observe the following outcomes:

- Child safety becomes part of everyday thinking and actions
- Early identification and prevention of harm
- Shared responsibilities and accountability
- Children thrive academically, socially and spiritually as they feel safe and protected.

Please see further information at the end of this newsletter as we strive to embed the 11 Child Safe

standards into our practice.

Curriculum News

Nothing new to share this week!

Religious Education News

On Friday 20th March - school leaders will be attending St. Patrick's Cathedral with Alison and Myself, to celebrate the gift of Catholic Education and the strong partnerships that have been formed at Cana and with other catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.



On Wednesday 25th March - Cana Feast Day

We will joyfully celebrate our Cana Feast Day, remembering the Wedding at Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle and revealed God's love. This special story, our school is named after - reminds us of who we are as a school community.

Students will enjoy a donut, be entertained by a live band, and participate in a variety of activities designed to celebrate and highlight the significance of the day.

Families are invited to attend the Cana Feast Day Picnic that is on our school oval from 5pm - 6.30pm. I look forward to celebrating our school with you all.

Holy Week - Families are welcome on Tuesday 31st March at 2.15pm

Students will participate in a re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross, observing reverence and respect as we remember and reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross.



Masses at Cana:

Group A	PC, PH, 1M, 1S, 2C, 2N, 3C, 3W, 4K, 5M, 5V, 6G
Group B	PJ, PT, 1R, 1T, 2A, 2M, 3M, 3S, 4G, 4S, 5W, 6S

Week TERM 1	Date	Time	Group in hall	Class - Group Leading Mass	Theme
10	Tuesday 31 st March	2:15pm	ALL GROUPS	Students from different year levels.	Holy Week (Scenes from Stations of the Cross)

Holy Week / Easter at the parish churches (Emmaus & Sacred Heart)

EVENT	EMMAUS	SACRED HEART
Thursday 2 April - Mass of The	7:30pm Emmaus	7:30pm Sacred Heart

Lord's Supper:		
Friday 3 April - Stations of the Cross:		11am Sacred Heart (outdoors)
Friday 3 April - Commemoration of The Lord's Passion:	3pm Emmaus	3pm Sacred Heart
Saturday 4 April - Blessing of Easter Food:		10am Sacred Heart
Saturday 4 April - Easter Vigil:	8pm Emmaus	8pm Sacred Heart
Sunday 5 April - Easter Sunday:	9am Emmaus	7:30am, 9am Polish & 10:30am Sacred Heart

Learning Diversity

This week I was invited to attend a meeting with an external occupational therapist to discuss behaviours that schools see, and the increasing complexity of student needs across primary school settings.

A key area of discussion was the growing number of students who do not meet NDIS funding criteria, but still require meaningful support to successfully engage in the classroom. These students are often not identified as having high needs, yet may experience challenges with attention, emotional regulation and behaviour. At school, this can present as difficulty following instructions, disengagement from learning, or challenges in peer interactions.

We also acknowledged the highly skilled work teachers are doing every day to support a wide range of learners. Classrooms are dynamic environments, and staff use a range of effective strategies to support students. At times, consistency can be impacted by the pace and complexity of the school day, as teachers balance the needs of all learners in their care.

Emotional regulation continues to be an area of focus. Some students find transitions, group work, unstructured play times or separation from caregivers particularly challenging, and at times this can lead to heightened responses. While these situations are supported carefully at school, they may not always be seen in the same way at home, which can make shared understanding and communication especially important.

We also discussed the sensory needs of students, highlighting that supports such as movement breaks, flexible seating, access to quiet spaces, sensory tools, and opportunities for hands-on learning can play

an important role in helping students to regulate and engage in their learning.

As with many schools, we are working towards strengthening consistency of approaches across classrooms, embedding strategies into everyday practice, and ensuring supports are sustainable over time. We also recognise that families can face barriers accessing external services, including long wait times, and that early support is not always available when concerns first arise.

A key priority for our school is to work in partnership with families. We value open, respectful conversations about each child's needs and development, even when these can be challenging to have. By working together and sharing insights between home and school, we can better support students and, where needed, help connect families with early intervention support.

Liz Cutajar

Student Wellbeing News

The game of soccer is becoming increasingly problematic during break times at Cana. The level of aggression that some students from Years 2-6 display while playing is very concerning. Some students are highly competitive and are showing behaviours not in keeping with the values that we want here at Cana. These behaviours were identified as problematic by students and have been observed by staff on many occasions, including:

- Swearing
- Overly aggressive moves such as slide tackles, nudging and 'chesting' each other.
- Tackling, shoving
- Creating teams that are not even (e.g. 7 players versus 3 players)
- 'Showing off' and getting in each other's faces after kicking a goal.

When staff and students have been brainstorming ideas for how to best support students, these are some of the consequences and procedures that have been derived:

- An automatic red card and removal from the game for any of the behaviours listed above. Depending on the frequency of the behaviour occurring or re-occurring, a conversation will then be held with parents/carers.
- Students who repeatedly display the behaviour may then be 'banned' from playing soccer for a longer period of time.
- Weekend soccer (playing for a club) is traditionally more competitive, however students have been told that these rules are not in place here at school. School soccer should be more fun and team-oriented.

It is vital that we have parent/carer support with this, to ensure that all students are aware of the importance of playing safely and fairly at break times. If there is no overall improvement in the temperament of some of the soccer playing students, games will be banned and the soccer nets closed.

PBL at Cana (Positive Behaviour for Learning)

Our staff have sought feedback from parents/carers and students about which school values will be most relevant to our school. We will communicate these findings to the school community soon. Thank you to those families who completed the survey.

News from the P and F Committee

Second-Hand Uniform Sale

If you have any uniforms in good, clean condition that your children no longer require, we would greatly appreciate your donations for our upcoming second-hand uniform sale. Items can be dropped off at the school office.

The sale will be held on **Friday 27th March**, outside the school hall, at both drop-off and pick-up times.

Finally, a sincere thank you to everyone who attended our first committee meeting last Monday. We appreciate your support and involvement and look forward to a wonderful year ahead together.

Interschool Sports Results:

Round 4 vs Emmaus

Sport	Mixed team result	Girls team result
AFL	Cana 60 Emmaus 48	No Girls Team
Soccer	Cana 0 Emmaus 0	Cana 1 Emmaus 0
Tennis	Cana 7 Emmaus 7	Cana 6 Emmaus 7
Netball	Cana 10 Emmaus 3	Cana 2 Emmaus 11
Teeball	Cana 3 Emmaus 2	Cana 7 Emmaus 7

Swimming results:

Over the past couple weeks we have had students represent Cana at the Sydenham District and Keilor Division swimming carnivals. Well Done to Charlotte, Scarlett, Isla and Maddy for all swimming brilliantly! Isla and Maddy both achieved 1st and 2nd placing in their 25m events. A special mention to Daniella, who qualified for the divisional event, where she then went on to finish 2nd in her backstroke event, marking a Cana first, having a student represent our school at the Regional carnival held in Geelong later this month!





Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Child Safety

MACS has zero tolerance for any form of child abuse and is deeply committed to upholding and embedding the highest standards of child safety across our schools.

We are guided by our Catholic faith and the unique and unrepeatable dignity of every person in our care. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive and protective environment where every child can feel and be safe.

We are responsible for inspiring and enabling every child to flourish and enrich the world.

Child safety is a shared responsibility between MACS, its employees including its Board, Executive Leadership Team, School Principals, teachers, staff and the wider community.

macs.vic.edu.au

Child Safe Standard 2

"Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture."

Rooted in the Gospel and the teachings of the Church, MACS Catholic schools uphold the sacred dignity of every child as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). This belief places Catholic educators in a privileged and profound position to protect and nurture the most vulnerable.

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

Overview of Child Safe Standard 2:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- A public commitment to child safety
- Champion a child safe culture at all levels
- Ensure governance supports child safety policies
- Develop and enforce a Code of Conduct
- Implement risk management strategies that focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks to children
- Ensure staff, volunteers and contractors understand their obligation and the role they play in keeping children and young people safe. This includes information sharing and record keeping.

The Child Safe Standards

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

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

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

This standard promotes a shared responsibility for safety across the entire school community and all levels of the organisation. It ensures a child safe culture is actively championed and modelled from the top down and bottom up.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Leadership commitment:** School leaders actively promote child safety and wellbeing as a priority in decision-making and daily operations.
- **Ongoing training and professional development:** Staff are provided with ongoing training and professional development opportunities that increase capacity and confidence surrounding all aspects of child safety.
- **Clear governance:** Policies and procedures reflect child safety responsibilities and are regularly reviewed, updated and publicly available.
- **Staff modelling safe behaviours:** Expectations of staff are clearly defined. All staff demonstrate respectful, inclusive, and protective behaviours towards children. All staff are encouraged and empowered to speak up if any alternative is observed.
- **Ongoing culture building:** Child safety is embedded in school values, professional development, and community engagement with the objective to continually improve practice.
- **Thorough recruitment processing:** Applicable to all staff working in a school context, extending to volunteers and contractors. Valid credentials, references and Working with Children Checks apply. Ongoing monitoring and supervision of all staff and intervention if required.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Here's how you can support:

- **Familiarise** yourself with the school's child safety policies and understand how they support student wellbeing.
- **Provide feedback** when you notice something that may impact a child's safety or wellbeing.
- **Support** your child when they express their views and that their opinions are valued and heard.
- **Join in** on school activities, parent committees or forums that promote child safety and wellbeing.

Want to know more?

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

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

Working together for Child Safety



