

Term 2, Week 4, 2026

Principal's News

Dear Families,

In the Catholic tradition, the month of May is a special time to honor Mary's "Yes" to God and to seek her guidance in our own lives. For our students, Mary serves as a beautiful model of courage and listening. Just as she nurtured Jesus, we use this month to nurture the seeds of kindness, patience, and wisdom within ourselves. "Mary's life shows us that God accomplishes great things through those who are humble and willing to serve."

Dear Mary, Mother of us all,

We ask for your blessing upon our school during this beautiful month of May. Help us to grow in faith, just as the flowers grow in the sun. Teach us to listen with our hearts, to speak with kindness, and to treat every person we meet as a brother or sister.

Guide our students in their learning, strengthen our teachers in their service, and keep our families held close in your care.

Amen.

Our **Mother's Day morning** on Monday went well- thank you to all who attended in support of their children/grandchildren. Our students were happy, proud and excited to share their learning and to enjoy spending time with their loved ones in their classrooms.

Uniform and grooming:

We have had a period of transition between winter and summer uniform over the last few weeks, however **all students should be in their full winter uniform from Monday May 18th**- either long pants or winter tunic with their Cana jumper and jacket (if needed).

Any student with hair past their shoulders should have their hair tied back off the face each day at school, and there should be no nail polish or acrylic nails at all. There are a number of students particularly from Year 3 upwards who have had long nails (fake or not). Please leave these for the school holidays or for a special occasion- not school!

Home Learning at Cana:

Please see below some information from each year level regarding Home Learning at Cana. Please reach out to your child's class teacher for further clarification if needed:

Prep - In Prep, home learning will include regular activities to support ongoing learning. Students are expected to complete daily reading as set out in the online texts; such as identifying sounds and tricky words prior to reading the text. The reading log needs to be completed each day, sharing the text read and demonstrating practice with reading tricky words.

At times, there may be additional tasks or activities set throughout the term to further support classroom learning. Regular practice at home helps build consistency, confidence, and strong learning habits.

Year 1 - In Year 1, students are expected to complete daily reading and maintain their reading log. Students also have the option to complete the activities in the back of the reading diary / log book. At times, there may be additional tasks or activities set throughout the term to further support classroom learning.

Year 2 - In Grade 2, students are expected to complete daily reading and maintain their reading log each night. Students are also encouraged to practise their tricky words regularly, although this is optional. Throughout the term, there may also be additional tasks or activities set to reinforce and extend classroom learning experiences.

Year 3 - Just a quick reminder about Grade 3 homework expectations. Students are expected to read every day and record their reading in their reading log. These logs should be brought to school each Friday for teacher sighting.

Students are encouraged to regularly log on to Times Tables Rock Stars to help build their ability to automatically recall their times tables facts. Consistent practice will support their confidence and fluency in Maths. Throughout the year, there may also be times when students need to complete additional work at home, such as projects. We will always communicate these tasks clearly when they arise. Thank you for your ongoing support at home.

Year 4 - In Year 4 homework will include regular activities to support ongoing learning. Students are expected to complete daily reading and maintain their reading log. Students in Year 4 are also encouraged to regularly practise their times tables using Times Table Rock Stars. We also encourage students to practice addition and subtraction facts in their homework books.

At times, there may be additional tasks or activities set throughout the term to further support classroom learning.

Regular practice at home helps build consistency, confidence, and strong learning habits.

Year 5 - Welcome to Term 2!

As in Term 1, students are expected to read each night for 15–20 minutes. There is a homework log chart in your child's homework book that must be completed to record their reading and other activities. This will be sighted weekly by teachers. Reading can be a book of their choice, unless otherwise specified. Students may read books from home or borrow from the school library. If your child is unsure what to read, teachers are more than happy to help select appropriate books.

While Mathematics homework is not compulsory, regular practice is strongly encouraged. Students can support their learning at home through activities such as:

- Times Tables Rockstars
- Fact family cards
- Goodies and Baddies
- Flip It & Times It
- Topmarks: Hit the Button

Further information about these activities was sent home last term. If you would like additional guidance, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Laptops will also be coming home this term. When no specific homework has been set, students may use their laptops for the following activities. We recommend prioritising the Maths practice listed above:

- Times Tables Rockstars (always encouraged)
- Topmarks: Hit the Button
- Typing practice (e.g. using an online program or writing in a Google Doc)
- Researching a topic of interest and creating a presentation (e.g. Google Slides)

Thank you, as always, please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Jenson Micallef, Olivia Vermeulen & Simone Whelan

Year 6 - We kindly ask for your support in upholding our core homework expectations to ensure your child remains confident and prepared in the classroom. Our non-negotiables include 20 minutes of focused independent, age-appropriate reading four times per week, along with regular practice on Times Tables Rockstars to maintain essential mathematical fluency.

Additionally, students may occasionally be required to complete unfinished classwork or dedicate time to ongoing curriculum projects. Establishing this consistent routine at home is vital for reinforcing the concepts taught in school and fostering a disciplined approach to their academic growth.

Important Dates

Student Free days for the year:

Wednesday October 21st- Parent Teacher Interviews/Learning Progress Updates

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 2 dates:

Friday May 22nd- Walk safely to school day

Tuesday June 16th- Hot Chocolate and Pyjama Day fundraiser

Tuesday June 23rd- Italian Day

Child Safety News

Staff First Aid, CPR, Asthma & Anaphylaxis Training

On Tuesday 12th May, we are happy to share that our staff completed the practical component of their First Aid, CPR, Asthma & Anaphylaxis Training. They demonstrated various skills including CPR, AED usage, injury treatment, and medical emergency management. We rehearsed responses to everyday accidents and tested our knowledge of the signs, symptoms, and management for various conditions—such as anaphylaxis, asthma, bites, and choking. At Cana, we care about the wellbeing of our community and strongly believe in the importance of being prepared for any situation that may arise in our day-to-day operation.





Child Safe Standard 3

'Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.'

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

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 3:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- Children are informed about all their rights, including safety, information and participation
- The importance of friendship is recognized and support from peers is encouraged
- Where relevant to setting or context, young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs in an age-appropriate way
- Staff are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child friendly ways for children to express their views, participate in decision making and raise their concerns
- Organisations have strategies to develop a culture that facilitates participation and are responsive to input from children and young people.

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 focuses on empowering children and young people by ensuring they are informed, respected, and actively involved in decisions that affect them. This participation helps build a school culture that is safe for them and values their voice.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Creating Opportunities for Student Voice:** We create formal structures such as student councils and leadership programs, but we also include fewer formal opportunities so all students, especially the most vulnerable, can have their voice heard.
- **Acting on Student Feedback:** We listen deeply to what students are telling us and we respond to concerns, suggestions and ideas. This includes making sure students are aware when we have acted on their feedback.
- **Building Staff Capacity:** Our staff receive professional learning, so they understand the importance and benefits of listening to and responding to, student voice. This also includes training for staff regarding how to incorporate student voice, agency and empowerment in their daily interactions and decision making.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

- **Listen and talk often:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings. Let them know it's always ok to speak up.
- **Talk about rights and safety:** Help your child understand that everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.
- **Be a role model:** Show kindness, respect, and inclusion in everyday life, children learn from what they see.
- **Stay connected with the school:** Take part in conversations or surveys about student wellbeing and safety.
- **Support student voice:** Encourage your child to get involved in school activities where their ideas can make a difference.

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](#).

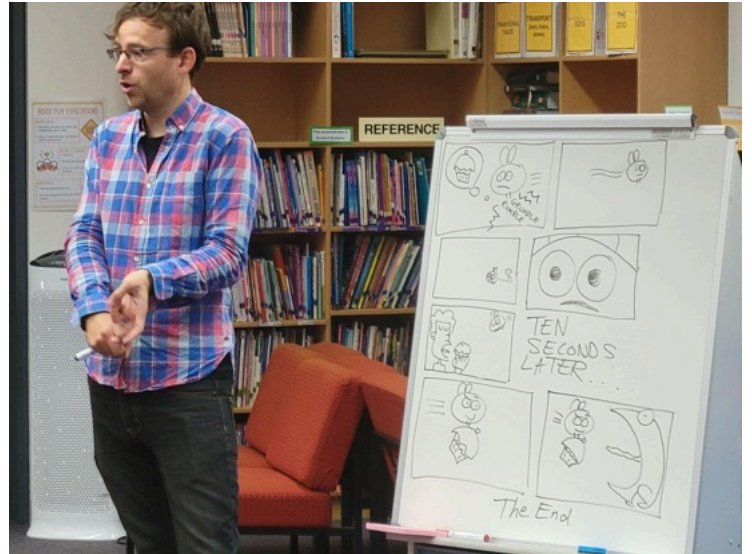


Curriculum News

English

Author Visit

Author Andrew McDonald visited Cana this week as part of the Melton City Libraries Short Story Competition. Our Year 3 students had the opportunity to hear about Andrew's passion for storytelling and writing for children. He shared his personal journey as a young writer and explained how he develops ideas into the stories he publishes today. Andrew will also be judging all short story entries submitted for the competition.



Melton Council Short Story Competition



The Melton City Libraries Short Story Competition returns for 2026, inviting writers and storytellers of all kinds to take part in its 21st year. Open to anyone aged 5+ who lives, works, or studies in the City of Melton, entries can be submitted in a range of creative formats—from written stories to video, voice, or mixed media. Submissions open on 4 May 2026 and close at 11:59pm on 10 July 2026, with prizes awarded across Junior, Teen, and Adult categories.

Please visit the website below for further details if your child is interested in submitting an entry.
<https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/Out-n-About/Libraries-and-learning/Libraries/Short-Story-Competition>

Religious Education News

Altar Servers

We are very proud that some students from Cana have shown initiative and commitment by joining the Altar Servers for our parish community of Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish. These students are currently training to

serve at weekend Masses, as well as at our school liturgies.

A special thank you to Isla Coulter and Scarlett Jose for generously offering their time and gifts in this important ministry. Your reverence and willingness to serve are greatly appreciated.

If there are any other Year 5 or Year 6 students interested in being trained as an Altar Server, please let me know (Lina Vermeulen) so I can pass your details on to the parish office.

Social Justice News and dates for Term 2 will be in the next newsletter in week 6

Masses at Cana:

Please continue to join us at these masses.

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 2	Date	Time	Group in the hall	Class - Group Leading Mass	Theme
4	Thursday 14 th May	2:15pm	Group B	4G/4S	The Ascension
6	Thursday 28 th May	2:15pm	Group A	6G	Pentecost Sunday
8	Thursday 11 th June	2:15pm	Group B	1R/1T	Sacred Heart of Jesus
10	Thursday 25 th June	2:15pm	Group A	3C/3W	

Learning Diversity

This term in our Learning Diversity section of the school newsletter, we will be highlighting the role of Allied Health Professionals and the important work they do in supporting students. Allied health professionals, such as speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists, and paediatricians, play an important role in supporting students' learning, wellbeing, and development. Throughout the term, we will share insights into each role and how they work closely with families to support children to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

What is the role of an **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST** and how can they help?

An occupational therapist (OT) supports children to develop the everyday life skills needed to participate confidently and successfully at school. They help children build independence with tasks that are part of daily school life, including learning routines, organisation, self-care, and social participation. OTs work alongside families to provide strategies and supports that help students feel capable, engaged, and ready to learn.

Some areas that OTs can support children with are:

- Fine motor skills for handwriting, drawing, cutting, and using classroom tools
- Organising belongings, managing materials, and following routines
- Developing independence with tasks such as packing bags, opening lunch items, and self-care
- Sensory and emotional regulation - strategies to help students stay calm, focused, and ready to learn
- Attention, concentration, and task completion
- Gross motor skills including posture, balance, and coordination
- Social skills, play skills, and positive participation with peers
- Building confidence and resilience in everyday school activities



For more information about the role of an occupational therapist and how they can potentially support your child, please see the links below:

- [Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne – Occupational Therapy](#)
- [Occupational Therapy Australia](#)
- [Raising Children Network - Occupational Therapist](#)
- [Better Health Channel \(Victoria\) – Occupational Therapy](#)

Student Wellbeing News



Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre Anti-Racism Workshops

On Tuesday 12th May, our Year 5 and 6 students participated in an Anti-Racism presentation facilitated by the Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre. David Drysdale, Coordinator of Project Mehari, and his team of ambassadors led an interactive workshop designed to explore the importance of diversity and the impact of our words and actions. Through engaging activities and open dialogue, our students moved beyond simply defining racism to learning how they can actively create a school community where everyone feels they belong.

A key focus of the session was the transition from being a "bystander" to an "upstander," teaching students safe and kind ways to speak up against exclusion. Framed through a lens of positivity and empowerment, the workshop highlighted the strength found in diversity and our shared responsibility to maintain an inclusive environment. We extend our thanks to Spectrum for working with our senior students to make a positive difference in our community and beyond.





PBL at Cana (Positive Behaviour for Learning)

On Tuesday April 24th our PBL Team (Alison Bretag, Liz Cutajar, Aiden Cassar, Erin Galliot, Natalina Raso & Vanessa Coulter) participated in their second Professional Development Day at the Catholic Leadership Centre. The team delved deep into the "how" and "why" behind Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). We believe that behaviour, much like literacy or numeracy, is a skill that must be explicitly taught, rather than just expected.

Following the VCEA Positive Behaviour Guidelines, we treat behaviour as a curriculum area. Just as a student wouldn't be punished for not knowing how to add fractions, we don't assume students instinctively know every social expectation. As education expert Nathaniel Swain notes, simply knowing "what not to do" doesn't help a child succeed - they need to be shown exactly what to do.

Our PBL approach is grounded in Cognitive Load Theory. For "novice learners," new social environments can be overwhelming. To help students move information from their short-term memory to their "hard drive" (long-term schemas), we focus on:

Manageable Chunks: Breaking down complex routines into small steps.

Explicit Instruction: Using logical sequences and clear modelling.

Daily Review: Providing frequent opportunities to practice expectations in context.

To support this, we are working to develop opportunities for every student to receive high-quality teaching lessons on behaviour.



In the coming weeks our Year 4-6 students will be invited to share their ideas to support the development of a Cana PBL Mascot that is aligned with our values of Safe, Respectful and Responsible. We look forward to seeing the original and creative efforts of our students to help shape a design that will be featured on our posters, recognition tokens, award certificates, social stories and PBL signage across the school.



WE'RE TAKING IT IN OUR STRIDE ON FRIDAY 22 MAY 2026

Well it's that time of year again when our school seriously starts talking about walking! Walk Safely to School Day asks that we all consider our transport habits and try to incorporate more walking as part of a healthy, active way to get around. And although walking all the way to school isn't realistic for many of us, it's quite easy to figure out how you can build a walk into your family's daily routine. You can teach your child the healthy habit of walking more by:

- Walking with them the whole way to school
- If they get the bus or train, walk past your usual stop and get on at the next stop
- If you have to drive, park the car a few blocks away from the school and walk the rest of the way.

Regular exercise like walking with your child not only helps them (and you!) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease, behavioural and mental health issues and diabetes. It also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child safe ways to behave around roads and traffic. Remember, Active Kids are Healthy Kids so get planning your own Walk Safely to School Day journey for Friday 22 MAY 2026!

For more information, visit www.walk.com.au

Round 8 vs Taylors Lakes

Sport	Mixed team result	Girls team result
AFL	Cana 60 Taylors Lakes 37	No girls team
Soccer	Cana 4 Taylors Lakes 0	Cana 1 Taylors Lakes 0
Tennis	Cana 8 Taylors lakes 4	Cana 5 Taylors Lakes 7
Netball	Cana 1 Taylors Lakes 6	Cana 3 Taylors Lakes 1
Teeball	Cana 17 Taylors Lakes 14	Cana 9 Taylors lake 4

Round 9 vs Hillside

Sport	Mixed team result	Girls team result
AFL	Cana 32 Hillside 54	No girls team
Soccer	Cana 4 Hillside 0	Cana 3 Hillside 0
Tennis	Cana win due to forfeit	Cana win due to forfeit
Netball	Cana 14 Hillside 12	Cana 0 Hillside 10
Teeball	Cana 16 Hillside 16	Cana 5 Hillside 5

News from the P and F Committee

Hello Cana Community,

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community so far this year.

We are pleased to share that our Cana Easter Raffle and Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser have raised a total profit of \$2,520. Bringing our total raised so far to \$4893. This figure does not yet include funds from our recent Mother's day stall.

This week a note was sent home with our most recent fundraiser from Tony's Pies. Please order through the QR code and use your child's name when ordering. This will help us to sort out the orders on collection day. Collection day is Wednesday 17th June at 3.15pm in the hall.

We also have our PJ and Hot Chocolate day coming up on Tuesday 16th June. More information will be provided closer to the date.

A sincere thank you to all of our committee members who generously give their time and effort to help make these events such a success. Your support is truly appreciated.

MACSEYE School Holiday Program is coming soon, packed with creative activities, active fun, themed experiences and memorable excursions for primary school-aged children. Full program and booking details coming soon.



Winter School Holiday Program

29 June - 10 July

