Cana Catholic Primary School Hillside

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4, Week 2, 2026

Principal's News

Dear families,

Welcome back to Term 4- I hope your children have settled in well to the new term. There's lots happening around the school, with teachers busy teaching and our students busy learning, as well as lots of preparation well underway for 2027!

In the Catholic Church, October is dedicated to Mary and the Rosary. We take a moment to pause, reflect and invite Mary to walk alongside us in our leadership. Mary's yes to God reminds us of the importance of trust, courage, humility and faith. As a Catholic community, we are called to live these qualities in the way we support each other and work together to create a community where everyone feels valued and loved.

Mary, our Mother, you responded to God's call with an open heart. Help us to listen carefully to those around us and to recognise God's presence in our daily work.

Bless our school community- our staff, our students and their families. May our everyday actions reflect your love and bring hope, and may our school continue to be a place where every person is welcomed, supported and encouraged to flourish.

Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us and lead us ever closer to your Son, Jesus.

Staff news: A huge congratulations to **Olivia Vermeulen** and her husband Chris on the safe arrival of their son 'Henry' who was born on Sunday October 11th. We ask God's blessings on them as they begin their new family life together.

Icypole sales are sold on Fridays only. Students can bring their money and line up and be served by the parent volunteers.

Student uniform: Parents and carers, please use your common sense and allow students to wear their winter or summer uniform over the next few weeks while the weather stabilises. Some students prefer to wear long pants all year around- I do not have a major issue with this, as long as students are wearing their school uniform correctly, neatly and with pride, e.g. wearing their sports uniform on sports days only. Some students have worn out their black school shoes and I understand parents/carers not wanting to spend $$ on new school shoes at this time of year particularly as little feet grow quickly over summer! If this is the case, please email your child's class teacher to let them know.

Bringing toys, Pokemon cards, squishies etc to school: Students who bring items to school are not to swap them with their peers. Sometimes, our students get very excited (or overexcited) to swap something, and then experience 'big emotions' when reality sets in. Your support and understanding will be greatly appreciated as it takes up valuable teaching and learning time.

Dates for 2027: I can confirm that all students from Prep-Year 6 will begin school on Monday February 1st next year. Students will be invited in to meet their teacher/engage in some 'testing' on either Thursday or Friday January 28th or 29th. This is a similar arrangement to this year and worked well. Stay tuned for more details!

A huge **thank you** to everyone for their generosity for last week's casual clothes day fundraiser- I will share the total amount raised in the coming days. Everyone's generosity is testament to the strength of our Catholic school community.

Religious Education News

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Year 3 students- Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Please observe that there is ONLY one EVENING for your child's RECONCILIATION, as per the note sent home last week. This is a reverent and special time as we reflect on God's forgiveness, mercy and unconditional love for each of us.

Tuesday October 27th 2026

A-K families - 5pm

L-Z families - 6.30pm

Masses at Cana:

Please continue to join us at these Masses; you are most welcome, even on the days that your child's grade is not attending. Let us continue to be a community of faith, sharing in prayer, strengthening our connections, and supporting one another in living out the Gospel values.

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**

DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES TO THE MASSES BELOW (Note the dates in RED)

TERM 4	Date	Time	Group in hall	Class - Group Leading Mass	Theme
Week 2	Thursday 15th October	2:15pm	Group B	PJ/PT	Month of the Rosary
Week 4	~~Thursday 29th~~ Wednesday 28th October	2:15pm	Group B	6S	Jubilee of St. Francis
Week 6	Thursday 12th November	2:15pm	Group A	4K	All Saints/Souls month
Week 8	~~Thursday 26th~~ Wednesday 25th November	2:15pm	ALL Groups	5W	First Sunday of Advent
Week 10	Tuesday 8th December	2:15pm	ALL Groups Liturgy (NO MASS)	Mary MacKillop Group	Advent / Christmas

Curriculum News

2026 NAPLAN Results – Year 3 and Year 5

We are pleased to share some highlights from our 2026 NAPLAN results for Year 3 and Year 5. Comparing our results with Victorian state averages helps us identify areas of strength and where we will continue to focus our teaching and learning.

Our results at a glance

Learning area	Year 3 compared with Victoria	Year 5 compared with Victoria
Writing	Well above state average	Well above state average
Grammar & Punctuation	Above state average	Above state average
Reading	Above state average	Around state average
Numeracy	Slightly above state average	Below state average
Spelling	Slightly below state average	Slightly below state average

Celebrating our strengths

Writing is a standout strength across both year levels. Grammar and Punctuation is also performing above the state average in both Year 3 and Year 5.

Year 3 students achieved above the state average in Reading and Numeracy, while Year 5 Reading results were broadly in line with Victorian results.

Looking ahead

Our results help guide our ongoing work to strengthen student learning. We will continue to build students' spelling skills and focus on improving Numeracy achievement in Year 5.

Thank you to our teachers, students and families for their continued commitment to learning at Cana.

Learning Diversity

Celebrating Every Learner: Recognising Individual Progress

As we begin our final term, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the progress our children continue to make in their learning and development. Every child learns differently and develops skills at their own pace. While growth in literacy and numeracy is important, progress can also be seen in a child's growing confidence, communication, independence, ability to manage emotions or developing friendships. For some students, progress might look like reading a new book, while for others, it might be asking for help, attempting a challenging task or joining in with their peers. These milestones are all worth celebrating! Families can support their children by recognising their efforts, acknowledging the small steps forward and celebrating how far they have come. By focusing on individual growth rather than comparing children with others, we help foster confidence, resilience and a positive attitude towards learning.

As we move through Term 4, let's continue to celebrate every learner and the unique strengths and progress they bring to our school community.

MACS CARE

Parent/Carer Newsletter

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Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Working together for Child Safety

Child Safe Standard 8

"Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training."

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven, and legal responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every student entrusted to our care.

Our commitment to child safety includes equipping all staff and volunteers with the knowledge, skills, and awareness they need to recognise, prevent, and respond to risks of harm. Through ongoing education and training, our school communities foster a culture where safety is central, children's voices are valued, and staff feel confident and capable in promoting wellbeing.

Catholic schools maintain clear policies, procedures, and professional learning programs to support staff and volunteers in their child-safe roles. By embedding child safety knowledge and skills across every aspect of school life, we ensure that children are protected, supported, and nurtured in a safe environment.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they help keep children and young people safe, and how schools governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are prioritising and achieving this.

Overview of the Child Safe Standards:

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must adhere to.

These standards are designed to:

- Promote the participation and empowerment of children, young people and their families
- Prevent harm and abuse of children and young people
- Ensure child safety is a shared responsibility
- Support the wellbeing of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with disabilities

These standards apply to all school staff, volunteers, contractors, and anyone working with children in schools.

***Child Safe Standard 8** reminds us that children are safest when the adults around them have the right knowledge, skills, and awareness to protect them. As scripture says, "Those with knowledge grow in strength" (Proverbs 24:5). This means that keeping children safe isn't just about having rules or policies, it's about making sure all staff and volunteers receive ongoing training and support. When adults are well-informed and prepared, they can spot risks early, respond appropriately to concerns, and create learning environments where children feel safe, supported, and valued.*

Why is it important that staff and volunteers are trained in child safety?

Children are safest when the adults around them know how to recognise risks, respond to concerns, and act in ways that protect their wellbeing. Ongoing training and professional learning help staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities, stay up to date with best practices, and feel confident in keeping children safe. When schools have well-trained staff, they can respond quickly to any concerns, prevent harm before it happens, and build trust with children and families.

Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 8

"Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills andawareness to keepchildren and young people safe through ongoing education and training."

Child Safe Standard 8 reminds us that keeping children safe depends on adults having the right knowledge, skills, and awareness. Training and ongoing learning help staff and volunteers understand how to recognise risks, respond to concerns, and create safe, supportive environments. When adults are well-prepared, children feel protected, listened to, and valued, and the whole school community grows stronger in keeping safety at the centre of everything we do.

What does this look like?

- **Clear and accessible processes**: We provide simple, child-friendly and family-friendly ways to raise concerns or make complaints, including clear information about who to contact and what to expect.
- **Listening and taking concerns seriously**: All concerns raised by children, parents, carers, staff, or community members are treated with respect and care.
- **Timely and thoughtful responses**: Concerns are responded to promptly and thoroughly, with appropriate action taken to support safety and wellbeing.
- **Appropriate reporting and cooperation**: Where required, concerns are reported to relevant authorities, and the school cooperates fully to ensure children are protected.

How Parents,Carers and Guardians can get involved:

Child Safe Standard 8 works best when schools, families, and staff work together to ensure children's safety. Families can help by:

- **Supporting learning at home**: Encourage children to talk about their day, their feelings, and any concerns they may have.
- **Understanding school training initiatives**: Ask about the professional learning programs staff undertake and how they support child safety.
- **Reinforcing safety skills**: Discuss safety and wellbeing practices with your child, helping them recognise trusted adults and safe behaviours.
- **Collaborating with the school**: Engage respectfully with staff, recognising that ongoing training strengthens the school's ability to protect children.

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 forChildren and YoungPeople (CCYP) website.

Check out these resources below to learn mor

The Australian Human Rights Commission offers practical guides, resources and information on how to develop, review and maintain Child Safe Organisations: AHRC: Child Safe Organisation Resources

The Federal Government has a National Office for Child Safety; resources on training, education, and implementing child-safe practices under National Principles can be found here: National Office for Child Safety

Working together for Child Safety

Positive Behaviour For Learning

We are so proud to present our **Cana Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Expectation Matrix** to our school community!

Our PBL Expectation Matrix was developed through an extensive and collaborative consultation process involving students, staff, parents, and our Parish Priests. By gathering input across all levels of our school, we ensured that the expectations reflect our shared identity, vision, and commitment to creating a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for every child.

This initiative aligns closely with Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) strategic frameworks, specifically the **MACS Vision for Engagement** and **Vision for Instruction**. Together, these visions emphasise creating inclusive, high-expectation learning environments where every student is known, valued, and empowered to flourish. Explicitly teaching positive social and learning behaviours through our PBL framework creates the optimal foundation for active student engagement and effective classroom instruction.

At the heart of our PBL framework are our three core values, each deeply grounded in our faith and scripture:

- **Safe (*Love One Another* – John 13:34):** Creating a secure environment where students keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves, follow adult instructions, and look out for one another across learning areas, play times, movement, and online spaces.
- **Respectful (*Do to others as you would have done to you* – Luke 6:31):** Fostering empathy, kindness, and inclusion by allowing others to speak and learn without interruptions, speaking kindly, playing fairly, and caring for our shared environment.
- **Responsible (*Never see a need without doing something about it* – St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop):** Encouraging personal ownership and resilience, asking for help when needed, being organised and focused, looking after school property, and using digital devices appropriately for learning.

There is a direct, proven link between student **behaviour, wellbeing, and learning**. When positive behaviours are explicitly taught, modelled, and consistently practiced, students feel safe, valued, and connected - creating the ideal conditions for emotional wellbeing. In turn, when children feel well supported emotionally and socially, they are far better equipped to engage deeply, take learning risks, and achieve academic success.

This Behaviour Expectation Matrix serves as the cornerstone of our broader PBL framework. We are excited to announce that we will officially launch the complete PBL framework into action at the beginning of the 2027 school year! Alongside this matrix, the framework will introduce key components such as explicit weekly behaviour lessons, positive recognition systems and consistent support structures.

We look forward to partnering with parents and carers as we prepare to roll out these shared expectations and framework components both at school and at home!

Cana's PBL Matrix

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Cana Catholic Primary School Hillside

	Learning Areas	Play Times	Movement (Including Toilets)	Digital Technology
Safe Love One Another John 13:34	• I keep my hands, feet and objects to myself • I follow adult instructions	• I keep my hands, feet and objects to myself • I follow adult instructions • I use school equipment appropriately • I play in the correct areas	• I keep my hands, feet and objects to myself • I follow adult instructions	• I keep my personal details to myself • I follow adult instructions • I tell a trusted adult when something online does not feel right for myself or others
Respectful Do to others as you would have done to you Luke 6:31	• I allow others to speak and learn without interruptions • I speak kindly • I work cooperatively with others • I look after my belongings and the property of others	• I include others in my games • I speak kindly and listen to others • I play fairly and follow the agreed rules • I take care of the environment	• I am quiet when moving between areas	• I am kind and respectful online
Responsible Never see a need without doing something about it *St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop*	• I am organised and focused • I ask for help when needed • I am a resilient learner • I wear my school uniform correctly	• I respond to the music and bell promptly • I ask for help when needed	• I use the toilets and drink taps appropriately	• I only use my school device for learning • I look after school devices

Physical Education News

That's a wrap on an amazing Season 2 of Interschool Sports! Congratulations to our Girls Cricket team for making it to the Grand Final and finishing Runners Up in the district.

Well Done to our Season 2 MVP's:

Basketball Boys: Ethan R

Basketball Girls: Valentina C

Cricket Boys: Kristian M

Cricket Girls: Isabel J

Softball Boys: Harrison V

Softball Girls: Zara B

Volleyball Mixed: Olivia B

Volleyball Girls: Harper M

European Handball Boys: Lucas G

European Handball Girls: Faith M

2026- Runners Up: Girls Cricket

News from the P and F Committee

Thanks to our hard working P and F for all their work to support the school.

Hot Chocolate day - Profit $109.31
Father's Day Gift Stall - Profit $2,583.70
Graduation Bears - Profit $245.50
Footy Day Sausage Sizzle - Profit $986.85
Colour Fun Run TBC in Term 4

Important Dates for Term 4

Thursday October 15th	Year 6 Puberty Parent Info Session
Friday October 16th	P and F Disco (held during the day)
Monday October 19th	Prep Water Safety session Year 4 excursion
Tuesday October 20th	Year 1 Water Safety session 2027 Prep Playground session 2027 Prep Parent Info Session (at night)
Wednesday October 21st	School Closure- P/T interviews
Thursday October 22nd	2027 Prep Playground session
Friday October 23rd	Year 2 excursion
Monday October 26th	Year 2 Water Safety session 2027 Pre-Prep Program
Tuesday October 27th	Year 3 Reconciliation
Wednesday October 28th	2027 Pre-Prep Program
Thursday October 29th	Cana Sports Carnival
Friday October 30th	World Teachers Day
Monday November 2nd	No school
Tuesday November 3rd	No school- Melbourne Cup Day
Thursday November 5th	Year 3 Water Safety session
Wednesday November 11th	Remembrance Day Prep excursion Year 5 leadership incursion

Tuesday November 17th	School Advisory Council Meeting-6pm
Wednesday November 25th	2027 Prep Orientation
Thursday November 26th	Cana Mini Fair
Friday November 27th	School Closure- 2027 planning
Tuesday December 1st	Cana Carols evening
Tuesday December 3rd	Parent Helper thank you morning tea
Wednesday December 9th	Year 6 graduation mass (evening) Semester 2 reports sent home 2027 Year 1-6 orientation
Thursday December 10th	Year 6 celebration day
Friday December 11th	Year 6 students finish school
Tuesday December 15th	Last day of school- students finish at 1pm

GIVE YOUR BOOKS A SECOND CHAPTER!

Donate Your Old, Used and Pre-Loved Books to sell at the Cana Mini Fair!

Have your children outgrown their favorite storybooks? Spring Cleaning? We are asking all school families to dig through their home libraries and donate any old or gently used books that are ready for a new home!

Please donate your books by **Friday 20th November**

How to donate:

1. **Gather your books:** Picture books, chapter books, series, and young adult titles.
2. **Check the condition:** Please make sure pages are complete, clean, unripped and covers are intact.
3. **Send them in:** Students can bring books directly to their classrooms and Grade 6G students will come around to collect them frequently.

Thank you for your support to promote reading through recycling books!