Cana Catholic Primary School Hillside

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4, Week 6, 2026

Principal's News

Dear families,

God of Love, Thank you for every teacher who notices a child's special gift. Thank you to teachers who are listeners and gentle guides. Thank you to teachers who expect much and love enough to demand more. Thank you for the special teacher each one of us remembers.

God of Mercy, Sustain teachers who give everything they have. Strengthen teachers who assume the blame for so many problems beyond their control. Help exhausted teachers rest.

God of Strength, Encourage teachers to care and inspire them to nourish. Motivate teachers to keep on learning for the fun of it and to make learning enjoyable for children.

God of Justice, help and support teachers in their special calling, wherever they teach and whatever obstacles they must face. We pray these things in the name of our great teacher, Jesus Christ. AMEN.







It's a busy time in schools- planning for 2027 is well and truly underway, with all staff working collaboratively to provide students with rich and valuable learning opportunities each day- whether in the area of academics, social or emotional wellbeing. Our Mini Fair is coming up next Thursday as well as our Carols night the week after.

Reminder: We have a school closure day on Friday November 27th with new and current staff working to plan for 2027.

Staff news: Congratulations to Jake and Melissa on the safe arrival of their son Jude Alexander, born on November 2nd- all well!

2027 Schools Fees update:

Our purpose is to ensure that our school remains a strong, welcoming and sustainable Catholic school where students can learn, grow and flourish. Catholic schools are funded through a combination of government funding and parent fees.

As government funding does not meet the full cost of providing Catholic education, fee payments remain an important part of funding teaching, learning, student wellbeing and the day-to-day life of our school.

Many Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) primary schools already use a tiered family-fee structure. In 2027, the remaining primary schools will move from a flat family fee to a tiered structure.

Under a tiered structure, fees are set for the first child, with lower fees for each additional sibling.

Cana will be transitioning from our traditional flat fee to a tiered family fee structure in 2027. Under a flat family-fee model, the same tuition amount is charged whether a family has one child or several children at the school. This can create a gap between the funding a school needs for each student and the fee income it receives.

Moving to a tiered structure brings fee arrangements closer to the way school funding is calculated, while continuing to recognise the additional cost for larger families through lower fees for younger siblings.

In keeping with our Catholic ethos, financial hardship should not prevent a family from participating fully in our school community. We will continue to provide confidential support for eligible Health Care Card holders, and for families experiencing genuine financial difficulty or changed circumstances.

Please see the attached 2027 Notice of School Fees for further details.

Religious Education News

Social Justice

A few events are taking place to highlight social justice within our school community -

Each Year level is collecting items to support St. Vincent De Paul for Christmas - ALL items to be delivered to classrooms **by Friday 20th November.**

Prep - Coloring Books, Pencils, textas etc
Year 1 - Arts & Crafts items
Year 2 - Laundry
Year 3 - Toiletries
Year 4 - New Toys
Year 5 - Non Perishable Foods / Lollies / Chocolates etc
Year 6 - New Toys

🎶 **Carols Evening – Catholic Regional College Sydenham on Tuesday 1st December**🎶

Join us for a wonderful evening of Christmas carols, beginning at **6:00pm**.

A **donation box** will be placed at the entrance. If you are able, please consider bringing **small change or a note** to support **St Vincent de Paul** and their Christmas season appeal.

Every donation, big or small, will help support families in need this Christmas. ❤️

We look forward to celebrating together!

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 8	~~Thursday 26th~~ Wednesday 25th November	2:15pm	ALL Groups	5W	First Sunday of Advent
Week 10	~~Tuesday 8th~~ Thursday 3rd December	2:15pm	ALL Groups Liturgy (NO MASS)	Mary MacKillop Group	Advent / Christmas

Curriculum News



Learning Diversity

Preparing for a Successful Transition

Moving into a new year level is an exciting milestone, but it can also bring some uncertainty for children, particularly those who benefit from additional support, familiar routines and extra preparation.

Families can play an important role in helping children feel confident and ready for the year ahead. Here are some simple ways you can help:



- **Talk positively about the changes:** Chat about what they can look forward to, such as having a new teacher, moving to a different classroom, making new friends and learning new things.
- **Acknowledge their feelings:** Encourage your child to share how they are feeling. Reassure them that it is okay to feel both excited and nervous about the changes ahead.
- **Build independence:** Encourage your child to take responsibility for everyday tasks, such as organising their school bag, looking after their belongings and managing their own equipment.
- **Practise asking for help:** Remind your child that it is okay to ask their teacher for help if they are unsure, worried or having difficulty with something.
- **Focus on the positives:** Talk about the new opportunities, friendships and experiences that come with moving into the next year level.

Most importantly, celebrate this next step in your child's learning journey. With encouragement, reassurance and a little preparation, we can help children feel confident, supported and ready for a successful year ahead!

Wellbeing

MACS CARE

Parent/Carer Newsletter 10

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Working together for Child Safety

Child Safe Standard 10

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

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.

We are dedicated to keeping children safe by continuously assessing and enhancing our practices. Staff and volunteers receive ongoing guidance and training, and our procedures are regularly reviewed to identify improvements, address emerging risks, and strengthen our response to potential harm.

Policies, procedures, and professional learning are not static; they are regularly evaluated and refined to ensure all staff and volunteers can act effectively in their child-safe roles. By embedding a cycle of review and improvement across school life, we create a culture where children are listened to, supported, and safeguarded in every setting.

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 10 *emphasises the importance of continually improving and embedding child safe practices within organisations. This aligns with Galatians 6:9, which reminds us, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Keeping children safe requires ongoing commitment from all staff and members of the community; continuously reflecting on practice, learning from experiences, and making improvements where needed. Even when progress seems slow or challenges arise, perseverance ensures that children are consistently supported, protected, and able to thrive in environments where safety is a shared and enduring priority.*

Why is it important that the work our school does in child safety is regularly reviewed and improved?

Regularly reviewing and improving our school's child safety practices is essential because children's needs, risks, and the environments they grow up in change over time. By continuously evaluating what we do well and where we can strengthen our approach, we make sure our policies, staff training, and everyday practices remain effective, up to date, and responsive. Ongoing improvement also shows our community that we take Child Safe Standard 10 seriously, that we are committed to transparency, accountability, and creating a school where every child is protected, supported, and able to thrive.

Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 10

"Policies and procedures relating to child safety and wellbeing are regularly reviewed and improved."

Child Safe Standard 10 reminds us that child safety is never static. By regularly reviewing our approaches, we ensure they remain effective, inclusive, and aligned with best practice. Continuous improvement helps our staff adapt to new challenges, refine prevention strategies, and strengthen the protective environment we provide. When we commit to learning and evolving, children feel safer, families feel informed, and our entire community is confident that safety is always at the centre of what we do.

What does this look like?

- **Regular evaluation of policies and processes**: We routinely review our child safety documentation to ensure it meets current standards, reflects community feedback, and aligns with updated legislation and best practice.
- **Listening to children, families, and staff**: We seek feedback about what is working well and where improvements can be made, ensuring child and family voices shape decision making.
- **Monitoring incidents and responses**: We analyse concerns, complaints, and patterns of behaviour to identify areas where safeguards can be strengthened.
- **Updating practices based on learning**: When reviews highlight gaps or opportunities, we make changes, whether through updated procedures, improved communication, or additional staff training.
- **Transparent reporting**: We communicate changes clearly to ensure our community understands how child safety strategies evolve over time.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved:

Child Safe Standard 10 works best when schools and families collaborate to ensure continuous improvement in child safety. Families can help by:

- **Providing feedback**: Share your thoughts on what's working well and where our child safety practices could be strengthened.
- **Engaging in school initiatives**: Participate in surveys, forums, and information sessions that help shape improvements.
- **Encouraging open conversations at home**: Talk with your child about safety, wellbeing, and their experiences at school; share any learnings with us as your insights help us review and strengthen our approach.
- **Partnering with the school during updates**: Engage respectfully with new policies, procedures, or communication strategies that arise from our ongoing review process

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we support child safety, please contact your school directly. More information about the Child Safe Standards is available through the Social Services Regulator.

Check out these additional resources below to learn more

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

No news this week

Physical Education News

Western Metropolitan Regional Athletics Carnival

On Tuesday Cana had 4 Superstar students who represented our school, after progressing from the Divisional event last term. Well Done to: Lucas G, Alexia K, Nathan A and Lachlan B. A special mention to Lachlan, who finished in 3rd place for the 9/10 Boys 100m sprint, a huge achievement!



News from the P and F

CANA MINI FAIR

We would like to advise families of a change to the pizza pricing advertised on the Cana Mini Fair note.

We have a new pizza provider this year, who will be supplying larger pizza slices. As a result, the price will increase slightly, with all pizza slices now priced at **$3 each**.

Gluten-free pizza bases will also be available on the day, with slices priced at **$3 each**. Please note that while gluten-free bases will be used, these pizzas will be prepared and cooked in the same oven as regular pizzas. Therefore, they may not be suitable for those with coeliac disease or severe gluten sensitivities.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE

Our next second-hand uniform sale will be held on **Wednesday 25th November**, before and after school. All items will be priced at just **$5 each**.

If you have any unwanted uniforms that are clean and in good condition, we would greatly appreciate your donations. Donations can be dropped off at the school office by **Monday 23rd November**.

CANA COLOUR RUN

A huge thank you to all our families, students and the wider Cana community for your incredibly generous support and donations towards this year's Colour Run!

We are absolutely thrilled and proud to announce that we raised a **record-breaking total of $43,105.67!** Of this fantastic amount, **$24,139.18 will go directly to the school**.

We are so grateful to everyone who contributed, fundraised and helped make this year's Colour Run such a huge success.

Thank you once again for your continued support!

Cana P&F Fundraising Committee



Congratulations to James B from Prep J who individually raised the most funds at our Colour Fun Run!

Important Dates for Term 4

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!

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Choose **Great**

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE SYDENHAM

The Senior Secondary Specialists



Monday 23 November

6:00pm

Catholic Regional College Sydenham

380 Sydenham Road, Sydenham.

Year 11 and 12 2028 Enrolment Evening



Want the best for your child's future?

Join us for a 30 minute Information Session followed by College tours.

Enrolments will open on the night for Year 11 and 12 2028.



How to enrol and what to expect

Sydenham Scholarship Information



Learn about our VCE and VCE VM offerings

REGISTER NOW

Join us **and speak directly to the Principal, Deputy Principal and College Captains.**