



NEWSLETTER No. 1

Friday, 3rd February, 2023



DIARY DATES

TERM 1

FEBRUARY

Monday 6th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming commences
Tuesday 7th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming
Wednesday 8th	Prep Rest Day Yrs 3-6 Swimming
Thursday 9th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming Welcome BBQ & Bootball 5.30pm
Friday 10th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming
Tuesday 13th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming
Wednesday 15th	Prep Rest Day Yrs 3-6 Swimming
Thursday 16th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming
Friday 17th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming (last session)
Saturday 18th	Heyfield Timber Festival
Sunday 19th	Timber Festival Street Parade 10am
Monday 20th	Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 21st	Pancake Day Big Breakfast
Wednesday 22nd	Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30am Prep Rest Day (last one)
Friday 24th	Hockey Clinics (sports uniform)
Monday 27th	Preps resume full time Sport with Andrew P
Tuesday 28th	HDSSA Swimming Carnival

MARCH

Wednesday 1st	Parent/Teacher Interviews
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new school year everyone. I am looking forward to working with our students, staff and parents to build a strong and vibrant learning community. We are starting the year with the theme 'Train to Gain' and teachers will be focusing on how we can optimize our learning through hard work and persistence and having the right attitude. This year, we will continue to work on the

TERM DATES 2023



TERM 1 - 30 January — 6 April

TERM 2 - 24 April — 23 June

TERM 3 - 10 July — 15 September

TERM 4 - 2 October — 21 December

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Labour Day 13 March

Easter Sunday 9 April

Melbourne Cup 7 November

'Keys for success' to help everyone focus on the traits that make us better learners. These traits are: Getting along, Resilience, Persistence, Confidence and Organisation. It has been fantastic to see how enthusiastic our students have been to return to school and there has been a lot of excited chatter in the corridors and great games out in the playground as the students reconnect with their friends. We welcome Summer to our school community—she is joining us in grade 3—along with our new preps. We are also pleased to welcome the Johnston family back to our school. We have missed them. I hope everyone is keen to begin another school year and join us in creating an amazing school community. We are kicking this off (no pun intended) with our Welcome BBQ and Bootball Challenge. I hope you can all attend.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS' MESSAGE

Welcome back from the holidays everyone and a special welcome to our preps and new students. We are looking forward to being your school captains and we want to be strong captains and great role models. We know that this year will be fantastic!



St Michael's Primary School acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gunaikurnai people, traditional custodians of the land on which the school is built. As a school community, we commit to walk alongside our First Nations people for reconciliation, truth and justice.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to our student leaders for 2022. Our school captains are Lottie and Michael and our vice-captains are Zara and Luther. I am sure they will be excellent role models and leaders of our school. I am looking forward to working with them all.

The Student Representative Committee is made up of our Captains and Vice-Captains and each grade elects a class representative who will attend meetings and be involved in the decision making. Our SRC plans at least one social justice activity per term in keeping with our Catholic social responsibilities. The elected class representatives are: Mia 1/2 Class, Eli 3/4 Class and Tahlia 5/6 Class. The School Captains represent our Prep class.



This year the House Captains for each House are: Joseph (Yellow) Captains are Lottie and Luther, MacKillop (Red) Captains are Zara, Tahlia and Michael and Michael (Blue) Captains are Poppy, Phoebe and Charlotte. Our House Captains are active leaders within the school and their role extends beyond the sports carnivals.



ON TRACK WITH MARY MAC!

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Josephite sisters set up schools in Australia and New Zealand. They also set up houses for elderly women, young girls and women without jobs. They gave their life to people in need often giving comfort to the sick and dying and even visiting people in jail to give them whatever help they could.

Throughout the year we will be looking at the life and work of Mary MacKillop and the Josephite sisters (who founded our school). St Mary of the Cross is a terrific role model for our lives. She was the model of an independent woman who showed great strength and persistence, dedicating her life to the promotion of justice for all and education for everyone, especially in small towns that might not otherwise have a school.



We will also be connecting with our local Parish story and are excited about finding out about the history of both the church and the school.

RESPECT, RESPECT, RESPECT

Underpinning everything that we do at school and the way we conduct ourselves are our core rules of respect:

Respect for ourselves

Respect for others

Respect for our environment

Each classroom will revisit what this means and what it looks like in our school.

At the end of each week, classroom teachers will award points to each student for the way they have followed the 3 Rs during the week.

The points a student earns are tallied at the end of the term and the points are awarded to their House. The winning House gets their name on a special trophy. They also get extra play on the award day and are allowed to wear their House colours (no uniform).





Truth



3rd February

Georgia: For being a kind and friendly class mate. Great start to prep, Georgia!

Jimmy: Welcome back to St Michael's—congratulations on a great start to the year!

Arthur: For doing a wonderful job at proof-reading and editing his holiday writing piece.

Summer: For settling in so well and making new friends at St Michael's.

Tahlia: For displaying the qualities of an excellent leader. Keep it up!

Oscar: For an outstanding start to Year 5. Keep up the great work!



On Monday your child will bring home an envelope with school documents for you to complete and return to school. These include the annual media permissions form and digital technology user agreements. Our apologies to our Prep parents, there are a lot of forms to complete for new students—some of these only need to be completed once whilst your child is at our school.

All families: Please make sure that you record any changes to your personal details.



ASSEMBLY AND AWARDS

Each week we have assembly, led by our School Captains. This is on a Friday at 2.20pm. Classroom teachers also present students with their classroom awards at assembly. Families are always welcome to attend assembly. We will notify you if there is no assembly for the week—sometimes things come up and we need to postpone it. The Mary MacKillop Award is also presented at assembly but it isn't necessarily every week. The Mary MacKillop award is given to students who show the qualities of Mary MacKillop in their actions. At the end of the year the recipients of this award are invited to a special lunch with the Principal. We had 14 students who received this award last year.



FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

We welcome our new Preps who have made a great start to the year. We have been amazed at how organised and confident they are even though it's only been a short time. They've also impressed us with their independence, in the classroom and outside in the playground.

We welcome Ryder, Draven, Georgia, Gus, Noah, Penny, Wilfred, Fletcher, Heath, William and Tommy, and we pray for God's blessing as they begin school life.



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

In Digital Technology with Mrs Bayliss, we have started with being safe online and being an ethical user of technology. It is so important for children to understand what to do if they see something that makes them feel uncomfortable and know what they can and can't share online. It is also important that they think about ethics in an online space and don't cause hurt or harm to anyone else.

Please go over the important parts of our Digital Technologies Policy and User Agreement with your child so that they understand at their level.

UNIFORM & SPORTS DAYS

Sports days for this term are **Monday** and **Wednesday** so these are the only days where students can wear their sports uniform. If your child is out of uniform, please notify their classroom teacher of the reason. Just a reminder that in terms 1 and 4 hats are compulsory, although we would encourage students to wear their hats all year. Please monitor your child and their uniform throughout the year and make sure they are wearing the correct uniform. Our school rules of RESPECT include respecting yourself and a part of that is presenting yourself well and wearing the uniform with pride.

SWIMMING

The swimming program commences for students in Years 3-6 on Monday. There will be 9 swimming lessons and then on Monday, 20th February we have our whole school swimming carnival. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours on the carnival day. The P-2 swimming program will be in Term 2 at Kemp Aquatics in Maffra.



CLASS NEWSLETTERS

You should have received a class newsletter this week (next Monday if you haven't received it already). Each newsletter will outline important features and expectations of your child's class. For example, information about homework, specific class structures, classroom rules and consequences, behavioural expectations, learning topic for the term, and so on. Please read this information carefully and get in touch with your child's classroom teacher if you require additional information.

You should also receive a request to join Class Dojo. Class Dojo is a very easy and effective way for parents and classroom teachers to communicate with each other in this busy world.

CLASS DOJO

All grades will be using Class Dojo again this year to enhance communication between home and school. We strongly recommend that you sign up when you receive

the information—it is a simple and easy way to keep in contact with your child's teacher.



Please be aware that during the school day, classroom teachers do not have time to check and/or respond to Dojo messages as they are too busy teaching. Please ring the office if you have a message to pass on.

GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

Maintaining efficient communication is crucial within a school community. Currently we have the newsletter, the website, the phone app, and email. The newsletter will be uploaded regularly to the website and on the app. The newsletter is also emailed out to all families every second Friday. Calendar dates are recorded on the newsletter, website and app.

The P & F Facebook page is not part of the school's official communication. It is to keep you up to speed with what the P & F are doing and connected with other parents. Notifications will not be sent out via Facebook.

REMINDER ABOUT THE SCHOOL APP

This is just a reminder to everyone to make sure that you have the school app on your phones. **In an emergency, the app allows us to quickly send out important information to our whole school community.**

WELCOME BBQ & BOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Join us at 5.30pm for our beginning of the year BBQ where we welcome our new families and gather together as a school community. Sausages, bread and drinks will be provided. Bring your running shoes as we will then do our annual boot ball challenge, children against the adults. The children won last year so we are aiming for an adult win this year!



CHOIR

Louise will be starting choir again from next week. All children, from Prep to 6 are welcome to participate in choir. Practices are held during lunchtime.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated their birthday during the holidays.

Ruby D	4th January
Penny	4th January
Tahlia	7th January
Mrs Miller	9th January
Corbin	19th January
Ged	20th January
Harper	28th January
Mitch	29th January
Eli	30th January
Tommy	30th January



A MESSAGE FROM JENNIE

I'M BACK! Thank you to everyone who enquired about my health and sent get well wishes (flowers and food) during my absence. My recovery went really well and I'm now back to normal.

Thanks again!

Jennie

PS We are really pleased to have Jennie back on deck—we really missed her during her absence!

PARKING ZONE REMINDER

At drop off and pick up times, please make sure not to park in the area between the sign posts at the Davis Street entrance to the School. **This area is reserved for School buses only** and if a car is parked there it makes it difficult for the bus to deliver and pick up the students in a safe manner.



If you park on Davis Street to collect your children, it is also important to park on the school side of the road. **Davis Street is far too busy at pick up time and children should not be crossing the road on their own. Children are to remain inside the school grounds until they are collected by a parent/carer.**

TIMBER FESTIVAL

We are participating in the Heyfield Timber Festival this year. We will be marching in the parade on the Sunday and our students will be doing some artwork for the festival so make sure you visit the stadium to see what all the school students love and value about living in and around Heyfield. The note that was sent home yesterday has the details.



FINANCIAL CONCESSIONS

Financial concessions are available to eligible families. It is important to note, when concessions are provided, there is no impact on the overall school funding situation.

These concessions may include the Camps Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) of \$125 per child. Concessions are available through the following two categories.

Category 1: Eligible, means-tested Centrelink Concession Card holders:

A family in which the fee payer holds an eligible, means-tested Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) is automatically eligible for a school fee concession. There is a simplified application form and streamlined approval process.

Category 2: Special Consideration:

A family experiencing genuine financial difficulty and not eligible under Category 1, is encouraged to apply for a fee concession. This application requires detailed information in order that an equitable assessment may be made of eligibility for and level of a fee concession.

Application forms are available from the school office and only need to be completed if this is a new application. Current concession holders do not need to reapply.



What's the best way to support your child during transitions at school?



Whether it is starting school for the first time, moving up to a higher grade or embarking on a journey through secondary school, there is no doubt that any school transition is a very exciting time for children and parents. It means your children are growing up!

However, transitioning is an ongoing process. It can continue long after students have entered their new environment and may encounter difficulties at a number of different stages. These stressors may appear as anxiety and frustration and result in negative or disruptive behaviours. Such behaviours can become problematic making the transitioning process even more difficult for children and parents.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will learn practical strategies to assist your child during the transition process and reduce stress and anxiety levels.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school principal for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to the **School Transitions** edition of SchoolTV

<https://stmheyfield.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/school-transitions>

CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER DAYS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

St Michael's PS is now on the Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR) which means that we are required to close on days rated as 'Catastrophic Fire Danger'. This was previously called a 'Code Red' day. Determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner, a Code Red/Catastrophic fire danger day is the highest level of Fire Danger Rating and signifies the worst conditions for bushfire and grassfires.

These are our Bushfire/Grassfire Emergency Response Procedures for Code Red/Catastrophic fire danger Days

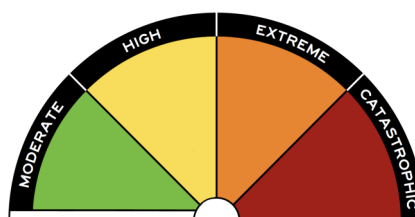
St Michael's School will **close** on days declared *Code Red/Catastrophic fire danger*.

Where possible, three days' notice of a planned closure will be provided. However, experience indicates that a *Code Red/Catastrophic fire danger day* fire danger rating day may be forecast at short notice. Parents and guardians should expect that in some instances less than three days' notice may be provided.

Once the final decision to close is confirmed at 12 noon the day prior, this decision will not change – regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help families plan for how their children will be cared for when their school is closed.

Notice of a 'code red/Catastrophic fire danger' closure will be provided via the school app and email.

When a school is closed in response to bushfire risk, no one, including staff, contractors and other users, will be permitted on site.



MODERATE Plan and prepare	HIGH Be ready to act
EXTREME Take action now to protect life and property	CATASTROPHIC For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas



Truth



THE HEYFIELD TIMBER FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 18TH 2023

GORDON ST RESERVE HEYFIELD

Saturday 18th February 2023

Gates open 9:00am - 5:30pm

\$10 Entry Fee - kids under 16 FREE

Live music 12:00pm - 11:00pm

Ryan Shore Band, Jackie Elliot, The Jimmy's, Yesteryear & Dadbod

Wood chops, truck show, vintage car and motorcycle show, dog jumps, Tim Coleman stunt show, vintage engine display, food trucks, petting zoo, carnival rides & entertainment, wood working display, forestry virtual reality simulator, historical draught horses, photo display, country market, Devonshire tea, merchandise tent and much much more.

3:30pm - 5:30pm Tug o war & sausage eating contest

Night session 5:30pm - 11:30pm

\$20 entry - kids under 16 FREE but must be accompanied by an adult
STRICTLY NO BYO

Bar tent, food trucks, merchandise tent, carnival rides & entertainment.

Sunday 19th Feb 2023 @ 10am

Street parade through the town ending at the timber workers memorial to gather and remember industry greats



COME & TRY DAY 4th Feb 2023

Come & Try Day:

4th Feb 2023, 10:30 am - 12:00 PM

Baldwin Reserve, Sale, 3850

Boys and Girls Age Groups 6 years old to Under 16

Register your interest:

<https://forms.gle/2f6Nh5hbZxQhWarkA>

For Further Information:

Junior Coordinator: Laurel Irvine: 0409144757
lozirvine@gmail.com

Coach: Paul Mc Grath: 0410811733
p.mcgrath2006@yahoo.ie



New
Players
Welcome

Come &
Join In

BBQ
Afterwards

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our learning and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to learn and to work together.

Help us to listen when we should and to know the best words when we speak and when it is better not to speak.

Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

JOIN GIRL GUIDES NOW

MEET NEW FRIENDS,
LEARN NEW SKILLS
HAVE ADVENTURES

5-9 years	10-12 years	12-17 years
Wednesdays 4.30-6pm	Wednesdays 6.30-8pm	Thursdays 6.30-8pm

Activities

- ✓ Community Connection
- ✓ Life Skills
- ✓ Learn through play

Sale Guide Hall

118-120 Market Street
Sale, Victoria, 3850

Registration Link

<https://www.guidesvic.org.au/be-a-girl-guide/>

More Information

Mobile: 0438 378 687
Email: helen.holliday@guidesvic.org.au