St. Paul's Primary School

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

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TERM 4 **WEEK 8: Monday 23rd November, 2026**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 25th November: Carols Night 5.00pm – 7.00pm, St Paul's School, Preps Celebrating Advent 1
Friday 27th November: MMA Excursion to the Sun Theatre. No Assembly
Monday 30th November: Prep – 4 Swimming Begins
Year 6 Transition Program at CCCC
Thursday 3rd December: School Assembly – SMA – Advent 2 – 2.30pm
Friday 4th December: School Closure Day – No School for Students No Swimming for Prep - 4
Monday 7th December: 2027 Year 1-6 Orientation Day – Student Reports Sent Home. No Swimming for Prep - 4
School Assembly–JMA–Advent III 2.30pm, Year 6 Graduation Mass 6.30pm, St Paul's Church
Bookings for 2027 Beginning of Year Learning Conversation Open at 4pm
Wednesday 9th December: Year 6 Big Day Out
Friday 11th December: Prep – 4 Swimming Concludes
School Assembly – MMA – Advent 4 – 2.30pm
Monday 14th December: End of Year Mass 9.15am, St. Paul's Church, Thank You Morning Tea at St. Paul's School 10.30am
Tuesday 15th December: School Concludes for 2026 at 12.30pm – Children can wear plain clothes

Dear Parents/Carers,

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. On Sunday, the first Advent Candle on the Advent wreath – the candle of Hope - will be lit. It marks the beginning of the Advent season and sets the tone for the weeks leading up to Christmas. Advent is a time when we prepare for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. It is a time to think about the true meaning of Christmas. Are we ready for Christmas? I encourage all families to participate in the Advent liturgies at St. Paul's Church over the coming weekends. In this way we will be ready for the coming of Jesus Christ. Please pray the following prayer together:
Dear God, Thank you for the gift of hope. As we light the first candle of Advent, help us remember that your light shines even when life feels dark. Fill our hearts with trust, patience, and confidence in your promises. Help us bring hope to others this week. Amen. Our Prep students will be leading our Week 1 of Advent assembly during our Carols on Wednesday night.

Our Christmas Carols will be held this Wednesday commencing at approximately 5.00pm. We hope you can join us as we celebrate Christmas as a school community. Please enter the school via the pedestrian gate on Glengala Road which will be open just before 5.00pm.

Thanks to staff for their support of the Learning Walks and the families who joined us last Monday. It was great to see the children proudly showing their work to their families.

Thank you to those families who attended the 'nForma Connect' afternoon tea last week so they could download the 'nForma Connect' app. From next year, we will be using the nForma Connect app to streamline communication between home and school. Please search "nForma Connect" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to download it to your phone and log in using the email that is linked with the school. If you are unsure of which email address is linked to the school, please contact us on 9363 1568.

Thank you to those families who have settled their accounts for 2026. If you have not done so, could you please ensure that all accounts are paid as soon as possible. Please see me if you have any concerns about settling your account.

There will be no school for children on Friday, December 4th as staff will be preparing for 2027.

The Year Six Graduation Mass will be held on Monday 7th December at St. Paul's Church commencing at 6.30pm. This is a celebration of all that our Year Six students have achieved in their time at St. Paul's. Please join us in our celebration. **All Year Six students are to be wearing their full summer school uniform.**

We will be celebrating our End of Year Mass on Monday, 14th December at 9.15am at St. Paul's Church. Family and friends are very welcome to attend. After Mass there will be morning tea to thank all those who have volunteered at St. Paul's this year.

Yours sincerely,
Damian Casamento
PRINCIPAL

CHOIR CANCELLATION FOR THIS WEEK

Please be advised that there will be **no Choir rehearsal this Wednesday, 25th November (Week 8)** due to our Carols Night. Please make sure you pick up your child, who is a choir member, promptly at 3pm on the day. Thank you very much for your kind support.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to those families who have returned their raffle tickets and money to school. Thanks also for the wonderful donations for our hampers for the raffle and for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thanks to Tania Ramos and Tana Delaga for giving their time and organizing the hampers last Friday. They look fantastic.

The raffle will be drawn at the Carols this Wednesday, November 25th.
All tickets and money should be returned to school by tomorrow.



CANTEEN NEWS

The last day the canteen will be open for 2026 is Thursday, December 3rd. Please note there may be limited stock in the canteen from now until December 3rd. We thank Marlene Haber, Jacqui Batty and all the volunteers for their work in the canteen this year.

YEAR 2 FILM WATCHING - FANTASTIC MR FOX (PG)

As part of our reading program, the Year 2 students have been completing a novel study on Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl. In Week 8, we will be watching the film adaptation in class so students can compare the film with the book and discuss the similarities and differences. Please note the film is rated PG. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

YEAR 6 MOVIE WATCHING

The Year 6 students will be watching the movie Holes in Week 9. It is a PG movie. If you do not want your child to watch this movie please contact their classroom teacher.

MMA UPCOMING EXCURSION – This Friday, 27th November

MMA will be attending an excursion to the Sun Theatre, Yarraville, to watch the Disney animated movie 'Hexed", an animated adventure featuring magic, friendship, family and self-discovery. The students are required to wear full summer uniform and bring along their drink bottle and lunch packed in a small backpack. Students will be unable to purchase food on the day. They will receive chips or mini popcorn and fruit juice at the cinema. They will return to school at approximately 2.30pm.

SWIMMING PROGRAM FOR PREPS, JUNIORS AND MIDDLES – COMMENCING NEXT MONDAY

The Prep, JMA and MMA students will attend an 8-day intensive swim program. It will commence next Monday, November 30th, and conclude on Friday, December 11th. Please note that there will be **no swimming lessons on December 4th (School Closure Day) and December 7th (Orientation Day)**. Each lesson is 40 minutes and is run by trained Staff at the Sunshine Leisure Centre**.** A reminder that **students need to wear bathers underneath their school uniform and bring clean underwear, a singlet, thongs and a fresh dry towel in a plastic bag DAILY during swimming weeks.** Thank you very much for your kind support.

FEES/LEVIES

Your child's school fees and levies are now overdue. Please pay them promptly. You can pay your school fees and levies with a credit card or by direct debit from a nominated bank account or from your Centrelink payments. If you would like this to happen, please come to the office to complete a form. Please contact the office if you need to arrange a payment plan.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2027

The following dates are very important for **ALL** students who will be attending secondary school in 2029 – our current Year 4 students. If applications for Catholic Secondary School are not in by Friday 13th August, 2027 your child will not be enrolled in your school of choice.

13th August 2027: Applications close for 2029 Year 7 students in Catholic Secondary Colleges – our current Year 4 Students

NFORMA CONNECT – Free App Available for Downloading

From 2027, we will be using nForma Connect app to streamline communication between home and school. Please search "nForma Connect" in the App Store or Play Store to download it to your phone using the email that is linked with the school. If you are unsure of which email address is linked to the school, please contact us on 9363 1568.

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2027

The dates for the celebration of the Sacraments and the Family nights in 2027:

- **Sacrament of Penance Family Night (Year 3)** Tuesday, February 9th at 6.30pm – St. Paul's School
- **Sacrament of Penance (Year 3)** Tuesday, February 23rd at 6.30pm – St. Paul's Church
- **Sacrament of Eucharist Family Night (Year 3)** Tuesday, April 13th at 6.30pm - St. Paul's School
- **Sacrament of Eucharist (Year 3)** Friday, April 30th at 6.30pm – St. Paul's Church
- **Sacrament of Confirmation Family Night (Year 5&6)** Tuesday, May 18th at 6.30pm - St. Paul's School
- **Sacrament of Confirmation (Year 5 and 6)** Thursday, May 27th at 6.00pm – St. Paul's Church

ST PAUL'S SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Thank you very much for your kind support to our second hand uniform shop over the years. Please note that all money raised from this shop is donated to charities as well as members of our community in need. We are currently looking for more donations for next year.

Could parents please donate all their old school uniform from now to the end of the school year so we can prepare the Second Hand Uniform shop ready for 2027. Also, we are in URGENT need of winter dresses from sizes 6-12.



Date: Wednesday 25th November
Time: 5:00pm till 7:00pm
Location: inside the gym (NO FOOD or DRINK ALLOWED)

***Please note that all students must be accompanied by an adult.**
No bikes, scooters, skateboards permitted on the school grounds *
Enter via Links St or Glengala Rd gate
All young people must remain inside the gym unless accompanied by an adult.
The evening will include an Advent assembly by our Preps and all of the students in the school performing carols.
You are invited to sing along with us. We look forward to celebrating with you!

""I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." ."
Charles Dickens



Congratulations!

to the following students who received awards at the Assembly on Thursday.

PET	Emma Nguyen	**MMB**	Hmung Hmung Hei
PMF	Daniel Kovacevic	**MAR**	Ricky Buttigieg
PMK	Mia Dang	**MTC**	Melissa Gurung
JCT	Athena Pashalidis	**MVN**	Mina Nguyen
JEM	Olympia Apostolika	**SAS**	Wilson Whiting
JKC	Jeffrey Xiong	**SCL**	Grace Dao
JJG	Luke Hudgell	**SSR**	Lucy Jerkovic
JKL	Nathan Nguyen	**SCK**	Laura Vu
JSM	In Woo Cho	**SED**	Lumiere Bongwa
MAM	Maddy Nguyen	**SRH**	Ariela Jackson
MEF	Chanel Nguyen		



HELP PROTECT FUNDING FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

With the Victorian state election approaching, the Victorian Catholic Education Authority (VCEA) has released its **Catholic Education Election Scorecard** to help families understand the major parties' commitments to Catholic education. The VCEA scorecard compares the commitments of Labor and the Liberal-National Coalition across five priorities affecting Catholic education.

While both major parties have committed $500 million for non-government school infrastructure, major differences exist on two critical funding issues.

The Liberal-National Coalition has committed to maintaining existing recurrent funding arrangements and abolishing payroll tax on non-government schools.

Labor has decided to change the recurrent funding model and has not committed to abolishing the payroll tax on non-government schools, leaving VCEA concerned about the potential major financial impact on Catholic schools.

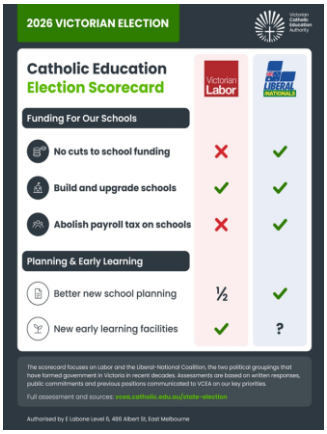
VCEA's modelling estimates that changes to the existing recurrent funding arrangements would leave Catholic schools more than $200 million worse off over the next four years. This would place additional pressure on school budgets and the affordability of Catholic education for families.

To help families understand these issues and where the two parties most likely to form government stand on them, we have attached a copy of the Catholic Education Election Scorecard and a letter from VCEA Chief Executive Officer Professor Elizabeth Labone.

We encourage all families to read the materials and learn more about the commitments made by both parties.

View the scorecard and full assessment:
vcea.catholic.edu.au/state-election/
View and share VCEA's Facebook post:
www.facebook.com/VictorianCatholicEducationAuthorityVCEA

If school funding matters to you, regardless of which party you support you can also raise your concerns with your local MP or election candidates.



The St Paul's Community acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we teach, learn and pray.
We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait people have to Country and pay our respects to Elders, past and present as we commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.