



ST CHRISTOPHER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Newsletter

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## PRINCIPAL

**Gavin Brennan**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

**Organisation & Faith**

**Colleen Mahoney**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

**Students, Staff & Community**

**Lina Vescio**

**Term 2, Week 11**

**27 June, 2024**

## Message from the Principal

Well didn't those five weeks just fly by! I can't believe that I have been part of the St Christopher's community for five weeks and that we are at the end of Term 2. It has been a very enjoyable five weeks and I feel part of the community thanks to your warm welcome, so thank you.

### Farewell Ms Day

I am sure you are all aware that Daniela Day is leaving us at the conclusion of this term. Daniela is taking up a Leadership role at St Mary's, Ascot Vale. We wish Daniela every success and happiness in her new position, and thank her for her enormous contribution to the STC community over a number of years. Our loss is St Mary's gain!

### School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council (SAC) will meet in week 2 of Term 3 and we will continue the discussions around our Uniform, as well as looking at an Email User Agreement and the time allocated for children to eat prior to breaks. I look forward to meeting the School Advisory Council and working with them.

An email was sent to the members of the SAC earlier this week, so if you are a member of the SAC for 2024 and didn't receive an email, please check your 'junk' or 'trash' folder and let me know if you didn't receive the correspondence.

### Reconciliation

Our Grade 3 children and their families celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation last week. Thank you to the Grade 3 team and all the staff who helped on the night, Colleen Mahoney for her wonderful work as our Faith Leader, and of course the children and families. Please continue to pray for these children, that this beautiful Sacrament becomes an ongoing and valued part of their faith life.



## Happy Birthday Vessie

There was much excitement on Monday morning when Vessie was on duty in her new birthday jumper and proudly displaying her birthday balloon (thanks Colleen). Thank you to everyone who wished her a happy birthday, and to the children who took the time to make her pictures and cards.

## End of Term 2

This Friday marks the end of Term 2. Congratulations to everyone, especially the staff and children, for making it through a long term, and for achieving so much. School will finish at 12:00, and the children are allowed to wear casual clothes on this day.

## Parking

Please try to stay within the designated parking areas as we continue to receive complaints from our Roberts Road neighbours about their driveways being blocked by parents doing pick up and drop off. Thank you.

## Uniform

In the last newsletter, I asked for your assistance and cooperation in making sure our children are presenting themselves to school in the correct school uniform, and in a way that reflects the pride we have in our school. I am pleased to say that there has been a noticeable improvement and while not perfect, we are heading in the right direction.

I know that as our children get to their last year at St Christopher's, there might be a reluctance to buy replacement uniform items but six months is too long to be presenting out of uniform. If your child is in Grade 6 and needing new uniform items, and this is causing you hardship, please see me early next term so that we can formulate a plan to help your child get to the end of the year in the right uniform.

Finally, have a great break over the next two weeks, stay safe, rest and recharge for what promises to be another wonderful Term.

**Gavin Brennan**  
**Principal**

## Deputy Principal (Organisation and Faith)

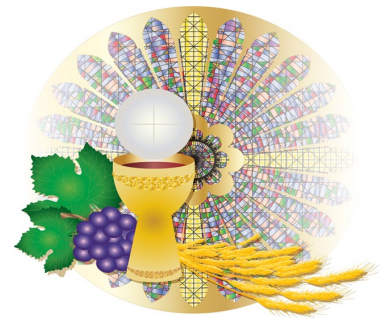
### Religious Education at St Christopher's

Dear Families,



Congratulations to the children who presented last week for the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation). Many of those were from Year 3 but we did have a number of children from other year levels as well as children who presented for a blessing. We were so proud of all of the children and they were an absolute credit to their parents and teachers. Thank you to all of the staff who attended and to the classroom teachers for all of their work preparing the children in class. Special thanks to Fr Peter for the special way that he helped us to celebrate.

Our next Sacrament that we celebrate at STC is First Eucharist. This will be occurring very early next term in the Parish masses. If you have a child who is preparing to receive this sacrament, please ensure that you return the yellow note via the tote box to the office.



The online family workshop will be held on Thursday the 25th of July and there will be a note and link forwarded to families a couple of days prior.



Please check that you are able to locate your child's stole in time for the ceremony. We now have an additional option for printing stoles instead of embroidery by one of our STC mums. If you would like further information, please contact Joanne from M&A little design Co on 0424 963 627.

Please continue to keep our children who are preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist in your prayers.

Thank you to all of our families who have been a part of our end of term RE Family Gatherings. Each class invited families to come up and have some special time in the classroom with a faith based theme. There were Sacramental journals to read, prayers, songs, Godly Play and many more activities. Thank you to our staff who prepared this and well done to all of our children for sharing this very special time with our community.

Enjoy some quality family time over the holidays.

All the best,

**Colleen Mahoney**

**Deputy Principal of Organisation and Faith**

## 2024 Sacramental Dates

Sacrament	Year Level	Time	Date	Family Workshop Nights (online)
First Eucharist (First Communion)	4G	5pm Parish Mass	Sat 27th July	Thursday 25th July
	4B	5pm Parish Mass	Sat 3rd Aug	
	4M	5pm Parish Mass	Sat 10th Aug	
	4W	5pm Parish Mass	Sat 17th Aug	

Deputy Principal (Students, Staff and Community)

### Wellbeing at St Christopher's

Dear Parents and Carers,

I always wonder how 11 weeks fly past so quickly. It has surely been an eventful term filled with incursions, excursions, sporting events and lots of learning and now finishing off with a written report.

#### Reports: Work Habits

It is always a pleasure to proofread the general comments on reports and review work habits about our students. Developing work habits are an extremely important part of one's development as a learner. When children are able to effectively manage their class time, actively participate in class, demonstrate behaviours that reflect our school rules, and put in effort by staying focussed and demonstrating commitment to learning, overall learning is enhanced. These are the foundations to opportunities for further learning, growth and overall wellbeing. It was great to see students who have shown improvement. Thank you to all our staff and parents/carers who stand by our students and support them in being their best selves.

#### Fun Run Winners

We had some happy winners after our Fun Run that took place the first day back of term 2.

The junior class with the most fundraising was Year 1 Gold and the senior class was 4 Blue.

There were some very excited faces as 4 Blue enjoyed their Fish and Chip lunch organised by our Parents and Friends. At the beginning of next term 1G will get their lunch.

Well done on some extraordinary fundraising!

#### Assemblies

Put these dates into your diary for next terms Junior and Senior Assemblies.

Term 3 Assemblies

**Junior**  
(Prep-Year 2)  
-2nd of August  
-23rd of August

**Senior**  
(Years 3-6)  
-9th of August  
-30th of August



Parents/Carers are WELCOME  
Gates open at 2:20 for a 2:30 start





Here we have some of our 6W 2023 Graduating class featuring on the cover of the Community Newsletter from Ben Carroll MP.

Enjoy a restful winter break and stay safe, ready for another exciting term.

Keep smiling.



**Lina Vescio**  
**Deputy Principal of Students, Staff and Community**

Curriculum Team Leader - Maths, Inquiry, Assessment and Reporting

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week you would have received an email and an SMS alerting you to the new STC parent portal. **Semester One's reports** are now available for you to view via the portal using this link: <https://portal.nforma.com.au/login>

Please note that there are additional features on the parent portal such as the school calendar and the section where you 'Mark Attendance' for your own child, that are not yet ready for use. We will advise you in due course when you will be able to use 'Mark Attendance' and when the 'School Calendar' becomes active.

### **NAPLAN**

Recently, schools were advised by VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) that the reporting packages for this year's NAPLAN will be delivered to schools early in Term 3. Once the package arrives, we will send home the reports to our Year 3 and Year 5 families.

**Year 5 parents please note that many high schools request a copy of your child's Year 5 NAPLAN report as a part of their enrolment process.**

Kind regards,

**Conchita Thomas**

**Curriculum Team Leader: Maths, Inquiry, Assessment and Reporting Data**

Hi STC Families,

### **Student Mobile Phone/Smartwatch Policy**

A reminder that St. Christopher's Primary School discourages students from bringing mobile phones/smart watches to school. However, in the instance where parents feel their child must have a phone in their possession at school, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student to abide by the appropriate use outlined below:

- Using a mobile phone/smartwatch during school hours is unacceptable - this includes when the students arrive at school from 8:25 am and are waiting for the 8:40 am announcement before they enter their classroom
- Mobile phones/smartwatches should be switched off as soon as the students enter the school grounds
- When class time commences students are to hand their mobile phones/smartwatches to the classroom teacher and collect them at the end of the day
- Phones/smartwatches may be confiscated if students fail to follow these rules
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.
- The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones/smartwatches. The school also accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones/ smart watches stolen whilst travelling to and from school.

This year we will review our Student Mobile Phone/Smart Watch Policy and seek the opinions of all our community to ensure the policy is owned and enacted. This policy will be updated and released at the commencement of the 2025 school year. Until then the above policy will apply.

### **Have A Digitally Safe School Holidays**

Winter school holidays are soon approaching, and children will now have more free time to play and may spend more time indoors comforted from the cold outside. School holidays can also mean more time spent online. Importantly, the risks associated with technology use may increase during the holiday period as children may have more interactions with their peers online, potentially with less supervision.

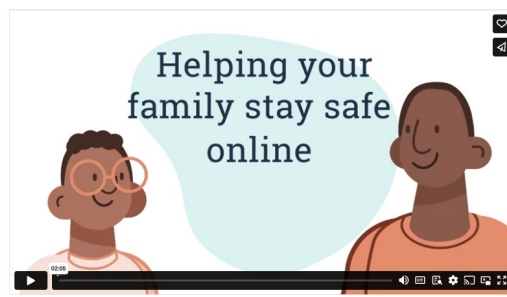
Here are some tips for families to ensure there is a correct balance between screen time and green time over the school holidays:

- **Encourage Connection** - Using technology may be one of the ways that children stay connected to friends during the holidays. However, it is important also to plan face-to-face interactions with friends, family and within the community.
- **Maintain Healthy Activities** - Encourage physical activity to manage mood and physical health. If children are feeling withdrawn, sad or anxious, even small activities like walking the dog around the block can make a big difference.
- **Routine** - Maintain a routine during the holidays. Include time for sleep, physical activity, screen time, eating three meals a day, and planning activities in advance. Giving children responsibilities at home can provide structure and boost motivation.

- **Tech Self-check** - It can be easy for parents to become overwhelmed during the school holidays and reach for mobile devices. Try and establish some clear boundaries for yourself to disconnect from tech. Be the change we want to see.
- **Open Communication** - Tune into your child's emotions and discuss issues that may have popped up during the school term. Listen to how your child is feeling, respond with empathy, and work with them to come to a solution or access professional support if needed. Not all problems need to be fixed, and just knowing they've been heard can make a big difference.
- **Discuss Internet Safety** - Together, look at your child's favourite sites and apps, and be curious. Ask what they are concerned about, and how they manage privacy and security settings on each platform. Decide together what is safe and appropriate to share online (for both kids and parents!)

### Further information

Below is a video and website link for families, to help keep children happy and well over the holidays, and to better manage issues around technology use.



[eSafety Commissioner: Online safety advice for every family advice](#)

**Steph Zammit**  
**ICT/Digital Technologies & OHS Leader**

Interschool Sports

### Boys Soccer Gala Day

**14 June 2024**

Our boys entered two soccer teams in the Buckley District Soccer Carnival. Credit to our Emerging stars team who had 22 players which meant we had to split the team into two and alternate them each half in every game. All the senior boys participated and represented STC with pride and determination. Remarkably, both teams remained undefeated throughout the tournament, leading to a thrilling final against two strong St Peter's teams.

The finals were played simultaneously, with the supportive STC army's cheers echoing around Keilor Park. Both matches were intensely competitive, with both St Peter's equalising within

seconds of each other. However, with sheer grit and tenacity, Jonah Giurdanella chipped over the keeper to secure victory for the Emerging Stars team. Meanwhile, on the adjacent pitch, Joseph Demaria won a penalty, clinching the District Carnival win for our All Stars team.

A big thank you to all the parents and STC family members who came down to cheer on the boys. It was an amazing day.

Our District win means we will advance to the Divisional Carnival, which will be held at the beginning of next term on July 17th.

Photos below of the all those who participated on the day:



## Regional Cross Country

**20 June 2024**

Seven of our students represented STC at the Western Metropolitan Cross Country Carnival at Brimbank Park. The boys qualified by finishing within the top 12 runners at both the district and divisional rounds. Each regional race featured 96 students from schools spanning from Torquay to Airport West and as far west as Melton. The seven young men ran with determination, courage, and skill in perfect cross country conditions. Congratulations on a magnificent effort, boys—the school is really proud of you!

A special congratulations goes to our School Captain, Max Collins, who finished in 11th place in his event, earning him a spot at the State Cross Country at Yarra Glen. With 200 metres to go, Max chased down two competitors to secure his place in the next stage. We are incredibly proud of Max's hard work, dedication, and resilience throughout his cross country journey at STC. He truly deserves this remarkable achievement.

STC Competitors on the day were Oscar Collins, Cooper Schembri, Hudson Fletcher, Luca Pitruzzello, Max Collins, Matteo Ioculano and James Nackovski.





## Girls Soccer Gala Day

21 June 2024

Our Year 5 and 6 teams competed at the Buckley District Soccer Carnival at Fairbairn Park. Just like the boys' game last week, our Emerging Stars team had 18 players, so we split the team into two and alternated them each half of every game. Every girl who attended represented the blue, white, and maroon with pride.

Both teams played exceptionally well, with our Emerging Stars team improving with each match. They tried new positions and volunteered to be the goalkeeper. Our All Stars team showed incredible consistency throughout the day, with Ella Bonaccorso, Luella Odoardi, and Emma Burda linking up to score multiple goals. The All Stars faced a strong defensive team from Keilor Heights in the Grand Final, resulting in a 0-0 draw at the end of regular time. In the final moments of extra time, a deflection outside the box found our Centre Defensive Midfielder, Olivia Steel, who seized the opportunity and sent the ball rocketing into the back of the net on a half volley, securing the win for the team. Our defenders, Sari Georgiou, Emabelle Partasides, and Mila Efendic, led by Zahra "Brick Wall" Pirrota, were outstanding and played a crucial role in the victory.

Congratulations to all the students who participated and a big thank you to all the parents who came to show their support. It was truly an amazing day.

Photos below of the all those who participated on the day:

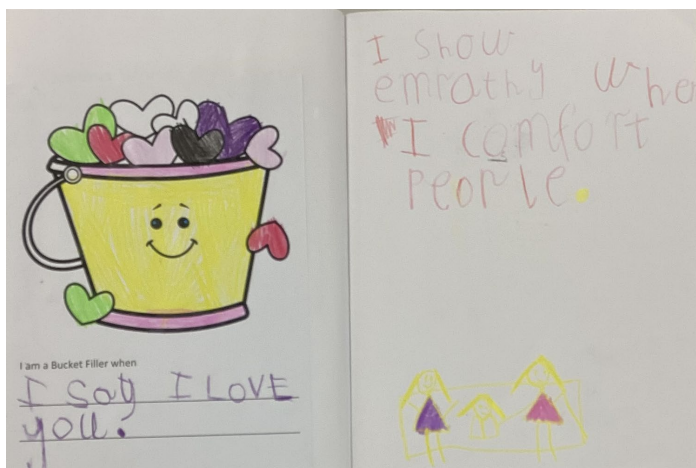


Positive Education

**Positive Education Highlights- Semester One 2024**

**Prep**

In Positive Education this semester, the students of Prep Blue and Gold have actively engaged in learning about empathy and compassion. They also discovered the concept of mindfulness and practised different techniques.





**Grade One**

The students of Grade 1 Blue and Gold have explored kindness and how it can be ‘planted’ and grow like seeds of a flower. Additionally, they have delved into the concept of gratitude, expressing their appreciation by creating ‘thank you cards’ for various members of our school community.



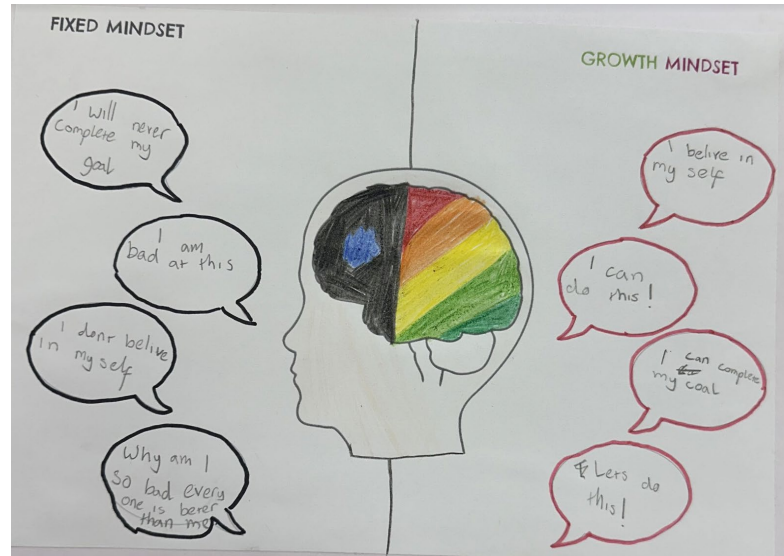
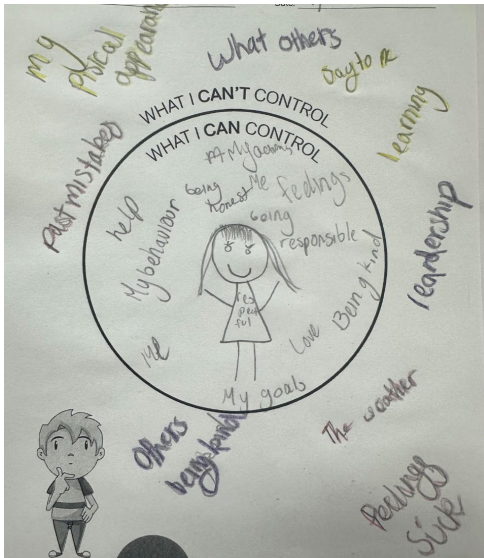
**Grade Two**

The students of Grade 2 Blue and Gold explored the concepts of ‘Healthy Mind & Body’, identifying various emotions they experience and discovered healthy ways to recognise and express their feelings.



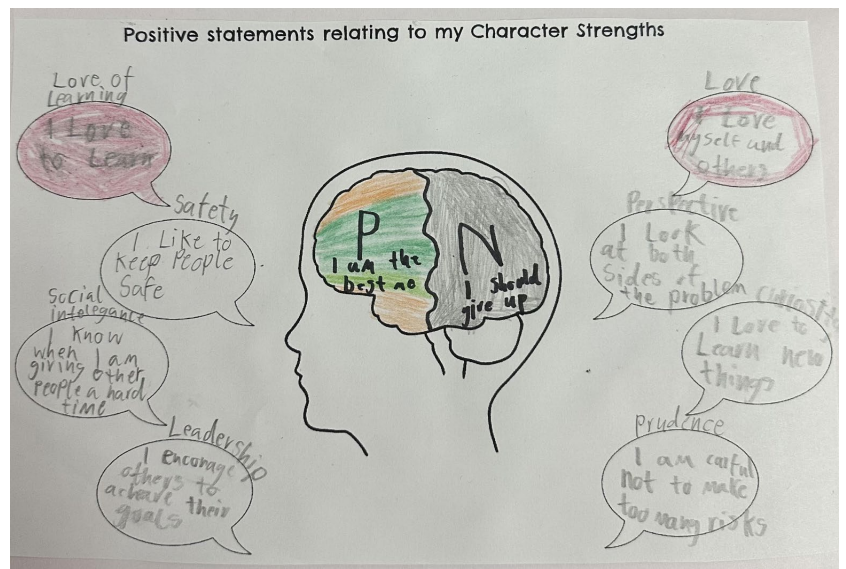
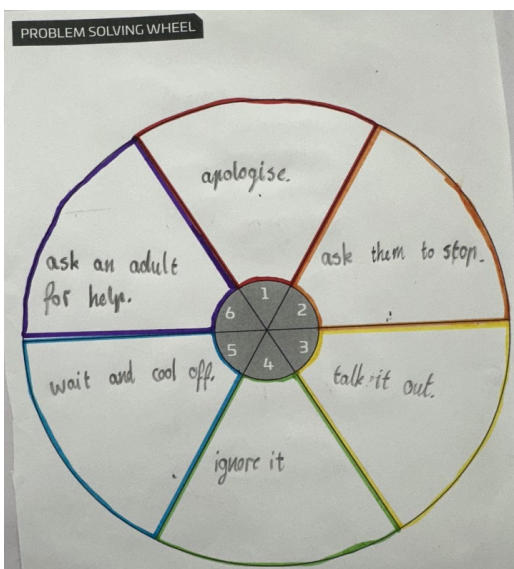
## Grade Three

The students of Grade 3 Blue and Gold explored growth and fixed mindsets and the concept of self control. Identifying the things that are within their control and outside of their control.



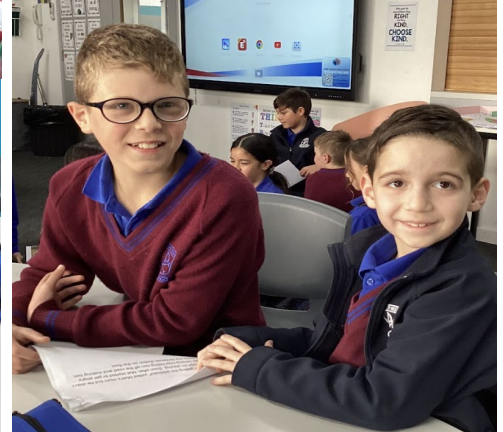
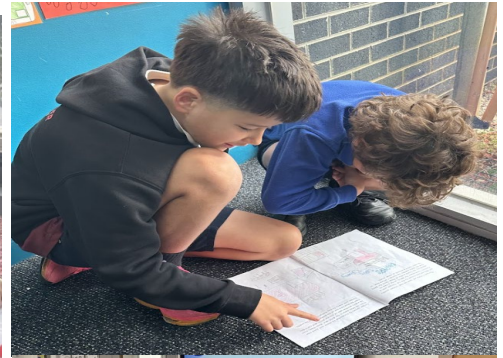
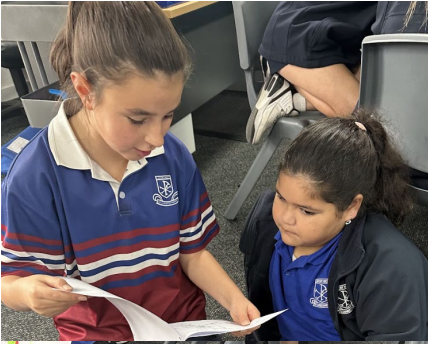
## Grade Four

The students of Grade 4 Blue and Gold have explored their character strengths and how they can use these when shaping their 'inner voice'. They also identified and practised problem solving skills in conflict resolution.



## Grade Five

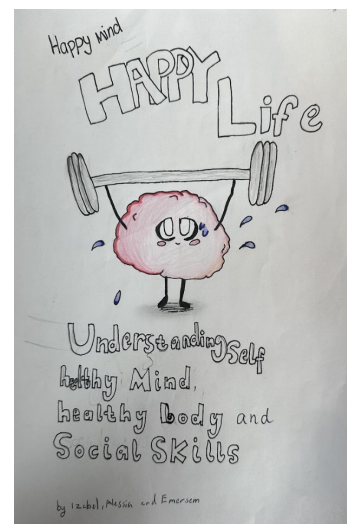
The students of Grade 5 Blue and Gold created picture story books for their Grade 2 buddies on concepts related to Positive Education. These included Safety, Social Skills and Positive Attitude.



## Grade Six

The students of Grade 6 Blue and Gold worked on group projects on concepts related to Positive Education. These included Podcasts, Posters, Picture Story Books for the Positive Education classroom.





**Jess Moore**  
**Positive Education Teacher**

**Music**

Dear Families,

We have had a wonderful time in Music Rotations this Semester. The students have enjoyed playing instruments, performing with their peers and exploring the amazing resources in our Music/Tech room

Here is a short video featuring the talented students at St Christopher's. Click on the link below to view.

I am looking forward to working with all the Blue and Gold classes next Semester.

Happy Holidays!

**Music and Technology at STC 2024**





**Mrs Elizabeth.**

**Technologies & Choir Leader**

The year 2 classes have been learning about aboriginal art and were inspired by indigenous symbols to create a story. The creation of these boomerangs was guided by an indigenous spokesperson from the Little Wombats Program.

*I used to think that Aboriginal art was just dots and lines. Now I know that Aboriginal art is very meaningful and has a story behind it.*

**Nico F**

*I used to think that Aboriginal people put paint on themselves for fun. Now I know that it is a tradition.*

**Tibor W**

*I used to think that boomerangs were a toy. Now I know that they were used for hunting.*

**Harry D**

*I used to think there was only one Indigenous language. Now I know that there are more than 250 different languages.*

**Flora L**







### BEFORE SCHOOL

Between 8:25 am and 8:40 am ALL students (and family members who are staying on the grounds) are to stay in Yard 1 and Yard 2.

- Please do not congregate near classroom doors
- NO BALL GAMES and NO PLAYING ON PLAY EQUIPMENT during this time.

The announcement at 8:40am will indicate that students can proceed to walk to their classes.

Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter

### KEY UPCOMING DATES 2024

Friday 28 June	End of Term 2 - 12PM Finish
Monday 15 July	School Closure Day
Tuesday 16 July	Start of Term 3
Thursday 25 July	St. Christopher's Day
Thursday 25 July	Eucharist Family Workshop Online
Friday 26 July	Kaboom! Activity Day
Saturday 27 July	4G - First Eucharist - 5PM Mass
Friday 2 August	Junior Assembly (Prep-Year 2)
Saturday 3 August	4B - First Eucharist - 5PM Mass
Friday 9 August	Action Against Bullying Day
Friday 9 August	Senior Assembly (Years 3-6)
Saturday 10 August	4M - First Eucharist - 5PM Mass
Monday 12 - 14 August	Year 5 Camp (Gold and Blue)
Wednesday 14 - 16 August	Year 5 Camp (Maroon and White)
Saturday 17 August	4W - First Eucharist - 5PM Mass
Monday 19 August	Book Parade
Monday 19 - 23 August	Book Week

Friday 23 August	Junior Assembly (Prep-Year 2)
Thursday 29 August	Father's Day Stall and Morning Tea
Friday 30 August	Senior Assembly (Years 3-6)
Thursday 12 September	12 PM Finish Parent/Teacher Interviews
Friday 13 September	School Closure Day
Wednesday 18 September	Grandparent's Day
Thursday 19 September	STC School Disco Night
Friday 20 September	End of Term 3 - 12PM Finish
Monday 7 October	Start of Term 4
Monday 4 November	School Closure Day
Tuesday 5 November	Melbourne Cup Day
Wednesday 27 - 29 November	Grade 6 Camp

COMMUNITY INFORMATION



**dancescape**

*School Holiday*

**WINTER WORKSHOPS**

**JULY 3 WEDNESDAY**

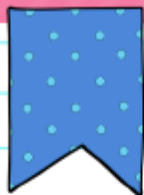
4 - 6 years / 7 - 9 years: 9.00am - 12.00pm (\$50)  
10 - 12 years / 13+ years: 9.00am - 3.00pm (\$80)

*Dance Sing Act Flip*

Singing, Acting, Musical Theatre, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Acrobatics  
Build confidence, self esteem, skills & friendships! Beginners welcome!

*Dancescape Studios*  
37 Parer Road, Airport West

QR code



# Normalising regular exercise for children

## Coach Mark

Hi I'm Mark a personal trainer, powerlifting champion and father of two, a 10 year old boy and 7 year old girl. As much as I love that my kids can navigate technology I constantly worry that they're not as active as I was at their age.



## My goal

So I'm starting a class for children to get them comfortable in an environment that is sometimes scary for people.

The way life is set up now is very sedentary, so we now have to go somewhere to move. The gym! So I'm trying to normalise it for everyone at a young age.



## When and where

I will be running it out of 2 locations Ares strength Tullamarine and Ares strength Caroline Springs.

Times:

Tullamarine, Friday 4pm

Caroline Springs, 4:30pm



Contact me:

ph: 0418514848

Email: [mark.everlasting.sp@gmail.com](mailto:mark.everlasting.sp@gmail.com)