



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 3, Week 8

5 September 2024

Message from the Principal

Welcome to this edition of the STC Newsletter, the first edition of Spring! Melbourne has certainly been living up to its weather reputation of late!

Fr Peter

It is with regret that I inform you that Fr Peter will be leaving our Parish as of September 24. I have only known Fr Peter for a very short time and have found him a great support for me personally, and the school, and a source of great faith and formation.

Rev. Father Ananda Prasad Maddineni MSFS will replace Fr Peter as Administrator of this parish from September 24. I look forward to welcoming Fr. Ananda when he arrives.

Fr Peter has written a detailed letter to the community which can be accessed through the Parish bulletin.

Classes 2025

A communication was sent out recently advising that we are beginning to prepare classes for 2025. In constructing our new classes, we use a software program, Class Solver. Our lists are constructed collaboratively and are balanced delicately.

Important factors that are considered include:

- Academic needs and abilities
- Behavioural needs
- Student dynamics both positive and challenging
- Students with special needs
- Friendships
- Teacher input
- Leadership input

Each student is placed with at least one friend on their list. The language we use to define a 'friend' is 'someone who is kind and supportive, helps me learn and helps me make good choices.'

All families have the opportunity to inform us of any **significant issues** that we need to factor in as considerations for our 2025 class construction.

Due to the complexities of placing over 100 students into 4 class groups:

- **Only issues regarding child separations that will significantly impact your child's year will be passed on for consideration.**
- Pairing with other children WILL NOT be considered as these are taken from the child's friendship/peer preference list.
- Teacher requests WILL NOT be considered.
- Despite our best efforts and intentions, **not all considerations will be able to be met and needs will be prioritised by the school.**

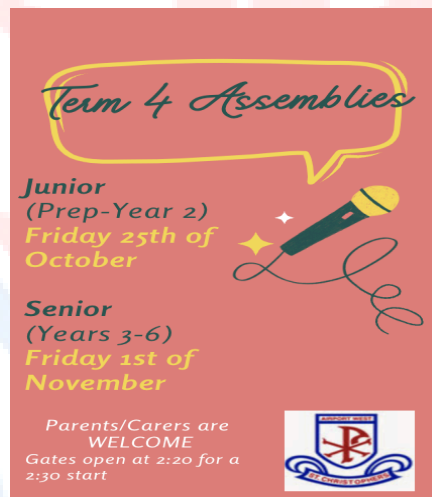
Please keep in mind that any previously submitted considerations have been deleted from the program. Only new considerations will be reviewed.

After considering the above, if you feel that there is a significant reason for you to enter a consideration for 2025, please fill out the form via the link that was in the letter that went home. **Please use this form as the ONLY means of communicating class considerations for 2025 (no emails will be considered).**

Deadline for all considerations: Monday 16th of September at 3pm. The form will be closed at this point and no further considerations will be able to be considered.

Term 4 Assembly

Please see below for assemblies during Term 4.



Disco

The school disco is being held on **Thursday 19th September in the school hall.**

Year Prep to Year 3 Disco

This junior disco:

- won't require a permission slip as it will occur during school hours
- further information will be sent out.

Year 4 to 6 Disco

The Year 4-6 disco will be held from **6pm to 7:30pm** and will require a permission slip which was sent out recently. This disco is for Grades 4, 5 and 6 children only.

- no food will be available however we will be providing water bottles
- no phones or devices are allowed so please do not send a phone with your child (we can use the school phones to make contact with you if needed)

- pick up and drop off details will be shared with you later - please note that the front entrance to the school will be the only one used on the night.

Please make sure all students wear a WHITE shirt and closed shoes, such as runners (not sandals or open toe shoes). Fluorescent/neon accessories can be worn by the children. Glow sticks might be given out to the children on the day.

Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day is fast approaching. This will be held on Wednesday, 18 September. Please see the flyer and letter that were distributed recently for more information.



Footy Colours Day

Our last day of this term has been allocated for Footy Colours Day. Children can come to school on Friday, 20 September in their favourite sporting team colours. **Please remember that school concludes at 12pm on this day.**

Parent Uniform Survey

The next phase of the STC Uniform review is to gather the thoughts of the parents. This will be achieved by a survey which was sent out this week. Please take the few minutes that it will take to complete the survey and let us know your thoughts.

Lost Property

There are a number of prescription glasses and electronic devices (watches) in the office. If you have lost items similar to these, please call into the office, describe your missing treasure and see if it matches what has been handed in over recent times.

Principal Network Conference

I am attending the North Western Principal Network Conference in Torquay on Thursday, 5 September and Friday, 6 September. The theme of the Conference is 'Empowering Leaders and Schools to Thrive'. I will be back in the office on Monday.

Gavin Brennan

Principal

Religious Education at St Christopher's

Dear Families,

With my daffodils and blossom trees in full bloom at home, Spring has certainly come upon us. The evenings are staying lighter later too, which I absolutely love. It also means that we are in the last few weeks of a very busy term three and there is much yet to do!

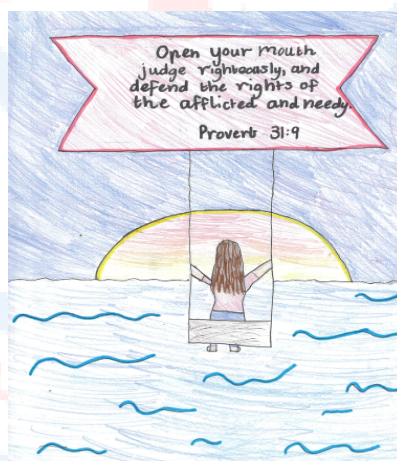


Grandparent's (special person) Day

Thank you so much to our Parents and Friends for supporting us in the upcoming Grandparent's (or special person) Day. We know that it is a special day for our community following the big success of last year. Following the day last year, I sent out a feedback form to our families. In preparing and organising for this day, we have taken on a number of those suggestions. All of the details of this day are contained in the letter to families that went out on Monday.

School Closure Day - Friday 13th September

Our upcoming closure day has been advertised in our newsletters since late last year, so I am sure that it is already in your calendar. Our staff will be working closely with Pauline Cicutto from MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools) on that day. Pauline works regularly with us in staff meetings and she will be leading us in a full Religious Education Professional Development day. This supports the work that our teachers do in our Catholic school and will directly impact our classroom programs in a positive and meaningful way. We look forward to working with Pauline on the 13th.



All the best,
Colleen Mahoney
Deputy Principal of Organisation and Faith

Thank you to 6W for their art work based on The Proverbs.

Hi Families

VICTORIA POLICE VISIT YEAR 5 AND 6

On Monday 2nd September, we welcomed Leading Senior Constable David Gunn and Senior Constable Meredith Nolan from the Proactive Policing Unit to speak to our Year 5 and Year 6 students.

The 'Think U Know' session focused on a variety of topics about digital safety and wellbeing including:

- What students do online (games, social media, etc)
- The Internet and the law
- The public and permanency of posting/digital footprint - Be aware of what you share (usernames, passwords, photos, videos and inadvertent sharing of private info, etc)
- Thinking about what you are sending and not knowing where it can end up
- Help-seeking strategies
- Difference between online friends and people they know face to face.
- Critical thinking - when things don't add up and that someone may not be who they say they are.
- Safer gaming, cyberbullying and social media

The students participated in the discussions and asked many questions and through their responses, they demonstrated knowledge and interest in this area. We hope that their new learning will support them if they are ever faced with uncomfortable situations online.



INCREASE IN CHROMEBOOK DAMAGE

There has been a significant increase in reported Chromebook damage across the senior levels of the school. A reminder that families are responsible for the repair costs associated with Chromebook damage. When students are using their devices at home for learning purposes, they are to be used while seated at a table or desk and in full view of a supervising adult.

DIGITAL SAFETY & WELLBEING AT HOME

The eSafety Commissioner's online resources are often referred to in newsletters. This is a great reference for parents in helping support their child and young person online. When it comes to children interacting online one of the most common questions that is asked is "[Are they old enough?](#)". Read the linked article from the eSafety Commissioner's website to navigate key online milestones for your child.

Steph Zammit

ICT/Digital Technologies & OHS and Compliance Leader

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past couple of weeks, staff at STC have been continuing to dig deeper into the **Science of Learning**. The Leadership Team recently attended their third Professional Learning Day this year with other primary and secondary schools from across Northern Melbourne as part of a system wide review into the Science of Learning. **In particular, we reviewed some of the implications for teaching and learning based on the science of how we learn and within that, why we might forget what we have learnt.** We analysed three key ways to help students embed their learning: **retrieval practice, spaced practice and interleaved practice.**

This professional learning has continued to flow through to our teachers at STC via our staff meetings. At our third session this term, we explored the conditions in which optimal learning can occur. We looked at the work of Doug Lemov and **the importance of building positive relationships whilst setting clear expectations and boundaries, establishing consistent classroom rules, routines and norms in relation to behaviour and participation in the learning process.** This involved reviewing some of the structures and routines that help to engage students in such a way that students can feel supported and successful in what they do, such as clear modelling and explanations, structured and frequent checking for understanding and providing scaffolds that support the learner as required.

Central to this is the development of what Doug Lemov calls a **'culture of error'**, a recognition of mistakes as being a natural part of learning. We are learning about student engagement routines such as the use of whiteboards and a strategy referred to as 'cold calling' (calling upon students rather than 'hands up') that enables a teacher to provide prompt and reliable feedback to students. Within routines such as these, there is an element of vulnerability and **the development of a culture that values hard work and persistence that makes students feel safe to make errors and learn together from them, helps the students to feel safe to actively engage in the learning at all times.**

Our fourth session as a staff, continued to delve more deeply into our understanding of **explicit instruction**. Connected to this is the understanding of **'novices' versus 'experts'**. Everyone, when presented to new learning experiences are what we would term a 'novice' and as much of the learning is new, more scaffolding and clarity is required to support - hence explicit instruction. As we develop expertise in that area, we become an 'expert' in that particular aspect of learning, thus less scaffolding is required and more independent inquiry and problem solving can take place. **It was found that where fully guided instruction occurs for the majority of the learning, where the teacher explains and models whilst students practise and are given feedback for the majority of the learning experience, this results in better learning outcomes for the students.** However, we also learned that **when experts get explicit instruction in something they are already very good at, that can interfere with their ability to perform that task. Hence the importance of frequently checking for understanding and adapting the learning experience to suit students at their level of need.**

Conchita Thomas

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

Important Notices

Due to safety reasons, there are new arrangements for 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

AIRPORT WEST KEY UPCOMING DATES 2024

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 6-7:30PM
Friday 20 September	Footy Colours Day End of Term 3 - 12PM Finish
Monday 7 October	Start of Term 4
Friday 11 October	STC Gala Ball - 7PM
Friday 25 October	Junior Assembly
Friday 1 November	Senior Assembly
Monday 4 November	School Closure Day
Tuesday 5 November	Melbourne Cup Day
Monday 11 November	Remembrance Day
Friday 15 November	Junior Sports Day
Friday 22 November	Senior Sports Day
Wednesday 27 - Friday 29 November	Grade 6 Camp

Thursday 12 December	STC Family Christmas Event
Monday 16 December	Step Up Day
Tuesday 17 December	Last Day of Term 4 - 12PM Finish

Parents & Friends Information

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARENTS & FRIENDS EVENT

La Dolce Vita

Gala Ball

Friday 11th October 2024

**MEADOWBANK ESTATE EVENT VENUE
1 ELDON STREET, BROADMEADOWS
7PM - MIDNIGHT
\$145 PER PERSON**

**PRE-DINNER DRINKS & CANAPES • 4 COURSE MEAL
• BEER, WINE, SOFTDRINKS- SPIRITS AT BAR PRICES
• ENTERTAINMENT FEAT. DJ MICHAEL CIAVARELLA**

BUY YOUR

TICKETS HERE
Stcgalabal@gmail.com

Sip a Spritz Pop the Prosecco The sweet life is here!

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARENTS & FRIENDS EVENT

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TICKETS

VIA TRYBOOKING 9TH AUGUST - 26TH AUGUST

FULL TABLE

- Purchase immediately via Trybooking as a full table
- | OR |
- Table nominee to email PnF with #s to reserve table
- Table has 3 days to purchase tickets
- If full purchase not finalised in 3 days, table gets re-allocated & available for others to purchase

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

- If you don't have a full table, individual tickets can be purchased via trybooking
- Book tickets on Tables 18, 19, 20, 21

Stgalaball@gmail.com

Sip a Spritz Pop the Prosecco The sweet life is here!



MIKE SPEARS SCHOOL HOLIDAY SKILLS CAMP

Let' have some Basketball FUN
Improving Your Dribbling, Passing,
and Shooting Skills.
Includes 3 v 3 Games



- Open to Girls and Boys aged 6 - 14
- 2 day Basketball programs 10:00am-2:00pm
- FUN BALL SKILLS and shooting GAMES
- Affordable price \$80.00 per child
- Easy to enroll online-via contact page
info@orangeballfun.com.au

**2-DAYS
of FUN.**

WEEK 1

camp #1

September 23rd & 24th
Monday and Tuesday
10:00am-2:00pm

at Buckley Park College
Basketball Stadium,
Essendon

camp #2

September 25th & 26th
Wednesday and Thursday
10:00am-2:00pm

at Buckley Park College
Basketball Stadium,
Essendon

WEEK 2

camp #3

October 1st & 2nd
Tuesday and Wednesday
10:00am-2:00pm

at Buckley Park College
Basketball Stadium,
Essendon

camp #4

October 3rd & 4th
Thursday and Friday
10:00am-2:00pm

at Buckley Park College
Basketball Stadium,
Essendon

orangeballfun.com.au

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Give your preloved babies and children's items a new life with a family in need. Every year we help thousands of local disadvantaged kids with clothing, toiletries, prams, cots, car seats, and more!

4/29 Hawker St, Airport West

www.biggrouphug.org

10 YEARS OF
BIG GROUP HUG
CHILDREN'S CHARITY



We need your help!

We urgently need donations of new toiletries:



10 YEARS OF
BIG GROUP HUG
CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Let us know if you can help!

St Bernard's Old Collegians Cricket Club

REGISTER NOW FOR SEASON 2024/25.

JOIN BOYS AND GIRLS TEAMS
JUNIOR BLAST
UNDER 10s, 12s, 14s and 16s

Whether you're new to cricket or
you're a future cricket star,
come and join the fun in a great
family environment.

REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.SBOCCC.COM/JUNIORS

Contact Junior Co-Ordinator - Anthony Jordan at
snowpupscricket@gmail.com



Register for Grading U13, 15, 17 and 21s

Autumn Season 2025

Airport Saints Netball Club

Sunday 20th and 27th October, 2025

@ 27-31 Bowes Ave, Airport West

Netball Courts

13s- 3-4pm

15s-4-5pm

17s&21s 5-6pm

For further info contact our
Junior Co-ordinator – Sam via email
airportstaints@gmail.com

Or register via try bookings scanning below QR



'Life is better with goals'

Follow us on Instagram  [@airportstaints.nc](https://www.instagram.com/airportstaints.nc)

JOIN OUR CLUB!

EST.
1970



SUMMER SEASON
2024/2025

ST CHRISTOPHER'S JUNIOR BASKETBALL CLUB

Girls and boys teams
Under 8s (born 2017) to Under 20s (born 2005)
Keilor Basketball Association competition

Develop team skills and make new friends
All levels of experience welcome



REGISTER BY
FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER
stchristophersjbc.com.au/new-players



ST. CHRISTOPHERS