



ST CHRISTOPHER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

34 Roberts Road,
Airport West VIC. 3042

Phone: (03) 9338 3591

Email: info@stcapw.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.stcapw.catholic.edu.au

ACTING PRINCIPAL
(D.P Organisation & Faith)
Colleen Mahoney

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Students, Staff & Community
Lina Vescio

******* PLEASE NOTE - SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY ON 8TH MARCH *******

Term 1, Week 6

8 March 2024

Message from the Acting Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Thank you to all of our families who wished Adrian well over the past couple of weeks and who attended his farewell assembly on Friday. It was an absolute credit to Adrian that we had so many people attend and to come up to see him when he was outside on before and after school duty. Last week the children and staff made it very special for him. We have heard that he is really enjoying his new school and we wish him every happiness as he begins this new journey.

The process of employing a new Principal has started and this is all being led by the team at MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools). There is a period of advertising, shortlisting, interviewing and ratification that will take place over the coming weeks. In the interim, our amazing staff will continue with all of the plans and processes that we already have in place and I thank them for their support and commitment during this time. I would also like to thank our wonderful Leadership Team who have all taken on new tasks and roles for this interim period. Once a new Principal is employed, myself and our Leadership Team will return to our usual duties and we will endeavour to provide a supportive and smooth transition for the new Principal.

School Closure Day Friday 8th March

Just a reminder that our school is closed for a professional development day on Friday. We are very fortunate to have Pauline Cicutto from MACS working with our staff on Religious Education and curriculum.

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.

Confirmation

This week our Year 6 students will be involved in the Sacramental Family Workshop which will be held online so that all family members can be a part of the evening. Please refer to the note that went home with the link on it last week.

The school photographers are asking us to provide an opportunity for expressions of interest for the photo package as they have a minimum requirement for attending Sacraments. Please remember to access this link as soon as possible so that we can provide them with numbers.

The small white Confirmation cards are due back to school (via the tote box) as soon as possible please. There is an explanation note that accompanied this with instructions for how to complete it.

We wish our Year 6 Confirmation Candidates all the best in their final preparations and continue to keep them in our prayers.

Have a wonderful long weekend and stay safe if you are travelling on the roads.

All the best,
Colleen Mahoney - Acting Principal
(Deputy Principal of Organisation and Faith)

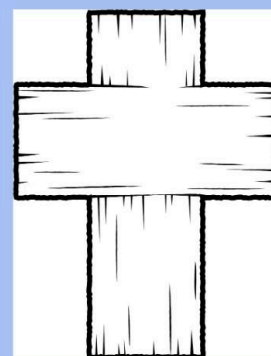
A Lenten Prayer

Loving God, you call us to be servants to all your people. Through our acts of faith may we bring others to you.

Send your Spirit so that we may have the gift of humility, to see that all people are one family, and to carry out your message to feed the hungry and comfort those who suffer.

Help us to be a source of strength and support for one another.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



2024 Sacramental Dates

Sacrament	Year Level	Time	Date	Family Workshop Nights (online)
Confirmation	6G	5.30pm	Weds 20th March	7pm Thursday 7th of March
	6B	7.30pm	Weds 20th March	
	6M	5.30pm	Thurs 21st March	
	6W	7.30pm	Thurs 21st March	
Penance (Reconciliation)	3G & 3B	6pm	Thurs 20th June	Thursday 6th of June
	3M & 3W	7.30pm	Thurs 20th June	
First Eucharist (First Communion)	4G	5pm Parish Mass	Sat 27th July	Thursday 25th July
	4B	5pm Parish Mass	Sat 3rd Aug	

Sacrament	Year Level	Time	Date	Family Workshop Nights (online)
	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,

Working Together

There are times when parents contact teachers and/or a member of leadership or vice versa about concerns about their child's academic, social and/or emotional growth. When these interactions occur, the best possible outcomes are those that are done in a respectful, trusting and authentic manner. I take this opportunity to thank parents and carers who work together with us, to get the best possible outcomes.

St Christopher's Open Days

This week we have had four Open Day sessions. It has been pleasing to note the number of families who have attended and been impressed with the facilities and programs we have to offer.

A huge acknowledgement to our School Captains who spoke about their experiences at St Christophers and genuinely showcased our school using their own words and thoughts. They did an amazing job! Many thanks to our School House Leaders who were the welcoming faces when parents arrived, ensuring they were welcomed and directed to the right place.

Attendance

School attendance is important.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that your child attends school every day, however if your child is sick **do not** send him/her to school. It is not fair to your child, his or her classmates or our staff. As a school we have a legal obligation to monitor and track any absences.

If your child is sick or absent, **you are required to notify the school and provide an explanation** on each occasion as soon as possible, **either prior to, or on the day** that your child will be away.

The contact method for ANY absences (sick, holiday, appointments, early pick up etc.) is through direct email to (your child's grade) away@stcapw.catholic.edu.au

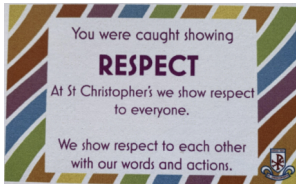
All email addresses are found in the Parent Handbook 2024.

This helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, and will fulfil your responsibility as a parent/carer.

Thank you to parents and carers who follow these procedures.

RESPECT cards

Our 'Respect Cards' were launched this week with many children being 'caught showing respect when out on the yard'.



Let's continue to recognise this trait, whether it be at school or at home. Acknowledging this reinforces positive behaviour.

It is also helpful to explain to the child how this respect is shown, for example: 'You were very respectful when you were waiting at the gate to let an adult through' or 'you showed great respect for your brother when you helped him'.

Before School

Thank you to all our school community who are doing a fantastic job of ensuring safety before the school day starts and following the expectations below:

Due to safety reasons, there are new arrangements for BEFORE SCHOOL

Starting from Monday, **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

Positive Education Launch Day

On Thursday the 28th of March we are having a Positive Education Launch Day. This will be a day when our **children can dress in a colour from the STC Positive Education Model**.

The day will include buddy activities, a whole school photo and snack on the oval.



**Whole School Assembly
Student Leader Badges
Presented**

*All
invited:
gates
open at
2:20 for
2:30
start*



FRIDAY 15th March

Enjoy the long weekend. Stay safe.

Keep smiling.



Lina Vescio
Deputy Principal of Students, Staff and Community

English Leader

Dear Parents/Carers,

A primary goal of education is to help children develop fluent reading skills. Fluency is an essential component of early reading instruction because of its strong relationship with reading comprehension. To become literate, students must learn to become fluent readers. So, when it comes to reading, what exactly does it mean to be fluent, and how can we help boost students' reading fluency?

Oral reading fluency describes a student's ability to read aloud based on three primary characteristics:

- Accuracy—The student correctly identifies and pronounces words as they come across them in the text
- Speed—The student reads sentences at a rate of speech quickly enough to maintain comprehension of what is being read
- Prosody (Expression)—The student recognises proper phrasing of questions, statements, and other types of expression as they read, and they read aloud with proper expression including phrasing and intonation

What differentiates fluent and non-fluent readers is their ability to read in a manner that satisfies these elements of fluency automatically.

Fluency describes a set of foundational skills that are essential to developing literacy. In short, fluency makes reading—and, as a result, learning—easier. Students fluent in reading will struggle less with difficult words and will more easily comprehend complex topics.

Fluency and reading comprehension skill development might seem like different types of language skills, but research shows they're closely linked. The relationship between fluency and reading comprehension has been established in multiple studies. For example, Lai et al. (2014) found that oral reading fluency accounted for almost all of the variability in reading comprehension among Year 2 students. When students are fluent in reading, they automatically understand which words they are reading in the text. Fluency allows readers to focus more on the meaning of the words than the actual words themselves.

How to improve fluency in and out of the classroom:

Building fluency takes practice, but it's possible for every child. The key to mastering English fluency is to read often, in and out of the classroom. Here are a few practical tips for parents hoping to improve their child's fluency development to help them become confident readers.

Read aloud to each other

Building fluency requires active participation from both children and adults. Read aloud to one another. As the adult slowly reads, your child can follow along with their finger. At the end of each page, have your child read aloud to the adult. As your child reads, the adult should gently correct incorrect intonation or pronunciation.

Encourage expression

Expression, also called prosody, is a key indicator of comprehension. If children read aloud with improper expression, like not raising the tone of their voice to indicate a question, they're likely not understanding the sentence they're reading as a whole. Make storytime fun by reading with exaggerated expression. Encourage hand movements, big facial expressions, and dramatic tone of voice to help children comprehend the text. You can also choose an emotion before reading and ask students to read aloud while expressing that emotion.

Read the same stories repeatedly

According to the National Reading Panel, repeated oral reading is the best way to improve fluency. Some parents are wary of allowing children to re-read texts since children might

memorise the words; however, even if children do memorise the words, re-reading helps them gain confidence in reading and focus greater attention on comprehension and expression. Prep and Year 1 students are provided with a decodable passage on Seesaw each week that they are asked to read and re-read as many times as possible for the purpose of improving oral reading rate and fluency. Students at STC engage in paired fluency routines as part of their daily classroom practice. Repeat reading is an excellent strategy to use both at home and at school.

Read rhyming or rhythmic books

Rhyming and rhythmic books, like Dr. Seuss books, have a predictable canon. This can help children become fluent by drawing their attention more keenly to the natural phrases and expressions in the text. As they hear the rhythm, they deepen their understanding of intonation and the relationships between sounds.

Happy reading everyone!

Naomi Martret
English Leader

Interschool Sports

23rd of February

During the second round of the 2024 Interschool Sports competition, our team visited St. Martin de Porres Primary School. Exceptional sportsmanship was displayed by all our teams throughout the morning. Each participant showcased their best abilities, making it a fantastic day of sports. The event was enjoyable for everyone, and anticipation is building for next week's match at home against Keilor Heights.

Scores below:

Girls Basketball- St Martins 31 def STC 2

Boys Basketball- St Martins 50 def STC 16

Girls Tennis Hot Shots- St Martins 8 def STC 4

Boys Tennis Hot Shots- St Martins 5 def by STC 7

Tee Ball Girls- St Martins 16 def by STC 28

Tee Ball Boys- St Martins 15 def by STC 34



1st of March

Round 3 began with yet another thrilling contest against formidable opponents from Keilor Heights Primary School. Our Two TeeBall Teams and Mixed Basketball Team secured convincing victories, while our other teams narrowly missed out on triumph at the final moments.

Scores below:

Girls Basketball: STC 4 def by KH 16

Boys Basketball: STC 43 def KH 13

Girls Tee ball: STC 22 def KH 16

Boys Tee ball: STC 28 def KH 9

Mixed Tennis: STC 6 (194) def by KH 6 (211)

Girls Tennis: STC 5 def by KH 7



District Swimming

26th of February

A fantastic day, and perfect conditions with our swimming squad demonstrating unwavering determination and pride in their performances. A number of STC students advanced to the divisional round, showcasing a fantastic result for our school. Congratulations to all the students



who participated on the day; they represented the school exceptionally well!

MEET THE TEACHER

My name is Miss Moore (Jess) and i'm so excited to be the Positive Education teacher in 2024!

This will be my 7th year teaching and first year as a Specialist Teacher.

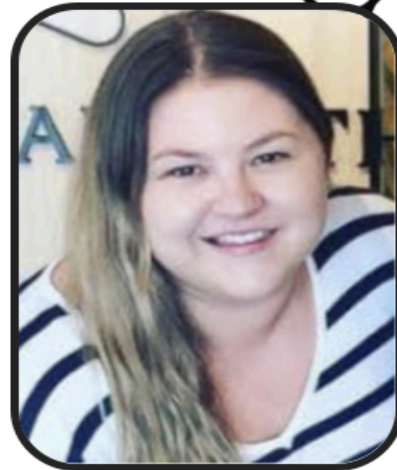
Since 2021, I've had the privilege of being a part of the Wellbeing Science Team at STC.

During this time, I underwent training in the Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum (PEEC). This training provided me with a deep understanding of the science underlying wellbeing, It has equipped me with a strong knowledge base and fueled a genuine passion for nurturing the wellbeing and growth of both my students and myself.

I am committed to promoting holistic student development and cultivating impactful relationships with my students. I'm eager and excited to bring my skills and experiences to the broader STC community and the Positive Education Team.

I look forward to working with you and your children.

**Miss
Moore**



Days:

Monday: 5M classroom
Tuesday- Thursday:
Positive Education
Friday: 5M classroom

Email:

jmoore@stcapw.catholic.edu.au

Important Notices

KEY UPCOMING DATES 2024

Monday 11 March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday 14 March	Parent/Teacher Interviews - 12PM Finish
Wednesday 20 March	Confirmation Mass 6G - 5:30PM 6B - 7:30PM
Thursday 21 March	Confirmation Mass 6M - 5:30PM 6W - 7:30PM
Thursday 28 March	End of Term 1 - 12PM Finish
Monday 15 April	School Closure Day
Tuesday 16 April	Start of Term 2 Colour Run
Thursday 25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Friday 26 April	School Closure Day



BAKERS DELIGHT AIRPORT WEST IS A PROUD MEMBER OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH A FOCUS ON SUPPORTING YOUR SCHOOL.

Bakers Delight Airport West will donate **\$2** from every 6pk purchase of Hot Cross Buns to St Christopher's Primary School

1. Simply mention St Christopher's when you first visit Bakers Delight Airport West and your purchase will be recorded.
2. All purchases of Hot Cross Buns 6pk between 7th March and 27th March will be added together and Bakers Delight Airport West will deliver the dough
3. The funds will be spent on new resources for St Christopher's Primary School

Bakers Delight

**AIRPORT WEST
WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN**

Shop 116A 40 Louis street Airport West
(Located near Coles)



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

with Jelena Dokic

FRIDAY 19 APRIL 2024
11:30AM—3:00PM
MARNONG ESTATE

Experience first-hand the raw and mesmerising story of former world number 4, popular tennis commentator and best-selling author, Jelena Dokic.

Expect a story of adversity, courage, unwavering resilience and thriving against all odds.

USE CODE **EARLY-ACCESS-VIP** TO ACCESS 10% OFF TICKETS BELOW

Secure Early VIP Tickets



ON THE DAY



ARRIVAL | 11:30AM-12:00PM

Welcome to the second Women In Leadership event. Enjoy arrival drinks on our Tennis Court, located next to the Green Grove as you drive in.



ANGLISS ROOM | 12:00PM-12:30PM

Guests will be ushered upstairs to our sweeping Angliss Room, where the luncheon will take place.



2-COURSE LUNCH | 12:30PM-1:30PM

Guests will enjoy a delicious 2-course luncheon with breathtaking views of the surrounding farmland. Guests will also leave with exclusive gift bags on the day.



JELENA DOKIC | 1:30PM-2:30PM

Experience the raw and breathtaking story of the inspirational Jelena Dokic, who's story of survival is an experience you won't want to miss. There will also be a 'Q&A' style audience session at the end.



COOL CODERS CLUB



Saturday Morning Online Coding Classes, 10am / 10.30am



with Elizabeth Moran



Introducing an exciting online coding course designed specifically for young students!

Unlock the world of technology and creativity for your child with this engaging and interactive coding program.

With 23 years of experience as an educator, I have developed a unique online program based on a specific curriculum tailored to suit the needs and interests of children today. In this digital age, coding is a fundamental skill that challenges children to think critically and logically, helping them develop problem-solving skills to assist in all areas of life.

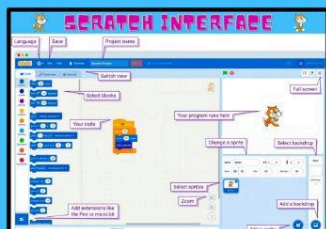
Using the 'Scratch' coding platform, students can unleash their creativity by designing games, animations, creating and recording music tracks, art and much more. My program has a particular focus on The Arts while incorporating elements of basic robotics later in the term.

If you would like to register your interest please click on the link below to receive a more detailed overview of the 'Cool Coders' program.

Places will be very limited with only two additional classes scheduled to begin in early March this year.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Moran



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST



coolcoders2024@gmail.com

[Expression of Interest Forms - Click Here](#)



*Catholic Regional College
Spaldenham*

2024 COLLEGE TOURS WITH THE PRINCIPAL



COLLEGE TOUR DATES

Tuesday 19 March - 11:00am

Thursday 16 May - 9:30am

Thursday 13 June - 4:00pm

Tuesday 15 October - 11:00am

To register for a College Tour,
scan the QR Code below.



Or visit our website:
crccs.vic.edu.au
and navigate to
'Join our Community' and
'College Tours / Events'

*Every Student
Every Pathway*



**St Christopher's
We want you!**



14 sessions starting 20 April 2024

9:30am - 11:00am Saturdays

St Bernard's College ovals

All ages from 4 - 10 years

**Experienced coaches, weekly prizes,
Marvel stadium games (TBC) & more**



Contact Tom Isaacs
stbernardsfooty@gmail.com
or 0400044006