

Newsletter



Term 1 | Week 7, Friday 14th March 2025

Annunciation Catholic Primary School promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all students.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A Sacred Pilgrimage: Following in the Footsteps of St. Paul

I am very excited to share that I will be embarking on a special pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey in the upcoming weeks, following in the footsteps of St. Paul. As part of a group of Principals travelling together on this journey, we have been preparing for the past year, immersing ourselves in learning about St. Paul and his incredible missionary work. This spiritual journey, rooted in the rich history of early Christianity, will provide a deeper understanding of St. Paul's missionary work and how he shared the message of the Gospel. I will be visiting key biblical sites, such as Athens, Ephesus, and Corinth, and will be reflecting on the profound impact these places had on the early Church and the message of hope they continue to carry today.

This pilgrimage takes on even greater significance as 2025 marks the Year of Jubilee, with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." The Year of Jubilee is a time of renewal and spiritual reflection, encouraging all of us to deepen our faith and grow in hope. By walking in the footsteps of St. Paul, I will not only experience the sacredness of these historic sites but will also carry the intentions and prayers of our school community with them, bringing our shared hopes and dreams before God.

As a school community, I invite all families to join in prayer for this journey. May it inspire a deeper sense of pilgrimage in our own lives, reminding us that we, too, are pilgrims of hope, walking together on a path toward faith, renewal, and peace.

During my time on pilgrimage, Mr Seán Walshe will be serving as Acting Principal. I have full confidence in his leadership and know that he will continue to support our students, staff, and school community. I trust that you will extend him your support during this time, and I look forward to sharing my experiences and reflections with you upon my return. I will be on leave from 26th March and return to school on Monday 28th April.

Take care,
Anna



ANNUNCIATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

4-14 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn 3012 PO Box 431 Altona North 3025 Ph: (03) 9314 6271
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DATES TO NOTE...

| Day/Date/Month | Event |
|-----------------------|---|
| Monday 17th March | NAPLAN – Yr 3 & Yr 5 students (Language Conventions) |
| Tuesday 18th March | NAPLAN Yr 3 & Yr 5 students (Numeracy) |
| Wednesday 19th March | 7:00pm: School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting at Corpus Christi |
| Thursday 20th March | 6:00pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation at Annunciation Church |
| Friday 21st March | National Ride to School Day Harmony Day 3pm: Assembly (all invited) |
| Monday 24th March | 2026 Open Day: 9:30–10:30am |
| Tuesday 25th March | Feast of the Annunciation Mass at 9:15am (All invited) |
| Friday 28th March | 3:00pm: Assembly (All invited) Newsletter Published |

PROJECT COMPASSION

Each year throughout the 6 weeks of Lent, Caritas Australia's Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australian schools, parishes and supporters nationwide to Unite Against Poverty.

Annunciation has its own fundraising page. Just scan or click the QR code to make a donation.

A \$25 donation can provide disability screenings and early intervention advice and procedures to 5 children in Vietnam. A \$35 donation can provide hand sanitiser to increase hygiene and sanitation for community members in Samoa. **Every donation helps!**



PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Our first fundraiser for the year are the Cadbury Easter Eggs.

Families who would like a box to sell are asked to see Connie in the office from Thursday 20th March. Each box sold will make \$30 profit for the school so the more boxes we sell, the more money we raise.



FIRST RECONCILIATION



As our students prepare to receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation on Thursday 20th March, we ask all families to keep them in your prayers during this special time. This sacred moment marks an important step in their faith journey, and your support and prayers will help guide them toward experiencing God's love and forgiveness.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

Congratulations to all of these students pictured below.

They each received a student of the week award in Week 5 and 6 of Term 1.

These students have been recognised by their classroom teachers for having a positive mindset, being kind, working hard in class and a variety of other great reasons.



PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS



Congratulations to these students for receiving a Principal's Award.

These students have demonstrated a positive attitude and have gone out of their way to support our school community.



STUDENT LEADERS 2025

Congratulations to these 7 students for being elected as Annunciation student leaders for 2025. Each of these students demonstrated courageousness in putting themselves forward for student leadership, and delivering an election speech in front of most of the students in the school.

We look forward to them leading the school in a variety of ways over the course of this year, and seeing what ideas they come up with to add to the life of the school and our students.



GARDENING CLUB

Today the students planted Cress pots to take home over the holidays, raked up the abundance of leaves around the playground and cleared the entry path as well as planting strawberries kindly donated by the Innella family. Busy, happy gardeners.



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SHROVE TUESDAY

This year, our school celebrated Shrove Tuesday in style, with a day filled with fun, food, and learning! Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, marks the day before the beginning of Lent, and it was the perfect opportunity for our students to engage in a series of exciting, hands-on activities, all linked to this traditional event.



To ensure that every student had the chance to participate in all aspects of the day, we split the students into four groups, each rotating through a series of carefully planned activities. It was an exciting way to keep everyone engaged and learning, all while having a fantastic time.



A huge thank you to all the staff who made this event possible, and to our students for their wonderful energy and participation. We hope everyone enjoyed the fun and learning that Shrove Tuesday brought, and we look forward to many more celebrations in the future!



ALTONA BEACH LIFESAVING EXCURSION

On Tuesday 4th March, our Year 3-6 students had the opportunity to take part in a fun and educational Life Saving Program at the beach. The day was filled with exciting activities, all while learning essential beach safety skills that could one day save lives.

The weather was absolutely perfect, with clear skies, a warm sun, and a gentle breeze. It was an ideal setting for the students to engage in outdoor learning. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to be by the sea, making it a memorable experience for all.

The program, led by certified life-saving instructors, was designed to teach the students a range of important skills. They learned how to identify potential dangers on the beach, including rip currents, and how to safely navigate the surf. The students practiced basic first aid, including how to assess and respond to an emergency, as well as techniques for safely helping someone in distress in the water.

One of the most exciting parts of the day was the hands-on experience of using rescue boards and practising simulated rescues. The students took turns demonstrating their new skills, with plenty of laughter and teamwork throughout the activity. It was inspiring to see how seriously the students took their training and how well they worked together.

We are incredibly proud of the students' excellent behaviour throughout the day. They listened attentively, participated eagerly in all activities, and demonstrated great respect for their instructors and peers. Their enthusiasm and positive attitude made the day even more enjoyable for everyone involved.

This experience was not only fun but also helped to instill important life skills, such as responsibility, teamwork, and awareness of safety in the water. We look forward to seeing how the students apply these lessons in the future, both on the beach and in their everyday lives.

A big thank you to the instructors who made the day both educational and enjoyable, and to all the staff who supported this fantastic event. We hope this trip to the beach becomes a cherished memory for our Year 3-6 students for years to come!



The first term of learning as part of our year-long participation in the **Inform & Empower** project has wrapped up. Inform & Empower promotes digital safety and wellbeing within schools by supporting **students, teachers and parents**, through online learning delivered by experts in education and psychology.

This term, all students took part in live-streamed incursions covering a range of topics. Students in **Year F-3** focused on making clever screen time choices, how to take care of devices, and strategies for sharing devices with others.

The learning for **Years 2-4** covered what the internet is, how listening to our body can help us recognise early warning signs, and how trusted adults can help us stay safe online. They also learned what the internet is and how it works, and explored the rights and responsibilities of digital citizens.

Students in **Year 5/6** focused on rights and responsibilities as digital citizens, whilst considering that what we post is possibly public and permanent.

The **teachers** at Annunciation also took part in a fascinating professional learning session as part of the project, where there were some eye-opening insights into the current landscape of the online world, including gaming, social media and artificial intelligence.

Students and teachers will continue their learning with Inform & Empower throughout the year.

There will also be a parent webinar on Thursday 15th May at 7.30pm that will cover topics such as:

- Social Media
- Online Gaming
- Managing Conflict
- Impacts of Screen Time
- Cyberbullying
- Family Communication

MHIPS - Mental Health in Primary Schools

Hi Everyone,

I hope you have all been able to keep cool during this hot weather!!

In this week's newsletter I want to refer you to a website that has loads of information to support mental health for families. If you have time, take a look and you will find a wealth of resources for children and parents. There are short courses that parents can complete as well.



WEBSITE is <https://emergingminds.com.au/families/>.

Supporting your child's mental health: <https://emergingminds.com.au/families/understanding-and-supporting-childrens-mental-health/>

Lucy Vassallo
Mental Health Leader

Monday 17 March 2025 is St Patrick's Day.



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in Australia because it honors Irish culture and heritage. Many Irish people settled in Australia during the 19th century, and over time, their traditions, including St. Patrick's Day, became a part of Australian culture. The day is a celebration of Irish history, culture, achievements, and it's marked with parades, wearing green, and enjoying Irish food and drink. To celebrate this day,

children can

wear a touch of green. **Children will still need to wear their school uniform and add a touch of green colour. Children can wear green ribbons, green socks, green hair, green nails, green face paint, a green hat, green boots, green shoes etc.** We ask that you bring a gold coin donation for this occasion. All donations will go towards Fundraising for Project Compassion.



NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY 2025

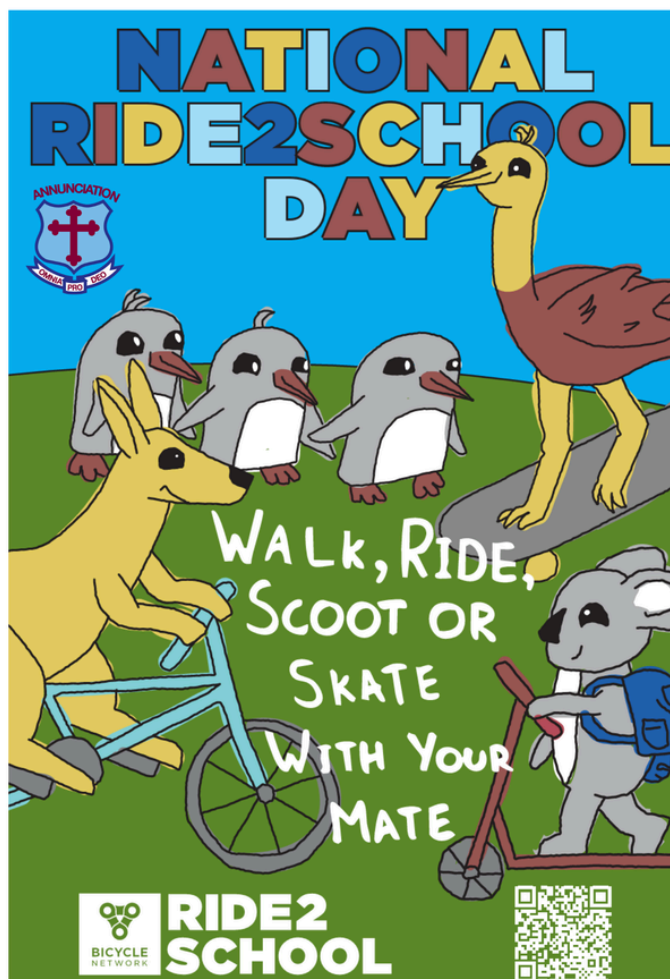
Annunciation is excited to be celebrating National Ride2School Day on Friday 21st March 2024

National Ride2School Day is the perfect opportunity to establish new healthy habits and promote the many benefits of active travel.

Did you know more than 350,000 students from 900 schools across Australia are expected to ride, walk, scoot or skate to school as part of Ride2School Day on Friday 21st March 2025?

The Bicycle Network event encourages students and their families to get physically active on their journey to school. This is important because we know active kids are happy, healthy and resilient kids. Active kids are also active learners

On Friday 21st March, we encourage all students and their families to leave the car at home and give riding, walking, scooting or skating to school a go.



CRAFT CLUB

In craft club you can create fun and amazing stuff

Who: Alice, Jacky, Lily

Where: In the Open Space

When: Every Tuesday - 1st half of lunch

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Got a bit of time?

Time to give blood and change lives? 1 in 3 people in Williamstown will need blood, and they need people like you to give it.

We're popping up in town from 10th to 27th March. Don't forget to pre-book your spot at lifeblood.com.au, on our app or on 13 14 95



The poster features a red background with a white wavy shape at the top right containing the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood logo. The main text 'We're coming to town' is in large white letters. Below it, 'Give life. Give blood in Williamstown.' and '10 to 27 March' are in smaller white text. An illustration shows three people carrying large letters 'O', 'A', and 'B' towards a location pin icon. At the bottom, there is a dark purple section with white text providing the location and contact information, along with a QR code and phone number.

**Australian Red Cross
Lifeblood®**

We're coming to town

Give life. Give blood in Williamstown.
10 to 27 March

We're popping up in Williamstown:
Williamstown Town Hall
104 Ferguson St,
Williamstown 3016
See website for opening hours

Book your donation now



 **13 14 95**
 **give blood**

Emmanuel College Latest News

At Emmanuel College, there's something for everyone. Our campus libraries aren't just quiet study spaces—they're buzzing with lunchtime clubs where students can dive into their interests and meet like-minded friends. Whether you're into Warhammer, Tabletop Gaming, Miniature Painting, Craft, or Chess, there's a place for you.

Art Club meets every Thursday lunchtime and is very popular, with students coming into the art room to experiment with different materials and play with clay and the pottery wheels. Students socialise with friends from all year levels, creating artworks and having fun. Creative times ahead!

A huge congratulations to all the students who auditioned for the Year 7-9 rock bands! We can't wait to hear your performances throughout the year.

Every Thursday in Homeroom, students participate in the Career Ponders Program, exploring career paths with guidance aligned to global standards like the Australian Blueprint for Career Development. For Year 7 students, this is an incredible chance to learn alongside peers from different year levels. The shared experience fosters a supportive, inspiring environment where students gain insight, set goals, and build confidence in their future aspirations.

Join us for Our Open Evenings **St Paul's Campus: Monday, 17 March | 4:00 – 7:30pm**
Notre Dame Campus: Monday, 24 March | 4:00 – 7:30pm

We'd love to show you what makes Emmanuel College such a special place. Come along to our Open Evenings and College Experience Days for a first-hand look at our vibrant community.

- Hear from our College Principal, Dr. Janine Biggin
- Learn about our diverse curriculum
- Meet our passionate teaching staff
- Take part in interactive activities
- Enjoy a guided tour led by our amazing student ambassadors

Registration is essential.

Secure your spot here: [Open Evening and College Experience Registration](#)

Year 7, 2027 Enrolments Now Open

Do you have a child in Year 5? Applications for Year 7 in 2027 are officially open and will close on Friday, 15 August 2025. Even if you have a child already attending or enrolled for Year 7 in 2026, you must submit a new application for your child who will commence in Year 7, 2027.

Apply online now: [Application Form](#)

For any enrolment enquiries, please contact:

Ms. Donna Grech, College Registrar – 8325 5100 | enrolments@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au

We can't wait to welcome you to Emmanuel College—a place where learning, fun, and lifelong friendships come together.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Hendricks
Community Engagement Officer

DANCE DRAMA SINGING CLUBS

OFFICIAL LAUNCH PARTY

FRIDAY March 21st
5:30pm - 7:00pm



Try Dance, Singing & Drama
at our CLUB classes Launch Party!

FREE



TIMETABLE

ARTZCOLLECTIVE.COM.AU

SAVE A SPOT

*Children can experience these Dance, Drama, Acrobatics & Singing Clubs for FREE at the upcoming Launch Party on Friday March 21st, 5:30pm – 7:00pm at Artz Collective Performing Arts, 1/37 Chambers Rd, Altona North, VIC 3025.

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