

# Newsletter



Term 1 | Week 9, Friday 28th March 2025

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

They say time flies when you're having fun. Well, this term must have been pretty fun because it has flown!

It is hard to believe that it was just under 10 weeks ago that we were coming back after our summer break and settling into new classes. Although it has seemed to pass by quickly, there has been lots of learning and lots of new experiences for all of our students.

To name just a few: a trip to Altona Beach for lifesaving experiences, a visit to the school from two local artists (with a second coming next week) as part of a community art project, the Western Bulldogs coming to see us, new 5/6 leaders being elected to lead the school, the Years 3 & 5 students completing NAPLAN, and just this week – a wonderful community celebration for the Feast of the Annunciation. Phew!

Of course, let's not forget our Foundation students. A few weeks ago, they were just learning what it is like to be at school at all. At the end of Term 1, they are happily playing amongst the other students in yard, and making huge strides in their learning with Miss Romano.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make Term 1 special – students, families and teachers. I am sure that Term 2 will be just as jam-packed, rewarding and enriching for the whole Annunciation community.

Take care,

Seán



## **DATES TO NOTE...**

<b>Day/Date/Month</b>	<b>Event</b>
Tuesday 1st April	Community Art Project Day 2
Friday 4th April	Last Day of Term 1: Casual clothes day Assembly at 12.30pm Students finish at 1pm After school care from 1.00pm. to 6.00pm
Monday 21st April	Easter Monday Public Holiday
Tuesday 22nd April	Term 2 begins
Friday 25th April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 30th April	School photos day

## 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!**



## STAFF NEWS

Ms Mathews has made the decision to resign from her teaching positing at Annunciation at the end of this term – Friday 4th April. Her last official day at Annunciation will be Wednesday 2nd April.

Ms Mary Guastalegname will return to Annunciation in a full time capacity at the commencement of Term 2.

We thank Ms Mathews for her time and effort over the last 15 months at Annunciation and wish her all the very best for the future.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

Photos will take place on Wednesday 30th April. Information on how to order will be sent home next week, so that families can order over the term holidays.

Children will need to be in full summer uniform on this day.

## MACSeye

Last day of Term (4th April), school finishes at 1.00pm. for all students. However After School Care will be running on this day and will commence at 1.00pm. until 6.00pm.

Remember if you require this service you must be registered, otherwise you child will be turned away.

## 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. Each box sold will make \$30 profit for the school, so the more boxes we sell, the more money we raise!

**All money and any unsold boxes are to be returned to school no later than Wednesday 23rd April.**

**Cash will be accepted, or you can deposit straight into the P&F account:**



**Annunciation Primary School – Parents and Friends**

**BSB: 083-347**

**Account No: 861418695**

**Reference: surname/chocolate drive**



## 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 AWARD

**Congratulations to this student for receiving a Principal's Award.**

This student has demonstrated a positive attitude and have gone out of their way to support our school community.





## ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS - CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Last week, our student leaders had the privilege of participating in a special excursion to mark Catholic Education Week. The day began with a beautiful Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, where they joined students from all 297 MACS schools in a moving celebration of faith and community. Following the Mass, the students made their way to the Royal Botanic Gardens, where they enjoyed a lively concert and took part in a range of tabloid sports activities. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with peers from across the diocese, reflect on the importance of Catholic education, and celebrate together in a spirit of joy and friendship. Many thanks to Emmanuel College for providing transport for the day.



### GARDENING CLUB

The students got to take home their Cress pots yesterday that have been growing in the sunshine. Hopefully these get used in lots of lovely sandwiches and salads. Garlic was planted, leaves were swept and weeds were pulled. New veggies are being planted next week! Big thanks to Linda Taranto for running the show this week.



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## ANNUNCIATION FEAST DAY

What a day we had celebrating the Annunciation Feast Day this week!

A community coffee gathering in the yard, courtesy of our neighbour Jebediah of Giddy Up Coffee, was a great way to kick off the day. This was followed by a beautiful mass led by Fr. Werner, and the wonderful Annunciation student readers.

The students then had a full day of fun and learning in relation to the Feast of the Annunciation, including art, meditation, singing and literacy activities. Of course, a sugary highlight of the day for the students (and teachers) were those enormous jam doughnuts provided by Sunny Phong Bakery.

As you can see from the photos below, it was a special day enjoyed by all.



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# VISION FOR INSTRUCTION

In 2024, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools introduced a plan (Vision for Instruction) for education around the Science of Learning.

The Science of Learning is a research-based approach that focuses on understanding how the brain learns and processes information and how learners learn best. We are excited to share that our school is embracing the Science of Learning and committed to ensuring that every child's learning needs are met in the most effective and engaging way.

Your support in this exciting journey is invaluable, and together, we can help our students reach their full potential. You have probably already noticed some changes in our teaching and learning practices. Throughout 2025, as we as educators engage with more professional learning, you will notice additional changes.

Please find attached to the newsletter some more information regarding the Vision for Instruction from MACS.



## Parents Guide to Vision for Instruction



### What is Vision for Instruction?

In February 2024, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) introduced a new plan to help every student succeed: our *Vision for Instruction*.

At MACS, we hold high expectations for every learner in every school, ensuring they have a solid foundation in literacy and numeracy, as well as good social skills.

Based on evidence of how students learn best, *Vision for Instruction* promotes a unified and consistent approach, and continuous improvement to meet the changing needs of our students. It provides MACS teachers with the training and resources they need to ensure excellence and equity in all our schools.

### Why the change?

Years of declining performance in NAPLAN and OECD PISA results showed that outdated teaching methods needed to change. In 2023, about one in three Australian students were not meeting age expectations in maths and reading.

Research on how students learn shows that **explicit instruction** methods are the most effective way to help children gain the knowledge and skills they need to flourish and become lifelong learners.

### What is explicit instruction?

Explicit instruction involves teachers introducing complex skills in small steps, with clear explanations and demonstrations of what students are expected to learn. Students then practise what they learned and receive feedback from their teacher until the skill is mastered.

### What is the evidence supporting explicit instruction?

Cognitive science research shows that most students need formal instruction to learn what's called 'biologically secondary knowledge', such as reading, writing and maths. Because students can only process a limited amount of new information at once, cognitive overload can occur when they try to process too many new concepts without prior instruction or scaffolding.

Explicit instruction breaks new information into manageable parts. Effective teachers design lessons that begin with teacher-guided instruction and gradually shift responsibility to students through modelling and guided practice. This approach ensures that students achieve independent practice only after foundational knowledge is firmly established.

Knowledge is like mental Velcro – new knowledge 'sticks' to prior knowledge, building understanding from one year level to the next.

### How do we teach reading and writing?

Our vision for reading instruction involves:

- **phonemic awareness** – understanding that speech is made up of words and sounds
- **phonics** – knowledge of the letter-sound relationships and the ability to use these relationships to decode words
- **fluency** – ability to read accurately and quickly to derive meaning from text
- **vocabulary** – understanding word meanings in isolation and in context
- **comprehension** – ability to understand and derive meaning from text.

### What is phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching reading and spelling by explicitly linking letters or letter combinations (graphemes) with their corresponding sounds (phonemes).

For example, children learn the sounds for 's', 'a' and 't', allowing them to spell and sound out words like 'at', 'as' and 'sat'.

English spelling is complex, with many letters and letter combinations representing multiple sounds (e.g. 'ea' in 'heap' and 'head'). Phonics instruction begins with the most common letter-sound relationships, as they can be used to read many new words, then moves to less frequent ones.

Research suggests that learning 60 to 100 of these relationships, along with some common sight words, enables children to read independently.

### How do we teach maths?

Our vision for mathematics instruction involves:

- **developing number sense** – understanding quantities and numbers, and how to represent them with objects and numerals
- **building fluency** – mastering basic arithmetic operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- **teaching mathematics concepts** – understanding the 'why' and 'how' of mathematics in combination with procedures and rules

- **using concrete materials** – using physical resources and visual representations to show concepts and procedures
- **using problem-solving strategies** – organising work based on the structure of a problem
- **using explicit instruction** – providing opportunities for students to explain their work and thinking in oral and written forms
- **using precise mathematics language** – using correct terminology when discussing steps for solving problems.

### How will Vision for Instruction benefit students?

*Vision for Instruction*:

- offers a focused and structured approach to gaining knowledge and developing skills
- ensures clear guidance, reducing uncertainty and helping students understand expectations
- presents key information and knowledge before independent activities
- enables immediate feedback through effective questioning and frequent checks for understanding
- establishes consistent teaching practices across all MACS schools.

### How can you help at home?

Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's learning journey. Here are some ways you can enhance their learning:

- **Communicate with teachers:** Maintain regular contact with your child's teachers to understand classroom objectives and methods.
- **Encourage and celebrate practice:** Provide opportunities for your child to practise new skills, and celebrate their effort and progress.
- **Create a structured environment:** Establish a distraction-free study area at home.
- **Promote reading together:** Spend time reading with your child regularly. Discuss stories, characters and themes to enhance comprehension.
- **Encourage critical thinking:** Engage in discussions that promote reasoning and explanation.
- **Model a positive attitude towards learning:** Demonstrate a positive attitude towards learning and curiosity. Show your child that learning is a lifelong journey, and encourage them to explore new ideas and interests.

### Supporting parent resources

- MultiLit's [Five From Five parent resources](#)
- Rosenshine's 'Principles of instruction' [article](#)
- APM Reports' [Sold a Story podcast](#)
- Willingham's [Raising Kids Who Read: What Parents and Teachers Can Do book](#).

You can read the complete [Vision for Instruction](#) on the MACS website.

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# MHIPS - Mental Health in Primary Schools

Here's some food for thought!

*The Importance of School Attendance for All Students*

Regular school attendance is essential for your child's academic success, emotional development, and overall well-being. When your child is consistently present at school, they benefit from being part of a learning environment that nurtures growth and curiosity.



**1. School is Better When Your Child is Here** Every day of school is an opportunity for your child to learn, interact with peers, and develop essential life skills. When students attend school regularly, they build strong foundations for academic success and social development. Missing school, even for a day, can cause students to fall behind in lessons, making it harder to catch up. Plus, school is more enjoyable when students are present, engaging with their peers and teachers in an active, collaborative setting.

**2. Positive Attitude Toward Learning** A consistent school routine helps students develop a positive attitude towards learning. When children see school as a priority and a place they belong, they are more likely to develop enthusiasm for their education. Encouraging good attendance shows your child that you value their education, setting the stage for a positive attitude toward school in general.

**3. Healthy Habits Begin with Routine** Establishing healthy habits, such as regular sleep and exercise, supports not only school attendance but also your child's overall health and well-being. A consistent bedtime routine is crucial for ensuring that your child gets enough rest to focus and participate in school activities. Encouraging regular physical activity and a balanced diet also contributes to better health, leading to fewer missed school days.

**4. Sleep and Exercise Are Key** Adequate sleep is essential for cognitive function, memory, and mood. Helping your child establish a healthy bedtime routine ensures they get the rest they need to stay engaged at school. In addition, regular physical activity can boost your child's mood and energy levels, making them more likely to attend school and enjoy their day. Mental Health and Wellbeing



# CRAFT CLUB

**In craft club you can create fun and amazing stuff**

**Who: Alice, Jacky, Lily**

**Where: In the Open Space**

**When: Every Tuesday - 1<sup>st</sup> half of lunch**

## Music Bus lessons at Annunciation Primary School

The Music Bus has opened their Term 2 enrolments and are inviting new students to apply.

Classes offered are: -

Keyboard (Prep-y6)

Ukulele (Prep-y6)

Drums (y1-y6) .

Guitar (Y2-y6) .

Singing (Prep -y6)

Lessons are 30 minute duration – once per week – held in the hi tech music classroom on wheels on our site.

Cost – \$22 per week (\$24 drums) payable by the term on commencement.

If you wish to take part, please complete this expression of interest form.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee4627a5204c46158e1ab17e7c8069c6>





**MOUNT ST. JOSEPH  
GIRLS' COLLEGE**  
Virtue Courage

# Open Day

**Sunday 18 May, 10am - 2pm**

Come and discover our nurturing learning and faith community. Meet our Principal, staff and students and experience our dynamic curriculum whilst exploring our innovative facilities on a guided tour led by our student ambassadors.

Register now to attend.

*Educating Today,  
Shaping Tomorrow*

133 MAIDSTONE STREET ALTONA  
www.msaj.vic.edu.au

## **VISIT US OR APPLY NOW**

Visiting our College is a great way to explore our dynamic learning spaces and experience learning in action.

You will meet our Principal, students and staff and see why Mount St. Joseph Girls' College is the best choice for your child. Tours of the College are led by our student ambassadors. This gives visiting families the unique opportunity to ask questions and gain an honest insight into our programs and what it is like to be a student at Mount St. Joseph Girls' College. Please register for one of the following Open Events.

Students wishing to attend Mount St. Joseph Girls' College for Year 7 in 2027 should apply in Grade 5 of their primary school education.

Apply online via the College website. The closing date for applications is **Friday 15 August 2025**

For application to Years 8-12, there is no application closing date, but vacancies are limited and waiting lists may apply.

For all enquiries, please contact:

Sherri Collins: [registrar@msj.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@msj.vic.edu.au)  
133 Maidstone Street, Altona  
(03)8398 2000

**[www.msaj.vic.edu.au](http://www.msaj.vic.edu.au)**



**MOUNT ST. JOSEPH  
GIRLS' COLLEGE**  
Virtue Courage

# Open Mornings

Visit us on a regular school day. See learning in action in our classrooms. Enjoy a guided tour of the College by our student ambassadors. You will have the unique opportunity to ask questions and gain an honest insight into our programs and what it is like to be a student at Mount St. Joseph Girls' College.

**9:15am - 10:30am - all dates**

Thursday 19 June  
Thursday 24 July  
Thursday 07 August  
Thursday 4 September

Register now to attend.

*Educating Today,  
Shaping Tomorrow*

133 MAIDSTONE STREET ALTONA  
www.msaj.vic.edu.au

## SUNSHINE SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION – School Holiday Program

This is a fantastic chance for your child to:

- Develop their softball skills.
- Participate in a fun and supportive environment.
- Connect with other children.
- Demonstrate teamwork and sportsmanship.
- Being healthy, active and positive

A promotional poster for the Sunshine Softball Association's School Holiday Program. The poster has a dark blue background with white and yellow geometric patterns. At the top left, there's a grid of yellow dots. In the top center, there's a green hexagon with a white softball player silhouette and the text 'SOFTBALL VICTORIA'. The main title 'SOFTBALL' is in large white letters, followed by 'School Holiday Program' in a smaller white font. Below this, a location pin icon is next to the word 'Locations:', followed by a list of seven softball associations. Further down, 'TERM 2 HOLIDAYS' is in green, and 'Time: 9am – 1pm' is in white. A green banner at the bottom left says 'Scan the QR Code for more info and to register'. To the right of this banner is a QR code. On the right side of the poster, there's a large white hexagon containing a photo of a softball player in a blue and white uniform, wearing a cap, and throwing a yellow softball. At the bottom, the website 'www.softballvic.org.au/events' is listed, followed by the cost: '\$75.00pp for non members, \$50.00pp for members'. The last line, in yellow, states 'Price Includes a glove and ball (or a \$25 Ausport Voucher)'.

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Braybrook Sporting Club  
would like to formally  
invite you to come down  
to the 2025 Braybrook  
Gift.

The event will be held on  
Saturday the 29th of  
March, with races  
beginning as early as  
11am, and the event  
concluding at 7pm. The  
event is free event to  
attend.

With kids activities such  
as a jumping castle, face  
painter, and hair braider,  
it is sure to be a fun day  
for all involved.



The poster for Braybrook Gift Family Fun Day features a vibrant yellow and orange background. At the top, there are illustrations of three runners in motion and two children's faces with face paint. The title "Braybrook Gift Family Fun Day" is written in a large, stylized font. Below the title, the date "Saturday 29th March" is displayed in a white box. A list of activities includes Professional Track Athletics, Kids Activities, Food and Drink Vendors, Raffles, and Local Market. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a market stall and a jumping castle. The contact information "For more information: braybrooksportingclub@hotmail.com" is at the very bottom.

**Braybrook Gift  
Family Fun Day**

**Saturday 29th March**

- Professional Track Athletics
- Kids Activities
- Food and Drink Vendors
- Raffles
- Local Market

For more information: [braybrooksportingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:braybrooksportingclub@hotmail.com)



The poster for Williamstown Magic Basketball Club has a blue and yellow color scheme. It features the club's logo at the top, which includes the word "MAGIC" in large letters and "BASKETBALL" below it. The text "Join Williamstown Magic Basketball Club" is prominently displayed. Below this, it says "Exciting Opportunity for Young Players!" and "Free Club Registration for U8 and U10 Players". A list of bullet points describes the benefits of joining, such as being perfect for young enthusiasts and providing a supportive environment. The poster also includes the website "williamstownmagic.com" for more information and a final call to action to join the club.

**WILLIAMSTOWN  
MAGIC  
BASKETBALL**

**Join Williamstown Magic Basketball Club**

**Exciting Opportunity for Young Players!**

**Free Club Registration for U8 and U10 Players**

- Perfect for young basketball enthusiasts looking to join a team and have fun!
- Experience the thrill of competitive play and team camaraderie

**Why Join Williamstown Magic?**

- Community-focused club with a passion for developing young talent
- Opportunities for players of all skill levels to grow and excel
- Supportive and friendly environment

For More Information and to join the waitlist visit [williamstownmagic.com](http://williamstownmagic.com)

**Join us at  
Williamstown Magic Junior Basketball Club  
and be part of the excitement!**