

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



PENSHURST. NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: WEEK 8 TERM 1 2026



SCHOOL VISION

St Joseph's Penshurst, as partners in Catholic education and with our school community, pursues fullness of life for all.

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Principals Message

I hope everyone had an enjoyable long weekend and found some time to relax with family and friends.

Congratulations to our Year 3 and 4 students who recently attended camp. We are very proud of the way they represented our school, demonstrating excellent behaviour, teamwork and resilience throughout the experience. A special thank you to Ms Forbes for her care and dedication to our students during camp—and for bravely taking on the giant swing!

Our P-2 and Year 5-6 students recently visited the kindergarten to attend a delightful "Teddy Bear Picnic." It was wonderful to see the students connecting with the younger children and enjoying such a fun and relaxed activity together.

Well done to our Year 3 and Year 5 students who have been participating in NAPLAN. It is important to remember that NAPLAN is just one tool used to gather information about student learning. Our teachers use a wide range of assessments and observations throughout the year to ensure students receive targeted and appropriate learning experiences that support their growth and development. NAPLAN also does not measure the many qualities that make our students unique, such as their creativity, kindness, resilience, and individual talents.

We are looking forward to our School Sports Afternoon this Friday, which promises to be a fantastic event filled with participation and school spirit. Following this, our Year 3-6 students will attend the SGSSA Athletics at Mitchell Park on Tuesday 31st March. We wish them all the best as they represent our school. Parents please let us know if you can help man the discus.

A big thank you to Mick Ross, Andrew and Maddi Calvert for delivering and shifting the sand for our sandpit. It has been wonderful watching the whole school play together this week. We are also seeking donations for our annual Easter raffle. Raffle books will be sent home this week, and we appreciate the support of our families in helping make this a successful event. Could everyone please check for outstanding library books from the Hamilton Library. We have a big overdue collection and an expensive fine, you will find a list attached.

Cheers Katie



UP COMING DATES

March 2026

March 20th - Sports Day 1.30 - 3.20pm.

March 27th - Playgroup 10.30am.

March 27th - Kolor Lodge Nursing Home visit.

March 31st - SGSSA Athletics Mitchell Park

April 2026

April 2nd - End of Term One.

April 3rd - Good Friday.

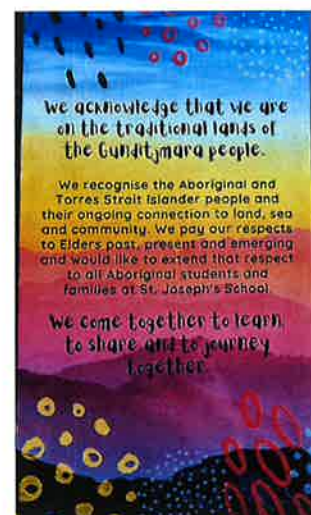
April 5th - Easter Sunday.

April 20th - School Closure Day R.E.

April 21th - Students first day back for Term 2.

April 22nd - 24th - 5/6 Camp Ballarat.

April 27th - May 1st - Swimming Hilac.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



Classroom News!

Student Voice!



Evie

On the 5th and 6th of March, Miss Forbes and the 3-4's had a thrilling time making new friends and participating in activities at the Wannan Falls camp.

Could parents please make sure that your child brings in the money they owe for Zooper doopers.

We've had six weeks of everyone putting their rubbish in the bins, but recently there have been small bits of paper left around on the ground, so please make sure you are picking up your mess.

Please thank your children for being flexible with all our new changes at school.

And thank you for reading this information!

Oscar

Footy training is ongoing for Harley, Jesse, Fletcher, Caolan, Jett and myself.

Cricket season is coming to an end with the grand final coming up for my team.

Netball is ongoing for Evie, Thea and Annabelle, Poppy is going to netball trainings to be the number one supporter! Elliana is continuing with her ballet classes.

School athletics day is coming up and not long after 3-6's head into Mitchell Park Hamilton to compete in a fun day of athletics, against other schools.

In Term 2, week 2, we will be starting our school swimming at HILAC.



Water best for active kids!

When it comes to keeping active kids hydrated, water is the clear winner. It keeps the body cool, replaces any fluids lost through sweat, and helps kids feel energised to learn and play throughout their day. Best of all, tap water is freely available!

Sugary drinks, like soft or sports drinks, are not necessary for kids to stay hydrated at school or playing sport. Water is best as the drink of choice for healthy growing kids. A standard 600ml sports drink contains around 9 teaspoons of added sugar – that's more than the recommended daily intake for kids of added sugars.

To help kids stay hydrated, make sure they:

Drink plenty of water during the day and before they start playing sport or hitting the playground

Take sips of water when they take a break during physical activity

Finish sport sessions with water and a healthy snack to replenish their energy afterwards

Encourage kids to bring their own refillable water bottle – it's healthy and sustainable!

Sounds Write.

How do I provide a rich reading experience for my child?

Parents and carers often ask us what books they should read to their children.

We recommend you read a wide variety of books to your children, from classic picture books to non-fiction texts on topics that interest them.

Reading a wide variety of books to your child will provide rich reading experiences that promote a love of reading. These can be books from the class book boxes, the school library or home. The majority of these books contain complicated alphabet code knowledge, much of which has not yet been explicitly taught in Reception/Kindy or at the start of Year 1.

We encourage you to read these books with your child, rather than getting them to read them.

In doing so, you will;

- model what fluent reading 'sounds' like
- model appropriate expression and phrasing (e.g. slight pauses at commas and full pauses at full stops)

We also suggest that you:

- talk about the book and encourage your child to retell the main parts of the story to you
- talk about the characters, plots and settings of stories and link these to the illustrations provided
- discuss what was learnt from informational texts e.g. "What did you find out about spiders?"
- compare the people and events in the texts with those in your own lives
- select several words from the text (that your child would know) and ask them to put the word in a sentence – this is a powerful vocabulary building activity
- We look forward to working in partnership with you!

F-2 Room.

The Outside Inn ¼ Camp at the Wannan!

For dinner we had chicken burgers and chips and for dessert we had an ice-cream sandwich. I did lots of activities and my favourite was Frisbee Golf.

Written by Eliana

Click, Click, went the helmet as I clipped it on for the bike ride to Wannan Falls. Except when we got there, there were lots and lots of bullants and there wasn't even a waterfall.

By Poppy

At Wannan Camp I saw a crocodile and my favourite activity was the Giant Swing. At the start of the day we did a Lego Challenge and had to make the tallest tower.

As we were watching the movie, we had to pause it because the girl's tent got invaded by little black bugs.

I got bitten by mosquitos. Camp was fun, challenging and had good food.

By Fletcher R.

Woosh Woosh! As I went flying in the Giant Swing and slowly came down to the ground. The next activity was the crate stack. We had to give the people on top of the crates more crates to build the tower. The world record was sixty crates and we got higher than thirty but the wind blew it over.

By Jesse Nash

3-6 Room.

Term 1 in the grade 4-6 room has started well. All of the students' try their personal best each day and have been showing our 'School Values'. They should be very proud of their efforts!

In Inquiry, we are learning more about Australian History. This is also integrated into our 'Reading'. In 'Reading', we have been looking at: fluency, making connections, summarising, clarifying, and questioning. As a class we are reading 'The Witches' by Roald Dahl. The students' have been able to discuss the different features of Roald Dahl's writing.

The students' continue to try their best in 'Sounds Write' and have continued to actively engage in this. In 'Writing', we have looked at: homophones, idioms, core spelling, high frequency spelling, handwriting, typing, prefixes, suffixes, conjunctions, contractions, vowels, nouns, verbs, adjectives, paragraphs, types of sentences, 'Recounts', Persuasive Writing', 'Narratives', 'Information Reports' and editing. We also do our 'Literacy Daily Reviews' which revise content, so that the students can transfer it from their short term memory into their long term memory.

In 'Numeracy', the students' continue to do their 'Daily Reviews' to consolidate information. We have covered: place value, counting, fractions, time and probability. The students are reviewing their 'Times Tables'. The students' are continuing to be supported to use concrete materials, show their working out and review 'Problem-solving' strategies.

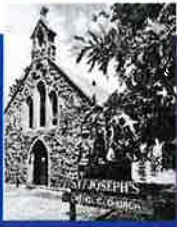
A lot of assessment has been collected over the term. This helps to continue to inform our planning and teaching. The students' also are given constructive feedback on the things they need to continue to work on.

In Religion, the students are looking at 'Commitment' with Katie. There have been some great discussions and reflections



Community Engagement.

School News!



St. Joseph's Parish

Monthly Mass Timetable:

1st Sunday of the month: NO SERVICE. join St Mary's Church Hamilton, Sat 6pm & Sun 10.30am.

2nd Sunday of the month: 8.30am Mass

3rd Sunday of the month: SAWS 8.30am

4th Sunday of the month: 8.30am Mass

**5th Sunday of the month:
NO SERVICE**

Community Prayer.

Heavenly Father, I come before you with a heart filled with a desire to serve and uplift our community. You have called us to love our neighbours as ourselves and to be instruments of your peace and compassion in the world. Grant us wisdom and discernment as we seek to serve others.



Easter Raffle

We will be running an Easter Raffle again this year, which has been a terrific and well supported fundraiser in the past.

We are asking families if they are able to please donate Easter Eggs of all different shapes and sizes or Easter themed items for our raffle and ask if you could bring them into the school office by Wednesday the 1st of April. We understand that prices of Easter Eggs are quite expensive, so please only donate if you are able.

This will give us time to put the prizes together ready for the draw on Thursday the 2nd of April, which is the last day of term 1.

We are hoping to have numerous prizes again so everyone has a great chance of winning some yummy eggs in plenty of time for Easter.

Each family will receive a book of 20 tickets to sell at \$1.00 each. Please do your best to sell as many as you can. Raffle books and money due back by Wednesday the 1st of April. Extra raffle books are available from the school office.

Thank you for your support!

SGSSA - Discus: Could parents let Katie know if they are able to assist with discus at Mitchell Park.

CFA Catering has several catering dates scheduled in March. We are looking for volunteers who are able to provide a salad for these events. We will supply the salad bowl, which can be returned to the school during the day filled with any salad of your choice. The salads will then be delivered after school.

In Terms 2 and 3, we provide vegetable dishes instead.

This initiative is a wonderful fundraiser for our school, and we greatly appreciate your support.

Celebrating our Students!



Stars of the Week!



Maddi & Evie

Wellbeing & Child Safety.

Concussions.

Given the requirement to rest, recover and adapt activities it is important schools know when this occurs for students outside of the school setting.

Given we are heading into the AFL season in particular, please place the following wording as it is into your school newsletter to remind parents of the need to share concussion information with school.

Concussion – Important information to be aware of for parents and carers

If your child has experienced a concussion outside of the school setting it is important that they rest for a period of 24 to 48 hours and then gradually return to activities after this time. Returning to school can be a graduated approach with the aim of increasing tolerance to a full day; the same situation could occur with sporting activities. It is always important to check with your doctor and seek medical treatment after a child sustains a concussion.

It is important to inform the school if your child has sustained a concussion outside of school; this is to ensure the school can monitor your child's wellbeing and adapt activities as required.

This factsheet link below from the Royal Children's Hospital is valuable to read and understand.

https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/head_injury_return_to_school_and_sport/

There is also a great evidence-based app from the Murdoch children's research institute that walks you through what to do in the event of a concussion.

<https://www.headcheck.com.au/>

Child Safe Standards.

All students enrolled at St Joseph's School have the right to feel safe and be safe. The safety and wellbeing of children in the school's care will always be our first priority and the school will not tolerate child abuse. The school will create a child-safe and child-friendly environment where children are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety. Particular attention is paid to the most vulnerable children and young people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with a disability, children who are unable to live at home, international students, and LGBTQIA+ students.

The full policy can be accessed via our school's website: <http://www.sjpenhurst.catholic.edu.au/policy-documents.html>

The school's Child Safety Officer is the Principal, Mrs Katie Calvert.

We are committed to continuous improvement in our approach to child safety and well-being and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our child safety policies, procedures, and practices.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, please contact the Principal either by phone or email principal@sjpenhurst.catholic.edu.au

