ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PENSHURST.

faith and justice

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: WEEK 10 TERM 2 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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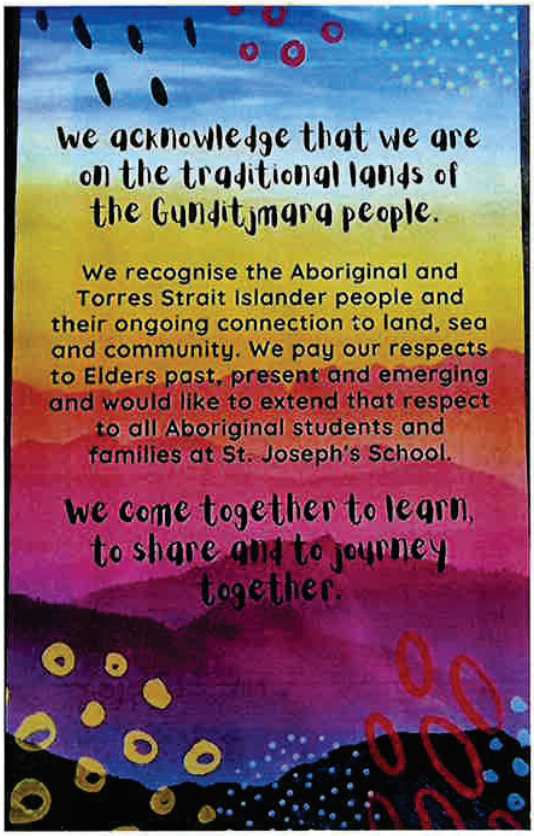
Principals Message

What a fantastic term it has been at St Joseph's!
It certainly has been a busy one, filled with learning, laughter, sporting achievements, celebrations, and many wonderful opportunities to connect with our Trinity Schools. It's been a joy to see our students embracing every experience with enthusiasm and a willingness to give things a go.
I would like to congratulate all of our students on a wonderful term. They should be incredibly proud of everything they have achieved. Throughout the term, they have shown resilience, flexibility, kindness, and determination, whether in the classroom, on the sporting field, or during our many community events. Their positive attitude and willingness to support one another truly make St Joseph's such a special place to learn and grow.
School reports were sent home yesterday, celebrating each child's learning journey this semester. We encourage you to take the time to celebrate your child's achievements with them. If you have any questions about your child's report, please don't hesitate to contact their classroom teacher.
As we finish the term, we also say farewell to Ms Keely West. Ms West has been a valued member of our school community, and we are incredibly grateful for the care, dedication, and passion she has shown during her time at St Joseph's. Her positive impact on both our students and staff has been immense, and she will be greatly missed. On behalf of our entire school community, thank you,Ms West, and we wish you every happiness and success in your next adventure.
At the same time, we are excited to welcome Mrs Macilwain to our St Joseph's family. Mrs Macilwain will join our Years 4–6 classroom at the beginning of Term 3. We look forward to introducing her to our community, and parents will have the opportunity early next term to meet Mrs Macilwain and share any information that will help ensure a smooth and successful start for your child.
As another busy term comes to a close, I would like to sincerely thank all of our families for your ongoing support, encouragement, and partnership, we truly appreciate everything you do.
I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned break filled with rest, fun, family time, and perhaps a little adventure! We can't wait to welcome everyone back for another exciting, action-packed Term 3.
Have a safe and happy holiday, and we'll see you all back soon!
Katie

UP COMING DATES

June 29th - July 10th - School holidays.
July 13th - First day of Term 3.
July 17th - Kolor Lodge Visit.
August 7th - lawn bowls Warrnambool.
August 14th - Kolor Lodge Visit.
September 1st - Hooptime JNR.
September 4th - Hooptime SNR.
September 18th - Last day of Term 3.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

STUDENT VOICE!

We've had a great semester. I have enjoyed learning and many activities and I can't wait for surprises next term! Over the last two terms for SWPBS, whenever a teacher has observed a student being responsible, respectful or safe, we move up on the SWPB ladder. When we reached the top of the ladder, you would then get a sticker to put on the end of your name, and once you got to 5 stickers, you would get a token.
There were three things you could pick from to put your token on. First was the Crazy Hair Day, second the Master Chef challenge or the Sports Day. Once there were ten tokens on one of them Mrs Gow would arrange a day at the end of term to do it.
This week we did the Master Chef Spaghetti Bolognese and cup cake change. Two teams, Chaotic Colours and Holy Guacamole went head to head, with Chaotic Colours being crowned the winners!!!!!! It was disappointing for Holy Guacamole but they were good sports in defeat. In the cupcake decorating competition, Jameson was the winner! Afterwards everyone ate their cupcakes.
One batch was a little sweet (Jett poured half a bag of sugar into the batter!)

By Thea Grade 6

This week kicked off strongly. Making chef hats to cooking pasta and baking cupcakes. Monday was amazing! We had two teams competing, Holy Guacamole and Chaotic Colours. Each competing against each other for a lollipop. Chaotic Colours won! Which was pretty disappointing for Holy Guacamole. However, Jamo won the cupcake making competition! Besides the winning, it's definite, everyone enjoyed their time cooking and baking. Even though Jett poured half a bag of sugar into the cupcakes!
On Wednesday we participated in many activities in music, one being the cookie game. This is where you have to place a cookie from your forehead and wiggle it into your mouth without using your hands. Next, the cup game. This is where you have to stack cups into a triangle then put them back into a stack of cups again and many more fun activities. Everyone was definitely satisfied with the food we got from the Minute To Win It game! Thank you to our music teacher Tara and Indonesian teacher Mrs Paitence.

By Evie Grade 6

ASTHMA AUSTRALIA

The cooler weather can be a trigger for asthma, leaving some kids more vulnerable in winter. Follow our tips on what to do to keep your school safe this winter.

Asthma triggers

Common causes of asthma symptoms and how to avoid them.

Just like every superhero has their own nemesis, every child with asthma has their own triggers.
Triggers are the things that irritate your child's lungs and make it hard for them to breathe.
Every child with asthma has different triggers.

Here we've listed some common asthma triggers and given them some fun names to help you talk to your kids about them.
Once you know what triggers your child's asthma, your doctor can help you work out a plan to manage them with your child's Asthma Action Plan.

Getting sick is no fun. Viruses likes to make kids sick, especially at the start of school and in winter.
For people with asthma, a cold can be worse than just a runny nose and a cough. Colds and other viruses are the most common triggers for asthma symptoms.
Most of the time a cold doesn't need any medicine. You just need to rest and let your body fight it. Sometimes a saline nose spray can help clear out your nose so you can breathe easier too. Saline is just salty water, so it's very safe and it doesn't hurt.

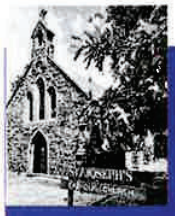
Best defence:

- Wash your hands before you eat or touch your face, eyes or nose.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow .
- Avoid crowded spaces if you can, especially during cold and flu season.
- Get vaccinated every year.
- Stay home from school and sport when unwell.
- Clean or replace your spacer after you've been sick.
- Take good care of your asthma all year round. Remember to take your asthma preventer if you have one.
- Follow your Asthma Action Plan.

Physical activity and playing can make you feel more breathless than usual if you have asthma. Physical activity is one of the most common triggers for kids. But this doesn't mean you can't do it! In fact, it is really important that you play and exercise everyday to help keep your lungs and body healthy.

Best defence:
It's best not to play outside early in the morning or in the evening, because the cold air can also trigger your asthma. Don't exercise if you are sick with a cough or a cold. When you do exercise or play sport, make sure to do a warm-up beforehand and cool down afterwards.
To protect you from Agent Breathless, your doctor might tell you to take some of your reliever before you play or do physical activity. If they do, you might need to ask the teacher for your inhaler before you do your sport or PE classes at school. Or if your doctor and parents are sure you can take your inhaler by yourself, they might ask the teacher to let you keep your inhaler with you. Make sure you ALWAYS use a spacer if your inhaler is a puffer.

Community Engagement.



St Joseph's Penshurst

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

Prayer for National Reconciliation

Creator God of Holy Dreaming
Bring us together as one,
Reconciled with you and one another.
Bless Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this land.
The first peoples to receive your blessings in this land.
The first peoples to see your beauty in the land, water, sky and nature.
The first peoples to hear your voice in ancient stories.
The first to give you praises in ancient places.
The first to know your love and love you in return.
God bless the Elders keeping culture and languages alive.
Bless all who work in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, making friends, growing partnerships to a deeper understanding of culture and languages, learning to love and grow together.
Give us grace to travel together towards reconciliation for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen

This prayer was written by Rev'd Canon Aunty Di Langham for National Reconciliation Week 2025.

Emergency Managment Plan

School EMPs are put in place to ensure student and staff safety during critical incidents like fires or lockdowns, outlining evacuation routes, safe assembly areas, procedures,risk assessments, and communication strategies. These plans are essential for providing a proactive , safe enviroment and ensuring consistent responses form staff and emergency services.
Our EMP has been completed and updated for 2026.

allergy AWARE

St Joseph's Penshurst is an Allergy Aware school

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and provides an opportunity for all Australians to learn from and engage with the world's oldest continuing cultures.
Its origins trace back to the Aboriginal rights movement and the 1938 Day of Mourning, one of Australia's earliest civil rights movements advocating for recognition and equality. This year's theme, 50 Years of Deadly, celebrates 50 years of NAIDOC Week as a national week-long celebration, recognising generations of strength, resilience, leadership and cultural pride.
Today, NAIDOC Week brings communities together through traditional and contemporary celebrations that foster understanding, respect and connection. For children and young people, it provides an opportunity to appreciate diverse perspectives, strengthen cultural understanding and recognise that our differences enrich communities.
Attached is the NAIDOC history timeline and an official colouring in poster.

#NAIDOC2026 #NAIDOCWeek and #50YearsOfDeadly

Wellbeing & Child Safety.

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.sjpenshurst.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@sjpenshurst.catholic.edu.au

NAIDOC History

1920s & 1930s

Before the 1920s, Aboriginal rights groups boycotted Australia Day (26 January) in protest against the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. By the 1920s, they were increasingly aware that the broader Australian public were largely ignorant of the boycotts. If the movement were to make progress, it would need to be active.

Several organisations emerged to fill this role, particularly the Australian Aborigines Progressive Association (AAPA) in 1924 and the Australian Aborigines League (AAL) in 1932. Their efforts were largely overlooked, and due to police harassment, the AAPA abandoned their work in 1927.

In 1935, William Cooper, founder of the AAL, drafted a petition to send to King George V, asking for special Aboriginal electorates in Federal Parliament. The Australian Government believed that the petition fell outside its constitutional responsibilities.

1938

On Australia Day, 1938, protestors marched through the streets of Sydney, followed by a congress attended by over a thousand people. One of the first major civil rights gatherings in the world, it was known as the Day of Mourning.

Following the congress, a deputation led by William Cooper presented Prime Minister Joseph Lyons with a proposed national policy for Aboriginal people. This was again rejected because the Government did not hold constitutional powers in relation to Aboriginal people.

After the Day of Mourning, there was a growing feeling that it should be a regular event. In 1939 William Cooper wrote to the National Missionary Council of Australia to seek their assistance in supporting and promoting an annual event.

1940-1955

From 1940 until 1955, the Day of Mourning was held annually on the Sunday before Australia Day and was known as Aborigines Day. In 1955 Aborigines Day was shifted to the first Sunday in July after it was decided the day should become not simply a protest day but also a celebration of Aboriginal culture.

1956-1990

Major Aboriginal organisations, state and federal governments, and a number of hurch groups all supported the formation of NADOC, the National Aborigines Day Observance Committee. At the same ne, the second Sunday in July became a day of remembrance for Aboriginal people and their heritage.

In 1972, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs was formed, as a major outcome of the 1967 referendum.

In 1974, the NADOC committee was composed entirely of Aboriginal members for the first time. The following year, it was decided that the event should cover a week, from the first to second Sunday in July.

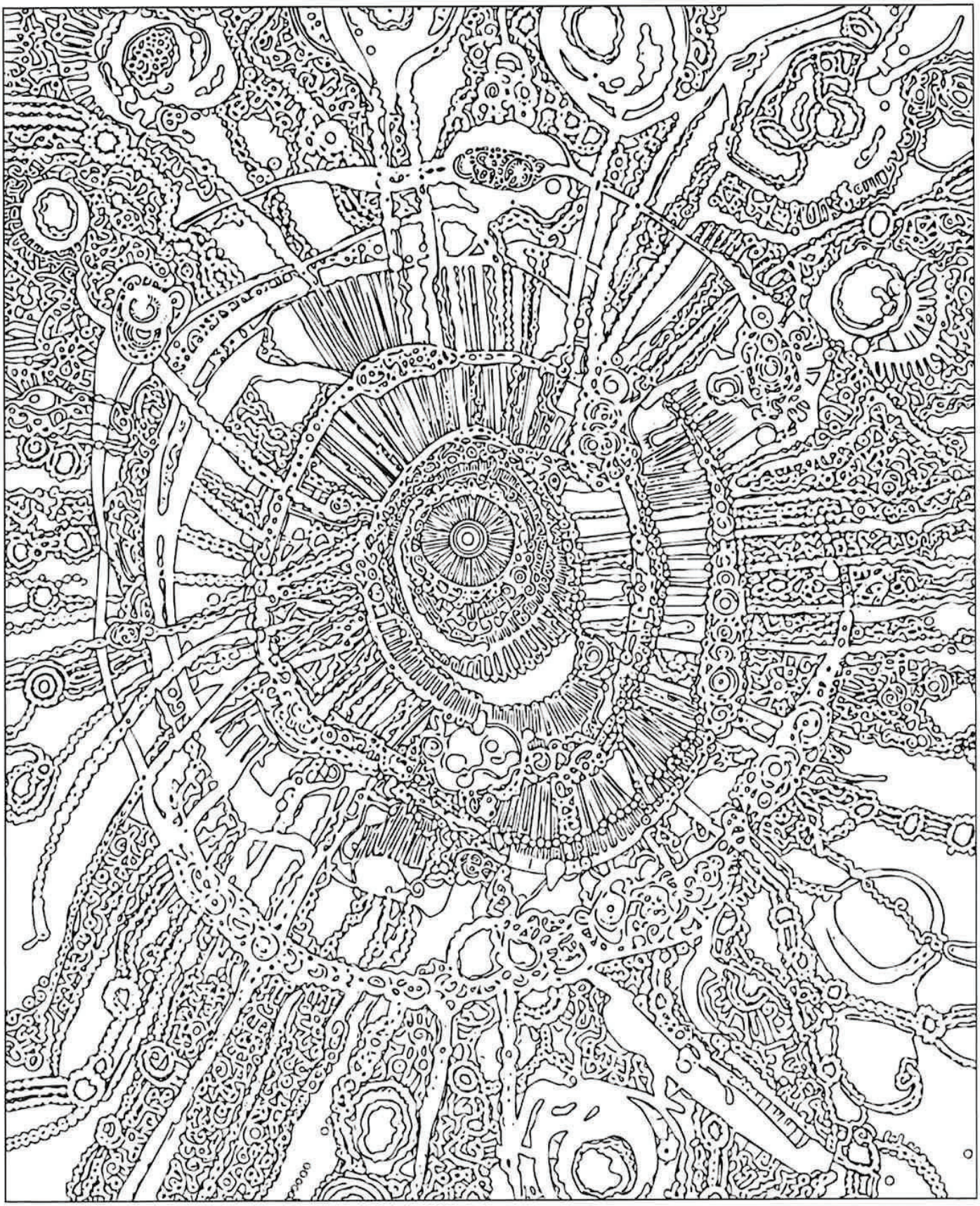
In 1984, NADOC asked that National Aborigines Day be made a national public holiday, to help celebrate and recognise the rich cultural history that makes Australia unique. While this has not happened, other groups have echoed the call.

1991-Present

With a growing awareness of the distinct cultural histories of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, NADOC was expanded to recognise Torres Strait Islander people. The committee became known as the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee, NAIDOC. This new name has become the title for the whole week, not just the day. Each year, a theme is chosen to reflect the important issues and events for NAIDOC.

During the mid-1990s, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) took over the management of NAIDOC until ATSIC was disbanded in 2004-05.

There were interim arrangements in 2005. Since then a National NAIDOC Committee, until recently chaired by former Senator Aden Ridgeway, has made key decisions on national celebrations each year. The national committee has representatives from most States and Territories.



NAIDOC WEEK 50 YEARS DEADLY
5–12 JULY 2026

Paralpi by Zaachariaha Fielding

Paralpi extends Zaachariaha's acclaimed *Inma* series and reflects a deeply cultural and immersive narrative grounded in Country. The artwork depicts the sounds of *Paralpi*, a significant place just outside Mimili on the eastern APY Lands in South Australia. As Zaachariaha describes, *Paralpi* is a place where people come to embrace and celebrate children, where they are taught by Elders to move and mimic their Clan emblem — for Mimili, this being the maku (witchetty grub).

#NAIDOC2026 #FIFTYYEARSDEADLY #NAIDOCWEEK

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Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas.

Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.