



Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of St Patrick

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 27 July Team Colours Day
Tues 28 July Yr 6 Confirmation Re-treat Day
Fri 31 July Yr 1 Community Walk, 7.00pm Year 6 Confirmation
Mon 3 Aug Yr 3 Museum, Yr 4 Melbourne Zoo
Fri 7 Aug 9.00am St Mary MacKillop Mass in the Church
Sat 8 Aug St Mary of the Cross McKillop Feast Day
Mon 10 & Tues 11 Aug *School Closure - Staff Faith Conference. No school for the children*
Sat 15 Aug Feast of the Assumption of Mary
Mon 17-Fri 21 Aug Bullying No Way Week
Mon 17 Aug Yr 5 Museum
Mon 24-Tues 25 Aug NAIDOC Activities
Wed 26 Aug Yr 2 CERES
Fri 28 Aug Book Week Parade
Thur 3 Sept Father's Day Stall
Fri 18 Sept 1.00 End of Term

2026 Professional Development Days for Staff

TERM 3

Mon 10 & Tues 11 August - 2 Day Faith Conference for Staff
Term 4

Mon 2 November - Report Writing Semester 2
Friday 27 November - 2027 Planning

1:00pm finish days at the end of each term

Term 3 - Fri 18 September
Term 4 - Tues 15 December (last day of the 2026 school year for students).

SACRAMENT DATES FOR 2026

Year 6 Confirmation
Friday 31 July at 7.00pm

Dear Parents and Families,

The second week of Term 3 has been a very productive and busy week.

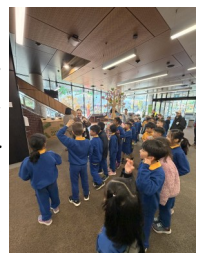
Whole School Focus: Safe, Respectful and Ready to Learn

Congratulations to all our wonderful students who have been responding very well to our school's expectations. As Mrs Madigan said in last week's newsletter and Community Connect, our staff have been revisiting the expectations to ensure all students are following the established routines so their day can commence in a calm way, where they are ready to learn. This week, we have been revisiting the importance of organised class lines, so that students are ready to enter the classrooms calmly and we are all following the expectations across the school. These practices ensures consistency across our school as well as all students entering their classrooms in a calm and safe manner.



Learning around Sunshine

On Tuesday, our Year 2 students were able to go on their Community Walk around Sunshine, which linked to their Inquiry question, *How do we care for the places we are connected to, near and far?* The Community Walk enabled the students to explore a little more about their local area. Thank-you to all the parents who supported the staff and students and going on the excursion.



Staff training

On Tuesday afternoon, all our staff engaged in our annual CPR training. Of course, this is something that is completed every year to ensure all our staffing qualifications are up to date.



On Wednesday and Thursday, Mrs Madigan, Mrs Cuni, Mr Buttigieg and myself attended the MACS Religious Education Symposium. It was an amazing experience where we were able to benefit from listening to many outstanding presenters.



When I am Poorly...

I don't like it when I am sick, it makes me sad and sleepy
Sometimes if I don't get well I end up weak and weepy.
God, please help me when I'm ill, to trust that you are there
Help me to feel better now with all your loving care.

'You, Lord God, bless everyone who cares for the poor, and you rescue those people in times of trouble. You protect them and keep them alive. You make them happy, here in this land, and you don't hand them over to their enemies. You always heal them and restore their strength when they are sick.' Psalm 41:1-3

Parents & Friends

A huge thank-you to our committed P&F team for organising the Second Hand Uniform Sale for this afternoon. It would be great to see many of you outside St Joseph's Learning Centre where you can grab a bargain and spare uniform items.



Having extra jumpers and other uniform items are always handy when drying uniform items in winter is much harder. Thanks again to our amazing P&F team for all your work in organising these events and other fundraising events for our school community. Your team and devotion is very much appreciated.

Team Colours Day

This Monday 27th July, we have our Team Colours Day. It is a day where all students and staff can come dressed in their favourite team colours. A



huge thank-you to Ms Jo McManus for organising AFL football clinics for all students throughout the day. Each class will have a 40 minute footy clinic on Monday as an extra bit of sport fun!

Year 6 Confirmation Candidates

Next week is a very special week for our Year 6 Confirmation candidates. On Tuesday, all Year 6 Students will be engaging in a Confirmation Reflection day at St Joseph's By The Sea. Thank-you to Mrs Cuni, Mrs Belinda, Ms Jo and Ms Molly for planning the Reflection Day which will provide all the students with a very spiritual, reflective journey throughout the day. Please keep the Year 6 candidates in your prayers as they will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next Friday evening.



Today's assembly

This afternoon we have our F-2 assembly in our school hall. We look forward to welcoming many parents and grandparents.

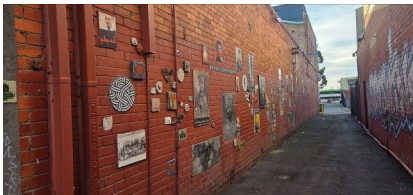


Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Warm regards,

Christine Carabott

Mrs Christine Carabott
Deputy Principal



Yr 2 Community Walk





Team Colours Day



At Our Lady's school we love to celebrate the things we are passionate about. Sport is a very important part of our school curriculum and we have set aside a day where we can all come to school celebrating our favourite sporting teams by wearing their colours. This is a fun day for the children and the staff.

This year Team Colours Day will be held on **MONDAY 27 JULY 2026**

The children of Our Lady's school will be able to come to school dressed in their favourite sporting team or House colours. *It does not have to be a complete uniform; it might be a scarf, jumper or a beanie.*

CHISHOLM

MacKILLOP

MAZENOD

WOODS

If your child is not wearing the colours from their favourite sporting team or House colours they will be required to wear their school sports uniform on the day.

Ms Jo McManus our wonderful PE Leader has organised for the children to participate in an AFL Roadshow activity.

2026 Junior Development Program

Join the Softball Victoria Junior Development Program, tailored to beginner to intermediate skilled players from 7 to 15 years of age, and develop fundamental skills and game sense leading into the 2026/2027 Summer season!

✓ Perfect for Beginners

Learn from experienced coaches and state representative players

Develop your skills including batting, fielding, pitching, catching and base running

2 hours a week for 6 weeks in July/August

\$90 includes participant pack with T-shirt, cap & drink bottle

Keilor Park & Districts Softball Association

81 Stadium Drive, Keilor Park
Saturday's, 25 July - 29 August
2pm-4pm
Ages 7-15
ONLY \$90

(Receive a \$20 refund if you register for the Summer Season at the completion of the program)

REGISTER HERE:
www.softballvic.org.au/events/363067



Contact: Tim Hatzi - State Participation & Development Manager email: tim.hatzi@softballvic.org.au or ph: 0479 104 403

The Two People Who Can Change Your Child's School Life

When we think about what helps our children thrive at school, we often focus on academics, extracurricular activities, or even which school they attend. But research suggests something far simpler—and far more powerful—can shape your child's school experience, for better or for worse:

Two people.

That's it. Just two.

If your child has:

1. **One adult at school they're excited to see (and who is excited to see them), and**
2. **One peer who welcomes them, includes them, or simply says, "Come sit with me,"**

...then your child is far more likely to enjoy school, participate, cope with challenges, and grow in confidence.

Why These Two People Matter

A trusted adult gives your child a sense of stability, support, and significance. It could be a teacher, a librarian, a coach, or even a school office staff member. When a child knows there's at least one adult who notices them, smiles at them, and enjoys their presence, they feel *seen*—and that's powerful.

It's even better if that adult can ask them about their life. Sometimes it will be personal. "How did you go at the Eisteddfod on the weekend?" Other times it will be school-focused. "How are you feeling about the athletics carnival?" or "What did you think about the book you told me you were reading?"

What matters most is that an adult knows them by name and takes an appropriate interest.

The peer is possibly even more critical. One friend, one classmate, one buddy who says, "Hey, I saved you a seat," or "Want to hang out at lunch?"—this kind of welcome creates a sense of *belonging* that no school initiative can manufacture.

Together, these two people form a simple, meaningful support network that builds resilience, boosts wellbeing, and makes school a place your child *wants* to be.

What Can I Do?

Every parent wants this magic for their child. But the challenge we face is that we can't force friendships or assign a teacher to love your child. What we can do is create opportunities and open doors. Here's how:

1. Help Your Child Build Connection with an Adult at School

- Encourage positive teacher-student relationships. Support your child to show interest in class, ask questions, or share something they enjoy with a teacher.

- Share positive feedback with your child's teacher. "Ella LOVED yesterday's lesson and couldn't stop talking about it" or "James speaks really highly of you and we've seen such an attitude change since you've been teaching him" can attune a teacher to your child's interests and presence.
- Reinforce respect and gratitude. Model how to say "thank you" and "hello" to staff—and encourage your child to do the same.

2. Create Space for Peer Friendships

- Ask gentle, open questions: "Who did you hang out with today?" or "Who do you enjoy talking to at recess?"
- Arrange occasional playdates, walks home, or weekend hangouts—especially in the early years of school or after a transition.
- Celebrate kindness, not popularity. Encourage inclusive behaviour: "I saw how you invited Jordan to play. How did that make him feel?"

3. If It's Not Happening, Take Action

If your child *doesn't* have these two people, don't panic—but don't ignore it either.

- Talk with your child about how they feel and what they wish was different.
- Partner with the school. Teachers and support staff can be intentional about pairing kids up, offering leadership roles, or facilitating small group activities.
- Consider extracurricular opportunities where your child can connect with like-minded peers or a new mentor figure.

School doesn't have to be perfect. For most children, it won't be. But if your child walks through the gates and feels a little spark of joy at seeing one trusted adult and one friendly peer, everything changes.

Two people. That's all it takes for a better school experience.



Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.



Gospel

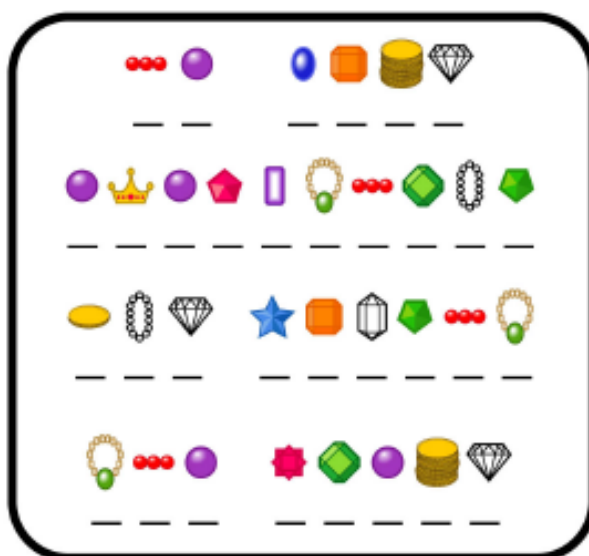
Matthew 13:44-46

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

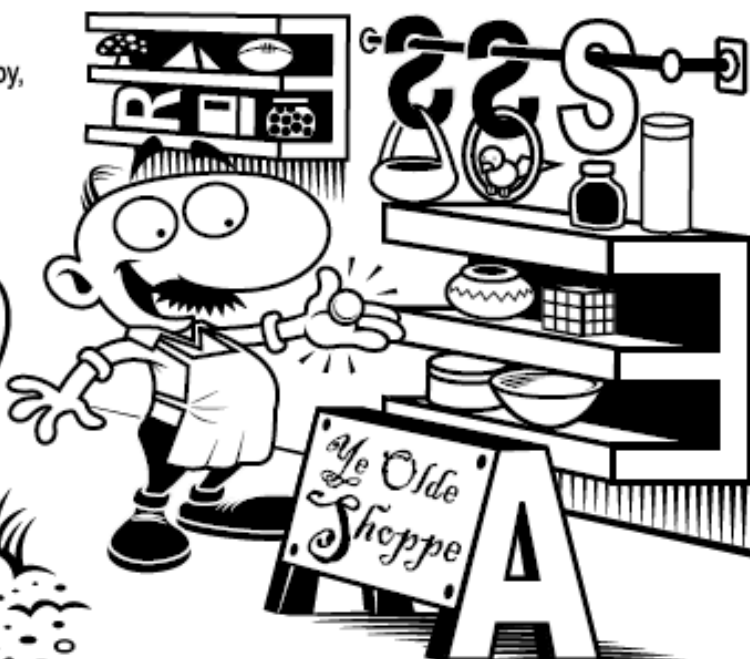
What did the man do after he found the treasure hidden in the field? Use the key below to decipher the code.

A		E		I		R			
B		F		L		S		V	
D		G		N		T		Y	
		H		O		U			



Can you find the letters that spell the word **TREASURE** hidden in the picture below?

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field."



"The kingdom of heaven is also like a shop keeper looking for fine pearls. When he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it."