



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 21 March 2025 olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter-Damien McKinley
Principal: Ms. Patrizia Bertani
Parish Mass Times:
English: Saturday 9.00am, 5.30pm, Sunday 9:00am, 10.30am & 5:30pm
Vietnamese: Saturday 7.00pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7.30pm
Chin Hakha/Burmese: 2.30pm
Tongan: Every 1st Sunday 3.00pm
School Phone: 9312 2230
School website: www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady's is a Child Safe School



*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen on you.
Isaiah 60:1*

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tues 25 Mar 6.30 Reconciliation
Parent Meeting
Tues 1 Apr 9.00am Farewell
Mass for Ms Bertani
Fri 4 Apr 12.15pm Final Assem-
bly for Term 1. School finishes at
1.00pm
Tues 22 Apr Term 2 begins at
8.35am
Fri 25 Apr ANZAC Day Public
Holiday
Mon 28 Apr Open Day for 2026.
7.00pm Student Wellbeing Par-
ent Session
Wed 30 Apr 6.00pm Reconcilia-
tion for Yr 3
Mon 5 May Whole School Ath-
letics Day (Keilor Park)
Thur 8 May Mother's Day Stall

2025 Professional Development
Days for staff - No school for
the children

Term 2

Mon 19th May - PD Review
Tues 20th May - PD Review

Term 3

Wed 13th August - Religious
Education Focus

Term 4

Mon 3rd of November

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

Term 1 - Fri 4th April

Term 2 - Fri 4th July

Term 3 - Fri 19th September

Term 4 - Tues 16th December (last
day of the 2025 school year for
students).

Term 2 - Three Way Conversations
(First Semester Reports)

Thursday 3rd July 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday 4th July 8:00am - 12:40pm

Sacraments

Wed 30 Apr 6.00pm Reconcilia-
tion for Yr 3

Sun 25 May 10.30am Eucharist
for Yr 4

Fri 8 Aug 7.00pm Confirmation
for Yr 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting and enriching week of learning across our school this week has been. We began the week with the Year 5 excursion to the Williamstown Botanical Gardens. The students were deeply engaged with the specialist speakers who presented information and diverse perspectives about the gardens: Jack Breedon (Scientist), David Speller (Sustainability Vic), Malia Solo (Tongan educator LSO), Anh Bui (Mental Health & Wellbeing Coordinator, Australian Vietnamese Women's Association) and Willie Pepper (Boonwurrung Land Council).



Western Bulldogs Visit

This week we were also very fortunate to have the following West-
ern Bulldogs players visit our school to speak to the Year 3 and 4
students about what it is like to be a professional football player:

**Oskar Baker (#13), Rhylee West (#14), Taylor Duryea (#15) and
Ryan Gardner (#43).**

We thank the players for taking the time out of their busy schedules to speak to
our children. The children were curious and asked many questions about what it's
really like to play for an AFL team.



Year 6 Camp

The excitement continued at Our Lady's with our Year 6
students going off to the 3 day Oasis Camp in Mt. Evelyn
on Wednesday. The students participated in a variety of
outdoor activities and had a great time. Thankfully the
weather remained fine enough so there was no interruption to the camp program.
Mrs Carabott and myself visited the camp on Thursday and were greeted by very
excited and happy students.



A huge thank-you to our dedicated staff; Mrs Shai Backus, Ms Belinda Whelan, Ms
Joanne McManus, Ms Stephanie Huynh, Ms Seona Payne and Mr Dean Frahm, who
attended the camp and ensured it was a huge success for our Year 6 students. We
will share the camp photos with you next week.

Giving Prayer

*We can make the world a better place. God helps others through us.
Lord, we come to you and ask to hear us as we offer our prayers to you.
Make us people who know how to give from the heart.
Make us people who go out of their way to help others in need.
Make us people who follow in your footsteps of service.
May we show the light of your love to other people in all we do and say.
Amen*



The school wet weather jacket

A reminder about the correct time to wear the school wet weather jacket. This jacket is meant to be worn outside when the weather is cool or raining and you need extra warmth. **It is not to replace the school jumper and is not to be worn inside the classroom.**



Do you qualify for free home internet until June 2028?

School age students with access to online learning at home are more likely to engage in classroom activities.

Check if you qualify for free home internet today. Contact National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm AEDT) or complete a webform by visiting: www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet



Find out if you qualify **today**.



Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week has been on week. It's a time to celebrate our identity and who we are as catholic school communities, and to join with other schools in this celebration. It is unfortunate that we can only bring 10 students to the St. Patrick's Day Mass (although St. Patrick's Day was on the 17th March) and celebrations at St. Patrick's Cathedral are on today.

Mrs Cuni and I will be accompanying our 10 Year 5 students who will carry our school banner in the procession of Catholic schools. It is a very grand and moving occasion for all who attend just to see all primary and secondary schools coming together as one and celebrating the mass as one community.

The theme this year is, "*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you (Is 60: 1)*", which draws from the motto of the Holy Year, the Year of Jubilee, and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival's theme – 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

These statistics which show the accumulative result of how arriving late at the start of the school day affects your child's learning time. It may surprise you. Please get your child to school on time. It does make a difference.

Warm regards,

Patrizia Bertani

Ms Patrizia Bertani
Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Did you know

Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day just a little bit late doesn't seem much but

He/she just missing,	That equals ..	Which is ...	and over 13 years of schooling that's ...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years

Western Bulldogs Visit

On Monday the 17th March, 4 Western Bulldogs players came to visit Our Lady's.

The Years 3 and 4 had the opportunity to ask questions to the Western Bulldogs players about life as professional players.

Oskar Baker (#13), Rhylee West (#14), Taylor Duryea (#15) and Ryan Gardner (#43) answered the wonderful variety of questions from the students about their careers and the Western Bulldogs.

Well done Year 3 and 4!



TEETH ON WHEELS

We're excited to announce that Teeth On Wheels will be visiting our School on May 29th 2025!

Teeth On Wheels is all about making dental care fun and stress-free while teaching children the importance of oral health. They specialise in working with children, offering services such as check-ups, cleans, and more - right here at the School! The team is specially trained to provide compassionate and tailored care for neurodiverse patients, ensuring a respectful and supportive experience for everyone.

If eligible under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS), your child may even receive FREE dental care.

To participate, simply complete the E-form by the cut-off date May 23rd 2025:

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR FORM!](#)

Don't miss this opportunity for your child to receive high-quality, educational dental care. Submit your form today, and the Teeth On Wheels team will be in touch to schedule your child's appointment!

EXCITING NEWS
Healthy Smiles, Start Here!

Oral Health Educational Program

Teeth On Wheels is coming to our school, bringing expert dental care and fun oral health education for your little ones. With convenient on-site check-ups, we're making it easy to keep their smiles healthy and strong.

With government support, your child could be eligible for **FREE DENTAL CARE**, sign up today and find out how!

Our dental services include:

- ✓ Check-ups
- ✓ Clean
- ✓ Fluoride Treatments
- ✓ X-rays
- ✓ Preventative Sealants
- ✓ Fillings

Don't miss out,
Sign up today!



TeethOnWheels
a positive dental experience



TeethOnWheelsAustralia



#teethonwheels

Phone: (03) 9338 1191

Email: info@teethonwheels.com.au





OUR LADY'S

Easter Raffle

RAFFLE DRAWN

THURSDAY
3 APRIL

DONATIONS OF EASTER EGGS
+ THEMED ITEMS CAN BE
DROPPED OFF AT THE OFFICE
BY MONDAY 31 MARCH

TICKETS \$1 EACH VIA QKR



Student Wellbeing Parent Information evening

Focus: Understanding anxiety &
Supporting anxiety at home; Ways
you can help at home.

When: Monday

28th April at 6:30pm



RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

WEBINAR
FOR PARENTS
& CARERS

Social media

Online gaming

Strengthening family communication

Impacts of screen time

Cyberbullying

Managing devices at home

Child & tween online trends

Explicit/adult content

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday 15 May | 7.30 - 9.00 pm



Webinar registration:
bit.ly/CommunityWebinarMay15

*This session is strictly for parents and carers only as the content is not suitable for children.



Presented by
Martin McGauran,
primary teacher and
digital safety educator
and Carley McGauran,
psychologist and mum
to 3 school-aged kids.



An evening that provided some reality checks! A few new changes in our home this week! - Parent

Marty and Carley were simply sensational. Their presentation was relevant, honest and informative. A MUST for each school, every year. - Principal

Incredible session... Should be essential for all parents!
- Parent

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SUNSHINE

ENROLMENTS FOR FOUNDATION 2026

OPEN FROM 12 MARCH 2025

Our Lady's School is a Catholic Primary School serving the Parish of Our Lady's Sunshine.

In a spirit of unity and harmony, we strive to develop the whole person; providing an excellent education for all and inspiring our community members to live a Christian way of life.

Please come into the Office between 8.30am-4.00pm to pick up an Enrolment Pack.

OPEN DAY

Monday 28 April 2025

Tours at 9.00am and 4.00pm

For more information please visit
olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

32 Station Place Sunshine 3020

9312 2230 or enquiries@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au





SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Sharpen your footy skills at one of our School Holiday Programs in Melbourne's West.
Suitable for kids aged 4-12.

WEEK 1

- MON, APRIL 7 _____ CITY OVAL, BALLARAT
- MON, APRIL 7 _____ CROFTS RESERVE, ALTONA
- TUE APRIL 8 _____ ARNOLDS CREEK RESERVE, MELTON
- WED APRIL 9 _____ MISSION WHITTEN OVAL

WEEK 2

- MON, APRIL 14 _____ CITY OVAL, BALLARAT
- MON, APRIL 14 _____ CROFTS RESERVE, ALTONA
- WED APRIL 16 _____ MADDINGLEY PARK RES, BACCHUS MARSH



REGISTER NOW



SOFTBALL

School Holiday Program



Locations:

- Albury Wodonga Softball Association**
- Dandenong Softball Association**
- Geelong Softball Association**
- Glen Eira Moorabbin Softball Association**
- Hume City Softball Association**
- Melbourne Softball Association**
- Northern District Softball Association**
- Sunshine Softball Association**

APRIL HOLIDAYS

Time: 9am – 1pm

Scan the QR Code for more info and to register



www.softballvic.org.au/events

Cost: \$75.00pp for non members, \$50.00pp for members

Price includes a glove and ball (or a \$25 Ausport Voucher)



Naplan

NAPLAN week is almost here, and many parents (and kids... and even teachers) are feeling a little extra stress and anxiety. NAPLAN has a lot of critics, plenty of supporters, and a whole lot of parents and students who simply go along with it because 'it's just what we do'.

This article is designed to offer some general – and gentle – advice on what's coming.

What NAPLAN is

NAPLAN stands for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy; a nationwide standardised test that almost every student in Grades 3, 5, 7, and 9 are about to sit. Its purpose is to provide information about how education programs are working, areas for improvement, and which schools need support in the teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy. Some critics argue that it doesn't do this particularly well... but that's beyond the scope of this discussion.

What NAPLAN does well

When it works well, NAPLAN does three things:

- 1** NAPLAN results enable the identification of problems in the school system. And they point to places where education needs to improve.

For example, NAPLAN results have shown us education gaps for indigenous students, and for students in disadvantaged schools. We knew those gaps existed. But now we know the scope and range.
- 2** Literacy and numeracy results are made transparent at a national, state and territory, and school level. We now know that states and territories have different levels of achievement when they are compared on a like-for-like basis which NAPLAN allows.
- 3** NAPLAN shows us education trends over time.

What NAPLAN doesn't do well

NAPLAN doesn't give you a useful guide on how your child is doing academically. The test is done in March and we receive the results in the late part of the year. If you want to know how your child is doing, talk to their teacher. Great teachers can give you detailed information today about your child's progress.

NAPLAN doesn't give you any information about the quality of your child's character. It doesn't tell you anything about your child's ability to work in a team, to problem-solve, to show compassion, to be creative, engaged or resilient. It's not about your child's talents.

NAPLAN also gives us no information about the school your child attends in terms of approaches to discipline, school culture, school contribution to community, or the way it encourages students in areas not covered by NAPLAN.

And in some cases it has been reported that NAPLAN, while providing data, doesn't ultimately lead to governments providing schools (or parents) with the resources needed when issues arise.

What you should do

Based on everything I've outlined above, you'll note that much of NAPLAN's focus is oriented towards education at a school, regional, state, and national level. While there is some individual focus, it's not really an individual assessment tool. It's more about how the school, the state, and the country are doing. Therefore, I suggest parents keep the following in mind:

- Don't make NAPLAN a big deal. You barely even need to talk about it with your child
- Don't offer rewards to your child for doing well on NAPLAN. Research evidence shows this adds pressure, builds anxiety, and reduces children's creativity, motivation, and interest in real learning. (One mum I spoke to wondered if bribing her child with a puppy would be helpful. It's not.)
- Don't buy practice tests for NAPLAN. Your child doesn't need to rehearse for NAPLAN
- Don't worry about NAPLAN results. Leave that to the school

Instead, you might want to try the following:

- Do show an interest in your child's education, regardless of whether NAPLAN is on or not
- Do encourage your child to read every single day. Read to them. Read with them. Have them read alone. And do this regardless of whether NAPLAN is on or not
- Do have your child participate in sports, music, art, drama, and other enrichment activities to the degree that you have the time and money for them – regardless of whether NAPLAN is on or not
- Do give your child plenty of unstructured (screen-free) time to simply be kids – especially when NAPLAN is on

What your child should do

More than anything, your child will benefit from not being particularly interested in or bothered by NAPLAN. Life should be as close to normal as possible for your child.

It's true that some schools want to see NAPLAN results before they'll consider enrolling your child. It's true that some elements of NAPLAN feel like they matter a lot to us as parents because we want to see our children succeed. But please – PLEASE – remember:

Your child's NAPLAN score is not an indicator of your child's value, your child's potential, or your child's worthiness. It's just a number. And it's more meaningful to the school system than it is to you or your child.

When NAPLAN rolls around, treat it like a small, gentle wave at the beach. It rolls up the sand. It leaves a small, temporary mark. And then it disappears back into the ocean.



AUTHOR

Dr Justin Coulson

Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters. 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 6 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.



God will help us bear fruit



3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C

Jesus told his followers the story of a fig tree that would not bear fruit. The gardener said he would try hard for one more year to help it grow. God wants us to try hard so that we too can grow, and 'bear fruit'. What are four things you can do during Lent that help you be a better Christian and bring you closer to Jesus?



Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

He told the people this parable:

'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."



Jesus told parables to help his followers understand his teachings more clearly. Can you draw pictures from three different parables?

