

# St Malachy's School



## Prayer

Loving God,  
Bless our Mini Vinnies team as  
they begin their  
journey of service this year.  
May they open their hearts to  
those in need, bring  
comfort to the lonely and hope  
to the struggling.  
Help them to lead with kindness  
and inspire  
others to follow in their  
footsteps.  
Guide them in their mission to  
make our world a  
fairer and more loving place.  
-Amen.



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

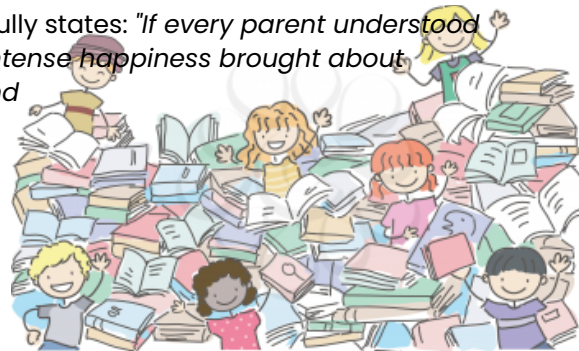
Included in this week's newsletter, is important information regarding NAPLAN 2025 for Year 3 and 5 students, which will commence on March 12. See page 5. As part of our school's commitment to Structured Literacy, we are pleased to continue receiving extra professional support in 2025 through a generous benefactor's donation. This support is being facilitated by La Trobe University through a project called the "Aurora Project", which provides additional teacher support to selected schools. Mrs. Mel Fox from Catholic Education Ballarat, will be our Aurora Team Leader and Coach. As part of this project, data will be collected, though parents have the option to opt out if they prefer. Please refer to the attached information page for further details.

Our swimming day in Casterton on Tuesday, was enjoyable! Thanks to Sacred Heart for hosting the event. Each year, we review the day and try to make improvements if necessary for the following year. Thankfully, the weather was much more pleasant compared to last week's extreme conditions.

### The Importance of Nightly Reading

We know from experience that reading aloud or being read to each night has a profound impact on a child's love for reading and overall literacy skills.

As children's author Mem Fox beautifully states: *"If every parent understood the huge educational benefits and intense happiness brought about by reading aloud to their children, and if every parent – and every adult caring for a child – read aloud a minimum of three stories a day to the children in our lives, we could probably wipe out illiteracy within one generation."* Let's continue to nurture a love of reading in our children! Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead.



Kind regards,

-John



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SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
President: Chris White

# Term 1 Calendar

## February:

**Thursday, 20th:** Mum's cuppa @ 8.30 a.m.

**Wednesday, 26th:** Little Desert Swimming @ Horsham

## March:

**Tuesday 4th:** Shrove Tuesday

**Tuesday, 4th:** Kowree Swimming @ Goroke

**Wednesday 5th:** Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9:15 a.m.

**Monday, 10th:** Labour Day

**Wednesday, 12th-Friday, 14th:** Year 5/6 Camp @ Melbourne

**Thursday, 20th-Friday, 21st:** Year 3/4 Camp @ Grampians

**Thursday, 27th:** Parent-teacher interviews

## April:

**Friday, 4th:** Term 1 ends

# St. Malachy's Cookbook



**SUBMISSIONS CLOSE  
END OF TERM 1**

## St Malachy's Cookbook

We are wanting to put together a St Malachy's cookbook! We are requesting recipes from families and community members before the end of Term 1 (4th of April), so we can collate the books and you can order them later in the year. The book will feature children's artworks.

We are requesting:

- Foundation Families: Snacks and Accompaniments
- Year 1/2 Families: Soups + Side dishes
- Year 3/4 Families: Main Dishes
- Year 5/6 Families: Desserts

Questions:

- Can I submit a recipe that is not assigned to my year level? Yes of course you can if it is a special dish!
- Can I submit a recipe if I am not a student but a community member? Definitely!
- Will all recipes be included? If we get double ups of the same recipe, we will not include both.
- Can I submit more than one recipe? Certainly!

How to submit:

Digital copies of recipes are preferred to assist in the editing process, however written and printed recipes are also accepted. Please either drop your recipe into the front office or attach your recipe to a message to the St Malachy's facebook page. Please ensure method and quantities of ingredients are clear.

**DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR FAMILY NAME IN THE RECIPE, YOU CAN EVEN RENAME YOUR DISH TO INCORPORATE YOUR NAME IN A CREATIVE WAY IF YOU WISH!**

## CHURCH MASS TIMES

1st Sunday: 9 a.m.

2nd Sunday: 9 a.m.

3rd Sunday: 11.15 a.m.

4th Sunday: Lay led @ 10 a.m.

## From Carine - Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader

Even though the government is putting legislation in place to manage the age requirement for the use of social media, there is no magic number to determine when a child is old enough to use social media. It is up to you as parents/carers to decide when and how your children take these first steps, and how best to support them as they begin their social media journey. Asking these six questions will help you navigate social media usage with your young person.

For the full article, click here - <https://bit.ly/48M3j69>

For more tips on how to keep your child safe online, visit Dolly's Dream Parent Hub - <http://bit.ly/3SDsHmI>

Download Beacon, Dolly's Dream's personalised, one-stop-shop for online safety resources at <https://bit.ly/3SKtV0u>

### DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH NEGATIVE ONLINE EXPERIENCES?

If you think your child would be very upset by a negative experience online, **guide them closely** if you allow them to create a social media account. Look through online profiles and public feeds together. Talk about how some people behave differently online. Teach them how to **filter** abusive comments, **block** and **report** people.

### DO THEY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION?

Explain to them why privacy is important. Start by describing what personal information is. Let them know that if they share personal information online, others, including strangers, could **use it in harmful ways**. This may be posting bullying messages or inappropriate photos while pretending to be them.

### DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW HOW TO REPORT CYBERBULLYING AND ABUSIVE CONTENT?

It is important that your child knows how to manage and report cyberbullying when it happens to them. Together with them, check the **safety resources** for social media services and look up how to **block** and **report** other users.

### DOES YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND ONLINE PRIVACY?

Show your child how to view the privacy settings for each social media service you use. Talk about the settings you have selected for your accounts and **why you chose them**. Discuss the **risks** of tagging people in photos, sharing nudes, meeting online friends in person, making offensive comments, and other things they may do online.

### WILL THEY LET YOU ESTABLISH **CLEAR RULES** AND **SUPERVISE** THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY?

It is a good idea to supervise your child's online activity, at least initially. Be clear on things like **when** and **where** online devices can be used. Become their friend or **follow their social media accounts**. Resist talking about the specifics of their online activity. If you intervene too much or comment publicly, it can embarrass them and break their trust.

If you are concerned about a child or young person being bullied, call **Dolly's Dream Support Line** anytime for free help at **0488 881 033**.

For resources on how to keep your child safe online:

Visit Dolly's Dream **Parent Hub** at [dollysdream.org.au/parent-hub](http://dollysdream.org.au/parent-hub)

Download **Beacon**, a free cyber-safety app for every parent and carer, by scanning the QR code.



**SchoolTV**

Make yourselves a  
cuppa and check out  
School TV too.



# 2025 School fees

School Fees for 2025 were sent home last week.

If you would prefer to set up your own Direct Debit, the account details are located on the top right hand side of your fee statement. All accounts are due by 4th April, 2025 unless you are on a regular payment plan.

The Family Fee Assistance scheme will be available again in 2025; details and application forms were attached to the newsletter. Families who qualify for the scheme (if you hold a Health Care Card or Pension card) will pay \$520 per annum for primary school tuition fees. The discounted fee covers tuition and capital fees only. It does not cover additional charges such as camps, student fees, and excursions. Please note that students who are holders of Health Care Cards are not eligible. These forms are also available at the office. The forms, plus a copy of your current Centrelink card, must be received by Friday, 4th April, 2025.

The Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. Please see below for eligibility or please contact the office. Forms are available at the office and must be completed no later than Monday 24th February, 2025.

If during the year your circumstances change and you become eligible for Centrelink, please come and discuss this with me. If you have any queries concerning your account, please contact me at the office.

-Barb

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**Edenhope community Playgroup!**

Every Friday at Edenhope children services, childcare room.

9:00am - 11:00am

Bring along a:  
• Snack  
• Hat &  
• Gold a coin donation

Follow us on facebook  
Edenhope Community Playgroup

**Come Play. Learn, and Grow Together!**

## Thanks from the Office

A big thank you to all families for helping the School move forward quickly with SIMON and PAM and updating the student medical records and other details. This will be an annual process along with the Consent forms that are starting to arrive on the PAM platform for you to consent. As we get our heads around using this new format, you will now receive notifications within the app that there's something for you to approve/consent. You'll also find the school calendar within the app with our school dates on there too.



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$154 for primary school students
- \$256 for secondary school students

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:  
<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>



# Western Trinity Staff Planning Day



On Thursday, our teachers and staff from the Western Trinity – Sacrea Heart School, Casterton; St. Joseph's School, Coleraine and St. Malachy's gathered for a valuable pupil-free day dedicated to collaboration and planning for the year ahead.

The day provided an opportunity to reflect on the future of the Western Trinity, set key goals and identify areas for growth. A major focus was on School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) and student wellbeing, ensuring we continue to create a positive and supportive learning environment for all students. Collaborative teaching across our three schools was also explored, strengthening our shared approach to education.

Our Education Support staff also had the chance to connect and discuss how intervention programs are implemented across different student groups. This was particularly beneficial for our new support staff, who gained valuable insights and strategies to enhance their work with students.

Days like this strengthens our commitment to working together as a Trinity to provide the best possible education for our students.

## Swimming news

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for the Little Desert Swim Carnival on February 26th:

- Felix White (50m Freestyle & Backstroke),
- Milly Whitehead (50m Backstroke);
- Rhianna McClure (50m Freestyle & Breaststroke);
- Lizzie Merrett (Breaststroke and Freestyle);
- Madeline McClure (50m Freestyle & Backstroke).

Good luck next Wednesday!

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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



2025 is a special year for the Church. It is a Holy Year, a Jubilee Year. A Jubilee year is a time to come together with kindness, share hope, be fair, and happily serve God while living in peace with everyone around us. The theme for the Jubilee Year is '**Pilgrims of Hope**'. We pray throughout our Mass that we will be filled with hope as we journey on together through 2025. Our Mass on Friday is based around the theme of Hope. It links to the Jubilee Year theme. Hope is like a bright light that guides us, even on days that feel cloudy or hard. It reminds us that God is always with us, loving us and giving us strength to face any challenge. As we pray and sing together, let's think about how we can share hope with others – through kind words, helping hands, and joyful hearts

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ,  
our brother,  
and the flame of *charity*  
enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the  
*blessed hope*  
for the coming of your  
Kingdom.



## Child friendly Gym

Caring for kids? No time to exercise?

Join us on Thursday, March 6th from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM for a trial month of family-friendly fitness each Thursday at Elsie Bennett Community Centre. No need to leave the little ones at home – bring them along!

At Grampians Health Edenhope, we believe fitness should be fun and accessible for everyone, even while caring for little ones. So, feel free to bring a snack, a toy or two and enjoy our range of equipment – including treadmills, bikes, rowers and cross trainers – while we help keep an eye on your kids!

Fitness and fun for you – see you there!

\$3 per adult

# NAPLAN

## Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with more information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working, and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

## Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

## What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au).

## Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the National Assessment Program.

Information on adjustments available for students with disabilities who have diverse functional abilities and needs is provided in the National protocols for test administration.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the National protocols for test administration (linked above), NAPLAN public demonstration site, the Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN, and our series of videos where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

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# NAPLAN – continued

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

## CHURCH MASS TIMES

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### What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN test days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

### What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by letting them know that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanations of NAPLAN are useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers. See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at NAP – Public demonstration site.

### How is my child's performance reported?

From 2023, NAPLAN results will be reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected of the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling. Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support. A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

### How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](https://myschool.edu.au).

Where can I get more information?

### For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](https://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](https://nap.edu.au)

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](https://nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy).

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame. The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday, 12th March, 2025 and finishes on Monday, 24th March, 2025.

Schools will schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.