



# School Newsletter 23 / 05 / 2025

## In this edition

Principal's  
News

Dates

Nominate a  
Teacher who  
Inspires

SRC

Fire Carrier  
Program

National  
Simultaneous  
Storytime

Congratulation  
s

Smiling Hearts

Parents &  
Friends

School  
concert

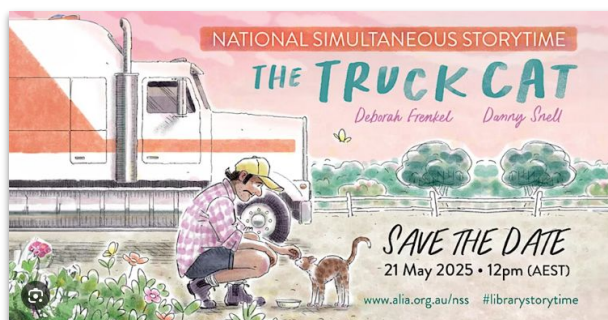
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## Principal's News

Dear Families,

On Wednesday, the whole school gathered in the school hall to take part in the National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS), an annual event organised by the Australian Library and Information Association. Now celebrating its 25th year, NSS brings together hundreds of thousands of children across Australia to enjoy the magic of reading, simultaneously! Each year, a picture book written and illustrated by an Australian author is chosen to be read aloud in schools, libraries, homes, and bookshops at the same time nationwide.

This year's featured book was "The Truck Cat", an engaging story that captivated students from Foundation through to Year 6. With its vibrant illustrations and inclusive themes, The Truck Cat offered a perfect opportunity to promote reading and spark imaginations. We look forward to participating again next year!



## Prep enrolments for 2026

Our Year 6 leaders proudly and professionally welcomed prospective parents and children, showcasing all that our school has to offer. As a result, we are delighted to have received a high number of applications for 2026 entry. If your child is due to start school in 2026, we strongly encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible, as places are filling up quickly.



## School Newsletter 23 / 05 / 2025

### Fire Carrier Program

Next week is National Reconciliation week.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the successful **1967 referendum**, and the **High Court Mabo decision** respectively.

As a school, we are proud to have embarked on our own important journey of reconciliation and have become a FIRE Carrier school. An initiative of the [Aboriginal Catholic Ministry](#) and [Opening the Doors foundation](#), this project is supported by MACS (with over 100 schools now commissioned) and other Catholic dioceses across Victoria to promote respect, fairness and inclusion for Aboriginal people in our schools.

Our inaugural FIRE Carrier leaders are Harvey McDonald, Kian O'Brien, Elle Stavridis and Sofia Hamilton- Alvarez. Please see their amazing contribution to the newsletter about their commissioning day yesterday.

Next week these leaders will lead our students in activities and learning about National Reconciliation week.

### Nominate a Teacher Who Inspires

At the heart of all Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools are the dedicated teachers who bring learning to life, shaping the education of every young person in their care. At St. Patrick's, we are proud of the educators who go above and beyond to nurture our students' faith, curiosity, character, and love of learning.

That's why we're thrilled to be part of the Australia's Best Teachers campaign, run in partnership with the Herald Sun. It is a celebration of exceptional teachers and the lasting impact they have on our school community.

Please feel free to nominate a teacher who inspires your child! Click the link below to nominate them and make your voice heard.

👉 <https://www.australiasbestteacher.com.au/>

God Bless,

*Joanne Soulsby*

St Patrick's School Principal





# School Newsletter 23 / 05 / 2025

## Dates

April	
May	
Monday 26	Assembly Prep BJ
27th May - 3rd June	National Reconciliation Week
Tuesday 27	6pm School Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday 29	House Athletics Day - Years 3 to 6
Friday 30	Interschool school Sport Year 5/6

Please find the link to our website for our calendar. Our calendar is regularly updated for your information. [Calendar](#)

June	
Monday 2	Assembly Class 6D
Friday 6	11am Pentecost Liturgy Interschool School Sport Year 5/6
Monday 9	<b>King's Birthday no students at school No assembly</b>
Tuesday 10	5.30pm Year 4 First Eucharist Family Workshop
Friday 13	Interschool Sport Year 5/6
Monday 16	Assembly Class 6M
Tuesday 17	Dendy AFL Lightning Premiership (selected students)
Wednesday 18	Dendy Netball Lightning Premiership (selected students)
Thursday 19	Dendy Soccer Lightning Premiership (selected students)
Sunday 22	9:00am Year 4 First Eucharist
Monday 23	Assembly Class 5L
Friday 27	<b>9:15 Feast of Sacred Heart Mass</b>
Monday 30	Assembly Class 5M
JULY	
Friday 4	<b>End of Term - school finishes 1:00pm</b>



# Nominate a Teacher Who Inspires!

Would you like to nominate a St. Patrick's teacher who inspires? Now is your opportunity to nominate an outstanding teacher from our school. Make your voice heard!

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



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools

## AUSTRALIA'S BEST TEACHER NOMINATE A TEACHER WHO INSPIRES

At the heart of all MACS schools are the teachers who enable vibrant centres of learning and growth – forming the head, heart, hands and soul of our young people.



This is why we're partnering once again with the Herald Sun on its Australia's Best Teachers campaign, a campaign to recognise and celebrate exceptional educators across school communities and the profound impact they have in inspiring growing minds to discover futures filled with purpose.

An expert judging panel will shortlist all nominations for entry into Australia's Top 50 Best Teachers list to be announced in June.

Nominations are now open to all MACS students, parents, staff and members of the school community to nominate their best teacher!



# Congratulations to the SRC

Congratulations to the SRC members who were awarded their badges at assembly over the last two weeks.

Spencer - Prep S  
Charlie - Prep B  
Farrah and Isabella - 1V  
Harriet and Thomas - 1J  
Lenny and Lani - 2HB  
Finn and Olivia - 3M  
Zendaya and Clementine- 3FM  
Lachlan and Miles - 4S  
James and Nalah - 4YG  
Alice and Henry - 5M  
Aidan and Emannie - 5L  
Kieran and Tess - 6M  
Samuel and Madeline - 6D





# Fire Carrier Program

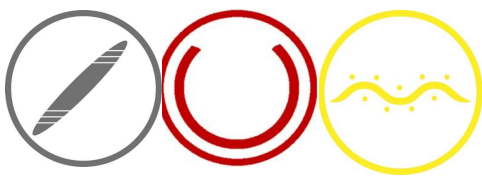
As your first St. Patrick's **FIRE** Carrier leaders, we would like to share what we have learned at our **Fire** Carrier Commissioning ceremony.

We learnt that **FIRE** stands for **F**riends **I**gniting **R**econciliation through **E**ducation, **FIRE**.

We also learnt about [Opening the Doors foundation](#) and here's what they do:

The Opening the Doors foundation is an organisation that helps First Nations people who need money to send their children to any school of their choice. They help by giving them a cheque to go to their local uniform shop and buy anything they need.

After hearing from Lisa and Sherry, we wrote our St. Patrick's covenant - which is our promise to actions for reconciliation. We brainstormed ideas about what we want for our school to show we are dedicated to reconcile with the First Nations people of Australia.







# Fire Carrier Program

What did we learn?

We also learned what we have to do as **FIRE** carriers and we were presented with our badges. We were commissioned by first nations indigenous woman Sherry Balcombe in a fire ceremony alongside other schools like OLSH (secondary school) and Mother of God primary school.

Sherry is a First Nations Western Yalanji, Djabugay / Okola woman from Far North Queensland who was born here on Wurundjeri Country. She works for the [Aboriginal Catholic Ministry](#).

What happened at our **FIRE** ceremony?

At our **FIRE** ceremony, we were blessed by the spirit of the fire, by Sherry saying, "May the spirit of the fire be in your ears, your eyes, your mouth, your heart and in your arms and legs. Welcome to the **FIRE** carriers". It was beautiful and we felt very special.

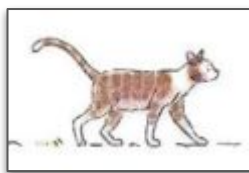
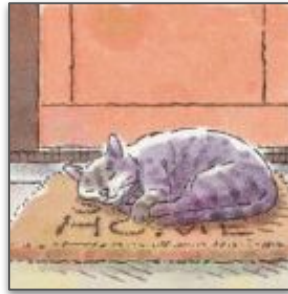
We were then presented with our badges and we started our journey back home full of ideas and excitement to carry out this important work!

By Elle, Sofia, Harvey and Kian





# National Simultaneous Story Time





# Congratulations!

Congratulations to Aleks Papillo who was recognised for his outstanding volunteer work in the community!

Aleks received a Volunteer Recognition Award from Glen Eira Council, acknowledging his dedication to safety initiatives, and support for Neighborhood Watch Glen Eira.

He has helped create safety initiatives for kids, delivered community safety newsletters in Glen Eira and been the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Young Ambassador as a representative for them - the face of it which many people may have seen on the news.

As a member of our Well-being and Physical Education leadership team at St Patrick's, Aleks has passion and commitment to making a positive impact.

We are incredibly proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing the continued impact of his efforts.



★ Congratulations! ★

### GROWTH, DREAMS & MILESTONES AT SMILING HEARTS

There's so much happening at Smiling Hearts, and we love sharing these updates with you, our incredible supporters who continue to make dreams possible.

We're overflowing with pride for Sylvia, one of our very first Smiling Hearts children, who has just completed her Senior Six education! This August, she'll be starting university to study Social Development and Counselling, a path inspired by her dream to help people living with disabilities.

Sylvia once thought this future was out of reach, but thanks to your incredible support and belief, she's stepping into it with confidence and purpose. We can't wait to celebrate with her during our visit in June!

Exciting news from the farm, JJ the cow is pregnant! The kids are eagerly awaiting the arrival of her calf and the chance to add fresh milk to their porridge. They'll also hope to sell any extra milk to bring in income for the Centre. To help with the management of the farm, we are looking to appoint a full-time Farm Manager, ensuring the farm becomes a sustainable source of support for the entire program. Another 400 coffee plants have also been planted, with a harvest expected late May!

Our future goal for our Bakery Program, is to supply baked goods to nearby villages. The Tuk-Tuk has made transportation for this possible, and now with the addition of a new donut machine, we can produce higher quality donuts in larger quantities—more efficiently and with less power usage. We love how the kids are always so conscious of lowering usage of power wherever possible.

Violah, one of our students, is about to begin hair plaiting training in Masaka town. We're sure she'll be trying out her new skills on plenty of willing Smiling Hearts models, and we expect some fabulous hair transformations.





### GROWTH, DREAMS & MILESTONES AT SMILING HEARTS

We purchased two new sewing machines for our Vocational Training Centre, including a heavy-duty model. This opens up new opportunities to create more durable and marketable products, helping us build long-term income streams.

Our Outreach Program continues to create lasting impact. We recently helped Mum Provia launch her very own vegetable stall, giving her a reliable income to care for little Provia and her five other children. It's a beautiful step toward independence and dignity—just one of the many ways your support changes lives.

Next month, I'll be back with Hellen and our Smiling Hearts family in Uganda. I'll be carrying your messages of love and support with me, and I know the children and staff will be thrilled to hear about all the wonderful ways you continue to lift them up.

Until next time, may your hearts continue to smile,

Loretta & Hellen



Parents and Friends

Prep - Grade 2 Social Event

OHHHHHHH SNAP!!!

# PREP TO YR 2 SOCIAL NIGHT



WHEN: FRI 23 MAY 6-8PM

WHERE: CROCS CLAYTON

WHAT: \$15 ENTRY ONLY OR

\$25 ENTRY + KIDS MEAL

\*please purchase via cdf

pay by fri 16 may



Parents and Friends

Christmas in July

Christmas party planning has begun...

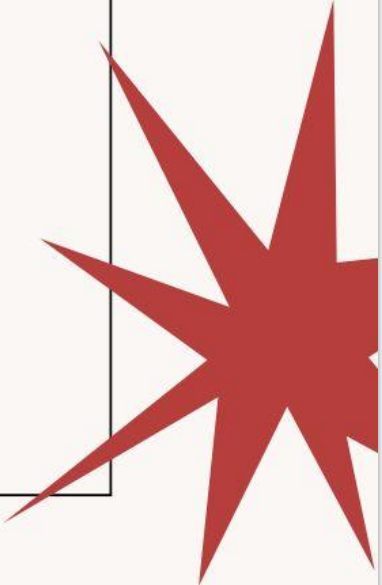


**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

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25 JULY 2025

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You won't want to miss this one!  
Details available shortly

# Parents and Friends Dates

## Calendar of Events

### May

Friday 23



Prep-Grade 2 Social Event –  
Crocs Clayton

### Save The Date

Friday 25 July



Christmas in July Parent Social  
Event

## To Do Checklist

### May

ASAP



Volunteer to help organise the  
Christmas in July parent social  
event!

Anytime



Donate unused uniforms to pre-  
loved uniform shop

## Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

### SECOND HAND UNIFORM STORE

Did you know we have a pre-loved uniform store run by a group  
of wonderful volunteers?

Request for items can be emailed to:  
[stptssecondhanduniforms@gmail.com](mailto:stptssecondhanduniforms@gmail.com) at any time of the year!

**ALL ITEMS \$5!**

Donations are always appreciated and can be dropped into our  
designated green uniform bin located to the left of the stage in  
the hall.





# SCHOOL CONCERT

## 2025

**AUG 06**  
Term 3 Week 3  
Crossway Burwood

Show Time:

**06  
PM**

Meeting Time:  
5.40pm

TICKET  
SALES  
IN  
TERM 3

St. Patrick's Primary School Presents

**FOLLOW  
YOUR  
DREAMS**



A musical Journey about believing in yourself

# SCHOOL CONCERT

## 2025

Sneak Peek

More new costumes to come!!



Ratatouille by 5L



Hakuna Matata by 3M





DE LA SALLE  
COLLEGE - MALVERN

# Year 7 2027

## Information Night

Thursday 12 June, 7:00pm  
1318 High Street Malvern

[Register here](#)



DE LA SALLE  
COLLEGE - MALVERN

Join us and learn about our  
comprehensive Year 7 program.  
All are welcome to attend.