



ST ALOYSIUS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
QUEENSLIFF

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Volume 4.10
Friday 13 December 2024

Dear School Community,

It is with great pleasure that I write this final newsletter for 2024. It has been a big year for the St Aloysius community with many reasons for celebration at this end of the year period. As we approach the final part of the season of Advent we are also reminded that the true cause for celebration is in fact the birth of Jesus. It was beautiful to see the grade 3/4 class re-enact the Nativity scene on Monday and be reminded that Jesus was born in a stable not surrounded by presents and decorations but by those who were in awe of the presence of the son of God. May we all keep this in mind and look out into the stars between now and Christmas and be reminded of how they lead to a manger in Bethlehem.



We continued with our end of year events this week and last week. Our athletic sports were a massive success with the participation of all students being an absolute highlight. Many thanks to Naomi Young for providing such an amazing inclusive and fun athletics carnival for our students, staff and in particular our parents who also embraced the spirit of competition!



Our grade sixes have had a big week including their orientation day at their new secondary school, a trip into Geelong to visit our local radio station Pulse FM and a trip to Adventure Park capped off by their Mini Money Makers expo. All of these things gave our students the opportunity to let their light shine. They have been a beautiful example of the growth that you have throughout primary school with a rich experience of subjects and opportunities to prepare you for the next step in your educational journey. We will formally farewell them next Tuesday at our end of year graduation mass at 11:45 am. All are warmly welcome to attend mass.



We also had our final catering night for the year. Massive thanks to all the parent and student volunteers who have contributed to these fabulous evenings and in particular Bronte Mifsud who has been the chef in the kitchen preparing all the amazing meals. Our Christmas Tree fundraiser was also a huge success - thank you to Clare Ireland and her team of volunteers who packed, unloaded and delivered trees and spread joy around the town last Saturday. These fundraising events provide funds for the fabulous initiatives that the P&F run throughout the year.



Today also gave us the opportunity to host the official opening of our Landcare Grant Bio-diversity Garden. This project has been 12 months in the making led by Jo Britt and Emma Martison. They have included our students every step of the way and taught them the importance of what to plant, where to plant it and what its long-term effect will be on the wider environment. Our students have embraced all of the parts of this amazing project and we are very proud to have welcomed Ash Skinner to do an official smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country acknowledging the importance of the indigenous plants that now take pride of place in all of the landscaping around our school.



It wouldn't be an end of year at St Aloysius without the school disco. Many thanks to our parent volunteers Michelle and Marika and their girls who give their time every year to organise this fabulous event for our students. It's a lovely way for the students to celebrate all of the wonderful learning that they have done through the joy of dance and singing.



As this is our final newsletter for the year I also want to acknowledge the amazing **Rhonda Cameron**. Not only has Rhonda created every newsletter for the past 40 years, she has also contributed to every single aspect of our school community. Most will know Rhonda for her wise calm and informative presence in the front office but Rhonda knows every single thing about St Aloysius. If I need to know where a plumbing pipe is, I go to Rhonda. If I need to know where a resource has been kept, I ask Rhonda. If I need to organise a tradesperson to sort something, she knows who to call. If I need the payroll scrutinised, I go to Rhonda. If I need watering, gardening, baking and organisational advice, Rhonda will know the answer and if she doesn't she will find a way to work out what it is. We will formally farewell Rhonda at the afternoon tea held in the CLS next Thursday afternoon at 2:30pm, however we thank you from the bottom of our heart as we move towards the end of your time at St Aloysius.



Miriam Leahy
Principal



KEY DATES		
Term 4 2024		
Mon 16 December	9:00 – 11:00am	Beach Day
Tue 17 December	11:45am 3:20 pm finish	End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation Last day for students
2025		
Term 1 2025		
Thursday 30 January		All Students return - half day for Preps
Tuesday 4 February	9:15 am	Opening Mass and Badge presentation to 2025 School Leaders
Tuesday 18 February	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Sacramental Information Evening
Monday 10 March	Public Holiday	Labour Day
Tuesday 11 March	School Closure Day	Staff Professional Learning Day
Wednesday 12 March		NAPLAN beings for Gr 3 and 5 students
Tuesday 25 March	11:30am – 1:00 pm	Gr 3 First Reconciliation - CLS
Thursday 27 – 28 March		Gr 3 / 4 Camp – Peninsula Outdoors, Merricks
Friday 4 April	3:20 pm finish	Last day of Term 1
Saturday 5 April – Monday 21 April	School Holidays	
Term 2 2025		
Tuesday 22 April	School Closure Day	Staff Professional Learning Day
Wednesday 23 April		Students begin Term 2
Friday 25 April	Public Holiday	ANZAC Day
Friday 23 May	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Gr 6 Confirmation Preparation Day – Santa Casa
Saturday 31 May	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Gr 6 Confirmation Mass – Holy Trinity Parish
Monday 9 June	Public Holiday	King’s Birthday Public Holiday
Friday 4 July	3:20 pm finish	Last day of Term 2
Saturday 5 July – Sunday 20 th July	School Holidays	
Term 3 2025		
Monday 21 July	School Closure Day	Staff Professional Learning Day
Tuesday 22 July		Students begin Term 3
Wednesday 6 – Friday 8 August		Gr 5 / 6 Camp – The Ranch, Cape Schanck
Friday 19 September	3:20 pm finish	Last day of Term 3
Saturday 20 September – Sunday 5 th October	School Holidays	
Term 4 2025		
Monday 6 October		Students begin Term 4
Monday 3 November	School Closure Day	Staff Professional Learning Day
Tuesday 4 November	Public Holiday	Melbourne Cup Day
Tuesday 16 December	3:20 pm finish	Last day of Term 4 for students

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

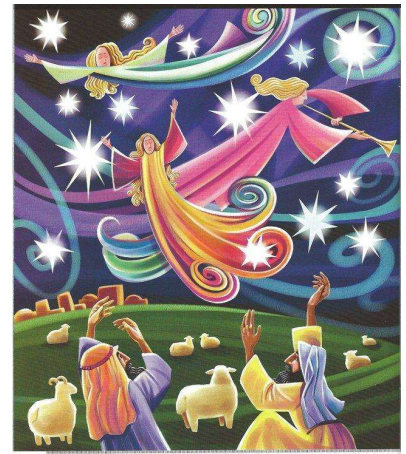
Advent Prayer Services

Please join us for the remaining Advent prayer services. The classes will lead these on Monday mornings at 8.50 am in the CLS.

Monday 16th December – Grade 5/6

End of Year and Graduation Mass

Come along and join us for the final Mass of the year and be with us as we bid farewell to the Grade 6 students. Mass will be held on Tuesday 17 at 11.45 am.



Save the Dates

We now have dates for each of the Sacramental Celebrations next year.

First Reconciliation – Tuesday 25th March at 11.30 am

Confirmation – Saturday 31st May at 2.00 pm

First Eucharist – Sunday 3rd August at 11.00 am

On Tuesday 18th February there will be a Parent Information Session regarding the sacraments. If your child is celebrating one of these sacraments next year it is essential that you come along to hear about the preparation process and the expectations on the day of the celebration.



The Big Summer Read is taking place at Geelong Regional Libraries these summer holidays!

The Big Summer Read aims to arrest the 'summer slide' by engaging children and their families in a fun and dynamic campaign through public libraries, supported with resources such as a user-friendly website, posters, reading logs and milestone incentives.

A competitive element with a statewide prize provides added incentive for participation. We also have some prizes at Geelong Regional Libraries that participants who complete their 10 reads over the Summer can go into the draw to win.

Distinctive state-wide branding encourages participation in the program, whether children are at home or on holidays elsewhere in Victoria.

We would love to enlist your help by promoting the program to your school community! We invite your teachers and library staff to promote this program to students and their families. The attached information about the Big Summer Read could also be included in your school newsletter.

The Big Summer Read runs from 1 December 2024 until 31 January 2025. To register and for terms and conditions please see <https://www.grlc.vic.gov.au/big-summer-read> or <https://readbooks.com.au/bsr>.

Please note: An adult must register first, then add children to the account.

For more information, please reach out to library staff.