



# Important Dates

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Sunday 23 February 2025

### Year 2 Mass 9.30am

Wednesday 26 February 2025

# Principal's Tour 9.30am

Thursday 27 February 2025

# Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 4 March 2025

### Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 5 March 2025

### Year 6 Mass 9.30am

Wednesday 5 March 2025

### 1st Sunday Lent

Sunday 9 March 2025

# Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Monday 10 March 2025

#### Year 5 Mass 9.30am

Wednesday 12 March 2025

### 2nd Sunday Lent

Sunday 16 March 2025

### Year 4 Mass 9.30am

Wednesday 19 March 2025

# St John the Baptist Feast Day

Annual General Meeting - 6.30pm

# Harmony Day

Friday 21 March 2025

# From the Leadership Team

**Dear Families** 

Welcome to Week 4.

This is a friendly reminder about the school's policy on electronic communication devices, as outlined in the Parent Handbook and ICT Agreement.

St John the Baptist Catholic School understands that some students may need access to a mobile phone for safety on the way to school and returning home. However, please be reminded that between 8:50am and 3:00pm, students are not permitted to use their phones or any other electronic devices, including smartwatches. For security and organisational purposes, phones and smartwatches must be handed in to the classroom teacher at the beginning of the day and will be securely stored in the Front Office during school hours.

Further to this we ask that toys, fidgets, store collectibles, Pokémon cards, and similar items are not to be brought to school. These items can cause distractions in the classroom and can also be difficult to keep safe. If your child has something for Show and Tell, please ensure it is handed directly to the classroom teacher at the start of the day and not kept in the school bag. The teacher will keep these items in a safe place until it's time for sharing.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping maintain a focused learning environment for all students.

#### Wellbeing Week

Wellbeing Week at St John the Baptist Catholic School has proven to again be a significant and positive catalyst for the start of the school year. By prioritising the emotional and social well-being of students, it has provided an invaluable opportunity for children to transition back into school routines with ease and confidence. The focus on mental health and wellness has allowed students to settle into their learning environment, creating a calm and welcoming atmosphere. This approach has greatly contributed to students starting the academic year with a positive mindset.

One of the most beneficial outcomes of Wellbeing Week has been the development of strong, positive relationships between students and their teachers. Through a variety of team-building activities, open discussions, and structured support, teachers have been able to connect with their students in meaningful ways. This has fostered a sense of trust and mutual respect, making it easier for students to approach their teachers with confidence and feel supported throughout the year. Such relationships are crucial for students' academic and emotional growth, as they provide a safe space where they can freely express themselves and feel understood.

Moreover, Wellbeing Week has played a key role in helping students reconnect with their peers and build new friendships. With a focus on group activities, games, and social interactions, students have been able to engage in collaborative experiences that emphasise inclusivity and kindness to helped create a supportive school community.

#### Year 6 Leadership

In Week 4, our Year 6 students took part in a two-day leadership development program designed to strengthen their leadership abilities and deepen their understanding of servant leadership. The first day, hosted by AFL Max at the Plympton Bulldogs Football Oval, provided an exciting and engaging experience. Through interactive activities and team challenges, students learned key leadership qualities such as communication, trust, and motivation. The AFL Max facilitators encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence, and gain a deeper appreciation for leadership in both sports and everyday life.

On day two, the leadership journey continued back at school, where students focused on the principles of servant leadership. This day centred on the values of empathy, humility, and selflessness, encouraging students to reflect on how they could serve others through their leadership roles. Staff facilitated discussions and activities that helped students understand the importance of leading by example, putting others first, and making decisions for the greater good. Students were challenged to think about their roles within the school community and how they could apply servant leadership throughout their final year of primary school.

To further support the leadership development of our Year 5 and 6 students, the Rock and Water program provides essential life skills. This program helps students learn how to assert themselves confidently, manage their behaviour, and navigate challenging social situations. By focusing on both physical and emotional strength, the Rock and Water program teaches students how to balance standing firm in their values with being flexible in their interactions, fostering self-awareness, emotional regulation, and the ability to build positive

relationships with their peers.

These combined leadership experiences have empowered our Year 6 students to grow in confidence, develop essential life skills, and understand how to make a positive impact on their school community. We look forward to seeing how they continue to inspire others and apply the leadership lessons they've learned as they move through their final year of primary school.

#### Chaplaincy

Mary Aquilina is continuing her work in 2025 as School Chaplain. Through her work, Mary will support the wellbeing of students and the broader school community by providing pastoral care services. Mary works closely with Amanda Razon, our APRIM to provide this support. Mary works in the chaplain role every Wednesday and we are pleased to share the following initiatives that are to be implemented this year.

#### 'Coffee and Chat'

From 8:30am to 8:50am each Wednesday, Mary will have coffee available for parents out in the yard to promote connectedness within our community.

#### 'Relaxing Recess'

The library will be open for students at both Recess breaks on a Wednesday for children to access board games / Lego / colouring in and reading.

#### 'Art Chats'

Mary will use art experiences in small groups to support children to regulate emotions, develop socially or talk about grief.

If you would like to connect with Mary, she can be contacted at maquilina@stjohnpl.catholic.edu.au

#### **New Parent Dinner**

On Saturday evening, the Year 1 parents hosted an Italian inspired dinner welcoming new parents to the St John the Baptist Catholic School community. This was a great night of connection for our parent community. A huge thank you is extended to Penny Raven and Grant Rice for their commitment in coordinating the event, to the team of Year 1 parents who ably assisted on the night and to the staff who were in attendance.

#### Sibling Enrolments

If you have not yet enrolled a sibling into the school who is due to begin Reception in 2027 please contact the school as soon as possible as enrolment places are filling fast.

# Catholic Identity

#### Sacramental Programme

Enrolments for the Sacramental Programme have now closed. The children who will prepare for their Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation, will be presented at the 10am Mass on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

#### Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

We approach the time in the year when we prepare for Easter through the season of Lent. Shrove Tuesday marks the beginning of Lent. Christians will abstain from certain indulgences like sweets, take more time for pray and donate to charities. This is all so that they can bring their hearts closer to God.

This is why we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, a tradition dating back to when people would use all their "indulgent" ingredients (i.e. sugar and butter) before Ash Wednesday.

We will observe Ash Wednesday with class liturgies and the Year 6s will attend the parish Mass. Children will have a cross of ash marked on their forehead to symbolise the beginning of the fasting period and to prepare their hearts for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

#### **Project Compassion**

As mentioned, the Lenten season has a component of almsgiving or donating to charities. Project Compassion is an annual part of our

Lenten observance, where we will raise money to give to less fortunate communities from around Oceania.

This year we will have several initiatives to fundraise for Project Compassion and we will also welcome any donations through Qkr!.

In previous years we would send home small boxes to collect donations however, to align with our Ecological Sustainability vision for our school, we will not be sending the boxes home to families. You can still make tax deductible donations online through the following link: https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/

#### **Plympton Parish Quiz Night**

You are welcome to join the parish Catholic Quiz night on Friday 28th February at 7:00pm.

Entry is free. BYO Supper and Drinks. Please book through the Parish Office: 8293 6600 or through trybooking.com/CYHHN

#### **Amanda Razon**

**APRIM** 

### Finance News

By now you should have received your school fees statement in the post. Many people are already making payments or setting up regular payment options – Thank you! If you have not received your statement, please email me today and I will check the details we have on file and send one to you.

If you wish pay in full, please do so by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March to qualify for the 5% discount and deduct that amount when making the payment. It will be \$164 off for 1 child, \$296 if you have 2 children at school, \$415.75 if you have 3 children here. If you need help to calculate the correct amount for the payment or for a payment plan amount please email me.

Don't forget for those families, single parents, or businesses on a low income of around \$74,189 last financial year 2023-24, School Card can be applied for via the following links. These must be completed **each school year**:

Form A (Income Assessment)

https://online.forms.sa.edu.au/content/forms/af/public/application-for-school-card.html

Form B (hardship, change of circumstances or self-employed)

https://online.forms.sa.edu.au/content/forms/af/public/form-b-hardship-or-circumstance-or-self-employed.html

If accepted, this will allow us to reduce your tuition fees to the lower-income fee, so please apply as soon as possible as it can take 4-6 weeks for approval.

If you have any queries or if you are having trouble making payments please email me on accounts@stjohnpl.catholic.edu.au, phone me on 8218 3304 or come in and see me Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm.

Jodie Veldhoen

**Finance Officer** 

# From the Sport Coordinator



Dear St John's Community,

Week 4 is already upon us, thus meaning we are well and truly back into the groove for all school-based routines. The students have made a magnificent start during their PE lessons by demonstrating positive behaviours and an eagerness to learn. I have started my visits to After-School Sporting opportunities and have been very impressed with the way our students have been engaging in their chosen sports. It is so pleasing to see our supportive coaches and managers working together to assist our students with these wonderful opportunities.

This week we took 51 eager swimmers to iSwim at Immanuel College to trial for the upcoming SACPSSA Swimming Carnival. Due to the school being promoted to Section 2 after our impressive overall win last year, all swimmers had to trial over a 50m distance. This was a huge effort by all, especially our Year 3 students who trialled for the very first time. Now that we have all of the times the team can be formed. Stay tuned for a team announcement in the coming weeks. The SACPSSA Carnival itself will take place at the Burnside Swimming Pool in Week 9, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Many of our students here at SJBCS compete in Surf Life Saving on the weekends. Last weekend, Ethan Beresford (6M) was involved in a first-time event. This particular event entailed completing a written test compiling of 20 random questions about surf awareness and first aid. Once this had been achieved Ethan had to then complete a practical CPR exam on a mannequin, a sprint race, a board race and a surf swim race that was 400m in length. Congratulations to Ethan, we are very proud of your achievements, keep up the great work.

Thank you to those parents that have emailed me their child/ren's SAPSASA interest for 2025. I have a running document, which will allow me to be organised in getting information to the students in a timely manner. It is vital to give me enough notice of these events in order to ensure that our students don't miss out on the registration process.

Keep safe and well everyone.

Yours in sport

Sam Putland SPORTS COORDINATOR

# From the Library



#### Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

This year is the 22nd year of the PRC.

The forms for this year have gone to classes this week and if the challenge is completed each student will receive a certificate or medal.

The challenge is to read 12 books at the appropriate level - R-2, 3-5 & 6-9. The Junior Primary students complete the challenge in class with their teachers reading PRC books to them but all students are encouraged to be 'have a go' on their own, with family support.

Our finish date at St John's is on Friday 29th August (not the official date 5th September).

#### The books must be read for the first time this year.

Eight of the books chosen must be on the PRC Booklists. These can be found at https://premiersreadingchallenge.s.edu.au/book-list/ On the website you can change the Year Level to suit your child's age limit.

We ask that students read no more than two books by the same author, and no more than two books in the same series.

The other 4 books can be a student's free choice but they must still be at a level appropriate to their reading age.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask.

Maria French & Lauren Farinola

#### From the Counsellor



I'd like to introduce myself to all of the new families who have joined St John's this year and a warm 'hello again' to families who have heard from me in the past. My name is Sarah Byrnes and I am the School Counsellor. I am here on Thursdays. This is my 4<sup>th</sup> year here and it's been delightful working with so many amazing children, and teachers.

Counselling covers many different areas including anxiety, depression, friendship issues, trauma, parent separation, self-harm, grief and loss, and many other mental health concerns. Children require a referral to be able to come to counselling, and it is important to talk to your child's teacher or leadership about your request. In some cases, issues can be supported and resolved within the classroom.

Teachers and leadership can also make referrals for a child to come to see me, and they will talk to you about this. Year 5 and 6 students are able to self-refer as well.

Counselling is a collaborative approach to support the mental health and wellbeing of every child who needs it. In some cases, a recommendation may be made to seek external support for a longer term approach and this will be discussed with you. All sessions are confidential and children are given a safe place to share their thoughts and feelings. After establishing a trusting relationship, strategies can be implemented and are often shared with parents and teachers to ensure a consistent approach is taken. If you have any questions about the school counselling program please don't hesitate to contact me by email sbyrnes@stjohnpl.catholic.edu.au, or speak to your child's teacher.

Here is some information on how to help your child challenge their negative thoughts....

Most people have what is called "Automatic Negative Thoughts". These thoughts could include:

- I'm a loser
- Nobody likes me
- I hate myself
- My life is terrible
- I can't do this

Here are some questions you can use to challenge your child's negative thinking:

- What is a more helpful thought?
- Can I be 100% sure that this is true?
- What would the people who care about me say?
- If my friend had this thought, what would I tell them?
- If the worst really did happen, what could I do to deal with it and who could help me?
- What is the best possible outcome?

By challenging these thoughts, it helps a child to look at things from different perspectives. It is also helpful for adults to think about these questions. After all, everyone has automatic negative thoughts, we just need to learn how to manage them.

#### Sarah Byrnes

#### Counsellor



We warmly invite all past & present students, families & staff to join us for an open morning. Rediscover familiar classrooms while exploring exciting new spaces and grounds that reflect how we've grown over 90 years.

# **SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025**

Between 11.30am & 1.00pm

Please RSVP on 8218 3300 or via QR Code

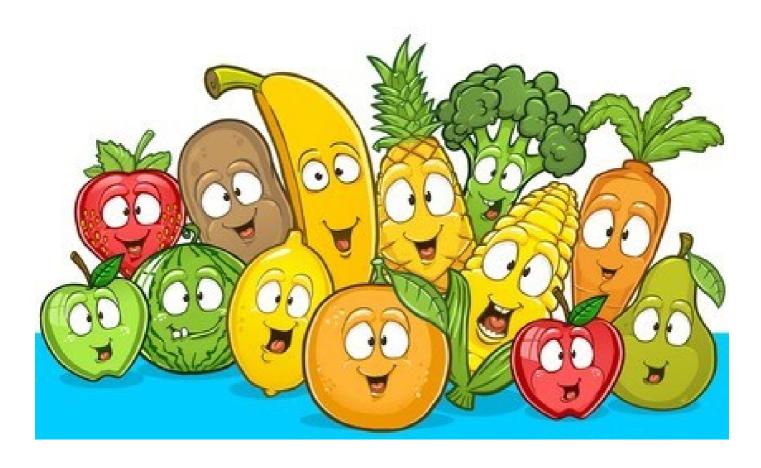




Catholic Education Awards



# Canteen News



All orders for both recess and lunch are to be ordered via our Qkr! app.

Canteen orders close each canteen day (Monday, Wednesday & Friday) at 9.00am.

Healthy Canteen (Tuesday & Thursday) orders close on Mondays at 12pm.

#### Canteen Roster

#### Term 1

Friday 21st February - Jo & Sarah Dennis

Monday 24th February - Julie

Tuesday 25th February - Jo

Wednesday 26th February - Julie

Thursday 27th February - Jo

Friday 28th February - Jo & Cara Finneran

Monday 3rd March - Julie

Tuesday 4th March - Jo

Wednesday 5th March - Julie & Julian Thompson

Thursday 6th March - Jo

Friday 7th March - Jo & Libby Graham

Monday 10th March - Public Holiday

Tuesday 11th March - Jo

Wednesday 12th March - Julie

Thursday 13th March - Jo

Friday 14th March - Jo & Melisa Gorgone

#### Canteen Feedback

We would love your feedback regarding the canteen.

Is there anything that you would like to see on the menu that we may be able to consider adding on?

Please send your feedback to jfitzgerald@stjohnpl.catholic.edu.au

Julie Henschke & Jo Fitzgerald

# Camp Australia OSHC



Guiding children's growth

**Outside School Hours Care** 

# **Newsletter**



18/02/2025

SA St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School OSHC





#### A message from your Service Leader

Hello families,

Firstly, I just wanted to say how amazing it has been meeting all the new families and of course your children! We greatly appreciate the support you have provided to ensuring that the OSHC can run smoothly and provide the best quality of care.

Secondly, I also wanted to remind all families of ensuring that you have provided the correct information to the OSHC through the Camp Australia app. It is essential that we have updated contact, medical and collection information to ensure that we are able to contact you quickly in the case of an emergency.

Lastly, we value partnership between parents and educators, your involvement plays a crucial role in your child's success at OSHC. Please stay connected with us through regular communication channels so we can help your child to have the most amazing day at OSHC, this can be done through phone  $0405\,436\,293$  or on email at

sastjohnbaptist@oshccampaustralia.com.au

Thanks, Tate







#### Register free and book in 24/7 via our app

To attend our program, you must register your child. You can register an account with us at <u>pp.campaustralia.com.au</u> or by downloading our Camp Australia smartphone app from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Once registered, it's easy to make bookings and manage your account.







Find out more and book now at www.campaustralia.com.au

# Volunteering at St Johns



St John the Baptist School provides a safe environment for all while valuing the partnership between school and home.

As a Catholic community, we welcome and value volunteers. To be able to volunteer, and/or attend at other times throughout the school year, we ask that you hold a current Catholic Police Check (parents/caregivers attending excursions, reading in class, helping in class, attending community events), a current Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect in Education and Care for Volunteers certificate and have completed the volunteers application package.

A Catholic Police Check for volunteers is free for our current parents and caregivers. Application Forms are available in our school office.

This process ensures we maintain a child safe environment. To avoid disappointment, we encourage you to apply for a Catholic Police Check through the school office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school office on 8218 3300 or email Julia Roy on jroy@stjohnpl.catholic.edu.au.

# **Bright Ideas**



We value your insights and involvement in enhancing our school community. Please share any suggestions or ideas you have regarding school improvement. Your input is crucial in creating a positive and effective learning environment for our students.

Insights may be discussed at future School Advisory Board meetings or you may be contacted personally for further follow up!

Please find link here for your suggestions.

# Plympton Parish

# Plympton Catholic Parish Mass Times



DAILY MASSES - MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY AT 9.30AM

VIGIL MASS - SATURDAYS AT 6PM

MASS - SUNDAY'S AT 8.30AM & 10AM

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - FRIDAY'S 10AM - 12PM

ROSARY - MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY AT 9.10AM

RECONCILIATION - SATURDAY'S FROM 11.30AM





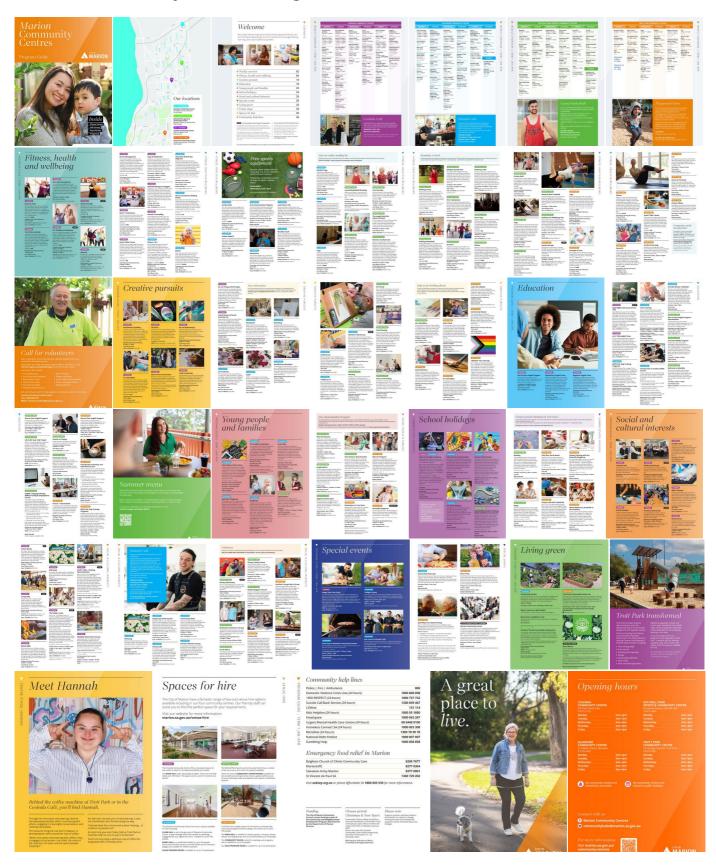


FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.PLYMPTONHALIFAX.ORG.AU
LISA: 0438 808 967



# Marion Community Centres Program Guide - Term 1



Plympton Football Club Vacancies





# Adelaide Cricket Club Junior Trials









MORPHETTVILLE PARK FOOTBALL CLUB - DENHAM AVENUE, MORPHETTVILLE



Contact Us: 1300 914 368

admin@australiansportscamps.com.au

### **More Information:**

australiansportscamps.com.au

# Disclaimer

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#### **Absences**



If a student is absent from school due to illness, parents / caregivers are asked to contact the school office by 9.00am via:

- Absentee Line 8218 3300 available 24 hours a day to leave a message
- SMS Messaging 0484 260 996

### **Birthdays**



Congratulations to those who celebrate their birthday in the coming weeks!

#### **February Birthdays**

20th Feb - Henry C (REC K), Noah R (6M) & Kai P (1M)

21st Feb - Gracie J (4G),

23rd Feb - Yuvraj S (6W)

25th Feb - Eva A (6M) & Oliver W (1SM)

28th Feb - Josephine B (6M) & Fatehdeep S (5G)

### **March Birthdays**

1st Mar - Indi L (1M)

2nd Mar - Heath D S (2TS) & Zara S (REC B)

3rd Mar - Tia T (REC K)

4th Mar - Aashirya K (REC BR)

#### School Uniform



Our uniform is available for purchase from Brandmode, 83 Glen Osmond Road, Eastwood. Ph - (08) 8357 0022

To purchase uniform online please click here.

To book an appointment please click here.

For further information on our Uniform Guidelines, please click here and for uniform booklet, please click here.

#### Instrumental Tutors

We currently offer the following instrumental tutoring:

#### Piano

(currently a waitlist)

Tutor - Christine Davies

Ph: 0403 546 091

Email - christineonpiano@gmail.com

#### **Guitar & Ukelele**

Tutor - Dido Durmanovic

Ph: 0407 719 836

Email: didodurmanovic@hotmail.com

#### Singing

Tutor - Lindi Jane Ph: 0413 536 327

Email - snapskakaduclub@optusnet.com.au

### Acknowledgement



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live, learn and work.

We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual connection and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to this country and commit to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Artwork - Unknown artist

# Camp Australia



Guiding children's growth

To make a Your OSHC booking, you need to register with Camp Australia first.

Registration is free and can be done online, or with our smartphone app.

www.campaustralia.com.au

Southern Cross Newsletter



Click here to read the latest news from the Southern Cross News.

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