



NEWSLETTER No. 2

Friday, 14th February, 2025



DIARY DATES

TERM 1

FEBRUARY

Saturday 15th	Heyfield Timber Festival
Sunday 16th	Heyfield Timber Festival Parade
Tuesday 18th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming
Wednesday 19th	Prep Rest Day Swimming Carnival Yrs 1-6
Thursday 20th	Yrs 3-6 Swimming Hot Chips Welcome Dinner 5.15-6.30pm
Friday 21st	Yrs 3-6 Swimming (last session)
Monday 24th	HDSSA Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 25th	Meet and Greet Parent/Teacher
Wednesday 26th	Prep Rest Day

MARCH

Tuesday 4th	Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)
Wednesday 5th	Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass
Friday 7th	Student Free Day
Monday 10th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Sunday 30th	Duck Cup

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is amazing to think the students have already been back at school for 3 weeks. It has been great to see everyone settle back into routines in the classroom.

We look forward to welcoming families to our Hot Chips Welcome Dinner on Thursday 20th from 5.15-6.30pm. Along with dinner we will also have our annual Parent Student Boot ball Competition. This is a great way to get together as a school community.

Currently I am attending the 2 day Diocese of Sale Diocesan Assembly in Churchill. This is being attended by selected local parish members, Principals, nominated

TERM DATES 2025



TERM 1	- 29 January—4 April
TERM 2	- 22 April—4 July
TERM 3	- 21 July—19 September
TERM 4	- 6 October—19 December

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Labour Day—Monday 10 March
 Good Friday—Friday 18 April
 Easter Monday—Monday 21 April
 ANZAC Day— Friday 25 April

STUDENT FREE DAY

Friday 7 March

teaching staff, DOSCEL staff, Catholic organisations and all priests. The Diocesan Assembly process will aim:

- To acknowledge and affirm the strengths and best practices of our Diocese that we wish to continue to build on.
- To identify the significant challenges we face in our Diocese as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.
- To gain a clear picture of which pastoral goals and actions need to be given priority over the next five years, for our Diocese to develop towards becoming more Christ-centred, synodal and missionary.

I encourage you all to book a Meet and Greet Parent Teacher session with your child's 2025 teacher via PAM. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the person who will be working with your child and support their learning journey throughout the year.



St Michael's Primary School acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gunaikurnai people, traditional custodians of the land on which the school is built. As a school community, we commit to walk alongside our First Nations people for reconciliation, truth and justice.



FINANCIAL CONCESSIONS

Financial concessions are available to eligible families. It is important to note, when concessions are provided, there is no impact on the overall school funding situation.

These concessions may include the Camps Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) of \$150 per child. Concessions are available through the following two categories.

Category 1: Eligible, means-tested Centrelink Concession Card holders:

A family in which the fee payer holds an eligible, means-tested Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) is automatically eligible for a school fee concession. There is a simplified application form and streamlined approval process.

Category 2: Special Consideration:

A family experiencing genuine financial difficulty and not eligible under Category 1, is encouraged to apply for a fee concession. This application requires detailed information in order that an equitable assessment may be made of eligibility for and level of a fee concession.

Application forms are available from the school office and only need to be completed if this is a new application. Current concession holders do not need to reapply.



7th February

All Preps: For a wonderful beginning to your journey at St. Michael's, filled with enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

Quynn: For making a great start to Grade One!

Kade: For being a well-mannered, friendly class member. Welcome to St. Michael's!

Ruby: For her positive attitude for starting a new school year so well!

Alex. C : For great learning behaviours.

14th February

Annie: For demonstrating a positive attitude and a strong eagerness to learn.

Dean: For his contribution to class discussions and sharing his knowledge.

Tommy: For his great writing and neat book work.

Ged: For being kind and helping others during our first swimming lesson.

Layla: For being kind and helping others during our first swimming lesson.

Wally: For showing good leadership in the classroom. Well done.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

We cannot thank our parents enough for volunteering. It makes our job as teachers that bit easier. Just a reminder though to make sure that you have a current Working With Children Check card as a safe guard for yourself as well as the school. If you need a WWCC you can apply at www.service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children Volunteer applications are free! **Please show your card to Jennie or Tania in the office.**

INTERSCHOOL GYMKHANA

Congratulations to Emmy who represented St Michael's at the Interschool Gymkhana this week in Maffra.



Mental Health in Primary Schools Program (MHIPS)

Suzi Herbert is continuing in the role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL) in 2025. MHWLs are classroom teachers who work across the school to implement a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing. She is also the Learning Adjustment Leader at St Michael's.

Suzi's role as the MHWL is to build the capability of the whole school about mental health and wellbeing, provide support to staff to better identify and support students with mental health needs, establish clear pathways for referral for students requiring assessment and intervention, and monitor and evaluate student progress.

As part of this role, Suzi will also be running sessions with some students to support their social and emotional wellbeing. These sessions supplement the weekly classroom wellbeing program used in every classroom. They will be conducted as a small group or individually, according to the level of support that is required. Focus areas may include separation and anxiety, social skills and awareness, self-regulation and personal management, and emotional learning support. The focus will be dependent on the needs of your child.

This semester, we are fortunate to have Tegan McKay visiting us once every fortnight. Tegan is a practising Psychologist and founder of the Mindful Hub, based in Sale. She will be providing our staff with professional learning in the area of Mental Health and helping teachers to identify students' emotional and behavioural needs through classroom observations. She will also be conducting classroom sessions on relevant topics for our students, such as cyber safety, managing friendships and positive communication. In consultation with staff, Tegan may work with some individual students and small groups, to provide support in areas such as managing anxiety, emotional regulation and social skills. These one to one and small group sessions will require parental consent.



Anglicare Australia – Early Help Family Services will be offering their support services here in Heyfield for families with children from birth to 18 years. They will operate fortnightly commencing next Thursday, February 20th, from 9 am until 3 pm at the Resource Centre. **Early Help** can provide:

- Short term individual support for families and caregivers
- Safe and confidential parenting groups
- Access and connection to peer support groups
- Support, information and referrals to help with parenting, child/adolescent behaviour, housing, family wellbeing, mental health, finance and disability

They will also be offering a six-week parenting program called "Tuning in to Kids", commencing on May 8. Further information and contact details are on the next page.



Truth



Tuning in to Kids

Parenting program that teaches parents skills to help their young children begin to understand and regulate their emotions.

Do you want to

- Learn how to better understand and manage your children's emotions, such as anger, anxiety and sadness?
- Improve communication with your child?
- Teach your child to deal with conflict?
- Help your child learn to manage their emotions?

Supporting the development of your children's emotional intelligence will help them:

- Have greater success with making and keeping friendships
- Be more able to calm down when angry or upset
- Have better concentration at school
- Better manage challenges and change

DATES: 8th May - 12th June

TIME: 9:30am to 11:30am

WHERE: Heyfield Community

Resource Centre - 5 George Street

COST: FREE

Bookings essential

For bookings & enquiries contact: Early Help Family Workers - Leonie 0474698821 & Kerry 0460646611 or email earlyhelp.outergippsland@anglicarevic.org.au

BETTER
TOMORROWS