



St Josephine Bakhita

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Courage. Humility. Forgiveness.

Inspired by St Josephine Bakhita we are a community of learners, growing in faith, knowledge, wisdom, and character, to shine as lights of hope in the world.

Dear Families,

As we continue our journey through the school year, it is important that we reflect on what makes our school truly special: our diversity. Diversity is more than just our heritage; it's about acknowledging that every child is unique, with their own strengths, challenges, and ways of learning.

Some of us are visual learners, while others thrive through hands-on activities or by listening. Some might need extra support in certain areas, while others might excel in those same areas. What is important is that we recognise and celebrate these differences as a community, without the pressure of having to be someone that we aren't.

By embracing our differences, we create a welcoming environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and supported. This helps our children develop empathy, kindness, and a strong sense of self-worth. It also teaches them that everyone learns differently and that we should never judge someone based on what they can or can't do.

In our classrooms, we are working hard to ensure every child has the support they need to succeed. Our staff are dedicated to finding ways to reach each child, whether that means adapting lessons, providing extra help, or celebrating individual achievements.

As parents and guardians, we play a vital role in this too. We are our children's first role models, and they learn from watching us and listening to what we say. From my own experience as a mother of three boys, I've seen the impact that support and understanding can have on a child's life. Each of my children has faced their own challenges, and it's been the support of those around us that has made the difference.

As parents, we often think we can solve all our children's challenges on our own, but the reality is, we can't, and that's okay. Seeking support from teachers, paediatricians, psychologists, and other professionals can make all the difference. Early intervention and the right support can set a child up for success, and I've seen firsthand the positive impact it can have.

In my family, we've benefited from the support of a paediatrician, a speech pathologist and psychologist over the years. As parents, we had to move past the belief that they would overcome their challenges on their own, to accepting that they needed additional support that we just couldn't give. At the time we went through all the emotions associated with denial, disbelief and blame to eventually realising that our energy was better placed building the correct support network. From navigating the challenging early years of school to now finding their own strengths in secondary school, I'm grateful for the professionals who've helped us along the way.

I encourage you to reach out for support if your child needs it. I also encourage you to talk to your children about the importance of kindness, acceptance, and empathy. Never compare them to another child or place unrealistic expectations on them. Every child will learn and succeed, but they will do this in their own way and at their own pace. We just need to celebrate them for who they are.

If you have concerns about your child's development, please don't hesitate to reach out to our school staff. We're here to help in any way we can.

Let's work together to create a school community where every child feels seen, heard, and valued for who they are.

Do we have your correct contact details?

There are times when we will need to contact you, including on the day if your child is absent and you haven't informed the school as to why. If your contact details have changed since enrolling your child, please ensure you let us know by emailing the school and updating your child's SIMON/PAM profile. This could include, parent/carers' name, address, phone numbers, email address and emergency contact details. If you have any questions, please contact the School Office.

Father's Day /Special Person's Morning - Friday 5 August

Father's Day is an important day where we come together to acknowledge and celebrate the wonderful people in our lives who take on a Fatherly role. Every family is unique, and this important role might be carried out by mothers, fathers, grandparents, relatives or close friends. To celebrate this day, we will be having a special morning at St Josephine Bakhita on Friday 5th September between 8am-9am. During this morning, the students are warmly invited to bring along someone special in their lives that has helped them grow. Please refer to the letter and email sent home last Friday for RSVP details.

Safely Dropping Off and Picking Up Around the School

In order to keep our community safe, we are asking for the support of all families with the following:

- When using the drop off / pick up bays, please do not leave your car and move to the furthest empty waiting bay so you do not hold up the traffic.
- Please do not perform a U TURN anywhere on Wild Goose Way.
- Please do not park and wait on the **green pedestrian crossing**.
- Please ensure you're travelling at a speed of 40km or less as it is a School Zone.
- Please GIVE WAY to pedestrians crossing at the green pedestrian crossing in front of the school.
- Please only use the crossing to cross the road. Do not cross in between cars.

If someone else is collecting your children, please inform them of these safety rules.

We are aware that many of the drivers not following the safety rules are associated with all of the housing development. We have reached out to the council in the hope that something can be done to improve the road safety in the area. Thank you for your continued support.

Building Works Have Begun

Last week Stage Two officially began. A lot can happen in the space of a short time. Throughout the week we saw a new, temporary path installed so we can still access the basketball court and the areas for the learning spaces, staff car park and basketball courts were cleared out. We can wait to watch the developments continue to unfold!



Special Events

The Parents and Friends Committee recently met to discuss some special events that will take place over the coming months. If you would like to assist with the organisation of any of these events, your help would be greatly appreciated. You can offer your support by either reaching out to one of the following parents, or contacting the school. We can't wait to celebrate these events with our community. Stay tuned for more information.

- Emma K - FPD
- Valerie M - 1/2M
- Tanya M - FPD & 1/2M
- Kimeberley - 3-5F

Event	Date
Special Person/Father's Day Morning	Fri 5 September (8am-9am)
Footy Day	Friday 19 September (9am – 3pm)
School Disco	Friday 17 October (5pm – 6.30pm)
Grandparent's/Special Friends Morning	Friday 31 October (9am – 10.30am)
Showcase of Talents	TBC (during school hours)
Student Colour Fun Run	Friday 14 November (2pm-3pm)
End of Year Family Games Afternoon	TBC (after school hours)

Important Dates

Date	Event	Year Level
Friday 5 September	Father's /Special Person's Morning 8am – 9am	All Year Levels
Friday 5 September	CFA Incursion	All Year Levels
Friday 19 September	Last Day of Term / Footy Day	All Year Levels

Kind regards
Kathryn Pepper

Religious Education

The Season of Creation - 1st to the 4th of October

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical, global celebration observed by Christians in Australia and worldwide from September 1 to October 4 each year. The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. Churches across the world come together to celebrate this season.

If you are interested in the Season of Creation to celebrate within your home there are great resources linked here <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

As a school we will explore this season in Religious Education lessons.



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Prayer for the Season of Creation

*God of all life,
We give thanks for the gift of the earth, our common home.
At this time, many people, the oceans, and eco-systems
are struggling to survive.
Help us to change our ways,
to unite in hope
and to act with Creation
so that the first fruits of hope can be born.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen*

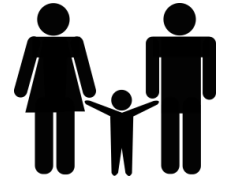


St Thomas
the Apostle

St Thomas the Apostle Parish News can be found on this link:
<https://stthomasap.org.au/parish-news>

Student Wellbeing

Parent Mental Health



Raising children is an important job, but you can't do it well unless you look after yourself. Looking after your physical, mental and emotional health gives you the energy you need to help your child grow and thrive.

It's natural to experience anxiety or stress sometimes. It's important to develop some strategies to cope. Such as:

- Social connections
- Time for yourself
- Relaxation/meditation
- Deep breathing
- Prayer
- Someone to confide in



Parentline is funded by the Victorian Government

- Parentline is a phone service for parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years old.
- They offer confidential and anonymous counselling and support on parenting issues.
- They are available from 8am to midnight, 7 days a week including public holidays.

Thursday 11 September is R U OK?Day.

We know that the people around us go through life's ups and downs every day. That's why we want everyone to feel confident to check in with the people they care about and **Ask R U OK? Any Day.**

Research has found that those who are regularly asked, 'are you OK?' report increased feelings of wellbeing. A third of Australians say they've been asking others more often over the past year. That means many of us are already showing up for others in meaningful ways, but when it comes to conversations about how we're really going, some people are less confident than others.

During Week 8, we will be completing activities at school aimed to teach students how to navigate these conversations and ask R U OK?



Child Safety Week 7 - 13 September

Our school will be recognising National Child Protection Week from September 7. This important week raises awareness about the role we all play in keeping children safe and supported.

Shifting Conversations to Action

Every Conversation Matters

This year's theme highlights that while open discussions are crucial, words alone are not enough: we must turn dialogue into meaningful action.

NAPCAN acknowledges that while conversations can raise awareness, challenge harmful norms, and spark new ideas, real change happens when we take steps to create safer environments for children that prevent them from harm.

This year, we are focusing on moving beyond conversations to concrete actions that prevent harm and instead, focussing on strengthening support systems, and empowering communities to actively protect children.

By shifting from conversation to action, we can ensure that every child not only feels heard but also experiences real safety, care, and protection.

At school, we will be:

- Talking with students about safe and respectful relationships.
- Exploring ways we can ask for help if we feel worried or unsafe.
- Encouraging kindness, inclusion and looking out for one another.

Families can support at home by:

- Reminding children of trusted adults they can go to if they feel unsafe.
- Talking openly about feelings and wellbeing.
- Visiting the NAPCAN website (www.napcan.org.au) for resources and information.

Together, we can make sure every child feels safe, valued and cared for.



NAPCAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT



CHILD SAFETY WEEK

CONVERSATION STARTERS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE...

**EVERY
CONVERSATION
MATTERS**



Shifting Conversations to Action



Learning Awards

Our learning awards focus on our School Wide Expectations

Inclusive, Respectful, Reflective, Safe

Foundation PD	Foundation M	Foundation C
Sam- Respectful Siyara- Reflective	Mikayla- Respectful Zali- Inclusive	Christian - Reflective Georgia - Respectful
Year 1-2 M	Year 3-5 F	Specialist
Oisin - Inclusive Tara - Reflective Justin - Safe	Ahlani - Inclusive Wayne - Respectful	Rafael FM- Safe Suzanne 1/2M- Inclusive

These awards will be given out at our assembly on **Thursday 4 September at 2.45pm.**

All families are warmly invited to attend.





DS SPORTS

WHERE FUN IS HAD

FUN - ACTIVE - ENGAGING

At DS Sports we are passionate about providing world class experiences and programs that add depth and richness to children's learning. Our Staff are renowned for their professionalism, experience, nurturing ways and commitment to providing a supportive and transparent environment for families, where children are always safe and have loads of fun. DS Sports is a place where kids want to be, not a place where they have to be.



Week 6 at OSHC

We are excited to try some new healthy recipes from Vlc Kids Eat Well Recipe book this week.

We also have some colourful arts and crafts, experiments and new games planned for this week.

This week for DS Superstars Friday we are having a Games Day where we will be setting-up Table Tennis, Foosball, Air-hockey, Pool, Hopscotch and Washer Toss as well as board and card game challenges for children to have fun.

If you have any queries about enrolment or bookings please drop in to DS Sports OSHC and we are happy to help you.

Have a great week!

Sajani, Shea and Lorraine - DS Sports OSHC



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Child Safe Standards

Working With Children

St Josephine Bakhita has zero tolerance towards child abuse and is therefore committed to complying with the Ministerial Order No. 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises. All parents/guardians wishing to help in the classroom or attend excursions **MUST** have viewed and completed the **PARENT HELPER INDUCTION VIDEO** and **QUESTIONNAIRE** and hold a current **WORKING WITH CHILDREN CARD**.

Further details are available from the school office or the Justice Department website. All parent/guardian helpers must sign in at the office before proceeding to the classrooms. Your current Working with Children card must be displayed at all times when working in the classrooms and attending excursions.

Volunteer Induction

Are you ready to volunteer at our school? Before you start, please complete our online volunteer induction. This important step ensures you're familiar with our school's policies, procedures, and expectations.

The online induction can be found on our school website under Child Safety and involves:
<https://www.sjbcllydenorth.catholic.edu.au/child-safety/st-josephine-bakhita-volunteer-induction->

- Watching our induction video
- Reading through associated policies
- Completing a short quiz
- Signing our Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Providing the school with your WWCC card which has been linked to the school

By completing the online induction, you'll be ready to make a positive impact on our school community. If you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to having you on board!

