

Newsletter



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Celebrating 125 Years

Past Principals visit St Anthony's

On Thursday we were lucky to have Margie Abbot & Irene Hann, two past Principals of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School visit us. Margie led our community from 1978 to 1981 and Irene was principal from 1981 to 1986.

Margie and Irene together with current principal Liza Couzens had a fantastic afternoon connecting over coffee, swapping stories about their experiences, and comparing their leadership styles and insights gained over the course of their decades in the education field. Irene and Margie will both be at our 125-year Gala celebration dinner on Thursday, November 7th. Mark it in your diaries now!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Week 8

Thursday 12 September 2024

St Anthony's Playgroup 8:45
R U OK? Day
R-4 Gymnastics Sessions
RBT Liturgy in Chapel 2:30pm

Friday 13 September 2024

Occasional Care 8:45 - 3pm
Reception Excursion to Mt Burr Trails 9am
P & F Meeting 9am McCourts Cafe
Assembly hosted by 3/4LB & 3/4SB 2:30pm

Sunday 18 August 2024

Family Mass & First Holy Communion
Celebration at St Alphonsus Parish 9am with
Archbishop Patrick O'Regan

Week 9

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS Mon - Thurs

Monday 16 September 2024

Jr Musical Performance 2:15pm and 5:30pm
SAPSASA Athletics Adelaide

Tuesday 17 September 2024

2CF Liturgy Chapel 9:15am
Receptions visit to North Kindy 1:30pm

Wednesday 18 September 2024

5/6FD Class Mass at St Alphonsus 9:15
New Receptions visit to Mc Arthur Park Kindy
1:30pm

Thursday 19 September 2024

Playgroup 8:45 - 10am
1KB Liturgy in Chapel 9:15am

Friday 20 September 2024

Occasional Care 8:45 - 3pm
CRAZY HAIR DAY

Saturday 21 September 2024

International Day of Peace
Mass at St Alphonsus Parish 4:30pm followed
by Youth Group at 5:30pm

Week 10

Monday 23 September 2024

Year 6 Play Evening Performance 7pm

Tuesday 24 September 2024

International Mercy Day
Yr 6 Play Performance for Students 2pm

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

Exploring 'Integral Ecology'

Last Friday, the staff of St Anthony's gathered for the annual Staff Faith Formation Day. Sister Margie Abbott, a former student, teacher, and principal of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, as well as a former consultant at CESA, led the session. She guided us in exploring our connection with the sacredness of creation, the pressing issue of climate change, and the relationship between spirituality and our call to action. Sister Margie, who conducts spiritual retreats across Australia and the US, provided deep insights.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Sister Margie Abbott for her inspiring presentation and to our community for its continued support, which allows us to offer such valuable formation opportunities to all staff at St Anthony's.

125 Years Anniversary Gala Dinner

The 125 Years Anniversary Gala Dinner will mark the culmination of our 125th-anniversary celebrations—an exciting event and a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with past scholars and teachers. The evening will feature the opening of the time capsule and guest panelists sharing their cherished memories of St. Anthony's. Join us on Thursday, 7 November, at 6PM at the Millicent Civic and Arts Centre. We warmly invite all community members to attend. Tickets can be purchased via [trybooking](#).

First Holy Communion

This Sunday, 15th September, at the 9 a.m. Mass at St Alphonsus, seven children from St Anthony's will celebrate their First Holy Communion. We warmly invite all families to join us in supporting the children during this special Mass, which will be celebrated by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan and Fr Peter Zwaans. After the Mass, a morning tea will be held in the St Alphonsus Hall.

Please keep the following children in your prayers as they prepare for this significant milestone:



Renewal Leave

I will be on renewal leave from September 16th to October 21st to study at the Australian Catholic University in Rome. I am both excited and privileged to have this opportunity. During my absence, Sharn de Nys will serve as Acting Principal, and Sam Baxter will take on the role of Acting APIM. We extend our congratulations to both Sharn and Sam and wish them the very best as they assume these positions.

Learning Conversations. 16 - 19 September

Learning Conversations will take place, from 16–19 September. We greatly value parent engagement in children's learning and encourage all families to schedule a time with their child's class teacher. These conversations offer a collaborative approach, bringing together the family, teacher, and often the student, to discuss learning progress and set goals for the rest of Semester 2.

As a key part of our Assessment and Reporting process, Learning Conversations are just one of many ways we share information about your child's progress. Please also remember that you are welcome to request a meeting with teachers at any point throughout the year.

Bookings for Learning Conversations can be found [here](#) or by scanning this QR Code:



2025 Enrolments

It is now the time for 2025 enrolments to be submitted. If you have a child who is to begin Reception in Term 1 2025, please complete an enrolment form and return it to Admin.

If you know of any families considering enrolling their child at St. Anthony's Primary School for Term 1, 2025, please inform them about our 2025 enrolment intake. Alternatively, they can contact the school on 8733 3479 at any time. We welcome all new families!

National Child Protection Week

Last week marked National Child Protection Week, with this year's theme being: "Every child in every community needs a fair go – Where We Start Matters."



The 2024 theme emphasized the importance of considering the 'bigger picture' when addressing child abuse and neglect. The key message is that every child can thrive and be healthy when they have the necessary resources for proper development. A wealth of research continues to shed light on what children need to flourish. The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide is dedicated to the care, well-being, and protection of children and young people. The dignity of each individual is highly valued, and there is a deep commitment to ensuring the safety of the children and young people in our community.

From the Principal Cont...

Child Protection Week 2024 was an opportunity to reflect on what children need to thrive and how to turn this knowledge into meaningful action. At St. Anthony's, child protection remains a priority, with a strong focus embedded in our school's policies and practices.

As a reminder, all volunteers require the following to be completed:

- Obtain a Working with Children Check. If you do not have a Catholic Police Check, please collect a form from the school office.
- Complete the personal information form, available from the school office.
- Complete the Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care training. Once the training is completed, please print the certificate, and provide a copy to the school.
- Further information is available on the school website.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER



Anxiety in children is a very real thing. Helping your child manage anxiety involves understanding and support. There are signs you can look out for such as irritability, trouble sleeping, or physical complaints like headaches or stomach-aches. Encourage your child to talk about their worries and reassure them that it's okay to feel anxious.

We can guide and teach simple coping skills, like deep breathing—inhalation for four counts, hold, and exhalation for four counts. Encourage positive self-talk by helping them replace negative thoughts with affirmations like, "I can do this."

Safeguarding Sunday Artwork by Mrs Bromley's Year 1 Class



Establish a consistent daily routine to provide stability and prepare your child for any changes in advance. Stay calm yourself, as children often mirror their parents' reactions. Show them how to approach problems step-by-step, demonstrating that challenges can be managed. Finally, limit exposure to anxiety triggers, when possible, whether that's certain activities or overwhelming situations.

There will be times some situations are unavoidable, but these strategies can help your child feel more secure and equipped to handle their anxiety.

Bev Baker,
School Counsellor

God Bless,

Liza Couzens

Liza Couzens
Principal



Staff Spiritual and Faith Formation Retreat: A Day of Reflection and Renewal

Last Friday, the St Anthony's staff gathered for a meaningful Spiritual and Faith Formation retreat, facilitated by Sr Margie Abbott, a past student, teacher, and principal of St Anthony's, and former Religious Education consultant with Catholic Education. The retreat, held in the small hall at St Paul's Parish in Mount Gambier, provided us with an opportunity to pause, reflect, and deepen our understanding of our faith and role as educators.

The day was centred around the teachings of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' powerful encyclical on care for our common home. Sr Margie led us in exploring the major themes of the encyclical, reminding us of the urgent call to action to care for the earth. One key insight Margie emphasized was that when we treat the environment as a commodity, we harm not only the planet but also the most vulnerable people among us. Those living in poverty often suffer the greatest impact of environmental degradation.

Sr Margie also beautifully wove the creation stories with the concept of the "great flaring forth" that took place millions of years ago. This thinking helped to broaden our often narrow view of God, reminding us that every mineral and element has divine origins and that all of creation is interconnected. Through earth spirituality rituals, we spent time reflecting on the sacredness of creation, realizing that everything around us is a caress from God.

The retreat included a midday Mass and a shared lunch at Metro, giving us time to come together as a staff in both prayer and fellowship.

As we move forward, this retreat challenges us to consider how we, as educators and stewards of young children, can instil a deep reverence for the earth. How can we share with our students the importance of caring for our planet as an integral part of our faith?

It was a thought-provoking and enriching retreat, leaving us rejuvenated and inspired to continue our mission with renewed energy and commitment.

First Holy Communion at St Alphonsus this Sunday

This Sunday, we are delighted to celebrate the First Holy Communion for seven of our students at St Alphonsus. The ceremony will take place at 9 am, and everyone is warmly invited to join us to celebrate this special event. These children have been preparing for this sacrament for three terms, and we are very excited to witness them take this important step in their faith journey. We pray that this experience will foster a deep and ongoing connection to God, not only now but also in the future.

First Holy Communion is a significant milestone in the Catholic faith. It is the first time that children receive the Eucharist, which Catholics believe is the true presence of Christ in the form of bread and wine. This sacrament strengthens our relationship with God and the Church, allowing us to participate more fully in the Mass. It marks a new stage in the recipient's spiritual development as they grow in their understanding and commitment to their faith.

We hope to see many of you there to support and celebrate with our students this weekend. We hope to run our sacramental program again next year, so if you would like to learn more or have a chat about the 2025 program, please feel free to speak with Sharn or Liza. We look forward to journeying with more families in the coming years!



Class Masses & Liturgies for Term 3:

8	Room 7	Tues - Room 10 Thurs - Room 1
9	Room 9	Tues- Room 3 Thurs - Room 2

God Bless,

Sharn de Nys

Sharn de Nys
APRIM

Sports News

SAPSASA BASKETBALL

During week 6, St Anthony's students competed in a Trial Day held at the Millicent Basketball Stadium competing against other teams within our district. We had four teams competing on the day with 1 of our girls teams and 1 of our boys teams progressing through to the Regional Trial Day which was held in Mt Gambier on Friday 6 September.

Our boy's team, coached by Adam Wiese, fought hard all day against some tough competition coming away with a draw against Tenison Woods College. Our girls team, coached by Jacqui Matthews, continued their undefeated streak and will now compete at the state finals in Adelaide next term!

A huge thank you to Nicole Croser, Jacqui Matthews, Adam Wiese and Rob Francis for coaching our teams.



IMPORTANT

New Build Progress Shots

The **digital version of The Southern Cross** is available via the following link. <http://www.thesoutherncross.org.au/>. The Southern Cross, South Australia's Catholic newspaper, contains stories and features on local, national and international issues, with a strong emphasis on Social Justice and Christian values. Schools play a vibrant and important role in the life of a community and the Southern Cross covers Catholic school news and special events of interest to students and their families.

Our school is a safe place for all.

At St. Anthony's, we believe that every child has the right to be safe, and we are committed to ensuring that St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School is a safe place for all.

- Our staff are committed and trained to protect the children and young people under our care.
- All staff and regular volunteers have current police checks.
- We teach children age-appropriate strategies to keep themselves safe through South Australia's Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum.
- Staff complete certification and undertake regularly updated training in Responding to Abuse and Neglect in Education and Care Settings.
- We also promote strategies to minimise bullying and help students stay safe online.

Additional information about Catholic Education SA's broader protection policies can be found on its website: <http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/safe-environments-for-all>. The website also includes links to online resources for parents and students on a range of topics, including anxiety, depression, and how to support your child. If you have any questions or concerns about child safety, please contact me anytime.

Important Reminders:

To assist families with planning for the year, please note the 2024 Staff Formation Days are as follows:

- **Friday 8 November (Term 4, Week 4)**
- Friday 13 December (Term 4, Week 9)



Birthday Greetings!

Birthday greetings to the following people who celebrate a birthday between 29 August to 11 September 2024

Ryker Brown

Prudence Johnson

Humphrey Keck

Henry Hassell

Myla Bowman



Road Crossing Monitors

Week 8 Eloise Phillips & Harper Zalme

Week 9 Kaia Green & Aria Pitt

Week 10 Nyree Baker & Lawson Baker

Mery Key Awards



Responsibility

Isla Walker
Oscar Rebellato
Mathilda Facey
Raff Lawlor
Ryker Brown

Compassion

Joey Weir

Mutual Respect

Violet Rebellato

Justice

Zephyr Wright

Hospitality

Hugo Ellis
Archie Smith
Mia Croser
Ilian Botha

Loyalty

Huey Suclan
Isla Ellis
Bella Reilly
Rhys Damhuis

Integrity

Charlie Telfer
Henry Hassell
Layla Reilly

House Points

ST CLARE	ST ALPHONSUS	ST BRIGID
585	617	581

Operation Christmas Child



Children are invited to donate one item that can be used to fill a shoebox for a child in need.

Our SRC students with support from our P&F Committee will fill the boxes to be sent off to Samaritan's Purse who will distribute the boxes for Christmas.

DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT IN TO SCHOOL FROM MONDAY SEPTEMBER 2 TO FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20

Suggestions of what to bring:

- Personal care items
- School supplies
- Clothing and accessories
- Games and activities
- Small toys
- Click [here](#) for more ideas.



St Anthony's Awards

BRONZE AWARDS



SILVER AWARDS



125th Anniversary Gala Event

After months of preparation, we are thrilled to share with you what we have planned for the Gala Event. This two-day event will be the culmination of the 125th year of Mercy Education in the South East.

We kick off the festivities with the official opening of the Seasons of Creation Arts Exhibition at the Art Gallery in Millicent on Thursday, 7 November. This Art Exhibition is presented by the students at St Anthony's School. Every single student has created an art piece, with the assistance of their art teachers, and will be exhibited. The opening of this exhibition will be marked by a whole school assembly at the Art Gallery.

The Gala Dinner will take place on the evening of Thursday, 7 November, at the Civic and Arts Centre, on Ridge Terrace. We are pleased to have special guests who will take part in the panel interview with our MC, a former student of St Anthony's, Patrick Noonan. This two course dinner will be followed by the opening of the Time Capsule which was buried in 1999 as part of the centenary celebration of the school. Items inside the time capsule will be presented back to the families. Please the information below about the tickets to the Gala Dinner.

The festivities continue on Friday, 8 November, with an open day at the school. Past students and staff are invited to tour the school grounds, which now include the new classrooms and the 125 years Commemorative Walk.

The entry to the Art Exhibition and the school Open Day is FREE and booking is not required.

Should you have any inquiries about any of these events, or have old photos or items of memorabilia that you would like to share, please contact the school on 8733 3479.

Join us for
**125TH ANNIVERSARY
GALA DINNER**



THURSDAY | 7 | NOVEMBER
MILLICENT CIVIC & ARTS CENTRE
Ridge Terrace, Millicent

6.00pm
Pre-dinner drinks & viewing of
Seasons of Creation Art Exhibition
for 6.30pm start

SEMI FORMAL / COCKTAIL ATTIRE

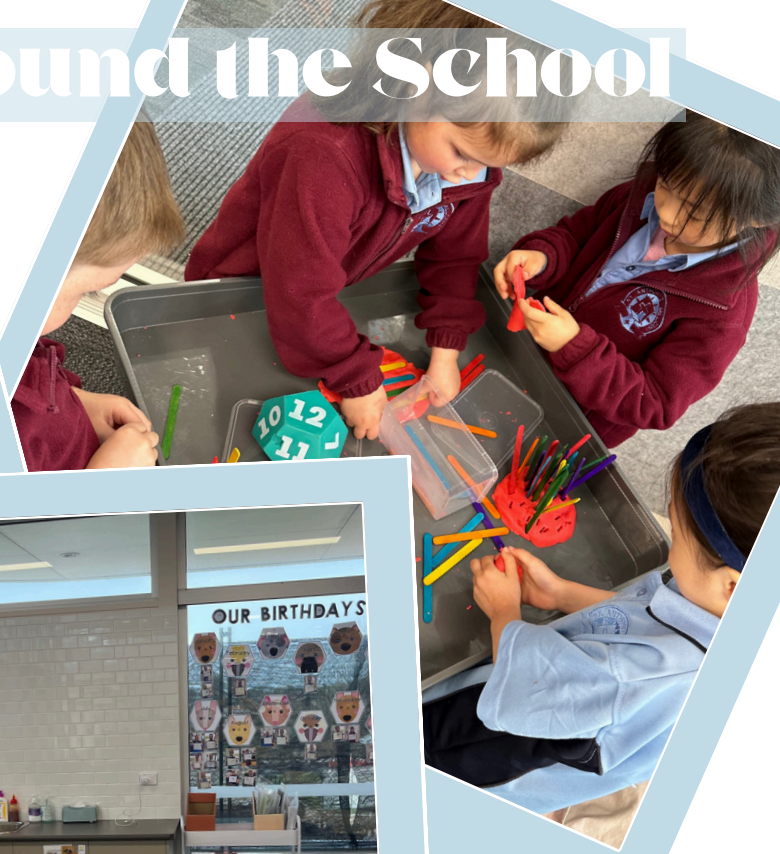
Tickets available from Trybooking
\$70 per person
EARLY BIRD \$65 until 18 Oct
2 Course Dinner
Opening of the Time Capsule
Guest Panelists
Bar facilities are available



Celebrating 125 years of
the Mercy Education in the South East



Snapshots Around the School



Snapshots Around the School



Snapshots Around the School

