

# NEWSLETTER 1

## ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



We gather on Gunaikurnai Country. We pay our respects to their Elders; past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the ongoing living culture and connection to Country of all First Peoples.



### Medical Information Update



Parents and carers are required to update your child's medical information via PAM every year their child attends our school. The information you include on these forms will allow us to maintain our records and put in place any plans to assist in managing their medical conditions.

Information about students' medical conditions are recorded to ensure we are able offer the relevant care while they are at school. It is important to inform the school of any changes to your child's medical information and or needs as soon as possible so we can maintain accurate and up-to-date records.

Parents or carers of students diagnosed with Asthma, Allergy, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy must also provide a personalised condition specific action plan completed and signed by their doctor.

School photos will be held on  
**Monday, 23rd February 2026**

All students are expected to wear full summer dress uniform.

All orders can be placed online including sibling orders. If you require a sibling envelope please pick up from office.

Please use the Email Address and code below:

[www.theschoolphotographer.com.au](http://www.theschoolphotographer.com.au) A2Z9E6SE

Order envelopes have been sent home, please complete them and return these to school, even if you have ordered photographs online.

The  
School  
Photographer.

**PHOTO DAY  
COMING SOON!**

Monday, 23rd February 2026

Head to our website to view the available packages and to place your order

VISIT OUR WEBSITE & ENTER THIS CODE:

**A2Z9E6SE**



St Brendan's Catholic Primary School  
[www.theschoolphotographer.com.au](http://www.theschoolphotographer.com.au)

### Health Care Card Holders

Families who have submitted a HCC concession form, please be aware adjustments to reflect the correct amount owed will be made to your school fee statements at the end of the term. Please contact the office if you have any queries.



[www.lakesent.catholic.edu.au](http://www.lakesent.catholic.edu.au)



[principal@lakesent.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@lakesent.catholic.edu.au)



03 5155 2712



40 Golf Links Road,  
Lakes Entrance, VIC, 3909

Internet Banking : BSB 083 879 A/C 695096861 Account Name : St Brendan's School

Welcome Families and Friends,

On Friday of last week, it was a pleasure to see our students walk through the school gates bright-eyed and ready to learn. Our teachers have prepared over the holiday break, and the first few days have been focused on setting expectations and getting into routine. Our teaching focus this year is in understanding what quality **Explicit Instruction** looks like and in delivering explicit teaching across the school with consistency.

Teachers have begun building those professional relationships with their students which we know is key to success. We are very excited to welcome many new students to St Brendan's for 2026.

**Foundation:** Liam Albert, Millie Anderson, Phoebe Benton, Cooper Birdsey, Parker Bire, Isabella Bodsworth, Elvie Brownnett, Hudson Busch, Iluka Carnegie, Kai Davies, Maverick Dawes, Spenser Dooley, Riley Downing, Finneas Fahy, Isabella Hayes, Numeralla Hood, Charlie Hooper, Lilah Hooper, Zoe Jamwal, Delilah Jenkin-Tsarouhas, Noah Lancaster, Isla Leonard, Amity Lomas, Amoha Manhas, Zayden Meloury-Jones, Archer Mitchelson, Levi O'Connell-Walker, Willow Perry-Coates, Mila Piatkine, Hudson Pollard, Charly Roberts, Spencer Ryland, Isabelle Scicluna, Giyan Shiju, Jordan Spiteri, Maggie Stewart, Hugo Waite, Shep Waites, Chloe Waller, Sophia Wilson, Adelyn Wright

**Year 1/2:** Hayden Subin, Fatheh Ali, Mason Snell, Fathima Badhar, Fadi Shiju, Haizel Subin, Lachlan Kimm

**Year 5:** Amelia Snell, Michael Brick

The year six students have undertaken their buddy responsibilities with purpose, and it is entertaining to see them chasing their younger buddy around the playground with concern. They have been particularly nurturing, and their support gives our young students confidence through a level of social security.

## **2026 School Leaders**

**School Captains:** Winter Thomas and Arlo Kenworthy-Smith

**Cultural Diversity Leader:** Georgia McGuinness

**Blue House Captains:** Jordan Morrison and Tahlia Woodward

**Green House Captains:** Maddox Milburn and Indi Whelan

**Red House Captains:** Jaxon Crawley and Isabella Hayllar

**Yellow House Captains:** Isla Strong and Evie McMeeken

### **Activities Leaders**

Jaxon Carter, Ivy Doland, Lincoln Evans, Alexander Jackisch, Luca Mazzitelli, Summer Shields, Harrison Smith, Charlie Smythe, Willow Watson

### **Events Leaders**

O'Shae Cook, Harley Crellin, Jesse Gilbert, Kayde Meloury, Jake Richardson, Angus Murray, Willow Nicholas, Leanna Nguyen

### **Social Justice Leaders**

Remy Albert, Zander Nowell

We were very successful during the school break in recruiting staff, and we begin 2026 with a highly motivated team of educators. We spent last week in professional learning sessions to ensure quality and consistency in our teaching practice. The Collaborative Conferences will take place in week six of term and this will provide time for all parents to meet with their child's teacher and plan for success.

## Teacher/Education Support Officer Placement for 2026

Class	Teacher	ESO
Foundation Blue	Melissa Terry/ Sarah McGuinness	Mike Park Pauline McAteer (MTW) Julie Ross (TH/F)
Foundation Red	Lauren Alsop/ Sarah McGuinness	
Year 1/2 Blue	Ana Duran	
Year 1/2 Green	Kathryn Sharpley	
Year 1/2 Red	Madison Schulz	
Year 3/4 Blue	Chelsea Bulmer/ Cassandra Supple	Rourke Delaney (MTTF) Jenny Vogrig (MTW) Sheenie Kyriakou
Year 3/4 Green	Luke Bates/Hannah Neal	
Year 3/4 Red	Melissa Rickman Kylie Curnow	Julie Ross (Wed morn)
Year 5 Blue	Danielle Mills/ Cassandra Supple	Dan Johnson
Year 5 Red	Jacqui Mallen/ Georgia Kenny	
Year 6 Blue	Mikaela Witherow	Kylie Curnow (Mon)
Year 6 Red	Narae Blackwell/ Georgia Kenny	Mel Rickman (Fri)
Health	Indira Quin	
PE	Hannah Neal	
Art/ Science	Leesa Thompson	
Mandarin	Stephanie Hamer	
Kitchen/Garden		Emma Albert (MTW)

## Benefits of a strong parent-school partnership - <https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

As a parent, you know your child better than anyone else does. Your child's teachers will want to get to know your child too.

When you have a strong and respectful partnership with your child's school and teachers, you're in a good position to **give them information to help your child get the most out of education**. You and your child's teachers can work together to support your child's learning, development and wellbeing. When everybody is working together in the best interests of your child, your child is likely to have **a positive attitude towards school** and experience other benefits too. These include:

- regular school attendance
- positive school results
- good social and relationship skills
- a sense of wellbeing
- school completion
- progression to post-secondary education like TAFE, university or an apprenticeship.

### How to build a strong parent-school partnership

- You can build a parent-school partnership in several ways:
- Say hello to teachers and other staff at school pick-up and drop-off times.
- Go to parent-teacher interviews/collaborative conferences and parent meetings.
- Check the school website, noticeboard and emails regularly.
- Be involved and help out in the school community in whatever ways you can.
- Go to school performances, barbecues, cultural or music events, and parent seminars.
- Ask teachers for information or feedback about your child, and share your child's special events or achievements outside school.
- Learn more about the school by looking at its annual report, website, newsletters and so on.

Parents, on Thursday, 19 February we will be conducting a webinar on site at St Brendan's for you all to attend. The information presented in this session will help you in understanding the digital world and what you will need to know to help safely raise your child. There will be supper provided. Please join us!

# INFORM & EMPOWER



**Session: Raising Kids in a Digital World**  
**Delivery: Community Webinar**  
**Presenter: Martin McGauran & Carley McGauran**  
**Date: Thursday 19th February**  
**Time 7.30 pm (90 mins)**

We look forward to seeing you at the first assembly at 2.30pm on Friday, 27 February. This assembly will be run by our school captains and we will present the leadership badges to our year six cohort.

Kind Regards,

Matthew Hamer

# Up Coming Events

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
WEEK 3	<b>Feb 9</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6	<b>Feb 10</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6	<b>Feb 11</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6 Foundation Pupil free Day	<b>Feb 12</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6	<b>Feb 13</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6
WEEK 4	<b>Feb 16</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6	<b>Feb 17</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6	<b>Feb 18</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6 Foundation Pupil free Day 9.10am Whole School Mass: Ash Wednesday	<b>Feb 19</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6 District Swimming Carnival - Orbost 7.30pm Raising Kids in a Digital World	<b>Feb 20</b> Swimming Lessons Yr 4/5/6
WEEK 5	<b>Feb 23</b> SCHOOL PHOTOS 	<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>Feb 26</b>	<b>Feb 27</b> 9.10am Year 5 Mass 2.30pm Assembly - School Captain
WEEK 6	<b>Mar 2</b> Division Swimming Carnival 3.30pm Collaborative Conferences	<b>Mar 3</b> 9.10am Year ½ Prayer 3.30pm Collaborative Conferences	<b>Mar 4</b> 3.30pm Collaborative Conferences	<b>Mar 5</b> 3.30pm Collaborative Conferences	<b>Mar 6</b> 9.10am Year 6 Mass - Wold day of Prayer

**Week 7 : Monday 9th - Labour Day Holiday**

**Week 8: Friday 20th -St Brendan's Cross Country**

**Week 9: Mon 23rd - Wed 25th Year 3 and 4 Camp - Koroonda Park**

## Welcome Baby!

Baby congratulations to the following families:

Dooley Family - Spencer (Foundation) on the arrival of your daughter and sister, "Clarke"

Dawes Family - Maverick (Foundation) on the arrival of your daughter and sister, "Matilda"

Lomas Family - Amity (Foundation) on the arrival of your son and brother, "Atticus"

O'Connell-Walker - Levi (Foundation) on the arrival of your daughter and sister. "Adalee"



Tues 10th Feb:	St. Brendan's	Lakes Entrance	9.30 am
Wed 11th Feb:	St. Colman's	Orbost	9.30 am
Fri 13th Feb:	St. Brendan's	Lakes Entrance	9.30 am
Sat 14th Feb	St. Brendan's	Lakes Entrance	9.30 am
	Wedding Service for Stephen & Kristina Rosie		3.00 pm
Sun 15th Feb:	St. Brendan's	Lakes Entrance	9.00 am
	St. Colman's	Orbost	11.00 am
	St. Peter's	Mallacoota	3.00 pm

**EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION:** After Friday 9.30 am Mass.

**ST BRENDAN'S CHURCH, LAKES ENTRANCE** will be open for: **PRIVATE PRAYER** from 9am - 4pm Daily

**EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION:** St Brendan's: After 9.30 am Mass on Fridays

**RECONCILIATION:** Before Mass at Lakes Entrance, Swan Reach & Orbost or by arrangement.

**ST. BRENDAN'S - ROSARY:** 1st Saturday of the month 8.45am before Mass. Next Rosary Morning **7th February 2026**

**VISITATIONS:** Please contact the Parish Office to request a home visit or to raise any other concerns in confidence. ph: 5155 5232 / 0468 840 349 or email [stbrendan@bigpond.com](mailto:stbrendan@bigpond.com)

**MORNING TEA** Morning tea **Sunday 8th February** after Mass in Hobby Room.

# RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

## Cyber Safety Webinar for Parents & Carers

Presented by Martin McGauran, primary school teacher and eSafety educator and Carley McGauran, psychologist and mum.



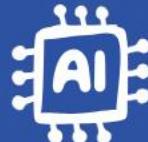
Social Media



Online gaming



Explicit/adult content



Artificial Intelligence



Cyberbullying



Managing devices



Impacts of screen time



Strengthening family communication

St Brendans  
Catholic Primary School

Thursday 19 February  
7.30 - 9.00 pm

INFORM & EMPOWER

Trusted  
eSafety Provider  
[esafety.gov.au](http://esafety.gov.au)



# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2026



We hope everyone enjoyed their first day back at school! We were excited to welcome our new foundation students to St Brendan's for their first day of school. Our year six leaders received their new shirts, which look fabulous! All students have started getting back into the routine of coming to school and being kind to one another, which is an important part of our 3Rs (Respect for self, Respect for others, Responsibility for your actions).

We all participated in a Smoking Ceremony on Tuesday and our school captains spoke spectacularly at it.

Everyone has been trying their best with their school work since they came back from the long break. It's been fantastic to see so many smiles of faces and students playing together well.

If you see the our new teachers and ESOs such us Mrs Sharpley, Ms Duran, Mrs Curnow, Mrs Rickman and Sheenie please say hello to them! We are very lucky to have such great teachers and helpers to support us this year!

**Written by Harley and Alexander**



# Smoking Ceremony

The Smoking Ceremony was held on Tuesday, 3rd February.

As school captains, we all arrived at the Indigenous garden to meet Aunty Sandra and set up for the Smoking Ceremony. Aunty Sandra told us a bit about her Nation, her Elders and why the Smoking Ceremony is important. This is a tradition that our school has embraced.

Aunty Sandra's ancestors go back over 60,000 years and that at that time they ran this land we are on today - Gunaikurni Land.

At 9.20am all of the St Brendan's students and staff assembled around the Indigenous garden to participate in the Smoking Ceremony.

As leaders, we introduced Aunty Sandra to everyone. She then explained to the students what happens during a Smoking Ceremony and why and that this is her welcoming us to this land and wishing us well.

Aunty Sandra lit the dry gumleaves, she dipped them in water and then placed them on top of the fire to increase the smoke.

Once the smoke was prominent the year 6s led the procession around and through the smoke cleansing themselves as they went, acting as role models for the other year levels in the school.

We would like to thank Aunty Sandra for coming to St Brendan's to lead our smoking ceremony for 2026.

Thank you also to Mr Hamer, Fi and Emma for helping to organise this ceremony. We really appreciate your help.

Written by: Winter, Arlo & Georgia



# Chinese: Mandarin

## Huānyíng 歡迎 - Welcome to 2026!

Here at St. Brendans we do not underestimate the importance of learning a language. Today's students are growing up in an increasingly globalised world where second language is an immensely useful skill, which can provide them with opportunities throughout life.

It is proven that learning a second language can enhance listening skills and memory, improve the knowledge of one's own native language as well as foster positive attitudes towards other people and cultures.

This year in Chinese Mandarin class, students will continue to review phrases previously taught and learn new vocabulary to extend their oral language. Mandarin learning at St. Brendans involves a seven year developmental curriculum starting from Foundation.



The curriculum encompasses both language and culture components. Specifically, the curriculum is broken down into four modules each year. The first three modules present new content, whilst the fourth module consolidates the vocabulary learnt throughout the year. In the upper year levels, the understanding of Chinese characters are also introduced.

Each module involves the development of :

- Spoken language (articulation: pronunciation and tone)
- Reading (Pinyin and Characters) Pinyin: is the standard system of Romanised spelling for transliterating Chinese.
- Writing of Chinese characters and pinyin (middle and upper grades)
- Cultural awareness (not assessed).



### Content taught:

**Foundation:** introductions, pets (animals), I have / I don't have, numbers, items, I like, I don't like, fruit, counting using measure words - GE, eating, foods.

**Year 1 and 2:** introductions, drinks, first activity verbs, numbers, food (types of vegetables) measure words - GE, GEN, I have, I want.

**Year 3 and 4:** family members, verb: sports, clothing, colours, days of the week, attending and doing activities.

**Year 5 and 6:** places, locations, time and time phases, transport, higher numbers, verbs: sports, directional verbs.

A list of vocabulary words can be provided if you wish to practise Chinese at home.

**Xièxìè 謝謝**

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

- Do you have a current health care/pension card?
- Did you know you can get a discount on school fees?
- Please contact the school office for more information.



# Topic: SCHOOL TRANSITIONS



## In this edition of SchoolTV - SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

Whether it is starting school for the first time, moving up to a higher grade or embarking on a journey through secondary school, there is no doubt that any school transition is a very exciting time for children and parents. It means your children are growing up!

However, transitioning is an ongoing process. It can continue long after students have entered their new environment and may encounter difficulties at a number of different stages. These stressors may appear as anxiety and frustration and result in negative or disruptive behaviours. Such behaviours can become problematic making the transitioning process even more difficult for children and parents.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will learn practical strategies to assist your child during the transition process and reduce stress and anxiety levels.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school counsellor for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to the **School Transitions** edition of SchoolTV  
<https://lakesent.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/school-transitions>



## School Transitions

A SchoolTV topic supporting  
modern-day parenting



 SCHOLASTIC

# Book Club

Dear families,

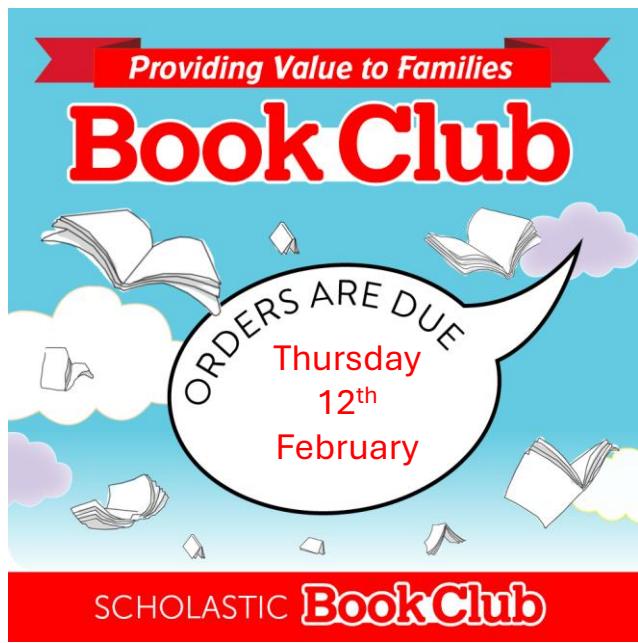
The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of books and the joy and benefits of independent reading for fun. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school.

Our school is participating in **Scholastic Book Club** this year. Up to twice a term, during the school year, we will send home a Club catalogue with a different selection of books offered for all ages.

You'll find award-winning books and bestsellers, as well as old and new favourites. We recommend them because the books span a wide range of children's reading levels and interests and because they are inexpensive (some books cost as little as \$3).

It is easy to order. The **Book Club LOOP** platform for parents allows you to pay by credit card. Your child's order is submitted directly to school safe and sound and the books will be delivered to class. You can place your child's order at [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or using the **LOOP** app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

Owning your own books is something special! I hope that you will encourage your child to order books this year. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our classroom, however there is never any obligation to order. I know of no better way to encourage reading than to allow children to choose the books they want to read.





EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## BAPTISM

Baptism is the first Sacrament of Initiation into the Catholic Church. This journey is shared between families, school and parish.

If you are interested in your child participating in the Sacrament of Baptism this year we ask you to please contact Cassandra Supple or Melissa Terry.



Lakes Entrance Secondary College

Football Oval

Tuesdays during February

5.30PM - 6.30PM

Sessions are fully subsidised

Ages 18 and above only

For more information contact Kaitlyn via 0456 699 656

Scan for more info



**Lunch orders are available on a Friday and are supplied by Mama Vu's Kitchen.**

- All orders will need to be in by Thursday morning – before 12pm for lunch on Friday

- NO LATE ORDERS will be accepted.

- Please make sure that all orders are on a brown paper lunch order bag with the correct money

- Siblings will require one bag each

- Name and class needs to be clearly stated on the bag

Please take note of prices.



## LUNCH ORDERS

**ARE AVAILABLE**

**ORDER MUST  
BE IN  
THURSDAY**

**ON A  
FRIDAY**



**Menu Location: PAM - Knowledge Banks: School Notes/Information & St Brendan's Website**

# Catch the fun!

Jump into the free netball fun at Woolworths NetSetGo's Come & Play Day!

**Monday 9th Feb & Monday 16th Feb**  
4-5PM

**LAKES ENTRANCE NETBALL COURTS**  
LAKESENTRANCENA@GMAIL.COM  
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Woolworths NETSETGO!

netball VICTORIA

## INTRODUCTION TO COACHING WORKSHOP

Lakes Entrance Netball Association

Saturday 7 February 2026

9:00am - 11:00am

Lakes Entrance Recreation Reserve -1 Rowe St

Register using the QR Code

# Come & Try Netball

13 & Under Competition

When: Monday 9th & 16th February  
Where: Lakes Entrance Netball Courts  
Time: 5-6pm

COME AND PLAY!

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME!

Monday 9th and Monday 16th Come and Try Nights and skills development

Competition games commence on February 23rd.

Registration will close on February 28th, 2025.

To register: Scan the QR code  
OR head to: <https://registration.netballconnect.com>

lakesentrancena@gmail.com

netball VICTORIA

## INTRODUCTION TO UMPIRING

Lakes Entrance Netball Association

7 February 2026

1pm – 4pm

Lakes Entrance Recreation Reserve -1 Rowe St

Presented by Judi Buhagiar

Work Safe

BAIRNSDALE NETBALL ASSOCIATION

## All Abilities Netball

Enjoy netball in a fun, friendly environment where you will learn new skills, stay active and enjoy being part of a team built on belonging and inclusion.

**Date:** 26/02/2026- 28/05/2026  
Excluding School Holidays

**Time:** 4.00pm-5.00pm

**Location:** WORLD Precinct- 99 Wallace Street, Bairnsdale

**Contact:** Janet Parker at 0430 480 405

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
On our Facebook page

AUSTSWIM TSW

89.9% of our graduates get jobs

ENROL NOW!

TEACHER OF SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22, February 2026

8:30am - 5:00pm

Lakes Entrance Aquadome - VIC

LAKES ENTRANCE

AUSTSWIM