

Important Dates

**Sports Day -
Families Welcome**
Friday 8 December 2023

**Year 6 Graduation
Breakfast Zitto's
Cafe, 8am**
Monday 11 December 2023

**Whole Christmas
Concert - 2.15 p.m -
All families
Welcome!**
Monday 11 December 2023

**Year 6 Graduation
Ceremony 2
pm/Yarning Place**
Tuesday 12 December 2023

**Yr 6 Last Day of
School**
Tuesday 12 December 2023

**Whole School Mass
- All Welcome -
10.15am**
Tuesday 12 December 2023

**End of Term 4 /
3pm Finish Time**
Wednesday 13 December
2023

**Miss Bowman's
Reception Class -
Dress Up Day**
Wednesday 13 December
2023

**Pupil Free Day (No
School) - OSHC
Bookings Only**
Thursday 14 December 2023

**Pupil Free Day (No
School) OSHC
Bookings Only**
Friday 15 December 2023

**School Begins -
Term 1**
Monday 29 January 2024

From the Leadership Team

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This Sunday is the first day of Advent in our Catholic church. This is an indication that we are getting very close to Christmas. Advent is a time of waiting, a time of preparation, a time of getting ready for the celebration of Christmas, the day Jesus was born. As in the time of Lent, Advent is dominated by the colour of purple, the colour of royalty and of kings! Jesus is seen as a saviour but he wasn't the type of king that the early Christians were expecting. He wasn't a powerful king, with an army to defeat the Romans. Instead, he operated differently and turned things on their head. He challenged the way society did things with a real focus on caring for others and building relationships rather than fighting and putting people down. I think it remains important for us today to nurture this in our young people. Hence, we hold on dearly to our Mercy values of Compassion, Courage, Hospitality, Justice, Respect and Service and pray that we can eliminate or reduce things like hate, hostility, violence and poverty.

Speaking of 'Service', we have a number of staff who will be moving on next year to other schools or other things. We will farewell them at our End of Year 'Thanksgiving' Mass on 12 December.

Cloe Bowman has been with us this semester as a Reception teacher. Cloe has won a teaching position at Blakeview Primary School for 2024.

Sameera Sekhon has been with us for the past two years as a middle primary teacher. Sameera has won a teaching position at St John Bosco School at Brooklyn Park.

Janie Gosling has been our STEM teacher and Librarian for the past two years. Janie will be moving into retirement.

Sebestyen Maglai has been our PE teacher for the past 25 years and has been on leave throughout 2023. Seb has also decided to hang up his boots and call time on his career as a PE teacher.

We thank each of these Staff members for the contribution they have made to St Mary Magdalene's School in their time with us. We wish them every blessing as they move on to the next stage of their personal journey.

Along with farewells there are usually new staff who arrive to replace those who are leaving. I am pleased to announce that we have appointed the following new teachers for 2024: Becky Hill (from St Ignatius College), Leah Dickson (from St Augustine's School), Tayla Yon (from Immanuel Lutheran School) and Angela Rose (STEM teacher from Hewett Primary School). We welcome each of them to our school community and look forward to the talents and gifts that they will bring.

Congratulations to our St Mary Magdalene's Got Talent kids who performed in front of a packed house of students, parents, grandparents and staff. The acts were simply amazing with a wide range from singing to dancing to magic, to kung fu and so on! Well done kids! Thanks to Ms Petersen, Miss Sam and other staff who helped to support the kids and put it all together. Thank you also to all the parents and grandparents who were able to join us.

We have Sports Day next Friday and you would have received a letter about this special event. We will be having a sausage sizzle with each child able to have a free sausage. If they are not able to have sausages then they will need to bring their own lunch. Once the children have had their sausages then we will sell our remaining sausages for \$2 for adults or for students if they then want a second one. We will also be selling drinks for \$2 per can. Please refer back to the letter for more information.

The next couple of weeks will be extremely busy with Student Reports going home, children having a mini transition visit to their new teacher, Christmas Carols, End of Year Mass and Graduation for our Year 6s. Then in the holidays we will be doing some renovations to the Library. With our increase in student numbers we will need to add an eighth class for 2024. The Library will be reduced in size and some internal walls will be installed to create three classrooms in that building for our senior students.

After our storms earlier this week and the flooded car park the weather next week looks to be moving into the 30s. Please remind your children about the importance of hats and sun cream ... especially for Sports Day.

As we do move towards the end of the year I would like to remind families of the need to finalise their accounts as soon as possible. This includes the \$250 per child levy and OSHC accounts. Please make this a priority and speak with John Mathew our finance person if you need to set up a payment plan.

Please remember that St Thomas More School offers Vacation Care for those families who may require that service. We do have some application forms available in our Front Office if required.

Some important dates:

Friday 8 December	Sports Day 9:15 - 2:30pm
Monday 11 December	Christmas Carols 2.15pm
Tuesday 12 December	Year 6 Graduation 2pm
Wednesday 13 December	Last Day of Term - School Holidays
Thursday 14 December	Pupil Free Day (OSHC bookings required)
Friday 15 December	Pupil Free Day (OSHC bookings required)
Monday 29 January 2024	School Resumes

Kind regards

Peter Mercer

Head of School

Recent News

From the APRIM

Liturgical Calendar Information

Special celebrations that we focus on during classroom and whole school prayer throughout term 4 and those that come up in our liturgical calendar include:

26/11 - Feast of Christ the King

3/12 - 1st Sunday of Advent

10/12 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

The Feast of Christ the King

Last Sunday was the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King in the church. It is the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year. The feast focuses on Jesus as King. Not a king of power but a king of compassion, kindness, and love. As we prepare to head into the season of Advent next Sunday, we are reminded to see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet and work to be compassionate, forgiving, kind and loving to all.

Advent

This coming Sunday will begin the season of Advent. Advent is a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming is remembered. It is a season of joyful expectation. We take this time every year to practice how to receive Jesus every day, of our lives. We remember the call of Jesus to his followers to make our world a peaceful and loving place.

Advent reminds us of the sacred meaning of Christmas. It is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Advent means 'coming' – this is the coming of Jesus into the world.

We use the colour purple on our prayer space as we wait in joyful hope to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our king and light of our world.

Being Church Together

On November 17, leadership in Catholic Schools joined with parish priests and pastoral associates for the launch of the document, Being Church Together: a Theology, Vision and Guiding Principles for the Parish-School Relationship. This document is a key resource on re-imagining and strengthening the Parish – School relationship and providing some space for diving into the resource and planning next steps. Being Church Together is an invitation to the whole Parish, both the worshipping community and Catholic schools to envision new possibilities and enable further conversation regarding School – Parish relationship.

Signs and Symbols of our Catholic Faith: Advent Wreath and Candles

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas. Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

Elizabeth Catholic Parish News

Please see below for the link to weekly parish bulletin.

<https://elizabethcatholicparish.com.au/bulletin/>

Sacramental Program

We have now come to the end of our Sacramental Program for 2023. If your child would like to be involved in the Sacramental



The image is a festive timetable for the Community Hub, set against a red background. At the top center is a decorative white mandala. To the right is a stylized green Christmas tree with yellow and red ornaments and a yellow star on top. The text is arranged in a list format, detailing activities for various days in December. The title 'Community Hub' is written in a large, elegant cursive font. Below it, the subtitle 'Adjusted Timetable for Week 8 & 9' is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The days and dates are listed in bold black text, followed by the activities in a regular black font. At the bottom, two lines of white text provide important closure information.

Community Hub

Adjusted Timetable for Week 8 & 9

MONDAY 4th December
9:30am - 11:30 am - Community English Class

TUESDAY 5th December
9am -10:30am - Playgroup *End of Year Party
11am-1pm - Cuppa and Craft *End of Year Party

WEDNESDAY 6th December
9:30am- ZUMBA - Final Session

THURSDAY - 7th December
12:30pm - 2:30pm - English Class *End of Year Party

MONDAY - 11th December
9:30am - 11:30 am - English Class *End of Year Party

ONE BOX'S WILL BE AVAILABLE WEDNESDAY 6TH & 13TH DECEMBER

THE COMMUNITY HUB WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY 12th DEC 2023 - 30th JAN 2024

Miss Bowman's Class Excursion!

On Monday 27th we went on our first class excursion! The day started with spending the morning at the AnglicareSA nursing home at

Dutton Court. We played games, built very high towers and did some colouring. It was great to see the interactions between the young and the elderly. We finished our special visit by singing a Christmas Carol and our favourite song called 'Open, Shut Them.'

We stopped for lunch at Solandra Park and let out some energy by moving our bodies in different ways along the play equipment and experimenting with the water course.

Last stop for the day was spent with the amazing volunteers at The Road and Cycle Safety Centre out at Ridgehaven where we learnt about road safety, how to ride bikes, the importance of wearing a helmet and driving along the course using all the different signs.

The children soon found the importance of being aware of your surroundings, paying attention to the road in front and looking. We were then rewarded with a juice box treat on such a sunny day.

Special thanks to Zac's Mum (Nichole), Eric's Mum (Skye) and Mrs Hughes for volunteering their time to help on the excursion.

The day was very exciting, and we brought back many tired children. Here are some of their thoughts...

"My favourite was the bikes and sitting next to my Mum and Aarez on the bus" - Zachary

"I love the bikes because I was riding them so fast and I love the bus and I love sitting next to Lucas" - Nathaniel

"I made a picture for an old person and I liked the bus and the bike without no pedals and I loved sitting next to Mrs Hughes" - Aria

"I like the bus and the excursion" - Mabior

"I just ride on the no pedal bike and I just ride it so fast because I wasn't scared> I just go stay on the left" - Moana

"I liked every part" - Aarez

"I like Riding on the bike and the bus and everything" - Grace

"I sang to the nursing home" - Keena



Year 6 Students Memories of SMMS!

Memories of Primary School

Graduating Class of 2023

As we embark on the last few weeks of school, I checked in with the Year 6's to ask what their favourite memory of Primary school and what they want to be when they grow up! Here are their responses:

Tahnay: My favourite memory was communicating with others.

I want to work in the Mines!

Callum K: My favourite memory was going to the Zoo Snooze camp.

I want to go to Culinary School to be a Chef!

Rahwa: My favourite memory was spending time with my friends.

I want to be a Detective!

Janzen: My favourite memory was going to AFL Max in 2022.

I want to work at McDonald's as my first job!

Felicity: My favourite memory was going to the Zoo Snooze camp.

I want to be a horse trainer!

Austin: My favourite memory was talking and having fun with my friends.

I want to be an Engineer or someone who works with Technology!

Taneesha: My favourite memory was making sure my friends were always happy.

I want to be a Building Constructor!

Callum M: My favourite memory representing the school on excursions and sporting events.

I want to be either a Fire Fighter Person or Sports Commentator on the News!

Sports Day 8th December 2023!

On Friday 8th December St Mary Magdalene's School will celebrate **SPORTS DAY** starting at 9:15am. McAuley, Fitzpatrick and Coolock will gather to contest the Vin Davies Shield and the Spirit Cup. Children are to arrive at school at normal time. Parents, friends, and relatives are all welcome to join us on the day.

On Sports Day the students can wear a T-Shirt that reflects their team along with their correct SPORTS SHORTS or PANTS and HAT. Students may also wear hair ribbons, socks, or hair spray (put on at home and not to be brought to school) that reflects their team colour. Children are **NOT** to wear coloured zinc cream or paint their body with coloured Zinc – normal zinc cream only! Class teachers will also have sun cream available for students to use.

Please remember to send your student to school with a labelled drink bottle. Students will also require a packed recess including brainfood.

It is anticipated that Sports Day will finish at approximately 2:30pm. At that time parents may choose to take their child/children home. Students remaining behind will be supervised until 3pm.

Most parents taking images of children at sports day are doing so for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods. Please only take photos of your own child/children during sports day and avoid posting them on social media.

Students will be provided with a sausage sizzle lunch. Please let your child's teacher know about dietary requirements. Sausages will be available for purchase for parents/carers and visitors. The canteen will be open during sports day to purchase food and drinks.

Children who do not want a sausage in bread for lunch will require a packed lunch from home.

Good Luck to all teams and supporters!

Cristian Morgado P.E. Co-ordinator

Vacation Swimming Lessons

Gawler Aquatic Centre

Program delivery: Block 3 (08/01/2024 to 12/01/2024)

Victoria Terrace

Gawler

SA 5118

Location Offerings:

- Pre School (ages 3 to 4)
- Levels 1 - 7

Location Price:

- Enrolment Fee — \$30 (subsidy thanks to the SA Government)
- Location Fee — \$27
- Equipment Fee — \$1.50

TOTAL — \$58.50

PLEASE NOTE: Should you decide to enrol in more than one (1) block of VACSWIM, please note that the enrolment fee will be adjusted to **\$63.50**. This is due the SA Government provides a subsidy for each child to complete a single block of VACSWIM.



Community Hub

Adjusted Timetable for Week 8 & 9

MONDAY 4th December

9:30am - 11:30 am - Community English Class

TUESDAY 5th December

9am -10:30am - Playgroup *End of Year Party

11am-1pm - Cuppa and Craft *End of Year Party

WEDNESDAY 6th December

9:30am- ZUMBA - Final Session

THURSDAY - 7th December

12:30pm - 2:30pm - English Class *End of Year Party

MONDAY - 11th December

9:30am - 11:30 am - English Class *End of Year Party

ONE BOX'S WILL BE AVAILABLE WEDNESDAY 6TH & 13TH DECEMBER

THE COMMUNITY HUB WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY 12th DEC 2023 - 30th JAN 2024

