



The little school
with a big heart

4-8 Raymond Street
Orbost VIC 3888
<https://www.stjorbost.catholic.edu.au>

Caring for Self, Caring for Others, Caring for the Environment

St Joseph's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Term 1 – 25th February 2026

Issue No. 3



Email: admin@stjorbost.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 03 5154 1289

Student Report— Darius, Neave, Hugh, and Noah

Darius— Neave for playing with me, and teaching me a new game she has helped me a lot and made school fun. I found a new way to make number facts using the times tables chart.

Neave—This year I am very excited to start school for year 5 and seeing all of my friends. The thing I am finding a bit difficult is History.

Hugh—This year I am excited about having a new teacher and getting to see my friends.

Noah—What I find a bit annoying is the leg slide is too small for my height, what I find fun is practicing on the new monkey bars

Upcoming Reminders

- 26th Feb Toddler Gym 10am-12pm Hall
- 27th Feb—The Magic Pudding Performance. 2pm Assemble.
- 28th Feb—Clean up Australia day
- 2nd March Lillian to attend Division swimming Carnival Sale.
- 3rd March School Curriculum Planning day. No Students
- 5th March—Toddler Gym 10am-12pm Hall.
- 9th March Labour Day Holiday.
- 12th March Toddler Gym 10am-12pm Hall



A Message from the Principal

Term 1 Update: Halfway Already!

It is hard to believe we are already at the halfway mark of Term 1. Time is certainly flying, but it is wonderful to see how well our students have settled in, forming new friendships and building a vibrant school culture.

Spiritual & Community Life

Our students were truly exceptional during our recent Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Brendan's. Their reverence and participation set a beautiful tone for the Lenten season.

We have also officially launched Project Compassion. Our Francis students are currently leading the way, brainstorming how we can better support our local community while raising vital funds for Caritas. Keep an eye out for their upcoming initiatives!

Grounds & Facilities Improvements

We are committed to making our school a safer and more exciting place to learn.

Recent updates include:

- **New Playground:** We were thrilled to surprise the students with the news that a second new playground will be installed early next week.
- **Safety & Accessibility:** New concrete paths have been laid near the library leading to the sandpit. We have also extended the step near the hall and added a ramp to improve access for prams and trolleys.
- **Flag Poles:** A huge thank you to Matt Lecompte for his help in installing our new flag poles at the far end of the library. This is a wonderful addition to our grounds and a dedicated space for us to show our respect throughout the year.

Student Leadership & First Nations Connect

Mrs. Graham has been working closely with our student leaders to introduce 'First Nations Connect.' You may have already noticed the impressive "Student Voice" display in the school foyer. The leaders have also been busy writing to Darren Chester to request new flags for our school.

Assembly Update: A New Way to Celebrate

We are shaking things up! To ensure our assemblies remain engaging, we are moving to a new format:

- **Mid-Term Assemblies:** A dedicated Celebration of Learning.
- **End-of-Term Assemblies:** The home for our Merit Certificates and formal awards.

Join us this Friday! Francis students will perform a play based on The Magic Pudding, while Mackillop students will be sharing their recent work in small groups.

School Review & Catholic Identity

As part of our School Review this year, we are seeking your feedback regarding our Catholic Identity. Please check the email version of this newsletter for a login code to complete a brief family survey. Your input is invaluable to us.

Gratitude

A massive thank you to our local 'Friends of Orbost Op Shop' for their incredibly kind donation of \$3000. Thanks to their generosity, we have purchased new sports equipment and a bike rack for the front of the school.

Kirsten Daly

Principal.



Francis Class The Magic Pudding



This week Francis' group are proudly presenting a short performance from Norman Lindsay's "The Magic Pudding". We have been reading this book to build our understanding of Australian literature and what life was like in the 1900s. We hope you will enjoy our performance.



Whole School Approach to Positive Behavior

3 C's—Students in action

Caring for ourselves

Caring for Others

Caring for the environment



SHROVE TUESDAY / ASH WEDNESDAY

On Shrove Tuesday the whole school celebrated **Pancake Day** or **Pancake Tuesday**, which is the day before Ash Wednesday, and marks the start of Lent in the Christian calendar. It is a day of celebration and feasting before a 40-day period of fasting and reflection. Francis class presented the morning pray, before the children enjoyed pancakes.



Ash Wednesday marks the start of [Lent](#), a 40-day period of reflection, prayer, and fasting for Christians leading up to Easter. It is a solemn day focusing on repentance, mortality, and returning to God. It falls on February 18 in 2026, featuring a church service where ashes are placed on heads in the shape of a cross. Our school community travelled to St Brendan's in Lakes Entrance to join in on the service to celebrate the Start of Lent.

- **The Ashes:** Symbolize grief for sins and human mortality, often accompanied by the phrase, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return".
- **Source:** The ashes come from burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday.
- **Observances:** It is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat.

Purpose: To prepare hearts for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection at Easter.



Blessing of the Dove



We were truly blessed to gather as a community today! It was a joy to welcome Bishop Greg Bennet to St. Joseph's Primary School, Orbost to officially bless our new Christian symbol, the Dove. Joined by Fr. Hiep, our dedicated parishioners, and our wonderful school community, we celebrated this beautiful reminder of peace and the Holy Spirit in our midst. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this milestone so special!

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to these students and staff who celebrated their birthdays recently and in the coming weeks:

February

No one has a birthday in February.

March

6th Miss Jamieson
14th Alastair
22nd Ms. Anne
29th Ms. Viv

St Colman's Parish

St Colman's & St Brendan's Catholic Church - Mass Times



Tuesdays: St Brendan's Lakes Entrance
9:30am
Wednesdays : St Colman's Orbost
9:30am
Fridays: St Brendan's Lakes Entrance
9:30am
Saturdays: Once a month
St Dymphna's Buchan Check website
1st, 3rd, 5th wks.
St Joseph's Swan Reach 5:00pm
Sundays: St Brendan's Lakes Entrance
9:00am
St Colman's Orbost 11:00am

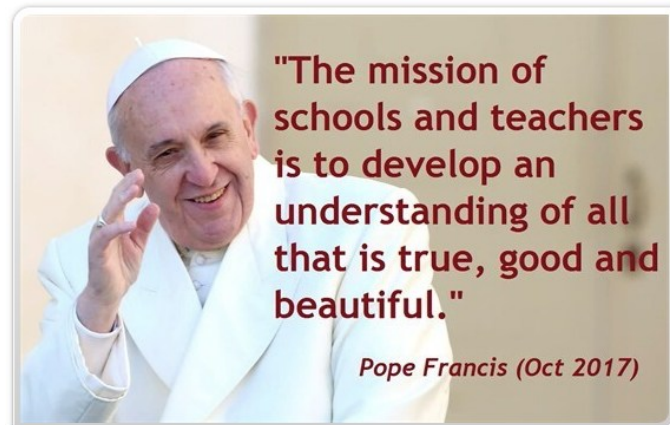


Prayers for our Community and student



Prayer For Teachers And Students

Dear Father God, we come before you today asking for Your guidance and strength. Help us let our light shine brightly, reflecting Your love and grace in everything we do. Give teachers the wisdom to inspire and students the courage to learn and grow. May our words and actions glorify You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Term dates

Term 1 : Thursday 29th January—Thursday 2nd April

Term Calendar

February 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Week 2	2	3	4	5 Toddler Gym 10- 12pm	6	7
8 Week 3	9	10	11	12 Toddler Gym 10- 12pm Swimming Carnival	13	14
15 Week 4	16	17 Shrove Tuesday & Project compassion launch	18 Ash Wednesday	19 Toddler Gym 10- 12pm	20 Bishop Greg's visit to bless Dove	21
22 Week 5	23	24	25	26 Toddler Gym 10- 12pm	27	28 Clean Up Australia Day

March 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Week 6	2	3 School Curriculum Planning- No students	4	5 Toddler Gym 10 - 12pm	6	7
8 Week 7	9 Labor Day Holi- days	10	11	12 Toddler Gym 10 - 12pm NAPLAN	13 NAPLAN	14
15 Week 8 National Harmony Week	16 NAPLAN	17 St Patrick's Day NAPLAN	18	19 Toddler Gym 10 - 12pm St Jo- seph's Day	20	21
22 Week 9	23	24 Collabora- tive Confer- ences	25	26 Toddler Gym 10 - 12pm Collaborative Conferences	27	28
29 Week 10	30	31 "The Box Show" Ex- cursion to Forge Thea- tre				

Parents &
Friends
Association

Social News

Have an idea,
send us an email!

Fundraising

Next meeting

COMMUNITY NEWS

LANDCARE EXPO 2026 *Orbost Show*



Celebrating 40 Years of Landcare

Stalls, food, beer, music, & skills **9th March**

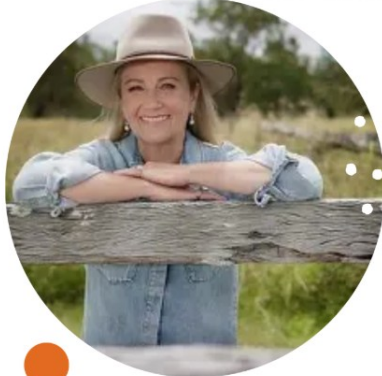
Presenter Pip Courtney

has been host & reporting for the national rural affairs program **Landline** for 30 years and will present on **Sustainable Farming and Soils**.

She's won numerous awards reporting on agriculture, business, sport, the environment, medicine, and education. Qld's Rural Journalism Hall of Fame & the National Star for Rural Broadcasting.

Reporting has taken Pip to every Australian state and territory, as well as China, Peru, Timor Leste, the USA, Cambodia and Laos.

Pip loves Tasmania, horses, cats, champagne, and sheep.



STALLS & SKILLS

- Hand Shearing
- Treasure Hunt - 'grown & caught'
- Horse Corn Grinder
- Solar Powered Trailer
- Print a T-Shirt
- Hand Spinning
- FREE 'fire wise' plants to give away & MUCH MORE**

QUESTIONS: Please contact
 Josh Puglisi - 0419 317 509 or
 Tiwana Merritt - 0414 801 703

**ORBOST SHOW OPENS -
 MUSIC STARTS @9AM**



The Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator and this TopSoils event is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program

GET YOUR GLOVES ON 2026



GIVE BACK TO THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

EVENT: Corringle Beach and Slips Clean Up

LOCATION: Meet at Corringle Slips

DATE: Sunday March 1 TIME: 9:30-11:00am

CONTACT: Sue 0408 395 384 / Snowy West Landcare Group



CLEANUP.ORG.AU

Morning tea after cleaning up, bring a plate to share if you can. Gloves will be provided. Please bring your hat and water.



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

Cost- \$100

Location: WORLD Precinct- 99 Wallace Street, Bairnsdale

Contact: Janet Parker at 0430 480 405

REGISTER TODAY!

On our Facebook page

We belong

ART COMPETITION 2026

Deaf Children Australia's annual Art Competition supports, promotes, and celebrates the creative pursuits of young deaf and hard of hearing people. This year's theme is 'We belong'.

Submissions open now.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE 22 JUNE 2026

Exhibition in September, details to be announced.

CATEGORIES & ART GRANTS

8 to 11 Years **12 to 17 Years**
 1st Prize \$500 1st Prize \$700
 Runner Up \$250 Runner Up \$300

18 to 23 Years **Early Education**
 1st Prize \$1000 **Group Project**
 Runner Up \$500 **(0 to 11 Years)**
 1st Prize \$800
 Runner Up \$450

For more info go to:
deafchildrenaustralia.org.au
 or email us with any questions:
events@deafchildren.org.au



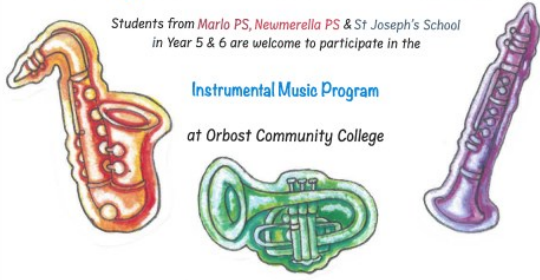
Deaf Children Australia.

Would you like to learn a MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Students from Marlo PS, Neumerella PS & St Joseph's School in Year 5 & 6 are welcome to participate in the

Instrumental Music Program

at Orbost Community College



Instruments available; flute, clarinet, saxophones, trumpet, trombone, bass guitar & percussion

Commitments are a weekly lesson, and participation in the "Junior Band" from Term 2, or when your music teacher thinks you are ready.



If you are interested please leave your contact details with the OCC admin team on 5154 1084, or orbost.cc@education.vic.gov.au and we will contact you to arrange an appointment where you can

try all the instruments in the lolly shop to find the perfect match!



Cybersafety

A SchoolTV topic supporting modern-day parenting



Tesselaar Fundraising with Bulbs

This term the school is going to participate in fundraising with bulbs, A catalogue will go home as well as a unique web link for our school orders which is below so you can see even more bulbs to choose from online. Don't forget to share with your family and friends. Orders need to be received by **27th March**

<http://www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/STJOSEPHS>





LET'S PLAY WITH

SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP



LITTLE FEET, BUSY HANDS AND BIG SMILES WELCOME!



ORBOST PLAYGROUP
WEDNESDAYS 10AM - 12PM
ORBOST KINDER
 Play • Create • Explore • Connect
 Join us for a relaxed, welcoming
 playgroup where children learn through
 play and families connect.

- ★ Songs & stories
- ★ Craft & sensory play
- ★ Indoor & Outdoor Play
- ★ Social connection

TODDLER GYM
THURSDAYS 10AM - 12PM
ST JOSEPHS PRIMARY
 Jump • Climb • Balance • Roll
 A fun movement program designed
 especially for toddlers!

- ★ Builds confidence
- ★ Supports gross motor development
- ★ Encourages social skills
- ★ Safe, supportive environment

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 CONTACT PETA 0498 666 422

