

Important Dates

Assembly 2.20pm

Friday 7 February 2025

**Swimming Trials
(Years 3-6)**

Wednesday 12 February
2025

**Staff
Commissioning
Mass 9.30am**

Thursday 20 February 2025

Assembly 2.20pm

Friday 21 February 2025

NAPLAN Practice

Tuesday 25 February 2025

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 4 March 2025

**Ash Wednesday
Liturgy - 9.30am**

Wednesday 5 March 2025

Pupil Free Day

Friday 7 March 2025

**Public Holiday -
Adelaide Cup**

Monday 10 March 2025



From the Principal Sean Perry

A Strong Start to the School Year

Dear School Community,

I am delighted to share with you the wonderful start we have had to the school year. Our students have shown remarkable dedication to our core values of Being Respectful, Being Caring, and Being Learners. Their enthusiasm and commitment have set a positive tone for the term ahead.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire community for the warm and caring welcome I have received. Your kindness has made my transition into this role incredibly smooth and enjoyable.

During the first two weeks of school, we have focused on building strong relationships within our classes. Research consistently shows that positive relationships and self-efficacy are crucial for effective learning. When students feel connected and confident, they are more likely to engage deeply and achieve their full potential. Read more about the importance of relationships in education.

Thanks also for your patience and flexibility working around the building projects happening at the front of the school, including the replacement of the roof and soffit over the Administration Building, the GiR Learning Space and the Music Room, the resurfacing of the

courts, and the installation of the new playground. These works will continue to enhance our learning environment for years to come. Please note the temporary changes in the back carpark, which have been made to ensure a safe entrance and exit to the school yard.

I would also like to remind all families to close gates behind them as they leave, especially the gates onto Victoria Road. We have some students who like to explore, and we want to ensure they are kept safe.

Collaboration between school and family is essential for the success of our students. By working together as a cohesive team, we can overcome challenges and ensure that every individual has the opportunity to learn, develop, and grow. Even when things are difficult, our partnership remains vital to fostering a supportive and enriching environment for our students.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our school community. Let's make this year a memorable and successful one!

Building Independence in Children

As we continue to foster a supportive and enriching environment for our students, we emphasise the importance of building independence in children and young people as they enter the school yard. In line with our approach to learning and work being undertaken in cognitive load theory, the reduction of unnecessary distractions helps students focus better and enhances their learning experience. Therefore, we kindly encourage all parents and families to say their farewells to students before they enter the building to start their day.

Your school-aged child is likely to have more independence than they have ever had before. This can be exciting, frustrating, or stressful for both you and your child. Although getting children involved may take longer to complete activities, it is crucial to their development as it:

- Increases their confidence
- Enhances motivation
- Builds self-esteem
- Helps problem-solving skills
- Fosters empowerment

You can build your child's independence by providing opportunities where they can safely make choices or complete activities on their own. If giving your child choices, give a few appropriate options. Open-ended questions may result in undesirable answers that could lead you to refuse your child's choice because it is either unhealthy or impractical.

To support this, we ask that all students line up in the designated area. Any parents onsite after 8:55am are required to sign in at the front office as part of our WHS requirements. This practice not only helps in maintaining a focused learning environment but also ensures the safety and security of everyone onsite.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us create a focused and independent learning environment for our students.

Change in Date for Student Free Day

We would like to inform you of a change in the date for the upcoming student free day. Due to the availability of our presenter and the important work our staff is undertaking in Maths, the student free day will now be on March 7. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility with this change.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Sean



Welcome

A very warm welcome back to school. A special OLV welcome to all our new families who have joined us this year, it's wonderful to have you on board. We trust our school-home partnership is a collaborative and holistic relationship, one that supports and improves the education of your child.

God, as we welcome our new students and their families to our community, we pray for your blessings upon them. May they feel a sense of belonging and warmth as they navigate their new environment. Guide them with wisdom and courage in their studies, grant them strength to overcome challenges, and foster meaningful connections with their peers, friends and teachers. Bless their homes with peace and support. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A very warm welcome to our new staff members at Our Lady of the Visitation:

Sean (Principal)

Donna (Administration)

Roni (Teacher)

Lily (ESO / OSHC).

We are thrilled to have them join our team and excited to see the unique perspectives and energy they will bring to our whole school community. When around the school, please pop in and say hello.

Dear God, Help us to be gracious and supportive guides to those we now call our new colleagues, but whom we will soon call our friends. Together, help us to do Your work by doing our work with excellence and reverence. God bless our shared mission and future. Amen.

Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year – encouraging all to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. As a staff, we continuously look for ways to be a source of hope in our immediate community and further afield, the world. It is with much hope and anticipation that the work we do demonstrates care with compassion immersed in dignity and respect to all we serve.

In our OLV school community, 'Pilgrims of Hope' would manifest as a collective effort to foster positivity, inclusivity, and proactive action towards creating a better school environment, where students and staff actively demonstrate optimism, support for one another, and a commitment to making a positive impact both within our school and wider community, often through acts of kindness, community service, and open dialogue about challenges and solutions.

Not limited to but we strive for:

- A positive school environment
- Open communication
- Promoting student leadership
- A strong sense of community outreach
- A faith-based reflection
- Personal growth

Loving God, as we begin another academic year, we ask your Holy Spirit to be with us, that we may always use the gifts you have given us to the best of our ability. We pray for all the students we will be privileged to teach during the coming months and ask that we may try

to see in each of them the many and varied gifts and talents with which you have blessed them. We make our prayer through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Welcome Back Whole School Mass

On Thursday 6th February, we celebrated our Welcome Back to School Mass hosted by 6AM with Fr. Joash presiding. The theme for the Mass was promoting the being of Pilgrims of Hope but through the lens of the Golden Rule – treating others as we wish to be treated. Few rules are one-size-fits-all but the Golden Rule ultimately inspires us to treat others with respect, kindness, and fairness. Knowing the golden rule requires a level of self-awareness.

Marks Gospel (Mark 6: 7-13 Go out and preach the Good News) describes Jesus sending out his disciples to preach the kingdom of God, of which can be achieved through our words and actions. The passage reminds us of the importance of trusting in God, being the very best version of ourselves, and treating others equally.

Thank you for the many families who attended the Mass with us. Your presence is always welcomed, and your support is always appreciated.

Jesus, we pray that You'll help us to remember Your Golden Rule – to treat everyone the way we want to be treated. Help us to treat EVERY person the way we want them to treat us. Amen.

School Representative Council

The Student Representative Council (SRC) at Our Lady of the Visitation is a group of elected students from Reception to Year 6 who represent their peers in school decision-making. Each class elect two students to represent their class. SRC gives students the skills to create and to implement, to lead and to follow, to learn from mistakes and to succeed. Most importantly, they give students the opportunity to represent the views of their peers, and to succeed in making those views heard. SRCs are structured to give students a voice and opportunities to develop leadership skills.

This year, 2025, we are trialling a restructure of our SRC where the student elected is elected for the entire academic year which aligns with our structure given to our House Leader group. It is with much anticipation that this restructure will give a deeper purpose and continuity to the group especially when shifting from Semester One to Semester Two.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this school matter. Well done to all our newly elected SRC representatives, I look forward to working alongside them guiding their ideas and initiatives.

Sacramental Program

This a gentle reminder that if you would like your child to complete the Sacramental Program during 2025, please contact:

Bernadette Smith – Sacramental Coordinator / Pastoral Associate – familyfaith@catholicparishes.com.au – 08 8449 6378.

The program starts Tuesday 18th February 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Semaphore at 7pm – 8pm. Please let Bernadette know if you are interested. Thank you.

Linda Caldinez



Community Portal

School fee statements will be available on the Community Portal from Week 4.

For those families new to the school or those that have yet to access the Community Portal, an invitation email will be sent to you over the next few days from noreply@civicacloud.com.au. Please check your junk or spam Inbox if you do not receive the invitation email.

Click on the link in the invitation email to complete your Community Portal Account Registration. Note that this link will only be valid for 7 days.

Invitations to the Community Portal will be sent to the parent/caregiver email address/s provided in our student records system. Where no email address has been recorded, no invitation can be made, in such cases we invite parents to notify the school administration team of their current email address.

Once activated you can access the Community Portal from: -

<https://cesa-portal-auth.civicaed.com.au/>

You might find it useful to Bookmark this page for ease of future access.

The CESA (Catholic Education of South Australia) Community Portal offers a secure centralised platform where you can access important school and student information from any location on any device at any time. The Community Portal will be made available to parents/caregivers within our school community and will provide you with information and services relevant to your child(ren). Only designated parents/caregivers will have access to their respective students' information.

The Community Portal will enable easy access to:

- Finance Statements
- Review Financial Transactions
- Make Online Payments
- View Medical Details
- View your Child's Demographic Information
- View Emergency Contacts

Enhanced functionality is planned later to enable the ability to update your child/ren's demographic and medical information, provide school news, calendar and communications. However, at this initial phase our focus is initiating access and enabling parents/caregivers to view their information.

Carpark Safety

Church Carpark

We have been informed by a number of families that there have been a number of near misses in the Church carpark due to incorrect entry and exit. This causes us grave concern as we have many of our students and their families walking through the carpark at several points during the day. It is for this reason we need to reiterate the importance of entering and exiting the church carpark correctly. When entering the carpark you must immediately turn left following the clearly marked arrows on the ground to find a park. This will hopefully limit near misses on those exiting the carpark properly. The near misses have occurred when families have entered the church carpark with total disregard to the arrows driving across the carpark into oncoming traffic. Safety will always be our priority and we are blessed to have such a facility as other schools around do not.

Please see carpark photos below for reference.

Staff Carpark – Victoria Road

Due to ongoing building works and the upcoming relocation of OSHC services, we kindly remind you that the carpark directly off Victoria Rd is reserved **at all times for staff only**. This measure is in place to minimise vehicle movement during the busy drop-off and pick-up times at the start and end of the school day.

When cars are moving in this area and children are being dropped off, we increase the possibility of near misses and critical incidents. As a school community, we are all committed to the safety of the children and young people.

For the safety of all children, we ask that you use the back drop-and-go area, the church carpark, or street parking when dropping off or picking up students. Ensuring the safety of our children as they travel to and from school is our top priority.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Back Carpark

This carpark is supervised by a teacher after school.

It is a Kiss and Drop Zone only. Do not park and leave your car to pick up your child/ren.

Parking in this carpark is only permitted in the diagonal parks along Railway Tce.

Children are to only access cars along the striped pedestrian crossings.

For the safety of all our children we ask that you be more vigilant around drop off and pick up times and thank you for your cooperation.

We also ask that you kindly pass these reminders on to anybody else who may be picking up or dropping of your child/ren.

OLV Church Carpark



OLV Back Carpark



FROM THE CLASSROOMS



Over the last two weeks our reception students have been engaged in an array of activities based around their Connecting, Relating and Belonging program. The program activities include:

- Reconnecting with friends and building new relationships with peers and adults
- Sharing kindness with others to build supportive relationships and environment
- Staying active and energised participating in inside and outside classroom activities
- Practicing mindfulness of their surroundings and the learning environment
- Embracing new ideas with curiosity.

When starting school in reception, your child faces a steep learning curve. At OLV we understand and respect your child's developmental needs and meet them in a caring, nurturing way that provides a strong foundation for their future learning.

Upwards and onwards from here on end!

Louise Martinello, Louise Jensen, Brianna Schwidder & Julie Willson
Reception Teachers

Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to start meaningful conversations about online safety with your children.

Keeping children and young people safe online is a shared responsibility. Families, educators, community organisations, and digital platforms all play a role in fostering a safe and positive online environment. By working together, we can help children develop digital literacy skills, recognise online risks, and make informed choices about their online interactions.

This year's Safer Internet Day encourages discussions on topics such as cyberbullying, privacy protection, digital well-being, and responsible social media use. Parents and caregivers can support children by setting clear guidelines, using parental controls, and encouraging open conversations about their online experiences.

By taking proactive steps and working together, we can empower children and young people to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.

Please click on the below link for online resources that are available for families to support online safety:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/sid/communities-and-families#resources-for-families>

Tina Ida

Leader of Learning



Wave Goodbye with a Smile

How to Make School Mornings Easier for You and Your Child

Saying goodbye to your child as they head off to school can stir up mixed emotions for both parents and kids. Here are some tips for a smooth and positive farewell.

- 1. Create a Routine** – Establish a consistent goodbye ritual—like a hug or a special phrase. This helps your child feel secure and know what to expect.
- 2. Keep It Short and Sweet** - Long goodbyes can make kids anxious. A quick, upbeat farewell helps minimise stress.
- 3. Offer Reassurance** - Let your child know they're going to have a great day. Reassure them that you'll be waiting for them when school's over.
- 4. Stay Calm and Positive** - Your child picks up on your emotions. Keep your tone calm and cheerful to help them feel confident.
- 5. Acknowledge Their Feelings** - If your child is nervous, validate their emotions. Let them know it's okay to feel that way, but they'll be just fine.
- 6. Leave with Confidence** - Trust that your child will be okay. Leaving confidently reassures them they're ready for the day ahead.

Final Thoughts

By following these tips, you can transform school mornings into a calmer, more positive experience for both you and your child. Creating a consistent routine, keeping the goodbye short and sweet, and offering reassuring words can help ease any anxiety. Acknowledging your child's feelings and leaving confidently lets them know you're there to support them, even from afar. With these small adjustments, your child will feel secure, supported, and excited for the day ahead, setting them up for a successful and positive school experience.

ENVIRO CLUB NEWS



5/6 STEM – ReWild Your School Incursion

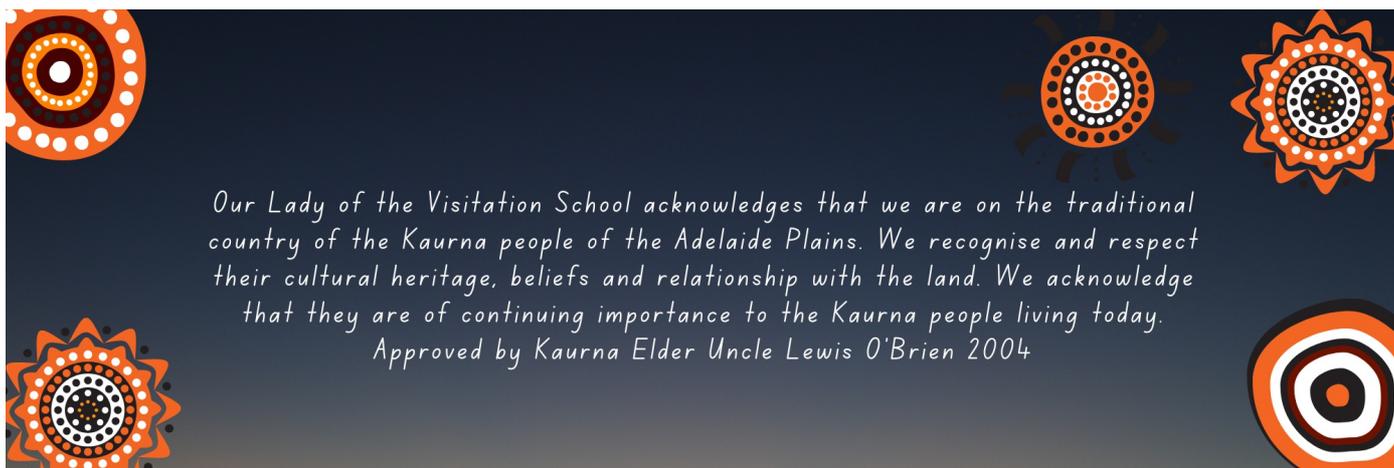
As part of our STEM unit for Term 1, the Year 5/6 students will be participating in a special incursion hosted by experts from the Jane Goodall Foundation. The "ReWild Your School Program" is a hands-on STEM experience that aims to educate students about the importance of wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and how they can play a role in rewilding local ecosystems. Through this program, students will gain a deeper understanding of how we can all contribute to a healthier, more sustainable world.

The incursion will take place on Wednesday the 19th of February (week 4) for 75 minutes per class. Please ensure your child comes prepared for a normal school day (recess, lunch, water bottle).

Should you have any questions or need further details, please feel free to contact Elli Kyriacou (STEM teacher) - ekyriacou@olv.catholic.edu.au.

Kind Regards,

Year 5/6 teachers & Elli Kyriacou



Student ABSENCES

Friendly reminder...

All student absences must be reported to the Front Office. Please contact us via phone or email and state the child's name and reason for the absence.

Contact Us

(08) 8440 9700
absent@olv.catholic.edu.au





Our Lady of the Visitation School Calendar			Term 1 2025				
	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	26/1 AUSTRALIA DAY	27/1 AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	28/1 Students return	29/1	30/1	31/1	1/2
2	2/2	3/2	4/2 Parent Info Night 6.15pm-7.15pm (Yr 3-6) Welcome Assembly 10:30	5/2 Swimming Trials (Yr 4 - 6) Parent Info Night 6:15pm 7.15pm R-2	6/2 Beginning of Year Mass: 9:30am	7/2 Assembly 2.20	8/2
3	9/2	10/2	11/2	12/2 Swimming Trials (Yr3-6)	13/2	14/2	15/2
4	16/2	17/2	18/2	19/2 Yr 5/6 Incursion: Rewild your school	20/2 STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS: 9.30am	21/2 Assembly 2.20	22/2
5	23/2	24/2	25/2 NAPLAN Practice Test	26/2	27/2	28/2	1/3
6	2/3	3/3	4/3 SHROVE TUESDAY Port Sapsasa Swimming Carnival (selected students)	5/3 ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY: 9.30am	6/3	7/3 PUPIL FREE DAY STAFF PD	8/3
7	9/3 LENT NAPLAN Yr 3-5	10/3 ADELAIDE CUP	11/3	12/3	13/3	14/3 OLV School Athletics Trials (Yr 4-6)	15/3
8	16/3 LENT NAPLAN Yr 3-5	17/3	18/3	19/3	20/3 Parish Mass: Yr 5/6s attending	21/3 HARMONY DAY, ST JO & PAT LITURGY: 9.30am Assembly 2.20	22/3
9	23/3 LENT	24/3	25/3 Port Sapsasa Athletics Carnival (Yr 4 - 6)	26/3	27/3	28/3 Harmony Day	29/3
10	30/3 LENT	31/3 Learning Conversations	1/4 Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival (Yr 3 - 6) Learning Conversations	2/4 Learning Conversations (Late Night)	3/4 Learning Conversations	4/4 Assembly 2.20	5/4
11	6/4 LENT	7/4 PALM SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE: 9.30AM	8/4 HOLY THURSDAY PRAYER SERVICE: 9.30AM	9/4 GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER SERVIBICE 9.30AM	10/4 EASTER PRAYER SERVICE 9.30AM	11/4 STATIONS OF THE CROSS (timetabled event) Last Day Term 1	13/124

PORTLAND

JUNIORS



GROWING TOGETHER

Portland Football Club is reimagining its junior program and welcoming players between the ages of 5 - 11 years

**PLAY FOOTY IN THE
HEART OF THE PORT**



SIGN UP INFO



Portland Football Club: 16 Baynes Place, Port Adelaide, South Australia 5015
Junior Coordinator: Tim Upton | 0404 443 002 | portlandfejuniors@gmail.com

Protect yourself in five ways



SLIP

Slip on some long clothing to protect your skin directly



SLOP

Slop on SPF30+ or higher sunscreen before going out*



SEEK

Slide on sunglasses that comply with Australian Standards



SLIDE

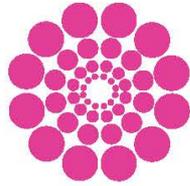
Slide on sunglasses that comply with Australian Standards



SLAP

Slap on a hat, preferably with a wide-brim





AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



Is this your daughter?

Look no further than the **Australian Girls Choir** because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to **sing**, **dance** and **perform**.

**Join us at our
FEBRUARY OPEN DAY**



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS





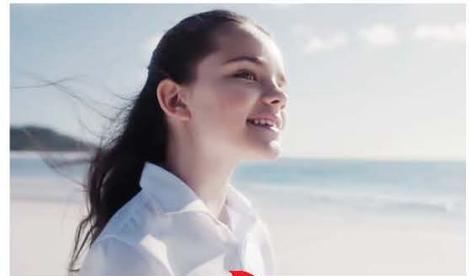
AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



An experience that goes far beyond the stage!

Girls blossom as members of the AGC, both on and off the stage. Your daughter will develop confidence, self-esteem, public speaking and presentation skills, all while gaining friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our senior performers have shared the stage with a long list of artists including Hugh Jackman and Kylie Minogue and have performed at dazzling events including the Australian Open, Prime Minister's Olympic Dinner, Carols by Candlelight and Carols in the Domain. We're proud to have represented Qantas in the iconic 'I Still Call Australia Home' advertising campaigns for 26 years.



Now accepting enrolments for our rehearsal venues in Glenelg, Glen Osmond and Walkerville.

JOIN US AT OUR FEBRUARY OPEN DAY

Register now at ausgirlschoir.com.au/joinagc or phone 08 8271 1622



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS



