

# St. Nominic's Primary School Camberwell East



#### School Newsletter No. 7

### Thursday 15th May, 2025



St Dominic's Primary School is committed to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of Catholic education. St Dominic's Primary School acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, learn and gather. We pay our respects to the Elders of the past, present and future and acknowledge their spiritual connection to Country.

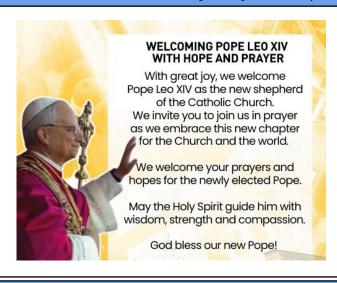


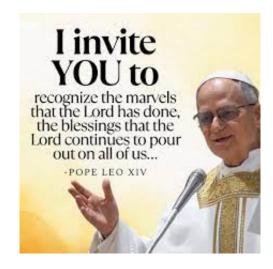
### IMPORTANT DATES St. Dominic's School Google Calendar

- Sacrament of First Communion- Parent Information- Thursday 15th May (6.45pm)
- Sacrament of First Communion- Commitment Masses (Saturday, 17 May 6.00pm Vigil Mass, Sunday, 18 May - 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, and 6.00pm)
- GIDSSA Cross Country- Tuesday 20th May
- National Simultaneous Storytime- Wednesday 21st May
- Prep Family Prayer Night- Wednesday 21st May
- St Dunstan's Kinder visit to Prep-Thursday 22nd May
- Centenary Gala Dinner (Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club)- Saturday 24th May
- National Sorry Day- Monday 26th May
- PFA Meeting- Tuesday 3rd June (7pm)

- Sunflower Kids Playgroup-Mon. 2.30-3.30pm & Thurs.
   9-10.30am (Community Hub)
- ★ Chess for Kids- Wednesdays 1.40-2.40pm (Veritas Hall)
- ★ <u>St Dom's School Choir</u> practice-Friday mornings at 8.00am (Italian room)

## Prayer for Pope Leo XIV





### Celebrating our 2025 Centenary: Purchase your Merch TODAY!



#### ST. DOMINIC'S CENTENARY WEBSITE

(including online merchandise store):

stdominicscamberwelleastcentenary.brokenpixel.com.au



#### ST. DOMINIC'S CENTENARY EMAIL ADDRESS:

centenary2025@sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au







## The Beginning of a New Era!

Dear Parents and Carers,

This reflection comes to you with a sense of great joy and spiritual reflection as we welcome the election of our new Holy Father, **Pope Leo XIV**. For our Catholic school community, this is a deeply meaningful moment—a time to pause, pray, and reflect on what it means to be part of a global faith family. This is a moment of unity for Catholics around the world. The Pope is not only the Bishop of Rome but also a global shepherd, guiding us in faith, truth, and love. His leadership reminds us that the Church is alive, ever-growing, and always seeking to be a force for good in the world.

The name "Leo" carries great significance in the history of the Church. Perhaps the most well-known is **Pope Leo the Great**, who served in the 5th century. He is remembered for his courage, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to defending the faith during challenging times. He even met with Attila the Hun to protect the city of Rome—a powerful example of leadership guided by peace and conviction. Another notable figure is **Pope Leo XIII**, who served in the late 19th century and is known for his deep concern for social justice. He wrote about the dignity of work and the rights of workers—issues that continue to resonate today. By choosing the name Leo, our new Pope connects himself to a legacy of **strength**, **wisdom**, and a heart for the people—especially the most vulnerable. It's a reminder to us all, including the young hearts in our classrooms, that leadership rooted in faith can truly change the world.

As educators and parents, we have a unique opportunity to help our children understand this moment. At school, our students have been praying for Pope Leo and reflecting on how they, too, can be peacemakers and servant leaders in their own way. For our children, witnessing the election of a new pope is a profound lesson in faith and leadership. It offers us the opportunity to speak with them about what it means to serve others, to lead with humility, and to remain rooted in Gospel values. In our classrooms and prayer times, we have been sharing with the students what this moment means for the Church and encouraging them to pray for Pope Leo as he begins his mission.

May this new chapter inspire all of us—parents, students, and staff alike—to walk more closely with Christ and to continue building a school community marked by kindness, courage, and compassion.

Let us continue to pray for Pope Leo as he takes up the great responsibility of shepherding the Church. And let us ask God to bless our school community with the same courage and compassion shown by the Popes who came before him.

Term 2 has brought with it an almost endless wealth of rich learning experiences for our students and community events which continue to strengthen and bring us together. Sit back and enjoy this newsletter, filled with learning and experiences of our students, embracing every moment to shine, to be kind, to challenge themselves and to be the best version of themselves!

With our Centenary Gala event only a little over a week away, I invite you to purchase your tickets and make up a table for the night of the year!!! All information has been sent out to families (with updates also this week) along with the Trybooking link to purchase your tickets.....

Thank you for your support and our partnership.

Natalie Kenny - Principal

principal@sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au OR nkenny@sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au



### St. Dominic's Parish News



# St. Dominic's Parish Newsletter The Dominican

## Year 5/6s Canberra Camp

Our Year 5 & 6 students embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Canberra, immersing themselves in the heart of our nation's history, science, and culture. Here's a glimpse into our enriching four-day journey:

Day 1: A long journey. After a very early wake up the first stage of our journey began with a swift departure from school to Southern Cross Station where we boarded the V/Line train to Albury. After enjoying the 3 hour scenic trek we were met by our new favourite person 'Gaven', our bus driver for the next few days. He drove us to a lovely garden spot where we could sit back and relax, stretch our legs and eat our lunch and from there we headed to our destination 'The Capital Airport Motel'. After a delicious dinner and some quiet time settling into our rooms we ended our first day with a chilled movie night.

Day 2: Time to explore.. After an early breakfast, we headed off to visit Parliament House for a guided tour of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. We also got to take part in a role play mirroring how a new bill is motioned. Stop number 2 was to the National Film and Sound Archive, followed by a visit to Cockington Green Gardens. A highlight of the day was our final stop to the Australian Institute of Sport's "Sportex" which offered insights into elite athlete training and sports science.

**Day 3: Immersive learning..** Day 3 began with a trip to the National Arboretum for a self-guided tour and playtime at the POD playground. We then explored Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre, which was full of engaging and interactive exhibits. Next, we toured the Royal Australian Mint and concluded the day with a twilight tour of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, experiencing the beauty of the native flora and fauna.

Day 4: Reflection & Return... For our final day, we got up early, packed our bags, ventured off to the Australian War Memorial, enjoyed panoramic views from Mount Ainslie Lookout, explored the National Gallery of Australia and had an insightful visit to Old Parliament House. After a yummy 'Grilled' burger, and a heartfelt goodbye to Gaven we made our way through the airport and safely flew home.

This excursion provided our students with invaluable learning experiences, fostering independence, teamwork, and a deeper appreciation for our nation's heritage. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who supported this educational journey.













## Celebrating our 1940s St. Dom's Alumni













It was 'Back to St. Dominic's' for some of the alumni of the 1940s on Saturday 10th May!

It was truly an honour and privilege to co-host this very special afternoon for some of the eldest of our past students! While several had left prior to the photos above (off to the footy and other events... they are quite the active group!) the smiles of delight at being together, sharing stories and a cuppa and touring our school, sum up the connection and affection they each feel for St. Dominic's!

As with all students, staff and parents of our community over the past 100 years, each of them will forever be part of the rich tapestry and story of St. Dominic's Primary School, Camberwell East!

## Around the Grounds.... Those Smiles Say it All!













## Student Wellbeing

### Digitech News



This week our Term 2 Inform and Empower Sessions have begun! Our students have been learning about so many different aspects of Cyber Safety, being careful online and also taking care of their digital footprint!

This term our levels are learning about:

#### Prep:

Screentime Superstars will focus on active vs passive screen time and the difference between creating and consuming.

#### 1/2s:

Ollie Online will focus on balancing screen time with green time, healthy sleep habits, and why it can be hard to put devices down.

#### 3/4s:

Adventures Online will focus on balancing screen time with green time and how to manage uncomfortable feelings.

#### 5/6s:

Thrive Online will focus on the impact of addictive design features in apps and games as well as developing healthier digital habits.

Keep an eye out for Parent information and tip sheets being sent home!

## Religious Education News

Our Sacramental Program is off to a good start with our Year 3 students making their First Reconciliation late last term. They participated in a Retreat Day at school, making friendship bracelets and building bridges out of the Nudel Kart to represent moving forward and becoming peacemakers in their relationship with God.











Preparation for the Sacrament of First Communion is beginning this week with a parent information night in the Parish Centre, this *Thursday 15th of May at 6.45pm*. Commitment masses are also scheduled for this weekend on *Saturday, 17 May - 6.00pm Vigil Mass, Sunday, 18 May - 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, and 6.00pm* please note you only need to attend one mass.

If you wish for your child to catch up on any sacraments that may have been missed, please email Sarah Perronnet sperronnet@sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au



### Parenting Matters....

## The Secret to Raising Children with Strong Agency: An Expert Guide for Parents (and Teachers)



What Every Parent Needs to Know about Developing Genuine Confidence and Independence in Children. MICHAEL GROSE

#### Want your child to grow into confident, capable, independent adults?

Of course. That's what every parent hopes. However, developing capable (confident) kids is one of the biggest parenting conundrums of the lot. It's so easy to go down the simplistic praise/encouragement path, where you repeat "You're so clever!" like a nervous tic every time a child gets out of bed/cleans their teeth/makes a sandwich, to build self-esteem.

The praise path is as helpful as a bucket full of holes in developing your child's independence and confidence!!

Alternatively, you can try the **minimalist parenting approach** (laissez-faire), and do very little for your child in the hope that they will naturally develop the skills to care for themselves. That's a recipe for neglect, so let's pass on that approach.

#### **High Agency is Key**

A key ingredient in your child's journey to confidence and independence is developing high agency – the ability to **take initiative**, **make choices**, and **act on them.** 

High agency enables children to navigate challenges, pursue their goals, and shape their own lives.

By empowering your children, you are laying the foundation for their future success and well-being.

#### What is High Agency?

In simple terms, agency is the feeling of control over your actions and their consequences.

A child with high agency believes that:

- Their efforts matter
- They can **influence** their environment
- They have the power to create positive change.

As babies and young children grow and develop a sense of agency in early childhood, they realise that they can contribute to, make their own decisions, and control their own lives.

#### Why is High Agency Essential?

There are many benefits to developing high agency in your child, best summed up by these five reasons. High agency:

#### 1. Boosts Confidence

Children who see that their actions lead to results develop a strong sense of self-efficacy and confidence.

#### 2. Encourages Resilience

Children with high agency are better equipped to **bounce back** from setbacks. They view challenges as opportunities for growth, not as insurmountable obstacles.

#### 3. Fosters Independence

Agency is the foundation of independence. It enables children to **take responsibility** for themselves, make sound decisions, and solve problems creatively.

#### 4. Motivates Learning

When children feel in control, they are more likely to be engaged and motivated learners. They exhibit curiosity, proactivity, and a willingness to take **learning risks**.

#### 5. Promotes Well-being

High agency is linked to greater happiness and life satisfaction. Children who feel empowered are less prone to anxiety and depression.



#### How to Develop High Agency in Your Child

Developing high agency is a long-term approach that requires a combination of many strategies and ideas. A cultural perspective must also be considered, as some cultures use tools that naturally promote higher agency than others.

Significantly, developing your child's agency is a journey that requires patience, understanding, and a **genuine belief in a child's capacity for growth,** wherever they are developmentally and whatever challenges they may face.

## House Cross Country Carnival

What a day! Thanks again to everyone who participated and assisted with the 2025 House Cross Country Carnival on May 1st. Lynden Oval proved to be a great venue and the perfect sunny weather made the day extra special. Congratulations to all the participants for trying their best and never giving up, we are so proud of you. Good luck to all the students who have progressed to the District Carnival to be held on Tuesday 20th May at Hartwell Sportsground. Go St Dom's!

From our wonderful house leaders:

**Sarina**: Cross country was a fun and exciting event to get out of school and run. It was an opportunity to represent our House and support our friends and peers using our house chants and wise words of encouragement

**Tom**: I was so happy when my house won the cross country. The actual run was amazing and everyone participated, even the preps in the buddy run. It was also great to see all the houses participating in the chants that we practised during P.E. Good Luck to everyone running for the St Dom's team at District

**Lily**: Cross Country was AMAZING this year, supporting our De Porres teammates as well as supporting everyone who gave it their all no matter what place they came. Xavier and I were so lucky to win the Spirit award after all our hard work and all the super chanting we did!!

**Alannah and Maddy**: Being Sienna house captains at school cross country was really fun. We loved cheering on our teammates and supporting everyone to do their best. Everyone tried their best and gave it their all. We are really proud of everyone who participated this year in cross country.

Amelia: I thought that everyone had a great time at cross country. I had so much fun doing all of our chants, encouraging everyone in our team and helping out with the teachers. It was the best cross country yet and everyone tried their best!

Lucy: I was so proud of my team, my partner Tom and everyone who came and helped. I was thrilled to be awarded with the trophy for the cross country for 2025! Gold house did amazing, giving 110% with running and cheering for each other was out of this world.

**Xavier**: Every one that raced did an amazing job. First or last, all the house leaders were exceptionally proud of the effort put in by everyone. Green did amazing by winning the spirit award, Lily and I were very happy with the result. The sports leaders would like to thank all the teachers, especially Mrs Mitchell, for their efforts on the day.









## Prep 2026 Roadmap

#### St. Dominic's, Camberwell East: 2026 Pren Enrolment Roadman



2020 Tiep Christment Rodumap	
Wednesday 30th April- 7pm, in Veritas Hall Bookings via the event on our website	2026 Enrolment Information Evening This meeting is primarily for those seeking 2026 Prep enrolment, however families looking to enrol their child/ren at other year levels are most welcome to attend.
Friday 23rd May, 2025	Closing date for 2026 enrolment applications: Application completed online & must include \$100 enrolment fee for new families or \$50 enrolment fee for families with a sibling currently enrolled at St. Dominic's
Friday 30th May, 2025-	Prep 2026 Placement Offers sent
Friday 13th June, 2025	Prep 2026 Placement Acceptances due back
Meet & Greet (individual family meetings held at St. Dominic's school) during the weeks of: 2nd June, 9th June, 16th June 2025	Meet & Greet dates (for all new Prep 2026 enrolments) Parent/s & child/ren Meet & Greet with Natalie Kenny - Principal & Fr Paul Rowse - Parish Priest
Term 3, 2025: Dates TBC	Big School Story Time! Welcoming our 2026 Preps through Story & Fun (with our Principal, Natalie Kenny)
Thursday 23rd October - 7pm	Welcome to St. Dominic's Community Welcome, Information, then light refreshments for all new 2026 parents, in Veritas Hall - 7pm
Wednesday 29th October, 2025 Wednesday 12th November, 2025	Prep Transition Mornings For all Prep 2026 students

### St. Dominic's OSHC



#### ST DOMINICS OSHC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



We're excited to finally share some reflections from the final fortnight of last term at OSHC – thank you for your patience

#### Gratitude Gurus 🖋

To wrap up the term, we explored the theme "Gratitude Gurus." Children took time to reflect on the many things they're thankful for —family, friends, fun activities, and even their favourite foods! Together, we created a beautiful Gratitude Tree, with each child contributing a leaf to express what means the most to them. It was a heartwarming way to celebrate the positive things in our lives.

#### A Look Back at a Wonderful Term

Last term was full of energy, creativity, and connection. We welcomed many new faces and loved watching the children settle in, build friendships, and share more about themselves with confidence.

- Here are just a few of the many highlights:

  Lunar New Year Celebrations We crafted lanterns and bracelets while learning about the meaning behind this vibrant holiday.
- Leaders in Kindness The children created thoughtful bookmarks with messages about how to show kindness to others.

  Planet Protectors – We explored the Three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – and discussed
- everyday actions th<mark>at hel</mark>p care for our environment.

  Building & Active Play Cubby building, soccer, sandcastle competitions, and endless tiggy adventures brought lots of laughter and teamwork to our days!

#### Thank You & Belated Holiday Wishes

Thank you to all the incredible children for making OSHC such a joyful place. Your energy, creativity, and kindness inspire us every day

We hope you all had a fantastic Easter and a relaxing break. We're looking forward to another term full of fun, learning, and new adventures!



admin@beyondeducare.com.au

### Term 2 Junior Rockers





Parents invited to attend Welcome sessions

during these times



Wednesday 12th November, 2025 Wednesday 3rd December, 2025



#### SPECIAL OFFER!

For New Students in 2025.

#### Get one FREE lesson in Term 2

any instrument of your choosing!

#### **HOW TO CLAIM:**







### Term 2 Chess Club



Online

PH 0423 144 682

#### SPECIALIZED CHESS COACHING

Since 2002, we have been providing our popular Chess For Schools program in schools throughout Melbourne and Greater Geelong.

We are excited to offer your child the opportunity to participate in our program this term.





emendous success of the chess program run by Chess for Schools. The students' adoration for the program is evident as they eagerly anticipate lunchtime on Tuesdays, bursting with excitement

"I am thrilled with the

Loreto-Mandeville Hall

Each week, students learn new lessons from a structured syllabus covering tactics, strategies key openings, traps, and special moves. After the lesson, children participate in a fun tournament-style playoff. Prizes are awarded to the top three players at the end of the term

\$145 per child/per term

Lunch time Afterschool

Mon Tues Wed

### Second Hand Uniform

All items continue to be just \$5 each — we're the only shop in Melbourne that hasn't been hit by inflation in the past 12 months!

#### **Online Order Requests - Open Now**

We've set up a new <u>online form</u> to submit requests for uniforms you would like to order. If you fill out the form here, we'll be in touch asap to advise either that it's ready to pick up, or that we don't have any but will leave it as a standing request for after our next Donation Day.

Here is the request link: https://forms.gle/bu5dUWrMgH99sY369

If you have any questions please drop me a line at **uniforms@cleary.au** and I'll get back to you as soon as I can!

Thanks! John Cleary

### School Choir

If new children would like to join our St. Dom's School Choir, new members can join after May 16.

**Friday May 16** – Choir is back! Maddie returns and we'll be introducing two new songs to the children.



### Piano Lessons



Kit has 30 years of teaching experience and is currently in her 13th year of teaching piano at St. Dominic's. She is an accomplished piano and vocal teacher, graduating with a degree in Music from the London College of Music in addition with the following qualifications; Associate Teacher's Diploma and Licentiate Teacher's Diploma.

She has previously studied under the renowned Neil Immelman from the Royal College of Music in London, which is where her trusted expertise comes from. As well as school and teaching commitments, Kit has also worked with the children's choir in church for over 10 years.

Kit inspires her students to do their best no matter the level of piano, whether it's for piano exams or for leisure, ensuring that it will be a fun and rewarding experience.

Please reach out to kityenpin@qmail.com or 0423 499 966 if interested.

## Community News















