



## Important Dates

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**Welcome/Meet the  
Teacher Night**

Wednesday 3 February 2021

**Principal's™ Tour**

Thursday 4 February 2021

**SACA Cricket  
Clinics**

Tuesday 9 February 2021

**Shrove Tuesday**

Tuesday 16 February 2021

**School Board  
Meeting**

Tuesday 16 February 2021

**Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday 17 February  
2021

**Year 6 Aquatics**

Monday 22 February 2021

**Sports Day 2021**

Thursday 25 March 2021

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## From the Principal



Dear Parents/Caregivers, Students, Staff, and Friends of St Raphael's School,

Welcome to the new 2021 school year. We especially welcome all our new families who have joined our school community. Isla B, Henry F, Samuel F, Gabriella G, Mackenzie H, William H, Audrey S, Nathanael F, Matthew G, Evan Z, Leo B, Nathan F and Elaine G.

We also welcome our new staff members, Mrs Kelly Manera, Assistant to the Principal, Religious Identity and Mission, Ms Deborah Hansen, Numeracy/STEM Coach and Leader, Miss Sarah Edson, Year 4 Teacher and Mrs Elizabeth Bello, Year 1 Teacher. We wish these teachers well as they work in and amongst our community, making a positive impact on your child's learning and wellbeing. We also welcome back Mr Pontecorvo, who returns to support students as an Education Support Officer assisting students with their continued learning.

We began the term with a Welcome Liturgy. Our message to our community was to be kind in all things and to value one another. Our APRIM, Kelly Manera asked our students, how do they, like Jesus, welcome others? How do they demonstrate kindness? As a school community we work hard to ensure that students and their families always feel a sense of welcome and belonging. We know that students thrive when they feel valued and nurtured. This is what parents/caregivers and educators want for all children.

As you would have read as part of Class Newsletters communicated last week, our Welcome/Meet the teacher night is taking place this evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet teachers and hear about their educational expectations for 2021. This evening will look a little different to previous years as we have staggered the evening beginning with Linda Clune's presentation 'The Science of Reading', for families from Reception to Year 3 at 6:30 pm. This year we are implementing a new synthetic, explicit phonics approach to literacy learning (Reception to Year 3) to maximise early phonics understanding and application. Parents from Years 4-6 are invited to meet in the Hall at 7:15 pm when staff will be introduced. Teacher information sessions begin at 7:20 pm -7:40 pm followed by a repeat session beginning at 7:45 pm - 8:05 pm for families who have more than one child at St Raphael's School. Students are welcome to attend and will be supervised in the playground and oval by additional staff. Attending students do not need to wear their school uniform.



I look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Meet the Teacher Night.

With every best wish,

**Mia Harms**

*Principal*

## Religious Education News



### **Welcome**

A warm welcome to you all as we commence our new school year! I trust you had a wonderful holiday break spending time with family and friends. I have very much enjoyed being warmly welcomed into the St Raphael's community. You are blessed to be part of a beautiful school community. I look forward to working with you all this year.

I hope 2021 is a prosperous year and we continue to connect with our Catholic faith and spirituality which is an important facet of our school and parish community. Part of our core work as educators in Catholic schools is to work in partnership with you in faith forming our children. We are all responsible for educating the whole person, that is, our children's moral, intellectual, physical, social, spiritual and religious development. We look forward to doing that through our vigorous Religious Education and Made in the Image of God programs and through our spiritual experiences such as prayer, liturgical celebrations and mindfulness reflections to name a few.

### **Beginning Year Liturgy**

We commenced the school year gathered as a whole school for our welcome liturgy. We especially welcomed our new staff, students and reception children to the school. Our Gospel reading from Luke, focused on welcoming Jesus. Each time we show someone kindness and help others to belong we are welcoming Jesus in too and living in his footsteps. This is ultimately what being in a Catholic school is all about. The students also shared their class mottos that will be their focus for 2021. It was wonderful to have so many parents and friends join our celebration. I am sure that was missed due to COVID restrictions last year.

### **Sacramental Program 2021**

Plans are being prepared for our Sacramental program for 2021. If you have a child(ren) interested in celebrating their Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation or First Eucharist I encourage you to keep a look out in upcoming newsletter editions. If you have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

## Diary Dates

It would be fair to say, St Raphael's is a busy place. As we prepare for the season of Lent we look forward to hosting our Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast on Tuesday 16th February. We will also come together for Ash Wednesday on the 17th February. Details on how we will mark this important day will be confirmed shortly, given COVID restrictions and numbers in the Church. The marking of ashes may too be modified for this year. I ask you to please pray for our wonderful staff who on Saturday 13th February will be invited to the 5:30pm Parish Mass to be commissioned for the 2021 school year.

I look forward to getting to know in the coming months. Have a great week ahead.

## FOR THE HEART.....

“Create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Psalm 51:10

God bless

**Kelly Manera**

*Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission*

## Parish News



How wonderful was it to return to school and see all your friends again? Likewise, it was lovely to be able to join with you and all the teachers for your welcome back liturgy last Friday.

I can't believe how much so many of you have grown! There was a great sense of joy and community in the hall. It's important that we all feel we have a place to belong and somewhere we can gather and celebrate.

That's what it's like when we gather to celebrate Mass. We come together as a community to honour and pray to God, but also to join with others, sharing our joys and our challenges.

God is ready and waiting for us and the people who gather at Mass are also waiting to hear our story and to share in our lives. Imagine how lively the conversations and celebrations could be!

It's just not the same without you! The Mass times can be found on the website along with information about what's happening. Please take a look and let us know if there's something you'd like to get involved with.

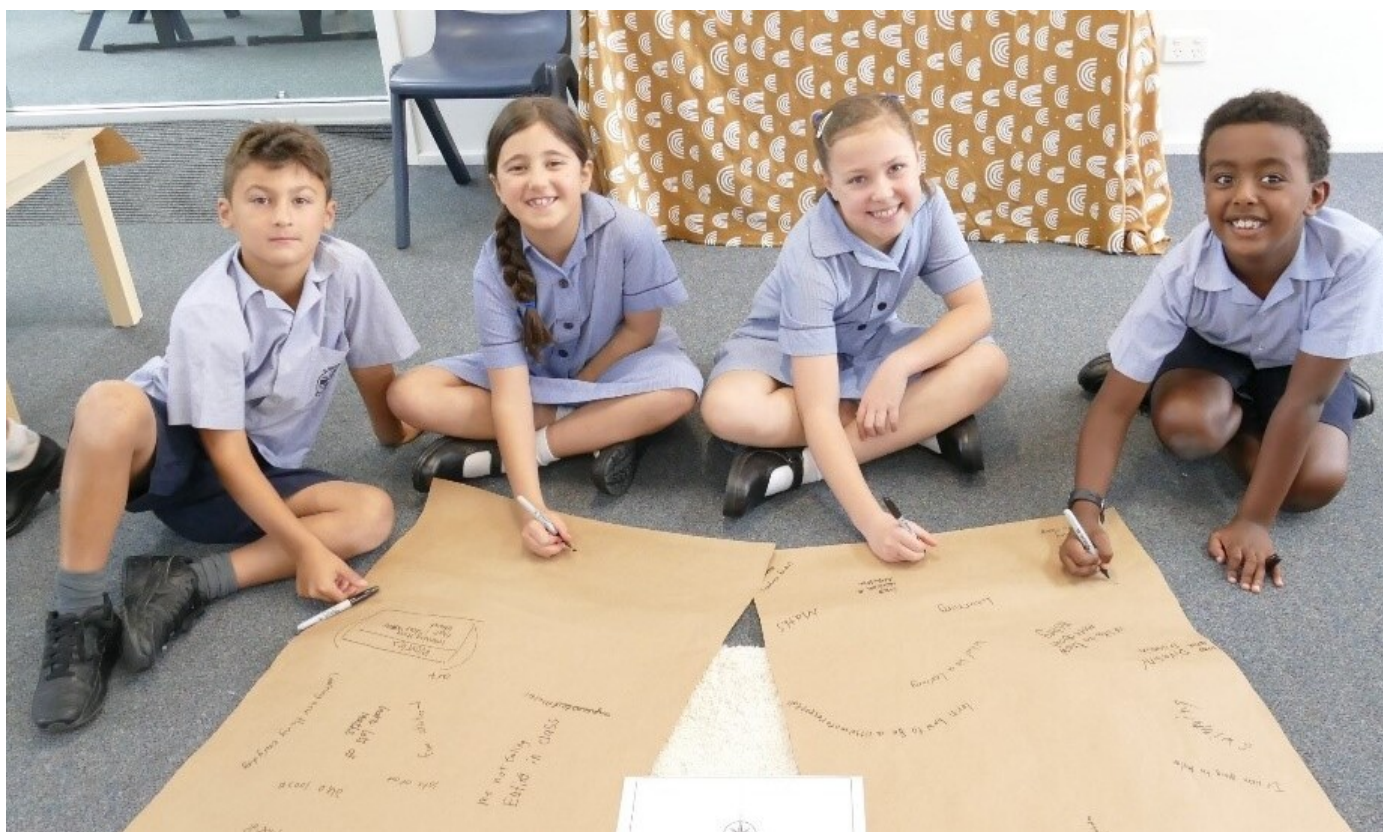
[www.themonastery.net.au](http://www.themonastery.net.au)

**Pauline Connell**

*Parish Associate*



## From the Director of Learning



### **School is a place for learning**

The fundamental purpose of school is to ensure that all students learn at high levels.

As a staff we have been reflecting on this statement as we have begun the 2021 teaching and learning year. We, like you as parents, know a great deal about learning. One of the things we know is that for students to learn they need to be in a 'good place' emotionally and physically. It is vitally important that our students feel connected to each other and to their teachers in order that they are ready to learn. For this reason, our teachers and staff have been focusing on welcoming our learners to our learning community and getting to know them and how they learn. Your children will have told you about activities they have engaged in which help them reflect on themselves as class members, friends and learners and engage positively with one another.

I checked in with some of our learners from Year 4 EH this morning. They talked to me about how they were feeling as they came back for their first day of school after a long break and they all spoke about feeling nervous, unsure and worried. For these learners they also had two brand new teachers to get to know. Sarah Edson and Deborah Hansen, like all of our teachers, recognised that building a safe and comfortable environment was paramount to learning success. Students in Year 4 EH had the opportunity to get together and identify how they were feeling about embarking on the year ahead and to address some of these concerns. This helped the learners to reflect on themselves and others as learners and it helped Sarah and Deborah to get to know their class members.

A week in from this 'warm landing' and I was struck by how the children could speak about themselves and their learning. Mia told me that the learning is 'not too tricky but not too easy' and Ethan, Luca and Jessica agreed. This tells me that the teachers are already providing just the amount of challenge for our learners to grow and progress their learning and this happens through careful planning, analysis of assessment evidence, and by listening to, and observing the children. All of our teachers have at the forefront of their mind that the fundamental purpose of school is to ensure that all students learn at high levels and our carefully structured first week has ensured that all learners are on track for an excellent year of growth in their learning.

### **Marianne Farrugia**

*Assistant Principal – Director of Learning*

## Performing Arts News



### **Instrumental Lessons**

Instrumental lessons have commenced this week with Piano on Mondays, Drums on Tuesdays and Vocals and Guitar on Wednesdays. There are currently vacancies in drums, guitar, vocals and piano. Instrumental information booklets and enrolment forms are available in the office if your child is interested in learning. Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

### **Catholic Schools Music Festival**

The CSMF choir is offered to students in years 5 and 6. Lessons are held weekly on Fridays after recess. Students are excited to have the opportunity to perform at the Festival Theatre as part of the combined choir on one concert night between Monday 20 - Thursday 23 September (Week 10). They already sound great after one rehearsal, thanks to our preparation last year and I look forward to working with choir students this year.

Students will receive their books and audio access in Week 3, only after payment has been received. Thank you to families who have already paid.

### **Ukulele Ensemble**

This year I am excited to offer, for the very first time a ukulele ensemble for students in years 2-4! Rehearsals will be held on Fridays at 10am. Ensemble music learning has the benefits of strengthening neural pathways in the brain and offers the social benefits of being part of a group. The ukulele is a very non-threatening instrument and students can build confidence quite quickly as they learn to play music with others. Students will use a ukulele from the classroom and learn how to read music notation to play melodies and chords. No prior experience is required. Parts will be allocated and taught at varying levels giving students the opportunity to develop different skills.

A "come 'n' try" session will be held in Week 3 and students will then need to complete a consent form to join the ensemble.

### **Amanda Rugari**

Performing Arts Coordinator



## Finance Office



School Fee accounts have been mailed out to all families.

Accounts paid in full by no later than 1 March will receive 5% discount on Tuition fees.

Upfront Payment Discounts per family:

1 child family \$140.00

2 children family \$245.00

3 children family \$315.00

Please deduct this amount from your payment.

Regular payments from a bank or credit card can be arranged fortnightly or monthly. Direct Debit forms are available from the front office or from the school website and are due on 22 February 2021.

School Card application forms for 2021 are available from the front office or apply online:

<https://online.forms.sa.edu.au/content/forms/af/public/application-for-school-card.html>

Discounts for eligible school card families will be applied once application is approved.

**Jodi Jansons**

*Finance Officer*

[accounts@raph.catholic.edu.au](mailto:accounts@raph.catholic.edu.au)

## Canteen News



Welcome back. I am looking forward to cooking lots of delicious and nutritious things for the children again this year.

The Canteen is open on Thursdays and Fridays for recess and lunch. Please note there have been some changes to the menu items and prices this year. Qkr! is our preferred method for ordering. If you are doing a manual order, please check our updated menu here for prices.

There is a limited lunch menu at the moment, but we intend to have this rectified by Term 2.

**Emma Alexander**

*Canteen Manager*

## 'Flex your thinking' STEM Experience



In the holidays St Raphael's School held a free STEM experience, 'Flex your thinking'. These sessions were hosted by Ms Deborah Hansen, the Numeracy and STEM Coach at St Raphael's School.

STEM is science, technology, engineering, and math. These are all areas of learning that can be integrated to allow students to be prepared for the 21st century. STEM allows children to become critical and creative thinkers. It creates problem solvers, innovators and inventors.

This day allowed the students and parents to collaborate, experiment, think and explore together. They used construction, coding and questioning to solve problems. The day was filled with thinking, wondering, questioning and smiles.

STEM and Numeracy will be a key focus at St Raphael's School to allow students to learn new skills and acquire the knowledge they will use to become our future leaders, scientists, developers, analysts and problem solvers.



## Sports Report



### Sports Day 2021

Our annual school **Sports Day** will be held on **Thursday 25 March (Week 9)**. It will be held on the school site from 9:15am – 1:00pm. Family members are most welcome to come along to join us for this whole school event and support the students, providing we stay COVID free. Parents/caregivers will be able to take their child /children home at the conclusion of the event. Remaining students will return to class after lunch and dismissed at normal time. OSHC will operate as usual. Students will prepare for this active, fun-filled event in their PE lessons. More specific details regarding this event will be distributed as time draws closer. So put the date on your calendar and hope to see you there!

### School Cricket 2021

A reminder that all 'expressions of interest' for students wishing to play school cricket in Years 2 – 7 must be returned by **TOMORROW (Thursday 4 February)**, so that teams can be organised. Spare copies of the note are available from the office.

### KELLY SPORTS Programs in Term 1

I have organised for outsourced sports provider, KELLY SPORTS, to hold a 5-week after school skills program for students in our school in Term 1. There will be two programs offered – *Multi-Sports* for Reception to Year 2 students and *Volleyball* for Year 3 to Year 6 students. It will be a user pays system. Information regarding the skills programs will be distributed soon.

### Jeanette Archer

*P.E. and Sport Coordinator*

## Fruit Fly Update

The department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) has updated its information about fruit fly restrictions in South Australia.

New colour coded maps for **metropolitan Adelaide** and **Riverland** residents show the red outbreak areas, yellow suspension areas, and green areas not affected by fruit fly.

### If you live in the red outbreak area:

Your child must not bring any fresh fruit or vegetables on this list to school. This applies even if it has been cut up. Instead, PIRSA has provided a list of **alternative fresh fruit and vegetable options** suitable for lunch and breaks.

### If you live in the yellow suspension area:

Your child can bring any type of fresh fruit or vegetable to school.

**If you live in the green not impacted area:**

Your child can bring any type of fresh fruit or vegetable to school.

All fruit or vegetables on [this list](#) must be eaten and disposed of at our school. These items cannot return home at the end of the day and will be disposed of safely at our school.

Grated, dried, frozen, cooked or pureed fruit and vegetables of any kind are acceptable in any area.

## Parish Bulletin



[Please click here to read the latest Parish Bulletin.](#)

## St Raphael's School Staff List



# St Raphael's School

## P A R K S I D E

[Please click here to see a list of our staff for 2021.](#)

## COVID-19 Update



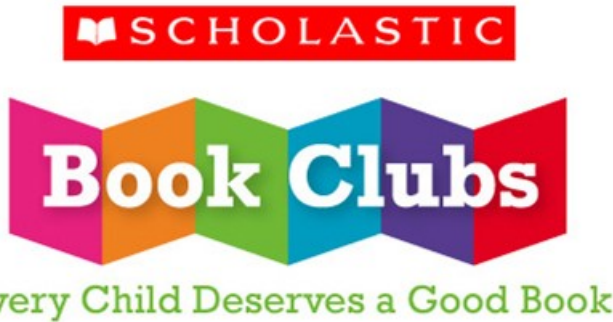


While there is currently no community transmission of COVID-19 in South Australia, it is important we remain prepared to respond to the fast-changing nature of the pandemic. Parents/caregivers must continue to physical distance wherever possible, including at school pick up and drop off or when attending school assemblies and other school events. We will continue to follow the advice from SA Health and directions set by SAPOL.

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## Scholastic Book Club

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Scholastic Book Club orders are due by Friday 19 February. We are unable to accept late orders.

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