



St Raphael's School newsletter October 31

Upcoming Events

**Expert Panel:
Literacy - The
Foundation of
Success.**

Date: Monday 4 November
Time: 6:15pm
Venue: St Raphael's School
- Parkside

**SACPASSA
Athletics Carnival**
Date: Tuesday 5 November
Venue: Not at school -

PE Week
Date: Monday 11 November
- Friday 15 November
Venue: St Raphael's School
- Parkside

Read-a-thon
Date: Monday 4 November -
Friday 8 November
Venue: St Raphael's School
- Parkside

**Christmas concert:
Aisle Be Home for
Christmas**
Date: Friday 15 November
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: The Hall at St
Raphael's School -

Remembrance Day
Date: Monday 11 November
Time: 10:50am
Venue: St Raphael's School
- Parkside

**Celebrating the arts
evening: Music
tuition and drama
club.**
Date: Thursday 21
November
Venue: St Raphael's School
- Parkside

Board Dinner

Disco

Year 6 Assembly

Year 6 Retreat

Date: Tuesday 26 November
Venue: Venue is N/A -

Date: Friday 29 November
Venue: St Raphael's School
- Parkside

Date: Wednesday 4
December
Venue: Venue is N/A -

Date: Thursday 5 December
Venue: Venue is N/A -

Year 6 Fun Day

Date: Friday 6 December
Venue: Venue is N/A -

Transition Days for 2025

Date: Monday 9 December
Venue: Venue is N/A -

Year 6 Graduation, Liturgy and Dinner

Date: Monday 9 December
Venue: Venue is TBC -

End of Year Mass and last day for Year 6

Date: Tuesday 10 December
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Venue is TBC -

Last day of school for the year.

Date: Wednesday 11 December
Venue: St Raphael's School
- Parkside

Pupil Free Day

Date: Thursday 12 December
Venue: Venue is N/A -

Pupil Free Day

Date: Friday 13 December
Venue: Venue is N/A -

From the Principal

Building Resilience in Our Students: Life Lessons from School Camp, Carnivals, Debating, and More

As the year begins to wind down, I've been reflecting on the incredible journey we've all been on here at St Raphael's. It's been a year filled with growth, learning, and moments of resilience that have truly stood out to me. One of the most rewarding aspects has been watching our students develop not just academically, but emotionally and socially as they navigate the many challenges and opportunities this year has presented. It's in these experiences that I've seen our students' resilience really take shape.

Our school camp remains one of the highlights for me. Seeing students step away from the comforts of home and into the great outdoors, facing new adventures head-on, was inspiring. They were pushed to try new things—whether it was a daunting high ropes course or simply being away from family for the first time. The courage, teamwork, and sense of accomplishment they brought home with them spoke volumes about how much they had grown, not just physically but mentally, too.

This same growth was evident at the numerous sporting carnivals we've participated in this year. It wasn't just about who won or lost, but about the way our students showed determination, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship throughout each event. I've been struck by how well they've handled the challenges that come with competition—learning to accept both victory and defeat with grace and a renewed drive to improve. Watching students cheer each other on, offering encouragement and support, shows that they're learning resilience not only as individuals but as a community.

Our debating and podcasting programs have also stood out to me as key opportunities for our students to develop resilience. Speaking in front of an audience, thinking quickly on their feet, or expressing their ideas in a recorded format can be nerve-wracking. Yet, time and again, I've seen our students rise to the occasion, gaining confidence with each experience. They've embraced the challenge of debating tough topics or sharing their voice through podcasting, and their willingness to improve and face constructive feedback shows tremendous resilience.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to see the culmination of all this growth in our upcoming whole-school concert. The rehearsals alone have been a testament to our students' perseverance. Performing on stage, overcoming any stage fright, and working together as a team are all moments where resilience will shine through. I have no doubt that their hard work will result in a performance we'll all be proud of—not

just because of the talent on display, but because of the dedication and spirit each student has shown.

What stands out most to me is that resilience isn't something our students are learning just in isolated moments; it's becoming part of who they are. Whether they're pushing through a tough sporting event, handling the pressures of a debate, or preparing for a big performance, our students are showing that they have the strength to face challenges head-on, learn from them, and emerge stronger.

I couldn't be prouder of how far they've come this year, and I'm grateful to our teachers, staff, and parents for fostering such a supportive environment where resilience can flourish. Together, we're helping our children build skills that will serve them well in every aspect of their lives. As we reflect on the year so far, let's celebrate the remarkable growth we've witnessed and look forward to the opportunities ahead.

From the APRIM

As you are aware Tanya has taken leave and I am aware that she let you know that I will be taking over for Term 4. Just a little about myself, I have been teaching within the Catholic System for 38 years and the last twenty I have held some form of leadership position, shared with a teaching load. My love is the supporting of the faith and sharing the endless love God has for each one of us.

My last position was Religious Education Coordinator at Nazareth College at the Primary Campus where I also coordinated the Sacramental Programme and the Community Masses.

I am looking forward to working with the St Raphael's Community and have hit the ground running with preparation of prayers for St Raphael's Feast Day (24th October) and Grand-friends Day with the cooperation of the students in Year 3/4 from the Student Voice Group.

Just like Tanya, I believe in an open-door and my email is Llow@raph.catholic.edu.au to seek assistance or request to meet with me. I also invite you to catch me before or after school. I work on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD (MITIOG)

This week you will receive information about our Human Sexuality Curriculum which all classes will conduct in Week Four (Monday 5th November to Friday 8th November). The information will clearly outline what will be covered with each year level so you are aware that your children may come home and be willing to talk with you about the content. Please read this information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

NOVEMBER – ALL SAINTS, ALL SOULS, REMEMBRANCE DAY

In November, we remember and pray for family and friends who have died. Friday, November 1, is the feast of All Saints and Saturday November 2 is the feast of All Souls with our prayers and fond wishes continuing for the whole month of November. We pray for the souls of those we love and in turn ease our pain of them passing.

We also remember on Monday, November 11, Remembrance Day those people who went to war, police action or peace keeping duties who have fallen. These people have given their lives so that we may live in a land of freedom. We will hold a Remembrance Ceremony at 10:50am on Monday 11th November in the and all are welcome.

All Saints Prayer.

Dear Father, You have given the saints in heaven eternal happiness and they now live in the fullness of your glory. Because of their holy love for you, they also care about me and my family, my friends, my church, and my community. Thank you for the gift of their friendship and the way they lived their lives believing and trusting in You. Amen

I wish you a very holy All Saints Day and look forward to getting to know you and your family as the term progresses.

Lin Low

APRIM

Reading Revolution: Igniting a Love for Literacy



READING REVOLUTION

Read-a-thon &
expert panel
November 4 - 8

Dear St Raphael's School Families,

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming "Reading Revolution" program, featuring two exciting events designed to celebrate and promote literacy in our school community. We invite you to join us in fostering a love for reading and highlighting the importance of literacy in our children's lives.

Read-a-thon: November 4-8

We encourage all St Raphael's students to participate in our school-wide read-a-thon from November 4-8. During this week, students will be challenged to read as many books as possible, either independently or with others.

To get involved:

- Look out for SeeSaw guidance from your child's teacher
- Keep a tally of books read so they can be marked on the classroom chart each day
- Generally encourage reading at home and school

Special book prizes will be awarded to top readers in each class. Let's make this a fun and engaging way to boost our reading habits!

Expert Panel: Literacy - The Foundation of Success

Please RSVP.

- Date: Monday, November 4th
- Time: 6:15 PM
- Venue: St Raphael's School Hall

Join us for an insightful evening as Principal Emma Fowler hosts a panel of literacy experts including:

- Representatives from Raising Literacy SA
- Unley Library specialists
- Local children's authors: Andrew Joyner, Tania Ingram and Mandy Foot

This event will explore:

- The crucial role of reading in children's development
- How reading fosters brain development and neural connections
- Practical strategies for families to support literacy at home

Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and tools to support your child's reading journey.

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation in both the read-a-thon and expert panel session. Together, let's ignite a passion for reading that will last a lifetime!

To RSVP for the panel and see who the speakers are please click [here](#). Children are welcome to the expert panel event. For any questions please contact Katrina on ktucker@raph.catholic.edu.au

Happy reading!

Unley Rotary Teacher Awards 2024



We are thrilled to announce that two of our esteemed educators have won awards in the inaugural Unley Rotary Teacher Awards 2024.

Award Recipients

Tia Della Pace has been selected as a recipient of the Unley Rotary Teacher Award for 2024 in the category of "Encouragement." This award recognises Tia's outstanding contributions as an early career teacher.

Meeiying Lee has been selected as a recipient of the Unley Rotary Teacher Award for 2024 in the category of "Achievement." This award acknowledges Meeiying's exceptional accomplishments as an experienced educator.

Recognition of Excellence

These prestigious awards highlight the dedication and genuine care that both Tia and Meeiying demonstrate. Their commitment has been recognised, with the Lord Mayor Michael Hewitson and Local Member for Unley David Pisoni present at the ceremony.

"We need to raise the status of teachers in our community" Mayor Hewitson stated in his speech "they need to be

empowered.”

The awards featured 18 nominations from 11 participating schools in and around the local area. St Raphaels' School received the greatest number of nominations and was in excellent company alongside Unley Primary, Unley High School, Concordia and Urrbrae High School.

This marks the third award for St Raphael's Primary School this year, following Assistant Principal Anthony Sicaria's recognition as one of Australia's 50 Best Teachers in the News Corp Best Teacher campaign. We are truly blessed with outstanding educators who shape our future generations!

Awards Ceremony

The Presentation Ceremony for the Unley Rotary Teacher Awards 2024 was held on Tuesday, October 22nd. This dinner event celebrated the outstanding contributions of educators across various categories, including Encouragement Awards for early career teachers, Achievement Awards for experienced teachers, and Team Awards for collaborative efforts.

These prestigious awards are a testament to the dedication, outstanding academic results, and genuine care that both Tia and Meeiying demonstrate in their roles. Their commitment to their students and the field of education has been rightfully recognised by the Rotary Club of Unley.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to both Tia and Meeiying for this well-deserved recognition. Their achievements reflect the high standards of teaching excellence within our school community.

Please join us in celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of Tia Della Pace and Meeiying Lee. Their success is a source of pride for our entire school community and serves as an inspiration to all educators.

Grandfriends Day

What a wonderful morning we had at Grandfriends Day last week. It was a heartwarming celebration of the vital connections between our students and their beloved grandparents and special friends.

Connecting with different age groups is essential, not just within our families, but also among our peers. The rich learning experiences that our Grandfriends witnessed during this special event flowed back to our young people, who had the opportunity to showcase their learnings and interact with a variety of new faces.

These interactions are invaluable, fostering a sense of community and understanding across generations. They remind us that primary school is not just about academic growth but also about building relationships that enrich our lives.

We feel incredibly honored to have hosted so many extended family members, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this day so special!







Tennis Carnival

Our Year 3/4 students had an incredible time at the recent Tennis Carnival! The day was full of energy and excitement, with students from different schools coming together to enjoy some friendly competition and lots of laughs.

This carnival was more than just playing tennis; it was a great chance for our students to show off their sportsmanship and team spirit. From cheering on their classmates to celebrating every win with a big smile, the Year 3/4 students truly embodied what it means to be part of a team. Their positivity and support for one another made the day special for everyone. One of the highlights of the day was the unexpected "dance battle" round, where students not only displayed their tennis skills but hit the court with their best moves.

A huge thank you to Mr Sharrock for his organisation making the day a success. We're already looking forward to the next carnival and can't wait to see our students continue to shine on and off the court!





Sports Day Success at Walford Oval

What an amazing evening we had at our recent Sports Day, held offsite for the first time at Walford Oval! The decision to move to a twilight Sports Day brought a refreshing change, and it was fantastic to see so many parents come along to cheer for their children and even get involved in the parent 400m race.

The atmosphere was full of excitement, laughter, and healthy competition, with students giving their best in every race, jump, and throw. Parents didn't hold back either!

Of course, the highlight of the afternoon had to be the whole-school relay. Seeing every student, from our littlest Receptions to our big Year 6 leaders, working together with determination and joy was truly special. The way the crowd erupted with cheers as each runner tapped their teammate's hand showed just how strong the St Raphael's community is. That moment of unity was what our school spirit is all about—coming together, supporting each other, and celebrating as one.

Thank you to everyone who made the afternoon such a success—from our incredible staff and volunteers who organised the event, to the parents for their involvement and encouragement, and of course, our students who gave it their all. We're already looking forward to next year's Sports Day and can't wait to see what new memories we'll create!

















Hyde Park Croquet Club

GOLF CROQUET BUSINESS COMPEITION

What: A friendly team (of 2 or more people) competition with coaching provided.

Where: Hyde Park Croquet Club at the back of the Unley Park Sports Club. 8 Northgate St, Unley Park.

When: Tuesday nights 12, 19 & 26 November. Hit off at 6.30pm (arrive around 6.00 for nibbles). Play will finish no later than 8.30pm.

Cost: Club sponsors free of charge. \$10 per player per night.

Food: Snacks provided (at no additional cost).

Drinks: Bottomless cups of tea / coffee available (free of charge);

Other drinks available at the bar (please, no BYO).

If you have trouble making up a team, please nominate those who are interested anyway – we will find a solution!

Contact Barry on bandjhaydon@gmail.com



Car Boot Sale at The Monastery

JOIN US AT 15 CROSS ROAD, URRBRAE
ON THE MONASTERY OVAL .

***GRAB A COFFEE, SAUSAGE SIZZLE
AND A BARGAIN!***

**SUN, 10 NOV
9:30AM - 1:30PM**



PRESCHOOL TOUR

WEDNESDAY 6TH OF NOVEMBER
5:15PM

Join us at Grove Kindergarten for a tour of our beautiful space. We welcome all families to come and explore and ask us any questions about starting kindergarten

12 Main St Eastwood



Book a tour
through the
QR code

