

## Important Dates

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March:**  
Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN Testing

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March:**

Dental Van here

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March:**

Family Maths Night

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Wednesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> April:**

5/6 Camp

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April:**

End of Term 1. Students finish at  
1:30pm

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April:** Easter Monday  
Public Holiday

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April:** First Day of  
Term 2

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April:** 3/4 Campers  
leave for Cottages by The Sea  
Camp

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April:** ANZAC Day  
Holiday

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May:** Mothers Day  
Stall

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June:** Kings Birthday  
Holiday

## Principal's Newsletter

Dear Community,

It is hard to believe we are entering Week 7 of Term 1. As we are mid-term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful learning experiences that have taken place across our school community and provide some important updates.

This term, our staff participated in a valuable Professional Learning Day focused on Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Ensuring that every student receives the support they need to thrive is a key priority at our school. Teachers engaged in discussions and workshops about best practices for tailoring learning to meet individual student needs, working collaboratively to enhance student engagement and success. We appreciate the ongoing partnership with families in developing and implementing these plans to support student growth.

At St Albans PS, we are dedicated to fostering a safe and supportive environment for our students, staff, and families. Respectful relationships are central to our school values, and we encourage our community to engage in positive and constructive communication. Your support in reinforcing these values with your children helps us maintain a school culture where everyone feels safe and valued.

Recently, the Department shared information with parents about the 'Respect Our School Staff' campaign, which was emailed via Xuno last week. You will also see posters promoting this message displayed in the office. From my experience, St Albans PS is a place of respect and kindness. It's important to keep this in mind, especially during challenging moments when concerns arise. If you ever have any questions or worries, my door is always open.

Thank you to parents and carers for attending our recent open classroom afternoon. It was lovely to see so many families in attendance and it was positive to walk from class to class to watch the interactions. We intend to hold more events such as this in the future. A reminder that our **Family Maths Night** will be held on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 4:00-6:00pm**.

As we move towards the end of term, we look forward to more exciting learning opportunities and community engagement. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to celebrating the achievements of our students together.

Warm regards,  
Lynne Ord-Oraniuk  
Principal

## MOVING FROM XUNO TO COMPASS

Last year, the decision was made to transition from Xuno to Compass as our school management system. This change was based on several factors, including cost-effectiveness (Compass is more affordable to run), parent and staff engagement with Xuno, and the convenience for families with children in both primary and secondary schools to use the same platform. All three of our feeder secondary schools currently use Compass. We plan to implement the new system in Term 2, with further details, including login information, to be shared with parents toward the end of Term 1.

## Year 6 Transition to Secondary School

Last Thursday, our Year 5 and 6 students had a visit from staff at St Albans Secondary College. The purpose of the visit was to showcase opportunities at the college and to get students thinking about the move to secondary school either next year or the year after. School visits are an important part of our Year 6 Transition program.

## School Photos

**School Photo day:** A special day where students and staff had the opportunity to capture memories for the year. The school photos will be a treasured keepsake for our school community. Thank you to our school leaders for helping on this day and to Lizi and Fiona for all the behind-the-scenes work.

## NAPLAN for Year 3 & Year 5

The Year 3 and 5 students are getting ready for NAPLAN tomorrow. It is important to remember this is one test on one day and while the data helps teachers plan for learning, it is not an assessment that determines your child's academic future, particularly as your child is still in primary school with many years left in education.

## Student Learning

It is wonderful to walk around the school and see the students engaged in their learning. The Prep, Year 1 and 2 students are learning new routines and skills in phonics and the feedback from the students is very positive.

*"I like to write words." Eleanor Year 2*

*"I like to sound out digraphs." Blessing Year 2*

*"I love phonics, I love split digraphs." Amra Year 2*

*"I love split digraphs." Zaryab Year 2*

*"I like how we do /ch/ and /tch/." Jasmine Year 2*

*"I like spelling because it is hard." Mahrus Year 2*

*"I like Trigraphs." Oliver Year 2*

*"We love naughts and crosses phonics."- 2D and 2M*

*"I like to write." Susan Year 1*

*"I like to say the sound and say the letter." John Year 1*

*"I like drawing pictures of Miss Tracey and me." Denisha Prep*

*"I like playing and I like reading." Mariam Prep*



Visiting the Year 3 and 4 classrooms provided a great opportunity to discuss narrative writing with the students. They learned how to enhance their writing by incorporating noun phrases to add detail. For instance, rather than simply writing, "John walked to the beach," students discovered that by expanding their sentences with additional nouns, they could create a more vivid image for the reader. An improved version might be, "John walked down the path, through the gate, and ran towards the beach," adding depth and clarity to their storytelling.

*"I enjoyed making stuff up and adding adjectives." Shubu Year 4*

*"I enjoyed writing and learning about characters." Ula Year 4*

*"I like putting my paragraphs in my writing and using strong arguments." Joseph Year 4*

*"I like what we do in writing because you can do paragraphs." Tui Year 4*

*"I enjoy writing new stories and writing my own stories." Yusra Year 3*

*"I like writing because you can write about anything you like." Adam Year 3*

*"Writing makes you smarter." Jordan and Tiaare Year 3*

*"I can be creative, and I love it." Lani Year 4*

Our Year 5 and 6 leaders attended a Leadership Forum last Monday. It was an opportunity for our leaders to hear stories of leadership from authors, actors and other inspirational people in our community. I asked some of the students who attended to reflect on the day and some of their key take ways:

*"I really liked to meet the actors and authors." Anisha Year 6*

*"I liked the talk about believing in yourself. As a leader it is important to believe in yourself." Asekhona Year 6*

*"I enjoyed seeing the other school and making new friends. The speeches were inspiring." Manessa Year 6*

*"I enjoyed learning from other people. One message was about not giving up." Jess Year 6*

*"I learnt to never give up and be confident." Tamba Year 6*

*"I learnt that if you get put down you need to tell someone." Reuban Year 6*

*"I learnt to always get back up if something sets you back." Awet Year 6*

*"I learned you can achieve anything." Ricky Year 5*

The SAPS Art Gallery in Building A is coming to life for 2025! This term, all students have been working on art projects inspired by 'The Year of the Snake.'

- Year 1 and 2 students have completed their first project using Magiclay, and their fantastic snakes are now on display.
- Year 3 and 4 students are busy painting their own snake-themed artworks.
- Year 5 and 6 students are learning sewing skills as they create soft textile snakes.
- Our prep children have been exploring the art room, discovering new creative techniques.

Beyond the art room, students have been honing their drama skills, with a strong focus on vocal expression. In the library, they continue to explore exciting new books and authors, sparking a love for reading.

Meanwhile, Physical Education and sport provide opportunities for teamwork, fitness, and friendly competition. It's wonderful to look out the window and see students skipping, playing netball, and enjoying bat tennis.

Exciting things are happening across the school!



## Community Hub

Our Community Hub continues to be a place of connection and support for families. Whether through playgroups, English language support, or parent workshops, the hub plays a vital role in strengthening our school-community partnerships. We encourage families to get involved and take advantage of the fantastic resources available.

## The Benefits of Children Attending School Camp

Camp is more than just a fun getaway—it's an invaluable experience that helps children grow in ways that the classroom and home environment may not always provide. Whether it's a day camp or an overnight adventure, the benefits of attending camp extend far beyond a child's time there.

This year students in Year 3-6 can attend Camp. The cost of the camp can be covered by the School Saving Bonus. At this stage, the uptake of the opportunity to attend camp is below 50%. We encourage you to discuss camp with your child and some ideas for discussion are listed below.

### Building Independence and Confidence

Camp encourages children to step out of their comfort zones and try new things without the constant guidance of parents. Whether it's making their own bed, navigating a bushwalk, or performing in a talent show, camp fosters independence and builds confidence in their abilities.

### Developing Social Skills

Being in a group setting with new peers teaches children essential social skills such as teamwork, cooperation, and communication. Making new friends, working together on activities, and solving challenges as a team are all important skills that translate to life beyond camp.

### Connecting with Nature

In a world dominated by screens, camp provides a much-needed opportunity for children to unplug and immerse themselves in nature. Whether they're hiking, canoeing, or simply playing outdoors, being in nature promotes physical activity, reduces stress, and sparks curiosity about the environment.

### Encouraging Resilience and Problem-Solving

Camp is filled with small challenges—setting up a tent, figuring out how to cross a stream, or trying a new activity for the first time. These experiences teach resilience and problem-solving skills that help children learn how to handle setbacks and overcome obstacles.

### Creating Lasting Memories

Ask any child who has been to camp, and they will likely recall the friendships made, the adventures shared, and the sense of accomplishment felt. Camp is a place where lifelong memories are made, shaping children's confidence, curiosity, and love for learning.

By giving children, the opportunity to attend camp, we are not only providing them with a fun experience but also equipping them with valuable life skills. If you're considering camp for your child, know that the benefits will last long after they return home.





## School Swimming Program

We are excited to announce that our annual **School Swimming Program** will take place during the last two weeks of Term 2, starting on **Monday, 23rd June**. This fantastic program will run for 9 days, giving our students the opportunity to improve their swimming and water safety skills.

The program will be held at the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre, a wonderful facility that provides a safe and supportive environment for our students to learn and enjoy swimming. Lessons will cater to all skill levels, students with no swimming experience are encouraged to attend.

Program Details:

- Start Date: **Monday, 23rd June**
- Duration: **9 days (no lesson on the last day of Term 2)**
- Location: **Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre**

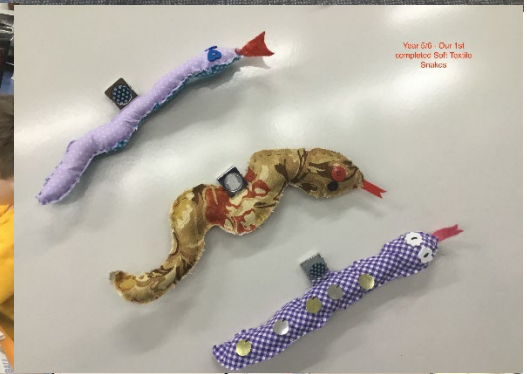


We will be sending more detailed information closer to the end of Term 1, including the cost of the program and any other important details.

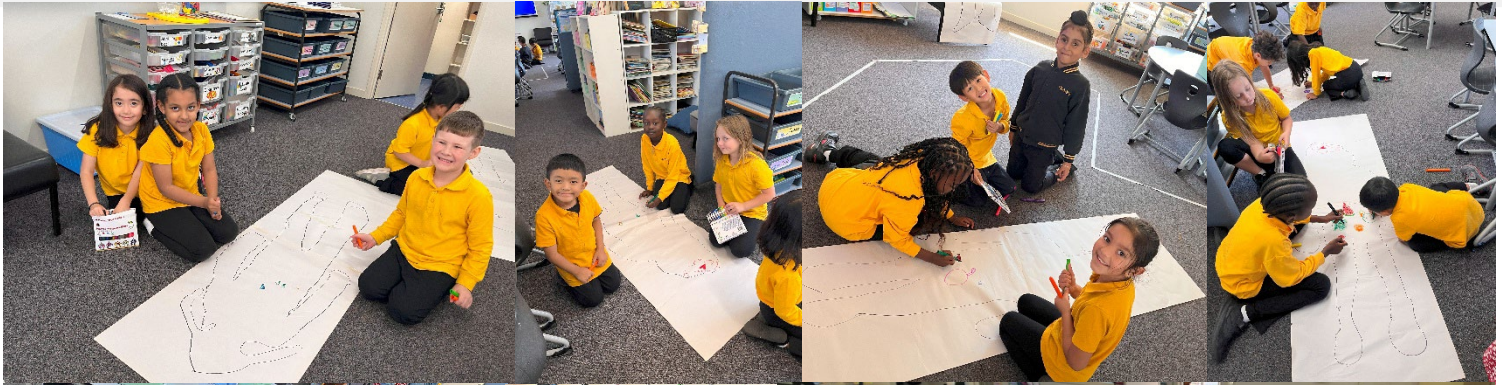
School Saving Bonus and Camps, Sports, and Excursion Fund (CSEF) monies can be used to cover the costs of the swimming program, making it more accessible for families.

We look forward to a fantastic time in the pool! More information will be shared soon, so stay tuned. If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to reach out

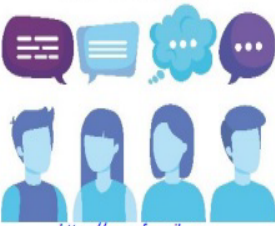




## St Albans Primary School Term 1 2025









Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>One-One/Drop in Parent Support</b> 9-11am (Community Room)	<b>Community Conversations</b> 9.30-10.30am (Community Room) See Noticeboard  <a href="https://www.freepik.com">https://www.freepik.com</a> <b>English for Beginners</b> 12-3pm (Community Room)  Photo by <a href="#">Element5 Digital</a> on <a href="#">Unsplash</a>	<b>Cooking</b> 10.00am-2.30pm (Community Room) See Noticeboard for dates 	<b>AMES</b> <b>Cert III Individual Support Course</b> 9.30am – 2.30pm (Community Room) 	<b>Happy SAPlings Playgroup</b> 10am – 12pm (School Library) 

All programs are **FREE** and open to the community; please contact Hub Leader **Hang Bui** (0420855912) for more information.

**Brimbank Libraries**  
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 there is no charge to become a member!  
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- 80** Borrow up to 80 items
- Computers, WIFI & Printing
- Access the Toy Library
- Digital Library
- Library Events

**Top Digital Library Apps for Children:**

- 10 MONKEYS**: Have fun and practice maths with the monkeys!
- Borrow Box**: Download eBooks and eAudiobooks anytime.
- StoryBox Library**: Watch, read and learn with Australia's favourite Authors.
- LOTE 4 Kids**: Stories in over 40 languages.

**Neer Park**: 249 4660  
**Keilor**: 7048 Old Calder Highway, 9249 4670  
**St Albans**: 71A Alfreda Street, 9249 4650  
**Sunshine**: 301 Hampshire Road, 9249 4640  
**Sydenham**: 1 Station Street, Taylors Lakes, 9249 4680

## WHAT'S ON!

Explore and learn with our out of this world holiday activities!



**Bookings**  
 Scan the QR code  
 Visit: [www.brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au](http://www.brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au) or  
 Call your local library.

### To the Movies, and Beyond!

Come on down for an out-of-this-world afternoon adventure! Join us for a stellar space-themed movie, with a self-guided craft activity available before and after. Ages: 6-12 years.

### Fantastic Forces Workshop

Explore the science of movement, both within and beyond our world! Launch test tube rockets, discover how a gyroscope works, and dive into Newton's Third Law of Motion. Ages: 6-12 years.

### Pop 'Til You Drop: Galaxy Slime Party

Launch into a cosmic adventure of gooey fun with our slime-making workshop for kids! An awesome sensory experience with each child making their own galactic slime. Ages: 6-12 years.

### Fizzies Science Workshop: Stars & Planets

How do tides form? What did The Big Bang look like? How do astronauts survive? Gain an appreciation of astronomy and space exploration in this hands-on workshop. Ages: 8-12 years.

### Space Adventure! Live performance

Oh no! The Universe has been plunged into darkness! Learn some solar-sational secrets along the way as we help find the Sun in this out-of-this-world live performance. Ages: 6-12 years.

### Easter Crafternoons

Get egg-cited for Easter crafts! Hop down to the library and celebrate the holiday while expressing your creativity with fun and festive artwork. Ages: 6-12 years.

### Young Makers: Style your own Tote or Drawstring Bag!

Style your own tote or drawstring bag with a collage of photos, fun images or your favourite quote in our fun, creative workshop. Ages: 13-18 years

### Seed Library: Minibeast Wind Chime

Learn about the Brimbank Seed Library and paint your own minibeast wind chime in our hands-on workshop. Ages: 4-10 years

### State Emergency Service (SES) Special Storytime

Meet volunteer members of the SES in this special Storytime. Please note: SES members may be unable to attend if an emergency occurs. Ages: 18 months-5 years

**BOOKINGS OPEN**  
**FROM**  
**15 MAR**  
**9AM**

### Return to Term 2 Programs

Each week we host a range of activities to inspire learning and friendship.

From craft & games activities with our After School Activity Zone program to Code Club and improving your child's reading with our Reading Buddies Program.



Scan for times & locations





# School Holiday Program



5 - 17 April

## Week 1 Events

	Deer Park	Kellor	St Albans	Sunshine	Sydenham
Mon 7 Apr					Minibeasts Wind Chimes 2-3pm
Tue 8 Apr	SES Storytime 10.30-11am Young Makers 1-3pm				To the Movies, and Beyond! 2-4pm
Wed 9 Apr				Fantastic Forces Workshop 10-11am	
Thu 10 Apr		Stars & Planets Workshop: 1-2pm	Galaxy Slime Party 2.30-3.30pm		
Fri 11 Apr	Space Adventure! Live Performance 2-3pm				
Sat 12 Apr	Family Film Fun 2-4pm				



Get exploring this holidays with our  
range of children's authors and comics



Bookings open for events from:

**15 March, 9am**

Book online [www.brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au](http://www.brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au)

or call your local library



## Week 2 Events

	Deer Park	Kellor	St Albans	Sunshine	Sydenham
Mon 14 Apr	Easter Craftroom 2.30-4pm	Easter Craftroom 2.30-4pm			
Tue 15 Apr					Easter Craftroom 2.30-4pm
Wed 16 Apr				Easter Craftroom 2.30-4pm	
Thu 17 Apr				Easter Craftroom 2.30-4pm	
Fri 18 Apr					
Sat 19 Apr					

Libraries closed - public holiday

