

# NEWS from the HEART...

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School  
10 McCann Crescent, Lenah Valley



26 February 2025

*"Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success." – Henry Ford*

Dear Families,

This week, we celebrate the many ways we connect as a school community. Our Welcome Liturgy, Parent-Teacher Conversations, and Friday's Grade 3-6 Swimming Carnival offer meaningful opportunities to come together, build relationships, and deepen our sense of belonging.



We are thrilled to have had a record turnout for our Parent-Teacher Conversations and appreciate your support in transitioning to a shared space this year. Taking the time to connect face-to-face lays the foundation for a successful year ahead. When families and educators work together, they create a network of care that fosters both academic growth and well-being. A heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers who joined us yesterday and today, reinforcing our community spirit and commitment to each student's journey. If you were unable to attend, please reach out to your child's teacher to arrange a meeting time.

Pope Francis is very much in our thoughts and prayers with his decline in health. An inspiration for us now and always.



Rachel

## **Mobile Phones, Devices and Wearable Technologies Policy**

Thank you for your support and feedback regarding our protocols aligning with the system policy. As a point of clarification regarding smartwatches, whilst they may not be linked to phones or wifi, if they have the capability to do so, we ask that they be placed at the office during school hours.

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# *Classroom Heartbeat*

## **Grade 2**

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Last week, Grade 2 had their first bush school session at the Lenah Valley Labyrinth. Bush School is a nature-play opportunity for our children to learn on Country. It supports skills including inquiry and experimentation, communication, reflection, problem solving and co-operation. It also gets children physically moving and connecting with nature and with each other.



"I loved making the mud cakes" - Georgia

"I loved spinning on the swing with George" - Finn

"I built a hut with blankets, ropes and sticks" - Eva

"I explored the rock maze" – Leiho





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# Focus From the Heart



## Literacy Snapshot

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### What:

At Immaculate Heart, our goal is for every child to achieve reading success.

### How:

To continue to help our students build their knowledge and develop their skills to become Literate Learners for Life! Our whole school approach to Literacy is based on The Science of Learning, the most up to date research!

Our Early Years Students have started their InitialLit journey for the year with daily sequential interactive lessons. InitialLit is an evidence-based whole-class literacy program for Prep to Grade 2 students providing all children with the essential core knowledge and strong foundations to become successful readers and writers. InitialLit is a three-year program, teaching of phonics alongside a rich literature and vocabulary component.

Please see [Parent-Carer Information](#) for further information.

Our Kindergarten students participate in daily PreLit lessons, focusing on fundamental pre reading skills and concepts in a fun and engaging way, focusing on phonological awareness and oral language development through sequenced storybook reading.



Our Primary classes will continue to grow their knowledge of words, sounds and their meaning in daily Spelling Mastery sessions. Spelling Mastery provides direct instructional lessons to effectively and efficiently teach the spelling skills students need to become proficient readers and writers. Our students enthusiastically started this fast paced, interactive and sequential program for the year.

Grades 4-6, have also started their Novel Study for the term, supported by evidence-based strategies. This rich literature supports learning parts of speech, grammar, vocabulary, and supports writing for a purpose.



We encourage you to ask your child what they have been learning in Literacy this week!

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## **Grade 7 Enrolments**

As part of the enrolment process for Catholic Secondary Colleges for Grade 7 in 2026, parents are asked to submit enrolment applications to their preferred secondary school by 14 March 2025. This includes enrolments to Sacred Heart College. To complete this, you must contact the school of your preference.

We are happy to support families with enrolment enquiries and help you with the application process if needed.

## **NAPLAN 2025**

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### **Students will be sitting NAPLAN between 12 and 24 March 2025.**

The National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning at school. On its own, NAPLAN is not a test that can be studied for, and students are not expected to do so.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance; however, students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.

NAPLAN has been held in March since 2023, having previously taken place in May. This change was made so school systems would have access to results earlier in the school year. These results can then be used to inform teaching and learning plans for the remainder of the year.

### **Why NAPLAN is conducted online**

NAPLAN online provides a better assessment and more precise results.

One of the main benefits of NAPLAN online is that it uses tailored (or adaptive) testing. This means that students receive questions better suited to their abilities, so they can show what they know and can do.

Online testing also allows us to provide a wide range of accessibility options to support students with disability to access NAPLAN.

Feedback from students is that they find the online test more engaging.

Please note that students in Year 3 complete the Writing Test on paper.

### **Parent information brochures and other resources**

[NAPLAN information brochure for parents and carers](#). The link will take you to the official National Assessment Program (NAP) website.

Please contact the school if you have any further queries.


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## Canteen Service


We are waiting for our new Canteen arrangement to be finalised, but in the meantime, take a look at the new menu below.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# CANTEEN MENU

 ALL ORDERS VIA QKR APP BY 8AM

SANDWICHES			
TOASTED		FRESH	
Cheese	\$3.00	Vegemite	\$2.00
Cheese & Tomato	\$3.50	Vegemite & Cheese	\$3.00
Ham	\$3.00	Cheese	\$3.00
Ham & Cheese	\$4.00	Ham	\$3.00
Ham, Cheese & Tomato	\$4.50	Ham & Cheese	\$4.00
Ham, Cheese & Pineapple	\$4.50		
Raisin Bread	\$0.60		
GLUTEN FREE BREAD \$1 EXTRA			



HOT FOOD	
Party Pies	\$2.20
Chicken Nuggets (GF avail)	3 for \$3.00
	6 for \$5.00
Hot Cheese Roll	\$3.00
Nachos (GF, Veg)	\$5.00
Lasagne	\$7.00
Plain Chicken Burger	\$4.50
Mayo Chicken Burger	\$4.80

DRINKS	
Nippys 250ml	\$3.20
• Chocolate	
• Strawberry	
• Honeycomb	
• Apple Blackcurrant	
• Orange Juice	
Water 600ml	\$2.00

SNACKS	
Seasonal Fruit	\$1.50
• Apple or Orange wedges	
Carrot Sticks	\$1.00
Raspberry Jelly	\$1.50
Popcorn	\$0.70
Snack Pack Fruit Tub	\$2.00
Fruit Pack Sultanas	\$1.10
Muffin (chocolate chip)	\$2.50
Cookies (2 pack)	\$1.50
Vanilla Yoghurt	\$2.00

## Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council

The Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council (TCSPC) is the Parent Representative Body that was established by His Grace Archbishop Porteous a number of years ago. It is in place to assist Catholic School parents (and children), ensuring they have a voice at both a local and national level. The TCSPC also assists with Parent Engagement within Catholic Education, and helps parents take an active role in the education of their children.

The TCSPC is a member of Catholic Schools Parents Australia (CSPA), which is the National body representing parents with children in Catholic schools. The TCSPC also has a representative on the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission and the CSPA has a representative on the National Catholic Education Commission.

If you are interested in representing Immaculate Heart with the TCSPC please contact the school office for more information.

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## Capital Works - Building Project

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It has been exciting to see progress ramp up on our building project over the past week. The roof is open, the windows are being removed, and our server room is relocating to the undercroft this coming weekend. We meet with the Project Team on Thursday and aim to provide our community with further details regarding the next stage of work in our next newsletter.

### Walk through video

These arrangements are in place to prioritise the safety of all students and adults, all day, every day:

- Restricted Access: Entry from McCann Crescent is now restricted.
- **We have moved our Van and Bus back to McCann Crescent - as it was too tricky for everyone on Edge Avenue.**
- Staff Car Park: Access to the staff car park will be limited during school hours.
- Kiss and Drop Zone: This will be relocated to Edge Avenue at this time of the year.
- Pedestrian Access: All students and adults entering on foot through the staff car park must use the designated pathways.
- Assistance: If you require help accessing the school, please contact the school office.
- Blue Astro Court 8:30 - 8:45am: To support safe access, kicking games will be restricted during this time as the Blue Court will be a major thoroughfare.



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## Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

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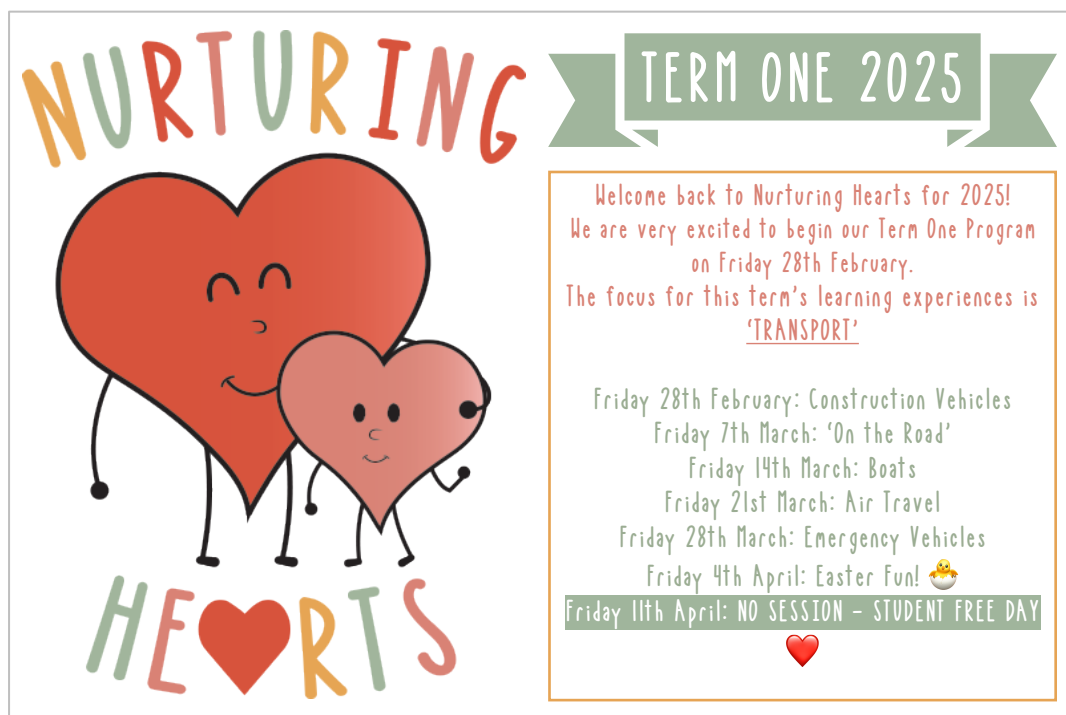
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## Birth to 4 Years Program

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Our Nurturing Hearts Program, for children from birth to 4 years of age, will commence this Friday 28 February in our Kindergarten.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn with your child and connect with our families. Mrs Brook and Mrs Wall can't wait to see you!





~ Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School ~

# KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2026



IF YOUR CHILD WAS BORN IN  
2021, WE WOULD LOVE TO  
WELCOME THEM INTO OUR  
KINDERGARTEN  
IN 2026

To find out more, please visit our website  
[www.ihms.tas.edu.au](http://www.ihms.tas.edu.au)  
or call our School Administration Office on  
6228 3335 to arrange a guided tour

Enrolments close 10th May 2026

Current Immaculate Heart Families, with a child born in 2021, are reminded to submit an Enrolment Form to secure a Kindergarten place in 2026

## Calendar

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Please click here for our school calendar: [School Calendar](#)

Student free day – Friday 4 July 2025

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## Key Dates

Please see the following school dates from Catholic Education Tasmania.

Term One Concludes (Students)	10 April 2025
Term One Concludes (Teaching Staff)	11 April 2025
Term One Student (Non-Attendance Time)	14 April 2025 – 25 April 2025
Easter (Good Friday)	18 April 2025
Easter (Easter Monday)	21 April 2025
Easter (Easter Tuesday)	22 April 2025
Term Two (Staff and Students Resume)	28 April 2025
Term Two (Concludes)	3 July 2025 (student free day Fri 4 July 2025)
Term Two Student Non-Attendance Time	7 July 2025 – 21 July 2025
Term Three Resumes (Teaching Staff)	21 July 2025
Term Three Resumes (Students)	22 July 2025
Term Three Concludes	26 September 2025
Term Three Student Non-Attendance Time	29 September 2025 – 13 October 2025
Term Four Resumes (Teaching Staff)	13 October 2025
Term Four Resumes (Students)	14 October 2025
Term Four Concludes (Students and Teaching Staff)	18 December 2025*

## Calendar of Events

Fri 28 Feb	Immaculate Heart Swimming Carnival
Fri 28 Feb	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am – 10.30am
Tue 4 Mar	Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)
Tue 4 Mar	Grades 1 & 2 Bush School
Tue 4 Mar	Uniform Shop open 2.30 – 4.00pm
Wed 5 Mar	Ash Wednesday Service – 11.30am (Gr 3-6)
Fri 7 Mar	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am – 10.30am
<b>Mon 10 Mar</b>	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL</b>
Tue 11 Mar	Grade 2 Bush School
Tue 11 Mar	Uniform Shop open 2.30 – 4.00pm

**Sacred Heart College**  
**Twilight Tours**  
**Thursday 27 February**  
**3.15pm - 5.15pm**

Year 7 2026 enrolment applications  
are due by 14 March, 2025



2 Cross Street,  
New Town  
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[www.shc.tas.edu.au](http://www.shc.tas.edu.au)  
[enrolments@shc.tas.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@shc.tas.edu.au)