

NEWS from the HEART...

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



11 March 2026

Prayer for Peace

Loving God,
We pray for
peace in our world,
in our community,
and in our own hearts.



Help us to be people
who choose kindness,
listen with compassion,
and work together to build a
place where everyone feels safe and valued.

Guide us to follow Jesus' example of love and understanding,
so that peace may grow through our words and actions each day. Amen.

Dear Families,

Listening to the voices that shape our school...

A growing strength of our community is creating pathways for student voice, parent voice, and staff voice to inform our direction and enrich our understanding of school life. As a Catholic school, we value this shared dialogue. Listening to one another strengthens our sense of belonging and ensures that the decisions we make reflect the needs, hopes, and lived experiences of the people we serve. Your voice matters, and together we continue to build a school where every learner is known, valued, and supported.

School Effectiveness Survey Coming Soon

In the coming weeks, all parents and carers, students, and staff across Catholic Education Tasmania will be invited to take part in the annual School Effectiveness Survey.

This survey is a key opportunity for students, staff and parents to be heard. Your feedback helps us understand what is working well and where we can continue to grow across areas such as learning and teaching, wellbeing, communication, community engagement, and our Catholic identity. The data gathered directly informs our ongoing school improvement.

Further details about how to access the survey will be provided via Compass and letters will be sent home to all families soon. Students will complete the survey during class time, and staff will receive information directly.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your voice and help strengthen our school community.

Farewell to Miss Madelyn Halouvas - Prep Classroom Teacher

Prep families were notified yesterday that Miss Madelyn Halouvas has tendered her resignation and will be finishing at Immaculate Heart of Mary at the end of Term 1. We extend our sincere thanks to Maddy for the care, commitment and dedication she has shown to our students and to our school community over the past two and a half years. Her contribution to the learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging in Prep has provided our children with a wonderful start to the year.

The process to appoint a Prep teacher for the remainder of 2026 is now underway. We intend to ensure a meaningful transition period between Maddy and the successful candidate so that continuity of learning and the best possible outcomes for every student are maintained.

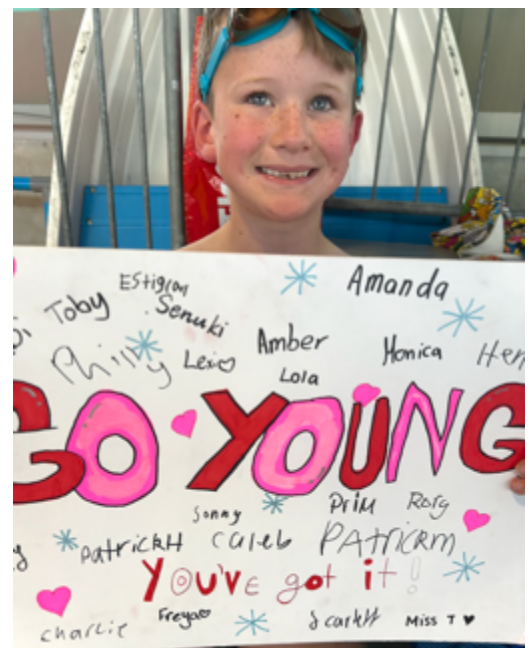
We will continue to keep our community informed as this process progresses.

Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all our Grade 3-6 students for their wonderful participation and excellent behaviour at our Swimming Carnival. Many thanks to Mr Clark for his organisation, and to our parent volunteers and staff for supporting the smooth running of our first carnival for 2026.

Well done to Young House, who were the overall champions on the day.

The following students have been selected to represent IHMS at the STCPSSA Carnival on Friday, 27 March.



YEAR 3 BOYS	YEAR 3 GIRLS	YEAR 4 BOYS	YEAR 4 GIRLS	YEAR 5 BOYS	YEAR 5 GIRLS	YEAR 6 BOYS	YEAR 6 GIRLS
XAVIER O'CONNOR		REUBEN LOWE	AUDREY MCDONALD	MAX OXLEY	ELLA HALLORAN	TOBY MARSH	MONICA HOLLOWAY
		ARCHIE MATTHEWS	HAZEL FULTON	JOSEPH O'CONNOR	CHELSEA MATHYSSEN	HARRY HALLORAN	MOLLY FULTON
		CHARLIE DAVIS	DAISY CARPENTER	MAX LUTTRELL	LOLA MARSH	TOM HANCOCK	POPPY GORDEY
		PATRICK MURRELL	LOLA DANIELS	CHARLIE DEARINGER	PENELOPE KING	TOM JORDAN	CHARLOTTE NOLAN
					FREYA MANTEN	ARCHIE MARSLAND	CHARLOTTE PAGE
							ELSABET MESFIN

Focus From the Heart

NAPLAN 2026

Over the next two weeks, our Year 3 and Year 5 students will participate in the annual NAPLAN assessments. These online tests provide a snapshot of student learning in literacy and numeracy and help us understand how our teaching programs are supporting student growth over time.

At Immaculate Heart of Mary, we approach NAPLAN as just one part of a much bigger picture. Our focus remains on creating calm, supportive testing environments where students feel confident and prepared to do their best.

Families can support their child by ensuring they arrive at school on time, have had a good night's sleep, and bring headphones for their child. If your child is absent on a scheduled test day, catch-up sessions will be available.

We thank our teachers for the thoughtful preparation they have put into ensuring a smooth and positive NAPLAN experience for all students.

Building Project

Work is continuing on the final phase of our project — the new entrance from McCann Crescent into the heart of our school. This space will become an inviting, functional “gateway” for students, families, and visitors to and from the heart of our school. Our next Project Meeting is later this week, and I look forward to sharing an updated timeline once available.

Classroom Heartbeat

Grade 1 - Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary

Last week, Grade 1 had a wonderful excursion to Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary. Our guide, James, showed us around and introduced us to many amazing Australian animals.

I liked the snake because I've never seen a real snake before - Patrick

I liked the kangaroos because they are so cute and curious - Eddie

I liked the kangaroo because I got to feed it - Visakha

I liked the cockatoo because it was digging a hole - Walter

I liked the Tassie devils because they hide - Rudransh



School Uniform

We kindly remind families that students should be wearing the full and correct Immaculate Heart of Mary uniform. Recently, some non-uniform items - such as track pants, stockings under shorts, and jewellery outside of our policy - have begun to appear. Thank you for your support in ensuring all items worn are IHMS uniform pieces. Our Uniform Policy is available for reference.

Allergy Aware School

We are an Allergy Aware School and work hard to create a safe environment for all students. To help keep our students with allergies safe, we kindly ask families to avoid sending foods that contain nuts, tree nuts, shellfish, or other common allergens.

We also encourage students to wash their hands after eating and remind them not to share food or drinks.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep every child safe and included.

Nurturing Hearts Birth-4 Years

Our Nurturing Hearts Program 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!



allergy AWARE

What does it mean to be an allergy aware school?

Allergy aware schools work with families in many ways to lower the risk of a child with allergies having an allergic reaction. If an allergic reaction does happen while the child is at school, it will be managed well.

An allergy aware school should include the following:

- Documentation**
 - Schools have a policy to reduce the risk of anaphylaxis.
 - Schools work with parents and students to develop an individual anaphylaxis care plan. This includes a copy of the child's ASCIA Action plan written by their doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Training**
 - All staff are trained to recognise and treat allergic reactions. This includes refresher training and practice with trainer adrenaline injectors.
 - Canteen/kitchen and food technology staff are trained in food allergies, including how to prepare, store and serve food safely, and how to read food labels for food allergens.
- Risk reduction**
 - A range of measures are used to reduce the risk of a student having an allergic reaction. These differ depending on the student's age. Examples include:
 - Washing hands before and after eating.
 - Not sharing food and drinks.
 - Rewards that do not involve food.
 - Planning ahead for activities that involve food such as class parties and special occasions like sports days.
- Allergy medication**
 - General use adrenaline injectors (Anapen® and EpiPen®) and an ASCIA First Aid Plan for Anaphylaxis are included in the school's first aid kit.
 - Children's individual adrenaline injectors and ASCIA Action Plans are stored unlocked and easily accessible to staff.
- If an allergic reaction occurs**
 - Schools have processes in place to manage the allergic reaction well.
 - Afterwards they will review what was done well, and what needs changing.
 - Reactions will be reported.
 - Staff and children involved will be offered support (including counselling).
- Communication with the school community and students**
 - Communication about allergies raises awareness and encourages the whole community to work together to reduce the chance of a child having an allergic reaction at school.
 - In classes where there is a student with a severe allergy, all members of the class should learn about allergies so they can help keep them safe.

For more information visit: allergyaware.org.au



Welcome to Nurturing Hearts for 2026!
We are very excited to begin our Term One Program on Friday 20th February.

The focus for this term's learning experiences is 'FOOD'.

Friday 20th February: Exploring Fruits and Veggies
Friday 27th February: Exploring Baking
Friday 6th March: Exploring Food from around the World
Friday 13th March: Exploring 'Sometimes' Foods
Friday 20th March: Easter Fun! 🐣
Friday 27th March: Gross Motor Play in the Hall
Friday 3rd April: NO SESSION - GOOD FRIDAY
Friday 10th April: Excursion (Location TBC)
Friday 17th April: NO SESSION - STUDENT FREE DAY

Kinder Enrolment

Kindergarten 2027 enrolments are now open and close on the 15 May.



 **GROW WITH US**

Enrolments for KINDERGARTEN 2027 are now open

**If your child was born in 2022,
we would love to welcome them to
Immaculate Heart in 2027!**

For more information, please visit our website
www.ihms.tas.edu.au
or call 6228 3335 to request an Enrolment Pack
and arrange a Principal Tour of our school.

Current Immaculate Heart Families, with a child born in 2022, are reminded to submit an Enrolment Form to secure a Kindergarten place for their child in 2027.

Grade 7 Enrolments

A reminder to all our Grade 6 families that, as part of the enrolment process for Catholic Secondary Colleges, applications for Grade 7 in 2027 are due Friday 13 March 2026, directly to the respective colleges. This includes enrolments for Sacred Heart College.

Key Dates

Please see the following school dates from Catholic Education Tasmania.

2026	
Term One Concludes (Students)	Thursday 16 April 2026
Term One Concludes (Teaching Staff)	Friday 17 April 2026
Term One Student (Non-Attendance Time)	Monday 20 April 2026 – Friday 01 May 2026
Easter (Good Friday)	03 April 2026
Easter (Easter Monday)	06 April 2026
Easter (Easter Tuesday)	07 April 2026
Term Two (Staff and Students Resume)	Monday 04 May 2026
Term Two (Concludes)	Friday 10 July 2026
Term Two Student Non-Attendance Time	Monday 13 July 2026 – Monday 27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Teaching Staff)	Monday 27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Students)	Tuesday 28 July 2026
Term Three Concludes	Friday 02 October 2026
Term Three Student Non-Attendance Time	Monday 05 October 2026 – Friday 16 October 2026
Term Four Resume (Students and Teaching Staff)	Monday 19 October 2026
Student Free Day	Friday 23 October 2026
Year 10 Students Conclude	Friday 11 December 2026
Students Conclude	Thursday 17 December 2026*
Teaching Staff Conclude	Friday 18 December 2026*

Calendar of Events

Thu 12 Mar	Canteen Day
Fri 13 Mar	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am – 10.30am
Fri 13 Mar	Canteen Day
Tue 17 Mar	Uniform Shop open 3.00pm – 4.00pm
Wed 18 Mar	Canteen Day
Thu 19 Mar	Canteen Day
Fri 20 Mar	Grade 1 Bush School 11.35am
Fri 20 Mar	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am – 10.30am
Fri 20 Mar	Canteen Day
Mon 23 Mar – 3 Apr	School Effectiveness Survey
Tue 24 Mar	Assembly 1.40pm
Tue 24 Mar	Prep Liturgy 11.30am
Tue 24 Mar	Grade 3 Liturgy 12.10pm
Tue 24 Mar	Uniform Shop open 3.00pm – 4.00pm
Wed 25 Mar	Canteen Day



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School is located in Nipaluna on the Traditional Lands of the Muwinina people of the South East Nation who lived with and cared for this Land for many generations.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Palawa people, and the deep connection they have to Country and Culture. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and to Elders past and present.

We are committed to learning as a part of this community, and to supporting the continued sharing of knowledge and culture.