

St Peter's Primary Newsletter



Issue 3 | Term 1 | March 2025

Dear St. Peter's Community,

In this final week of term, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to making this such a positive and smooth start to the year. There is truly nothing better than walking through the school and seeing children, teachers, and LSOs all fully engaged in doing what they do best. My thoughts have been confirmed by the positive feedback we have received from our recent school tours from prospective 2026 Prep families. A snippet from a recent email.

"Thank you for having us at your open day last Thursday 13th March.

My husband and I were so impressed with everything we were shown and could feel the vibrance of the school community.

The grade 6 students who opened the tour were so confident and well spoken, something that so many of us struggle to achieve well into our adulthood.

We couldn't believe how well the preps were listening in Miss G's class, at only six weeks into the year!

It was great seeing the juniors work, but my favourite was in Miss Curcio's class hearing the Grade 6's explain the book they were currently reading. The level of detail and vocabulary used was at a level I wasn't expecting."

The staff at St. Peter's are so committed to the work they do, and it's great to see the impact of their efforts in the eager, engaged students who come to school excited to learn each day. Please note that as we move forward Seona Martin will be taking on the role of Acting Deputy Principal in addition to her responsibilities as RE Coordinator.

Our simplified three school rules—Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible—have been consistently integrated into the learning this term, setting us up for a year filled with positive growth and progress. To ensure we are reinforcing the same values at home and at school, you may like to use the same language with your children.

I also want to thank all of our parents for your continued support as we work in partnership to do our very best for our school community.

Just a quick reminder: students will finish at 12pm on Friday to mark the end of the term.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday and a joyful Easter celebration with your family. May everyone return to school well-rested and ready for the next exciting term!

Anne

St Peter's Highlights to Celebrate

School Community Highlights

- The Mini Vinnies Team were commissioned formally at our recent assembly
- Lenten Fair Thursday 27th April (See details below)
- Students and parents gathered together for a beautiful faith night in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Year 3 children attended their Sacrament commissioning mass over the



St Peter's Highlights to Celebrate



Teaching & Learning Successes

- Preps have experienced continuous hands-on learning opportunities,
 building their skills to become confident readers and writers
- Year 1 students have been exploring place value in a fun and creative way!
 Check out their ci-"ty" towers built from groups of ten, each labeled with its total tens "ty" number
- Guest speakers, Father Anil and Helena visited the Year 2 students sharing their personal faith journeys, the students then reflected on the special people in their own lives who help them to grow in love, kindness, patience, and joy
- **Year 3** students loved their Well-being camp experience with an active excursion, a movie afternoon and a fish and chip dinner
- Year 4 classes had brilliant learning experiences at the overnight Zoo Snooze Camps
- **Year 5** students took steps to enhance their Well-being with an Excursion to "Go Climb"
- Year 6 students have been exploring their personal values and strengths through a variety of poetic forms, including haikus, limericks and cinquains, using figurative language to express their unique perspectives and experiences
- Children in Years 3 5 completed their Naplan tests trying their very best over the duration



St Peter's **Highlights to Celebrate**

Student Achievements & Wellbeing

We are proud of our students who have been acknowledged for showing their wonderful values in line with St Peter's School's VISION!



COMMUNITY



INTEGRITY



LOVE OF LEARNING



CREATIVITY



EMPATHY



RESPECT



TERM 1 CHESS CHAMPION

Prayer and Reflection

Altar Servers Attend the Mass of St Patrick for Schools

On Friday, 21st March, our school's Altar Servers had the special opportunity to attend the Mass of St Patrick for Schools at St Patrick's Cathedral, as part of the celebrations for Catholic Education Week.

This annual Mass brings together students from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne to honour St Patrick, the patron saint of both the Archdiocese and the Cathedral.

A highlight of the celebration was the unveiling and blessing of a new sacred image of St Patrick, a beautiful icon now displayed in the Cathedral. This powerful symbol of faith adds to the spiritual heritage of our Archdiocese and was a meaningful part of the Mass.

We are proud of our Altar Servers for representing our school at this significant event.



Prayer



I arise today, through
God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me
From snares of devils,
From temptation of vices,
From everyone who shall wish me ill,
afar and near.

St Patrick, Missionary and Evangelist, pray for us.

Easter Masses

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – 12th /13th April

Normal weekend timetable except no 5pm Mass on Palm Sunday (Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8:30am and 10:30am)

HOLY WEEK

Monday 14 th April and Wednesday 16th April

Morning Mass at 9.15am

Tuesday 15th April

Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 10.00am. All Welcome to attend.

No 9.15am Morning Mass Holy Thursday – 17th April Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm

Altar of Repose & Driver Strain Adoration antil midnight Friday of the Passion of the Lord – 18th April

Way of the Cross at 10.30am Divine Mercy Novena at 11.30am

Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3.00pm

Holy Saturday – 19th April Divine Mercy Novena at 5.30pm The Easter Vigil Mass at 7.00pm

(Blessing of Fire, Paschal Candle & Damp; Baptismal Water) Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord – 20 th April

Masses at 8.30am & Camp; 10.30am

Divine Mercy Novena at 10.00am, followed by Mass at 10.30am

No 5.00pm Mass on Easter Sunday Divine Mercy Novena in Preparation for

The Feast of Mercy
Continues Monday, 21 st April to Friday 25 th April at 7.00pm, followed by Mass (No 9.15am Morning Mass).

Saturday 26th April at 5.30pm – Rosary & Divine Mercy Novena, followed by 6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass.

Sunday 27 th April – Divine Mercy Celebration at 1.30pm – Adoration, Confessions, Rosary, Litany & Divine Mercy Chaplet

3.00pm Holy Mass followed by blessing of the Divine Mercy image. No 5.00pm Mass.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR BELOVED SAINTS

THROUGH FRANCE, ITALY & MEDJUGORJE

17TH SEPTEMBER -**4TH OCTOBER 2025**

FR ANIL **MASCARENHAS**

PACKAGE PRICE: AUD \$9,590*

per person (twin share)

OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AUD \$1,925

FULLY ESCORTED





With Gratitude to God, a warm invitation to each of you to join our Great Jubilee Year 2025

Marked by the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024, this sacred season calls us to enter through the Holy Door, receiving God's abundant favours through prayer and reflection. Throughout his ministry, Jesus walked together with his disciples, making present God's love. Over the two thousand years since then, ordinary Christians, like ourselves, have followed his example: Francis (from Assisi), Anthony (in Padua), Péter (in Rome) and so many others. It was the love of God that makes these ordinary people, holy; it was the love of God made present in them, that made the places they travelled also holy.

In September this year, we will visit the holy sites of beloved Saints: Paris, Lourdes, Rome, Assisi, Lanciano, Loreto, Venice, Padua, and Medjugorje—experiencing moments of reflection, Holy Mass,

and a deep connection with God and with those Saints who lived and loved as Christ has taught us. I hope that our pilgrimage can give us renewed strength to live lives of holiness in our daily journey.

I look forward to walking this sacred path with you, seeking God's grace and a closer bond with our faith. May Mother Mary's loving care and God's abundant blessings guide this pilgrimage, filling our hearts with peace and grace.

With a grateful heart, Fr. Anil Mascarenhas



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

REGISTER FOR AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

7pm on Tuesday, 18th March

CONTACT FR ANIL OR OLIVE TREE DETAILS TO REGISTER & GET THE LOGIN DETAILS









NEXT STEPS

- 1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Anil, Olive Tree Travel or by CLICKING HERE
- 2. To secure your place, a deposit of AUD\$750 per person is due by Friday, 21st March (unless sold out prior)
 - 3. Second and subsequent deposits may be required
- 4. Final balance will be due by mid July 2025



Easter: Lenten Fair

Living Out Our Faith in Action

As a Catholic school community, we are deeply committed to living out the values of Catholic Social Justice. Inspired by Jesus - who showed compassion for the poor, the outcast, and those in need - we strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

A key highlight this term is our Lenten Fair, a special event where students will be selling handmade crafts to each other for a **gold coin donation**. These unique creations are linked to their classroom learning and reflect both their creativity and commitment to helping others.





The Lenten Fair will take place on **Thursday, 3rd April.** We invite all students to bring along a **gold coin donation** to participate and support this wonderful cause.

All funds raised from the fair will go directly to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, a vital initiative that supports communities experiencing poverty and injustice around the world.

Through our collective efforts, we hope to make a real difference and stand in solidarity with those in need.



Please note the Lenten Fair takes the place of the Easter Bonnet Parade and Bunny visit. In line with our 2 year event cycle the Bonnet Parade/Bunny visit event will return again in 2026.



School Advisory Council: Positions Available

The first School Board Meeting of the year was held this week. The Acting Principal, Anne, welcomed all members and provided updates on the school's progress, including a smooth start to Term 1. Notably, 80 families attended the successful Open Mornings, with 106 enrolment applications received so far. The school introduced an online Enquiry Tracker for streamlined enrolments and communication.

Key updates included the ongoing Berry Street Professional Development for staff, aimed at enhancing classroom practices over two years. The Parent Helper Course has been well-received, with 6 sessions completed so far.

The Board discussed updates on the school's building project and the fact that Law architects have been selected to design a new Masterplan for the school. Anne shared needs of the school which include a safe school entrance, a covered outdoor learning area and improved open spaces, additional classrooms, meeting rooms and a toilet upgrade.

The Board also discussed the merger of the school's community spirit and fundraising groups, Supporting St. Peter's School Community (SSPSC). Stephanie Wood in Administration will communicate with the group in moving forward to ensure all communication is correct and clear via the communication channels we have in place, e.g. St. Peter's Facebook Page, Instagram and Operoo. The school will continue to foster community engagement through parent involvement in planned social and fundraising events.

School Advisory Councils are an essential component of governing and operating Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. They provide a forum for consultation and participation for parish and school communities.

Aligned with the mission outlined in the MACS Constitution - where educating young people in the light of the Gospel is recognised as a shared responsibility across the Catholic school community - the School Advisory Council serves as a vital link between school leadership and the broader community. While it does not hold governance or decision-making authority, the council plays a key role in supporting the principal and maintaining a strong connection to the parish. It provides advisory support and connects the school community with leaders, while the MACS Board holds the governing and decision-making authority for all MACS school.

You can read further information in the <u>MACS Code of Conduct for School Advisory</u> Council members.

Our current School Advisory Council members include two Parish Representatives; Fr. Anil Mascarenhas and Mary Lovelock; plus Parent Representatives Brendan Davey, Maria Minas, Jennifer Franjic, Lizzie Pawley, Patricia Vlahek and Liam Murphy.

We will have two positions available to be filled and are seeking expressions of interest from our parent community. If you are interested, please record your expression of interest <u>HERE</u>

Notices & Reminders

Parent Organised Social Event: Mother's Day

The SSPSC social group are celebrating Mother's Day with a function on Friday 9th May 2025.

Secure your tickets now via TryBooking: https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1374240

Please note that St Peter's is not responsible for any aspect of this event, including its planning, execution, safety and any incidents that may occur.

St Peter's Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Share a cuppa and a muffin on Friday 9th May with other mums/carers in the multipurpose hall at 2.15pm, before moving into the classrooms to celebrate with students at 2.45pm.



Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser

Our Hot Cross Bun fundraiser is closing on the 28th March. All funds raised will go towards purchasing safety vests for our younger students (Prep to Year 2) to wear on excursions, ensuring they are visible at all times. Hot Cross Buns will be delivered to classrooms this week.

Supporting St Peter's School Community (SSPSC)

If you missed our Welcome morning and are interested in getting involved in our Fundraising or Social activities, you can register your interest <u>HERE</u>. This will follow with a meeting in Term 2 for those parents who have registereed their interestm to confirm upcoming teams and roles.

2026 Prep Enrolments Reminder

Prep enrolments for 2026 will close at 3.15pm on the 31st March. Existing families looking for a place for a sibling must also apply by the cut off date or will be moved to a waitlist. Please complete your application via the link on our website: <u>HERE</u>

St Peter's Social Media Guidelines

All parents have signed a MACS <u>Parent/Guardian/CarerCode of Conduct</u> agreement which covers Social Media use and determines that parents "refrain from activities, conduct or communication that would reasonably be seen to undermine the reputation of the school, employees or students of the school, including activities on social media". Please click the <u>Parent/Guardian/Carer Code of Conduct</u> and our <u>Communication Protocols</u> for further details.

St Peter's Sports News

Swimming

Year 6 student Benjamin Lai competed in the Moonee Ponds divsion final and came 1stin Freestyle and 2nd in Backstroke and has qualified for the Western Metropolitan Regional Finals at Cardinia Park on the 1st of April.





World Taekwondo Championships

Year 6 student Jayden Buslon competed in a Selections Competition and won his division against athletes older and more experienced than him. He will be representing Australia in UAE in the 2025 Cadet World Taekwondo Championships this May!

DONATE HERE

Interschool Sports

Students from Year 6 are continuing their Interschool Sports journey, with St Peter's winning every single match they competed in last week against St Martins, much to the delight of our students!

Our Grade 6 Mixed Tennis Team remain undefeated and are going through to the Divisional Finals later this year.



MOVE IN MARCH

Our classes are getting into the Move in March spirit! At the end of the month all the students who have completed their individual passports will have them collected and be in the running for some exciting prizes from MVCC.

Crossing Supervision

Please note the council has been contacted regarding the need for a crossing supervisor on Milleara Rd and The Crossway. Parents have reported that it is most unsafe. We await their response.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

At St Peters we want everyone to feel safe and be safe. All staff members who work here at St Peter's will do their best to make sure that you feel comfortable, feel cared for, feel safe and are safe. At the start of the year we introduced our 3 new school rules. They are: Be safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. It is our duty to protect one another and make St Peter's a safe place for everyone. At our recent assembly we had some special helpers from Year Prep to remind us of the trusted adults in our school who the children can report to. 'If it's not safe, it's not St Peters!'



What does good mental health look like?

This visual shows the key components -

- 1. Loved and safe-This includes positive family relationships and connections with others, along with personal and community safety. Children and young people who are loved and safe are more likely to:
 - Be confident, have a strong sense of selfidentity and high self-esteem
 - Form secure attachments, have prosocial peer connections and positive adult role models or mentors in their life
 - Be resilient, withstanding life challenges and responding constructively to setbacks and unanticipated events.



- 2. Material basics-The wellbeing of children and young people is enhanced when they:
 - Have access to material basics that they need to live their life
 - Live in adequate and stable housing, with adequate clothing
 - Have access to healthy food and clean water and the materials they need to participate in education and training pathways.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- 3. Healthy-Children's wellbeing is promoted when they have:
 - Their physical, developmental, psychosocial and mental health needs met
 - Access to services to support their growth and development
 - Access to early intervention measures to address any emerging health or developmental concerns.
- **4. Learning**-Learning is a lifelong process. Children and young people learn through formal and informal experiences within the classroom and in their homes and communities. Children's wellbeing is enhanced when they participate in and experience an education that enables them to reach their full potential and maximise their life opportunities.
- **5. Participating**-Children and young people's participation includes involvement with peers in the community, having a voice on matters that concern them and access to technology for social connections. The wellbeing of children and young people is promoted when their views are considered, and they are involved in decision-making processes that affect them.
- **6. Identity and Culture**-Having a positive sense of culture and identity is central to the wellbeing of children and is particularly important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and other culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) children. This includes having a sense of spiritual wellbeing.

My role encompasses several key responsibilities, including:



- Building the capacity of school staff to identify and support students with mental health concerns.
- Supporting the school in creating clear care pathways and connecting students identified as needing further assessment and intervention to local services.
- Coordinating targeted mental health support for students by working with school staff, school community members and external agencies.
- Implementing effective mental health strategies aligned with social and emotional learning and adopting a whole-school approach to wellbeing and learning initiatives.

Please reach out to me should you have any concerns. I can be contacted by email Isheedy@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Health Alerts

Current illnesses at school

We regularly share updates via Operoo about common or more serious illnesses that we are seeing at school, in an effort to give everyone an opportunity to look out for signs and symptoms and reduce spread, as different illnesses can affect families differently. Please help keep our students as healthy as possible by encouraging them to maintain good hygiene.

• Gastroenteritis

Gastro is an infection that causes symptoms like vomiting, diarrhoea, and stomach discomfort. Keep your child away from others until 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped. If symptoms persist, please visit your GP. Do not allow your child to attend school until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

Flu/Cold symptoms

Symptoms including sore throat, cough fever or chills, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches and headaches. If your child is feeling unwell with fever please keep them at home so they can rest, they should be fever-free for at least 24 hours before coming back to school.

Chicken Pox

Chickenpox is a contagious viral infection characterised by an itchy rash and flu-like symptoms. It is most commonly seen in children, but can affect individuals of all ages. If your child develops symptoms such as fever, rash, or itching, we advise you to seek medical advice. To prevent the spread of the illness, please ensure that your child stays home until they have fully recovered and the rash has crusted over.

Please refer to <u>The Royal Children Hospital</u> website for kids health info on these illnesses.

<u>Allergies/Anaphylaxis at STP</u>

The following year levels have children with allergies:

Year P – Eggs, Nuts, Sesame Year 4 – Soy sauce,

Year 2 – Nuts, Seafood Year 5 – Nuts, Kiwi, Pineapple Year 3 – Nuts, Seafood, Kiwi Year 6 – Nuts, Lentils, Sesame

Please note: To ensure the safety of all students, we ask for your cooperation in avoiding sending your child with peanut butter, nutella sandwiches, or health bars containing nuts. Even minimal contact with these allergens can potentially trigger a severe allergic reaction.

While it's challenging to make the school environment entirely nut-free, we are committed to minimizing risks and need your support to do so.

Community News







TERM 2, 2025 - REGISTER NOW @ CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU

SPECIALISED CHESS COACHING

Since 2002, we have been providing our popular Chess For Schools program in schools throughout Melbourne and Greater Geelong.





'Children love attending Phil's chess classes as he actively fosters their sense of wellbeing and motivation to learn more'.

Rob Horwood Principal, Stella Maris Primary, Beaumaris.

HOW CAN CHESS BENEFIT YOUR CHILD?

Educational: Improved IQ, critical thinking, concentration, analytical skills, memory.

Social: Develop new friendships, social interaction skills, sportsmanship.

Emotional: Confidence, self esteem, resilience through winning/losing games.

CLASS STRUCTURE:

Different lessons are taught each week from a structured syllabus ranging from tactics, strategies, master openings, traps & special moves. After the lesson children are paired up in a fun tournament playoff. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 players at end of term.

BOOK HERE



CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU

CLASS DETAILS - ST PETER'S SCHOOL

DAY TIME LOCATION DATES COST

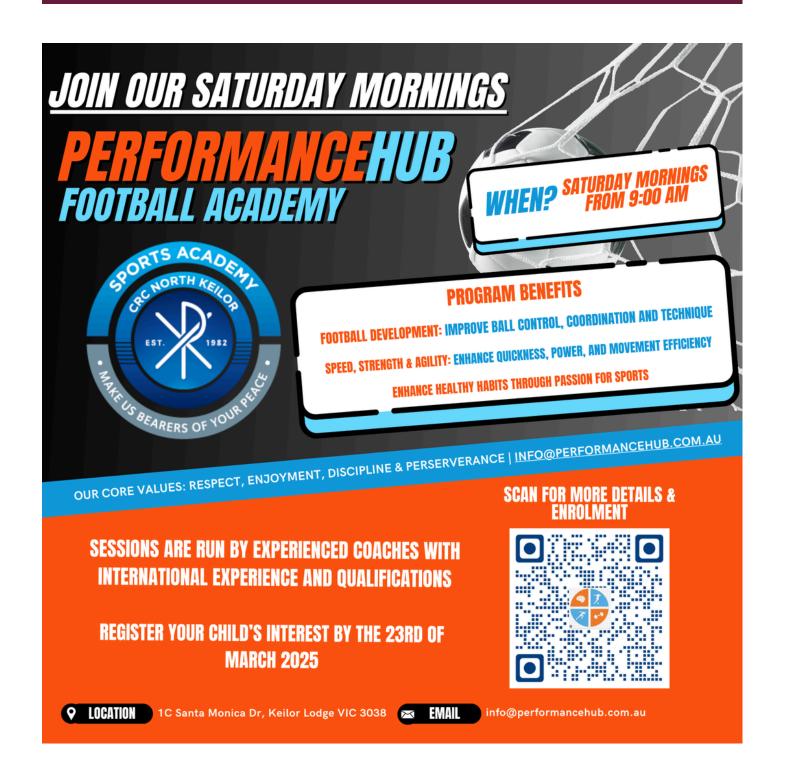
Wednesdays10.50 - 11.40am Library 30 Apr to 25 Jun \$145 per child/per term

"Alex loves chess club and gets very upset if he misses a session. His chess has definitely improved and his teacher, Anitia feels that it helps with his math in class in terms of concepts and thinking.

Keep up the great work!"

Katrina Lambert: Hampton Primary School

Community News



MOONEE VALLEY YMCA GYMNASTICS CLUB

HOLIDA)GRAM

Learn or Develop Existing Skills with Our Gymnastics - Based **Holiday Program!**



*Book before the 28th of March for just \$50 a day saving \$20 a day!

Ages 5 - 12

10 am - 3 pm

April Program Dates:

Mon 7 Tue 8 Thu 10

Fri 11



Scan QR code for more Info









camp #1

April 8th & 9th Tuesday and Wednesday **10:00am-2:00pm**

at Essendon Keilor College

Essendon Campus (Enter at Thomson Street)

camp #2

April 10th & 11th Thursday and Friday

10:00am-2:00pm

at Essendon Keilor Colle

Essendon Campus (Enter at Thomson Street)

camp #3

April 14th & 15th Monday and Tuesday 10:00am-2:00pm

Essendon Campus (Enter at Thomson Street)

camp #4

April 16th & 17th Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm

at Essendon Keilor College Basketball Stadium,

Essendon Campus (Enter at Thomson Street)

un.com.au



TERM 2, 2025
SOCCER FUN
FOR GIRLS &
BOYS AGED 2-12!

STARTING FROM 2ND MAY

FIRST 30 NEW

ENROLMENTS RECEIVE

COMPLIMENTARY SHIRT AND SHORTS!

FOR A FREE TRIAL P: 0422 738 494

MITE-E SOCCER (2-3YO)

A great introduction to Soccer!
Children work with their parents to learn new soccer skills and develop their motor skills! Lots of fun games in a non-competitive environment!

35 MINUTE CLASSES \$170 FOR 8 WEEKS

PINT SIZE SOCCER (4-5YO)

Children take their first kicks in soccer! They'll be introduced to shooting, dribbling, goal keeping and more. Children get to play lots of fun, skill based games. Grasshoppers get introduced to Pint Size 1v1 Big Games.

50 MINUTE CLASSES \$175 FOR 8 WEEKS

INTRO TO MICRO (5-6YO) MICRO (6-8YO)

The ultimate challenge for roung soccer players! They'll learn the rules of the Grasshopper Soccer Big Game and develop their skills in passing, dribbling, shooting and more!

INTRO - 60 MINS \$185 FOR 8 WEEKS MICRO - 60 MINS \$185 FOR 8 WEEKS

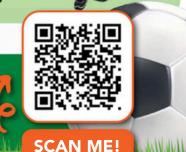
MICRO PLUS (8-12YO)

This program focuses on skill development and tear in preparation for club soccer. Children will enjoy all the favourite soccer based games, fine tune their skills as well applay the Grasshopper Soccer Big Gan.

60 MINUTE CLASSES \$185 FOR 8 WEEKS

M: 0422 738 494 | E: melbournecentral@grasshoppersoccer.com.au GRASSHOPPERSOCCER.COM.AU/MELBOURNECENTRAL

(f) /GRASSHOPPERSOCCERMELBOURNECENTRAL



DANCE SOCIETY

PART THIS

STARTED!

INTRODUCING NEW LEVELS

- PRE-SCHOOL (3-5 YEARS)
- LEVEL 1 (6-8 YEARS)
- LEVEL 2 (8-12 YEARS)
- ALL NEW MEMBERS RECEIVE A DANCE CREW TEE!



*T-SHIRT COLOURS MAY VARY



DANCE SOCIE

