



Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope that all families had the opportunity to rest and spend some time together during the recent holiday break. During this Easter season we are reminded of the challenge that the disciples faced in meeting the risen Jesus and being unsure as to who He was and what this meant, given the message He had taught them that, above all, they were to 'love one another as I have loved you.' This is a great reminder that we too are challenged to live Jesus' message each day through our words and actions. So, as we begin a new school term as bearers of Jesus' mission, may we be reminded of his invitation to "Receive the Holy Spirit... as the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21).

PARENTS AND FRIENDS TRIVIA NIGHT

This Friday evening, 30th April, our Parents and Friends Association (P and F) will be hosting a social event in the form of a Trivia Night at St Patrick's Hall, commencing at 6.30pm. Parents are most welcome to book a seat or a table for what will be a fantastic community event. Click [here](#) or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-thomas-more-catholic-primary-school-trivia-night-tickets-147038067819> to organise tickets.



MOTHER'S DAYS STALL AND BREAKFAST

On Thursday 6th May, the P and F are running a Mother's Day stall. Students will be able to purchase a gift for their mothers/carers. All gifts are priced at \$5. The following day, Friday 7th May, we will be hosting our inaugural Mother's Day Breakfast, to which all mothers and carers are most welcome to attend. There are 3 different time slots to choose from. Please book your place (children are welcome too) by clicking [here](#) or via the Eventbrite link. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/st-thomas-more-catholic-primary-school-mothers-day-breakfast-tickets-151149248471>

CLASSROOM HELPERS

After a whole year of not being able to have classroom helpers within our school we are absolutely thrilled to welcome our wonderful helpers back onsite. Both staff and students are extremely grateful for the time and effort our helpers generously volunteer to support student learning.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to our 28 students who participated in the Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country event held at Federation University last Friday. The students all tried their best after many weeks of training, led by Mr Richardson. All runners showed excellent sportsmanship and endurance. We had six students qualify in their age groups to progress to the next competition. Congratulations to:
Back Row: Eliza (placed 1st), Ollie (placed 4th), Emma (placed 6th)
Front Row: Mitch (placed 2nd), Lucas (placed 2nd), Amali (placed 4th).

STATE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Year 5 student, Will Richardson, recently experienced great success with his swimming. Last term Will finished in first place in the butterfly events and second place in freestyle events at local and regional levels. Having won his butterfly event at regional level Will qualified to compete against like-aged swimmers at state level. Last Monday Will competed in the 50 metre Butterfly event at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC) and was delighted to be placed 6th in the final. Congratulations to Will on his success and his commitment to an intense training program that involved many early morning training sessions.

DOGS WITHIN SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

We have updated our *Dogs Within School Grounds Policy* to support the promotion of a safe school environment and to ensure the safety of all whilst attending the school: through both direct and indirect contact with dogs. Our school *Dogs Within School Grounds Policy* has been ratified by our School Advisory Council and is attached to the end of this newsletter for your perusal and information.



NAPLAN- YEARS 3 & 5 STUDENTS: MAY 11th -13th

The National Assessment Program- Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be held on Tuesday 11th May, Wednesday 12th May and Thursday 13th May. All students in Years 3 & 5 are expected to participate in the NAPLAN assessments. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. If your child is away on testing days, catch-up tests will be available. Please read the attached letter with more information.

AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS (AEDC)

This term our Foundation teachers and students will be involved with the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). The AEDC looks at the development, health and wellbeing of children in their first year of school throughout Australia. Further details can be found at the end of the newsletter.



SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

The school will be closed on **Tuesday 1st June**, for staff to undertake professional development in preparation for our School Review. Students will not attend school on this date.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS



As we continue to work in partnership with you and your child/ren we thank you for your support in following the school uniform guidelines and ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform each day. During Terms 2 and 3 all students at school are required to wear full winter uniform. During Terms 2 and 3 it is essential that students have their brown woollen jumpers on when wearing the winter school uniform and tracksuit tops and long pants on their sports days. If there is a reason that your child is not wearing the correct uniform on a particular day, please write a note of explanation in their diary to inform their classroom teacher. If there are items of uniform that your child requires, the St Thomas More Catholic Primary School second-hand shop may be able to assist as it currently has many of these items available.

Please contact the front office on 53342244 so we can check what is in stock.

Donations of good condition second-hand uniform items are also being sought and accepted. If you have items to donate please bring them to the school office.

CYBER SAFETY

We thank Leading Senior Constable Des Hudson OAM from Ballarat Police Youth Resources for educating students, staff and parents about Cyber safety last week. For further cyber safety advice for parents and carers click [here](https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/find-advice) or visit <https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/find-advice>



MOBILE PHONE & SMART WATCH PRACTICES

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School recognises that modern society is characterised by many forms of digital technologies. These technologies offer potential for enhancing learning but conversely also present risks to student wellbeing and to student development if not used appropriately. To balance the conflicting aspects of technologies, we support the use of school-based technologies (iPads and Chromebook), but ban the use of smartphones and smartwatches during the school day. E.g. mobile phones, Apple watches, etc.



We have adopted Victorian State Government guidelines that all mobile phones and smartwatches in primary school must be handed to the classroom teacher to be stored during the school day. Students may only access them before 8:45am and after 3:25pm. Smartwatches (unless set to school mode) should not be with a student at all throughout the school day. If a parent needs to communicate with their child or relay an urgent message, please contact the office on 5334 2244. Alternatively, you may prefer to leave a message on your child's phone which they will see upon collection of the device at 3.25pm.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK STUDENT SCHOOL VISITS: MONDAY 24TH MAY

In celebration of Catholic Education Week and 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia, on Monday 24th May, between 10.00am and 2.00pm, we are holding a special day where students and staff will either host visitors or visit the two other Catholic Primary Schools in our Parish. The day will start with a liturgy followed by some fun activities.

Student location on the day:

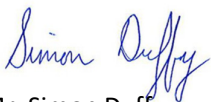
- Foundation/Years 1/2 to visit St Patrick's Parish Primary School, Drummond St Sth.
- Year 3/4 to visit Siena Catholic Primary School, Lucas.
- Year 5/6 to host at St Thomas More Primary School, Alfredton.



FOUNDATION (PREP) 2022

Ballarat Catholic schools have begun the 2022 Foundation (Prep) Enrolment process. Please see details attached below. Please note that **current** families also need to complete this new enrolment process, even if they have siblings currently attending at the school.

May God Bless you and keep you safe,



Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTES

TERM 2 PROGRAM

MULTI-SPORTS (60 MINUTES)

Wednesday's After-School 3:30pm - 4:30pm
21st April to 23rd June

Footy, Netball, Soccer, Hockey & Basketball.

Foundation to Year 4

\$165 for the 10-week program

Enrol online www.kellysports.com.au

Any queries please call or text Dom on 0417 967 621



Term 2 Calendar, 2021

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 April	19	20 Cybersafety sessions	21	22 Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Hoyle	23 Catholic Primary school cross country
2 April	26	27	28 Assembly presented by 3/4 Wheelahan/Turner	29 Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Gittings	30 Foundation Excursion to Ballarat Botanical Gardens P and F Trivia Night St Patrick's Hall Dawson St starting at 6.30pm
3 April/ May	3	4 Years 5/ 6 excursion – Sovereign Hill	5	6 Mother's Day stall Whole School Prayer led by 1/2 Hoffmann	7 Mother's Day breakfast Years 1/2 Excursion to Kirks Reservoir. Catholic School Netball and Soccer competition
4 May	10	11 NAPLAN testing Years 3 and 5	12 NAPLAN testing Years 3 and 5 Assembly presented by 5/6 Richardson	13 NAPLAN testing Years 3 and 5 Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Bird	14
5 May	17 SAC meeting 5pm	18	19	20 Whole School Prayer lead by 1/2 Woodhart	21 Catholic Schools Football Competition
6 May	24 Catholic Education Week- Parish school visits Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Davis	25	26 Assembly presented by 3/4 Hobbs	27	28
7 May	31	1 School closure day for School Review No students to attend school.	2	3 Whole School Prayer led by 1/2 Nykoluk/Turkenburg	4
8 June	7	8	9 Assembly presented by 1/2 Cudia	10 Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Hawkes	11
9 June	14 Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	15	16	17 Whole School Prayer led by 1/2 Munro	18
10 June	21	22 STM feast Day celebration 9.30-10.30am	23 Reports go home Assembly presented by Foundation Gannon	24	25

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS 2021



As parents/guardians, you are invited to enrol your BAPTISED CATHOLIC child into the family-based, Parish coordinated and Parish schools supported Sacramental Programs for 2021.

CONFIRMATION **RECONCILIATION (part 1) junior** **EUCCHARIST**

To take into account the extraordinary circumstances of 2020 and the inability to prepare for and celebrate Sacraments with the children in our Parish, the following will occur for the year of 2021 only:

PREPARATION AND CELEBRATIONS

TERM 1

RECONCILIATION PART 1 (Junior)

Baptised Catholics in Year 4 or older

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

NEW DATE & TIME
Tuesday 2nd March at 10am or 5.30pm

CELEBRATION DATES:
Tuesday 24th March at 5.30pm
Wednesday 25th March at 5.30pm

TERM 2

EUCCHARIST

For those in year 5 or older who have been CONFIRMED and have celebrated RECONCILIATION

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION
TUESDAY 27th APRIL, 2021 at 10.00am and 5.30pm

CELEBRATIONS DATES:
HOLY TRINITY 29th/30th May, 2021
BODY & BLOOD 5th/6th June, 2021

TERM 3

CONFIRMATION

For the Baptised Catholic in Year 3 and 4 or older

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION
TUESDAY 3rd AUGUST, 2021 at 10.00AM and 5.30pm

CELEBRATIONS DATES:
WEEKENDS of 4th/5th and 11th/12th September, 2021 at times to be advised

TERM 4

EUCCHARIST

For those who have been CONFIRMED and have celebrated RECONCILIATION earlier this year

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION
TUESDAY 12th OCTOBER 2021 at 10.00am and 5.30pm

CELEBRATIONS DATES:
WEEKENDS of 13th/14th and 20th/21st November, 2021 times to be advised

Parish Coordinator, Anita Houlihan
Phone: 53 312 933
3 Lyons St South, Ballarat
ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

anita.houlihan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office hours: Tuesday – Friday 10.00am to 5.00pm



Dogs within School Grounds Policy

Rationale

The purpose of the “Dogs within School Ground” policy is to support the promotion of a safe school environment and to ensure the safety of all whilst attending the school: through both direct and indirect contact with dogs.

Purpose

To provide a safe and harmonious school environment for all people to enjoy.

Principles

In addition to our general Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) risks, we proactively manage and aim to eliminate all risks of harm within our school community.

Procedures

- Dogs are prohibited from entering our school grounds and buildings.
- Owners are asked not to tie up or secure dogs to the school fencing. This includes anywhere within the proximity of the school grounds that could pose a concern to passers-by or people accessing the school gates or crossing.
- Owners, and their dogs, must remain outside the school boundaries at all times.
- Parents are reminded that these rules also apply to small house dogs and puppies.
- Stray dogs wandering around the school yard must be brought to the attention of the office.
- The school will attempt to contact the owners if the dog is identifiable, or otherwise contact the local council for assistance with the removal of the dog.
- *Assistance dogs* that are trained to assist are exempt from this policy.

Policy Updated: 2021

Policy Reviews: 2025

Child Information Sharing and Family Violence Reforms

Information for Parents and Carers

Sharing information to support child wellbeing and safety

From 19 April 2021 (Term 2) all Victorian government and non-government schools and centre-based education and care services (e.g. long day care, kindergarten and outside school hours care), will be prescribed as [Information Sharing Entities](#) under the Victorian Government's [Child Information Sharing Scheme](#) (CISS) and the [Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme](#) (FVISS).

These Information Sharing Schemes have expanded the ability of schools and services to collaborate and share relevant confidential information with other authorised [Information Sharing Entities](#) to promote the wellbeing and safety of children, and to assess and manage family violence risk. Information can only be shared under the Schemes by organisations prescribed as [Information Sharing Entities](#).

The Information Sharing Schemes were introduced in response to Royal Commissions, coronial inquests and independent inquiries over the past decade that identified poor information sharing as a barrier to service collaboration with detrimental outcomes for children and families.

Phase One of implementation of the schemes commenced in September 2018 and included key services, such as Child Protection, Maternal and Child Health Services and Victoria Police. From 19 April 2021, as part of Phase Two, universal services such as education and health will be authorised to share information using the Schemes.

The Information Sharing Schemes complement and expand upon existing information sharing and child protection laws and do not replace already existing authorisation to share information such as the Child Safe Standards, reporting to Child Protection or Victoria Police, the Reportable Conduct Scheme and other privacy and information sharing laws.

Further information regarding these Whole of Government Reforms can be found on the Victorian Government website:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-schemes-and-the-maram-framework>

The 2021 Australian Early Development Census

Counting on parents

Playing our part to build a national picture of child health

In early 2021, our school, along with thousands of others across the country will begin preparations for the fifth Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).

The AEDC gives us a national picture of the development, health and wellbeing of children in their first year of full-time school. Since 2009, the census results have helped communities, schools and governments plan services and develop better policies to target support for children and families.

Children don't miss any class time, and parents/carers don't need to supply schools with any new information for the census. The AEDC gives us data at a school and community level - it isn't an assessment of individual children.

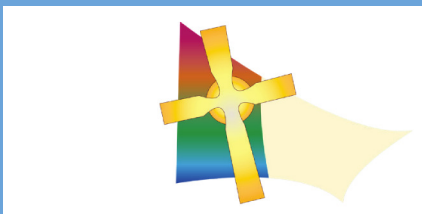
Some teachers have also noticed that completing the assessments made them more aware of the needs of individual children and the class as a whole and that the census results are useful in planning for transitions to Year 1 and developing class programs.

Participation in the AEDC is voluntary. Parents/carers don't need to take any action unless they choose not to include their children in the census. If they choose not to include their children parents/carers will need to contact our school's office.

To find out more about the census and how communities are using the data to help children and families visit the AEDC website: www.aedc.gov.au.

If you have any questions, you can contact our principal, Mr Simon Duffy





Foundation (Prep) 2022 Enrolments Catholic Schools in the City of Ballarat

Enrolment Information for Prospective 2022 Foundation (Prep) Students at Catholic Primary Schools in the City of Ballarat

A single enrolment application process is in place for ALL families seeking Foundation (Prep) enrolment for the 2022 school year at a Catholic primary school within the City of Ballarat (see school list overleaf), including families with children already in one of the eleven schools. Note that information collected through the enrolment process is collated on a common database shared by the eleven schools.

Families seeking enrolment should follow the steps below to apply by **Monday 10 May, 2021**.

Application Process

1. Contact the school/s you are interested in enrolling your child in – see school list overleaf.
2. Ask the school about their enrolment process. Do they provide information sessions or school tours?
3. Complete the online Expression of Interest for Enrolment form by visiting www.ceob.edu.au. Click on the Schools tab, select Enrolments, then complete the *City of Ballarat Expression of Interest for Enrolment* form by **Monday 10 May, 2021**.

Important:

- If you are applying for more than one Catholic primary school, please make clear which school is your first preference.
- If you are unable to access the online form, contact Kim Butler at kbutler@ceob.edu.au for assistance.

Key Dates

Foundation (Prep) enrolment applications open	Monday 8 February, 2021
First deadline for enrolments	Monday 10 May, 2021
School principals meet to determine allocation of placements	Monday 17 May, 2021
First round placement offers sent	Tuesday 25 May, 2021
Written acceptance of enrolment required from parents	Wednesday 16 June, 2021

Important:

- Each Catholic Primary School will make offers of enrolment in line with the Diocese of Ballarat Enrolment Policy which takes into consideration a variety of factors.
- Completing this application process does not guarantee an offer of enrolment in a City of Ballarat Catholic primary school.

www.ceob.edu.au

*As partners in
Catholic education
and open to God's presence,
we pursue fullness of life for all.*