



NEWSLETTER

DATE: 1/09/2021

TERM: 3

Choose an item.

Dear Families,

Thank you for the manner in which the St Thomas More Catholic Primary School community continues to come together to meet the challenges we are currently facing. As a school we realise, empathise and understand many of the challenges that families face. As a school community, we continue to pray for all those who are directly and indirectly impacted by these challenging times.

This weekend we give thanks for the wonderful gift of fathers, grandfathers, uncles and male carers through the celebration of Father's Day. This is a great opportunity for each of us to thank God for the very special men who care for us and love us unconditionally. I am truly thankful for my dad, who is a father to three and grandfather to seven. His many gifts, including his compassion for others, wise judgment and humour continue to be a great source of strength and inspiration for myself.



God our Father,

We give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old. We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice. We pray for fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow. We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice. We remember fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent Teacher Interviews are on next week. These meetings will take place in the form of phone calls rather than face to face conversations due to restrictions. They will take place on **Tuesday 7th September** and **Wednesday 8th September**. Appointment bookings are now open and can be made via the Parent Access Module (PAM).

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

A reminder that, as previously communicated through the Week 6 newsletter, next **Monday 6th September** will remain a school closure day for staff professional development. This day will be a school closure day and therefore there will be **no remote learning and no students onsite for Monday 6th September.**

RESCHEDULING OF MISSED ACTIVITIES

We will endeavour to reschedule as many of our missed activities as we can when there is clarification about students returning to school.

May God bless you and keep you safe,

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

COPING WITH LOCKDOWNS

Maggie Dent, an Australian parenting expert has written the following article on parenting and home-schooling during lockdown. Have a read; I think you will find it relatable and supportive.

And remember, If I can help you or your family in any way please don't hesitate to contact me.

sbeaver@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au

<https://www.maggiedent.com/blog/navigating-these-crazy-crappy-uncertain-times-as-a-family/>

Suzanne Beaver, Pastoral Care Worker

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT & PARENT/CARE GIVER REMOTE LEARNING RESPONSIBILITIES

Due to the recurrence of Remote Learning the school has developed and adopted guidelines for *Student and Parent/Care Giver Remote Learning Responsibilities*. These guidelines are attached to the end of this newsletter and we ask that you take the time to become familiar with the expectations.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS FOR 2023

The following information has been supplied by the Catholic Secondary Schools in the Ballarat area.



I AM LORETO

OPEN DAY

Wednesday 13 October, 2021 - 9am - 12pm

An opportunity for prospective families to experience Loreto College. Enjoy a guided tour of the College grounds and facilities with current students who will also share valuable insight into being a student at Loreto College.

LORETO ENROLMENTS

Year 7 2023 Parent Information Evening
MARY'S MOUNT CENTRE, Loreto College
20 OCT 2021 at 7pm

Applications Closing Dates
Applications for Year 7 2023 enrolments close
Friday 4 Feb, 2022 at 4pm
Registrations online for Academic Scholarships close
Monday 18 Oct, 2021
Applications for Year 7 2023 Academic Scholarships close
Friday 28 Jan, 2022 at 4pm

Important Dates
Year 7 2023 Scholarship Testing -
Saturday 5 Feb, 2022

Bookings essential for all events:
www.loreto.vic.edu.au/enrolment
All events are subject to COVID regulations.





ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
BALLARAT

Raising fine boys to the status of great men.

Closing date for enrolment for Year 7 in 2023
is Friday 3, December.

2023 Information Session:
Thursday 21, October at 5.30 pm at the College

2022 Scholarship Program:
Saturday 19, February, 2022

College Tours:
Each Friday at 9 am during the Term.
To book please visit stpats.vic.edu.au or email enrolments@stpats.vic.edu.au



The Enrolment program is currently underway for **Year 7 in 2023** at **St Patrick's College**. Please find attached an advertisement outlining important enrolment information such as College Tours, Information Session and Scholarships for families interested in St Patrick's College as a prospective school for their son.



Experience Damascus College

Please register at damascus.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrol and click 'Book a Visit'

Enrolment Applications for Year 7 2023 close on 4pm Friday 4 February 2022

INFORMATION EVENINGS

The Information Evenings are a great way for prospective families to learn more about Damascus College. During the evening you will hear presentations from key staff and students, and prospective students will participate in two interactive group activities.

Wednesday 8 September, 5pm – 6.30pm

Please arrive by 4.30pm to secure a carpark and registration

Tuesday 19 October, 6.30pm – 8pm

Please arrive by 6pm to secure a carpark and registration

OPEN MORNINGS

The Open Morning Tours are an opportunity for prospective families to take a guided tour of the College led by current students. It is a unique opportunity to experience Damascus during school hours. The event runs for approximately 1.5 hours. Registration opens at 8.30am, with the event starting promptly at 9am. You will hear presentations from key staff and students before embarking on an engaging tour of the campus for approximately 45 minutes.

Thursday 16 September, 9am – 10.30am

Thursday 21 October, 9am – 10.30am

Thursday 3 February 9am – 10.30am (please note this tour is conducted by staff)

Registration for INFORMATION EVENINGS and OPEN MORNINGS is essential

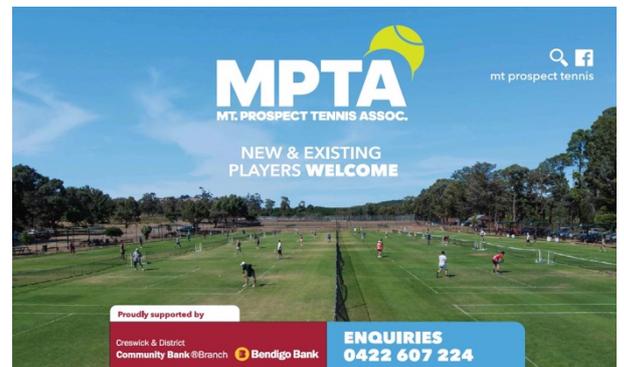


Be. My. Best.

damascus.vic.edu.au

MT PROSPECT TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Looking for a great summer outdoor sport for your child to get involved with, then tennis at Mt Prospect is for you. Played across both Term 4 and Term 1 at the same location in Creswick on natural grass courts, tennis provides your child a great chance to be physically active in a safe, multi-gendered sport. With coaching available, along with competitions, now is a great time to get your child into tennis. To find out more, please contact Kerry on 0400 947 477 or mkarma28@skymesh.com.au, or visit www.mtprospecttennis.com.au



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St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Student & Parent/Care Giver Remote Learning Responsibilities

As partners with parents in Catholic education and open to God's presence, St Thomas More Catholic Primary School pursues fullness of life for all its students and the school community. The school ensures the care, wellbeing and protection of its students in keeping with the Catholic tradition, which celebrates the sanctity and unique dignity of each person.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for people of all ages, with special concern for children and young people. Child safety policy and practices support a proactive role in the care, wellbeing and protection of children and the provision of child safe environments.

These guidelines have been developed to assist the students and parents/care givers to understand their responsibilities if remote learning is to be an effective tool to improve learning outcomes for the students of St Thomas More Catholic Primary School.

Why remote learning?

Remote learning is a beneficial tool for learning and provides opportunities to:

- Connect staff and students in your school to allow for collaboration.
- Reach students who cannot get to school due to pandemic, illness, hospitalisation or isolation.
- Allow class teachers to pre-record lessons without student involvement (if technology allows) for playback later.
- Allow students to review pre-recorded lessons (if technology allows) after the fact.
- Bring experts into the classroom.
- Connect with other schools to collaborate across schools.

Student Responsibilities

These could include:

- establishing and/or following a daily routine for learning
- identifying a safe, comfortable, quiet space in their home where they can focus effectively and successfully
- regularly monitoring the school's communication to check for announcements and feedback from teachers
- completing tasks with integrity and academic honesty, doing their best work
- doing their best to meet timelines, commitments, and due dates
- communicating proactively with their teachers if they cannot meet deadlines or require additional support
- collaborating and supporting their classmates in their learning
- seeking out and communicating with school staff as different needs arise

Specific Guidelines for using video conferencing (VC).

Before you get started with video conferencing (VC)

- Make sure that the room you are going to film in is clear of things that might embarrass you. Specifically, look at your walls and try to pick one that has a plain background that people will not take offence at or find humour in.
- Try before you go live! You can set up a Google Meet, Office365 or Zoom with no one in it except yourself. This way you can see what others see before you go live, and make alterations to make the image look better.
- Tell others in your house what you are doing. If your parents know and understand what it is you are trying to achieve, then they will help make sure that it all goes smoothly.
- Sit still and quietly for a moment and listen to the sounds around you ... if you can hear noises, then there is a high chance that people in your meeting will too. Before starting, see if you can find a quieter place or attempt to control what is happening in your surrounding environment.
- Consider using headphones so that you can hear clearly.
- Remember that you are going to be in an educational environment! Dress appropriately and act accordingly as the same rules at school apply in a virtual environment.

When in the video conference

- Make sure you are on time for your video conference.
- Start with your camera off and microphone muted and wait to be invited by the teacher.
- Understand that the rules used at school also apply in a virtual classroom, and poor or unacceptable behaviour will carry consequences.
- Students should comply with your school's *Online Access Computer Use Code of Conduct: Years F-6* and social media student guidelines.
- Get familiar with the tools ... use the "Chat" feature or "Raise your hand" to ask questions of your teacher. This way your teacher can answer you directly and communicate the response to the whole group.
- Participate in the learning activities.

After the video conference

- Make sure you use the Leave Meeting menu to exit the meeting when it is finished.
- Follow up the learning activities and complete all assigned tasks.

Parent/ Care Giver Responsibilities

As parents/care givers, you can provide support for your children by:

- establishing routines and expectations
- defining a space for your child to learn and where you or another adult is present and monitoring your child's learning
- monitoring communications from school and teachers
- taking an active role in helping your child process his/her learning
- encouraging physical activity and/or exercise
- checking in with your child regularly to help him/her manage stress
- monitoring how much time your child is spending online
- setting rules around your child's social media interactions
- communicating with the school if your child is unable to participate in the learning at home

How you can you assist your child to access Video Conferencing?

Before the lesson starts

- Ensure that your child is using a diary/schedule/ Continuation of Learning (COL) so that everyone is aware when conferences are to take place
- Your child should be dressed appropriately
- Ensure that your child has video and audio turned off unless invited by the teacher

- Talk with your child that the rules used at school also apply in a virtual classroom, and poor or unacceptable behaviour will carry consequences.
- Have a quiet space available to meet online using an internet enabled device.
- Ensure others in your house know your child will be in a video conference. Make family members and the student aware that they can be heard by the whole class if speaking too close to the microphone. Parents can help with controlling siblings and other family members while the VC is going on to help make sure that it all goes smoothly.
- Make sure that your child is in a room clear of things that might impinge on your family's privacy.
- Internet access and the strength of the signal can affect the communication in a video conference. Know your system, and if needed, dedicate time to your child's learning for the duration of the meeting.

What to look for while students are online in a structured lesson

- Make sure that they are on task and using the computer for the correct reasons.
- Your child should be engaged in the lesson. This would include active listening, asking questions and completing online exercises.
- Ensure your child is working with the computer in an ergonomic manner. For example, sitting in a chair, back straight, feet flat on the floor and screen adjusted to a comfortable height.
- Students should comply with their school's *Online Access Computer Use Code of Conduct: Years F-6* and social media student guidelines.

What if there are conditions that would impede my child from taking part in VC lessons?

Contact your child's teacher to discuss the possibility of alternative arrangements.

After the lesson ... what next?

Ensure that:

- Your child completes all set tasks
- All homework is completed and submitted for assessment and feedback
- Regular study routines are maintained and set online work is completed in readiness for the next conference.

Acknowledgments

Catholic Education Office Ballarat, the HIVE resources

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, Continuity of Learning, Online Resources