



NEWSLETTER

DATE: 4/05/2022
TERM: 2

Dear Families,

This weekend we give thanks for the wonderful gift of mothers, grandmothers, aunts and female carers through the celebration of Mother's Day. This is a great opportunity for each of us to thank God for the very special women who care for us and love us unconditionally. I am truly thankful for my own mother, who is a mother to three and grandmother to seven. I am extremely grateful for her many gifts, including her compassion for others, her ability to make people feel special and her ability to laugh. Her gifts continue to be a great source of strength and inspiration for me each day.



MOTHER'S DAY EVENTS

At school we have a number of Mother's Day events planned this week to celebrate the mothers and carers in our children's lives. On **Thursday 5th May**, the Parents and Friends Association is conducting a Mother's Day Stall for the students. All students will have the opportunity to purchase a gift for their mother/carer. All gifts are priced at \$5 each. Students are asked to bring along \$5 on the day to pay for their chosen gift. On Thursday afternoon, **5th May**, our Whole School Prayer will focus on Mother's Day. Parents are welcome to attend the Whole School Prayer. If you intend to attend, we ask that you are seated quietly and prayerfully in the Multipurpose room by 3pm. The following day, **Friday 6th May**, we will be hosting a Mother's Day Breakfast, to which all mothers and carers are most welcome to attend. There are two different time slots to choose from: **Sitting 1 | 7:15am - 8:00am** and **Sitting 2 | 8:00am - 8:45am**. Please book your free ticket (children are welcome too) by clicking [here](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/st-thomas-more-catholic-primary-school-mothers-day-breakfast-2022-tickets-327851471577) or via the Eventbrite link. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/st-thomas-more-catholic-primary-school-mothers-day-breakfast-2022-tickets-327851471577> (Please note- due to a high demand to attend the breakfast 100 more tickets have now been released).

REST IN PEACE MRS KATH RICHIE 10.02.1937 – 26.04.2022

Last week, our school community was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Kath Richie; our very much-loved and highly respected former staff member who contributed 39 years of dedicated service to our school community.



For many years, in her administration officer role at the school, Kath warmly welcomed people, often as their first point of contact with our school, through her very genuine cheerful manner, whether it was via the phone or face-to-face at the front desk.

Kath always maintained a very keen interest in past students and their achievements and proudly kept the school community informed of these successes. She took great delight in each and every one of their achievements.

Kath was always someone who put others first and always saw the best in people.

She consistently maintained her devotion and commitment to the school by attending all school events including sports days, family fun days, school masses, assemblies, the sacramental celebrations involving students and any events connected to our school and students.

Kath voluntarily gathered, recorded and archived the ongoing history of St Thomas More School. Kath created and published two editions of the 'History of St Thomas More School' which pictorially represented the school's history and changes over the years.

Kath lived her life with absolute authenticity through her humble and selfless manner and she was always a true ambassador of our school motto "With God first, we will live, learn and thrive". Kath frequently and honestly declared, "The school became, and is, one of the loves of my life."

Our community has been greatly enriched by Kath's presence and fond memories of her will live on in the many lives that she has touched over her numerous years of service. We extend our deepest and most sincere sympathy to her beloved husband Paul and her extended family.

May Kath, our dear colleague and friend, rest in eternal peace.

FORTHCOMING SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Please note, the school will be closed on **Friday 20th May** so that staff can attend a professional development day.

NAPLAN- YEARS 3 & 5 STUDENTS

This year, our school will be administering the National Assessment Program- Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN) assessments on Tuesday 10th May, Wednesday 11th May and Friday 13th May. All students in Years 3 & 5 are expected to participate in the NAPLAN assessments. Please ensure that your child has a set of headphones for the test as the assessments are conducted online and require students to listen to audio prompts. 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. NAPLAN information for parents and carers can be found by clicking [here](#) or going to <https://nap.edu.au/docs/default-source/default-document-library/naplan-information-brochure-for-parents-and-carers.pdf>



CYBER SAFETY PARENT SESSION

On **Monday 16th May** we will be hosting a parent and carers Cyber Safety information session in the multipurpose room from 7 – 8.30pm (Please note that no booking is required to attend). The session will be run by Leading Senior Constable Des Hudson OAM from Ballarat Police Youth Resources. Prior to the night he will be educating Year 3 – 6 students at school about Cyber safety. For further cyber safety advice for parents and carers click [here](#) or visit <https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/find-advice>



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION



Well done to our 30 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 respective age groups to progress to the next level of competition which will take place on May 20th.

Congratulations to (Back Row): Olivia McConchie, Eva Bayles, Ivy Rogan
(Front Row): Ollie Burt, Emily Pickles, Lucas Sheehan

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Last Friday two of our students competed in the primary school state swimming championships at the Melbourne Swimming and Aquatic Centre (MSAC) following their success at local and regional primary school swimming competitions. Congratulations to Will Richardson and Paddy Ashby on their fantastic efforts in making it to the finals where they impressively competed against like-aged swimmers at state level. Will's swimming talent lies in both butterfly and freestyle events while Paddy's speciality is backstroke. Congratulations to both boys on their success in each of the competitions that they competed in; you have represented the school extremely well and we are very proud of you both and your very impressive swimming abilities.

Will Richardson (Yr. 6) and Paddy Ashby (Yr. 3)

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.

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 presents 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 Chromebooks), but ban the use of smartphones and smartwatches during the school day. E.g. mobile phones, Apple watches, etc.



We continue to adopt the 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.

DOGS WITHIN SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

A reminder for parents that we have a 'Dogs Within School Grounds Policy' which supports the promotion of a safe school environment 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' is attached to the end of this newsletter for your information.



CLASSROOM HELPERS



The following are the volunteers who have recently completed the course to train as classroom helpers: Lalitha Shankar, Lauren Keays, Kayla Macura, Kate Berriman, Joanne Ryan and Matthew Mulcair.

We all thank these parents for giving up their precious time to participate in the course and now assisting in the junior classes.

Thank you also to our previously trained classroom helpers who have volunteered to help this year.

We still have some classes who do not have any classroom helpers. If you have completed the course in the past and have any time at all to assist your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please send an email and let me know: jcrafter@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au

All children in these classes benefit immensely from your assistance.

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.

With grateful thanks from the Foundation – Year 2 teachers and students.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



TERM 2 PROGRAM

CRAZY GAMES (90 MINUTES)

Mondays After-School 3:30pm - 5:00pm

(2nd May) to (20th June)

Preps to Year 4

\$154 for the 7-week program

Enrol online <https://www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat>

Any queries call or text Dom on 0417 967 621

Multi-Sports (60 MINUTES)

Wednesdays After-School 3:30pm - 4:30pm

(27th April) to (22nd June)

Preps to Year 4

\$148.50 for the 9-week program

Enrol online <https://www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat>

Any queries call or text Dom on 0417 967 621

Term 2 Calendar, 2022

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 May	2	3	4 5/6 Davis presenting Assembly 3pm	5 Mother's Day Stall 1/2 Munro Whole School Prayer 3pm	6 Mother's Day Breakfast 7:15-8:00am 8:00-8:45am
3 May	9	10 NAPLAN testing Year 3 and Year 5	11 NAPLAN testing Year 3 and Year 5	12 5/6 Larkin Whole School Prayer 3pm	13 NAPLAN testing Year 3 and Year 5
4 May	16 Cyber Safety Parent session 7 – 8.30pm	17	18 3/4 Hawkes/Beggs presenting Assembly 3pm	19 1/2 Turkenburg/ Wheelahan Whole School Prayer 3pm	20 School Closure Day Student-free Day ReLATE program PD for staff
5 May	23 Catholic Education Week School Advisory Council meeting 5pm	24	25	26 3/4 Bird Whole School Prayer 3pm	27 School Open Session for 'Special Persons' visits 11:30 – 1:00pm Foundation 2023 enrolments close
6 May/June	30	32	1 1/2 Woodhart presenting Assembly 3pm	2 5/6 Barker / Larkin Whole School Prayer 3pm	3
7 June	6	7	8	9 Foundation Keighrey Whole School Prayer 3pm	10 School Closure Day Student-free Day Report Writing Day
8 June	13 Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	14	15 5/6 Richardson presenting Assembly 3pm	16 1/2 Hoffmann Whole School Prayer 3pm	17
9 June	20	21	22 St Thomas More Feast Day 9:15am Mass	23	24 Last Day of Term 2 2.30pm Dismissal

NAPLAN – information for parents and carers



2022

Why do students do NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit in May each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students do.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools are transitioning from paper-based to computer-based assessments. Most schools will complete NAPLAN tests online in 2022. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for everyone. ACARA supports inclusive testing so all students can participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), or our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experience of using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

NAP NATIONAL
ASSESSMENT
PROGRAM

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,
ASSESSMENT AND
REPORTING AUTHORITY

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN.

You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN online test window is nine days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN online test window starts on Tuesday 10 May and finishes on Friday 20 May 2022. Tests must be scheduled as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Online NAPLAN test scheduling requirements are detailed in the table below.

How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3 students do the writing test on paper (on day 1 only)• Year 5 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only)• Years 7 and 9 writing must start on day 2 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 2 and 3 only)	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 42 min. Year 7: 42 min. Year 9: 42 min.	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure online schools are able to complete NAPLAN tests within the nine-day testing window, Year 7 and 9 students can start with reading on day 1; however, writing must start on day 2• To be completed before the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the reading test	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability



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