



NEWSLETTER

DATE: 20/07/2022
TERM: 3

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 3. This term is action packed with lots of fantastic learning opportunities for the students, ranging from the intensive swimming program, sport clinics, excursions, Father's Day activities, Book Week Parade, Parent/Teacher/Student learning conferences, assemblies, whole school prayers, feast of Mary MacKillop mass, a staff retreat, interschool athletics and Footy Colours Day - just to name a few! We look forward to celebrating these events together as a school community.

SWIMMING PROGRAM



Our intensive swimming program has begun this week; students participate in daily sessions for a full week. It is always fantastic to see the students grow in their skill ability, confidence and knowledge of water safety in such a short amount of time. We thank the swim teachers from the *Swim and Survival Academy* who teach our students these vital skills. Swimming session times for all classes are listed on the Term 3 calendar which can be found on page three of this newsletter.



SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

A reminder that we have a **school closure day** (Pupil Free Day) on **Monday 1st August** to enable staff to undertake Religious Education professional development and participate in a retreat.



BALLARAT DIOCESE 'CIRCUIT BREAKER' WEEKEND

The Ballarat Catholic Education Office has decided that a mid-term 'circuit breaker' long weekend will provide us all with the chance to rest and get well to help us get through the term with a lower number of absences of staff and students. Therefore, **Friday 12th August** and **Monday 15th August** will be student and staff free days. For more details please see the attached letter by Tom Sexton, the Executive Director of Catholic Education Ballarat (Please note, this letter was sent to all parents on Thursday 23rd June).

TRIVIA NIGHT

Our fabulous Parents and Friends Association have rescheduled the Trivia Night to **Friday 19th August**, commencing 7pm at St Patrick's Hall. Parents, and their adult family and friends, are most welcome to book a seat or a full table for what will be a terrific community event. Tickets are \$15 each and tables of 10 are \$150. BYO food and drinks to the event. To book tickets please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stm2022trivia-tickets-383358364187) or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stm2022trivia-tickets-383358364187>



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation is beginning soon at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish. This program is open to any baptised Catholics from Year 3 and upwards.



Parent Information Sessions

Tuesday 26th July @ 10am or 5:30pm at the St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish Hall.

Preparation dates

Week 1: 6th & 7th August

Week 2: 13th & 14th August

Week 3: 20th & 21st August

Week 4: 27th & 28th August

Celebration Dates

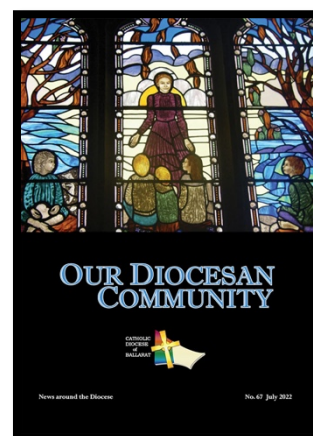
3rd & 4th September and 10th & 11th September

Please contact St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish Office if you have any questions.

Telephone: 5331 2933; Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm.

BALLARAT E NEWS - OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The latest edition of the Ballarat E News magazine, *Our Diocesan Community*, has two articles featuring St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. The first article is about the fantastic mosaic murals created by students which were unveiled at the recent St Thomas More Feast Day Mass and the second article relates to the junior classes recent visits to the Ballarat Art Gallery. Click [here](https://mailchi.mp/e95d37a9cc64/edition-93-october-8-13631066?e=9f8c43dd83) to read these interesting stories - <https://mailchi.mp/e95d37a9cc64/edition-93-october-8-13631066?e=9f8c43dd83>



FULLNESS OF LIFE FOR ALL

The *Fullness of Life for All* program, that covers Relationships and Sexuality Education, has commenced across all classes. It was fantastic to have families join us in person and online for the parent information sessions facilitated by Jim Waight from the Catholic Education Office. We hope this program will allow you to begin discussions at home about Relationships and Sexuality Education with your children.



NAPLAN TRIAL TEST

Our school has been selected by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to participate in this year's ACARA Item Trial, to be conducted using the Online National Assessment Platform.

The Item Trial is a component of the National Assessment Program, an agreed national education requirement. The aim of the Item Trial is to evaluate NAPLAN test items that are under consideration for inclusion in future tests. The trial will be conducted on Friday 22nd July and will involve a selection of Year 3 and Year 5 students. They will be completing the Reading Trial items and the Numeracy Trial items.

Individual student and school results are not reported or published. The purpose of the Item Trial is to test the functionality of the test items, not to test students. However, it is essential that all students selected to participate attempt the Item Trial tests seriously so that the data from the tests can ensure that the quality of future tests continues to meet the high standards required of the national assessment instruments.

FACE MASKS

As of today, it is strongly recommended by the Victorian Department of Health that face masks are worn by students (aged 8 or over) and staff in indoor settings, with face masks mandatory for those aged 8 and over who are household contacts and attending school. This is because wearing masks is effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19. Thank you for your support of this recommendation and your assistance in helping maintain a safe and health learning environment at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. For full details, please see the letter from the Victorian state government which is attached to the end of this newsletter.

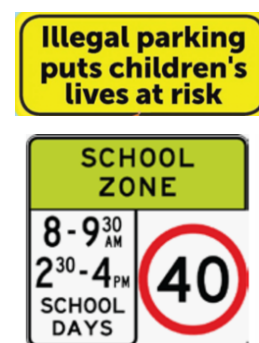


RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

The Victorian Government is providing further Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) in Term 3 and 4 to schools. These will be distributed to students regularly throughout the term and are to be used regularly to monitor student health and that of household contacts. Household contacts are required to test negative using a Rapid Antigen Test on at least 5 out of 7 days, if they are attending or working onsite at a school.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

As you would all be aware, traffic congestion around the school at the beginning and end of the school day presents many challenges. We are now working in partnership with the Ballarat police to ensure that drivers are following road rules around our school during these peak congestion times. Please remember to drive at the 40km per hour limit, do not block traffic flow by double parking, and pedestrians should use the designated crossing zones that are provided to safely cross the road. The police have notified us that they will be regularly observing driver behaviour before and after school and issuing fines to drivers who break the law. Let's all work together to ensure the safety of all children in our school community.



CONGRATULATIONS

On Thursday of last week, Ollie Burt from Year Six, represented St Thomas More Catholic Primary School at the State Cross Country Championships conducted at the Yarra Glen race course. Ollie had previously successfully competed in three different levels of competition (local, regional and zone) to qualify to compete at state level. He has put in immense amount of hard work to make it to this race and was rewarded with an amazing result on the day.



Amidst a very tough field of competitors and a heavy track Ollie ran his 3km in a blistering time of 11min 26sec, finishing in 12th position. This means that out of all primary school boys aged 12/13 across the state Ollie has finished in the top dozen for cross country.

Our school community is very proud of Ollie and his efforts and congratulate him on such a high level of success. Well done Ollie!



May God bless you all and keep you safe.

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 3 Calendar, 2022

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 July	18	19 Year 5/6 Excursion to Melbourne	20 Assembly presented by 3/4 Hoyle	21	22
	Swimming program 11:30-12:15pm: F Keighrey & 1/2 Turkenburg/Wheelahan 12:15 – 1:00pm: 1/2 Brightly/Blachon & F Cudia 1:00-1:45pm: F Gannon & 1/2 Munro				
3 July	25 Year 1/2 Excursion	26 Year 1/2 Excursion	27 Assembly presented by 5/6 Baker/ Larkin	28 Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Brady	29
	Swimming program 11:30-12:15pm: 3/4Hobbs & 5/6Baker/Larkin 12:15 – 1:00pm: 3/4Brady & 5/6Gittings 1:00-1:45pm: 3/4Hawkes/Jeffrey & 5/6Larkin				
4 Aug	1 School closure day - RE Professional development	2	3 Assembly presented by 1/2 Brightly /Blachon Celebration of 100 days of school for Foundation students	4	5
5 Aug	8 Feast of Mary MacKillop Mass 10-11am School Advisory Council meeting 5pm	9	10	11	12 Circuit Breaker - School closure day
6 Aug	15 Circuit Breaker - School closure day	16	17 Assembly presented by 1/2 Turkenburg/ Wheelahan	18	19 P and F Trivia night 7pm
7 Aug	22	23	24 Assembly presented by 5/6 Gittings	25	26
	Swimming program 11:30-12:15pm: 1/2Hoffmann & 1/2 Woodhart 12:15 – 1:00pm: 3/4Bird & 5/6Davis 1:00-1:45pm: 3/4Hoyle & 5/6Richardson				
8 Aug/Sept	29	30	31 Assembly presented by Foundation Cudia	1 Father's Day Stall Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Hawkes/Jeffrey	2 Father's Day Breakfast
9 Sept	5 Parent/ Teacher student learning conference 2.30 – 5pm	6 Parent/ Teacher student learning conference 2.30 – 5pm	7	8	9 Book Week Parade
10 Sept	12	13	14 Assembly presented by 5/6 Larkin	15 Whole School Prayer led by Foundation Gannon	16 Footy Colours Day Last day of Term 3 2.30pm finish

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NOTICES



TERM 3 PROGRAMS

Crazy Games (90 MINUTES)

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

11th July to 12th September.

Foundation to Year 6

\$207.90 for the remaining 9 weeks

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

Any queries call or text Paul on 0423335616

MULTI-SPORTS (60 MINUTES)

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

13th Jul to 14th September.)

AFL, Soccer, Badminton Basketball and Netball

Foundation to Year 6

\$176 for the 10-week program (STARTING TONIGHT)

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

Any queries call or text Paul on 0423 335 616

Ballarat Hospice Care needs you!

Learn about the unique volunteer experience at Ballarat Hospice Care.

It's a chance to have a local impact and directly help people in your community.

Volunteering can be a time of growth, new friendships, appreciation and understanding.

It starts by attending an information session.

Please join us!

Details

Venue:

Ballarat Hospice Care

Address:

1836 Sturt St, Alfredton VIC

Date/Time:

Thursday August 11 from 10-11am

Date/Time:

or Thursday August 18 from 6-7pm

Parking:

Front of Ballarat Hospice Care or on the street

Registration:

By the day prior to the event on [Eventbrite here](#) or search Ballarat

Hospice Care on the Eventbrite website.

Need more information?

P: 03 5333 1118

E: admin@ballarathospicecare.org.au



**BALLARAT
HOSPICE
CARE INC.**

Home Based Palliative Care

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School ~ Cnr Cuthberts Rd & Elaine Ave, Alfredton 3350.

P: 03 5334 2244 E: admin@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au I: www.stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au ABN: 77 131 997 830

Volunteer Information Session



For new volunteers

Learn about the unique volunteer experience at Ballarat Hospice Care.

Volunteering with us makes a local impact and directly helps people in our community.

Volunteering can be a time of growth, new friendships, appreciation and understanding. It starts by attending an information session.

Come along to find out about

- Ballarat Hospice Care – who we are and what we do
- Current volunteering opportunities
- Things to consider before volunteering

Details

Venue: Ballarat Hospice Care
Address: 1836 Sturt St, Alfredton VIC
Date/Time: Thursday August 11, 10-11am
Date/Time: **OR** Thursday August 18, 6-7pm
Parking: Front of Ballarat Hospice Care or on the street
Registration: By August 10, 2022 on [Eventbrite here](#) or go to the Eventbrite website and search for Ballarat Hospice Care



Need more information?

P: 03 5333 1118
E: admin@ballarathospicecare.org.au

Cancellation policy: Ballarat Hospice Care Inc. reserves the right to cancel or postpone this event if minimum numbers of participants are not achieved. Participants will be offered a place in the next available information session.



Thursday 23 June 2022

DIOCESE
OF
BALLARAT
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
LIMITED



CATHOLIC EDUCATION BALLARAT

Dear Parents and Families

As 2022 progresses, we continue to witness the great resilience of our families learning communities across the Diocese as you respond to the demands created by the pandemic. This year has brought a raft of new challenges for school communities as both COVID 19 and influenza move through schools. We recognise the demands that this places on both families and school staff.

The first six months of this year have, in many ways, been more difficult than the first two years of COVID. The not knowing who will be available to work and who will turn up to be taught on any given day has been, and will continue to be, very demanding on all. This is compounded by the shortage of teachers that many schools are facing.

As you will be aware, we continue to experience high levels of COVID in Victoria, with cases currently around 8000 per day. Influenza cases are also rising rapidly and are greater than pre-pandemic levels. Modelling indicates that schools will continue to face high levels of illness as winter progresses. School communities face the possibility of peak influenza and COVID infections occurring in late winter or early spring - with the August and September period being the historical time of greatest illness within the community (Doherty Institute and FluTracking).

As we move into the second half of the year, we are seeking to be proactive in the interests of students, families and staff by creating a planned opportunity to pause next term. We appreciate that there may be some concern about lost learning time with the inclusion of a brief pause in Term 3, but we know that healthy educational communities optimise learning by being deliberate about wellbeing and planning proactively.

Therefore, as there are no scheduled long weekends in Term 3, to enable school communities to have a short respite during next term, DOBCEL schools have been given the opportunity to have a 'circuit breaker' weekend. This means that your school will close on **Friday 12th August and Monday 15th August.**

The circuit breaker weekend is in addition to any other school-based measures that schools may take to manage staff and student absences throughout Term 3.

We are making this announcement early to allow families to make arrangements.


We are very hopeful that this circuit breaker will reduce staff and student absences in the long run and to ensure any further pandemic
Yours sincerely,

Tom Sexton

Executive Director

Catholic Education Ballarat

and influenza disruptions are reduced.



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

Dear parents and carers

We are writing to you as parents/carers of a child or children in government, Catholic and independent schools across Victoria.

The Victorian Department of Health strongly recommends that face masks are worn in indoor settings.

As a result, we are asking all students aged 8 and over and all staff in all schools across Victoria to wear masks when in class (except where removing a mask is necessary for clear communication) from now to the end of winter.

Students won't be required or expected to wear masks when outdoors, and this expectation won't stop student participation in the full range of school activities, including music, sport and performances.

We are asking for your support in explaining to your child or children the importance of this simple step that will help keep our schools as safe as possible.

We also ask that you make sure your child (or children) takes a mask to school (and wears it if they are travelling on public transport) or collects a mask when they arrive at school.

We all appreciate how important it is for students to be back at school. This action will help make sure as many students and staff as possible are protected from COVID and other winter illness.

Thank for your help with this collective effort to keep our communities safe and healthy.



Dr David Howes
Deputy Secretary

Victorian Department of
Education and Training



Michelle Green
Chief Executive

Independent Schools
Victoria



Jim Miles
Executive Director

Catholic Education
Commission of Victoria