



NEWSLETTER

DATE: 23/11/2022
TERM: 4

Dear Families,

In the upcoming Advent season, as a school community, we are encouraging students to think of others in our Ballarat community who are less fortunate than ourselves and in need of assistance. With this in mind, the Student Leadership Group has commenced a Christmas Food Appeal to donate items to the St Vincent de Paul Society. Each family is encouraged to bring along non-perishable food items and leave them at the school office. We will be accepting donations up until Friday 9th December, after which we will pass them on to St Vincent de Paul to distribute. Thanks for your support of this worthy appeal.



FAREWELLS

This year we farewell six staff members – Ms Pauline Doran, Mrs Jean Crafter, Mrs Suzanne Beaver, Mrs Nicole Brightly, Mr David Richardson and Mr Jeremy Beggs. **Pauline, Jean** and **Suzanne** are all heading into a well-deserved retirement after many decades of service in education. We wish them all the best in their retirement. **Nicole** will commence a teaching role at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School in Ballan. **David** and his family, are relocating to Queensland, where he will commence teaching at St Joseph's Primary School, Childers. **Jeremy** will be concluding music teaching as he undertakes other music endeavours in the new year. We wish our six departing staff all the best in their future endeavours. Our departing staff will all be farewelled at our Thanksgiving Mass at the end of the year.

WELCOMES

For 2023 we welcome four new teaching staff to our school community. We welcome Ms Susan Calleija, Mr Haydn Smith, Ms Ella Stacey, and Mrs Fiona Dodd. **Susan** joins us from Pleasant Street Primary School where she has been working for the past five years. **Haydn** joins us from St John the Apostle Catholic Primary School, Tarneit where he has been working for the past two years. **Ella** has recently graduated from Australian Catholic University and has been working as a casual relief teacher at a number of catholic schools in the Ballarat area. **Fiona** has recently graduated from Swinburn University and has been working at Canadian Lead Primary School for the second half of this year. I congratulate Susan, Haydn, Ella and Fiona on their appointments to our fantastic school.

CAROLS ON THE COURT



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School "Carols on the Court" is taking place on **Thursday 8th December**, starting at 5pm. Tickets are \$5 per adult and can be purchased in advance online at www.stmcps.eventbrite.com.au or with cash payment at the gate on the evening of the event. Further details relating to this event can be found on page five of this newsletter.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Parents and Friends are conducting our annual *Christmas Raffle*. Tickets can be brought online through <https://rafflelink.com.au/stmchristmas2022>. The raffle will be drawn on the night of the school Christmas Carols; Thursday 8th December.

FOUNDATION 2023 ORIENTATION

It was a delight to see the faces of our Foundation students for 2023 come through the doors at their first orientation session today. It brings us much joy to see their 63 smiling faces, bringing with them the hope of a wonderful year ahead. Thank you to our fantastic staff and Parents and Friends Association who have been welcoming our Foundation families in a variety of ways.

YEAR 5/6 MUSIC CONCERT

Tomorrow evening, **Thursday 24th November**, our Year 5/6 students will be performing a Music Concert in the school hall. We welcome all families to attend this fantastic event, commencing at 5pm.



FRIENDS IN NEED

We are looking to start a "Friends in Need" roster for 2023. From time to time, we hear of a member of our school community who may need a meal or two when facing a challenging time, such as an illness, birth of a new baby etc. As a school community we would like to be able to offer a meal or two to help out in a practical way. To be able to do this we are seeking names of people who could volunteer to prepare a meal and drop it in to school for us to pass on. Depending on how many people are able to assist, volunteers might find that they are only called on once or twice a year to help out. We are also looking for a coordinator to help us with the roster. If you are willing and able to assist, please contact the staff at the front office and we will begin to organise our "Friends in Need" roster for next year.



SCHOOL OVAL REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Following the recent rain delays, major works on the school oval is now able to be resumed. The major works undertaken so far include the removal of the poor-quality top soil and the installation of drainage. The next stage will involve the installation of new soil structure, installation of a watering system and laying of new turf on the oval surface. The works will continue throughout Term 4. It is anticipated that, all going to plan, the project should be completed and ready for use at the start of the 2023 school year. The successful redevelopment will allow for year-round playability of the oval.



THANKSGIVING MASS AND YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Our Thanksgiving Mass will be held on **Wednesday 14th December** at 5pm at the St Patrick Cathedral, to which all families are most welcome to attend. At this mass we will acknowledge our Year 6 graduating students and departing staff while sharing a final celebration as a school community for 2022. The Year 6 parents have organised a special Year 6 Graduation Dinner to be held at the Ballarat Golf Club, following the conclusion of mass. Further details about the dinner will be provided to Year 6 families from the Year 6 Parent Group who are organising this event.

FINAL DAY FOR STUDENTS 2022

This year the final school day for students will be **Friday 16th December**. We have planned a picnic at the Victoria Park playground for the students, staff and families. Permission forms and further details will be communicated closer to the event.

KARUTA TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the twelve St Thomas More students who recently competed with other Ballarat schools to win first place in the annual Karuta Tournament.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Jagger Walters-Powell | Emily Brown | Xavier Andanar |
| Archer Mackenzie | Lachlan Sanders | Evie Peters |
| Marcus Williamson | Gemma Every | Thomas Grinos |
| Helena Ollerenshaw | Xavier Dawson | Abby Jones |



Karuta かるた is a traditional Japanese card game to help children read hiragana (Japanese script). A reader calls out the hiragana sound and the players compete to find the card first.

OMEDETOU (CONGRATULATIONS) to the following students who put in a great deal of practise and effort to win first place: Xavier Andanar, Xavier Dawson, Archer Mackenzie and Marcus Williamson



Please see the Term 1 2023 calendar attached to this newsletter.

May God bless you and keep you safe,

Simon Duffy

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 4 Calendar, 2022

| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| 8 Nov | 21 | 22 | 23 Foundation 2023 Transition 9:15 – 11am | 24 Senior Music Concert 5pm All welcome | 25 |
| 9 Nov/ Dec | 28 | 29 Year 6 – 7 Transition days for St Pats, Loreto and Damascus Colleges | 30 Foundation 2023 Transition 9:15 – 1pm. Assembly presented by Yr. 1/2 Munro @3:05pm | 1 | 2 |
| 10 Dec | 5 Parent Helper Thank You Afternoon Tea @ 2.30pm | 6 | 7 Yr. 6 Adventure Park Trip Geelong | 8 Carols on the Court 5pm All welcome | 9 |
| 11 Dec | 12 | 13 | 14 Assembly presented by Yr. 3/4 Bird @ 3:05pm Thanksgiving Mass & Year 6 Graduation at St Patrick's Cathedral @ 5pm | 15 Assembly farewelling Yr. 6 students at 1pm Whole School Prayer Presented by Foundations – The Nativity story | 16 Final day for students Picnic at Victoria Park 10am – 2pm Student's last day |

Term 1 Calendar, 2023

| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1 Jan | 23 School holidays | 24 School holidays | 25 School holidays | 26 Australia Day Public Holiday | 27 Staff resume |
| 2 Jan/Feb | 30 Student resume school P and F Morning tea | 31 | 1 | 2 Foundation Parent Reading Information 9.00am-10.30am repeated 6-7 pm | 3 |
| 3 Feb | 6 Parent/Teacher meeting 2.30 – 5pm | 7 Parent/Teacher meeting 2.30 – 5pm | 8 | 9 School Start of School Year Mass @ 2.20 pm | 10 |
| 4 Feb | 13 Foundation Parent Information Night 5.30-7:00pm @ STMCPs | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Welcome picnic for families 5pm -7pm |
| 5 Feb | 20 School Advisory Council Meeting 5:00pm | 21 Shrove Tuesday | 22 Ash Wednesday | 23 | 24 Interschool swimming – Eureka Division |
| 6 March | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 School Closure Day - Staff Professional Development |
| 7 March | 6 School Photo Day | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 8 March | 13 Public Holiday Labour Day | 14 | 15 NAPLAN testing | 16 NAPLAN testing | 17 NAPLAN testing |
| 9 March | 20 NAPLAN testing Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 1) | 21 NAPLAN testing | 22 NAPLAN testing | 23 Whole School Athletics Day | 24 Interschool Swimming – Greater Western Region |
| 10 March/ April | 27 Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 2) | 28 | 29 Foundation 2024 Information session 9-11am | 30 Foundation 2024 Information session 5-6pm Cross country – Catholic Schools | 31 Foundation 2024 Information session 9-11am |
| 11 April | 3 Year 5/6 Camp | 4 Year 5/6 Camp | 5 Year 5/6 Camp | 6 Easter Raffle Draw- Stations of the Cross Liturgy-2:45pm | 7 Good Friday |

**All the information
you need to know
about STMCPs's night
of nights...**

ST. THOMAS MORE PRESENTS
CAROLS
On the Court
8TH DEC-5PM
ADULTS \$5 ENTRY - KIDS FREE



The Program:

- Gates open at 5pm. Entry is via the Elaine Ave gates.
- Santa will be at the event from 5pm - 5.45pm
- Christmas themed merchandise will be available to buy.
- BYO seats or picnic rugs.
- Food and drink will be available to buy or BYO picnic.

What is 'Carols on the Court'?

Every second year the school hosts a Christmas carol concert called Carols on the Green. Due to covid, the last concert was 2019. We are delighted to be able to run this event again!

The concert program includes each class singing a Christmas carol on stage, along with other local talent.

The event is a beautiful evening of festivity and joy within our school community and a wonderful chance to mingle with other families. Grandparents, family and friends are all invited to join you on the night.

Entry is \$5 per adult (kids are free) and tickets can be purchased via www.stmcps.eventbrite.com.au (or at the gate on the night).



Carols on the Green 2018

Food and Drink

There will be so many options for food and drink on the night. Some of the outlets to look out for are:

- Luigi Gelato
- Bean Me Up Icecream
- The Dumpling Man
- Masala Valley
- Rotary Club BBQ.

Or BYO your own picnic!

What to wear?

STMCPs students are encouraged to wear a Christmas themed top/tshirt (red, white or green - decorated or plain) and dark or denim bottoms.

We can't wait to see you!
The 2022 Carols on the
Court Committee



"Why are we sitting on a basketball court?"

Due to the refurbishment of the school oval, the concert needs to relocate to the basketball courts. Please make sure you bring comfortable seats/picnic rug to sit on. We attempted to relocate to Alfredton oval but neither ovals were available/suitable.

"When will my child be performing?"

The concert will run from 5.45pm - 7.15pm (approx). Each class will be given instructions to gather beside the stage prior to their act. A detailed program - and more information about the schedule - will be provided closer to the date. All you need to do is set up a picnic spot on the basketball courts and enjoy the night.



To our fabulous F-2 classroom helpers.....

As the end of the year approaches, the F-2 students and teachers would like to thank the wonderful parents from our school community who have assisted us this year. You have all been absolutely fantastic and we have really appreciated your time, energy and help.

We will be hosting an afternoon tea on Monday, 5th December, at 2:30pm in the multi-purpose room to thank you.

Next week, Week 9, will also be the last week that classes will need helpers. Thank you again to those fabulous volunteers who have assisted us with literacy sessions this year.

The Junior school staff and students

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

ST VINCENT de PAUL FLOOD APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal.

Contributions can be made by:

- Calling 13 18 12;
- Visiting <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appealsvic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>



You may also:

- make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase;
- via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.

KELLY SPORTS TERM 4 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE!!!

Mondays 3:30pm-5pm (5 weeks left: \$115.50)

Wednesdays 3:30pm-4:30pm (3 weeks left: \$53)

Boys & Girls, Foundation to Year 6

Both programs are run at STMCPs

Enrol: www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat

Queries: Please call Dom 0417 967 621

KELLY SPORTS DECEMBER & JANUARY HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

DECEMBER: Mon 12th to Fri 23rd

JANUARY: Tues 3rd to Fri 27th (potentially extending to Tues 31st Jan)

Eastwood Leisure Centre

8am - 5pm (weekdays)

Boys & Girls, Kinder to Year 6

Cost: \$55 per day (\$250 for a full week)

Fun-filled days featuring sports, games and activities to keep the kids engaged, entertained & active for the full day.

Enrol: www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat

Queries: Please call Dom 0417 967 621

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS

at

Bridge Mall

Saturday December 3

**Saturday December 10 – Friday
December 23, 2022**



MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS

is a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries.

You can - see and smell real frankincense and myrrh;

- see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; and
- see hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, & Europe (and one that went to Antarctica)
- Nativities that prize social justice and the environment

Entry is a gold coin donation. Every one welcome.

Our 10-year celebration event was postponed and now the new date is coming up on December 2nd. It will be a real community celebration and all of the rides and entertainment are free!. So long as the rain stays away!

Integra PRESENTS

Lucas 10 PARTY

DECEMBER 2 FROM 4-8PM AT THE LUCAS CENTRAL PARK

1 Licensed Area / Food Trucks
2 Food Trucks
3 Viewing Mound
4 Adventure Playground
 Toilets

PARKING OPTIONS
 • Perimeter of Central Park (on-street parking)
 • Lucas Community Hub (Eleanor Dr)
 • Merz St/Harris Dr Car Park
 • Siena PS & Lucas PS
 • Integra Car Park (Enter off Eleanor Dr)

GET THE EVENT MAP!




| | | |
|--|---|---|
| TUNE TOWN LIVE MUSIC & FOOD/BEVERAGES MOTOR CITY SOUNDS • BKFA DANCERS KITCHEN CHAMELEON • TIM'S TOASTIES • RED DUCK BREWERY KILDERKIN GIN • AND MORE | INTEGRA LAND FAMILY FUN! LIVE MUSIC • SMOOTHIE BIKE • CUBBY CENTRAL DR HUBBLE'S BUBBLES • FACE PAINTING • BIG RIGS | PARTY PLACE KIDS ACTIVITIES MINI GOLF • CHAIR-O-PLANE • PAT-A-PONY JUMPING CASTLE • BUNGEE TRAMPOLINE |
| ENVIRO HUB MAKE AND LEARN CRAFT ACTIVITY • SAUSAGE SIZZLE POT-A-PLANT • AND MORE | HERO HEADQUARTERS MEET YOUR HEROES AMBULANCE VID • VICTORIA POLICE • CFA/FRV • SES 8 TH /7 TH BATTALION ARMY OBSTACLE COURSE • MINI TRAIN RIDES | SPORT ZONE PLAY TIME WESTERN BULLDOGS • BALLARAT MINERS • OYD FITNESS THE Y GAMES TRAILER • AND MORE |
| MOVIE WORLD CATCH A FLICK MOVIES ON THE BIG SCREEN • POPCORN • OUTDOOR GAMES | PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY  | |

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