



NEWSLETTER

DATE: 7/12/2022
TERM: 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

I feel an incredible sense of gratitude and appreciation as I reflect on my third year as principal at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. The school community has, once again, done a fantastic job in working together this year. For me, the celebrations and highlights have been so many and equally varied and I am so grateful that I have been given this opportunity to lead this wonderful school community.

I acknowledge and thank the fabulous St Thomas More staff who continually strive to partner with families to provide individual care, along with stimulating and challenging learning opportunities for our students. I'm been truly blessed to be working alongside such enthusiastic, passionate and professional colleagues. I wish our departing staff; *Ms Pauline Doran, Mrs Jean Crafter, Mrs Suzanne Beaver, Mrs Nicole Brightly, Mr David Richardson and Mr Jeremy Beggs*, all the best in their future endeavours and I hope they may look back on their time at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School with many fond memories. I warmly welcome our new staff for 2023; *Mr Haydn Smith, Ms Ella Stacey, Ms Susan Calleija, Mrs Fiona Dodd and Ms Hayley Robertson*.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Fr. Ed Moloney and our School Advisory Council members who have demonstrated commitment to the pursuit of excellence at St Thomas More and have worked in partnership to continue to build a strong, faith filled, Catholic community. The support, advocacy and wisdom of our School Advisory Council members has been a real asset to our school and has made my job as Principal a pleasure.

I take this opportunity to thank our Year Six students for their many contributions to our school community throughout their primary school journey. I wish them all the best for future success as they move on to their respective secondary schools and hope that their memories of their time spent at St Thomas More will remain special, vivid and cherished for many years to come.

I have been truly grateful for the dedication and commitment of the parents at St Thomas More this year. The positive partnerships between families and the school have had a major impact on your child's learning and success.

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am of all of our students and all that they have achieved this year. It has been a privilege to be entrusted with their care and education and I genuinely delight in watching each one of them grow, not only academically, but also in faith, love and resilience.



CAROLS ON THE COURT

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School "Carols on the Court" is taking place tomorrow night, Thursday 8th December. Gates open at 5pm. Tickets are \$5 per adult and can be purchased in advance online at <http://stmcpes.eventbrite.com> or with cash payment at the gate on the evening of the event. Santa will be present between 5 – 5.45pm. The concert will begin at 5.45pm. Further details relating to this event can be found on page six of this newsletter.



PARENTS AND FRIENDS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

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



DONATIONS

The school has been overwhelmed with the generosity shown by families for the Christmas Food Appeal for St Vincent de Paul this year. Donations are still being accepted up until Monday 12th December.



SPECIALIST SUBJECTS FOR 2023

In 2023 students will have **five** specialist classes each week. The students will have lessons in Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Japanese, Sport and STEM. The new Performing Arts lessons will encompass music, dance, drama and theatre studies. The new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) lessons will encompass robotics, coding, programming and engineering. Sport, Japanese and Visual Art will continue as they have previously been offered. We look forward to our students being able to experience a wider array of the school curriculum through specialist lessons.



'GOING UP SESSION' FOR 2023 AND SCHOOL REPORTS

Students will have a "Going Up" session on Monday 12th December where they will meet their 2023 teacher and classmates. Your child's Semester Two school report will also be available through the Parent Access Module (PAM) on this day.

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.

Following the conclusion of Mass, the Year 6 students and their parents are invited to share in a celebration at the Ballarat Golf Club commencing at 6:30pm. In regards to details relating to this event, Year 6 students and parents are encouraged to refer to invitation that was sent out last term. If you have any questions please email Sarsha at sarsha79@hotmail.com.

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 Inclusive Playground (located on the corner of Sturt St and Russell St) for the students, staff and families. We request that you promptly complete the permission form/s, via PAM, to grant permission for your child/ren to participate in this whole school event.

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.



2023 FEE PAYMENT AGREEMENTS

A reminder please that families should have returned their 2023 Fee Payment Agreement. If you are yet to do so, we ask that you please return the form ASAP. If you have any questions or queries please contact the office.

SCHOOL UNIFORM IN 2023

As you are aware we will be undertaking a change to our current uniform commencing at the start of the 2023 school year. The phasing out of the current uniform and the phasing in of the new uniform will occur over 2023 and 2024. All current uniforms can be worn until the end of the 2024 school year. The new uniform will be stocked exclusively by Crocker's in Ballarat (4 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat).



To assist with the environmentally friendly recycling of the outgoing school uniform the school has partnered with **Upparel**, who are a leading Australian textile recovery and recycling company. The company will collect the uniforms and recycle them. Families are now able to bring any outgoing school uniform items that they would like to be recycled to the front office to be added to the collect tubs. This will continue throughout 2023 and 2024.

 UPPAREL

As this is the final newsletter for 2022, may God bless you all and keep you safe this Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Staffing 2023

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal:	Mr Simon Duffy
Deputy Principal:	Mrs Trish Caldow
Religious Education Leader:	Mrs Dympna Turner
Wellbeing Coordinator:	Mrs Kelly McMahon
Teaching & Learning Leader:	Mrs Jo Wheelahan

ADMIN STAFF:

Mrs Fran Dunn, Mrs Renee Whitefield, Mrs Donna Simpson,
Mrs Olivia Burge

CLASSROOM TEACHERS

FOUNDATION:	Ms Tayla Hobbs, Mrs Nicole Cudia, Ms Brooke Keighrey
YEAR 1/2:	Mrs Natasha Munro, Mr Mark Woodhart, Ms Ella Stacey Mr Haydn Smith, Mrs Melinda Turkenburg/Mrs Tania Hoffmann,
YEAR 3/4:	Mrs Sarah Gannon, Ms Brigid Brady, Ms Sarah Calleija, Ms Bethany Edwards, Mrs Genevieve Hawkes/ Mrs Ally Jeffrey
YEAR 5/6:	Mrs Michelle Gittings, Ms Susan Calleija, Mrs Fiona Dodd, Mrs Kath Davis, Mrs Lisa Baker/Mrs Lauren Larkin

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Physical Education:	Mrs Melissa Willey
STEM	Ms Jenny Bird
Performing Arts:	Ms Sue Larkin
Visual Arts:	Ms Hayley Robertson
Languages (Japanese):	Mrs Denise Buttler

LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS:

	Mrs Amanda Barham, Mrs Imma Edwards, Mrs Rebecca Findlay, Mr Craig Buesnel, Mrs Donna Heys, Mrs Olivia Burge, Mrs Angela Pearson, Ms Paula Miles, Ms Tanya Evans, Mrs Ange Speechley, Ms Penny Sheppard, Ms Georgia Pidgeon, Ms Elle Hammill, Mr Shaun Hon, Ms Talee Hare, Mr Ryan Gibbs.
Learning Diversity leaders:	Mrs Dympna Turner and Mrs Kelly McMahon
Pastoral Care worker:	To be advised
Library Management:	Ms Tanya Evans
Maintenance/ Gardens:	Mr Phil Dunn

Term 4 Calendar, 2022

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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 at 2:30pm – 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...**



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.