



NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

During this Lenten season St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School is participating in Project Compassion. This is Caritas Australia's annual fundraising and awareness raising appeal, bringing thousands of Australians in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. It runs throughout the six weeks of Lent each year. Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace. The theme of Project Compassion 2023 is 'For All Future Generations'.



To assist with our school fundraising effort for **Project Compassion** we are hosting three events on three consecutive Friday's during Lent. On **Friday 17th March** the students are encouraged to wear "Crazy Socks and a Crazy Hat". On **Friday 24th March** the students will have a casual clothes day. On **Friday 31st March** the students will participate in K's for Caritas. On each of these days the students are encouraged to participate and bring along a gold coin donation which will be passed on to Caritas Australia.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We are very fortunate and proud to have lots of aspiring leaders in our Year Six cohort this year. We have elected ten Year Six leaders who will be involved with many aspects of leadership in school life this year. We congratulate: Emily, Will, Stella, Harry, Lilley, Marcus, Charlie, Campbell, Edie and Lenny and wish them all the best.



SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY (STUDENT FREE DAY)

Reminder: This coming **Friday, 3rd March**, is a student-free day to allow staff to participate in a day of professional development.

WORKING BEE

A big thank for the wonderful effort from the school community at our school working bee last Friday. This was the first working-bee held at the school since the start of 2020. Many hands certainly did make light work of the tasks that required attention. Working bees will be held each term throughout the year.



**THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR
WORKING-
BEE
VOLUNTEERS
WHO HELPED
LAST FRIDAY**



PARENTS & FRIENDS COORDINATORS

I am pleased to announce that the coordinators for our Parents and Friends for 2023 are Amy Donald, Sania Javed, Joanna Ryan and Jess Sewell. I thank Amy, Sania, Joanna and Jess for volunteering to take on this important role. The coordinators will soon be contacting all parents who have volunteered to assist with activities/roles this year.



Absent: Aiden Alfin

EUREKA PRIMARY SWIMMING DIVISION RESULTS

Congratulations to the 16 students who participated in this swimming event, and special congratulations to the students who have qualified to compete in the Greater Western Region competition in Horsham on 14th March. *Qualifiers are:* Paddy Ashby, Olivia McConchie and Sienna Seater, as well as the Open Girls Medley and 11yo Girls Freestyle relay teams. Also, many thanks to Kelly Kosloff for helping organise and coach our swimmers on the day.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our annual school photos are scheduled for next **Monday, 6th March**. On this day all students are required to wear their full summer academic uniform (no sports uniforms please). Hair below the collar is to be tied back. Please be mindful that large hair adornments are not part of our uniform policy and will need to be removed prior to photos being taken. No child should be wearing jewellery, other than sleepers or studs in ears, at any time.



EASTER RAFFLE

Our first Parents and Friends fundraiser for the year is our Easter Raffle. All proceeds from the raffle are going towards purchasing plants for our school garden. We are currently seeking raffle donations in the form of chocolate eggs, bunnies, Easter stickers/stationery/craft/baskets and soft toys. Please drop these donations to the front office. Online tickets will be available for purchase in the coming fortnight.



NAPLAN 2023

Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will be involved in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) this term. The tests are completed online (except for Year 3 Writing which is completed on paper), which allows them to be adaptive and give a more accurate measure of student progress. The dates and tests are as follows:

Wednesday 15th March - Writing

Thursday 16th March - Reading

Friday 17th March – Catch-Up

Monday 20th March – Conventions of Language, followed by Numeracy after break.

Friday 24th March – Catch-Up

We have included opportunities for students to catch-up on tests that are missed due to absence.

The online assessments will be completed on the student's Chromebook and all students require a set of **headphones**.

Students who have adjustments to their usual assessments, that fit under the NAPLAN guidelines, will have these same adjustments available when completing the assessments. We encourage all students to view NAPLAN tests as an opportunity to show what they know and not to allow this testing to cause any stress or concern. Further information about NAPLAN can be found on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.

FOUNDATION (PREP) 2024

All Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools have begun the 2024 Foundation (Prep) enrolment process. Please see details attached below regarding this process. Please note that **current families** will need to also complete the enrolment process, even if they have siblings currently attending at the school.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND CAMP, SPORT AND EXCURSION FUND (CSEF) REBATES

For those families who are current holders of Health Care Cards there are two rebates available to assist families with school fees. The Family Fee Assistance Scheme is offered by the Diocese of Ballarat and the Camps, Sports and Excursion Funds (CSEF) rebate is offered by the State Government. Families who are eligible are asked to complete the attached forms, accompanied by a copy of their current Health Care Card, and return them to the school office before the end of Term 1. The application forms are available from the office, and are attached to the end of today's newsletter for your convenience.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Simon Duffy'.

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 1 Calendar, 2023

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 March	27	28	1 Assembly presented by Student Leadership Group	2 Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Edwards at 3:05pm	3 School Closure Day - Staff Professional Development
7 March	6 School Photo Day	7	8	9 Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Brady at 3:05pm	10
8 March	13 Public Holiday Labour Day	14	15 NAPLAN - WRITING Assembly presented by 5/6 Gittings at 3:05pm	16 NAPLAN t- READING Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Baker/Larkin at 3:05pm	17 NAPLAN- CATCH-UP
9 March	20 *NAPLAN – CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE & NUMERACY *Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 1)	21	22 Assembly presenting work from Specialist classes at 3:05pm	23 Whole School Athletics Day held at Llanberris Reserve	24 NAPLAN – CATCH-UP 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 Assembly presented by 3/4 Gannon at 3:05pm	30 Foundation 2024 Information session 5-6pm Cross Country Whole School Prayer led by 1/2Turkenburg/Hoffmann at 3:05pm	31 Foundation 2024 Information session 9-11am
11 April	3 Year 5/6 Camp	4 Year 5/6 Camp	5 Year 5/6 Camp Easter Raffle Draw @ 3pm	6 Holy Week Liturgy-9:15am led By Yr. 3/4 classes	7 Good Friday

School Closure Days in 2023 (Student-free days)

Date	Purpose
Friday 3 rd March	Essential Assessment Professional Development
Monday 24 th April	Staff First Aid training/ Compliance training
Wednesday 17 th May	ReLATE Professional Development training
Friday 9 th June	Curriculum planning and reporting
Wednesday 2 nd August	Religious Education Professional Development
Friday 17 th November	Curriculum planning and reporting

KELLY SPORTS EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Tue 11th April - Fri 21st April 2023

Eastwood Leisure Centre, Ballarat

8am to 5pm weekdays

Foundation to Year 6

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

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

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

Queries: Please call Dom 0417 967 621

KELLY SPORTS TERM 1 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Spots still open in our after-school programs at St Thomas More PS!

Mondays 3.30pm-5pm - Crazy Games / Kids Choice

Wednesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm - Multi-Sports: Basketball, Soccer, Cricket, Tennis & Kids Choice

Foundation to Year 6

Cost: \$22 + GST per session (90 mins) & \$16 + GST (60 mins)

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

Queries: Please call Dom 0417 967 621

*NOTE: We will be running again in Term 2, same days & times (just different Sports!)

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

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NAPLAN

Information for parents and carers

2023

Why do students do NAPLAN?

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

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' educational 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 have transitioned from paper-based to computer-based assessments. 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. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute 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 have the opportunity to 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 experiences in 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.

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 if my school is closed on NAPLAN days?

Schools with compelling reasons may be given permission to schedule tests after the 9-day test window.

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. 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.

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

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 test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 15 March and finishes on Monday 27 March 2023. Schools are advised to schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. This scale indicates whether the student is meeting expectations for the 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 the effectiveness of 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)• Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations)	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 be completed after the writing test• 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



Enrolment Information for Prospective 2024 Foundation (Prep) Students at Catholic Primary Schools in the City of Ballarat

A single enrolment application process is in place for all families seeking Foundation (Prep) enrolment for the 2024 school year at a Catholic primary school within the City of Ballarat (see school list overleaf), including families with children already in one of the eleven schools. Note that information collected through the enrolment process is collated on a common database shared by the eleven schools.

Families seeking enrolment should follow the steps below to apply by **Thursday 25 May 2023**.

Application Process

1. Contact/visit the website of the school/s you are interested in enrolling your child at – see school list overleaf.
2. Engage with the school's process for conducting information sessions or school tours
3. Complete the online Expression of Interest for Enrolment form by Thursday 25 May 2023 by visiting the [DOBCEL website](#) (click link or scan the QR code)

Important:

- You will be asked to indicate your first, second and third preference schools.
- You will be required to upload your child's Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate (if applicable).
- If you are unable to access the online form, contact Sarah Johnson at sjohnson@dobcel.catholic.edu.au for assistance.

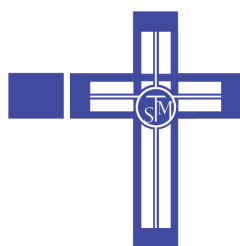


Key 2023 Dates

Foundation (Prep) enrolment applications open	Wednesday 8 February
Expression of interest forms close	Thursday 25 May
First round placement offers sent	Friday 2 June at 12.00pm
First round acceptance close	Friday 9 June at 4.00pm
School principals meet to determine allocation of placements	Wednesday 14 June
Second round placement offers sent	Friday 16 June at 12.00pm
List of schools with vacancies published	Friday 16 June at 12.00pm
Second round acceptance close	Friday 23 June at 4.00pm

Important:

- Each Catholic Primary School will make offers of enrolment in line with the [Diocese of Ballarat Enrolment Policy](#) which takes into consideration a variety of factors.
- Completing this expression of interest process does not guarantee an offer of enrolment in a City of Ballarat Catholic primary school.



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

With God First, We will Live, Learn & Thrive

FAMILY FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Family Name: _____ Phone: _____

Student Names: _____ Year: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I am eligible and have claimed the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund. I wish to apply for the Family Fee Assistance Scheme fee concession and make the commitment to pay \$520 for tuition fees. I am aware that \$420 Class Fee per student, Capital Levy \$450 per family, any Camp Fees and Chromebook/ICT Device Levy Fees are not part of the Family Fee Assistance Scheme.

Please provide a copy of your valid Health Care Card.

I would like to pay our fees on the following basis: (please tick appropriate box)

Direct Debit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount	\$ _____
Fortnightly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount	\$ _____
Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount	\$ _____
Termly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount	\$ _____
Annually	<input type="checkbox"/>	please specify month	_____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/carer details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

☐ Foster parent under a temporary care order* **OR** ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card

Is this an application for special consideration (no CRN needed)? Yes ☐ No ☐

Student details

Student's surname	Student's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DFFH will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the DFFH and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____ Date ____/____/____

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Lunch Menu available Thursdays and Friday

Hot Food	Price
Meat Pie	\$5.00
GF Meat Pie (GF)	\$5.95
Sausage Roll	\$3.95
Vegetarian Roll (V)	\$4.70
Meat Pastie	\$5.10
Vegie Pastie (V)	\$5.10
Party Pie	\$1.40
Party Sausage Roll	\$1.40
Mini Quiche (Meat or Veg)	\$1.40
Tomato Sauce	\$0.35
Lunches Off the Grill	Price
Chicken Snitzel Burger, Lettuce, cheese, mayo	\$6.30
BBQ Beef, cheese and bacon Roll	\$6.10
Chicken Parma Roll	\$6.00
Sweet Chilli Chicken Wrap with Lettuce and Cheese	\$6.50
Cheeseburger	\$6.10
Fish Cake in a roll with sweet chilli mayo	\$5.30
Vegetarian burger with salad	\$5.60
Other Hot Options	
Pizza - Hawaiian	\$3.50
Pizza - Cheese	\$3.50
GLUTEN FREE Pizza	\$4.20
Toasted Focaccia (Ham, cheese, tomato / BBQ chicken and cheese)	\$5.20
Toasties (Cheese/Ham & Cheese/Ham, cheese & Tomato/Chicken Avo)	\$3.80
Choose a Wrap, Sandwich or Roll	Price
Vegemite Sandwich	\$2.70
Vegemite & Cheese Sandwich	\$3.40
Strawberry Jam Sandwich	\$2.70
Honey Sandwich	\$2.80
Salad (V)	\$4.95
Egg and Lettuce	\$4.20
Chicken and Avocado	\$4.50
Ham and Salad	\$4.80
Chicken and Salad	\$5.30
Chicken Caesar Wrap	\$5.45
Chicken and Salad Roll	\$5.90
Note Rolls or Wraps Extra	\$1.00
Gluten Free Bread Extra	\$1.20
Buttered Cheese & Bacon Roll	\$3.10
Californian Sushi (small size) (GF)	\$3.25
Chicken Sushi (small size)	\$3.25
Fruit	Price
Fruit by the piece, Apple, Banana, Orange (V) (GF)	\$1.20
Fruit Salad (V) (GF)	\$3.00
Cheese and Biscuit Packs, with dried fruit (V)	\$2.90