



NEWSLETTER

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, sporting clinics, excursions, Father's Day activities, Book Week Parade, Parent/Teacher/Student Learning Conferences, assemblies, whole school prayer, Mary MacKillop mass, a staff retreat, interschool athletics and Footy Colours Day - just to name a few! We look forward, as a school community, to celebrating these events together.

FULLNESS OF LIFE FOR ALL

The *Fullness of Life for All* program, that covers Relationships and Sexuality Education has commenced. It was fantastic to have families join us at the end of Term 2 for the parent information sessions facilitated by Jim Waight, from the Catholic Education Office. We hope this program will allow you to begin discussions about Relationships and Sexuality Education with your children at home.

PYJAMA DAY

On **Friday 28th July** we are having a Pyjama Day here at school for students and staff. Students are invited to wear their pyjamas on the day as well as bring along a gold coin donation. The funds raised will go towards purchasing resources and activities to be used at school during quiet play sessions. Please note that the previously planned 'Glitz and Glamour' themed celebration of 100 days of School for the Foundation students has now been rescheduled for **Friday 4th August**.



NATIONAL CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA (NCCD)

At St Thomas More (and all schools across Australia) we are currently completing the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) about students with a disability. The data counts the number of students at St Thomas More who receive additional adjustments or "help" at school due of their individual learning needs. The NCCD helps the government plan for the needs of students with disabilities. More information about NCCD can be found at the end of this newsletter.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN

We would like to remind parents that if your child has a problem at school, it is really important that you communicate your concerns, in the first place, with your child's teacher as soon as possible. Dealing with the problem promptly and in a positive way makes a huge difference to your child's resilience, self-esteem and future relationships with teachers and peers. Please be assured that the staff at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School will always deal with your concerns confidentially and sensitively to ensure problems are resolved efficiently.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY



A reminder that we have a **school closure day** (Pupil Free Day) on **Wednesday 2nd August** to allow staff to undertake professional development in the area of Religious Education.

TRIVIA NIGHT – Save the date

Our fabulous Parents and Friends Association are hosting a Trivia Night on **Friday 25th August**, commencing 7pm in the St Thomas More Multipurpose Room. Parents and their friends are most welcome to book a seat or a 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. Tickets go on sale next week.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This term the St Patrick's Cathedral Parish will offer students the opportunity to work towards receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. In order to be eligible to participate, candidates must be Baptised Catholic and in Year 3 or above.

There will be parent meetings on **Tuesday 1st August at 10:00am and 6:00pm**, and on **Wednesday August 2nd at 6:00pm**. It is important that you attend one of the parent meetings, where you will be asked to enrol your child, pay for the program and receive important information and dates. Please bring along your child's Baptismal tri-fold (if they were baptised at St Patrick's Cathedral) or their Baptismal certificate to this meeting. Please note that the tri-folds will not be returned to you until after your child has also completed the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist, which will be celebrated in Terms 1 and 2 respectively of next year.



There will be dismissal sessions run at school and preparation Masses, held at the Cathedral, over the following dates:

Commitment Sunday (Presentation before the Parish)

Saturday 5th August 5:30pm and Sunday 6th August 10:30am and 5:00pm

Prayer Sunday (Rosary beads and Prayer Cards)

Saturday 12th August 5:30pm and Sunday 13th August 10:30am and 5:00pm

Celebration details are as follows:

(Candidates are to select and book in a particular Mass, with maximum of 26 candidates per session. Mass times are listed below. Hopefully you can make these bookings when attending the parent meeting.)

- **School-supported Masses:**

August 19th/20th **St Thomas More** Saturday 5:30pm,
St Patrick's Sunday 10:30am and Siena Sunday 5:00pm.

- **Parish led Masses:**

August 26th/27th **St Thomas More** Saturday 5:30pm,
Parish led Sunday 10:30am and Parish led Sunday 5:00pm.

Any enquiries about the program need to be directed to Mr Tony Beggs at the Parish Office. He can be contacted either on 53312933 or at ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Parish Office hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10:00am - 5:00pm.

May God Bless you and keep you safe.

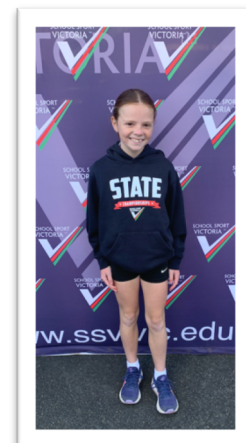
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simon Duffy".

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

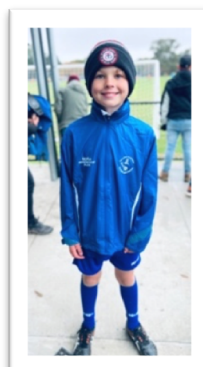
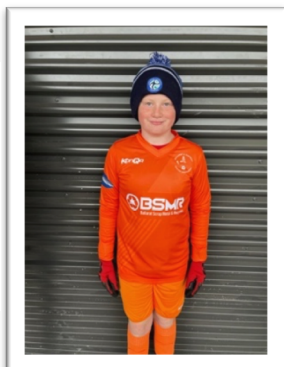
SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

We have had a number of our students excelling in sport endeavors over recent weeks.

Olivia McConchie, from Year 4, finished 9th at the State Cross Country Championships held in Melbourne last Thursday. Olivia completed the 2km event in a blitzing 9min 28sec and has been selected as the 3rd emergency for the VIC Team at the National Championships to be held in Canberra later this year. Congratulations Olivia on your outstanding achievement; your family and school community are extremely proud of you.



Lachie Sanders, Year 6, was selected to represent Ballarat in the under 12s Country Championships soccer tournament.



Henry McLeod, Year 5, was also selected for the under 11s Country Championships soccer tournament.



The Tigers Foundation Futsal team were undefeated at the Futsal Gala Tournament held at Ballarat High School.



The Year 1 STM Stars Futsal team claimed Grand Final victory at the Futsal Gala Tournament held at Ballarat High School at the end of Term 2.

Term 3 Calendar, 2023

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 July	24	25	26	27 Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Dodd @ 3:05pm	28 Pyjama Day – gold coin donation
4 Aug	31	1	2 School closure day - Staff Professional Development: Religious Education	3 Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Brady/Hoyle @ 3:05pm	4 Yr. 5/6 Interschool sport day STM v's St Columba 100 Days of School celebration for Foundation
5 Aug	7 School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting 5pm	8 Mary MacKillop Feast Day Mass @ 2.20pm	9 Assembly presented by 1/2 Munro @ 3:05pm	10	11
Swimming Program Classes involved: 1/2Turkenburg/Hoffmann & 1/2Woodhart, 3/4Edwards & 5/6Davis, 3/4Calleija & 5/6 Gittings					
6 Aug	14	15	16 Assembly presented by Foundation Cudia @ 3:05pm	17 Whole School Prayer led by 1/2 Stacey @ 3:05pm	18
Swimming Program Classes involved: 3/4Gannon & 5/6Baker/Larkin, 3/4 Brady/Hoyle & 5/6Calleija, 3/4Hawkes/Jeffrey & 5/6Dodd					
7 Aug	21	22	23 Yr. 5/6 Interschool Basketball	24 Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Gittings @ 3:05pm	25 Interschool Athletics Catholic Schools Trivia Night at STMCPs
Swimming Program Classes involved: F. Keighrey & 1/2Smith, 1/2Stacey & F. Cudia, F. Hobbs & 1/2Munro					
8 Aug/Sept	28 Yr. 5 visit to Loreto and St Pats Parent/ Teacher student learning conferences 2.45 – 6.30pm	29 Parent/ Teacher student learning conferences 2.45 – 6.30pm	30 Foundation incursion – Fire Rescue Assembly presented by 3/4 Hawkes/Jeffrey @ 3:05pm	31 Father's Day Stall Whole School Prayer led by 1/2 Woodhart @ 3:05pm	1 Father's Day Breakfast
9 Sept	4	5 Interschool Athletics Eureka Division	6	7	8 Book Week Parade
10 Sept	11	12	13 Assembly presented by 3/4 Edwards @ 3:05pm	14 Whole School Prayer	15 Footy Colours Day End of Term 3 2.30pm dismissal

QUERIES: CALL DOM 0417 967 621

KELLY SPORTS **WILD WINTER SPORTS!**

BACK AT ST THOMAS MORE PS FOR TERM 3!

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMS
 MONDAYS: GYMNASTICS & CIRCUS 3:30PM-5PM
 WEDNESDAYS: MULTI-SPORTS 3:30PM-4:30PM
 (AFL, SOCCER, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL & BADMINTON)

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

WE RUN OUR SESSIONS AT STM PS
 PARENTS PICK-UP AT 5PM MONDAYS
 4:30PM WEDNESDAYS
 \$17 & \$23 + GST PER SESSION

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT
KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU
WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GREATER-BALLARAT

KELLY SPORTS **new balance**

KELLY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP OFFER
 POWERED BY SCHOOL LOCKER

40% OFF*

Get 40% off selected
 New Balance products,
 just for booking with
 Kelly Sports for
 Term 3, 2023.

*Conditions Apply

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT
KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU

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

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

What sort of help does the school give students?

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

How will the NCCD be different this year?

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

Where can I find out more?

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).