



## NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

Today the staff are all undertaking professional development in Religious Education. They are learning about **Catholic Earthcare**, which is a program of *Caritas Australia* that responds to the 'cry of the earth' to safeguard creation and provide a voice for victims of environmental injustice. The staff are also learning about **Laudato si'** which is an encyclical of Pope Francis. The encyclical focuses "on care for our common home". In it, the pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action". The staff are looking at how *Catholic Earthcare* and the *Laudato si'* goals can be incorporated into the school curriculum and all that we do.



### SAINT MARY MACKILLOP'S FEAST DAY

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August, we will celebrate Saint Mary MacKillop's Feast Day. Father Ed will lead our school community in mass at 2.20pm, to which parents are most welcome to attend. Mary MacKillop was an Australian religious sister who was declared Australia's first saint by the Catholic Church in 2010. She is honoured each year on her feast day, August 8<sup>th</sup>, where she is referred to as St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mary MacKillop founded Australia's first order of nuns, the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, and she also established St. Joseph's School in a converted stable in Penola. She was an important Australian who spent her life helping people, especially children. She is Australia's first Saint and a great role model to all for her commitment to the poor, helping those who needed it the most in any way she could.

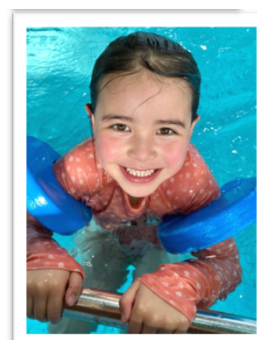
### PARENTS AND FRIENDS TRIVIA NIGHT

Our fabulous Parents and Friends Association are hosting a Trivia Night on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August**. Doors will open at 7pm for 7.30pm sharp start in the St Thomas More Multipurpose Room. Parents 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 8 are \$120. BYO food and drinks to the event. Click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stm-parents-friends-trivia-night-tickets-680578828597?aff=oddtcreator) or go to this link to book tickets.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stm-parents-friends-trivia-night-tickets-680578828597?aff=oddtcreator>



### SWIMMING PROGRAM

Our intensive swimming program begins next week where 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.



## 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 were two parent information sessions held yesterday and the session will be held again tonight, **Wednesday August 2nd at 6:00pm** at the Cathedral hall, for those who may not have been able to attend either of yesterday's **meetings**. 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 certificate (if they were baptised at St Patrick's Cathedral) or their Baptismal certificate (from another parish) to this meeting. Please note that the tri-fold certificates 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](mailto:ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au). Parish Office hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10:00am - 5:00pm.

## STMCPS PYJAMA DAY 2023

Thank you to everyone who wholeheartedly supported our Pyjama Day last Friday by wearing 'bedtime' gear to school and embracing our fundraising effort aimed at purchasing new resources for our "Quiet Play" times. We all enjoyed a very cosy day amidst our recent winter chills!

## 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. Further details about NCCD can be found at the end of this newsletter.



May God bless you and keep you safe.

Mr. Simon Duffy,  
Principal

# Term 3 Calendar, 2023

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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 students
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
<b>Swimming Program</b> 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
<b>Swimming Program</b> 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
<b>Swimming Program</b> 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

## RECENT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulation to Tom Ilsley, Year 5, who recently represented Ballarat for the under 11s Country soccer championships.



Congratulations to Saydee Garvey, Year 1 who travelled to Sydney to complete in the national BMX riding competitions. Saydee came second multiple times and was rewarded with two trophies.

Congratulations Gemma Every, year 6, who will be performing in upcoming production of *Imagine This!* This production is a collection of musical numbers and scenes, including Tony Award winning musicals A Chorus line (1975) Company (1966) & Dear Evan Hanson (2015). We wish Gemma all the best with her performances.





## 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](#).



# BASKETBALL TRAINING



## DEVELOP SKILLS AND BUILD THE CONFIDENCE TO PLAY TEAM SPORT

**Exies Acmy Basketball Club** would like to invite anyone aged 6+, interested in developing their basketball skills with an option to train only before joining a team.

Training sessions are held weekly after School:

- **Monday (Boys)**
- **Thursday (Girls)**

**For more information, please contact:**

**Lincoln Martin**  
(Boys Coordinator)  
0427 870 241  
[boyscoordinator@exiesacmy.com](mailto:boyscoordinator@exiesacmy.com)

**Marissa Ford**  
(Girls Coordinator)  
0414 852 795  
[girlscoordinator@exiesacmy.com](mailto:girlscoordinator@exiesacmy.com)

**Ben Halsall**  
President  
0400 223 887  
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**LET'S GO  
EXIES!**



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