



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. Beginning next week, 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 **Tuesday 12th December**, after which we will pass them on to St Vincent de Paul society to distribute to others in need throughout this Christmas season. Thanks for your support.



FAREWELLS

At the end of this school year we farewell one staff member – **Mrs. Jenny Bird** (STEM teacher). Jenny is heading into a well-deserved retirement after many decades of service in education. We wish Jenny all the best in her future endeavours. We will formally farewell Jenny at our Thanksgiving Mass at the end of the year.

WELCOME

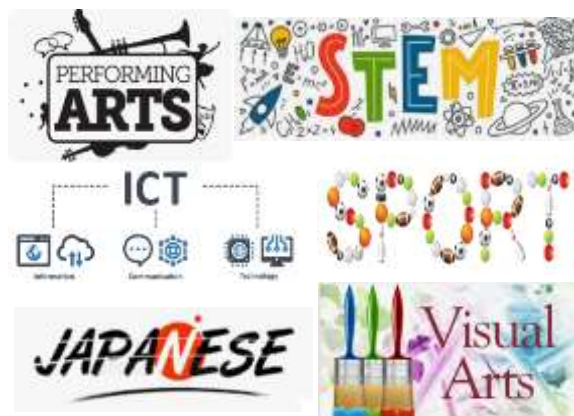
We welcome **Mrs. Jessica Satori** into our school community, starting 2024. She will commence as our new STEM teacher. Jessica is currently working at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Gordon and St Brendan's Primary School in Dunnstown. I congratulate Jessica on her appointment to our fantastic school.

EMPLOYMENT

We are currently seeking a full time **Learning Support Officer** to work five days a week in 2024, with work hours being from 8.45am – 3.15pm. If you, or someone that you know, may be interested in applying for this position please see the application process on our school website under the employment tab.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS FOR 2024

In 2024 students will have six specialist classes each week. The students will have lessons in Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Japanese, Sport, ICT and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The Performing Arts lessons will encompass music, dance, drama and theatre studies. The STEM lessons will encompass robotics, coding, programming and engineering. ICT will cover Information Communication Technologies skills and processes. Sport will encompass various sports, skills and drills. Japanese will focus on the Japanese language, history and culture. Visual Art will engage students in using many mediums. We look forward to our students being able to experience a wider array of the school curriculum through these specialist lessons.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our Parents and Friends group is conducting our annual *Christmas Raffle*. Tickets can now be purchased online through <https://rafflelink.com.au/stmchristmasraffle23>. The raffle will be drawn on the night of the school Christmas Carols; **Thursday 7th December**.



FOUNDATION 2024 ORIENTATION

It was a delight to see the faces of our Foundation students for 2024 come through the doors for their second orientation session today. It brings us much joy to see their smiling faces, bringing with them the hope and eagerness for 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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT SCHOOL

Our Parents & Friends group are in the process of organising our school Christmas Carols for **Thursday 7th December**, starting at 5pm. This will take place on the school oval and all students will be involved in performing various Christmas carols. This is a free event where families bring along a picnic meal and a rug or chairs to sit on. More details about this event can be found on page 4.



THANKSGIVING MASS AND YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Our Thanksgiving Mass will be held on **Wednesday 13th 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 2023. 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 2023

This year, the final school day for our students will be **Friday 15th December**. On this day we have planned a picnic at the Victoria Park playground, in Sturt St, for the students, staff and families. More details will be sent out in the next newsletter.

SCHOOL OPERATIONAL CHANGES IN 2024

A reminder that there will be an operational change that will impact our school finishing time each day in 2024. This change is due to the changes within the new Enterprise Bargain Agreement (EBA) which has been introduced. From the beginning of next year, the school day will conclude at 3.15pm, to meet the requirements of the EBA. Therefore, next year all students will need to be collected by 3.30pm at the end of the day. All other times will remain the same as 2023 i.e. the gates will still open at 8.30am of a morning.

SCHOOL DISCO

The school disco last Thursday evening was a huge success with in excess of 350 students attending. The children's excitement and energy were clearly evident by the way that they participated throughout their sessions. Thank you to all who attended and supported this fundraiser and thank you to the staff who supervised the event. Photos capturing some of the fun of the evening can be seen on pages five and six of this newsletter.

Money raised from the disco and the annual Christmas Raffle will be put towards the purchasing of new interschool sports uniforms which are pictured to the right. These uniforms will be worn when the middle and senior school students represent our school at Eureka district sports days such as athletics, cricket, football, netball, soccer, and basketball - just to name a few!



Please see the Term 1 2024 calendar attached to this newsletter.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

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

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 4 Calendar, 2023

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 Nov	20	21	22 Assembly presented by 1/2Turkenburg/Hoffmann @ 3:05pm Foundation 2024 Transition 9:15 – 11am	23 Whole School Prayer @ 3:05pm led by 1/2 Smith	24 Foundation Excursion to MOPA, Geelong
9 Nov/ Dec	27 Year 3/4 Camp	28 Year 3/4 Camp Yr. 6 St Pat's, Loreto & Damascus Colleges Orientation Day	29 Foundation 2024 Transition 9:15 – 1pm.	30 Whole School Prayer @ 3:05pm led by 5/6 Baker/Larkin	1
10 Dec	4 Parent Helpers Thank you afternoon tea	5 Yr. 3/4 Excursion	6 Assembly presented by 3/4 Calleija @ 3:05pm Yr. 6 Adventure Park	7 Christmas Concert @ STMCPs starting 5pm	8
11 Dec	11 Going-up session – 2024 classes Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by Foundation classes Student Semester 2 Reports available	12 Last day for food donations for the Christmas Appeal.	13 Thanksgiving Mass and Yr. 6 Graduation 5pm @ St Patrick's Cathedral	14	15 Student's last day Final fun day activity at Victoria Park End of Term 4 Dismissal 2.30pm

Term 1 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Jan/Feb	29 Staff resume Student -free day	30 Students resume school P and F Morning tea at 9am	31 Foundation Student Free Day	1 Foundation Parent Reading information sessions: 9-10.30am Repeated @ 6-7 pm	2
2 Feb	5 Parent/Teacher meeting 2.30 – 5pm	6 Parent/Teacher meeting 2.30 – 5pm	7 Foundation Student Free Day	8	9
3 Feb	12	13 Shrove Tuesday	14 Ash Wednesday Foundation Student Free Day	15	16
4 Feb	19	20	21 YEAR 5/6 CAMP Foundation Student Free Day	22 YEAR 5/6 CAMP	23 YEAR 5/6 CAMP
5 March	26 School Advisory Council Meeting 5:00pm	27	28 Foundation Student Free Day	29	1 Swimming - Eureka Division
6 March	4	5	6	7	8 Swimming - GWR Division School closure day Staff Professional Development day
7 March	11 Public Holiday Labour Day	12	13 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5	14 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5	15 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5
8 March	18 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5 Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 1)	19 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5	20	21	22 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5
9 March/ April	25 School Photos Day Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 2)	26	27	28 Last day of Term 1 School concludes at 1.45pm	29 Good Friday Public Holiday



When...

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Elaine Avenue gates will be opened at 5:00pm (entry is FREE!!)



Santa will be joining us from 5:00pm until 5:45pm

Concert will run from 5:45 to 7:15pm (approximately)

What to bring...

BYO...chairs or rugs to be set up on the oval. *(Those who bring chairs will be asked to set up behind the families who bring picnic rugs!)*

BYO...Picnic Tea! (food, drink and snacks)



Grandparents, friends and family are all invited to join us!

What to wear...

The students are encouraged to wear
* a **Christmas themed t-shirt or top**...red, white or green, plain or decorated.

***denim bottoms**; jeans, shorts or skirt etc. (school sports shorts will work too!)



What else?

CHRISTMAS Raffle

- @ Or school's annual Christmas Raffle will be drawn during the evening
- @ Each class will be given instruction as to when to gather prior to their act
- @ Families are reminded to supervise their children when they are not required on stage!





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COMMUNITY NOTICES & EVENTS

January School Holiday Programs

Renegades School Holiday Programs are back again this January! As we move into the second half of the season, this is a chance for girls and boys to get their cricket fix this holiday period.

MELBOURNE RENEGADES SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS - AGES 7-10



**Venue TBC –
Ballarat**



**Wednesday 11th
January 2024**



**Time:
9:00am – 3:00pm**

Register for Ballarat now!

Designed for Junior Gaders aged 7-10 years old, this one-day camp will feature fun, fully supervised cricket activities, games, giveaways and more! Places are strictly limited at each camp. Please note that we do not operate waiting lists for these events - it is first in, best dressed until the camp is sold out!

For other locations throughout

Victoria: <https://www.melbournerenegades.com.au/holidayprograms>

Participants will need to bring their own food & drinks to the camp. Note that no nut products are permitted to be brought to the camp. There will be a fully supervised lunch break on the day.

****Parents/guardians do not have to stay for the entire day. Any Renegades player appearances are subject to availability****

