

NEWSLETTER

DATE: 6/12/2023
TERM: 4

Dear Families,

I feel an incredible sense of gratitude and appreciation as I reflect on my fourth 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 have been truly blessed to be working alongside such enthusiastic, passionate and professional colleagues. I wish *Ms Jenny Bird*, one of our departing staff members, all the best with her retirement and I hope she will look back on her time at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School with many fond memories. Whilst saying farewell to Jenny I warmly welcome our newest staff for 2024, *Mrs Jessica Satori*, who will be teaching STEM next year.

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 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.



YEARS 3/4 CAMP

The Year 3/4 students thoroughly enjoyed their overnight camp to Log Cabin Lodge in Creswick, last week. I would like to thank the staff for all their efforts in making this camp possible and for providing such wonderful and safe experiences for the students.





CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT SCHOOL

A reminder that our school's annual Christmas Carols is on tomorrow night 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 are invited to bring along their dinner and a rug or chairs to sit on. More details, including a program, can be found on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Parents and Friends annual *Christmas Raffle* concludes tomorrow night. Tickets can still be purchased online through <https://rafflelink.com.au/stmchristmasraffle23>. The raffle will be drawn during the Christmas Carols.



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 **Tuesday 12th December**.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

GOING-UP SESSION FOR 2024 AND STUDENT REPORTS

Students will have a "Going Up" session on **Monday 11th December** where they will meet their 2024 teacher and classmates. Your child's Semester Two school report will also be available through the Parent Access Module (PAM) on this day from 2pm.

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 have been 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 students will be **Friday 15th December**. We have planned a picnic at the Victoria Park playground for the students, staff and families. Permission forms and further details have been communicated through PAM and await parent permission to be granted for each student to attend.

2024 FEE PAYMENT AGREEMENTS

A reminder please that families should have returned their 2024 Fee Payment Agreement. If you are yet to do so, I ask that you please return the form ASAP. If you have any questions or queries please contact the office.

SCHOOL UNIFORM IN 2024

The phasing out of the former school uniform will continue over 2024. All former uniforms can be worn until the end of the 2024 school year. The new uniforms are stocked exclusively by Crocker's in Ballarat (located at 4 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat).

To assist with the environmentally friendly recycling of the outgoing school uniform the school continues to partner with **Upparel**, who are a leading Australian textile recovery and recycling company. The company collects the uniforms and then recycles 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 collection tubs. This will continue throughout 2024.



UPPAREL

As this is the final newsletter for 2023, 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 2024

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal:	Mr Simon Duffy
Deputy Principal:	Mrs Trish Caldwell
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 Sarah Calleija, Ms Talee Hare, Mrs Genevieve Hawkes/Mrs Kylie Blachon, Ms Bethany Edwards, (Ms Brigid Brady – on leave)
YEAR 5/6:	Mrs Michelle Gittings/Mrs Jenna Hoyle, Ms Susan Calleija, Mrs Fiona Dodd, Mrs Kath Davis, Mrs Lisa Baker/Mrs Lauren Larkin

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Physical Education:	Mrs Melissa Willey
STEM	Mrs Jessica Satori
Performing Arts:	Ms Sue Larkin
Visual Arts:	Ms Hayley Robertson
Languages (Japanese):	Mrs Denise Buttler
ICT	Mrs Lauren Larkin

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, Mrs Pru Stott. Ms Elle Hammill, Ms Georgia Pidgeon, Ms Darcy Irvin
Learning Diversity Leaders:	Mrs Dympna Turner and Mrs Kelly McMahon
Pastoral Care Worker:	Mrs Tina Handley
Library Management:	Ms Tanya Evans
Maintenance/ Gardens:	Mr Phil Dunn

Term 4 Calendar, 2023

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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 via PAM 2pm	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 in MPR	31 Foundation Student Free Day	1 Foundation Parent Reading information sessions: 9-10.30am Repeated @ 6-7 pm	2
2 Feb	5 Parent/Teacher meetings 2.30 – 5pm	6 Parent/Teacher meetings 2.30 – 5pm	7 Foundation Student Free Day	8 Assembly 2:55pm	9 Start of School Year Mass 9:15am
3 Feb	12 Foundation Information session 5-6:30pm	13 Shrove Tuesday	14 Ash Wednesday Foundation Student Free Day Whole School Prayer 2:55pm	15	16
4 Feb	19	20	21 YEAR 5/6 CAMP Foundation Student Free Day	22 YEAR 5/6 CAMP Assembly 2:55pm	23 YEAR 5/6 CAMP
5 March	26 School Advisory Council Meeting 5:00pm	27	28 Foundation Student Free Day	29 Whole School Prayer 2:55pm	1 Swimming - Eureka Division Crazy Sock Day
6 March	4	5	6	7 Assembly 2:55pm	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 Whole School Prayer 2:55pm	15 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5 K's for Caritas
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 Assembly 2:55pm	22 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5 Yr 5/6 Interschool Sports
9 March/ April	25 School Photo Day Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 2)	26	27	28 Whole School Prayer: Stations of the Cross @ 11:45am Last day of Term 1 Students dismissed @ 1.45pm	29 Good Friday Public Holiday



PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR 2023...

CHRISTMAS CONCERT!

WHERE> ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL OVAL

WHEN> THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER

GATES OPEN> 5:00PM!

BRING YOUR OWN> PICNIC! DRINKS! SNACKS! RUGS!

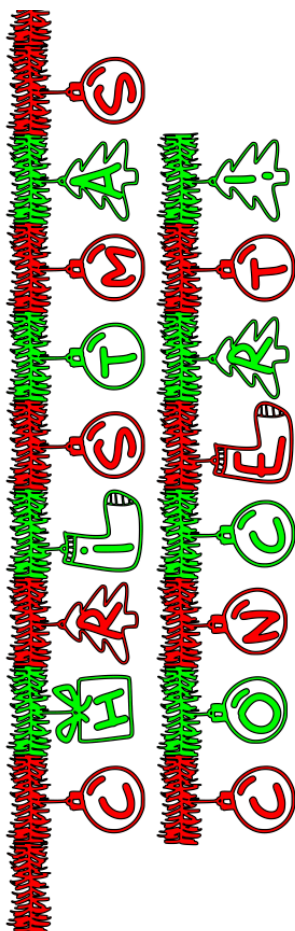
CHAIRS!

CONCERT..

5:45PM TO 7:15PM

ALL WELCOME!

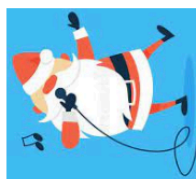




When...

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER

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



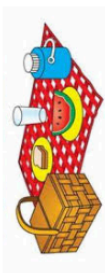
Santa will be joining us from 5:00pm until 5:45pm

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?



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!

PROGRAM

Act 1 3/4 Calleija

Act 2 Foundation

Act 3 1/2 Smith

Act 4 1/2 Stacey

Act 5 1/2 Woodhart.

Act 6 3/4 Gannon

Act 7 1/2 Munro

Act 8 1/2 Turkenburg/Hoffmann

Act 9 3/4 Hare (Brady)

Act 10 5/6 Gittings

Act 11 5/6 Calleija

Act 12 3/4 Edwards

Act 13 5/6 Davis

Act 14 3/4 Hawkes

Act 15 5/6 Baker/Larkin

Raffle Draw, P and F

Act 16 5/6 Dodd and the Band...

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NOTICES

Queries: Call Dom 0417 967 621



KELLY SPORTS Summer

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Mon 18th Dec - Fri 22nd Dec 2023
Tue 2nd Jan - Wed 31st Jan 2024

At Kelly Sports Ballarat, we believe in fostering children's interests in a safe, encouraging environment. Our caring, friendly & professional staff are committed to working with kids, and receive training on behavior management techniques, first aid, and activity planning/delivery.

What To Bring:

- Suitable clothing
- A refillable drink bottle
- A hat & sunscreen
- Big packed lunch!

JOIN US!

For a Fun-Filled Holiday Program!

EASTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE BALLARAT
 8am-5pm Weekdays
 Kinder to Grade 6
 \$60 per child per day

25 YEARS
 FOR THE LOVE OF SPORTS

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT
KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU
www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat



NEW SEASON STARTS
FEBRUARY
 MAJOR LEAGUE INDOOR SPORTS

KIDS FUTSAL

ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AGES
 JOIN AS A **TEAM** OR AS A **PLAYER**
 FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL OR SATURDAY MORNING GAMES
PLAY SAME TIME EVERY WEEK

- Senior Referees Adjudicating All Matches
- Pay As You Play
- Also **FREE** 90 min Junior Pro-Clinic every Wednesday Night between 5.15-6.45pm

BE A PLAYER OF MAJOR LEAGUES INDOOR SOCCER STADIUM

MAJOR LEAGUE INDOOR SPORTS
 502 HOWITT STREET, BALLARAT
CALL TREV ON 0416 134 901

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