



NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

God calls us to give others a second chance. During this Lenten season, we can take time to reflect on this and challenge ourselves and to act in a way that pushes us to genuinely give others a second chance. One such way we can do this at St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School is by participating in Project Compassion. To assist with our school fundraising effort for Project Compassion, all families have received a Project Compassion money box to use for money collection at home. As a school community we are hosting two fundraising events. This coming **Friday, 1st March**, the students are encouraged to wear "Crazy Hair" and on **Thursday 7th March** the students will have a casual clothes day. On both of these days the students are encouraged to bring along a gold coin donation which will be passed on to Caritas Australia, the organisers of the Project Compassion initiative.



Furthermore, on **Friday 15th March** the students will participate in a Caritas awareness raising activity, K's for Caritas, during the school day. No money is required for K's for Caritas.

BEFORE SCHOOL SAFETY CONCERNS

We are experiencing some negative behaviours and poor role modelling by several of our students before school, prior to the school gates opening at 8.30am. There has been some dangerous and silly behaviour near the roads and on the footpaths at the Cuthberts Road and Elaine Ave entrances. Parents are asked to speak to their children about waiting patiently and sensibly for the gates to open (supervision of students by staff commences at 8.30am). To assist with addressing this important safety concern, we ask that parents do not drop their children at school well before the commencement of the school day at 8.30am. I thank you in advance for your assistance with this important safety concern.

EASTER RAFFLE

Our first Parents and Friends fundraiser for the year is our Easter Raffle. All proceeds from the raffle are going towards the installation of a new Junior playground, which will be installed over the Easter break. 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.



SCHOOL TV

We have already had lots of positive feedback about the [St Thomas More SchoolTV](#) page that launched last week. In each newsletter we will be focusing on a different area of SchoolTV resources.



Friendship and Belonging:

'It is not always easy for children and teenagers to always know how to manage friendships. Learning how to make new friends and keep them involves a number of skills every young person needs to understand and develop. For some, these skills will come very naturally, allowing them to easily move between different friendship groups...for others, this can be much harder to navigate.'

(SchoolTV, 2024)

Click on the link to explore how you can support your child in this area.

<https://stmalfredton.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/friendship-belonging>



SchoolTV

Empower confidence.

YEAR 5/6 CAMP TO CAVE HILL CREEK

Whilst our time at camp may not have ended when and how originally planned, we still managed to experience so many new and varied activities. We thank the wonderful staff at Cave Hill Creek and our dedicated STMCPS staff who managed a very unexpected and unusual situation with care, calmness and professionalism. We continue to keep those directly impacted by the fires in the Raglan and Beaufort areas, in our thoughts and prayers.



NAPLAN 2024

Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will be involved in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) this term. The assessments 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 assessments are as follows:

Wednesday 13th March - Writing

Thursday 14th March - Reading

Friday 15th March – Conventions of Language

Monday 18th March – Numeracy

Tuesday 19th March – Catch-Up for students who missed assessments

We have included opportunities for students to catch-up on some of the assessments 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 assessments as an opportunity to show what they know and not to allow this testing to cause any stress or concern.



STUDENT MEDICATION REMINDER

A reminder to parents that any medication that your child requires regularly at school (such as hay fever, pain relief, asthma medication etc) needs to be supplied from home. The school stocks of medication are for one off needs or emergencies. Thanks for your assistance with this.

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

I'm seeking parents' assistance to have a good look at home for missing school library books. We have over 350 student library books that were not returned last year. The non-return of books from last year affects your child borrowing ability in 2024 and impacts to books available for other students to borrow. I ask that any outstanding library books get returned this week. Thanks in advance for your assistance with this.

REMINDERS

Friday 8th March is a professional development day for our staff, therefore it is a student-free day for our students.

Starting next week, our Foundation students will attend school each Wednesday signalling an end to their Wednesday rest-day.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

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

Principal

Term 1 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 March	26 School Advisory Council Meeting 5:00pm	27	28 Foundation Student Free Day – Numeracy assessments	29 Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Calleija @ 2:55pm	1 Swimming - Eureka Division Crazy Hair Day
6 March	4	5	6	7 Casual Clothes Day – gold coin donation for Project Compassion Assembly presented by 1/2 Munro @ 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 - WRITING	14 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5 - READING Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Hawkes/Blachon @ 2:55pm	15 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5 - CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE K's for Caritas
8 March	18 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5 - NUMERACY Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 1)	19 NAPLAN testing Yr. 3 and 5 – CATCH-UP SESSIONS	20	21 Assembly presented by 3/4 Hare @ 2:55pm	22 Yr. 5/6 Interschool Sports
9 March/ April	25 School Photo Day Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 2)	26	27 Easter Raffle Drawn	28 Whole School Prayer: Stations of the Cross presented by 5/6 classes @ 11:45am Last day of Term 1 Students dismissed @ 1.45pm	29 Good Friday Public Holiday

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS IN 2024 (STUDENT FREE)

Date	Purpose
Friday 8th March	Staff Professional Development
Friday 26 th April	ReLATE Professional Development training
Friday 7 th June	Curriculum planning and reporting
Wednesday 7th August	Religious Education Professional Development
Monday 18 th November	Curriculum planning and reporting