

Dear Families,

On Friday our students will be involved with **K's for Caritas**, which is an opportunity to walk in solidarity with those in our world who walk each day to survive. This week, as part of their learning, students have become aware that every day, thousands of women and children around the world need to walk many kilometres to fetch water, obtain food, get to school or market, or simply to survive. In honour of these people, our students will walk laps around the school carrying buckets of water. By doing this we are indicating and saying *"I want to know how you feel. I am walking with you. I am by your side."* I would like thanks families for their ongoing support of Project Compassion over this term. We have raised over \$950 dollars so far through our crazy hair day and casual clothes day. Families are also encouraged to continue to collect money through the Project Compassion boxes that were sent home at the beginning of Lent.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA



PARENT AND FRIENDS FUNDRAISERS

Our fantastic Parents and Friends Association have two fundraisers running this term; our annual Easter Raffle and a new Hot Cross Bun Drive. All proceeds from both fundraisers will be put towards the installation of a new Junior playground, which will be installed over the Easter break.

Online Easter Raffle tickets are now available for purchase via the following link: <https://rafflelink.com.au/stmcpseasterraffle24> The raffle will be drawn at school on **Wednesday 27th March** at 2:50pm.

The Hot Cross Bun fundraising is now open through the ClickCliQ website <https://app.quickcliq.com.au/>. When ordering the Hot Cross Buns enter the date as **27/3/2024**. Orders can be placed up until 4pm on **Wednesday 20th March** and will be delivered to school on **Wednesday 27th March**.



HARMONY WEEK

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate multiculturalism here at St Thomas More Catholic primary School. The message of Harmony Week is everyone belongs. It is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging. As part of our celebration of Harmony Week our students are encouraged to wear a "touch of orange" - the Harmony Week colour- on **Thursday 21st March**.

HARMONY WEEK



everyone BELONGS
www.harmony.gov.au



END OF TERM DISMISSAL TIME

Please note that Term 1 concludes on **Thursday 28th March**. Students will be dismissed at **1:45pm**.

ENHANCING CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY (ECSI) SURVEY

Families are invited to participate in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Survey to assist us in better understanding how our Catholic identity is expressed in work and practice here at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. You are asked to complete the survey online; it may take up to an hour to do so. The survey is only available through the project website; please refer to the *Instructions for Survey Completion for Parents* at the end of the newsletter. The survey can be found at <https://www.ecsi.site/au/user/>. The password is **Ghj654** and the St Thomas More survey codes **d18zWF**.



NAPLAN 2024

Today our students in Year 3 and Year 5 began the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing.

The dates and assessments are as follows:

Today - 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 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.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our annual school photos are scheduled for **Monday, 25th March**. On this day all students are required to wear their full summer academic uniform (no sports uniforms please). Photos can be ordered through the MSP website link that was sent to all families last week.



FOUNDATION – YEAR 2 NEW CLASSROOM HELPERS

Helping in a junior classroom is such a fantastic and rewarding opportunity to see how your child learns and then know how you can support them at home. In addition to parents, we welcome grandparents or special friends to become helpers as well. All 'helpers' need to complete the informative course held over two sessions. These sessions will be held in the school's Meeting Room on two consecutive Mondays.

Session 1: **Monday 18th March** 9:00-11am

Session 2: **Monday 25th March** 9:00-11am

If you would like to participate in this course, please complete the Google form by clicking and completing the following link by 4:00pm Thursday 14th March:

[Classroom Helpers Course 2024](#)

To be a volunteer at our school you will need:

- a current 'Working with Children' check which you can apply for online.
- to complete an induction process online that can be found on our website under 'Volunteers'.
- to read, sign and return the DOBCEL Child Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct policy that is available on our website.

FOUNDATION – YEAR 2 Trained Classroom Helpers

We will resume having volunteers in our junior classes from the start of Term 2. If you would like to assist, and have previously undertaken the course, please email Jo Wheelahan with a preference of days of the week and frequency (weekly or fortnightly), and your child's name and class teacher jwheelahan@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au

FOUNDATION (PREP) 2025

All Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools have begun the 2025 Foundation (Prep) enrolment process. Please see details attached below regarding this process. Please note that current families will also need to complete the enrolment process, even if they have siblings currently attending at the school. Click [here](#) for link.

EUREKA PRIMARY SWIMMING DIVISION RESULTS

Congratulations to the 12 students who participated in this year's swimming event. All students proudly represented our school and fun was had by all. The weather was also particularly spectacular. We extend a special congratulations to the students who have qualified to compete in the Greater Western Region competition in Horsham on 22nd March. The qualifiers are: Harvey Coutts and the 11yo Girls Freestyle relay team (Stella Kavanagh, Willow Sharkey, Olivia McConchie and Morgan Nairn). We wish them all the best!



SchoolTV

This newsletter SchoolTV is focusing on [Managing Screentime](#)

'Screen time refers to the amount of time spent using electronic devices such as phones, computers, televisions and tablets. Managing screen time is important for a child's overall wellbeing and development, both physically and mentally. It is important for children to establish healthy habits and boundaries around screen time use from the moment they are handed any electronic device. Developing healthy screen user habits will ensure your child also has plenty of time for other activities such as playing, reading, spending time with family and friends, and participating in physical activities. There are both benefits and drawbacks to screen time, learning how to make good decisions about when and how much to use their devices will help children find the right balance.' (SchoolTV, 2024).



Please use the link to access more information regarding how you can support your family in the area of 'Screen Time'. <https://stmalfredton.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/managing-screen-time>

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 1 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 March	11 <i>Public Holiday Labour Day</i>	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 Harmony Day celebration- wear a 'touch of orange' 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 2:50pm	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 26 th April	ReLATE Professional Development training
Friday 7 th June	Curriculum planning and reporting
Wednesday 7 th August	Religious Education Professional Development
Monday 18 th November	Curriculum planning and reporting

Enrolment Information for Prospective 2025 Foundation (Prep) Students at Catholic Primary Schools in the City of Ballarat

A single enrolment application process is in place for all families seeking Foundation (Prep) enrolment for the 2025 school year at a Catholic primary school within the City of Ballarat (see school list overleaf), including families with children already in one of the eleven schools. Note that information collected through the enrolment process is collated on a common database shared by the eleven schools.

Families seeking enrolment should follow the steps below to apply by **Thursday 23 May 2024**.

Application Process

1. Contact/visit the website of the school/s you are interested in enrolling your child at – see school list overleaf.
2. Engage with the school's process for conducting information sessions or school tours
3. Complete the online Expression of Interest for Enrolment form by Thursday 23 May 2024 by visiting the [DOBCEL website](#) (click link or scan the QR code)

Important:

- You will be asked to indicate your first, second and third preference schools.
- You will be required to upload your child's Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate (if applicable).
- If you are unable to access the online form, contact Danielle enrollments@dobcel.catholic.edu.au for assistance. Your query will be attended to as soon as possible.



Key 2024 Dates

Foundation (Prep) enrolment expressions of interest open	Monday 12 February
Expression of interest forms close	Thursday 23 May
First round placement offers sent	Friday 31 May at 12.00pm
First round acceptance close	Friday 7 June at 4.00pm
School principals meet to determine allocation of placements	Wednesday 12 June
Second round placement offers sent	Friday 14 June at 12.00pm
List of schools with vacancies published	Friday 14 June at 12.00pm
Second round acceptance close	Friday 21 June at 4.00pm

Important:

- Each Catholic Primary School will make offers of enrolment in line with the [Diocese of Ballarat Enrolment Policy](#) which takes into consideration a variety of factors.
- Completing this expression of interest process does not guarantee an offer of enrolment in a City of Ballarat Catholic primary school.



KU LEUVEN

Enhancing Catholic School Identity

General instructions for survey completion for parents

Thank you very much for making time to participate in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity project. The purpose of this survey research is to gain meaningful insights into how your son or daughter's school views its Catholic identity today and how such identity might be shaped for tomorrow.

Everyone's input is important.

Your participation should take about **55 minutes**. It's best to finish the survey in one shot, without having to come back later.

Your responses are anonymous and your personal data is treated confidentially in accordance with ethical and legal guidelines.

Only you will be able to view your individual results and this can be done once you've completed the questionnaires.

Keep these best practices in mind:

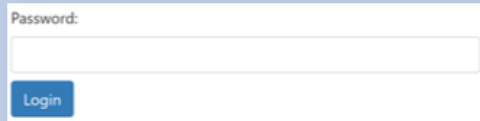
- ✓ **Answer spontaneously and don't overanalyse.** Your input is more valuable if you respond with the first thought that comes to mind. Plus, you'll proceed faster.
- ✓ **Choose the response that honestly matches your opinion.** Don't hesitate to select "strongly agree" or "strongly disagree" if that's in fact how you feel.
- ✓ **Respond as best you can to each question as it is worded.** You may feel that some questions don't fully apply to your school environment. That's OK; just respond as best you can.

It's also helpful to keep in mind:

- ✓ **Many questions ask you for two perspectives:**
 - "My son/daughter's school" as you actually see things today
 - "My ideal school" as you would like to see things in the best future scenario
- ✓ **Some questions might seem repetitive; but they're actually not.** There's a scientific purpose behind the ways in which the questions are formulated. Every question counts.
- ✓ **Trust that the survey as a whole will accurately capture your personal point of view.** Even if you struggle to respond to some individual questions, it's important to complete the entire survey.

LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

1. Access the surveys at www.ecsi.site/au/user/
2. Enter the case-sensitive password **Ghj654** and click login.



Password:

3. If you're a new user: Click the **New user** button.
If you wish to continue a previous session: Enter your **User-ID** and **Password**.
4. Enter your school's **Survey Access Code** - as provided by your school - so that your input will be linked to your school **St Thomas More survey access code - d18zWF**
5. You are now logged in. Displayed on the screen is your unique **User-ID** and **Password** (case-sensitive).

Save this information (write, print, or email it) to access the website at a later time.



User code : r0000
Password : *****

6. From this point forward, please follow the on-screen instructions to complete the surveys.

SURVEY PROGRESS

- The survey begins with some general demographic questions.
- The survey proceeds in several parts. Please finish one part before proceeding to the next one.
- You can view your results at any time by returning to the main questionnaire page.
- You can return at any time to a question and change your response.
- If you wish to pause and finish the survey at a later time, you will need your **User-ID** and **Password** in order to login again.



BALLARAT FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

is looking for junior

FEMALE FOOTBALL PLAYERS

for U12, U14 & U19 teams

To register interest
call, text, or email:

Naomi
0427006604
niji44@bigpond.com