



NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

We congratulate the 34 students from St Thomas More Catholic Primary School who have undertaken the preparation for the sacrament of First Eucharist. These students will be receiving their First Eucharist over the next four weekends. We keep them all in our thoughts and prayers as they continue their faith journey.



PARENTS AND FRIENDS

A big thank you to our fantastic Parent and Friends Association who, over the last fortnight, have arranged several wonderful events for our school community. The Mother's Day Stall provided over 500 lovely gifts, and our annual Mother's Day Breakfast catered for over 600 people. These events, alongside the wonderful volunteers that organised and ran them, are a big part of what makes our school community so special.



GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The School Advisory Council (SAC) has written to our local member of parliament, Mrs Juliana Addison, expressing their concern about the Government's recent announcement of a \$400 School Saving Bonus that is available for all school students in government schools, regardless of income, but only available for students of Health Care Card holders in Catholic schools. They believe that this is deeply unfair. They believe the payment should be means tested for all students or, conversely, apply to all students in all schools. It should not be based on which school you attend. They have requested that she advocate with her colleagues to have this policy changed to address its inequality. Parents can express their opinion to Mrs Juliana Addison if they wish at juliana.addison@parliament.vic.gov.au

INTER-SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS COMPETITIONS – FOOTBALL

Congratulations to all the senior students who recently represented the school so well in AFL football. Our boys' and girls' teams positively encouraged each other and showed excellent sporting spirit throughout the whole day. Well done to both teams!



SCHOOL DISCO

The annual student school disco will be held in the multipurpose room on **Thursday 6th June**, prior to the school closure day on **Friday 7th June**. The cost of the event is \$5 per child which will cover entry, food and a drink. This event is run and supervised by the teachers.

Foundation, Yr.1 and Yr. 2 students	4:15pm – 5:15pm
Yr. 3 & Yr. 4 students	5:30pm – 6:30pm
Yr. 5 & Yr. 6 students	6:45pm – 7:45pm



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 need to also complete the enrolment process, even if they have siblings currently attending at the school. Click [here](#) for the enrolment link. Please note that applications close tomorrow, **Thursday 23rd May**.



ST THOMAS MORE'S TRIPLE ZERO HERO.

Congratulations to Year 1 student Lenny who has been awarded the Triple Zero Hero Award after jumping to his mother's assistance. Back in January, Lenny called the ambulance, followed their instructions, and assisted his mother when she went into early labour. The award recognises young people for their bravery and clear thinking in times of emergencies. Well done Lenny; we are all very proud of you.

School TV Update:



Mindfulness

'Recent studies have shown that one in seven primary school children have significant mental health disorders, and one in four secondary school students have psychological problems. Every year, in the last five years, that number has increased. Mindfulness is the practice of being in the moment, being present and being open to what you're focusing on. Mindfulness is all about building resilience. It is not a replacement for therapy or medication for mental health issues but will hopefully reduce the need for it later on.

Research has proven that mindfulness has endless benefits for children. This school taught activity is on the rise, and many experts are wanting it to be a compulsory component of the national curriculum. Not only does mindfulness calm a child's mind, but it has also been proven to reduce disruptive and bullying behaviour in schools.' (SchoolTV, 2024)

INFORM AND EMPOWER

In this fortnights newsletter there is information about a free 'must-have' app for parents and carers. See page five of this newsletter for details.



LORETO COLLEGE PRESENTS 'MARY POPPINS'

Our Years 3 and 4 students and staff members were fortunate to be invited to be amongst the audience at Loreto College's production of *Mary Poppins* yesterday. Both students and staff returned to school raving about the quality of the show and the extraordinary talent that was on display, including some of our very own past students performing in lead roles. Loreto College was delighted that our students, as audience members, were able to add vibrancy to the event and hoped that the performance left a lasting impression on our students. As a token of their appreciation for our support, Loreto College would like to offer a special discount of 30% off ticket sales to all members of our school community for their upcoming performances of "Mary Poppins."

Tickets can be purchased via try booking:

[Mary Poppins - 2024 Loreto Ballarat School Production Tickets, The Mary's Mount Centre, Loreto College, 1600 Sturt Street Ballarat | TryBooking Australia](#)

Discount Code: PRIMARYMP24



School Closure days in 2024 (Student free)

Date	Purpose
Friday 7 th June	Curriculum planning and reporting
Wednesday 7 th August	Religious Education Professional Development
Monday 18 th November	Curriculum planning and reporting

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 2 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 May	20	21 Yr. 3/4 attend Loreto College's performance of Mary Poppins 10:30am – 1:00pm	22	23 Assembly at 2:55pm presented by Foundation Hobbs	24 Senior Interschool Soccer
7 May/June	27 Yr. 3/4 Football Coaching	28	29	30 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2Turkenburg/Hoffmann	31 Yr. 3/4 Football Coaching
8 June	3	4	5	6 Assembly at 2:55pm presented by 1/2Smith School Disco Foundation- Yr 2: 4:15-5:15 Years 3&4: 5:30-6:30pm Years 5&6: 6:45-7:45pm	7 School Closure Day -Student-free day
9 June	10 King's Birthday -Public Holiday	11	12	13 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Keighrey	14 Yr. 3/4 Football Coaching Casual clothes day -gold coin donation
10 June	17	18	19	20 Assembly at 2:55pm presented by Foundation Cudia	21 St Thomas More Feast Day Mass 9.15am & Talent Show 12.30pm
11 June	24	25	26 Semester 1 School Reports sent home	27 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4Gannon	28 Last Day of Term 2 1.45pm finish

FREE MUST-HAVE APP FOR PARENTS & CARERS



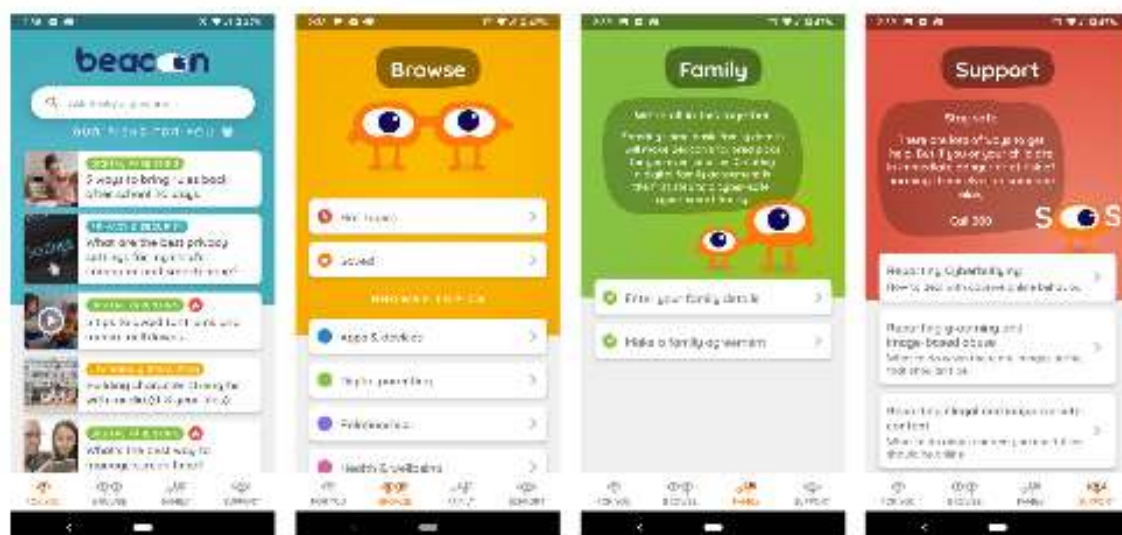
Parents & carers don't have the time to search the internet in order to find current, reliable and relevant sources of information when it comes to their kids online. Beacon is a free, Australian made app created to help take the hard work out of keeping up to date with all things online and digital when it comes to our young people.

Developed in conjunction with the eSafety Commissioner and Common Sense Media, parents can rest assured they're accessing quality, expert reviewed material as opposed to relying on your social media feed or news reports.

Features we think you'll love about this app include:

- no need to be tech savvy, it's super simple to navigate
- customised, suggested articles based on the age and interests of your kids

- browse and search by topics including apps & devices, digital parenting, health & wellbeing, privacy and more
- step by step guide to help you and your kids create a family tech agreement. Not a one size fits all approach but customisable based on each individual young person in your home
- direct links to report cyberbullying, grooming and other inappropriate online content
- notifications and alerts (not annoying over the top frequency!) when new, relevant content is made available



Inform & Empower is endorsed by the eSafety Commissioner as a Trusted eSafety Provider

INFORM & EMPPOWER

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.



The Arch of Victory in Ballarat, Australia, is a large stone archway with two domes and a central crest. The archway is inscribed with 'THE AVENUE OF HONOUR' at the top, '1914' on the left, 'VICTORY' in the center, and '1919' on the right. The archway is set against a backdrop of trees and a cloudy sky.



A graphic featuring a pink pencil pointing to a white banner with the text 'STORIES FROM - the - AVENUE of HONOUR' in yellow and red lettering.



SUNDAY 26 MAY
10AM - 3PM

Arch of Victory
Sturt Street Ballarat

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE
11.30AM - 1.30PM

STEP BACK IN TIME WITH...

- Arch precinct walking tours at 11am & 2pm
- Memorial wall & poppy activity
- Colouring activities
- Photo display
- Research assistance on hand
- Free sausage sizzle



More information can be found in the Ballarat Heritage Festival program

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](#).