

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 3. This term is action packed with lots of fantastic learning opportunities for the students ranging from the intensive swimming program, sporting clinics, excursions, Father's Day activities, Book Week Parade, Parent/Teacher/Student Learning Conferences, assemblies, whole school prayers, staff retreat, interschool athletics and Footy Colours Day - just to name a few! We look forward, as a school community, to celebrating these events together.

## FULLNESS OF LIFE FOR ALL

The *Fullness of Life for All* program, that covers Relationships and Sexuality Education, has commenced. It was fantastic to have families join us at the end of Term 2 for the parent information session where the content of the program was outlined. We hope this program will allow you to begin discussions about Relationships and Sexuality Education with your children at home.

## INFORM AND EMPOWER

We are thrilled to announce that next week, on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 6pm till 7.30pm**, we will be running a parent information session about "Raising Kids in a Digital World". We are very fortunate to secure the founders of the **Inform and Empower** company to facilitate this session. This is a unique session in which you will hear from both the expertise of an experienced primary school cyber safety educator (Marty) combined with the insights of a psychologist and mum (Carley). We strongly encourage at least one member of each family to attend. Our staff will provide supervision for your child/ren so that parents can attend.

To register your attendance please click the following link:

[bit.ly/alfredton2024](https://bit.ly/alfredton2024)

Below is a short video summary of what the session will be about.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tvICmDINfg&t=13s>



## PYJAMA DAY

This coming **Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> July**, we are having a Pyjama Day here at school for students and staff. Students and staff are invited to wear their pyjamas on the day as well as bring along a gold coin donation. The funds raised will go towards purchasing resources and activities for students to use when spending time with our school's social worker.



## PARENT AND FRIENDS HOT DOG FUNDRAISER

Next **Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> July**, students will be able to order a hot dog for lunch as a fundraiser for the Parents and Friends. Hot Dogs will be \$5 each, with \$1.50 per hot dog going towards the P and F. Orders can be placed through QuickCliQ (our normal school canteen order company) up until 8am on that morning.



## SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

A reminder that we have a school closure day (Pupil Free Day) on **Wednesday 7th August** to allow staff to undertake professional development in Religious Education.

## HOMEWORK CHANGES

During this term we will be trialling some different approaches to the weekly homework that is set for the students. We are going to be doing 3 three-week trials. The first three weeks will be the current format. The next three weeks will see a reduction in tasks and the final three weeks will be minimal homework tasks. At the end of the trial, we will be surveying parents and students to inform our school approach to homework going forward into the future.

## TRIVIA NIGHT – Save the date

Our fabulous Parents and Friends Association are hosting a Trivia Night on **Friday 23rd August**, commencing 7pm in the St Thomas More Multipurpose Room. Parents and their friends are most welcome to book a seat or a table for what will be a terrific community event. Tickets are \$20 each and tables of 10 are \$200. BYO food and drinks to the event. Click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stm-parents-friends-trivia-night-tickets-949424663727) to purchase tickets. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stm-parents-friends-trivia-night-tickets-949424663727>



## SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP

The City of Ballarat is aware of concerning driver behaviour at school drop off and pick up times in the precincts around numerous schools. Please note that the City of Ballarat have notified us that they will be undertaking regular patrols to ensure parking compliance. Any breaches observed, will be enforced. This is to help ensure the safety of students and staff and the broader school community. We implore all road users to ensure that they adhere to the law to maintain the ongoing safety of everyone involved.

## NATIONAL CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA (NCCD)

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School (and all schools across Australia) we are currently completing the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) about students with a disability. The data counts the number of students at St Thomas More who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school due of their individual learning needs. The NCCD helps the government plan for the needs of students with disabilities.

## SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

We congratulate Olivia McConchie who competed in the Victorian Cross Country Championships at Yarra Valley last week. Olivia, who battled wintry conditions and a very muddy and soggy course, finished in 6th position and earned a place in the Victorian 10–12-year-old Girls Cross Country Team for 2024 that will compete in the National Championships later in August. We wish Olivia all the best for this forthcoming event. To support Olivia with the costs involved, we are holding an ‘Olympic’ themed dress-up day fundraiser on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August**; students are asked to bring a gold coin donation.



## COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN

We would like to remind parents that if your child has a problem at school, it is important that you communicate your concerns, in the first place, with your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Dealing with the problem promptly and in a positive manner makes a huge difference to your child’s resilience, self-esteem and future relationships with teachers and peers. Please be assured that the staff at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School will always deal with your concerns confidentially and sensitively to ensure problems are resolved efficiently.

### School Closure days in 2024 (Student free)

Date	Purpose
Wednesday 7th August	Religious Education Professional Development
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Curriculum planning and reporting

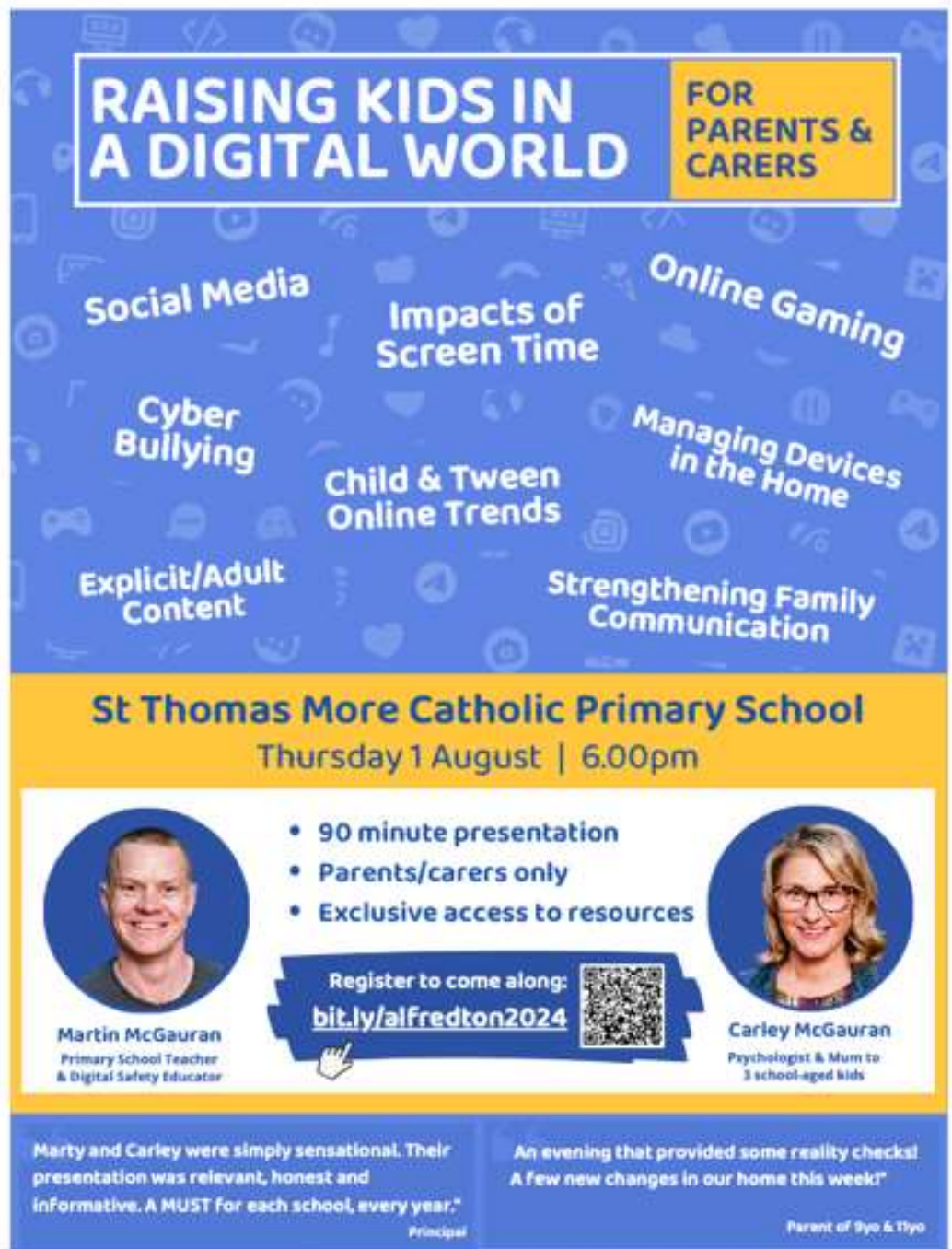
**Overview of this edition:**

'It is no surprise that girls today are transitioning to puberty a lot earlier than they did a century ago. The physical, psychological and emotional changes that occur during this time can be challenging for girls, and their parents. Some parents and carers may feel uncertain about how best to support their daughter through the ups and downs of adolescence. With the rise of social media and technology, mental health difficulties in girls are increasing as often they are faced with online images that make it difficult to see themselves as acceptable. Many are being exposed to porn, sexualisation and innuendo from a very young age. Girls need positive role models in their lives to step up and help them shine with self-respect and confidence.' (School TV, 2024)

May God bless you all and keep you safe,



Mr. Simon Duffy,  
Principal



**RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD** FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Social Media    Impacts of Screen Time    Online Gaming

Cyber Bullying    Child & Tween Online Trends    Managing Devices in the Home

Explicit/Adult Content    Strengthening Family Communication

**St Thomas More Catholic Primary School**  
Thursday 1 August | 6.00pm

- 90 minute presentation
- Parents/carers only
- Exclusive access to resources

Register to come along: [bit.ly/alfredton2024](https://bit.ly/alfredton2024)

**Martin McGauran**  
Primary School Teacher & Digital Safety Educator

**Carley McGauran**  
Psychologist & Mum to 3 school-aged kids

Marty and Carley were simply sensational. Their presentation was relevant, honest and informative. A MUST for each school, every year.  
Principal


An evening that provided some reality checks! A few new changes in our home this week!  
Parent of 9yo & 11yo

# Term 3

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 July	22	23 Fire Victoria Incursion for the Foundation classes 9-11am	24	25 Assembly @ 2:55pm Presented by 3/4 Edwards	26 Students wear pyjamas to school day. Gold coin donation
3 July/Aug	29 P&F Fundraiser: Hot Dogs available to be ordered through QuickCliQ	30 Fire Victoria Incursion for the Foundation classes 9-11am	31	1 Assembly @ 2:55pm Presented by 5/6Calleija Inform and Empower Parent info night 6 – 7.30pm	2 Foundation 100 days celebrations
4 Aug	5 Interschool Athletics @ Llanberris Reserve for students who qualified	6 Learning Support Officer Appreciation Day	7 School closure day: Staff professional development day	8 Principal Appreciation Day  Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by ¾Hare Mary MacKillop WSP.	9 "Olympic themed" dress- up day. Gold coin donation
5 Aug	12 School Advisory Council meeting 5pm	13	14	15 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 5/6Baker/Larkin	16
Swimming program 3/4 Gannon, 3/4 Hawkes/Blachon, 3/4 Hare, 5/6 Baker/Larkin, 5/6 Calleija, 5/6 Dodd					
6 Aug	19	20	21	22 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4Gannon	23 Year 5/6 Interschool Basketball  Yr. 5 SEED day at Damascus College  P&F Trivia Night @ 7pm
Swimming program Foundation Keighrey, Foundation Hobbs, 1/2 Turkenburg/Hoffmann, 1/2 Woodhart, 1/2 Munro, 1/2 Stacey					
7 Aug	26	27	28	29 Father's Day stall  Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by Foundation Hobbs	30 Father's Day Breakfast 7-8.30am
Swimming program 5/6 Gittings/ Hoyle, 1/2 Smith, 3/4 Edwards, 3/4 Calleija, 5/6 Davis, Foundation Cudia					
8 Aug/Sept	2	3	4	5 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2Woodhart	6 Yeas. 5/6 Interschool sport day
9 Sept	9 Parent/ Teacher/ student learning conference 3.00 – 6.45pm	10 Parent/ Teacher/ student learning conference 3.00 – 6.45pm	11	12 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2Stacey	13 Book Week Parade
10 Sept	16 Yeas 5/6 Excursion to Imax & Melbourne Museum	17	18	19 Assembly @ 2:55pm Performing Arts  Foundation/1/2 student Late Stay Back	20 Last Day of term 1.45pm finish


COMMUNITY NOTICES AND EVENTS

QUERIES: CALL DOM 0417 967 621

**KELLY SPORTS**  **TERM 3 SPORTS!**

**ST THOMAS MORE PS**

**TUESDAYS: MULTI-SPORTS 3:20PM-4:20PM**  
FOOTY, SOCCER, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL & BADMINTON (3 WEEKS OF EACH)  
10 WEEK PROGRAM. PREPS TO GRADE 6



**\$17+GST PER SESSION**

**SIGN UP AT ANY TIME DURING THE TERM**

FOR THE LOVE OF SPORT **25 YEARS**

Sessions run at St Thomas More PS.  
Pick-up is at 4.20pm from the school

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT **KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU**


[WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GREATER-BALLARAT](http://WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GREATER-BALLARAT)

QUERIES: CALL DOM 0417 967 621

**TERM 3 GYMNASTICS & CIRCUS!**

**ST THOMAS MORE PS**

**MONDAYS: 3:20PM-4:20PM**  
CARTWHEELS, HANDSTANDS, SHULF, HOOPS, JUMPING SCARFS & MORE!  
10 WEEK PROGRAM. PREPS TO GRADE 6



**FUN!**

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