



Dear Families,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding semester, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff, wonderful students and supportive families for the vital role each have played in making our school a vibrant and faith-filled community. Your commitment to learning, growing and working together in the spirit of Christ is truly appreciated. I hope the upcoming holiday break offers everyone a chance to rest, reconnect and recharge. May it be a time of joy and renewal for all. We look forward to welcoming you back for an exciting second semester, commencing **Monday 21st July**.

It was fantastic to have so many members of our school community involved with our school feast day celebrations last week. It was particularly pleasing to see how many students shared their skills at the St Thomas More's Got Talent show.



INFORM AND EMPOWER

We are thrilled to announce that next week we will be running a parent information session about "Raising Kids in a Digital World" on **Wednesday 2nd July at 6:30pm till 8:00pm**. We are very fortunate to secure the founders of the **Inform and Empower** company to facilitate this session. We strongly encourage at least one member of each family to attend. If required, staff will provide supervision for children so that parents can attend.

To register your attendance please click the <https://bit.ly/StThomasMoreAlfredton>

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

<https://vimeo.com/1034366431?share=copy#t=0>

RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

SEMINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

St Thomas More
Wednesday 2nd July 6.30 - 8.00pm

Register to attend
<https://bit.ly/StThomasMoreAlfredton>

This session is strictly for parents and carers only

Presented by
Martin McQuinn,
primary teacher and
Digital Safety Presenter

Presented by
Carley McQuinn,
primary teacher and
Digital Safety Presenter

an evening that provided
some really checked & how
many changes in our homes
this week - Parent

Emily and Carley were simply
amazing! Their presentation
was so much fun and
informative! A MUST for each
school every year - Parent

Our skills sessions should
be compulsory for all parents
- Parent

INFORM & EMPOWER

information@informandempower.co.uk | info@stthomasmorealfredton.catholic.edu.au

esafety

esafety

SEMESTER 1 STUDENT REPORTS

Our teachers are currently in the process of writing student reports for Semester One. Your child's school report will be available on the Parent Access Module (PAM) on **Wednesday 2nd July** from 2:00pm. If you need any assistance accessing this, please contact the front office. I encourage you to take the time to discuss the academic report and Seesaw posts with your child/ren, as it is most beneficial for students to reflect on their work and identify areas for future focus. If you have any questions about your child's report, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

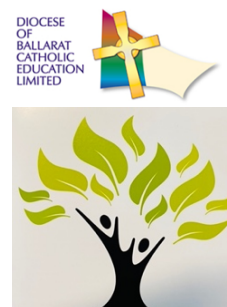
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation will commence next term. The sacrament of Confirmation is open to children who have been baptised in the Catholic faith and are in Year 3 and above. Parents who would like their child to undertake this sacrament are asked to attend a parent information session either on **Tuesday 22nd July at 9am** at St Thomas More or on **Thursday 24th July at 5.30pm** at the Glowrey room at the St Patrick's Cathedral and also complete the following form: <https://forms.gle/McZGsFzcQjtmLcTA>



FULLNESS OF LIFE FOR ALL

The area of *Relationships and Sexuality Education* will be covered at school early next term. The Diocese of Ballarat, Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL), has developed a curriculum scope and sequence that sets out what is to be taught in primary schools from Foundation to Year 6. The document, titled **"Fullness of Life for All"** will be used by our staff, to develop learning for our students in covering the **My Body** and **Life Cycles** themes. To honour the partnership of families and our school working together in this important area, there is a parent information session organised on **Monday 30th June** at 2.30pm – 3.15pm. To register your intention to attend this session please use the following link: <https://forms.gle/B5YtKsUsgHi8Umb5>



VICTORIAN UNDER 12 FOOTBALL TEAM

Congratulations to Year Six student Paddy Ashby who has been selected to represent Victoria in the Under 12 AFL competition. Paddy will travel to Queensland next term to compete against other states at the National championships. We wish him all the best.



LAST DAY OF TERM - CASUAL CLOTHES

Friday 4th July will be a casual clothes day for staff and students. For a gold coin donation students and staff are encouraged to wear casual clothes for the final day of Term 2. The money raised will be passed on to Paddy's family to assist with the expenses associated with his travel to Queensland next term. A reminder that the students will be dismissed at 1.45pm on this day.

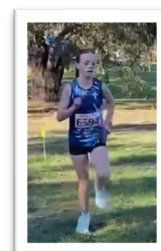
GREATER WESTERN REGION – BOYS' NETBALL COMPETITION



Congratulations to our Boys' Netball team who showed great sportsmanship at the Greater Western Region Netball Competition held at Selkirk Stadium last Friday. Thank you to the staff and parents involved with coaching and coordinating the team on the day. The boys were undefeated for the whole day, including the grand final. They have now successfully progressed to the Victorian state championships which will be held in Melbourne towards the end of Term 3. Congrats to Lewis, Paddy, Isaac, Hunter, Marcus, Jordan, Will, Henry R & Henry T and best wishes for the state titles in September.

CROSS COUNTRY STATE TITLES

Last Saturday, Year 6 student Olivia McConchie, completed in the 2025 Victorian All Schools Cross Country Championships at Bundoora. She raced in the 3km event in the Under 14 Age Group and placed 7th. She will now go on and represent the State at the National Championships in late August in Under 12's as she finished 2nd in this age bracket.



School TV: Update Week 10, 2025: CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK

Here is the link to your special report: [Naidoc Week - A Special Report](#)

'NAIDOC week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is celebrated by all Australians and is a great opportunity to recognise and learn more about the history and culture of Indigenous communities.

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced back to the Aboriginal rights movement, when on Australia Day 1938, protestors marched through the streets of Sydney to highlight the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Today, it is a week-long celebration held in July that consists of a range of traditional and contemporary activities.

NAIDOC Week is an important event that helps build positive relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. It enables a deeper understanding of our differences and similarities and is a great opportunity for all Australians to eliminate bias and discrimination by reflecting and reconciling the wrongs of the past to facilitate hope and build a fairer future. Families are encouraged to join in and support young people in learning the significance of NAIDOC Week.

This Special Report offers suggestions on how families can celebrate NAIDOC Week together. We hope you take a moment to reflect on the information offered, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If this raises any concerns for you, a loved one or the wellbeing of your child, please seek medical or professional help. (School TV, 2025)



SPECIAL REPORT

Celebrating
NAIDOC
Week



BEGONIA FESTIVAL RESULTS

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School has been awarded winners of the Primary Art Section in The Begonia Festival Art Competition 2025. A big thank you to our school community and the wider Ballarat community for supporting our students in this extracurricular endeavour by casting votes at the festival. Congratulations to all the students involved in creating the artwork.



May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Trish Caldwell

Trish Caldwell
Acting Principal

Term 2 Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 June	23	24	25 Greater Western Region Football Competition	26 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Harris	27
11 June/July	30 Fullness of Life Parent Information session @ 2:30pm	1	2 Semester One Student Reports available. Inform and Empower Parent Session @ 7:00pm	3 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Gannon	4 Casual Clothes Day -no donation required Last Day of Term 2 1.45pm finish

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

Term 3 Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 July	21	22 Parent Confirmation info sessions: 9am at STMCPs 5:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral	23	24 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4 Hare	25
2 July	28	29	30	31 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Turkenburg/Blachon	1 Foundation 100 days
3 July	4	5	6	7 Feast of St Mary Mackillop Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by students from Year 3/4 classes	8
4 Aug	11	12 LSO Appreciation Day	13	14 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 5/6 De Bono/Edmends	15 Catholic School Athletics
5 Aug	18	19	20	21 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Woodhart	22 Yr 5/6 Interschool Basketball
Swimming Program Foundation Gannon, 1/2Hammill, Foundation Edwards, 1/2Stacey, Foundation Cudia, 1/2Turkenburg/Blachon					
6 Aug	25	26	27	28 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Edwards	29 Yr 5/6 interschool sport Year 1/2 Mass 9.15am
Swimming Program 1/2Calleija, 1/2Harris, 3/4Hawkes/Larkin, 5/6Dodd, 3/4Hare, 5/6Smith					
7 Sept	1	2	3	4 Father's Day stall Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by 5/6 Baker	5 Father's Day breakfast -
Swimming Program 3/4Calleija, 5/6Davis, 3/4Woodhart, 5/6De Bono/Edmends, 3/4Gittings/Hobbs, 5/6Baker					
8 Sept	8 Parent/ Teacher student learning conferences 3.00 – 6.45pm	9 Parent/ Teacher student learning conferences 3.00 – 6.45pm	10	11 District Athletics Day Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 Dodd	12 Book Week Parade
9 Sept	15	16	17 Whole School Prayer@ 2:55pm led by Foundation Cudia	18 Last Day of Term 3 1.45pm finish	19 School Professional Development Day



WAKA WAKA DANCE by OLI



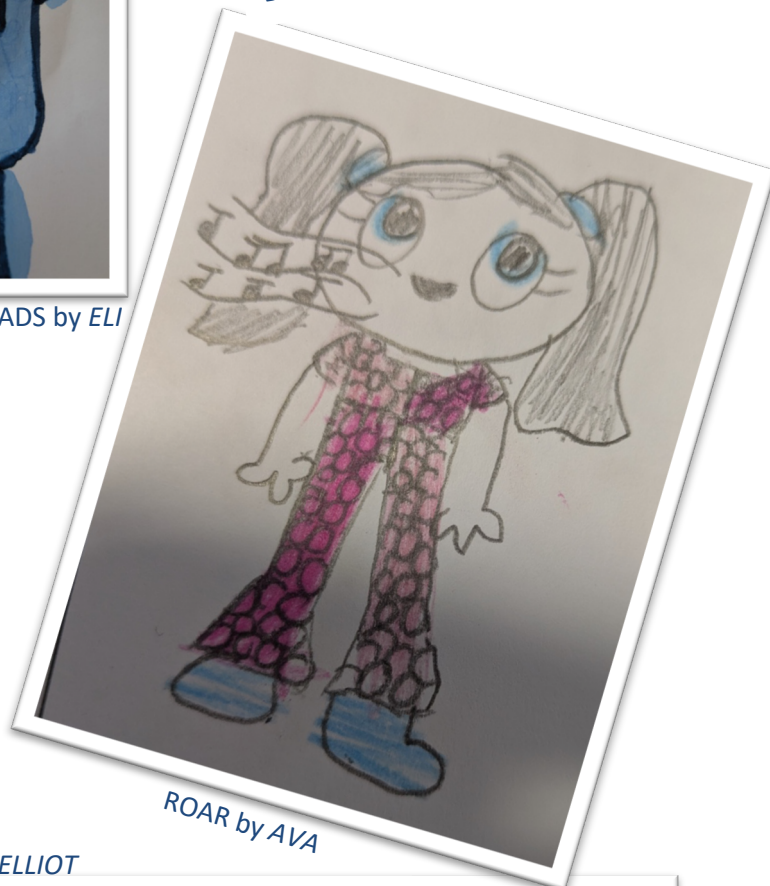
DIE WITH A SMILE by ADELIN



DANCING by JOSHEN



COUNTRY ROADS by ELI



ROAR by AVA

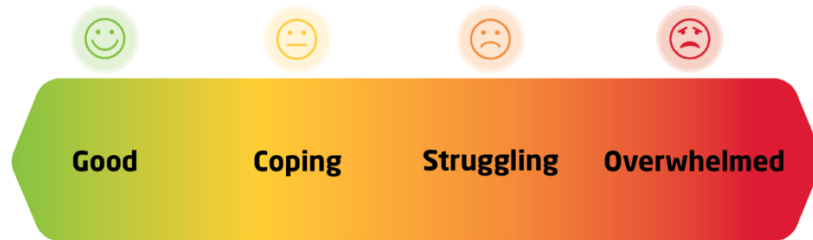
CRAZY FROGS by ELLIOT



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE: Kelly McMahon & Susan Calleija

Good mental health is fundamental to children's effective development, wellbeing, and health, as well as their ability to cope with stress and their capacity to participate in learning. Around 14% of Australian children aged 4-11 years, experience a diagnosed *mental* health condition each year (Johnson et al., 2018; Lawrence et al., 2015), and many more face mental health concerns that negatively impact their wellbeing. These problems can compromise not only their experiences in childhood but also impact children's trajectory into adulthood, affecting their social development, employment and health. Early intervention is more effective than treating mental health concerns once they are entrenched and the primary school years are a key period where risk and protective factors can impact the experience and trajectory of children's wellbeing.

Our staff are continuing to learn about mental health and wellbeing, particularly for our students and we have been learning about the Children's Wellbeing Continuum:



A very important aspect of children's mental health is collaboration and communication with families. As parents, you play the important role in supporting your children's mental health development – not sure how to do this in an age-appropriate way? This video from [Raising Healthy Minds](#) may help you with that:



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](#).



Queries: Coach Sean
0411 602 204



July

HOLIDAY PROGRAM!

7th - 18th
July

8am - 5pm
MON - FRI

Kinder - Grade 6
All different sports
and games, join
the fun!

\$65
per day

BOOK
NOW!



NERF WARS!
Friday 11th July



The Kelly Sports Games
Friday 18th July



Kids need to bring along a big packed lunch & large refillable drink
bottle. Dress in comfortable sports clothing!



Eastwood Leisure Centre - Ballarat
8am - 5pm Weekdays
Kinder - Grade 6
Enroll online

www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat

