



Dear Families,

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

We have 44 students from Years 3 and 4, who have recently undertaken and completed the sacramental program for Confirmation. The program was run through the St Patrick's Cathedral parish and supported by the school. We pray that the Holy Spirit guides and nurtures them and their families, as they continue to progress along their faith journey.

### FATHER'S DAY EVENTS

At school, we have several Father's Day events planned to celebrate the fathers and male carers in our student's lives. On **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**, the Parents and Friends Association is conducting a **Father's Day Stall** for the students. All students will have the opportunity to purchase a gift for their father/carers. All gifts are priced at \$5 each. On Thursday afternoon, **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**, at 2.45pm the students from Year 5/6 Baker will lead **Whole School Prayer** which will focus on Father's Day. Parents are most welcome to attend the Whole School Prayer. On the following day, **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September**, our annual Father's Day breakfast will be hosted by the Parents and Friends between 7:00- 8:45am. Egg and bacon rolls and fruit juice will be served to all. There are no tickets required to attend the event, however, please be aware that breakfast service will most likely be very busy between 8am and 8.45am. We are still looking for about another eight parent helpers to assist with cooking and serving the breakfast. If you can help, please contact Amy Donald (P&F coordinator) on [adonald1905@gmail.com](mailto:adonald1905@gmail.com)



### SWIMMING PROGRAM

Our intensive swimming program continues this week. The student's confidence, skill development and knowledge of water safety has been fantastic to see. We thank the swim teachers from the *Swim and Survival Academy* who teach our students these vital skills.



### STUDENT INVOLVED LEARNING CONVERSATIONS (SILCs)

Student Involved Learning Conversations (SILCs) will occur later this term. In SILC's your child will have a significant role to play in talking about their own learning. They will talk to you about some learning goals they have had, the progress they have made, perhaps show you some of their work and invite you to provide them with some feedback. This will be a conversation between you, your child and your child's teacher. Student Involved Learning Conversations will take place on **Monday 8th September** and **Tuesday 9th September**. The meetings will be of 12 minutes duration. You are invited to book your preferred time slot via the Parent Access Module (PAM). **Bookings are now open.**

### WHY STUDENT LED CONFERENCES?

- Students develop **ownership** of their learning
- Students build **independence**
- Students take **pride** in their success
- Students identify areas for **improvement**
- Students **share** knowledge and skills learned

## SENIOR BASKETBALL COMPETITION

Last Friday the school entered four senior teams in the Interschool Basketball Competition: two boys' teams and two girls' teams. The A Boys Team were undefeated for the day and have now qualified to compete in the Greater Western Region Division in October. The B Boys Team made it through to the semi-final and both girls teams put in a great effort throughout the day. We thank Karen Ashby, Tim Piatkov and Nathan Cavanagh for coaching the teams during this tournament.



## ATHLETICS

Congratulations to the following students who have progressed through to the Eureka Division Athletics Competition to be held on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September**:

Matilda Murray - Girls 9/10yo Long Jump

Ari Yates - 9/10yo Shot Put

Myles Baker - 9/10yo Boys Hurdles

Hamish Bayles - 9/10yo Boys Hurdles

Hunter Sisic - 11yo boys High Jump & 100m

Lewis Pascoe - 200m

Henry Rogan - 1500m

Pippa Donnan - 11yo Girls Hurdles

Olivia McConchie - 12/13yo Girls 800m & 1500m

Morgan Nairn - 12/13yo Girls Hurdles

11yo Boys Relay team - Hunter Sisic, Lewis Pascoe, Archer Stevens & Fletcher Stevens



## FOOTY COLOURS DAY

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September** (last day of Term 3) is our Footy Colours Day. On this day students may wear their favourite sports team colours. If your child does not have a favourite AFL football team, they may wear their favourite colour.





## BOOK WEEK PARADE

Book Week will be celebrated across the school from **Monday 8th – Friday 12th September (Week 8)** of this term. This year the theme is *"Book an Adventure"*. Students are encouraged to use their imagination to dress up for our Book Week parade which is due to be held in the school hall at 9:15 am on **Friday, 12th September**. Parents and family members are most welcome to attend the parade.



## SCHOOL DISCO

The student school disco will be held in the multipurpose room on the **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September**, prior to the school closure day on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**. There is no cost involved for this event. This event is run by the teachers. More details to come closer to the date.

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



## SEEKING PARENT HELPERS

We are seeking parent helpers to assist in both the school library and with our school grounds. In the library we are looking for a few helpers to assist with covering many new books that have arrived; this can be done either at school or at home. If you are available to assist with book covering, please email [tevans@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tevans@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au). With regards to the school grounds, we are looking for people who would be able to assist in planning a school working bee in the coming weeks. If you are interested and available to assist with the planning, please email [admin@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au).

## School TV: Update Week 6, 2025: A Special Report: Celebrating Father's Day

Here is the link to your special report:

[https://stmalfredton.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/celebrating-fathers-day](https://stmalfredton.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/celebrating-fathers-day)

'For many years now, the role of fathers has changed and evolved. During the industrial revolution, fathers were often considered detached and distant due to working long hours in factories. However, today things have changed dramatically with many dads being celebrated for being sensitive, caring and more hands-on. Recent studies have shown that children benefit greatly from having fathers who are present and interacting in everyday activities. This has transformed the understanding of how fathers shape children's lives from the start, challenging conventional ideas of parenthood and gender.



SPECIAL REPORT

**Celebrating  
Father's Day**



Research also suggests that fathers influence their sons and daughters in different ways, which is especially true during their transition to adolescence. Engaging in regular physical activities can play a key role in influencing children to learn self-control, face challenges, regulate emotions and take manageable risks. In this Special Report, fathers will learn about the positive impact they can have on their child's mental health and wellbeing, whilst also ensuring they indulge in a little self-care.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.' (SchoolTV, 2025)

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Mr. Simon Duffy,  
Principal

## Term 3 Calendar, 2025

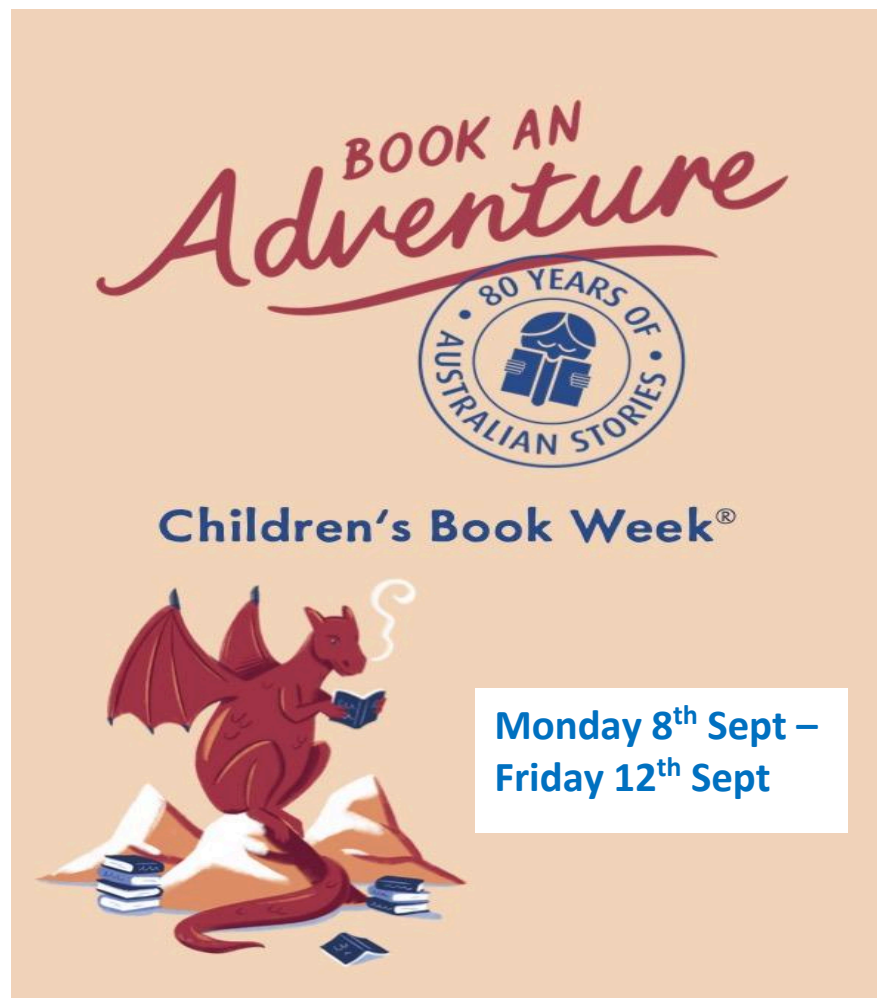
Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 Aug	25	26	27	28 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Edwards</i>	29 Year 1/2 Mass 9.15am  <i>Casual Clothes Day – Gold coin donation</i>
	<b>Swimming Program</b> 11:30 - 12:15pm: 1/2Calleija & 1/2Harris 12:15 – 1:00pm: 3/4Hawkes/Larkin & 5/6Dodd 1:00pm – 1:45pm: 3/4Hare & 5/6Baker				
7 Sept	1	2	3 <i>Free Digital Media &amp; Safety Webinar online @ 7:30pm Registration required; see page 6 of this Newsletter</i>	4 <i>Father's Day stall</i>  <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by 5/6 Baker</i>	5 <i>Father's Day Breakfast -</i>
	<b>Swimming Program</b> 11:30 - 12:15pm: 3/4Calleija & 5/6Davis 12:15 – 1:00pm: 3/4Woodhart & 5/6De Bono/Edmunds 1:00pm – 1:45pm: 3/4Gittings/Hobbs & 5/6Smith				
8 Sept	8 <i>Parent/ Teacher/Student learning conferences 3.00 – 6.45pm</i>	9 <i>Parent/ Teacher/ Student learning conferences 3.00 – 6.45pm</i>	10	11 <b>District Athletics Day</b>  <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 Dodd</i>	12 <i>Book Week Dress-up Day &amp; Parade @ 9:15am</i>
9 Sept	15	16	17 <i>Whole School Prayer@ 2:55pm led by Foundation Cudia</i>	18 <i>Footy Colours Day</i>  <i>Last Day of Term 3 1.45pm finish</i>  <i>Student Disco F-2: 3:45-4:30pm Years 3&amp;4: 4:45-5:30 Years 5&amp;6: 5:45-6:45pm</i>	19 <i>School Professional Development Day</i>



## Book Week 2025

This year St Thomas More Catholic Primary School will celebrate Book Week in Week 8 of this term, Monday 8th September through to Friday 12th September. We will have the talents of Mrs Renee Price throughout the week working with students, as well as activities related to the various books shortlisted for this year happening within classrooms. Our focus is on celebrating our Australian authors and illustrators, as well as the joy we can find in reading. A 'Dress Up Day' and Parade for the whole school will be on Friday 12th, with a whole school gathering and parade in the Hall at 9.15am. Parents are most welcome to join us at this time.

**We warmly invite all of our students to dress up in the spirit of this year's theme, Book an Adventure, on Friday 12th September.**





A FREE WEBINAR

# Digital media literacy & safety

## PART III

### Supporting Primary & Secondary students

This webinar is **Part III of a series**.  
In this session, topics include:

- New Social Media Regulations
- Digital Footprint and Reputation
- Screen Time and Brain Development
- Parental Controls



Online, Wednesday  
**3 September, 2025**  
7.30 - 8.30 pm



#### Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

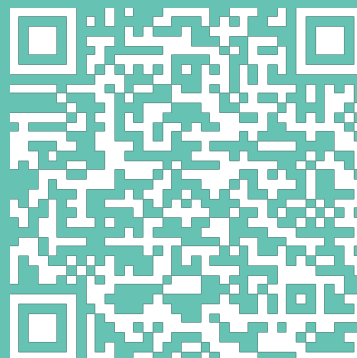
Renowned child and adolescent psychologist, Michael has years of experience working with young people and families and was Chair for the Cybersafety Committee.



#### Susan McLean

As Australia's foremost cybersafety expert and founder of Cyber Safety Solutions, Susan will offer proactive strategies to help keep young people safe.

**Don't miss out.**  
**FREE event.**  
**Scan to register.**







Queries: Coach Sean  
0411 602 204



September 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct

8am - 5pm  
MON - FRI



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

\$65 BOOK  
per day NOW!

NERF  
Games  
Thur  
Sep 25th



Kelly Sports  
Games  
Friday  
Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>

## NEW LOCATION!

Our Holiday Program will be running at the  
Ballarat Netball Association these holidays!

115 Barkly St, Golden Point, 3350

\*We will NOT be running  
FRI 26<sup>th</sup> September  
public holiday

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



Ballarat Netball Association  
115 Barkly St, Golden Point, 3350  
8am - 5pm Weekdays  
Kinder - Grade 6 - Enroll online

# FUN

[www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat](http://www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat)

# FREE

## School Holiday Program

Ballarat Primary School Students

**Build confidence, connection and capability – this school holiday.**





Since 2022, Paw Pals has partnered with local Ballarat schools to support student wellbeing through therapy dog-assisted learning.

We're excited to bring our school holiday program to Ballarat! Our free program builds on the foundation of Paw Pals with fun, engaging activities designed to strengthen peer connection, boost self-confidence, and foster independence.

“

thankyou so much for making me happy and making me enjoy my time ☺

July Intake Student

-  **Free to Attend**
-  **Grades 4–6**
-  **September 22, 23, 24, 10AM –2PM**
-  **Lucas Community Hub, 17 Coltman Plaza, Lucas**

Activities are based on the Paw Pals Curriculum, which aligns with the general capabilities in the Victorian Curriculum.

**Spots are limited. Get in touch with us today to secure your place.**

**Contact: Kath Anderson**



**0417 461 161**



**[kathleen.anderson@mackillop.org.au](mailto:kathleen.anderson@mackillop.org.au)**



**[mackillop.org.au/programs/paw-pals](https://mackillop.org.au/programs/paw-pals)**



This holiday program is made possible thanks to the generous support of



Mackillop Family Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Elders in each of the communities where we work.  
Mackillop celebrates and draws strength from diversity and respects the dignity of all people. We value an inclusive culture where lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, gender diverse, intersex and asexual people (LGBTIQA+) have the right to be safe.



**Paw Pals Program**