



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

With God First, We will Live, Learn & Thrive

NEWSLETTER

DATE: 9/10/2025
TERM: 3
WEEK: 8

Dear Families,

This Sunday, 14th September, the Catholic Church in Australia marks as Safeguarding Sunday; a day that focuses on the protection of children and vulnerable people. At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School we have a Safeguarding Officer who oversees Child Safety at our school. Our Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Trish Caldwell. Trish is our school Deputy Principal and works alongside staff and students to ensure the school is a safe place for all. The school website has up-to-date information regarding Child Safety Standards which parents are encouraged to read.



STUDENT INVOLVED LEARNING CONVERSATIONS (SILCs)

Thank you to the families that were involved with Student Involved Learning Conversations, (SILCs). We had over 420 meetings held over the last two nights. The event provided a great opportunity for the students to share and celebrate some of their achievements so far this term.

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 the school community. The Father's Day Stall provided over 500 lovely gifts and our Father's Day Breakfast catered for over 550 people. These events and the volunteers that ran them are a big part of what makes our school community so special.



BOOK WEEK PARADE

Book Week is being celebrated across our school this week with lots of fun book activities. As part of our celebration's students are being encouraged to use their imagination to dress up for our Book Week Parade which will be held this **Friday, 12th September at 9:15am**. Parents and carers are welcome to join us for the Book Week parade in the school hall from 9am onwards.



DEPARTING STAFF

At the end of this term, we farewell **Mrs Renee Whitefield** (Finance Officer) and **Ms Tina Handley** (Pastoral Care Worker). We thank Renee and Tina for their great service to our school community over many years and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.



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

ENROLMENTS 2026

With planning for the 2026 school year about to commence, I would ask families who are aware that they will not be returning to St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School next year, to promptly inform the school as we continue to receive frequent enquiries from families seeking enrolment positions for 2026.

FOOTY COLOURS DAY

Thursday 18th 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. There is no cost involved with this event.



SCHOOL DISCO

The student school disco will be held in the multipurpose room on **Thursday 18th September**, prior to the school closure day on **Friday 19th September**. There is no cost for this event. This event is run by the teachers. Students are encouraged to dress up and to come along and have a great time dancing. Session times are outlined below:



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 HELPER

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 tevens@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.

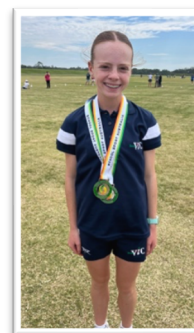
IMPORTANT DATES

As we move to the latter weeks of Term 3 and enter the season of Spring, I would like to confirm some important dates relating to Term 4 and the start of the school year in 2026 so that you can plan as needed. Please see the calendar that is attached to this newsletter for additional important dates for the remainder of Term 3 and Term 4.

Important dates	Event
Monday 3 rd November 2025	<i>School closure day: Assessment and Reporting</i>
Tuesday 4 th November 2025	<i>Public Holiday: Melbourne Cup</i>
Thursday 18 th December 2025	<i>Last day for students for 2025</i>
Wednesday 28 th January 2026	<i>First day for all students (including Foundations)</i>

SSA NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY TITLES

Year 6 student, Olivia McConchie has been competing in the School Sports Australia National Cross-Country Championships which are being held this week on the Gold Coast. Olivia is part of the Victorian team. Her team participated on Monday and were placed second overall thereby being awarded the silver medal. Today, Olivia competed in the 4 x 1500m relay, running the second leg in a time of 4min44sec and gaining a 50m lead for her team which went on to finish in second place and again earn silver medals. Congratulations to Olivia on these fabulous achievements.



KENDO MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATION

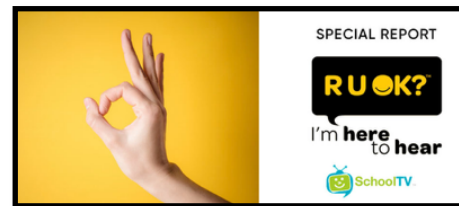
The Ballarat Kendo Club will be presenting a demonstration next Tuesday afternoon for Yr 5/6s classes at 2:30pm.

SCHOOL TV: Update Week 8, 2025: A SPECIAL REPORT: R U OK? Day

Here is the link to your special report:

https://stmalfredton.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-r-u-ok-day

'Understanding the growing challenges related to mental health among young people is an important consideration. Anxiety, depression and self-harm - are all causes for concern. Factors like academic pressure, social media, family dynamics and societal expectations are contributing to these issues. It's therefore crucial for parents and caregivers to act early, remove the stigma around discussing mental health and offer accessible support to address these issues and the wellbeing of their children.



R U OK? Day is an initiative that focuses on preventing suicide by encouraging meaningful personal connections and helping informal support networks to help recognise the signs of distress. We urge all families to take part, emphasising the value of genuine human relationships and reminding everyone to ask the important question, "Are you OK?"

Engaging in R U OK? Day activities goes beyond the classroom; it's a commitment to our students' overall development. By talking openly about mental health, schools create safe spaces where students feel understood, valued and supported. As parents and caregivers, you can contribute by fostering open conversations, normalising feelings and breaking down mental health stigmas. Participating in R U OK? Day promotes compassion and shows our dedication to the wellbeing of the entire school community, reaffirming that together, we can truly make a difference.

This Special Report provides guidance on how to talk to your child about mental health and engage in meaningful discussions.

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)

FORTHCOMING PET BLESSING

St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat is excited to announce details around a forthcoming Pet Blessing event. As we approach the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, our school community is warmly invited to gather for a Collective Pet Blessing at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat, on **Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 11:30 AM**. Further event details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Mr. Simon Duffy,

Principal

Term 3 Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 Sept	8 Parent/ Teacher/Student Learning Conferences 3.30 – 7:15pm	9 Parent/ Teacher/ Student Learning Conferences 3.30 – 7:15pm	10	11 District Athletics Day Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 Dodd	12 Book Week Dress-up Day & Parade @ 9:15am
9 Sept	15	16	17 Whole School Prayer@ 2:55pm led by Foundation Cudia	18 Footy Colours Day Last Day of Term 3 1.45pm finish Student Disco F-2: 3:45-4:30pm Years 3&4: 4:45-5:30 Years 5&6: 5:45-6:45pm	19 School Professional Development Day

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Term 4 Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Oct	6	7	8	9 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2 Calleija & 1/2 Hammill	10 Athletics - GWR
2 Oct	13	14	15	16 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Calleija	17
3 Oct	20	21	22	23 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Stacey	24 GWR Basketball Mission Day Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Davis
4 Oct	27 Yr 6 Graduation photo taken	28	29	30 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Edwards	31 World Teacher's Day Yr 5/6 Interschool sport day
5 Nov	3 School closure day: Assessment and Reporting	4 Melbourne Cup Day- Public Holiday	5 Yr 5/6 Interschool cricket	6 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Gannon	7
6 Nov	10 SAC Meeting 5pm	11 Remembrance Day Whole School Prayer @ 10:45am led by 3/4 Hawkes/Larkin	12 Foundation 2026 Transition session & Parent Information Meeting 9.15 – 11am	13 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 De Bono/Edmonds	14 Foundation Mass 9.15am
7 Nov	17	18	19 Foundation 2026 Transition session 9.15 – 11am	20 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Gittings/Hobbs	21
8 Nov	24	25	26 Foundation 2026 Transition session 9.15 – 1pm.	27 Year 3/4 Camp Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2 Harris	28 Year 3/4 Camp
9 Nov/ Dec	1	2 Yr 6 Orientation Day @ Loreto, Damascus and St Patrick's Colleges	3 Yr. 6 Adventure Park Excursion	4 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4 Woodhart Christmas Carols on the oval 5-7 pm	5
10 Dec	8 Classroom Helpers Thank You Afternoon Tea	9	10	11 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 5/6 Smith	12
11 Dec	15 End of Year Thanksgiving Mass 9.15am at STMCPs Going up day session for 2026 classes REPORTS GO HOME	16 Nativity - Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by Foundation classes	17 Yr 6 Graduation Dinner at Ballarat Golf Club @ 6pm	18 Students' final day Fun activity day & picnic at Victoria Park Dismissal @ 1.45pm	19 Staff Day - final day.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

LORETO COLLEGE – YEAR 7 2027 ENROLMENT

Loreto College invites prospective families to come along to their upcoming Open Morning and Year 7 2027 Information Evening. Open Day is perfect for those families who **haven't** toured the College before. At the Year 7 2027 Information Evening, learn more about Loreto life, the future of learning at Loreto College and meet our College Leadership Team and key staff. This evening is for Year 7 2027 (Year 5 Students) prospective parents/carers and students. Please note that availability is limited for both events.

KEY DATES and links:

Open Morning – Thursday 23 October 2025

Year 7 2027 Information Evening – Tuesday 28 October 2025

Year 7 2027 Application Closing Date – Friday 6 February 2026

For further information, please visit our enrolments page at <https://loreto.vic.edu.au/loreto-education/enrolment/>



I AM LORETO

EXPERIENCE LORETO UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN MORNING
Thursday 23 October 2025 | 9am - 12pm
(Bookings essential)

**YEAR 7 2027 PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES
EVENING**
Tuesday 28 October 2025 | 5:30 pm
Loreto College Ballarat - Mary's Mount Centre
(Bookings essential)

IMPORTANT DATES
Year 7 2027 Enrolment and
Scholarship Applications close
Friday 6 February 2026

Register to attend and learn more by
scanning the QR code or visit
loreto.vic.edu.au



Queries: Coach Sean
0411 602 204

September 22nd Sep
October 3rd Oct
8am - 5pm
MON - FRI

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

\$65 BOOK NOW!
per day

HOLIDAY PROGRAM!

NERF Games
Thur Sep 25th

Kelly Sports Games
Friday Oct 3rd

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 26th 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



ALFREDTON BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL *care programs*

We cater to the needs of all children and offer a range of activities including sports, games, arts and crafts, cooking, creative and expressive arts such as drama, singing and dancing, board games and puzzles and much more. We also provide healthy and delicious snacks.

For more information call 0492 847 596
or visit yballarat.org.au





IT'S PLAY TIME!

VLine Cup Fever

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM BALLARAT

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
TUESDAY 23 rd September	9.00 AM - 3.00 PM	NORTH OVAL 2 (NEXT DOOR TO MARS STADIUM)

A FULL DAY OF FOOTY FUN INCLUDES:

- Auskick Program (5-7) & Superkick Program (8-12)
- Free Football for every participant registered
- Plenty of Football Skills
- Mini Games
- Fun Indoor Activities (AFL Activities),
- Trivia, Dance Parties
- Draft Combine (Superkick Program)
- Make your own Football Badge
- Skills Program with AFL Vic Coaches (Superkick Program)

MARS Stadium Experience & Photo with the 2025 AFL Premiership Cup

Register Now!

ALL GIRLS GROUPS AVAILABLE

QR CODE

AFL PLAY

** There will also be a Ballarat SHP on Tuesday 30th September at Eastern Oval **

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOOTBALL CLINICS WITH COACH LOHMANN

FOOTY AND WELLBEING

AGES 5-12 AGES 12-16

SKILLS FUN HEART CONNECTION STARS

HUMAN FIRST, ATHLETE SECOND

SEPTEMBER 22ND-OCTOBER 1ST

WITH COACHES FROM - AFL, AFL W, VFL, VFL W, TALENT LEAGUE

REGISTER [HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DEXYS](https://www.trybooking.com/dexys)




JAKE LOHMANN KAI LOHMANN

OTHER COACHES - SOCIAL MEDIA STAR WILL TAYLOR, AFLW GUN LAUREN BUTLER AND MORE!!!

SCAN ME

QR CODE

DATES, LOCATIONS, INFO

BALLARAT (CE BROWN RESERVE)

MONDAY 22/SEP 9AM-3PM 5-12YRS
TUESDAY 23/SEP 10AM-2PM 12-16YRS
MONDAY 29/SEP 9AM-3PM 5-12YRS
TUESDAY 30/SEP 10AM-2PM 12-16YRS

MARYBOROUGH (PRINCES PARK)

WEDNESDAY 24/SEP 9AM-3PM 5-12YRS
WEDNESDAY 1/OCT 10AM-2PM 12-16YRS

INCLUDES FREE JOURNAL, FUNDAMENTALS, GAMES

\$75 - ONE DAY **BOYS & GIRLS**

CONTACT - JACOB LOHMANN 0439455316
COACHLOHMANNFOOTY@GMAIL.COM

LUCAS LITTLE ATHS IS BACK!

2025/2026 SUMMER SEASON

Season begins Friday 10th Oct

5:30pm (set up/warm up) 5:45pm-7:15pm track time

Lucas Primary School Oval

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN SESSION OF TRACK AND FIELD!

New and returning athletes and parents are welcome!

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER VIST OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR <https://lavic.com.au/centres/lucas/>

LUCAS **Integr8** **Little Athletics Victoria**

a better lifestyle **lavic.com.au**



Blessing of the Animals

We are commemorating St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day by gathering with our families, friends, and pets for a collective blessing.

Saturday 4th October at 11:30 am

Outdoor Liturgy at St Patrick's Cathedral

- Please keep all small animals and cats in appropriate pet carriers during the service to ensure their safety.
- Dogs must be friendly**, well-socialised, and kept on leashes.
- Participants are required to clean up after their pets.
- Everyone is welcome to bring a photo, a soft toy, or join in prayer and blessing.



For event information email: hello@cameliaprenc.com