



Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope that the holidays provided a great opportunity for families to relax, rest and reset for this final school term of the year. The term is action packed with excursions, camps, Masses, Assemblies, Whole School Prayers, Mission Day, World Teachers Day, Remembrance Day, School Christmas Carols and much more. Please see the calendar attached to page four of this newsletter so that, as a family, you can be involved in as many of these events as possible.

MISSION DAY 2025

Each year in October, as a school, we support **Catholic Mission Australia**. Catholic Mission Australia works to support children and families in over 160 countries worldwide. This year our school's Mission Fundraising Day will be held next week on **Friday 24th October**. All money raised will go directly to Catholic Mission Australia. Students are encouraged to bring along silver coins to spend at the many and various stalls. Year 3/4 classes, as well as groups of students in Years 5 and 6, will be organising and conducting fun activities for all students to enjoy. The price of activities ranges from 10 cents through to \$1, thus the reason why students are encouraged to only bring along silver coins. Please avoid sending money notes as the stalls will not have the capacity to give large amounts of change. For the price of a gold coin donation, students may also wear casual clothes for the day. The activities and stalls will run from 1.45 – 2.45pm.



SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL 2026

We are currently seeking parent nominations for our School Advisory Council (SAC) for 2026. The SAC acts as an advisory body to the principal on matters relating to the operation of the school. The SAC supports the principal in the directions / policies of the school. It offers advice to assist with planning for the present and the future operation of the school. I encourage those interested to click the link below to find out more and to determine whether such a position is of interest to them. <https://forms.gle/9Ngz5pxr2vUzunqX8> SAC nominations close on **Friday, 24th October** at 1pm.

CLASS GROUPINGS FOR 2026

As we begin planning for the 2026 school year, our staff are currently working through the important process of creating class groupings for next year. This is a thoughtful and collaborative process, with input from classroom teachers and specialist staff who know the students well. Each child will also have the opportunity to nominate friends and peers they feel they work well with to help us form balanced, positive learning groups. This year, we will not be seeking additional feedback from families regarding class placements, as we are confident in the professional judgement and care our teachers bring to this process. We look forward to shaping engaging and supportive classes where every child can live, learn and thrive in 2026!

ENROLMENTS 2026

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 who are seeking enrolment positions for 2026.

CROSSING CUTHBERTS ROAD SAFELY

Last week we almost had a pedestrian accident involving a child and parent who were crossing Cuthberts Road at a non- designated crossing area. Fortunately, both the parent and child were uninjured, but it was very unsettling for those who witnessed it and the driver of the vehicle. It is a timely reminder that we ask parents to set a good example for the children by crossing either at the supervised school crossing near Alfredton Primary School or at the designated crossing at the intersection of Cuthberts Road and Elaine Ave. We thank you for your support with this important safety request.

REGIONAL ATHLETICS RESULTS

Congratulations to the following students who placed either first or second last Friday while competing at the Greater Western Regional level in their respective athletic events. These students performed exceptionally well and now get to represent STMCPs at state level on **Thursday 6th November**.

Olivia McConchie: 800m and 1500m

Hunter Sisic: High jump and 200m

Fletcher Stevens, Lewis Pascoe, Archer Stevens, Hunter

Sisic: Boys' Relay Team

We wish them all the best for the Victorian State Titles.



SENIOR BOYS' NETBALL TEAM

Congratulations to our Senior Boys' Netball Team that represented the school at the School Sports Victoria State Championships on Wednesday 17th September in Melbourne. The team won two games out of three games they played, which was the case for all the teams in the pool, however, due to a small percentage they just missed out on finals. Over the course of the three competitions that they participated in, they won 12 of 13 games they played which is an outstanding result considering this was a new sport for each of the boys. Many thanks to Jayde Brennan for generously volunteering to train and coach the boys so well.



TOYS AT SCHOOL

We ask that parents assist the school with reducing the excessive number of toys that some students in the Junior years are currently bringing to school each day. We strongly request that students don't bring toys to school as they frequently present as distractions during learning time, and they also run the risk of accidentally becoming damaged or lost.

IMPORTANT DATES

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 Term 4.

Important dates	Event
Monday 3rd November 2025	School closure day Assessment and reporting
Tuesday 4 th November 2025	Melbourne Cup - Public Holiday
Thursday 18th December 2025	Last day for students
Wednesday 28th January 2026	First day for students (Including Foundations)

School TV:

A Special Report: Dealing with Disappointment

'As young people learn to navigate through various aspects of their life, they may face disappointment due to unfulfilled expectations, shattered dreams or unexpected setbacks. Yet, with the appropriate tools, strategies and a positive mindset, young people can learn to cope with disappointment and use it as an opportunity for personal growth and success.

Disappointment can be a tricky emotion to deal with at any age. It is a normal part of growing up. However, children sometimes need reminding that they have a choice in how they respond to disappointment and their response will determine the impact it has on their future happiness. Overall, disappointment is a healthy and positive emotion and plays an integral part in a child's emotional, intellectual and social development.

Helping young people manage their disappointment is important in order to avoid stronger emotions such as anxiety and depression. Although a parent's first reaction may be to fix the problem, it is better to encourage your child to find the words to express how they feel.

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.' (School TV, 2025)

Here is the link to the special report:

https://stmalfredton.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-dealing-disappointment



May God bless you all and keep you safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Simon Duffy'.

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 4 Calendar, 2025

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES





MONDAY 20th OCT

This upcoming Monday anyone can join in for Kelly Sports after-school (3.20pm - 4.20pm) at STM for FREE!!!

To book: TEXT 0411 602 204



QUERIES: TEXT SEAN 0411 602 204



TERM 4 SPORTS!

MONDAYS: FUN & CRAZY GAMES
3.20PM - 4.20PM


TUESDAYS: MULTI-SPORTS
3:20PM - 4:20PM
BASKETBALL, SOCCER, FRISBEE, TENNIS & CRICKET (2 WEEKS OF EACH)

10 WEEK PROGRAM - PREPS TO GRADE 6

SIGN UP AT ANY TIME DURING THE TERM

\$18 + GST PER SESSION

ST THOMAS MORE PS
SESSIONS RUN AT ST THOMAS MORE PS
PICK UP IS AT 4:20PM FROM THE SCHOOL



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Kwik Kopy BALLARAT
Proud Local Partner

WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GREATER-BALLARAT

JUNIOR CRICKET BLAST IS HERE - JOIN US AT BALLARAT-REDAN CRICKET CLUB

Ready to bat, bowl and have a ball?

- Everyone welcome - Kids aged up to 10 years old
- Over in a flash - 60 minutes of fun each session in a safe and inclusive environment
- Make pals, catch skills, throw like a boss, and teamwork like a pro!
- Kids will be able to rock the colours of their favourite Big Bash heroes with their own Cricket Blast pack
- All the gear, no fear!
- Sunday mornings, 10am to 11am - 10 week program!




Starting: SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER @ Alfredton Oval

Last session before Christmas break - Sunday 14th December
Returning in 2026 on Sunday 1st February
Final session on Sunday 22nd February 2026

For more information and to register
Call Sam Neale - 0400 839 872 - Blast Co-Ordinator
or visit our Facebook page - Ballarat-Redan Cricket Club

The Collective Mental Health Expo & Circle of Solidarity



Join your community in supporting mental wellbeing!



Free community event for Mental Health Awareness Month 2025

Sunday, October 19, 10am - 2pm
Enter Lake Esmond from Clayton St, Larter St, and Lal Lal St.
Car Parking available at Canadian Lead Primary School and along Larter St.

What to expect:
Meet new people, family fun activities, **free sausage sizzle** and join your community in supporting mental wellbeing together. Food vans at your cost.
No registration needed!

For accessibility requirements contact bmhcommunityevent@gmail.com