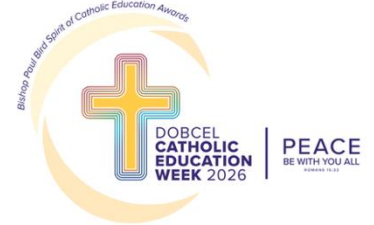




NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

All schools within the Ballarat Diocese will be celebrating Catholic Education Week next week from the 25th – 29th May. The theme for this year’s celebration is: *“Peace be with you all”* from Romans 15:33. As a means of celebrating this special week within our school community we are hosting some events.



COMBINED PARISH-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Next **Monday, 25th May**, as part of Catholic Education Week, our four parish schools will gather to celebrate our shared faith, values and mission within the Catholic Church. Students and staff will connect with others beyond their own school community through a liturgy and a range of fun interactive activities. Foundation students will visit St Patrick's Parish Primary School, Years 1&2 students will attend St Columba's Primary School, Years 3&4 students will visit Siena Catholic Primary School and Years 5&6 students will gather at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School.



Details have been shared with families via PAM.

SPECIAL PERSONS DAY

A reminder that next **Thursday 28th May** between 1:30 – 3:15pm we will be celebrating Special Person’s Day. The format for the day is that “Special Person’s” are invited to come into school at 1:30pm and wait outside in the school yard until the students come out at 1:45pm. Our “Special Person’s” will then have time with the children outside. They may like to bring along some food to share. At 2:20pm the students and special people will come into the classrooms. Students will have the opportunity to show their work to their special person/s and include them with activities in the class. At 2:40pm students and special people will make their way to the Hall and Multipurpose Room in readiness for Whole School Prayer which will be led by the students. The day will conclude at 3:15pm.



30 YEAR SERVICE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD

A big congratulation to **Mrs Kath Davis**, current year 5/6 teacher, who as part of Catholic Education Week, will receive a special acknowledgement for her 30 years of dedication to Catholic Education. We congratulate Kath on this wonderful achievement and we feel very blessed to have benefited from Kath’s expertise, enthusiasm and commitment over the years.



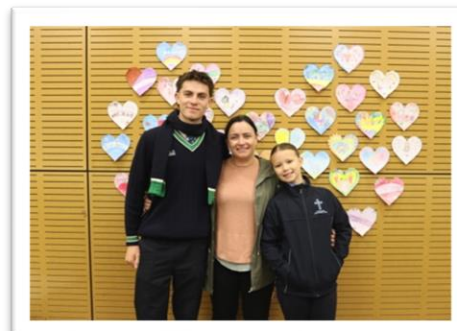
BISHOP PAUL SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARDS

A big congratulations also to **Mrs Dympna Turner**, our school’s Religious Education Leader, who has been short listed for a *Bishop Paul Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2026* at the Catholic Education Awards night. She has been nominated for her dedication, passion and commitment to the community, embodying the true spirit of Catholic education. We wish Dympna all the best for the award on the night.



PARENTS AND FRIENDS

A big thank you to our fantastic Parent and Friends Association who arranged several wonderful events for our school community. The Mother's Day Stall provided over 550 lovely gifts and our annual Mother's Day Breakfast catered for over 500 people. These events, alongside the wonderful volunteers that organised and ran them, are a big part of what makes our school community so special.



YEARS 3-6 SCHOOL ATHLETICS DAY

A wonderful Years 3-6 school athletics carnival took place on Friday 15th May. A big thank you to Mrs Willey for all her fantastic organising to make the day run so well.

The overall results were: **1st place - Red team** (380 points), **2nd place - Green team** (307 points),
3rd place - Gold team (280 points) and **4th place - Blue team** (272 points).

Well done to our Age Group Champions: **9/10 Girls** – Harper Walsh

9/10 Boys – Myles Baker

11 Girls - Ava Riordan

11 Boys - Oliver Piatkov

12 Girls – Yenuli Ilapperuma

12 Boys – Jed Walsh



JUNIOR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Our Junior Athletic Carnival will be held on the school oval this **Friday, 22nd May**. This event is for students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2. On the day they can wear their house colours e.g. Red T-Shirt or Green shorts etc, or just their sports uniform. The event will run from 1pm – 3.15pm. Parents are welcome to join us on the school oval from 1pm.



INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the 27 students who represented the school so well in Cross Country Running at Federation University last Monday. We wish the following students who made it through to the next stage, the Greater Western Region Cross Country Championship, all the best:

- 9/10 Boys -Myles (2nd place), Xavier (8th place) Josh (9th Place)
- 9/10 Girls - Edith (5th place)
- 11 Boys - Oliver (1st place)
- 11 Girls – Millie (10th place)
- 12 Boys – Lewis (10th Place)



SCHOOL PRODUCTION

A reminder for families that our school production “*St Thomas More Goes to Broadway*” is only 4 weeks away. The event is on **Thursday 18th June** at **6pm** at Civic Hall. Details will be emailed to all parents shortly in relation to purchasing tickets, student costumes, purchasing a USB movie copy of the school production and instructions of pick up and drop off on the night. The countdown is on.

FIRST EUCHARIST

We congratulate the 38 students from St Thomas More Catholic Primary School who are undertaking the preparation for the sacrament of First Eucharist. These students will be receiving their First Eucharist over the coming weekends. We keep them all in our thoughts and prayers as they continue their faith journey.

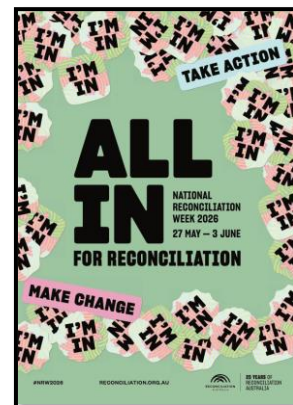


NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week, held 27 May to 3 June every year, is “a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to recommit ourselves to reconciliation and the fight for First Nations justice in Australia. This year’s theme, *All In*, is “a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day.”

As a school community we acknowledge and celebrate National Reconciliation Week. The students learn that it is a time for all Australians to share histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation. This link will take you to further information about Nation Reconciliation Week:

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>



NEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS VICTORIA WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Catholic School Parents Victoria (CSPV) is the statewide representative body for parents and carers of students in Catholic schools. As an advisory body to VCEA, CSPV plays a key role in strengthening the partnership between families, schools and the Church. CSPV has recently developed new branding and a new website that serves as a central hub of information and resources for parents: www.cspv.catholic.edu.au



ADMINISTRATION, SOCIAL WORKER and MAINTENANCE APPRECIATION DAY

We recently celebrated Administration, Social Worker and Maintenance Staff Appreciation Day, where we recognised and gave thanks to our fabulous staff who work in the front office, supporting student /family wellbeing, and caring for our school grounds. We are very fortunate and blessed to have Phil, Fran, Liv, Amanda and Kaye who are such dedicated and hardworking staff members. Each day each of these five staff members contribute enormously towards presenting a welcoming and safe school environment where all can Live, Learn and Thrive.



SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS IN 2026 (STUDENT FREE DAYS)

| Date | Purpose |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Friday 5 th June | Mental Health - Staff Professional Development |
| Friday 31 st July | Religious Education - Staff Professional Development |
| Tuesday 1 st September | FLARE Literacy - Staff Professional Development |
| Monday 2 nd November | Curriculum planning and reporting |

School TV: Update Week 5, 2026: CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Here is the link to the Cultural Diversity: [Cultural Diversity](#)



'Cultural diversity encompasses the variety of cultures, beliefs, and traditions present globally, contributing to a rich tapestry of human experiences and perspectives. By valuing every child's cultural background, we enable them to excel in all facets of life. Nurturing an environment of curiosity, open-mindedness, and respect for all cultures, will not only promote unity but a deeper appreciation of the nuances that distinguish us.

Inclusion is about more than just words; it's about fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance for every child, regardless of their cultural background. When children and adolescents feel seen and valued for who they are, they can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Valuing and understanding cultural diversity, helps our communities benefit from a wealth of perspectives and experiences, enhancing our collective capacity for empathy and innovation.

As parents and adult carers, instilling an appreciation for cultural diversity is vital to equip young people with the tools they need to navigate an increasingly interconnected world. Through leading by example and showing that kindness and understanding knows no boundaries, we can encourage them to embrace multiculturalism. This will not only prepare young people for personal success, but also for contributing to a world that views diversity as a strength. Through collective efforts, we can help pave the way for a more accepting and vibrant future.' (School TV, 2025)

SchoolTV is offering parents and caregivers a free online webinar presented by Dr Emma Woodward and Dr Joe Stammeijer. They share valuable insights into recognising early signs of concern and practical approaches to supporting the wellbeing of young people.

WEBINAR: Understanding Anxiety and Depression to Foster Resilience

DATE: Wednesday, 10 June 2026

TIME: 7:30 pm

Topics in this session will include:

- Staying Calm and Connected
- Building Daily Routines
- Meeting the Needs of Neurodivergent Learners

<https://stmalfredton.catholic.schooltv.me/print/pdf/node/22851>



A FREE WEBINAR

Understanding Anxiety and Depression to Foster Resilience

PART 2

Supporting Primary & Secondary students

This webinar is **Part II** of a series.

In this session, topics include:

- Staying Calm and Connected
- Building Daily Routines
- Meeting the Needs of Neurodivergent Learners

Online, Wednesday
10 June, 2026
7:30 pm



May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Simon Duffy
Principal

Term 2 Calendar, 2026

| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------|---|---------|-----------|--|--|
| 5 May | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 Larkin</i> | 22 Year 3/4 Excursion to Scienceworks 9am - 5pm Junior F-2 Athletics Carnival at St Thomas More School 1:00 – 3:15pm |
| 6 May | 25 <i>Catholic Education Week</i> | 26 | 27 | 28 Special Persons Day 1:30 - 3:15pm <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4 Martin</i> | 29 Year 5/6 interschool Soccer Year 5/6 Mass 9.15am in the School Hall |
| 7 May/June | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Turkenburg/Bourke</i> | 5 School Closure Day Staff PD - Mental Health training day |
| 8 June | 8 <i>King's Birthday- Public Holiday</i> | 9 | 10 | 11 <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Gannon</i> | 12 Yr 5/6 Interschool Netball |
| 9 June | 15 <i>Year 5/6 Excursion to Melbourne Museum and Imax. 9:00-4:15pm</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Edwards</i> <i>School production @6pm at Ballarat Civic Hall</i> | 19 Yr 5/6 Interschool sport STM versing Emmaus |
| 10 June | 22 <i>St Thomas More Feast Day Mass 9.15am</i> | 23 | 24 | 25 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Hammill</i> | 26 |