

Dear Families,

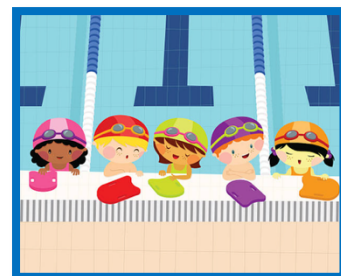
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

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 undertake the sacrament this weekend. Most of our Confirmation candidates will receive the sacrament this coming Saturday evening at 5:30pm Mass, celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral.



SWIMMING PROGRAM

Our intensive swimming program begins this week where students participate in daily sessions for a full week. It is always fantastic to see the students grow in their skill ability, confidence and knowledge of water safety in such a short amount of time. We thank the swim teachers from the Swim and Survival Academy who teach our students these vital skills. Swimming session times for all classes are listed on the Term 3 calendar which can be found on page four of this newsletter.



STMCPSs LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICER (LSO) APPRECIATION DAY



Last Tuesday we celebrated Learning Support Officer Appreciation Day; an opportunity to recognise and thank our 19 wonderful Learning Support Officers (LSOs) for their hard work and dedication to our students. Learning Support Officers (LSOs) play a vital role in education by assisting students with diverse learning needs to access the curriculum and thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Working closely with teachers, LSOs provide targeted support, adapt learning materials and help create inclusive classroom environments. They often work one-on-one or in small groups, offering encouragement and personalised strategies to help students overcome challenges. Their dedication, patience and understanding has a significant positive influence on student achievement and wellbeing.

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 3rd 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/carer. All gifts are priced at \$5 each. On Thursday afternoon, **Thursday 3rd 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 4th 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) via email on adonald1905@gmail.com



ATHLETICS

Congratulations to the following students who have progressed through to the Eureka Division Athletics Competition to be held on **Wednesday 9th September**:

Edith Brick - 9/10yo Girls 800m

Evie Grumley & Emily McConville - 9/10yo Girls 80m Hurdles

Myles Baker - 9/10yo Boys 800m & 9/10yo Boys 80m Hurdles

Vance Kirkpatrick - 9/10yo Boys Shot Put

Hamish Bayles - 11yo Boys 80m hurdles

Oliver Piatkov - 11yo Boys 800m

Archer Stevens - 12/13yo Boys 100m

Lewis Pascoe - 12/13yo Boys Triple Jump

9/10yo Boys relay team - Myles Baker, Jimmy Richardson, Harry Larkin, Jack Cavill

12/13yo Boys relay team - Archer Stevens, Jed Walsh, Lewis Pascoe, Zach Seater

In addition, quite a few students have placed third which means they will be the first emergency if someone pulls out so we could possibly have a few extras attending.

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 **Monday 31st August and Wednesday 2nd 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 open tomorrow.**

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



BOOK WEEK PARADE

Book Week will be celebrated across the school from **Monday 7th – Friday 11th September (Week 9)** this term. This year the theme is “**Symphony of Stories**”. Students are encouraged to use their imagination to dress up for our Book Week Parade, which is due to be held on **Friday, 11th September**.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT FOR 2028

Please find information below if you are looking to enrol your Year 5 child at a Catholic secondary school in Ballarat in 2028.

A reminder that applications for Year 7 2028 at **Damascus College** close on **Friday 14 August 2026**.

<https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrol>

A reminder that applications for Year 7 2028 at **St Patrick's College** close on **Friday 5th February 2027**.

<https://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/enrolments/admissions/enquiries/>

A reminder that Application for Year 7 2028 at **Loreto College** close on **Friday 5th February 2027**.

<https://www.loreto.vic.edu.au/enrolments>

SchoolTV –Shaping Healthy Masculinity

This week's SchoolTV Special Report explores **Shaping Healthy Masculinity** and the important role families play in helping boys develop confidence, empathy and respectful relationships. In a world where unhealthy messages can be easily accessed online, the report encourages open conversations, positive role modelling and critical thinking. We encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to read this valuable resource.

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, please don't hesitate to contact the school for support.



JAPANESE LANGUAGE ASSISTANT



Welcome to Sakuno Ichimura, who will be our Japanese language assistant for the next three weeks. Sakuno comes from Chiba, near Tokyo and is very excited to be in Australia for the first time and assist in our Japanese classes. I'm sure our students will benefit greatly from Sakuno's knowledge of Japanese language and culture. We wish Sakuno a wonderful stay in Ballarat and we hope she enjoys her time at St Thomas More.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

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

Simon Duffy
Principal

Term 3 Calendar, 2026

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 Aug	10 School Advisory council meeting 5pm	11	12	13 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 Smith	14 Yr 5/6 Interschool Basketball for selected students
	Swimming Program: 11:30-12:15pm Foundation Gannon & 1/2 Hammill 12:15-1:00pm Foundation Edwards and 1/2 Stacey 1:00-1:45pm Foundation Cudia and 1/2 Turkenburg/Bourke				
6 Aug	17	18	19	20 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4 Gittings/Willey	21 Year 1/2 Mass 9.15am
	Swimming Program: 11:30-12:15pm 1/2 Allan and 1/2 Edmends 12:15-1:00pm 3/4 Hawkes/DeBono and 5/6 Dodd 1:00-1:45pm 3/4 Martin and 5/6 Smith				
7 Sept	24	25	26	27 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Gannon	28
	Swimming Program: 11:30-12:15pm 3/4 Calleija and 5/6 Baker 12:15-1:00pm 3/4 Woodhart and 5/6 Larkin 1:00-1:45pm 3/4 Gittings/Willey and 5/6 Davis				
8 Sept	31 Student Involved Learning Conferences 3.30 – 7:00pm	1 School Closure Day- Staff Professional Development in Literacy	2 Student Involved Learning Conferences 3.30 – 7:00pm	3 Father's Day stall Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by 3/4 classes	4 Father's Day breakfast 7am – 8.30am Yr 5/6 interschool sport- STMCPs hosting St Alipius
9 Sept	7	8	9 Eureka Athletics for qualifying students	10 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Edmends	11 Book Week Parade 9am
10 September	14	15	16	17 Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by Foundation Edwards	18 Last day of Term 3 -1.45pm dismissal