

NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

The school was a buzz with excitement last week with lots of fun Book Week activities depicting the theme of "Reading is Magic". A special thanks to Mrs. Renee Price for making the Book Week activities so engaging and interactive; they certainly brought the books to life for the students.



FOOTY COLOURS DAY

A reminder that this **Friday, 20th September** is our Footy Colours Day. On this day students may wear their favourite sports team colours. If your child does not have a favourite football team, they may wear their favourite sport or colour. No donation is required.



CLASS GROUPINGS FOR 2025

Early next term our classroom teachers will begin to look at possible groupings for classes for next

year. If you have any concerns relating to your child, that are of a significant nature, please forward these requests to Simon Duffy by email no later than **Friday 18th October 2024** at principal@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au. Please understand that this is the only process to follow if you would like the consideration addressed properly. With planning for the 2025 school year now gathering momentum, I would also 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

As we move to the final week of Term 3, I would like to confirm some important dates relating to Term 4 and the start of the school year in 2025 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 4th November 2024	School closure day Assessment and reporting
Tuesday 5 th November 2024	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Wednesday 18th December 2024	Last day for students
Wednesday 29th January 2025	First day for students (Including Foundations)

END OF TERM 3 – START OF TERM 4

Our last day of school for this term is this coming **Friday, 20th September**, and classes cease at **1.45pm** at which time students will be dismissed. School will reopen for students for Term 4 on **Monday 7th October** at **8.30 am**.

PERFORMING ARTS ASSEMBLY

Each of our Years 3/4 and 5/6 classes will be performing at this week's school assembly. They will be presenting items that they have been focusing on in their weekly Performing Arts sessions with Ms Sue Larkin. Parents and family members are most welcome to come along and be entertained tomorrow (**Thursday 19th September**) at **2.30pm** in our Multipurpose Room.



EUREKA ATHLETICS

We are incredibly proud of our 14 athletes who competed in the Eureka Division sports event last Thursday. All our students displayed outstanding dedication and sportsmanship and have earned themselves a place in the Greater Western Region (GWR) competition on **Friday, 11th October** (Week 1, Term 4). To progress to this next level of competition, they needed to have placed first or second in their events which is a huge achievement! We congratulate each of these students on their fantastic efforts.

Buster Argall: 12/13yo boys 100m - 2nd, 12/13yo boys Long Jump - 1st, 12/13yo boys Relay - 1st

Eva Bayles: 12/13yo girls Long Jump - 1st, 12/13yo girls Triple Jump - 1st, 12/13yo girls Relay - 1st

Paddy Ashby: 11yo boys 100m - 2nd, 11yo boys 800m - 2nd

Hamish Bayles: 10yo boys Hurdles - 1st

Ernie Cheesman: 12/13yo boys Relay - 1st

Olivia McConchie: 11yo girls 1500m - 2nd, 11yo girls 800m - 2nd

Ava Miller: 12/13yo girls 100m - 3rd, 12/13yo girls Relay - 1st

Tessa Morris: 12/13yo girls 100m, 12/13yo girls Long Jump - 2nd, 12/13yo girls relay - 1st

Elizabeth Odanye: 11yo girls 100m - 1st, 11yo girls 200m - 1st

Lewis Pascoe: 10yo boys Long Jump - 1st

Lily Petrie: 12/13yo girls Relay - 1st

Tom Power: 12/13yo boys 800m - 2nd, 12/13yo boys Relay - 1st

Freddie Tongue: 12/13yo boys 200m - 2nd, 12/13yo boys Relay - 1st

Lachlan Verberne: 11yo boys Hurdles - 2nd



HOMEWORK SURVEY

Thank you to the 308 people who responded to our survey about the homework trials that were conducted during this term. The results showed that the most requested outcome was nightly home reading. Therefore, beginning at the start of next term the weekly homework expectation for students in Years 1-6 is nightly reading. At the beginning of next term, in each of the unit newsletters, teachers will also suggest maths games, websites and activities (such as timetables practise) that students will have the option to do at home. Daily spelling activities and practice will continue within the classes. I would like to thank students, staff and parents for the valuable input that has been provided during this process.

SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM

A group of our Year 3/4 students have been participating in the Ballarat Netball Associations Primary School Juniors competition this term. Our STM Pink Team consisted of Zoe McFadden, Charlotte Lees, Olivia Turkenburg, Millie Ford, Grace Sheppard, Imogen Brennan, Ella Hay, Mary Wilson and Isabelle Grime.

They have been playing every Tuesday night, rotating their positions and learning all about the game of netball whilst playing against other school teams. They have had great fun playing against other schools from Ballarat and they are planning to continue to play in the upcoming summer competition! Well done girls!



SCHOOL UNIFORM

The start of Term 4 signals a change in uniform requirements for students, where we move from the winter uniform into the summer uniform. The summer uniform is worn for Terms 1 and 4 of the school year. The summer uniform is as follows:

Academic Uniform Option 1

- Summer school dress, navy blue school jumper, white school socks with black school shoes.

Academic Uniform Option 2

- Grey school shorts with school logo (Noone brand), pale blue polo with school logo, navy blue school jumper and grey school socks with black school shoes.

Sports Uniform

- Navy shorts/skort, pale blue long/sleeve polo with school logo, school long sleeve half zip sports top with white school socks and sports shoes.

*Please note also that the school hat is also part of the summer uniform and is to be worn by students when outside for sport, break times and when undertaking outdoor activities.

STMCPs CELEBRATION OF JAPAN DAY



On **Thursday October 10th** we will celebrate Japan Day. Students will take part in various year level-based activities to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture. All students will also participate in Japanese sporting activities as part of an incursion program on the day. Students are permitted to wear their sports uniform and if they have a red or white T-shirt (to signify the Japanese flag) this can be worn instead of the school sports polo shirt. Students may also dress in something related to Japanese culture (to be worn over sports uniform) or just add a little red and white for the day.

CHANGE OF DAY FOR WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER FOR WEEK 1

As the students will be involved in celebrating Japan Day on **Thursday 10th October**, we have moved Week 1 Whole School Prayer to **Wednesday 9th October at 2:55pm**. The students in Year 3/4 Calleija will be leading us in prayer; parents, family members and friends are always most welcome to join us.

COLOUR EXPLOSION FUN RUN TERM 4

On **Friday November 8th** we will be running a Colour Explosion Fun Run! Not only will this be a fun day for the kids but also a great fundraiser for our school.

Students will receive a sponsorship book with instructions on setting up their cybersafe, online fundraising profile at www.australianfundraising.com.au. Students can win up to 15 unique prizes just by fundraising via online sponsorship donations. Fundraising is now open and ends on the **Friday 8th November**.

All students will also receive a pair of sunglasses and a headband on the day.

Keep an eye out for the sponsorship booklet and check your emails for further information.

The P&F Committee will be looking for parents to help on the day (and once prizes arrive) so if you are keen to volunteer please let admin know or get in touch with Amy – adonald1905@gmail.com or Jess - jess.sewell678@gmail.com



SchoolTV

Youth Mental Health:

Overview of this edition:

‘The current state of youth mental health is concerning, with recent research indicating a rise in mental health disorders among young people. The pandemic has exacerbated mental health issues among young people, with increased anxiety, depression, and stress levels reported. Academic pressure and social media use can also negatively impact youth mental health, leading to higher levels of stress and negative emotions. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach, including promoting healthy habits, encouraging open communication, and seeking professional support when necessary. Parents can play a vital role in supporting their children's mental health and well-being by staying informed and engaged in their children's lives.’ (School TV, 2024)



CHILD SAFETY

The Catholic Church in Australia marked Sunday 8th September, as Safeguarding Sunday; a day that focused 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.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Trish Caldwell

Mrs Trish Caldwell
Acting Principal

Term 3 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 Sept	16 <i>Yeas 5/6 Excursion to Imax & Melbourne Museum</i>	17	18	19 <i>Assembly @ 2:30pm Performing Arts with Years 3/4 and 5/6 classes performing</i>	20 <i>Footy Colours Day Last Day of Term 3 1.45pm dismissal</i>

Term 4 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Oct	7	8	9 <i>Whole School Prayer led by 3/4 Calleija @ 2.55pm</i>	10 Japan Day- F-6 activities involving learning more about Japanese culture	11 Year 1/2 Sovereign Hill Excursion Athletics – Greater Western Region at Llanberris Reserve
2 Oct	14	15	16	17 <i>Assembly presented by Foundation Keighrey @2.55pm</i>	18
3 Oct	21	22	23	24 <i>Whole School Prayer led by Foundation Cudia @ 2.55pm</i>	25 World Teacher's Day Mission Day 1- 3pm
4 Oct	28 Year 3/4 Camp	29 Year 3/4 Camp	30 Senior Cricket Competition – Eureka Division	31 <i>GWR Basketball Competition in Colac for Senior Boys Team</i> <i>Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Davis @ 2.55pm</i>	1 Foundation MOPA Excursion, Geelong
5 Nov	4 School Closure Day- Assessment and Reporting Student free day.	5 Melbourne Cup Day - Public Holiday	6	7 <i>Assembly presented by 1/2 Smith @2.55pm</i>	8 P and F Colour Run Fundraiser event at school
6 Nov	11 Remembrance Day <i>Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Dodd @ 2.55pm</i> School Advisory Council Meeting 5pm	12	13 Foundation 2025 Transition 9.15 – 11am	14	15 Year 5/6 Interschool Sports Day with Emmaus Primary School
7 Nov	18	19	20 Foundation 2025 Transition 9.15 – 11am	21 <i>Assembly presented by 1/2 Turkenburg/Hoffmann @2.55pm</i>	22
8 Nov	25	26	27 Foundation 2025 Transition 9.15 – 1pm.	28 <i>Assembly presented by 5/6 Gittings/Hoyle @2.55pm</i>	29
9 Nov/ Dec	2	3 Transition day for Year 6 students attending Loreto, St Patrick's College and Damascus in 2025	4 Yr. 6 Adventure Park Excursion	5 <i>Assembly presented by 3/4 Hawkes / Blachon@2.55pm</i>	6
10 Dec	9 Parent classroom helpers Thank You Afternoon Tea	10 Transition day for Year 6 students attending Ballarat High School in 2025	11 <i>Nativity play Whole School Prayer led by Foundation students @ 2.30pm</i>	12 P and F Christmas Carols 5pm at St Thomas More School	13
11 Dec	16 <i>Thanksgiving Mass @ 9:15am</i> Going-up Day for 2025 REPORTS GO HOME 2:00pm Yr. 6 Graduation dinner 6:00 – 9:30pm	17	18 Student's last day Final fun day activity at Vic Park Finish 1.45pm	19 School holidays	20 School holidays

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NOTICES



I AM LORETO

OPEN MORNING
THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER | 9AM - 12PM

INFORMATION EVENING
YEAR 7 2026
TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER | 6.30PM

loreto.vic.edu.au



Year 7, 2026
applications are
now open

1431 Sturt Street, Ballarat, Victoria
T - 5331 1688
W - www.stpats.vic.edu.au/prospective-families/apply-now/

Character, Compassion, Community



Application for Enrolment

Year 7 2026 applications are open and close
Thursday 6th February 2025

(Please note that we require a Grade 5 NAPLAN and a Grade 5 Semester Report with the application and ask that you not submit your application until you have these documents, but before the closing date.)

QUERIES: CALL DOM 0417 967 621

KELLY SPORTS  **SPORTS HOLIDAY PROGRAM!**

Mon 23rd SEP - Fri 4th OCT

NEW *No session FRI 27th of Sep (GF Public Holiday)

NERF WARS!
THUR Wk1 & FRI Wk2

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



COME ALONG!
to our fun-filled holiday program!

Eastwood Leisure Centre - Ballarat
8am - 5pm Weekdays
Kinder - Grade 6
\$60 per child per day

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THURS 26 SEPT

FITNESS
fernwood
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FREE FOOTY FESTIVAL

SESSION 1: SENSORY: 9AM - 10AM
SESSION 2: 10.30AM - 12.30PM
SESSION 3: 1.15PM - 3.15PM

CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 12
MUST REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE

POWER FM BROADCASTING LIVE
CITY OVAL 1431 MAIR STREET
10AM-2PM



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FOOTY INFLATABLES
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Ballarat Golf Club
JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



U.S. KIDS GOLF

\$250 per child

INCLUDES
FREE CLUB MEMBERSHIP
Valid up to \$1000

Starts in Term 4
7th October
Monday - Friday from 4.30pm - 5.30pm

10 Week Program
Max of 10 per class

BOOKINGS MADE VIA OUR WEBSITE



Program Coached by: **TATT GOLF**