

NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

In the upcoming Advent season, as a school community, we are encouraging students to think of others in our Ballarat community who are less fortunate than ourselves and in need of assistance. With this in mind, we have commenced a Christmas food appeal to donate to St Vincent de Paul.

Beginning next week each family is encouraged to bring along non-perishable food items and leave them at the school office. We will be taking donations up until **Friday, 13th December**, after which time we will pass them on to St Vincent de Paul to distribute. Thanks in advance for your support.



FAREWELLS

This year we farewell two staff members - **Mrs. Tania Hoffmann** (classroom teacher and Learning Support Officer) and **Mrs. Jenna Hoyle** (classroom teacher) from our school community this year. Tania will be heading off to live in London supporting her husband who will be working over there. Jenna will be heading off on maternity leave at the end of this year. Tania and Jenna will be farewelled at our Thanksgiving Mass at the end of the year on **Monday 16th December**.

SCHOOL APP ENDING

As of this week we will cease using the St Thomas More App. After monitoring the traffic on the App, we have found that parents are predominately accessing our school Facebook and Instagram pages to find information. We are also finding that the App is no longer fit for purpose. School newsletters will still be emailed to all families and can be found on our school website. All important and time sensitive information will be relayed to families through email, text messages and/or phone calls.



STATE BASKETBALL TEAM

St Thomas More had eight boys represent our school on Monday 18th November at the State Basketball Championships. The boys played well and showed great sportsmanship in the tournament and just missed out on the finals. We congratulate Buster Argall, Paddy Ashby, Marcus Brennan, Ernie Cheesman, Zac Collard, Will Piatkov, Tom Power and Freddie Tongue on their efforts. A big thank you to Karen Ashby who coached the team so well.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Parents and Friends are conducting our annual *Christmas Raffle*.

Tickets can now be purchased online through

<https://www.rafflelink.com.au/stmchristmas2024>

The raffle will be drawn on the night of the School Christmas Carols,

Thursday 12th December.



SAD NEWS

It is with much sadness that I inform the school community that Bibu James, the father of Ethan (Yr 3/4 Gannon) and Felix (5/6 Davis), passed away on Sunday after a long illness. The school community extends their deepest sympathy to the family and is supporting the family in several ways. Please keep Asha, Ethan and Felix, and their extended family, in your thoughts and prayers at this extremely sad time.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT SCHOOL

Our Parents & Friends group are in the process of organising our school Christmas Carols for **Thursday 12th December**, starting at **5pm**. This will take place on the school oval and all students will be involved in performing various Christmas carols. This is a free event where families bring along their dinner and a rug or chairs to sit on. See the information on page 5 for more details.



THANKSGIVING MASS AND YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Our Thanksgiving Mass will be held on **Monday 16th December** at 9.15am onsite at St Thomas More, to which all families are most welcome to attend. At this mass we will acknowledge our Year 6 graduating students and departing staff while sharing a final celebration as a school community for 2024. The Year 6 parents have organised a special Year 6 Graduation Dinner to be held at the Ballarat Golf Club later that day. Further details about the dinner will be provided to Year 6 families from the Year 6 Parent Group who are organising this event.

FINAL DAY FOR STUDENTS 2024

This year the final day for students will be **Wednesday 18th December**. We have planned a picnic at the Victoria Park playground for the students, staff and families. More details will be sent out in the next newsletter.

Our 2025 Term 1 School Calendar is attached to this newsletter - please see page 4 for more details.

School TV: Update

[Positive Parenting](#)

'The mental health of today's young people is at an all-time low. Depression, anxiety and self-harm are sadly on the rise. Unfortunately, there are more risk factors than protective factors, facing young people growing up. To parent effectively, it is simply not enough to avoid the obvious dangers like abuse, neglect and overindulgence. Parents, therefore, need to arm themselves with practical skills, knowledge and strategies when it comes to raising children. Numerous studies suggest that the best-adjusted children are reared by parents who find a way to combine warmth and sensitivity with clear behavioural expectations.' (School TV, 2024)



CLASSROOM HELPERS THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA

In recognition of the wonderful support our Classroom Helpers have offered in the junior classrooms throughout 2024, we invite them to join us for a special Thank You Afternoon Tea on **Monday 9th December** at 2:30pm. More details can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

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

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal



To our fabulous F-2 Classroom Helpers.....

As the end of the year approaches, the F-2 students and teachers would like to thank the wonderful parents and grandparents from our school community who have assisted us this year. You have all been truly fantastic and we have really appreciated your time, energy and help.

We will be hosting an afternoon tea on **Monday, 9th December**, at 2:30pm in the staff room to thank you.

Week 8 will also be the last week that classes will need helpers.

Thank you again to those fabulous volunteers who have assisted us with literacy sessions this year.

The Junior School staff and students

Term 4 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 Nov	25	26	27 Foundation 2025 Transition 9.15 – 1pm. Yrs 5/6 Excursion to St Patrick's College The Lion King Jr performance 11:00-1:15pm	28 Assembly presented by 5/6 Gittings/Hoyle @2.55pm	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 Assembly presented by 3/4 Hawkes / Blachon@2.55pm	6 Years 3/4 Excursion
10 Dec	9 Classroom Helpers Thank You Afternoon Tea @2:30pm	10 Transition day for Year 6 students attending Ballarat High School in 2025	11 Nativity play Whole School Prayer led by Foundation students @ 2.30pm	12 P and F Christmas Carols 5pm at St Thomas More School	13
11 Dec	16 Thanksgiving Mass @ 9:15am Going-up Session for 2025 STUDENT REPORTS AVAILABLE from 2:00pm Yr. 6 Graduation dinner 6:00 – 9:30pm	17	18 Student's last day Final fun day activity at Victoria Park 10am - 1pm Final dismissal 1.45pm	19 School holidays	20 School holidays

Term 1 Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Jan/Feb	27 <i>Australia Day – Public Holiday</i>	28 <i>Staff resume for 2025 Student free day</i>	29 <i>Students resume school Parent Morning Tea 8.45am- 9.15am</i>	30 <i>Foundation Parent Literacy Learning sessions 9-10.30am repeated 6-7 pm</i>	31
2 Feb	3	4	5 <i>Foundation students - Rest Day</i>	6	7 <i>Opening Year School Mass 9.15 am</i>
3 Feb	10 <i>Parent/Teacher Meetings 2.30 – 5pm</i>	11 <i>Parent/Teacher Meetings 2.30 – 5pm</i>	12 <i>School Closure Day - Staff professional development Pupil-free day</i>	13	14 <i>School Athletics Day For Years 3-6 students held at Llanberris Athletics Reserve</i>
4 Feb	17	18	19 <i>Foundation students - Rest Day</i>	20	21
5 March	24 <i>School Advisory Council Meeting 5:00pm</i>	25	26 <i>Foundation students - Rest Day</i>	27	28
6 March	3	4 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i>	5 <i>Ash Wednesday Foundation students - Rest Day</i>	6	7
7 March	10 <i>Public Holiday - Labour Day</i>	11	12 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>	13 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>	14 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>
8 March	17 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>	18 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>	19	20	21 <i>NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5</i>
9 March/ April	24 <i>Classroom Helper Training session 9-11am (Part 1)</i>	25	26	27 <i>School Photos</i>	28 <i>Junior School Athletics Carnival for Years F- 2 students to be held at school</i>
10	31 <i>Classroom Helper Training session 9-11am (Part 2)</i>	1	2	3	4 <i>Last day of Term 1 1.45pm dismissal</i>

When is it...

**THURSDAY 12TH
DECEMBER**

Elaine Avenue gates will be opened at 5:00pm (entry is FREE!!)



Santa will be joining us from 5:00pm until 5:45pm

Concert will run from 5:45 to 7:15pm (approximately)

What to bring...

BYO...chairs or rugs to be set up on the oval. (Those who bring chairs will be asked to set up behind the families who bring picnic rugs!)



BYO...Picnic Tea! (food, drink and snacks)

Grandparents, friends and family are all invited to join us!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 2024

What to wear...

The students are encouraged to wear
* a **Christmas themed t-shirt or top**...red, white or green, plain or decorated.

***denim bottoms**; jeans, shorts or skirt etc. (school sports shorts will work too!)

*Anything "Christmassy" as long as you can move and groove in it!



What else?

- ☺ Our school's annual Christmas Raffle will be drawn during the evening



- ☺ Each class will be given instruction as to when and where to gather prior to their 'act.'
- ☺ Families are reminded to supervise their children when they are not required on stage!



COMMUNITY EVENTS & NOTICES

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE BALLARAT

Year 7 2026 Enrolment Key Dates

- Enrolment closing date : 7 February 2025
- 2026 Scholarship closing date : 19 February 2025
For Scholarship Information and registration, visit stpats.vic.edu.au
- 2026 Scholarship Testing : 1 March 2025
- Year 7 Testing: 9 August 2025
- Year 7 Orientation Day: 2 December 2025

Year 7 Enrolment interviews will be held at scheduled dates throughout 2024/25 once an application has been received.



APPLY NOW



Character, compassion, community.



2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Encouraging and recognising the pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life, St Patrick's College is offering scholarships to students entering Years 7, 10 & 11 in 2026 in the following categories:

- Academic Excellence
- General Excellence/Leadership
- Performing Arts (Music & Drama)
- Sport

APPLY NOW





Queries: Coach Sean
0411 602 204

Summer HOLIDAY PROGRAM

DECEMBER
MON 16th - THUR 24th

JANUARY
THUR 2nd - FRI 31st

All kids welcome! Over these Summer Holidays Kelly Sports will be running our Summer Holiday Program, tons of fun to be had with all kinds of sports, fun activities, challenge days, and more!

Water gun / Water balloon fights to keep cool while having fun!

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

FUN IN THE SUN!



Kwik Kopy
BALLARAT

Eastwood Leisure Centre - Ballarat
8am - 5pm Weekdays
Kinder - Grade 6
Enroll online
www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

FREE!

KELLY SPORTS Ballarat is offering kids to come and try one session for **FREE!!!**

Don't miss the chance to try KELLY SPORTS before the school year ends

Enroll online at
www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat




Tuesday 10th December 2024

Western Bulldogs Ballarat

'Come & Play' Super Clinic

City Oval, 1431 Mair Street, Lake Wendouree

4pm – 5pm

Registration is **FREE**, but you'll have to be quick - places are strictly limited for children aged 5-12 years.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register your child's attendance.




COME & PLAY SUPER CLINIC

Tuesday 10th December 2024
City Oval, Ballarat
4pm to 5pm | Ages 5 - 12 years old

MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND.

To register your FREE attendance - Scan QR code and fill in your details.
WESTERN BULLDOGS PLAYERS IN ATTENDANCE



Interested in helping shape
the direction and development
of Catholic education in
the diocese?

Join a **DOBCEL**
Board Consultative
Committee



The Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) is a company limited by guarantee, created to govern 57 schools across the Diocese. DOBCEL, alongside its operational arm, Catholic Education Ballarat (CEB), work together to support the leadership of all Catholic Primary and Secondary schools.

The DOBCEL Board of Directors is currently seeking applications from individuals interested in joining one of six Consultative Committees:

- Catholic Faith Community & Culture
- Children & Young People Safeguarding & Wellbeing
- Family & Community Engagement
- Learning & Teaching
- Assurance & Risk
- Finance

As a committee member, you will have the opportunity to:

- Provide oversight and advice to the Board
- Collaborate with diverse stakeholders
- Enhance your professional skills
- Shape educational outcomes



Click [HERE](#)
and make a
difference today

(Applications Close Sunday 19 January 2025)

Committees typically meet once per term (in-person or virtually) for 90-120 minutes.

For more information, please visit the [DOBCEL website](#) to access the Terms of Reference for each Committee.



For additional information, please contact us
excassistant@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

*Our vision is "as partners in Catholic Education
and open to God's presence, to pursue
fullness of life for all"*

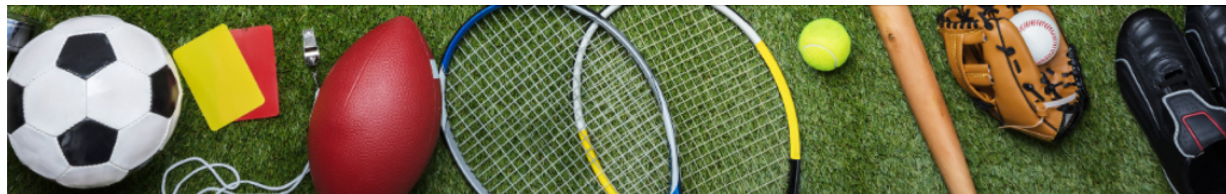
COST TO PLAY SPORT SURVEY

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and Federation University are conducting a study to understand the costs associated with delivering and participating in community sport.

To gather valuable insights, we'd like to invite parents from STMCPs to complete a short online survey about their total expenses related to sports participation.

The results of this project will be used to make recommendations to inform the ASC sport policies and strategies to minimise the cost of playing sport. Survey closes at 5pm (AEDT) on Tuesday 31 December.

If you play and deliver sport or have children that play sport, you can complete the [cost to play survey](#) multiple times (indicating the costs involved for you and your child/ren to play sport).



Do you or your child play club sport?

Then we want to hear from you.

Complete a short survey to help us understand how much it

costs to play sport



Ethics reference number: 2024/179

