

ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS

Newsletter No. 3 – Feb 29, 2024

(Term 1 - Week 5)

The Jaara people are the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and learn. We pay our respects to the elders and commit to working for reconciliation and justice.

"To live learn and grow in God's love."

Reminders

Friday 1 March Pupil Free Day – Wellbeing Monday 4 March Division Swimming Sports 4 March - 22 March VOLUNTEER PSG Meetings Tuesday 5 March No and Ales Engagement of Volunteer Interview@3.45pm Wednesday 6 March Foundation Rest Day Monday 11 March Labour Day Public Holiday Tuesday 12 March Foundation start full time **Regional Swimming Sports** Wednesday 13 March NAPLAN Thursday 14 March SCHOOL PHOTOS ΝΔΡΙ ΔΝ Friday 15 March SCHOOL PHOTOS NAPLAN Monday 18 March NAPLAN Friday 22 March Caritas Ks at 9:30am Sandhurst Switches Off Tuesday 26 March Holy Week Stations of the Cross 2:30pm Thursday 28 March Last day of Term 1: early dismissal 2:30pm Thursday 25 April ANZAC Day Public Holiday Friday 26 April PUPIL FREE DAY – Staff Spirituality Day

Tuckshop 2024 – Term 1 Week 5

Friday 1 March PUPIL FREE DAY

Week 6 Thurs 7 March	Anna Mudoti
Fri 8 March	Kim Kelly Bec Stratton Briana Cowan Lisa Willis Caroline Strachan
Week 7 Thurs 14 March	Lyn Cathcart
Fri 15 March	Kristy Prowse Kanji Jackson Viv Bortolotto
Weekend Maintenance 2-3 March Karvonen (Fdn W)	

	Barker(2HL)
9 & 10 March	Mitting (1R) Butcher (4P)
16 & 17 March	Dalrymple (1M) Harrop (6H)

"The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today." St Francis of Assisi



Dear Families,

We have so much to learn from the Easter story.

Two thousand years ago Jesus was condemned for being a person of vision, compassion, and strong commitment and faith. It is hard to believe that anyone would be willing to condemn a person for such ideals. Not only was this gentle man persecuted by those he challenged, namely Pontius Pilate, and King Herod, but he was betrayed by those who pretended to be loyal to him.

The gossip and innuendo that was spread by the Jews and Israelites was such a destabilising influence that even those who loved Jesus dearly, succumbed to rejection of him. We remember Peter, the first pope of our church, was so threatened by the crowd's constant negative outlooks that he "denied" Jesus three times.

As further testimony to the debilitating power of innuendo that Jesus found himself part of; the crowd was asked to decide who should be set free – the hardened criminal called Barabbas, or a man "who loved his neighbour as himself"! Common-sense was far from the people's minds when listening to the few instigators, as the crowd called for Barabbas' freedom.

Thankfully we are given a small glimmer of man's potential to forgive and be forgiven, when dying on the cross beside Jesus, the thief asked Jesus for forgiveness. His response was one that should bring hope and joy to our souls – you will be seated at my right hand. This response shows us it is not too late to change our bad habits into good, because God is all forgiving – a trait that is a common thread throughout the Easter story.

The Easter story is a timely reminder that we should celebrate in the strength of the Holy Spirit and come together as a community sharing the true meaning of being a Catholic. With the strength of the Holy Spirit the apostles were freed of their fears that the witch hunt had weighed them down with, and



they showed true courage in doing what was right – living and spreasing the good word".

Subsequently, I believe that is the challenge that faces us, some 2000 years on. That we should live each day as Christ would like us to live – acknowledging the strengths of our parish community and revelling in the goodness of each person.

Be On The Lookout

It's one thing to help people when they ask. It's another to notice that people need help even though they aren't asking for it.

"'m a busy person. My days are usually pretty packed. I'm good at helping people, if it's on my calendar. Unfortunately, I think I often miss people who need help – but don't ask for it – when I rush through my day, moving from task to task. Like Jesus, I need to be on the lookout for people who need me."

Look at Jesus in the Gospel...The widow didn't approach him; Jesus approached her when he saw her weeping. The story shows how focussed Jesus was on looking for people who needed him. He wasn't focussed just on his daily tasks.

And the widow desperately needed his help. In many ancient cultures, it was very difficult for unmarried women and widows to support themselves. Women without husbands or sons were destined for extreme poverty. The widow in this story lost not only her son but everything. Jesus knew that. He went to her so God's healing power could restore her son's life and her hope.

How about us? How often do people pass us who feel like they've lost everything? Parents struggling at work. Homeless people looking for shelter or a hot meal. Do we keep our eyes open for them? Do we ask God for the vision to see them and the grace to help them? Or do we rush through the day focussed on what's next in our world? We have the power to choose.

Gastro

We are aware of an increasing number of students currently unwell with Gastroenteritis. Please click on this link to view the Vic Dept of Health flyer: Gastroenteritis. Parents are reminded to keep their child home until they are 48hrs diarrhoea free.

Signs in Cars for Pickup

In order to speed up the pickup process after school, we ask that families have their surname signs clearly visible on their dashboard so that the teachers on duty can have your children ready to get in a lot quicker. These signs help us to have children getting into cars in each bay, rather than just the first two bays which is often the case. If families need new name tags, we will be sending out information as to how this will be done shortly.

Pupil Free Days - REPEAT

All Catholic Schools are allocated nine Pupil Free Days each year. These days are generally used to focus on the professional development that staff members require to achieve the Strategic and Operational Goals set each year. In order for this to happen the school is closed for the day, though Day Care will be provided through YMCA if enough student interest is registered – please see below.

Our Pupil Free Days for the year are as follows:

- Monday 29 January Staff planning day •
- Friday 23 February First Aid Training •
- Friday 1 March Staff Wellbeing day
- Friday 26 April Staff Spirituality Day •
- Friday 19 July Wellbeing & NCCD day
- Friday 29 November Maths Curriculum Planning •
- Monday 2 December
- 2025 Planning day Friday 20 December 2025 Planning Day

Please note that we are seeking dates for our Writing PD day. We will notify our school community as soon as it is finalised.



Tomorrow, Friday 1 March is a Pupil Free Days for all students. All staff will be participating in Wellbeing Professional Learning. The YMCA will again offer their 'All Day Care' program for families to book in to. YMCA are currently taking on bookings for both days and can provide care from 8:00am - 6:00pm. Any enquiries can be sent to this email: stfrancis@ymca.org.au or our phone: 0459988313. Bookings can be made via out

website or the quickids app.

Assembly - cancelled

We have cancelled assembly next week Friday, 8 March. We will communicate with you in next week's bulletin when 6H will present their assembly.

Parents & Friends Meeting

Our next Parents & Friends meeting will be held on, **Thursday 14 March @ 7.30** in the staffroom. All are welcome to attend.



Engagement of Volunteers Interview Sessions

Under Child Safe regulations, our school must have all new and existing volunteers read and sign each page of the Current Year Code of Conduct as well as read the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and upload your Current Working with Children's Card. New volunteers are required to complete a further set of documentation. Please click on this link to access the forms: Engagement of Volunteers. We will be holding interview sessions for parents to complete the process.



Next interview session is:

Tuesday, 5 March @ 3.45pm

Parent Engagement – How can you help our school?

If you can assist our school by being part of a committee or through the different volunteer opportunities that serve our community so well <u>please place your name and contact details via this link.</u>

Shed Unavailability -

Please note, the 'Shed' will be unavailable for training use on the following dates in Term 1:

- Thursday 14 March School Photos
- Friday 15 March School Photos
- Tuesday 26 March lunchtime Holy Week Stations of the Cross



Christ has no hands but yours.

Tim Moloney Principal





Learning to take on challenges



Challenges are the pathway to growth. When our children habitually avoid challenges, their learning stalls. When they learn to understand, value, and embrace challenge, their learning accelerates. So, helping our children develop a healthy relationship with challenges becomes one of the most important ways we can help them become better learners. <u>How does your child respond to a challenge?</u> Does your child avoid a challenge, seeking their "path of least resistance" in learning?

Or do they select the challenges they know they can do? Looking like they are working hard, but secretly avoiding mistakes by not taking on anything too challenging?

Maybe your child takes on challenges because the teacher tells them to. They follow the teacher's instructions and are led through challenging tasks.

Perhaps your child takes on challenges because they need to. They have something they want to achieve, a goal in mind. Their relationship with challenge is born out of necessity so they can reach their goal.

But imagine if your child embraced challenges. In the spirt of John F. Kennedy when he said, "we do these things, not because they are easy, but *because* they are hard!" Imagine if when they were given the choice of doing something hard, or something easy, they'd choose the more challenging task, because they understood that challenge is the pathway to growth.

Becoming a Skilful Learner

How our children respond to challenges is a key element of what I call *Learnership*[™] – the skill of learning. Learnership is a skill developed over time. It helps our children (and us) to get more out of every learning opportunity. Most importantly, Learnership is something we can teach our children that helps them to thrive both in school and life.

As parents we can help our children on the path to becoming better learners, by helping them develop a healthier and more productive relationship with challenge.

Comfort Zone V's Learning Zone. What's the Difference?

The first step in helping your child develop a healthy relationship with challenge is to teach them the difference between their Comfort Zone and their Learning Zone

We've all heard that we need to get outside our comfort zone and challenge ourselves, but how many of our children truly understand what that means?

For many people, getting outside their comfort zone means trying something new. But something new, isn't always something challenging. Very often "new" is simply an "easy thing we haven't done yet". There is little struggle involved in this type of challenge, it comes with a great deal of certainty, and confidence that we'll succeed. These challenges feel more like a task. They keep us busy, but they don't help us get better. These types of challenges are in our Comfort Zone.

To be truly challenged our children need to stretch themselves beyond their current abilities. These types of challenge feel like a problem. Unlike a task where the path to completion is easily recognised, the solution to this challenge is not immediately apparent. They leave us feeling uncertain, and they involve struggle. The challenge feels "hard". When our child feels like this, it's a good sign they are in their Learning Zone.

Being in your Learning Zone feels uncomfortable. When our children find themselves in the Learning Zone, their first reaction is often to get out of it. Suddenly anything else seems like a more attractive option. They look for distractions, seek out easy options or adopt any number of avoidance strategies.

Struggle is temporary

It's important to help our children recognise that the feeling of struggle and discomfort that comes with being in their Learning Zone is temporary. It passes. Many children believe if they are struggling now, then the next step in learning will involve *even more* struggle. They believe that the further they go, the more uncomfortable they'll feel. So naturally, they turn away from further struggle.

The reality is that effort is the currency of growth, and struggle is the price we pay for that growth. The reward is that what we experienced as hard today, becomes easy tomorrow. It doesn't get harder and harder and harder. It's hard, then it's easy. Then they move on, and the next step is also hard, until they make that easy. Being in the Learning Zone, and experiencing the struggle that comes with it, is not only a normal part of learning, but also an essential part of growth.

Parenting for more skilful learners

As parents we have an important role in helping our children become more skilful learners. This begins by helping them develop a healthy relationship with challenge. By teaching them that effort is the cost of growth, and normalising the struggle that comes from being in their Learning Zone, we help them become "comfortably uncomfortable" with challenge, and put them on a path of continuous growth.

Regards,

Grace Scalora Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing.



School Photos – Arthur Reed Photos Annual school photos, including sibling photos, are being taken by Arthur

Reed Photos - Thursday 14 & Friday 15 March.



RE News... PROJECT COMPASSION

Dear Project Compassion Parents,

This year, we've made getting involved with Project Compassion as a parent easier than ever! Scan this QR code to get started on your Project Compassion Parent journey! You can start small by simply sparking conversations with your kids about Project Compassion and exploring creative ways to integrate compassion into their daily lives.

We're encouraging parents to *Give it up for Lent*! Whether you decide to forgo your daily coffee over Lent, or you are opting to 'walk to work' instead of your car commute – *every small action makes a significant impact*! Simply set up your online fundraising page, tell people what you're giving up for Lent this year and ask your support network to sponsor your amazing efforts!

Your involvement not only nurtures a spirit of giving and sacrifice within your family, but also adds to a global wave of positive change.

Scan the QR code to join a community of growing Project Compassion Parents!



By joining hands with Caritas Australia, you become a driving force behind a movement that empowers communities and transforms lives. Remember, your commitment, *no matter how big or small*, plays a vital role in making compassion a living reality for families around the world. Let's embark on this inspiring journey together and sow the seeds of empathy, kindness and lasting change, both within our kids *and* ourselves.

Join our growing network of Project Compassion Parents today, and let's stand in solidarity with those who need it most! Join us in shaping the values we instil in our children and let's collectively create a legacy of compassion. Your involvement matters, and together, we can make 2024 a year of change!



CARITAS Ks

On Friday 22 March at 9:30am, all students will walk the track in solidarity with people from around the world who every day need to cover many kilometres to fetch water, obtain food, get to school or market, or simply to survive. This will be a fundraiser and an awareness raising event for our community. We welcome all our families to join us for prayer led by our Social Justice Social Justice Leaders in the shed at 9:30am and walk with us on track.

Our target this year is to raise \$6500 and we are on our way to achieving this goal with over \$1000 raised so far. This year we once again have an online school Caritas fundraising page. The students have received their sponsorship forms with the school's QR Code to collect sponsors and share the code with them for their online donations. Pluschool's QR Code here or this link to our school's fundraising page.

LENTEN RETREAT

We invite you to our weekly Lenten Retreat for staff and families. Each Wednesday morning, you are invited to join us in the chapel at 8:00 am for a time of quiet, reflective time to stop and be still, to pray and meditate. Drop in for five or ten minutes or stay for as long as possible.

We hope that this time will provide you with an opportunity for spiritual renewal during the season of Lent.

EARTHCARE

LAUDATO

During 2023, our Earthcare Team comprising our Catholic Identity student leaders, Grade 5 student volunteers, parents and community members worked to regain our 5 Star Resource Smart School Accreditation and gain our Level 2 Catholic Earthcare Accreditation. We had many great things happening with Earthcare students attending the Greater Bendigo Climate Summit, students leading our work to increase Biodiversity by reducing litter in our school grounds through creating a student led action plan, Keep our School Beautiful competition, FIRE Carriers and Earthcare student leaders participated in a workshop learning about First Nations Peoples Perspective on Caring for Country, leading school assemblies, installing the new worm farm to supply fertiliser for our garden and working with Year 3 & 4 students to promote Nude Food at our school.

Congratulations to the Earthcare Team for their work in leading our community in caring for creation and creating ecological changes and actions. We invite our families to join us on the team in 2024!

St Francis of the Fields Primary School ECOLOGICAL DIALOGUE CREATING CHANGE rtificate acknowledges the ecological dialogue the school is undertaki uph its commitment to whole-school, student-led ecological change nd action, in line with the goals of the Laudato Sr Action Platform.

Eastanti

Date: 14/12/23

Ecological Epistemity

Earthcare Schools

+ mouloup

Catholic Earthcare







SANDHURST SWITCHES OFF -

At St Francis of the Fields we will once again be participating in the Diocesan Sandhurst Switches Off! We invite our families to join in at home by switching off the lights and reducing the use of electricity for an hour, part or for the whole day.





St Joseph's School Community, Rochester -Send their thanks to the St Francis of the Fields Community for the Term 3 Fundraiser to help with their flood relief.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

The World Day of Prayer is held on the first Friday of March each year – this year it will be held tomorrow Friday 1 March. It was first held in 1887 in New York by Mary Ellen Fairchild James as a day of prayer for home missions. However, two years later it became prayer for world missions. It began in Canada in 1922, British Isles in the 1930s. From 1927, the prayer day was known as the 'Women's World Day of Prayer'. After the Vatican Council in 1967, Catholic women united their 'May Day of Prayer' with the March 'Women's World Day of Prayer' which then became the 'World Day of Prayer'.



Over the many years of the World Day of Prayer different countries

have been given the opportunity to create the theme and the prayer service. In 2024, Palestine has prepared the prayer based on the theme, "I beg you... bear with one another in love". (Ephesians Ch 4: 4-5).

Palestinian artist, Halima Aziz, has prepared the beautiful artwork above showing three women praying together for the prayer service booklet. The symbols in her image are:

- Olive trees Symbols of Everlasting and abundant life
- Golden roots Underlining rights and freedom for Palestinians
- Poppy flowers reminiscent of lives given for the country
- Palestinian dresses/white scarf representative of the Palestinian people and their art and history
- Keys (round the neck) symbolising hope of return to Palestine

This year the *World Day of Prayer* is tomorrow Friday 1 March around the world, uniting the world in prayer and understanding of the needs of others and acting in solidarity with them. There are many World Day of Prayer Services being held around Bendigo tomorrow at different times for our community to attend <u>please</u> see the list here.

Lisa Hitchcock Catholic Identity Leader

Performing Arts news...

Meet the Rock Bands

Thanks Min and Sam for all your work putting together our school rock bands for the year. We cannot wait to hear these rockstars perform!!



Lunch time concerts

More lunch time performances! There has definitely been some Swiftie fever around school this week!



Performing Arts news: If you know of any events or student achievements we can share in the newsletter, please share with Mrs C by emailing <u>kcameron@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au</u>

Kiara Cameron Music Teacher

PE News...

Upcoming Sporting Dates:

- Divisional Swim Sports- Monday 4th March
- Divisional Tennis (Yr 6 only)- Wednesday 6th March
- Regional Swim Sports- Tuesday 12th March

Catholic Swimming Sports:

Polic swimming championships. It was exceptionally bet

On Tuesday 20/2, we had 38 students compete at the Catholic swimming championships. It was exceptionally hot, but that didn't stop the amazing competition, sportsmanship and attitudes of our beautiful students. Thank you to Miss Hughes, Mrs Hann, Mrs O'Connor & Mrs Zealley for your assistance and well done to our children who continually demonstrate exemplary behaviour in and out of school.

A big congratulations to: Will Munro & Jade Hayward who won our year 6 best contributor medals.

Top 3 Results: Freestyle: Jade Hayward- 1st Darcy Rodda- 3rd Joshua Rodda- 2nd

Top 3 Results cont. <u>Butterfly:</u> Andeon Haasbroek- 1st Jade Hayward- 1st Milanke Haasbroek- 1st

Breaststroke:

Willow Wardell- 3rd Milanke Haasbroek- 1st Joshua Rodda- 1st Matisse Wardell- 1st

Backstroke:

Will Shadbolt- 2nd Jade Hayward- 1st Willow Wardell- 3rd Milanke Haasbroek- 1st Eloise Rodda- 1st Bella Hope- 2nd Will Campbell- 3rd Harper Lockhart- 1st Relays: Boys Open Medley- 3rd Girls Open Medley- 1st Rodda 12/13 Boys- 2nd 12/13 Girls- 1st 11 Boys- 3rd 11 Girls- 2nd Milanke Haasbroek 10 Boys- 2nd 10 Girls- 2nd

Darcy Kanzamar, Alex Kelly, Joshua Rodda, Will Munro Milanke Hassebrok, Willow Wardell, Jade Hayward, Darcy

Nate Malone, Will Munro, Andeon Haasbroek, Alex Kelly Willow Wardell, Darcy Rodda, Lily Diss, Jade Hayward Archie Intamanon, Darcy Kanzamar, Elliot Kelly, Jude Place Makayla Jackson, Lilah Maddern, Mackenzie Jackson,

Max Nielsen, Quade Baker, Iden Lau, Joshua Rodda Matisse Wardell, Bella Hope, Maggie Mansfield, Eloise Rodda



Running/Cross Country Preparation:

Each Monday and Wednesday at recess, we offer the students an opportunity to improve their running capacity and technique. We alternate having a session in the sports shed, where the focus is on running drills and technique and the other session where students can improve their aerobic capacity. We aim for these to be short, but effective. We hope to see more students join over the coming weeks! *Students are encouraged to check the PE notice board outside the shed for any changes.*

<u>PE Awards</u>: Each assembly week, we present a tuckshop award. The criteria for receiving these awards is very straightforward. Students demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship, effort and attitude will be the prime candidates for these awards.

Congratulations: Jude Place & Vera Shackcloth - You will receive your award at the next assembly!

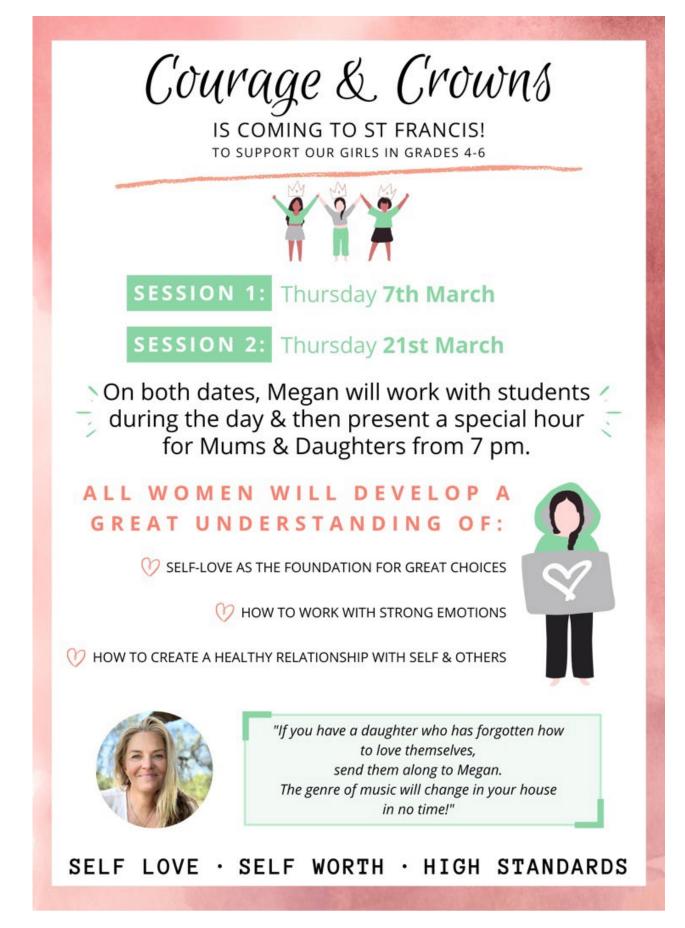
<u>Sporting News:</u> Parents, if you news that should be shared in the newsletter, please let me know by emailing dcoates@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au or sending it directly through to newsletter@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au

Danielle Coates & Shannon Baird **PE Coordinators**



ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES: Audra Petri College Registrar | 5445 9100 | enrolment@cmc.vic.edu.au | www.cmc.vic.edu.au Catherine McAuley College Bendigo | A Ministry of Mercy Education Ltd | ABN 69 154 531 870

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Courage and Crowns with Megan Simpson - Year 4, 5, & 6 Mums & Daughters

We ask all our Year 4, 5 & 6 mums and daughters to register for the free event that we are hosting with Megan Simpson. Please see your emails for the registration or use this link to <u>Register for Courage &</u> <u>Crowns</u>. We can't wait to see you there.



Issue 2 of Book Club has been sent home with students this week. All LOOP orders will close on Tuesday 12th March. Remember that all orders are done online, no cash is accepted at school.

Calling all Woodworkers & Needlepointers!!

For those new to the school, we have two social groups for our parents – 'Woodwork' is for the men and 'Needlepoint' is for the ladies.

We get together each term to catch up, meet new parents, unwind and enjoy each other's company. Over the years we enjoyed progressive dinners, winery tours, pub nights, footy nights and bike ride along the O'Keefe Trail, just to name a few.

You can find out info of our upcoming events in the Newsletter or by joining our Facebook pages. Search up 'Frankie's Woodworkers' and 'Needlepoint Group'. Tag other Parents and join in the fun! Otherwise, you can contact Leigh Stevens 0407 865 875 for Woodworking or Bek Stevens 0418 103 199 for Needlepoint.



Year Level - Unit Newsletters

- □ Foundation Term 1, 2024
- Year 1 Term 1, 2024
- Year 2 Term 1, 2024
- Year 3 Term 1, 2024
- Year 4 Term 1, 2024
- Year 5 Term 1, 2024
- Year 6 Term 1, 2024

CANTEEN

Our canteen is always very grateful for the support of our parent volunteers. If you would like to help out in the canteen please contact Fiona Thompson at the school on Thursday or Friday.



Assisi Kinder Bulb Fundraiser

Huge variety of beautiful spring bulbs from Tesselaar bulbs shipped directly to you



40% of sales

go to our Kinder to purchase new resources

Orders close March 21st



Place orders at www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/ASSISIK





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EMAIL: <u>office@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au</u> HOME PAGE: <u>www.sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au</u>



STRATHFIELDSAYE COLTS UNITED F.C

INVITE ALL PARENTS & CARERS TO REGISTER FOR THE 2024 JUNIOR SEASON

U6 & U7 REGISTRATIONS

MINIROOS

https://memberships.mygameday.app/regoform.cgi? formID=88700&programID=67649

MINITILLIES

https://memberships.mygameday.app/regoform.cgi? formID=112553&programID=67650

Registrations open now

Commencing week starting 15th April 2024 Cost \$130 per player (for term 2 and 3)

U8, U9, U10, U12 REGISTRATIONS

http://tinyurl.com/4kdbr8mr Registrations open now Training starts 13 March, with first game 20 April

Contacts: Damian Short registrar@coltsunitedfc.com.au or Michael St Clair recruits@coltsunitedfc.com.au Or reach out on facebook through 'Strathfieldsaye Colts United Football Club'



Come be a part of the Storm - If you're interested in having a kick, making new friends and joining a great club then we need you!

Storm still have capacity to take on more players in several of the Junior and underage grades for anyone interested in playing with the Storm in 2024.

There is room to take on some more players across our junior Under 9's, Under 10's, and Under 12's.

We are also looking for more girls (birth years 2009/2010/2011) interested in playing Under 15's this Season.

Email juniorregistrar@strathstormfnc.com.au for more info.

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ПP

REGISTER HER

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GYM CUP TEAM EVENT