

ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS

Newsletter No. 1 – Feb 1, 2024

(Term 1 – Week 1)

ST FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS

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 2 February

- Swimming Yr 3 – 6
- Foundation – Full Day

Monday 5 February

- Swimming Yr 3 – 6

Wednesday 7 February

- Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 8 February

- Swimming Sports Yr 3 – 6 @ Bendigo East Pool
- P&F Meeting @ 7.30pm in the staffroom

Friday 9 February

- Welcome Mass @ 9.15am

Tuesday 13 February

- Burning of the Palms @ 10:30am
- Shrove Tuesday - Pancakes
- Catholic Swimming Sports @ Bendigo East Pool

Wednesday 14 February

- Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ 11.00am
- Foundation Rest Day

Saturday 17 February

- Marong Cup

Monday 19 February

- Learning Conversations

Tuesday 20 February

- Learning Conversations

Wednesday 21 February

- Foundation Rest Day
- Learning Conversations
- School Advisory Council @ 5:30pm

Friday 23 February

- Pupil Free Day – First Aid & Wellbeing

Wednesday 28 February

- Foundation Rest Day

Friday 1 March

- Pupil Free Day – Wellbeing

Wednesday 6 March

- Foundation Rest Day

Wednesday 8 March

- Foundation Rest Day

Monday 11 March

- Labour Day Public Holiday

Thursday 14 March

- SCHOOL PHOTOS

Friday 15 March

- SCHOOL PHOTOS



Tuckshop 2024 – Term 1

Week 1

Friday 2 Feb

12.30 – 3pm Sally Arundell
Helen Harrington
Chelsea Baker

Week 2

Thurs 8 Feb

12.30 – 3pm Swimming Sports

Friday 9 Feb

12.30 – 3pm Verity Nicholson
Bec Foster
Kristy Prowse

Weekend Maintenance

3-4 Feb Coultas (1M), Fraser (4R)

10 – 11 Feb. Kirke (1S), Pollock (1R),
Hudson (1AJ)

*“True progress quietly and persistently moves along
without notice.”*



St Francis of Assisi

Dear Families,

Fr. Jake Mudge and our staff welcome all new and existing families to St. Francis of the Field’s School family.

We pray that you will find St. Francis a place where “You Live, Learn and Grow in God’s love”.

Prayer:

*Lord God,
as we approach the beginning of a new school year,
may we do so with a sense of wonder, anticipation,
exhilaration and an overt love of the work
each of us is called to do.*

*May our days be both challenging and rewarding.
May we be the role models that our young
both need and deserve.*

*In all we do, may we be people of faith, commitment,
spirit, energy and hope.*

Amen

Welcome

We warmly welcome our new staff.



Welcome to:

- Fr. Jake Mudge
- Bronwyn Karvonen (School Nurse: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)
- Chelsea Mazzarino (School Nurse: Thursday & Friday)

Welcome back to:

- Laura Flood - Year 2 Class teacher (Thursday & Friday)
- Amy Delaney - Year 5 Class teacher (Thursday & Friday)

School Nurse

St. Francis of the Fields has employed Bronwyn Karvonen and Chelsea Mazzarino as school nurses from Monday to Friday. Both will be supporting all students in administering medication, ensuring children with diabetes, asthma and anaphylaxis are well supported as well as catering for other major medical conditions.

I ask that all parents update their asthma and anaphylaxis safety plans on PAM so that we can adhere to each plan as required.

In addition I ask that parents update their child's EpiPen, if required.

2024 St. Francis of the Fields staff:

Parish Priest	-	Fr Jake Mudge
Principal	-	Tim Moloney
Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing	-	Grace Scalora
Foundation M	-	Morgan Maud
Foundation B	-	Naomi Burns & Ash Barbetti
Foundation D	-	Donna McNamara
Foundation W	-	Kate Williams
Yr. 1 R	-	Craig Ryan
Yr. 1 M	-	Sam Muscatello
Yr. 1 S	-	Mia Shanahan
Yr. 1 AJ	-	Ange Simpson & Jenna Anderson
Yr. 2 D	-	Felicity Davis
Yr. 2 CF	-	Amy Curnow & Laura Flood
Yr. 2 S	-	Natalie Shearer
Yr. 2 HL	-	Gab Hudson & Cherise Le Brocq-Joppich
Yr. 3C	-	Luke Crameri
Yr. 3 GB	-	Kate Gundry & Kimberley Boulton
Yr. 3 M	-	Jacob Morrissey
Yr. 3 A	-	Andie Muscatello
Yr. 4 D	-	Darby Walsh
Yr. 4 R	-	Renae Westley
Yr. 4 W	-	Ella Wales & Clare Warfe
Yr. 4 P	-	Brylie Parker
Yr. 5 W	-	Dave Waters
Yr. 5 K	-	Bernard Kerrins
Yr. 5 ZD	-	Jo Zimmer & Amy Delaney
Yr. 5 FT	-	Donna Freeman & Cam Taylor
Yr. 6 J	-	Josh Hann
Yr. 6 R	-	Holly Ryan
Yr. 6 H	-	Milly Hughes
Yr. 6 Z	-	Rhys Zera
Administration / Finance	-	Deb McDermott
Administration / Secretary	-	Michelle Janssen
Administration / Secretary	-	Stephanie Wade
Music	-	Kiara Cameron
Art & Craft	-	Carmel Fitzgerald
Librarian	-	Sue Johns & Hayley Mills
Technology	-	Cam Taylor
Indonesian	-	Jacqueline Pethybridge
OASIS	-	Matt Butcher
Science	-	Jess Widdicombe & Emma Jensen
Learning Diversity	-	Linda Cartwright
Catholic Identity	-	Lisa Hitchcock
Curriculum Leader: Numeracy	-	Kate Ellis
Numeracy Intervention	-	Nicole McDermott
Curriculum Leader: Literacy	-	Marg Brohm
Literacy Intervention	-	Lauren Nankervis
Phys Ed Teacher/Coordinator	-	Danielle Coates & Shannon Dillon
Teacher Aides		
Foundation	-	Katrina Evans, Montana Maud & Belinda Marsh
Year 1	-	Simone Rodgers & Hayley Mills,

Year 2	-	Jordan Sharp & Ange Oldham
Year 3	-	Jenni Hann
Year 4	-	Sue Johns
Year 5	-	Annette Exell & Kerry Bone
Year 6	-	Kate Zealley
School Counsellor & Medical Officer	-	Maree O'Connor
School Nurse	-	Bronwyn Karvonen & Chelsea Mazzarino
Tuckshop	-	Fiona Thompson, Donna Stebbins & Deb Schintler
Grounds & Maintenance	-	Peter Sporn & Shane Owins

Opening School Welcome Mass



All families are invited to celebrate the beginning of the school year at our Welcome Mass on **Friday 9 February at 9.15am.**



We will come together as a community in the Basketball stadium (shed). Please remember to leave coffee cups outside. *We invite you to stay for a cuppa afterwards.*

First Aid

Our staff will complete their Level 1 CPR on our first pupil free day - Friday 23 February. This should ensure our children, staff and parents are supported in case of an emergency.



We remind our families that small bouncy balls (size of 20 cent pieces) should not be brought to school as they are choking hazards that prove difficult to dislodge. Larger tennis sized bouncy balls are fine to bring to school. Please help to support the safety of our students and school dogs by avoiding bringing these small balls to school - thank you.

Uniform

Thank you to all families for ensuring their child/ren are wearing the correct uniform. I have reminded the children that they need to:

Children may wear their sport uniform for every day wear in Term 1.

- Wear the correct school socks (not Globe, Nike, etc). White with sport uniform and navy with general uniform
- Tie their hair back if it is over collar length (avoid nits)
- Wear ALL black shoes – either runners or leather shoes (except on sport days)

Parking

Parents and teachers are able to park their cars behind the basketball stadium. Please do not drive past the Senior Learning Centre as children and staff members will be moving around these areas.



Parents collecting their children when parked behind the basketball stadium will need to walk to collect their children as they are not able to walk through the car park without an adult. A teacher will be on duty in this area each day.

End of day pick up area

To help with the pick up area at the end of the day could all parents please attach their family name (provided by the school) on their cars sun-visor. This will help our teachers ensure your child/ren are present when your car arrives at the pick up.

Learning Conversations: Term 1 - Week 4



These conversations will take place in Week 4 this term, between Monday 19th - Wednesday 21st February. This is a great opportunity for you to meet and greet your child's classroom teacher and inform them of their strengths, challenges, social capabilities and any other important information that you think may have an impact on their learning this year, as you embark on this journey together. Our teachers are looking forward to meeting you all and starting a learning relationship to support the learning of your child in 2024.

Students attend the learning conversations with their parents for part or all of the conversation.

It is important to note that teachers will not be providing information regarding learning goals, assessment results or academic progress at this time.

There will be more information sent home in next week's news bulletin regarding the booking of these appointments.

Swimming Program

Thanks to the excellent organisation of Danielle Coates, our PE coordinator, we will begin the swimming program for our Year 3-6 children. Our children will complete their swimming program with the St. Francis School Swimming Sports at Bendigo East Pool on Thursday 8th February from 9.30am.



All are most welcome to attend. By commencing our program in such an organized manner we are able to give our children the benefit of competing at our school swimming championships prior to the Catholic (Feb 13), Division (March 1), and Regional (March 12) Swimming Sports Championships. Well done, Danielle!!

Calendar

I have included a link to access the Term 1 calendar so that all students, parents and teachers can coordinate upcoming events. [Term 1 Calendar](#)

How can you help our school?

1. Parents & Friends Committee

Why do we have a Parents & Friends Committee?

Catholic schools receive approximately 81% of the funding of a similar sized state school from State and Federal sources. This is why Catholic schools are required to introduce school fees. Even with school fees we still require extra funding to match the funds of a state school.

This is where our Parents & Friends committee helps by raising funds that can be used for the benefit of our students.

What does the Parents & Friends Committee do?

We meet twice a term in the staff room - weeks 2 and 7 of each term - on a Thursday night from 7.30pm.

Our Parents & Friends president, Nathan Baker, provides a wonderfully relaxed and enjoyable environment where we can decide how we can best raise funds for our school students. We have a Treasurer, Andrew Wright, who works closely with Deb McDermott and Tim Moloney in ensuring all accounting meets auditing procedures. Our secretary, Clinton McSwain, ensures well formulated minutes are presented for our community, whilst providing a few laughs.

We have been very fortunate to have Megan Merrett and Georgina Stevens oversee the fundraising with the support of any parents who are able to help. Megan and Georgina have now stepped down from these roles and we are hoping that we can have 10-12 people to help coordinate one fundraising event for the year.

Some of the fundraising we have done in the past have included:

- Mango drive
- Father's Day Stall
- Mother's Day Stall
- School disco
- Trivia nights
- Colour Run

Please note that the Debutante Balls are coordinated by a separate committee.

How can you help?

- Please come along to our next P & F meeting on Thursday 8 February at 7.30pm.
- Please bring a friend or two.
- Offer fundraising ideas.
- Offer to help coordinate one of these fundraising events for the year, if possible.

2. School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council includes the 5 leadership team members of our school and between 5-8 parents who ensure that our strategic goals are achieved. Parents and staff work hand-in-hand to review our practices using data from students, staff and parents (surveys, academic, wellbeing and Catholic Identity data).

This year we will bring our School Engagement Survey results to our Advisory Council. We will also be holding a School Improvement review in Term 2. The survey and school improvement results will be shared with the council so that we can prepare our new 4 year Strategic Plan.

Our School Advisory Council meets once per term on a Wednesday evening. We have been experimenting with start times and can be flexible depending on the needs of our community. At this stage our starting times are 5.30pm though we had been commencing at 7.30pm previously.

We are in need of another four parents who are interested in supporting our school for the next three years. Peter Wardell, our Advisory Council Chair, stepped down at the end of last year after serving our school incredibly well over a challenging COVID period - I am very grateful for his leadership.

I hope that you can assist our school by being part of one of these committees or the different volunteer opportunities that serve our community so well.

If you are able to help please place your name and contact details via this link.

Parents & Friends Meeting

All parents are most welcome to attend the Parents & Friends meeting on Thursday 8 February from 7.30 - 9.00pm in the staffroom.

Our P & F are a wonderful support to our school community as they devise social and fundraising opportunities for our school community.



Please come along and help support our school community - all welcome!

PAM

Forms to be returned to school via PAM (Parent Access Module)

- Excursion/Swimming Permission Form
- Updated Asthma Plan (for those students who need one)
- Anaphylaxis plan (for those students who need a plan)



Marong Cup - Saturday 17 February from 10.30am

A reminder that the Marong Cup will be held on Saturday 17 February from 10.30am. It is a wonderful family day where the children are extremely well catered for with an amazing amount of rides. The adults are also very well catered for with a lovely assortment of food and drinks.

Please come along and enjoy a great afternoon. This is the first fundraiser of the school year – the Parents & Friends normally receive approximately \$5,000 donation from the Marong Cup Committee in return for our parents working for a short period of time on a stall. Please offer to help out.

Helpers needed

Our school will be required to assist at the Lawn Bar to help selling drinks. If you have an up to date RSA that we also be of assistance. We will need 2 people on the stall for 60 min at a time (10.30 - 11.30, 11.30 - 12.30, 12.30 - 1.30, 1.30 - 2.30, 2.30 - 3.30 and 3.30 - 4.30pm).

[If you can assist with an hour or more of your time please include your name, phone number and the time you can help out via this link.](#)



School Maintenance Update

Over the summer period we have been busy maintaining our school with the following activities:

- All classrooms steam cleaned
- Windows cleaned
- Basketball stadium's floor sanded and re-varnished
- All decking cleaned and oiled
- Painting of road marking and parking allocations
- All gutters and drains cleaned out
- Servicing air conditioners, etc

Unfortunately, our Community Centre was partially flooded and needed drying. This has been the first time that it has flooded. In addition, our mowers broke down leading to the school looking overgrown. Thankfully we received the mowers back yesterday and mowing has recommenced.

The sleepers around the playground near the football oval are currently being replaced. This will take another week to complete and re-open. I apologise for the inconvenience.

Christ has no hands but yours.

Tim Moloney
Principal



Be your Best
Be Safe
Respect for All
Respect for Environment



Year Level - Unit Newsletters

By the end of this week, classroom teachers will be emailing their first unit newsletter for Term 1. These will contain information about the learning that will be taking place this term.



We know that you will find them all to be very informative and we thank the teachers for the time that has been spent collating this information. From our next school newsletter, we will include direct links to these unit newsletters for your ongoing reference. This will be a great way to keep our parent community informed with what is going on in each unit.

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.



Weekend Maintenance Forms



Families have been emailed information regarding our Weekend Maintenance program. If you have not yet had a chance to complete the online form, please click on this link and complete it by Monday 5 Feb. Families can opt to pay the \$80 fee or participate in the program.

A roster will be made available on the school website. Each week the roster of families for the coming weeks will be published in the school newsletter and bulletin. [Weekend Maintenance 2024](#)

YMCA – After School Care

The YMCA operates an After-School Care Program at St Francis of the Fields Primary School. The program operates every school day for children aged 5-12 years. The YMCA also provides care on days of school closure.

Families can contact the service on 0459 988 313 or visit 'My Family Lounge' where you can register your child in advance for any bookings. Any questions please contact stfrancis@ymca.org.au.



Pastoral Wellbeing



This year our Pastoral Wellbeing Team consists of 4 members.

Mrs Maree O'Connor - School Chaplain
moconnor@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au



- Home & School Liaison Programs – Grief, Family Support, Separation, School Issues.
- Seasons for Growth facilitator.
- Vital connection between home and school.
- Assisting with the transition for new families to St. Francis of the Fields

Mrs Linda Cartwright - Learning Support
lcartwright@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au



- Coordinates Learning Diversity for our school.
- Program Support Group Meetings (PSGs – once a term),
- Supports students and teachers with Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) for individual children.
- Provide support to teachers & families for students at need/risk in mainstream classroom.

Ms Grace Scalora - Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing
gscalora@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au



- Coordinates whole school program – Positive Behaviours Intervention Support (PBIS) Program which includes our 4 school expectations, (Be your Best, Be Safe, Respect for All, Respect for Environment).
- Oversees wellbeing programs across the school – supports parents, students and teachers.
- Coordinates the Engagement of Volunteers
- Implementing Policies and developing Social Emotional Programs/Learning.

Mr Tim Moloney - Principal
tmoloney@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au



- Supports all students, staff and families to be successful in the school setting.

What are our school beliefs about student wellbeing?

As a school we are responsible for catering for student's academic, social and emotional needs. We teach our students about safe and responsible behaviour to ensure they have the skills to self manage in the wider world. Our aim is for our students to leave at the end of Grade 6 being both independent and likeable.

Our team meets weekly. The purpose of our meetings is to provide ongoing support for our students, parents and teachers. Our aim is to ensure that all our students are successful in every part of their school life.

Over the coming weeks, information about our goals for Pastoral Wellbeing will be communicated with our school community. We hope that this gives all our families a clear understanding of what our goals and hopes are for the 2024 school year.

Please feel free to contact any member of our team if you have any concerns.

Grace Scalora
Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing.



Jamilla and Luna - Dogs Connect



Jamilla

At St Francis, we have two dogs as part of our wellbeing team. **Jamilla** (5 yrs) and **Luna** (2 yrs). Our school has achieved accreditation with the Dogs Connect program.

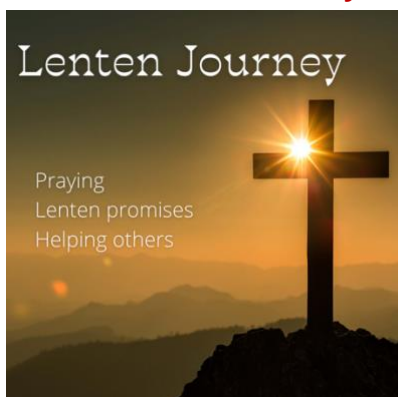
For our students, both Jamilla and Luna can help with emotional regulation, social connection and communication. They can help engage students in many curriculum areas by supporting children in feeling less self-conscious than they may feel around teachers and peers.



Luna

RE News...

Lent - Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday



On Ash Wednesday 14 February, the liturgical season of Lent begins. We begin our Lenten journey by marking ourselves with ash. Traditionally, this ash is produced from burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. At St Francis of the Fields, we will burn the palms on Shrove Tuesday. The forty-day Season of Lent concludes on Holy Thursday evening with the Celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

This is a time to pray, fast and for almsgiving - serving others by going without something and contributing to others or sharing yourself with others in your family, community or globally. Lent is not about getting it perfectly right or focussing solely on self-improvement. It is a time to get in touch with our hope for new life. For the five weeks of Lent, we walk closely with Jesus towards the freedom of Easter. Through prayer, we come closer to God so that we are better able to be a source of love and compassion and to live justly as Jesus teaches us. Fasting joins us in solidarity with people experiencing poverty who often have no choice but to go without basic human needs. Sharing what we have, or 'almsgiving', is a sign of our commitment to justice and our thanks for all that God has given us.

On Shrove Tuesday 13 February, we will have our Burning of the Palms at 10:30am, make our Lenten Promises and have pancakes as is the Shrove Tuesday tradition. A Liturgy of the Word and distribution of Ashes will be held on Ash Wednesday, 14 February at 11am. We invite our families to join us for both of our liturgies. Our Catholic Identity student leaders will lead these liturgies with Fr Jake.

Our choir will be performing, with other Bendigo area Catholic Schools, at the Caritas Project Compassion Launch in the Hargreaves Mall on Tuesday 13 February – the launch begins and 11:30am and concludes at 12:30pm. Families are invited to attend.

Lenten Retreat We invite our parents to join our Lenten retreat that will begin on Wednesday 21 February 8:00am-8:30am in the School Chapel. This will be a time of prayer, quiet reflection and we hope spiritual renewal during Lent.



CARITAS: Project Compassion

Caritas's Lenten fundraising and awareness raising campaign – Project Compassion will be launched at St Francis of the Fields by our Catholic Identity student leaders at our Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Each year Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in schools, parishes and the community to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

The theme of Project Compassion is **For All Future Generations**. It reminds us that what we do today can have an impact *For All Future Generations*. This message invites us to step up for those who do not have the essential resources they need for their survival and those whose needs at this time are far beyond ours.

By putting compassion into action through our Caritas Ks fund and awareness raising activity, we can make a difference today through our solidarity and donations, *For All Future Generations*.

Caritas Ks - Friday 22 March will be our Caritas Ks Fundraiser.



Next week, we will send home sponsorship forms for children to collect donations from sponsors – their family and friends.

We will once again be using an online [Caritas Fundraising page](#). Students do not need to sign up individually or as part of their class. The QR Code below or this link [Caritas Fundraising page](#). Can be shared to sponsors so they can make a donation. **Our goal is to raise \$6500 in 2024.**



This year, we are CALLING ALL PARENTS to get involved with Project Compassion!

As we embrace the season of Lent, *a time of reflection, sacrifice and giving*, we invite you to join us in this special initiative that aligns with the spirit of the season. This year, we are reaching out to you, our wonderful parents, to get actively involved with Project Compassion!

Your children will be actively participating in Project Compassion at school to make a significant impact on the lives of those less fortunate, and this year, we would like to invite parents to jump on board too! We believe that together, as *students, teachers and parents*, we can help to encourage our kids and amplify their efforts.

To get involved, scan the QR code at the side:

We believe that your participation as a parent is instrumental in fostering a spirit of compassion and unity within our school community. As Easter approaches, we encourage you to get involved by taking part in *Give it up for Lent* – whether you forgo your daily coffee, or indulge in a little less screen time, or give up your car during Lent – get sponsored for your efforts and contribute to brighter futures, *for all generations*.

GET THE SLAVERY OUT OF EASTER CHOCOLATE

This Easter, educate yourself about what's really going into the chocolate you buy for family and friends. [Be Slavery Free](#) has produced a chocolate scorecard after surveying the world's biggest chocolate companies to find out about their supply chains.

Lisa Hitchcock
Catholic Identity Leader

Music news...

MUSIC 2024

Choir try outs

This year, choir rehearsals will be held on Thursdays after lunch, from 2:20-3:20pm. There is no audition process and any student in grade 4, 5 or 6 is invited to join. During weeks 1 and 2, students can attend to see what rehearsals are like before making a commitment. For those who are eager to join, they are asked to commit to choir for the duration of terms 1 and 2. The school choir is a team with various performances and competitions throughout the year and thus requires a commitment to the team. Our school choir is a lovely community where we have lots of fun while making music, and we have many exciting performances to look forward to this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs C.



Choir performances 2024

Below are currently confirmed choir performances for 2024. Students will also perform at numerous school events and visits to Assisi Kinder.

Event	Location	Date
Project Compassion Launch	Hargreaves Mall	Tuesday 13 February
Bendigo Choir Competition	Ulumburra Theatre	Wednesday 22 May
Healing Mass		TBD – Term 2
Arts on Show	St Francis of the Fields	Tuesday 10 September
Carols	St John of God Hospital	TBD – Term 4

Lunch time concerts

In term 1, a lunch time concert will be held every Monday outside the music room. These concerts will start next Monday (5th February). Any student is invited to perform, you don't need to be learning an instrument. We had some fabulous and courageous performances last year and I am very excited to hear more this term ahead!

Important Dates

Choir try outs	Thursday Week 1 and 2	Grade 4-6
Welcome Mass	Friday 9 February 2024	Choir item
Project Compassion	Tuesday 13 February 2024	Choir excursion

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 kcameron@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au

Kiara Cameron
Music Teacher

PE News...

SWIMMING IN 2024

Hoping you've all had a great holiday and enjoyed the warm weather with your families.

The Year 3-6 children will begin their swimming lessons on the first Wednesday back at school. Please ensure you have completed the permission form sent through via PAM.



YEAR 3-6 SWIMMING LESSON DATES:

Wednesday January 31
Thursday February 1
Friday February 2
Monday February 5

The children will be invited to swim freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and invitational butterfly. They can choose between the distances of 25m kickboard, 25m and 50m. Events will be discussed and finalised during the swimming lessons in 2024.

YEAR 3-6 SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS: Thursday 8th of Feb

The day begins at 9.45am and will conclude at approximately 1.30pm. This will take place at Bendigo East Pool. **Coffee Storm** will be at the pool for your convenience.



Catholic Swimming Sports (Year 3-6's): Tuesday 20/2

Please note, year 3's are **ONLY eligible for 3 individual events- 50m freestyle, breaststroke & backstroke. They may be used in relays, should they have the fastest time. Please contact me with any questions around this.*

Divisional Swimming Championships: Friday 1/3

Regional Swimming Championships (Swan Hill): Tuesday 12/3

State Swimming Championships (Melbourne): Friday 19/4

Cross Country:

Whole School Cross Country: Thursday 18/4

Division Cross Country (Year 3-6's): Wednesday 1/5

Regional Cross Country (St Arnaud): Tuesday 28/5

State Cross Country (Melbourne): Thursday 18/7

Athletics:

School Athletics Sports (3-6's): Friday 26/7

Catholic Athletics Championships (Year 3-6's): Wednesday 21/8

Please note, year 3's are **ONLY eligible for 4 events- Shot put, Long jump, 100m & hurdles.*

Divisional Athletics Championship: Monday 16/9

Regional Athletics Championship: Monday 14/10

School Athletic Sports (Foundation- Year 2) on the oval 9.15-11am: Friday 1/11

State Athletics Championships: Wednesday 6/11

Sport training: Twice a week in term 1, we will be offering some sport training during recess. The focus will be preparing for the school Cross Country, which will be held at the very beginning of term 1. Students can check the schedule on the 'PE notice board', which can be found as you enter the glass door of the sports shed.

Danielle Coates & Shannon Baird- PE coordinators

Victorian Youth Dressage Championship

In the holidays I competed at the 2024 Victorian Youth Dressage Championship on my horse Angus. On Thursday, I competed in two tests and came 1st Place in the Primary Interschool Preliminary 1.2 test and 2nd Place in the Primary Interschool Preliminary 1.3 test.

My points from these two tests got combined and I ended up becoming reserve champion overall. I was happy and was very excited for the next day.

On Friday, I stepped up a level and competed in the open pony preliminary section which meant I was going to be against more difficult competition. This is why I was very surprised when I ended up coming 2nd. Later on, was my last event and that was the primary interschool novice section, which is a level up from prelim. I also came 2nd in this, which I was very proud of.

Overall, I couldn't be happier and can't wait to do more competitions like this.

Lily Diss



SCHOLASTIC



Scholastic Book Club

SCHOLASTIC



The Issue #1 catalogues will be sent home with children tomorrow. Orders are due by **Wednesday 14 Feb**. Please complete orders using the LOOP ordering system. We will not be accepting any cash payments at school.

Did you know that every purchase you make on Book Club earns our school 15% of the order value in Scholastic Rewards? We use these to purchase more books and educational resources for the school! All orders are completed online & then books sent home with students when they arrive at school.
Sue

Book Club rewards your School!

Every purchase you make earns your child's school 15% of your order value in Scholastic Rewards that can be used to purchase valuable educational resources that benefit your child.



Families order from Book Club.



The school earns Scholastic Rewards.



The school redeems Scholastic Rewards for additional resources.

Issue 1 Out Now!



SCHOLASTIC  **Book Club**

SCHOLASTIC  **Book Club**

Conveyance Allowance Program (CAP) 2024



Dear Parents,

The Conveyance Allowance is a form of financial assistance from the Victorian State Government to assist families in rural and regional Victoria with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest appropriate school.

The allowance is available to parents who are required to –

- drive their child more than 4.8 kilometres to school (if there is no school bus)
- or drive their child more than 4.8 kilometres to meet the nearest school bus to the school
- the child must attend their closest government or non-government school (Catholic)
- the allowance is based on kilometres travelled and not based on any financial eligibility

Distance is calculated by the shortest practical route from home to the school or from home to meet the nearest school bus to the school. Distance can be calculated by using Bing Maps.

Forms required to be completed by a parent are available to download from our website <http://www.sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au/downloads/forms> or can be picked up at the office.

1. Conveyance Allowance Application 2024 (one per family which includes all children at St Francis of the Fields)
 2. Conveyance Allowance Authority to Pay Form 2024 (one per parent claiming)
- **Parents who received the Conveyance Allowance in 2023 do not need to complete a new form in 2024 unless their children enrolled at St Francis of the Fields in 2023 have changed (ie Yr 6 student left at the end of 2023 or a Prep child commenced in 2024).**
 - **If your family circumstances have changed a new form needs to be completed in 2024.**
 - **If you have recently changed address, please advise the office if you are no longer eligible.**

If you are unsure of the bus stops of the free country buses to St Francis of the Fields, this information is also available on our website <http://www.sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au/downloads/bus>

Further information can be found at <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/transport/Pages/conveyance.aspx>

If you are unsure if you may be eligible, or require help in completing your Application, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or email me at swade@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au

With thanks,

Stephanie Wade (Administration)

December 2023

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



Community News....

Bendigo Ford  Go Further



MARONG CUP DAY 2024

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY




SUPPORTING BENDIGO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

KIDS RIDES AND ACTIVITIES

Packages available · Umbrella Packages \$320 · Mini Marquees \$110pp
 General Admission \$15 · Kids 16 & Under Free minimum 10 people

BENDIGO JOCKEY CLUB
 Phone 03 5448 4209 country.racing.com/bendigo   



MARONG 20 CUP DAY 24

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY

CONTACTS

President
Tom Maher 0408 910 497

Marong Racing Club Inc.
PO Box 2705
Bendigo DC 3554
Email tom@maherrealstate.com.au

KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

Kids Ride passes only \$15
 if purchased on the day
 If prebooked at school \$10



BOOK YOUR 2024 PACKAGES NOW!

ADMISSION PRICES

Adults	\$15
Concession <small>(aged Pension and TPI only)</small>	\$10
Cross over to Members Reserve	\$10
Children (16 years and under)	FREE

TRACKSIDE UMBRELLAS

Fenced off enclosures on the lawns are set aside for package patrons.

• Market umbrella	\$320 (10 people)
• Table	<small>*Price does not include alcohol</small>
• Chairs	<small>*Price does not include admission</small>

'SILKS' DINING PACKAGES

Silks dining room is located within the Members Reserve. Set high above the track, this is a spectacular location to view the course in all-conditioned comfort.

• Admission to 'Members Reserve'	\$99 per person
• Reserved seat for the day	\$89 per person members
• Free drink on arrival	
• Two course hot luncheon	
• Air-conditioned comfort	
• Racebook	
• Private TAB facilities	
• Cash bar	

ULTIMATE MARQUEES

• Mini Marquee	\$110 per person
• Large table	<small>*Minimum 10 people</small>
• 10 chairs	
• Anti pasto platter and sandwiches	
• Admission to the course	

TERRACE AND DECK PACKAGES

The ultimate area to enjoy the races at the Bendigo Track!

• Marquee	\$700 (20 people)
• Large market umbrella	
• 2 garden tables	
• 20 chairs	
• 1 large wine barrel	
• 6 talk bar stools	
• Racebook for each guest	

Beverage packages can be pre-ordered or drinks purchased at the cash bar.

For all Package Bookings contact the office at the Bendigo Jockey Club
03 5448 4209
 visit our website www.bendigojockeyclub.com.au
 or email us on info@bendigojockeyclub.com.au

Proprioceptive training for neck pain

Researchers at La Trobe University are recruiting people who have neck pain (3 months or longer, aged 18-50), testing their proprioception (awareness) of the head and neck, and providing a free intervention.

The intervention is a 5-week program developed by physiotherapist Daniel English (PhD candidate), which aims to provide participants with the skills to sense and address the root cause of their specific pain.

Please contact Daniel (D.English@latrobe.edu.au) if you are interested.



ANZCTR
 Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry
 No: 1252300847917





2024 COME & TRY DAY

Ever wanted to play an instrument?
Maybe you've always wanted to play in a community band?
Come along and see what it's all about!

5pm Tuesday 6th February

Marist Brass, 122 Hargreaves St, Bendigo

Adults and children aged 8+ welcome!

Come along to:

- Learn about brass instruments and community banding
- Ask band members questions
- Try playing an instrument!

Whether you've previously played in a band, or never even picked up an instrument, this session is a great introduction.
Anyone aged 8-80 is welcome!

This session is FREE!
Simply RSVP here!



band@maristbrass.org.au
044 8000 975

Find us on 



Club Open Day

All welcome - New & past members

Saturday February 10th

1pm-3pm

Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve



- Come & try soccer - there'll be games & activities for everyone
- Get information about the 2024 season
- Register to play this year (must be 4yrs+)
- Order club merchandise

2nd Hand Uniform Drive

If you have any 2nd hand Epsom FC uniforms - boots, socks, shorts, shinpads - we are looking for donations. Drop them off & we'll find a new home for them!

BBQ provided by Rotary Club of Eaglehawk

If you can't make it, but want further information email secretary@epsomfc.com.au or check us out at facebook.com/EpsomSoccer