

St. Monica's Newsletter



2022: Term 3 - Week 3



St. Monica's acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurunjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders both past, present and emerging



Important Dates

Term 3

Monday 1st August

Whole School Assembly at 2.40pm

Thursday 4th August

SEDA - AFL Clinics

Monday 1st August

Whole School Liturgy at 2.40pm

'Saint Mary Mackillop'

Tuesday 2nd August

Mary Mackillop Centre Excursion

Monday 15th August

Feast of the Assumption Mass:

Whole School 12pm

Tuesday 16th August

Bully Zero Incursion: P-3 & Y4/5/6 sessions

Wednesday 24th August -

Now we're talking - Languages information session 6pm
(highly recommended for parent engagement)

Friday 26th August

School Closure Day - Staff Faith Formation

Monday 29th August

St Monica's Feast Day celebrations

- Whole School Mass at 12pm

- More information will be provided closer to the date

St Monica's promotes and supports healthy eating as much as possible. Vegetable and fruit snacks are strongly encouraged on a daily basis.



The eSafety Commissioner website is a very informative and highly endorsed website for parents to assist when educating their children about safely navigating the online environment.

Please read our weekly Cyber Safety announcement below

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

tinyurl.com/f55jtfhu - eSafety tips

On Saturday the 30th of July, we celebrate International Friendship Day. Let us reflect on the ways we can follow Jesus' teaching to "love one another".

Almighty Father, I give thanks today for the friendships in my life.

Lord, this life isn't meant to be lived alone, so I am grateful for the people who walk alongside me, supporting me, loving me and encouraging me.

For we cannot do it all alone but are better together. Help me to be more aware and gracious to my friends, appreciating them and accepting their help. Help me to be a better friend, too, supporting, loving and encouraging others. Lord, lead me to find and cultivate deeper friendships and be a good friend in all that I do.

Amen

Principal's Message

Dear families,

Another week has absolutely flown by at St Monica's. Our week started with an amazing whole school Friendship liturgy on Monday afternoon led by our junior teachers and students. Some senior students attended Hoop Time on Tuesday and our Prep/1 students celebrated 100 days of school on Thursday.

Re-engaging with our parent community is particularly important as we continue to navigate through the second half of 2022 in safe welcoming environment. With the encouragement and support of MACS St Monica's school is currently exploring and reimagining how we can enhance our languages Italian specialist program. Teachers as Co-learners (**TCL**) is a contemporary pedagogical approach underpinned by recent research into what we know works in Victorian Catholic Schools. In a TCL approach all teachers and students are learners of the school's target language (Italian) and time is allocated every day to ensure frequent exposure to, and learning of, both the target spoken language and English occurs. St Monica's has engaged Linton Roe - MACS Languages coach to facilitate a parent information session to further explain the benefits of this innovative and immersive approach of learning a language at school. Parents are warmly welcome to engage and attend this informative 45 minute session on Wednesday 24th August at 6pm. A more detailed flyer will be sent home next week with an expression to attend form to complete and we hope to see many interested parents in attendance for this session.

In Partnership, Nathan

Reminders

- Please report **student absences** before 9:15am on the day of absence via Skoolbag OR by calling 9689-4548 OR emailing: office@smfootscray.catholic.edu.au
- Lunch order day is Wednesday
- Our school gate is open at 8.30am every morning for student arrival
- Children eat lunch at 1.40pm every day before going out to play

Lunch orders on Wednesday - If children are going to be absent and orders are placed, they can be cancelled up to 8.30am that morning.



Cyber Safety



Raising our children in a digital world challenges us all as parents to find a healthy balance of time online without techno tantrums and conflict. The increasing role of digital technology in children's lives has left many parents both concerned and confused.

Deciding on the right amount of screen time, TV, iPads, mobile phones and video games as well as issues associated with cyber safety are just some of the digital dilemmas facing all modern parents. Whether we love it or loathe it, technology is now a central part of children's lives.

We need to always help and support of children to enter and navigate the digital world, bearing their safety and development in mind. It is our job as parents and educators to guide, moderate and shape our children's digital habits so that they form healthy and helpful relationships with technology.

If we work alongside each other to understand how we can leverage technology in positive ways we'll provide our children with the best start possible to thrive and survive in a digital world they have inherited.

MACSSIS

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS): Monday 29 August – Friday 16 September 2022

Throughout each year, we pause to listen to our students, families and staff to gauge how our learning community is travelling. This feedback is invaluable to our progress as effective school community and is backed by evidence-based research and best practices.

A letter of explanation will be sent home to all families next week. More information will also be provided as we near the survey timeframe.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, and/or social behaviour by one or more people towards someone where there is an intention to cause fear, distress or harm. Bullying is not just 'playing around' or harmless fun – it can be very damaging to a young person's mental health and wellbeing.

Bullying can come in many forms including verbal, physical, social, and cyberbullying. Research shows that being bullied can also have serious effects on a young person's physical and mental health, and their performance at school in social settings and at work. Attached below is a link to a fact sheet to share and discuss at home why **bullying is not OK!**



Bully Zero Incursion Tuesday 16th Aug
<https://www.bullyzero.org.au/>



<https://headspace.org.au/assets/download-cards/05-Bullying-headspace-fact-sheet-WEB-V4.pdf>

Student Awards

Each week, students who embody our values, and apply the school learning powers are awarded a class award. The students who earned an award in the past week are:

JB	Oscar Y
JJ	Archi S
MAH	Betsi G
MAS	Thomas M
SG	Missy M
SI	Katie L

Principal Award

Baylen C

Specialist Award

Roman R

Student Wellbeing Services

As you would be aware, we are without a Learning Diversity and Well being leader for a few weeks until Andrea joins us in week 6.

To ensure the ongoing Wellbeing of our students, we have created a Student Wellbeing Referral Google form which will enable you, as guardians, to reach out if you feel your child needs further support from our onsite Provisional School Psychologists, Haylie and Olivia. Teachers and Senior students will also be able to access this form. Students in Middles will have access to a paper form that they can fill in.

Haylie and Olivia can offer Wellbeing Services such as, Social Skills Groups and Counselling.

If you feel your child would benefit from these services please complete the following form



Student Wellbeing Referral Form
<https://forms.gle/xiSXRGTNj4PaxL9B9>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Haylie or Olivia at school.counsellor@smfootscray.catholic.edu.au



Senior Excursion to the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre

On Tuesday the 2nd of August, the Senior students will be visiting the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre. This is a wonderful experience for our Senior students as they deepen their understanding of our first Australian Saint and reflect on how they can demonstrate her values of 'Justice, Compassion and Love'. When talking with the students they are very excited to learn more about the life of Saint Mary Mackillop, explore many artefacts and establish a deeper understanding of the special connection to our school.

Miss Anna

<https://www.mmhc.org.au/>



Congratulations to our Prep /1 students for celebrating 100 days at school!



100
DAYS OF
SCHOOL!



Hoop Time Basketball

On Tuesday 26th July, 11 Senior students went to Eagle Stadium to compete in the Werribee Hoop Time Basketball competition.

St Monica's played with great team spirit all day. We had 4 wins and 1 draw, with our skills and confidence improving each game. We even had a special visit from Miss Catriona and Lauren, who gave us lots of support and encouragement.

Thank you to Steven, Brenton and Grace for their coaching and support on the day.

It was really fun! - Zach

I liked that I scored a goal! - Joel

It was challenging playing against some of the other schools - Samuel

I liked playing basketball and winning with my friends - Logan



HOOP TIME