

St. Monica's Newsletter



2023: Term 1 - Week 5



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 1

Friday 24th February - School Cross Country event (Year 3/4 & 5/6)

9.30am - 11.00am

Monday 27th February - Family

Sacramental evening (Details to come)

Monday 6th March - Assembly 2.55pm

Thursday 9th March - School Athletics Carnival
Newport Athletics Centre

Thursday 23rd March Life Education
(Foundation and Year 5/6)

Monday 20th March - Assembly 2.55pm

Friday 24th March Life Education (Year 1/2)

Wed 29th March Life Education (Year 3/4)

Monday 3rd April - Assembly 2.55pm

Thursday 6th April - Easter egg raffle

*** End of term dismissal - 1pm**

Monday 24th April - School Closure Day

Staff Professional Learning - Mathematics

Tuesday 25th April - Anzac Day Public holiday

Wednesday 26th April - Term 2 Begins

Please note Foundation (Prep) rest day is Wednesday for the until the March long weekend

Reconciliation

Date and time to be confirmed with Fr Philip

First Eucharist

Thursday 8th June - time to be confirmed

Confirmation

Has recently been set for Saturday 9th September 2023 at 6pm.

Reminders

- Lunch order day for 2023 will now be on Monday (A message has been sent via Operoo.
- Our school gate is open at 8.30am every morning for student arrival
- Children eat lunch at 11.40am (after first play)



St Monica's website

Prayer - Welcome to the Season of Lent

Most humble Lord, we need you in our lives. As we travel through Lent, we are reminded of our need for forgiveness and redemption. It is our prayer that during Lent we will see clearly the life you call us to live. May we experience your forgiveness and love each day. The ashes placed on our foreheads are a reminder of the humility to which we are called. We remember that we are in need of your love and forgiveness. We pray to see and respond to the suffering of others, recognising that we are all one human family.

Amen.



Principal's Message

"Everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. Everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." **Luke 11:9-10**

Dear Families,

We have been blessed over that last two weeks with beautiful weather, which has assisted greatly with a smooth transition for all students. Last week our Year 5/6 students headed off to Camp Rumbug, South Gippsland for 3 days of adventure, student leadership and teamwork activities. Please enjoy reading about their experiences in this newsletter. On Monday this week all staff were highly engaged in our first professional learning day for 2023, which focused on positive learning for behaviour. Over the coming weeks students and families will be provided opportunities to offer suggestions to assist us with our school values. We very much look forward to this collaborative engagement. This Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, the day we celebrate the beginning of lent. All students and staff attended mass with Fr Joe who is assisting Fr Phillip at the moment. Please keep Fr Phillip in your prayers as he will be recovering from a knee operation. Tomorrow morning our students in Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 will be competing in our school cross country event at the bottom of Wingfield Street along our designed Maribyrnong river circuit course. Parents are warmly invited to come along and enjoy this fun event.

Arrivederci
Nathan

School Asthma Action Plans and Anaphylaxis Plans are to be updated annually. Existing and newly diagnosed Asthmatics must have an Asthma Action plan (available from the School Office). Please complete this form and return to school as soon as possible. A doctor's signature is required. Anaphylaxis Plans are obtained through the doctor also. If your child no longer requires an asthma plan can you please notify the school.

MEDICAL AUTHORISATIONS

If your child requires medication during school hours you must complete a Medication Authorisation Form. These can be obtained from the front office. The medication must be brought to the office before school.

ALL MEDICINE MUST BE SUPPLIED IN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER

If your child requires Panadol etc. during school hours please complete a Medical Authorisation Form and supply your own Panadol to the front office. Students are not permitted to carry any medication in their school bags or self-administer any medication. If your child requires Antibiotics and are to be given three times a day you can give to your child in the morning before school, after school and before bed. Thank you for your support with helping us to manage student medical needs.

If you have any further questions please contact Andrea Wilberger or Anna Trainor.



Ash Wednesday – 22 February 2023 (Week beginning Monday 20th February)

This week, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

The theme of Project Compassion 2023 is 'For All Future Generations' and reminds us that the good we do today extends to impact the lives of generations to come. It invites us to make the world a better place by working together now and finding long-term solutions to global issues. We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through prayer, fasting and almsgiving in support of Project Compassion. Each family will receive a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes for their donations or you can donate online via the Caritas Australia website at:
www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion



2023 SCHOOL FEES PAYMENT SCHEDULE

(Please note: Camp fees not included)

	1 CHILD	2 CHILDREN	3 CHILDREN	4 CHILDREN
FAMILY FEE	\$1,495.00	\$1,495.00	\$1,495.00	\$1,495.00
CURRICULUM LEVY	\$ 355.00	\$ 710.00	\$1,065.00	\$1,420.00
SWIMMING LEVY	\$ 125.00	\$250.00	\$375.00	\$500.00
EXCURSION LEVY	\$ 150.00	\$300.00	\$450.00	\$600.00
TOTAL	\$2,125.00	\$2, 755.00	\$3,385.00	\$4,015.00

(4) QUARTERLY PAYMENTS NOTE: CAMP FEES NOT INCLUDED				
	1 CHILD	2 CHILDREN	3 CHILDREN	4 CHILDREN
TERM	\$531.25	\$688.75	\$846.25	\$1,003.75
(10) PAYMENTS				
MONTHLY	\$212.50	\$275.50	\$338.50	\$401.50
(20) PAYMENTS				
FORTNIGHTLY	\$106.25	\$137.75	\$169.25	\$200.75

Please contact the office if you require further assistance for paying school fees



We still require 10 or so families to complete profiles

Thank you to all families who have completed setting up an **Operoo** profile for their child/children.

Operoo will be our main online platform for sharing all forms of communication and information moving forward at St Monica's

If you require any assistance with Operoo, please contact the office.

2023 FEES AND LEVIES

As per communicated at the end of 2022 the School Fees for 2023 (Please refer to table above). Fees can be paid in one amount at the beginning of the year or each term. Tuition Levies for each child includes books, resources and \$150 for excursions/incursions).

Parents who have a current Healthcare Card can apply to receive the State Government Camps and School Excursion Fund which pays the Excursion Levy and can be used to help pay for camps. A reminder that a \$125 charge for the swimming program remains in place in 2023. Our swimming program will take place in late November - early December.

CSEF

Families with a Health Card or other Concession Card can apply now for the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund. This government benefit of \$125 is used to pay for camps, excursions or sporting activities for your child.

If you are new to the school, have recently received a Healthcare Card for the first time, or have more kids attending school this year, bring in your Health Care Card and we will organise your application. If you have already applied for CSEF you do not need to reapply or bring in your Healthcare card; your application will automatically be rolled over.

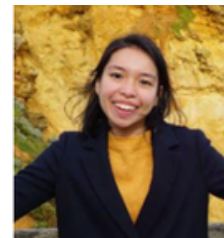
Welcome



Cecilia is a Certified Practising Speech Pathologist with experience working in schools, hospitals and private practice. Her role is to support students with their communication and learning, by helping them develop their oral language (comprehension, vocabulary & grammar), speech sounds, literacy skills (reading, writing & spelling) and social skills. At St Monica's, Cecilia will be conducting assessments, providing individual and group intervention to students and providing consultancy for parents and teachers. If you see Cecilia around the school, feel free to say hello! She is happy to chat if you have any questions or concerns.

Please feel free to contact Cecilia via

ceciliaspeech@gmail.com at any time



Amani is a provisional psychologist from the University of Melbourne, completing her final year of Masters in Educational Psychology. Her role is to support students with their wellbeing and learning, by helping them develop social skills, emotion literacy and study habits. During her time here at St Monica's, Amani will offer one-on-one counselling, social skills groups, psychoeducational assessments and consultancy for parents and teachers. Amani will be here until the end of Term 4. If you see Amani in the yard, feel free to come up and say hi! Amani is happy to discuss any concerns or questions you may have.

Parents are more than welcome to reach out to Amani via
School.Counsellor@smfootscray.catholic.edu.au.



Parent involvement is encouraged and welcomed at St. Monica's school. Without the support of parents, many of the programs and opportunities we offer students would not be possible.

This week we marked Shrove Tuesday with the support of Kirby, Rebecca and Maisie. We thank them for their time and enthusiasm in making over 100 pancakes!

If you would like to **volunteer** at St Monica's please reach out to your child's teacher. Some examples of volunteering include:

- Supporting Kitchen Garden Program
- Supporting our specialist classes
- Changing student readers in classrooms
- Attending excursions
- Supporting in our classrooms (Training to be provided)
- Assisting with school sporting events



Volunteers Wanted for Kitchen Garden Classes

Our kitchen garden program has started this term and we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to support with our classes!

You don't have to be a green thumb or a chef, you just have to love growing food, eating food and learning with children. If you would like to volunteer in the kitchen or garden, whether you have one hour to spare or a whole afternoon, we would love to hear from you.

The classes run on Mondays
 3/4 Ida – 9.00am – 10.00am
 3/4 Kira – 10.00am – 11.00am
 1/2 Grace – 11.40am – 12.50pm
 1/2 Helen – 12.50pm – 1.40pm

Contact: Jess (Kitchen Garden Teacher)
jess.whiting@smfootscray.catholic.edu.au
 or the school office: 9689 4548



Parents who volunteer to help must have a Working with Children Check.

Applications can be made online and forms are also available from Post Offices.

There is no cost involved in applying for the Working with Children check.

More information about the Check is available at the Working with Children Check website. <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Once you receive your card, it must be presented to the School for verification and displayed any time you are working with our students.