

St. Monica's Newsletter

2023: Term 3 - Week 7 (August Edition)



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

Friday 25th August - St Monica's Feast Day
Stay tuned for more information on how this day will be celebrated.

Tuesday 29th August

School Advisory Meeting 5pm - 6pm

Thursday 31st August

Father's Day Breakfast - See Flyer below

Annual Book Week Parade - following Father's Day Breakfast

Monday 4th September

Scholastic Book Fair - All Week

Thursday 7th September

Footy Colours Day - Western Bulldog Players

Saturday 9th September

Sacrament of Confirmation - 6pm

Friday 15th September

Last Day of term 3 - Dismissal at 1.30pm

Important Dates - Term 4

Monday 2nd October

First day of Term 4

Friday 6th October

School Colour Run - details to follow

Saturday 7th October

St Monica's Bunnings sausage sizzle 1 - We need plenty of volunteers and donations

Tuesday 10th October

Whole School photo

Tuesday 17th October

Proposed dance incursions commence - PE

Friday 20th October

Italian Day - Fun, Fun, Fun

Tuesday 24th October

School Advisory Meeting 5pm - 6pm

Thursday 26th October

Sacrament of Reconciliation - details to follow

Friday 27th October

World Teachers Day

Saint Monica's Feast Day

27.08.2023

God, our Father, we first learnt about your love from those who love us and care for us. Thank you for our families, our mothers, teachers, and for those who show your goodness and gentleness. Our school is a special place of learning and of love. We give thanks that our school has been named after St Monica. May we always remember that your saints are part of our Christian family. We pray that St Monica especially will encourage us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.



Amen

Principal's Message

Dear students and families,

August has flown by and Spring is just about upon us! So many terrific learning experiences have occurred across all areas of our school, culminating in a very exciting St Monica's Feast Day celebration. The August newsletter provides a snapshot of St Monica's in action and I encourage all families to enjoy reading and talking as a family about school life at our school. A huge, huge shout out to our awesome PNF for all their amazing efforts in putting together an incredible Vino and Van Gough parent night earlier this term. For those that were able to attend it truly was a very memorable night and we hope to have many more.

Our annual MACSISS survey for students, staff and families opens on Tuesday 29th August. If you require online assistance to complete the survey this will be available in the school library, dates and times to be sent via Operoo this week.

Please also take time to read an important letter I recently recently received Alison Wilson - Road Safety Officer, Maribyrnong City Council in relation to the Whitehall Street pedestrian crossing.

In Partnership,
Nathan



St Monica's website



*National Day of Action
against bullying @ SM*
#BULLYINGNOWAY!



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

MACSSIS

Imagine if, in about 20 minutes,
you could help **improve your
child's school.**

The MACSSIS family survey is open
Monday 28 August – Friday 15 September 2023.



We are always striving to be even better at what we do and value your ideas, opinions and feedback about how we can improve.

A significant and formal way in which we engage and gather data is through MACSSIS, the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys.

MACSSIS is an annual process whereby schools listen to the thoughts and feelings students, families and staff have about how their school can improve. These surveys help inform the ongoing improvement of schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

One of the main goals of the family survey is to identify the strengths and areas for improvement in our school. MACSSIS data benefits everyone within our school and provides valuable community insights on areas that each school can focus on. Our school believes it is important to encourage families to have a voice and contribute to shaping the ongoing improvement of the school.

In 2023, students, families and staff are invited to participate in MACSSIS via the secure and purpose-built online platform. The online platform is where our school leaders will access the summary reports that visualise the results of the student, family and staff surveys. The MACSSIS survey platform is operated by an independent supplier, ORIMA Research Pty Ltd. The platform meets with the high security and privacy standards for handling student and school data.

Students on Years 4-6 will be provided with supervised sessions, where teachers are on hand to help and answer any questions. Families and staff can complete the survey anytime over the three-week window via an emailed link and password. Andrea will be sending home this link to all families this Tuesday 29th August.

In Week 8 and 9, students from Yr 4 – 6 will be provided with a supervised session, where teachers are on hand to help and answer any questions.

Our community's opinions are critical to understanding how our school is performing – MACSSIS is a key data source for guiding the ongoing work to improve our school.

All participation is invited, welcomed and 100 per cent voluntary. The surveys are not a test; they are an inclusive way to support the work we are already doing to improve our school.

Want another reason for parents to complete the survey? There are great prizes to be won.

- \$50 Coles Myer voucher
- SM Beanie or SM school hat

Once you have completed your survey, email Andrea: andrea.wilberger@smfootscray.catholic.edu.au to let her know and she will add your name into the prize draw.

If you would like more information, please contact Andrea or myself .

Spirit Filled Day!

On Tuesday our Year 5/6 students who will be receiving their Sacrament of Confirmation had a Spirit Filled Day in the City.

The students began their day at the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre where they participated in a Godly Play experience. Our Facilitator Anna unpacked the life and legacy of Saint Mary Mackillop. The students had opportunities to ask questions to deepen their understanding of our First Australian Saint and sang songs to make a connection of how Saint Mary Mackillop was a Spirit filled person.

The students unpacked the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They made connections between how they and Saint Mary Mackillop used the Fruits and Gifts in their world.

To finish our day, we went to Melbourne's beautiful St Patrick's Cathedral where we listened to the Mass of the day. After this, we explored the Cathedral and took individual moments to pray.

The teachers were very proud of the way the students responded to the experience and how this helped build their faith development for Confirmation.



ATTENDANCE

EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY COUNTS

Did you know that:

When children regularly arrive late, they miss out on so much:

- They miss the lovely morning meet and greet that connects children to their peers, teachers and classroom environment and is an important part of children feeling that they belong.
- We schedule Literacy and Numeracy for our morning lessons - so regular lateness means that children are missing critical learning.

Please help your child arrive on time to school EVERY day.

If you need support in this area please do not hesitate to speak to Andrea or Nathan.



ST MONICA'S
Catholic Primary School
Footscray
We're here to make a difference

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

The staff and students of St Monica's invite all fathers, grandfathers, uncles and special men in the lives of our students to a breakfast to celebrate Father's Day.

Shout out to all the mothers. Please contact the office if you're available to help on the day.

THURSDAY 31ST AUGUST
8:30AM - 9.15AM

BRING YOUR
BEST DAD
JOKE



Lord God, you are our Father,
Bless all fathers and all who care for children. May they be patient, kind and trustworthy, understanding and strong in faith. Grant that they might inspire their children to be loving and caring, always looking to help those in need, and respecting the dignity of everyone they meet. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Italian

Put simply, learning a language involves actively learning new words, and knowing how to put them together for the purpose of communicating.

Ciao a Tutti,

On Wednesday 30th August, St Monica's is hosting 50+ primary educators across MACS schools to view our Daily Italian (Teachers as Co-Learner - TCL) in action. This is incredible recognition showcasing our students and teachers as they work together when speaking Italian at school everyday in every classroom. The TCL approach is used in many MACS schools assisting greatly in shaping the way in which individuals, communities and cultures perceive and interpret the world, by growing broad transferable skills which support literacy, cognitive development and critical thinking. Our young people are growing up in a world where learning a second language is vital to our global future; therefore, the value of providing an effective, cohesive and quality Language such as Italian at St Monica's is essential. It was awesome to see many parents visit our classrooms last week to view a lesson and see the growing confidence and developments of all our students. More opportunities will be provided next term as well.

Arrivederci,



District Athletics

Thursday 24th August was a remarkable day, filled with energy, determination, and outstanding displays of St Monica's team spirit. Congratulations to each and every one of you for your incredible performances on the day. Your achievements are a source of pride for our school, your families, and yourselves. May your journey in athletics continue to be filled with accomplishments, growth, and the joy of pursuing your passions.

I also want to extend my gratitude to Miss Liz, Ida and Sami who attended on day, providing guidance and support for everyone.

Huge shout out to our parents as well, your presence was a testament to your unending support. Your encouragement, cheers, and presence in the stands was very much appreciated. I am sure you would have had a terrific day watching our students compete so enthusiastically against others within the Footscray district. We can't wait until next year!



Dear Mr Owen,

I was truly impressed by the display of determination, perseverance, enthusiasm displayed by our young athletes at the District Race. It was a fantastic day, with the students performing gracefully and exceptionally to their best of their ability. They were extremely encouraging and supportive of one another which was a delight to be part of.

It was truly a proud moment to see my son Brendan's confidence grow as the day progressed. He competed in the 100m, 200m and team relay. He finished last in the 100m, 4th in the 200m and 5th in the relay. He was deeply pleased with this achievement. Thank you to all the teachers for organising such a great and memorable event. Brendan and I are looking forward to next District Athletics.

Congratulations to the St Monica's Athletic Team!

Stephanie (Parent of Brendan and Hayden)

St Monica's Feast Day

St. Monica's Feast Day is celebrated on August 27th each year in honour of Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine, a prominent early Christian theologian and philosopher. St. Monica is known for her strong faith, persistent prayers, and her role in the conversion of her son to Christianity. Here's how we celebrated St. Monica's Feast Day this year:

- Our day started with a beautiful whole school parish mass with Fr Phillip. This mass provided us all with an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of our school patron saint - St. Monica's legacy and teachings, and to inspire students to embody her virtues in their own lives.
- Our African Drummers incursion allowed for an engaging high-energy musical experience that captivated everyone. So much fun, together as one!
- A shared sausage sizzle was provided for all students and staff and this was enjoyed outside in sunshine. A Huge Shout out to Karen, Helen and Stephanie for cooking the sausages for us.
- **AND** what can we say about our amazing St Monica's Showcase of Talent performances. What a way to boost confidence, promote social inclusion, and create opportunities for our students to shine! A special mention to Brigid and Zac for leading the Showcase and Niamh for managing the music.



SHOWCASE OF TALENT

25TH AUGUST 2023

St Monica's Feast Day



SHOWCASE OF TALENT

25TH AUGUST 2023

St Monica's Feast Day



SHOWCASE OF TALENT

25TH AUGUST 2023

St Monica's Feast Day



*Congratulations to
all our performers*

#LOVE
FOOTSCRAY

1ST ANNUAL FOOTSCRAY

FREE Community Fun Day

BE A PART OF THE FESTIVITIES!

FAMILY FRIENDLY

FACEPAINTING, BOWLS, PIES, DRINKS

TICKETS



SUNDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 12PM - 4PM
FOOTSCRAY BOWLS CLUB
1 HOADLEY CT, FOOTSCRAY



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL



OUR SCHOOL PARTICIPATED IN SHOE LACE TYING LESSONS

Ascent Footwear works closely with the the medical community to ensure that their footwear meets the needs of Australian school kids feet. Part of this commitment is educating students about a range of foot health issues from learning how to tie shoe laces to basic foot biomechanics. The lessons are totally **FREE** and the kids take home their own lace tying pencil case and 9 step guide so they can keep practicing at home!

CONTINUE LEARNING AT HOME



Scan the QR code below to find out more:



You can tie your laces at home with our handy video and step-by-step guide!



ADELA



SCHOLAR



APEX



SUSTAIN 2



SCHOOL

ascentfootwear.com.au



FOOTSCRAY FINDS

Spring Cleaning Edition

Join us at our first Footscray Finds market of 2023 with:

- on-site alterations
- sausage sizzle
- second-hand clothing
- homewares and more

SUNDAY 03.09.2023

10AM - 4PM
2 Yewers Street, FOOTSCRAY

Want to declutter?
Join us as a stallholder!

THE LINE
BLANK CANVAS WAREHOUSE

Looking for a meaningful way to celebrate this Father's Day?
Join us at Footscray Finds Market with

- Fundraising Sausage Sizzle from St. Monica's Primary
- On-site alteration services and clothing repairs workshop (for all ages!) from School of Sewing & Up-cycling
- Collection spot for donations to Reaching Out in The Inner West of Melbourne (ROITIWOM)
We'll be receiving donations of dry goods (pasta, rice, 2-min cup noodles and canned goods) to help provide home-cooked meals to people experiencing homelessness

For more information, please refer to the QR codes below



ROITIWOM
Facebook page



Footscray Finds
Instagram

Free Entry | Accessible | Family & Pet Friendly



Friday 6th October

More detail will be shared as we get closer to the date.. Families are encouraged to support their child/children in getting sponsors for this fun whole school event



St Monica's is very lucky to secure 2 dates for Bunnings sausage sizzles this year:

1. **Saturday 7th October**
2. **Sunday 3rd December**

- As in previous years These events are run by our PNF (parents) and we require plenty of volunteers and donations of items for it to be a successful school fundraising event.
- If can assist with either of these please let Aisling, Lisa, Karen, Kirby, Helen or Sophie know.

A meeting will be advertised soon