

# St. Monica's Newsletter

2024 Term 2 - April Edition



ST MONICA'S  
Catholic Primary School  
Footscray



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.



Lord God,  
help us this day to remember the sacrifice of the first ANZACs, Australian and New Zealander, and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace.

Help us to remember those who still bear the physical and mental scars and disabilities of their service.



If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Jn 12:26

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Wow! Two weeks down already in Term 2. I hope you all had a rejuvenating and fun-filled Easter break and are ready for another exciting term of learning and growth. As we dive back into our routines, let's carry forward the enthusiasm and curiosity that drives us all forward.

Term 2 holds many possibilities for our students. Let's encourage them to set goals, explore new interests, and embrace challenges with resilience, respect and determination. Together, let's create an environment where every child feels supported and empowered to thrive.

It was so good to see many parents take advantage of visiting our classrooms for our first 'Open Afternoon' on Monday. We believe this opportunity is a great way experience learning in action at SMF.

**School Closure Day.** A reminder we have our school closure day today 26th April. Staff will be attending Thomas Carr College for our first Flourishing Learners Day. Close to 800 educators will be attending this day from Melbourne Archdiocesan Catholic Schools, Western suburbs. I know they even struggled to find a venue that could hold that many people. The first day is about Behaviour Curriculum and setting up rules and routines in a school and within learning spaces.

In Partnership, Nathan

# Learning and Teaching

## THE WHAT & WHY OF READING FLUENCY

As with any learned skill, fluency is achieved largely through focused and intentional practice. The purpose of reading is to comprehend what you have read, in order to achieve this, students need to be effectively decoding and reading fluently. Reading fluently involves these skills: accuracy, automaticity (rate) and prosody.

- **Accuracy** in reading occurs when we are able to sound out words correctly and store them in your memory for instant recall. If an error is made, we reread the sentence or word to ensure we understand what is being read.
- **Automaticity** (rate) is the ability to read quickly with ease. The rate we read is dependent on our purpose for reading, our familiarity with the text and whether we are reading orally or silently.
- **Prosody** is the ability to read in a way that mirrors natural spoken language. It includes our tone of voice, the stress on different syllables, words or phrases and the rhythm.

## THE HOW OF READING FLUENCY

Reading fluency develops with practice that includes the modelling of fluent reading repeated reading practice of written passages.

- **In the classroom** the teacher would share the fluency focus and explain it to the students such as “Today our focus is accuracy, to read accurately. I will sound out words correctly and remember them as I read”. The teacher would model reading part of the text fluently and unpacking any new vocabulary. Then students would read in partners with each partner reading for 3 minutes before swapping. The partner not reading is tracking and assisting.
- **At home** students can practise reading fluently by reading the same book over multiple nights. Parents can remind their child to:
  - Read smoothly, not too slow like a robot or too fast like a race car
  - Stop and take a breath at full stops
  - Reread the sentence if you make a mistake or it doesn't make sense
  - Sound out the tricky words, sound by sound then blend them together

**If you would like to read more you can visit this website**

<https://fivefromfive.com.au/fluency/evidence-based-fluency-instruction/>

Melissa



## Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

We're here to Learn

We're here to Make a Difference



## PBL News

Last term we launched our PBL Program at St Monica's. The Launch Day was a success, introducing students to our School Matrix.

The expectations that will be taught throughout the 2024 school year. Last term the students revised the school routines set up in 2023 at St Monica's and commenced formal lessons from the Matrix connected to our values of being Respectful and Safe.

In Term 2, the students will be participating in lessons connected to values of being Respectful, Responsible and Safe. Covering the expectations: I can be safe when I 'move quietly and calmly', I can be respectful when I 'am kind and use manners', I can be respectful when I let teachers teach and learners learn', I can be responsible when I 'am ready to learn', I can be safe when I 'ask permission before leaving the classroom', and I can be safe when I 'keep my hands, feet and objects to myself'.

# Artwork Story

**MERINDAH-GUNYA.**

This artwork represents a student's journey through St. Monica's Catholic Primary school, with target-like symbols representing each year level. The "U" shapes embody the diverse community, while the water symbolises the school's profound connection to the land and its Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. Their ancestral ties to the Birrarung (Yarra) River flow through the artwork, fostering a deep sense of respect and appreciation for Indigenous culture and heritage. "E" shapes represent local possums, cherished by the Wurundjeri people and symbolic of the deep relationship between the school and its surrounding environment. Through these elements, the artwork serves not only as a visual narrative of a student's journey through school surrounded by their peers, teachers and families but also the school's commitment to honoring the rich cultural heritage of Aboriginal Country.



My name is Bayley Mifsud and I am a proud descendent of Peek and Kirrae Whurrong clans of the Maar nation, from South-West Victoria (Warrnambool). My Aboriginal name Merindah-Gunya, means 'Beautiful Spirit'.

'Mer-rin-dah Gun-yah'

My name was gifted to me by my parents, and through a naming ceremony on Country, supported by my Elders and community. Practicing and sharing my culture through art and storytelling is very important to me, my family and community.

It continues a practice that our community has been sharing for over two centuries now. My hope is that it will continue to be shared for many centuries to come. By purchasing my artwork, you too will become a part of the continuing story of an ancient tradition and progressing reconciliation.



**Bayley Mifsud**

Aboriginal Artist, Designer & Educator

M: 0417 350 447



@merindahgunya

## SAVE THE DATE

Friday 10th May

8:30am



mum



grandma



mẹ



mamá



grannie



amma




aunty



bà



lia

*Join us in the school hall for a  
breakfast* 

**We love celebrating the  
special women in our lives at  
SMF.**

**Please come along and allow  
us to spoil you for the morning**

**The choir will also be  
performing**

**Lots of love  
Lots of smiles  
Lots of laughter**

# 2025 enrolments

**Enrolment Update: Thank you to everyone who has been spreading the word about our wonderful little school. We have hosted a number of school tours and have had great feedback from prospective families.**

**If you are a current family and have a child starting school in 2025, please speak to Anna T in the office to obtain an enrolment pack.**



# IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 2 2024

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>15th April (Monday)</b>   | <b>First day of Term 2</b>         |
| <b>22nd April (Monday)</b>   | Open Classroom afternoon 3:00-3:15 |
| <b>23rd April (Tuesday)</b>  | School Photos                      |
| <b>25th April (Thursday)</b> | ANZAC Day                          |
| <b>26th April (Friday)</b>   | School Closure                     |
| <b>3rd May (Friday)</b>      | Picasso and Trivia Night           |
| <b>6th May (Monday)</b>      | Open Classroom afternoon 3:00-3:15 |
| <b>13th May (Monday)</b>     | Whole school assembly 2:45-3:15    |
| <b>10th May (Monday)</b>     | Mother's Day Breakfast 8:30am      |



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We're here to make a difference

# IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 2 2024

- 20th May (Monday)** Open Classroom afternoon 3:00-3:15
- 30th May (Thursday)** First Holy Communion
- 3rd June (Monday)** Open Classroom afternoon 3:00-3:15
- 10th June (Monday)** Public Holiday
- 17th June (Monday)** Open Classroom afternoon 3:00-3:15
- 24th June (Monday)** Whole school assembly 2:45-3:15
- 28th June (Friday)** Last Day of Term 2 1pm finish



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## Hello from the Parent Engagement Group!

We ended last term with a beautiful Easter event that raised money for the school playground while also getting families together to celebrate and connect with each other.

In Term 2 we hope to keep the good times rolling with some fun stuff we have planned.

**Paint a Picasso – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May:** A fun evening for the whole family, where we'll all learn how to paint like one of the world's most famous artists. Your ticket includes all the art materials, plus a hot dog and drink. There will be extra food for sale, a raffle and some great prizes. Grab your tickets [HERE](#) now!

**Quiz Night – June:** This one is for the adults only. We're planning a cracker of a Quiz, full of laughs and HUGE prizes. Start getting your team together – other SMF parents, family, friends, anyone! And we're looking for Team Captains so if you'd love to lead some winners to victory, come forward and let us know. Details will be announced soon, so keep an eye out.

To stay up to date with the PEG fundraising and events follow us on Facebook [@StMonica's Footscray Community Group](#) or Instagram [@STMONICAS\\_PEG](#).



# Billy Button visit

As part of our goals to build positive partnerships within our local community and build the leadership capacity of our students, we are taking small groups of students in Year 5 and Year 6 to visit Billy Button Children's Centre. The opportunity for our students to engage with younger children gives them the chance to act as leaders, to play teacher, and to develop creativity, empathy, and kindness – soft skills that kids need as they make and maintain friendships, work and collaborate with others, and solve complicated problems.

