

St. Monica's Newsletter

2024 End of Term 3 - September 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.

End of Term 3 School Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we come to the close of Term 3, we pause to reflect on the journey we've undertaken together. We are grateful for the growth we've experienced, both academically and personally. Thank you for the guidance of our teachers, the support of our families, and the encouragement of our friends.

We ask for Your continued blessings as we reflect on our accomplishments and challenges. Grant us the wisdom to learn from our experiences and the strength to overcome any obstacles we may face. As we prepare for the next term, help us to remain focused and motivated. Inspire us to be diligent in our work, kind in our interactions, and dedicated in all our pursuits.

We offer this prayer with grateful hearts, trusting in your guidance and grace.

Amen.

Principal's Message

Dear families,

What an incredible evening we had at the SMF School Concert Spectacular last week! The talent and enthusiasm displayed by our students were truly remarkable. From the mesmerising performances to the vibrant atmosphere, it was truly night to remember. A heartfelt thank you to Maddy Burke from 'Circus Crew', our dedicated teachers and staff for their hard work in preparing the students, as well as to all the families who supported the event. Your involvement makes a significant difference! We hope you enjoyed the SMF Spectacular as much as we did. Stay tuned for more exciting events in the future - SMF is on the move!

We are also thrilled to remind everyone that our **new playground** will be installed over the holiday break! This exciting addition will be ready for use when we return for Term 4. This new addition has been a joint venture with the school and our incredible PEG fundraising efforts over the last 2 years. Thank you for your support as we enhance our school's outdoor space. We can't wait for the students to enjoy this fantastic new play area for the remainder of 2024 and many years to come at SMF.

Kelly Sports Spring Holiday Program is being held at St. Monica's Footscray over the holidays. The goal is to create a fun, safe, and engaging environment where kids can make new friends, learn new skills, and enjoy a variety of sports and activities. We encourage you to embrace this opportunity with an open mind and adventurous spirit as it is another way we are supporting working parents with a safe option for holiday care in a familiar environment. If this is of interest - please see pages 10 & 11 for more detailed information regarding seeking a place for this program.

As we wrap up this term, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you. Your support and involvement have made this a truly special time for our students. Wishing you all a restful break, and I look forward to seeing everyone next term!

A reminder that **Term 3 finishes at 1:00 p.m.** on Friday 20th September- students must be picked up at this time

In Partnership, Nathan

Family Intentions for 2025

As we approach Term 4, we are beginning to plan for the upcoming 2025 year. To help us in this process, we kindly remind families to share their intention regarding returning for the next school year.

If your family intends **not to return** to St Monica's next year, we kindly ask that you inform us as soon as possible. Your feedback is crucial for our planning, allowing us to allocate resources effectively and support our students.

Please reach out to us by **Monday 14th October** to share your intentions or any questions you may have as we are more than willing to meet with you. principal@smfootscray.catholic.edu.au

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Small school, big heart.



Have you been looking for the right fit for your child?

Would you like your child to flourish in a school with:

- calm, orderly and productive learning environments
- small class sizes
- dedicated teachers



ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES WELCOME ALL YEAR ROUND
SPACES AVAILABLE FOR FOUNDATION 2025/2026



PRINCIPAL: NATHAN OWEN
TEL: 9689 4548
2 Wingfield St, Footscray
smfootscray.catholic.edu.au



ST MONICA'S
Catholic Primary School
Footscray
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SMF Annual Bunnings Sausage Sizzle - Fundraiser Saturday 12th October



We require 4 people at each
2 hour shift

Shift 1: 8am - 10am

Shift 2: 10am - 12.00pm

Shift 4: 12.00pm - 2.00pm

Shift 4: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Families are encouraged to
sign up and help via **Operoo**

Donations can be dropped off at
school during the first week
of Term 4



SPORTS UPDATE

DIVISIONAL ATHLETICS

We had three students progress to Divisional Athletics on Tuesday at Keilor Athletics Track and what a beautiful day it was.

Congratulation to **Isaac** from 5/6 Sami who placed 1st in 200m and long jump.

Congratulation to **George** from 5/6 Sami who placed 2nd in triple jump.

Congratluatlions to **Alvin** who 5/6 Sami whol placed 4th in shot put.

We wish **Isaac** and **George** both all the best at Regionals next term.



Williamstown Little Athletics

Ever thought about trying athletics?

Now's your golden opportunity!

Williamstown Little Athletics - held at the Newport track on Saturday mornings - is offering TWO FREE sessions where you can dive into the world of running, jumping, and throwing.

Head to www.lavic.com.au to sign up for a trial or email williamstown@lavic.com.au for more information.

Season starts October 12!



Sun Smart Procedures







HATS

School hats must be worn at all times for outdoor learning and play in Term 4.

Please ensure your child has a labelled school hat. If they do not have a hat, they will be instructed to play in the shade during break times.

SUNSCREEN

Students should apply sunscreen before school and bring their own sunscreen in their bag. Sunscreen will also be made available in the classroom and teachers will provide time for them to re-apply during the day.

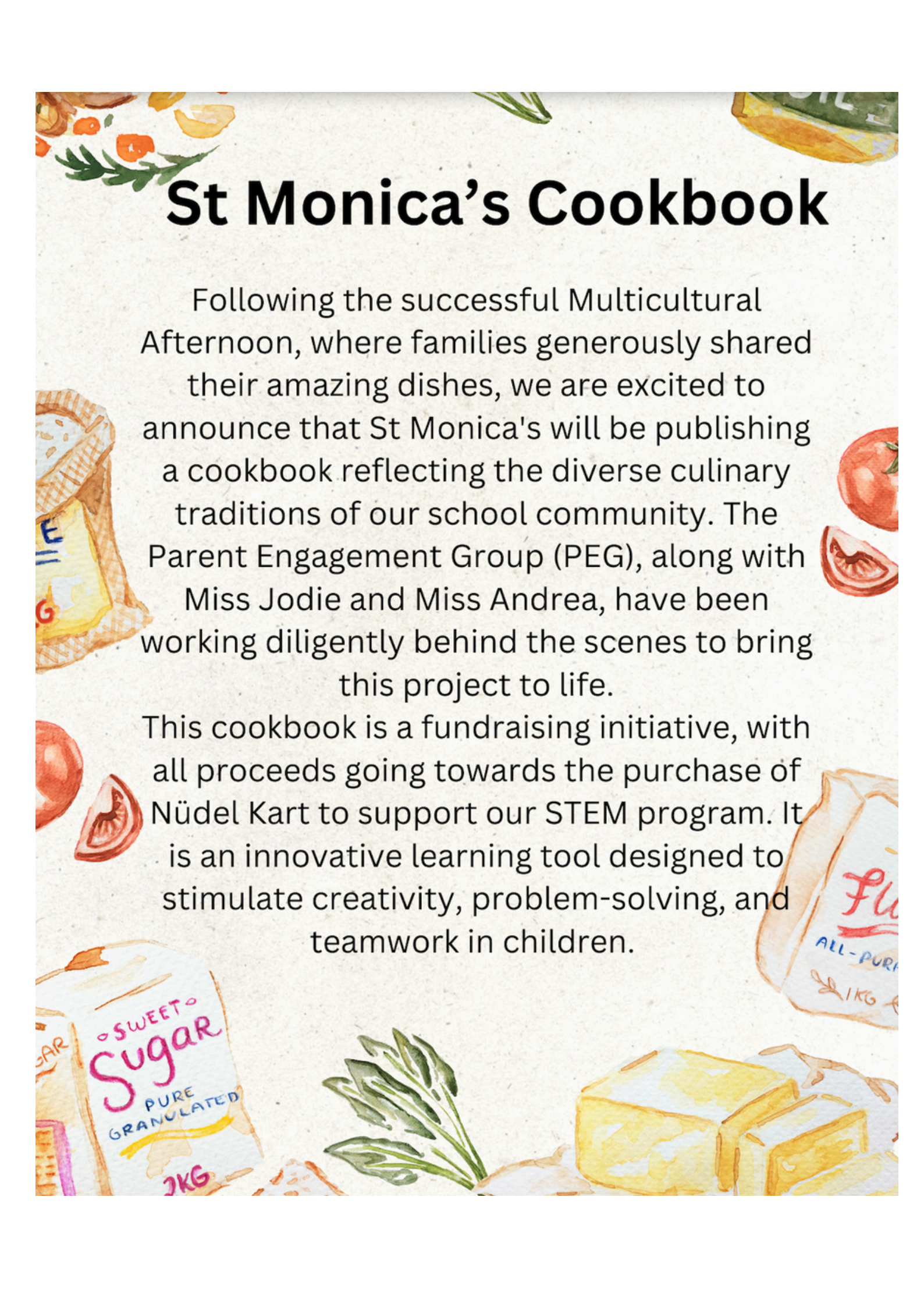
<div> ST MONICA'S Catholic Primary School Footscray</div> <div>PBL Routines - Applying Sunscreen</div> <div>Sunscreen works best when applied at least half an hour before heading outdoors</div>		
1.	Use classroom sunscreen or other (if supplied from home)	
2.	Place a small amount of sunscreen to the tip of your nose and spread it evenly	
3.	Place a small amount on each cheek and spread evenly	
4.	Using your left hand apply sunscreen to your right arm Using your right hand apply sunscreen to your left	
5.	Place a small amount of sunscreen in your hand and rub onto each of your legs.	

News from Ms Jodie

This week there was a lot of excitement and some delicious aromas coming from our kitchen area as we held our first parent and child after school cooking class. It was a combined initiative from our Mini Vinnies student group and Kitchen Garden program.

The response was overwhelming with all of the available places booking out in the first two days. It was great to see mums and dads sharing the cooking experience with their children in our Kitchen space. We were using our freshly harvested lemons to make lemon curd, lemon almond biscuits and scones. The session concluded with us enjoying our fresh lemon curd on delicious warm scones. Well done to Jaden and Jacy for demonstrating terrific leadership by helping to lead the class, Hannah N for photographing the event and a huge thank you to Ms Helen and Ms Molly for keeping things running behind the scenes.







St Monica's Cookbook


Following the successful Multicultural Afternoon, where families generously shared their amazing dishes, we are excited to announce that St Monica's will be publishing a cookbook reflecting the diverse culinary traditions of our school community. The Parent Engagement Group (PEG), along with Miss Jodie and Miss Andrea, have been working diligently behind the scenes to bring this project to life.

This cookbook is a fundraising initiative, with all proceeds going towards the purchase of Nüdel Kart to support our STEM program. It is an innovative learning tool designed to stimulate creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork in children.



Here are the steps to contribute to the final product:


St Monica's Cookbook



Families can submit a recipe from their culture or family through a Google Form. Paper copies of the form will also be available in the office for those who prefer not to use the online form.

Link to Google Form: [St Monica's Cookbook](#)

Please send photos of your dish to Lisa at lisacammarano@yahoo.com.au.






All Google Forms and photos need to be submitted by **Monday 7th October**

The PEG will compile all the recipes in preparation for publishing.

We anticipate that the St Monica's Cookbook will be ready for purchase in the first week of December—just in time for Christmas gifts!

The cost of the cookbook is yet to be determined.



TERM 4

7th October (Monday)	First day of Term 4
7th October (Monday)	5/6 Sovereign Hill Camp (Day 1)
8th October (Tuesday)	5/6 Sovereign Hill Camp (Day 2)
9th October (Wednesday)	5/6 Sovereign Hill Camp (Day 3)
12th October (Saturday)	Bunnings Spring Launch BBQ
18th October (Friday)	Mini Vinnies Day at Caroline Chisholm
21st October (Monday)	School Closure - Flourishing Learners Professional Development - Numeracy
22nd October (Tuesday)	Regional Athletics
24th October (Thursday)	Puberty Parent Information Night 5/6 families
25th October (Friday)	World Teachers Day
28th October (Monday)	Inform and Empower Year 1/2
29th October (Tuesday)	Foundation 2025 Transition Session 1
4th November (Monday)	School closure (Professional Practice Day)
5th November (Monday)	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL
11th November (Monday)	3/4 Camp Gundiwindi (Day 1)
11th November (Monday)	Remembrance Day



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TERM 4

12th November (Tuesday)	3/4 Camp Gundiwindi (Day 2)
18th November (Monday)	Grade 6 Transition with local parish schools hosted by St Monica's
19th November (Tuesday)	Wheel talk 5/6 students
26th November (Tuesday)	Foundation Transition Session 2
29th November (Friday)	Year 6 Day out - Luna Park
2nd December (Monday)	Whole school swimming begins
3rd December (Tuesday)	Foundation 2025 Transition Session 3
10th and 12th December	Optional Learning Conversations
11th December	Year 6 End of Primary school celebration TBC early Term 4
13th December (Friday)	Semester 2 Reports available on Parent Portal Last day of whole school swimming St Monica's Christmas Celebration (after school)
16th December (Monday)	Step Up Session Year 1 - 6
17th December (Tuesday)	Last day for students
18th December (Wednesday)	St Monica's staff time in lieu day



ST MONICA'S
Catholic Primary School

We're here to make a difference

Parents Guide

to Vision for Instruction



What is Vision for Instruction?

In February 2024, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) introduced a new plan to help every student succeed: our *Vision for Instruction*.

At MACS, we hold high expectations for every learner in every school, ensuring they have a solid foundation in literacy and numeracy, as well as good social skills.

Based on evidence of how students learn best, *Vision for Instruction* promotes a unified and consistent approach, and continuous improvement to meet the changing needs of our students. It provides MACS teachers with the training and resources they need to ensure excellence and equity in all our schools.

Why the change?

Years of declining performance in NAPLAN and OECD PISA results showed that outdated teaching methods needed to change. In 2023, about one in three Australian students were not meeting age expectations in maths and reading.

Research on how students learn shows that **explicit instruction** methods are the most effective way to help children gain the knowledge and skills they need to flourish and become lifelong learners.

What is explicit instruction?

Explicit instruction involves teachers introducing complex skills in small steps, with clear explanations and demonstrations of what students are expected to learn. Students then practise what they learned and receive feedback from their teacher until the skill is mastered.

What is the evidence supporting explicit instruction?

Cognitive science research shows that most students need formal instruction to learn what's called 'biologically secondary knowledge', such as reading, writing and maths. Because students can only process a limited amount of new information at once, cognitive overload can occur when they try to process too many new concepts without prior instruction or scaffolding.

Explicit instruction breaks new information into manageable parts. Effective teachers design lessons that begin with teacher-guided instruction and gradually shift responsibility to students through modelling and guided practice. This approach ensures that students achieve independent practice only after foundational knowledge is firmly established.

Knowledge is like mental Velcro – new knowledge 'sticks' to prior knowledge, building understanding from one year level to the next.

How do we teach reading and writing?

Our vision for reading instruction involves:

- **phonemic awareness** – understanding that speech is made up of words and sounds
- **phonics** – knowledge of the letter-sound relationships and the ability to use these relationships to decode words
- **fluency** – ability to read accurately and quickly to derive meaning from text
- **vocabulary** – understanding word meanings in isolation and in context
- **comprehension** – ability to understand and derive meaning from text.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching reading and spelling by explicitly linking letters or letter combinations (graphemes) with their corresponding sounds (phonemes).

For example, children learn the sounds for 's', 'a' and 't', allowing them to spell and sound out words like 'at', 'as' and 'sat'.

English spelling is complex, with many letters and letter combinations representing multiple sounds (e.g. 'ea' in 'heap' and 'head'). Phonics instruction begins with the most common letter-sound relationships, as they can be used to read many new words, then moves to less frequent ones.

Research suggests that learning 60 to 100 of these relationships, along with some common sight words, enables children to read independently.

How do we teach maths?

Our vision for mathematics instruction involves:

developing number sense – understanding quantities and numbers, and how to represent them with objects and numerals
building fluency – mastering basic arithmetic operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
teaching mathematics concepts – understanding the 'why' and 'how' of mathematics in combination with procedures and rules

- **using concrete materials** – using physical resources and visual representations to show concepts and procedures
- **using problem-solving strategies** – organising work based on the structure of a problem
- **using explicit instruction** – providing opportunities for students to explain their work and thinking in oral and written forms
- **using precise mathematics language** – using correct terminology when discussing steps for solving problems.

How will Vision for Instruction benefit students?

Vision for Instruction:

- offers a focused and structured approach to gaining knowledge and developing skills
- ensures clear guidance, reducing uncertainty and helping students understand expectations
- presents key information and knowledge before independent activities
- enables immediate feedback through effective questioning and frequent checks for understanding
- establishes consistent teaching practices across all MACS schools.

How can you help at home?

Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's learning journey. Here are some ways you can enhance their learning:

- **Communicate with teachers:** Maintain regular contact with your child's teachers to understand classroom objectives and methods.
- **Encourage and celebrate practice:** Provide opportunities for your child to practise new skills, and celebrate their effort and progress.
- **Create a structured environment:** Establish a distraction-free study area at home.
- **Promote reading together:** Spend time reading with your child regularly. Discuss stories, characters and themes to enhance comprehension.
- **Encourage critical thinking:** Engage in discussions that promote reasoning and explanation.
- **Model a positive attitude towards learning:** Demonstrate a positive attitude towards learning and curiosity. Show your child that learning is a lifelong journey, and encourage them to explore new ideas and interests.

Supporting parent resources

- MultiLit's [Five From Five parent resources](#)
- Rosenshine's 'Principles of instruction' [article](#)
- APM Reports' *Sold a Story* [podcast](#)
- Willingham's *Raising Kids Who Read: What Parents and Teachers Can Do* [book](#).

You can read the complete [Vision for Instruction](#) on the [MACS website](#).



QUERIES: CALL ADDY 0431 861 135



**SPORTS
HOLIDAY
PROGRAM!**

NEW!

Mon 23rd SEP - Fri 4th OCT 2024

*No session FRI 27th of Sep (GF Public Holiday)

For Preps
to Grade 6!
Boys & Girls!

**St Monica's Catholic PS
Footscray**

**Kids from
all schools
welcome!**

Soccer, Basketball,
Footy, Cricket,
Tennis, Netball,
Hockey, Crazy
Games & much more!

COME ALONG

to our fun-filled holiday program!

St Monica's Catholic Primary School - Footscray

8am - 5pm Weekdays

\$60 per child per day



Kids need to bring along a big packed
lunch & large refillable drink bottle.
Dress in comfortable sports clothing!

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT

 **KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU**

WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/NORTH-WEST

SPRING 2024 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC PS - FOOTSCRAY

A timetable and full programme information is available online or at the programme venue.

Who can attend: Boys & Girls aged 5-12 yrs

General information: We believe in giving children opportunities to do the things they love and enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment. Our friendly staff are passionate about working with children. They are provided with training on behaviour management techniques, first aid and activity planning/delivery.

What do you need to bring: Appropriate clothing, jacket or sweatshirt, hat, drink bottle and food for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Payment details: Payment is required up-front within 2 hours of your booking. A receipt will be issued when a completed booking is received. All details will be included on the receipt.

Please note: Every care will be taken to ensure the safety of your child/ren and their property. However, organisers of Kelly Sports accept no liability for any injury sustained to your child/ren or any loss or damage to his/her property whilst on the programme.

Prices: (Including GST)

Five-Day Discounted Price: \$275 **Full Day:** \$60

Mon-Fri, 8:00am to 5:00pm

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: Sign up online before 20th September to receive early bird discount of \$55 per day

Website: www.kellysports.com.au/north-west

Contact: Adelyn Ayton

Email: adelyn@kellysports.com.au

Phone: 0431 861 135 for any queries

Facebook: Kelly Sports

Address: 2 Wingfield St, Footscray 3011



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT  **KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU**
www.kellysports.com.au/north-west

An invitation from the Parent Engagement Group (PEG)

After School Play Session



Hey St Monica's parents!
Need a mid-week breather?

Join us for a fun after school play session
every Wednesday from 3.15 to 4pm.

Feel free to bring some snacks for your kids or bring
your keep cup to the staffroom for a tea or coffee,
and we'll have the biscuits ready.

It's the perfect chance to relax and chat with other
parents while the kids have fun on the playground.

We'll wrap up the fun by exiting through the side
gate via the library.

We hope to see you there!



#stmonicasparentengagementgroup

**Save the
date**



ST MONICA'S
Catholic Primary School

BUNNINGS BBQ

Spring is in the air



Support SMF

12th October | 8 - 4pm

Bunnings West Footscray

You can support St Monica's by:



volunteering on the day



donating water/soft drinks



popping in for a delicious
sausage on the day

**We need your help for this annual school
community fundraising event**



Family
Fun &
Fitness



JOIN SOUTH MELBOURNE LITTLE ATHLETICS

Weekly Comp: Sunday Mornings
Mid week athletics training included
Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park
Season October to March

AGES
5 - 17

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WELCOME



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- ✓ make new friends
- ✓ personal best focus
- ✓ learn track and field skills
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