

St. Monica's Newsletter

2024 End of Term 4 - Oct/Early Nov 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.

A Prayer of Thanks for Families

We thank You for the gift of family, for the strength, love, and support that comes from being part of a community of care. Thank You for the joy that family brings, for the lessons learned, and the bonds that hold us together in love and understanding.

We are grateful for each parent and caregiver who gives so freely of their time, energy, and patience to nurture and guide their children. Bless them with strength and wisdom as they continue to build loving homes filled with kindness, compassion, and faith.

We thank You for the laughter shared, the challenges faced together, and the memories made within our families. Help us to treasure these moments and to remember that, through both joys and struggles, You are present among us, guiding us with Your love.

With hearts full of gratitude, we ask this in Your name.
Amen.

Principal's Message

Dear families,

As we move through the final term of the school year, it's hard to believe that we are now at the end of Week 5. I am filled with pride and gratitude for all that our students, staff, and families have achieved together in 2024. Term 4 is always a time of reflection, celebration, and anticipation, and this year is no exception.

Celebrating Our Students' Growth

It has also been incredible to see the progress our students have made across all areas, from academics to the Arts, Science / Kitchen Garden, Stem and PE. The resilience, curiosity, and enthusiasm they bring each day are inspiring. Whether it's the results of their hard work in recent assessments or the creativity they've shown in their classwork and play outside together, our students have truly given their best effort so far this term.

Looking Forward to End-of-Year Events

We're excited about the upcoming end-of-year events that provide many opportunities to recognise achievements and enjoy time together as a community. Please mark your calendars for all key dates as the next few weeks unfold. These occasions are always memorable and a testament to the vibrant spirit of our school community.

Preparing for the Year Ahead

While we celebrate the year's successes, we are also focused on preparing for the future. Our teachers and staff are actively planning for next year, and we are continually exploring new initiatives to enhance flourishing learning and wellbeing for every student. I encourage you to keep an eye out for updates we provide on Operoo and within our monthly school newsletter. As you can imagine making plans and deciding on best learning arrangements for all our students at St Monica's is a complex task. In the coming weeks, we will provide our class structures and teachers for SMF in 2025. We appreciate your patience and understanding on this matter.

Finally, a special assembly is also being arranged for next Friday 15th November to acknowledge our many students who have performed so well achieving great success in the Victorian State Science Talent Search Showcase. See attached Flyer for more detailed information. Please continue to support, encourage and work in partnership with your child / children to make all the difference. Together, we are building a learning environment where every student feels valued and empowered to thrive.

In Partnership, Nathan



JOIN US

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY



Friday 15 th November
2:45pm

We are excited to invite you
to a special assembly on
Friday, 15th November, where
we'll be celebrating the
incredible efforts and
achievements of our
students in **science** and
sports!



New Playground

Hello from the Parent Engagement Group!

Here we are in Term 4! The year has flown by, and we have accomplished so much!

First and foremost, we have our new playground! We would like to thank everyone who attended our events and thank you to everyone who donated time, prizes, and money. These contributions have made our dream of a new playground a reality sooner than we expected. Seeing the children playing on the brand-new playground is an absolute joy.

The PEG has welcomed our newest member Bec to the team and now we're all hard at work creating a fun calendar of events for 2025. We can't wait to share what we have planned to bring our school community together while continuing to fundraise for our kids.

With the joy of our new playground still fresh in our hearts and minds, we've decided to end 2024 with a food drive for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Christmas is the perfect time to reflect on our own good fortune and share with those in need.

To stay up to date with the PEG fundraising and upcoming events follow us on Facebook **@ St Monica's Footscray Community Group** or Instagram **@STMONICAS_PEG**.

School / PEG Partnership

We are so excited and thankful to announce that our Parent Engagement Partnership over the last two years has focused on raising approximately **\$25,000.00** to help co-fund along with school money to create a brand new adventure playground space.

Through many collaborative events, transparent updates, and a shared commitment to our children's success and journey at SMF this amount of money raised has significantly contributed to purchase and installation of our new and fabulous playground. On behalf of the school community I cannot thank this PEG (past and present members included) enough for their amazing and dedicated enthusiasm for our whole school community. We look forward to achieving more fundraising goals that making a lasting difference and impact for all students and families.

Nathan



New Playground

voices from the yard

I like the part of the playground where you can sit on top of the net. You can sit on top of the net. You can sit down and enjoy or have a little chat with your friends. There are many ways to get up to it as well like the ladder or maybe the climbing next. I also really like the bridge because it's a bit hard to balance and hold on but it also makes it really fun. You can also relax on that bridge too because of the little string, you can lean on it or try to make yourself seing. Both of these are really chill things to play on and very nice to rest on.

Jessica Year 4



My favourite thing about the new playground is the x-bridge. it's my favourite thing because you can do fun tricks and it is like the balancing beam but instead you have supports. also you can swing around on it. The whole payground is just like a big obstacle course. You're supposed to hold to the ropes but I like to dodge the ropes instead. The other thing i like is the place under the grey slide. It's like the tunnel from the old slide. I really like it because it's like a secret hideout. Overall I love the new playground.

William Year 3





In 2025 St Monica's is introducing Spelling Mastery to the school. It is an explicit instruction spelling program that is scripted for the teachers and includes a student book that the students will need to purchase each year. This will be part of the curriculum levy. The school has been researching the best spelling programs and this one is the most highly rated. It is used extensively across the world in schools that follow science of learning practices. Science of learning is not a program, it is looking at scientifically proven practice in schools. eg in medicine, if a practice is not proven scientifically, it is not allowed to be used. Spelling Mastery is used in all schools in the Canberra Goulburn Catholic diocese and all Tasmanian Catholic schools. All students will be complete a placement test to attain their spelling level and then they are assigned a level which they will be explicitly taught the skills they need to reach the next level. **Our First School closure day on Tuesday, January 28**, is a full day of training for staff. On this day we will be joined by St Mary's in Williamtown. Several other schools in our area requested to be part of this training day, however our instructor limited it to small numbers so she can meet the needs of all staff.



Limited places available for 2026

Enquire now to secure your son's place

9321 9200

info@sccmelb.catholic.edu.au

WHY A SCHOOL FOR BOYS?

By choosing a school for boys for your son, you are recognising that boys and girls learn differently.

Our outstanding teachers know how to reach and teach boys to help them succeed.

At Simonds Catholic College, we understand and celebrate boys. We teach in ways that boys learn best.

We help boys discover and explore their true potential. We seek first to build kind, confident and resilient men.

FINAL TALK & TOUR DATES FOR 2024

11 & 19 November

register via website or QR code



Athletics Update

On Wednesday the State Track and Field event was held at Albert Park. To get to the State competition (best in Victoria), participants had to place 1st or 2nd in their event at the District Athletics, Division Athletics and Regional Athletics. Isaac from 5/6S competed in the 12/13-year-old boys Long Jump in all these competitions, coming first in Districts, first in Division and second at Regionals. At the State Track and Field competition, Isaac represented our school with pride and came an amazing 3rd place in the State for jumping 4.96cm in his Long Jump event.

This is an amazing achievement. Congratulations Isaac!

We also want to congratulate Alvin- who competed in the Division Athletics for shot put and to George who competed in the Division and Regional Athletics for Triple Jump, where he came 5th overall with a jump of 8.11m (Only 7 people jumped over 8m)

Well done Boys!



Family Intentions for 2025

As we settle into the second half of Term 4, much planning and preparation is currently occurring for the upcoming 2025 school year. To help us in this process, we kindly continue to 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 11th November** 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



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Footscray

We're here to make a difference

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 Fairbairn</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.	

Cancelled

ST MONICA'S WORKING BEE

**FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE FOR
VOLUNTEER FAMILIES**



SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 10AM-2PM

Our Year 5/6 students have designed a new sensory garden and outdoor classroom behind the Library. The students in Years 3-6 have worked to clear the area and reposition garden beds. We now really need your help to complete the project. A little of your time will make a huge difference in getting this new learning area ready for us to use.



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SMF FAMILIES WE NEED

YOUR HELP

PLEASE RSVP TO JODIE OR NATHAN



Cancelled



As we head into the Christmas season, we are reminded that this is a time for kindness, generosity, and thinking of those in our community who are less fortunate. At St Monica's Primary School, we believe it is important for our students to understand the value of giving and making a positive impact on the lives of others.

In this spirit, we are excited to announce that we will be holding an ASRC (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre) Food Drive. This is an opportunity for our school community to come together and support individuals and families who are in need, particularly during the festive season.

Donations will be collected from
Monday 11th November to Friday 22nd November.
See flyer for items most in need.

Items are to be given to your child's classroom teacher.
The class that has the highest number of items will be rewarded
with a free zooper dooper.

Our Social Justice leaders will accompany Andrea and Amy to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Footscray to deliver the donations.



ASRC Food Drive

TOP NEEDED ITEMS

- ☐ Tuna in oil, of any size
- ☐ Tinned vegetables (tomatoes, peas, carrots, corn kernels)
- ☐ Dried/tinned legumes (beans, chickpeas, red or yellow lentils)
- ☐ Coconut cream or milk
- ☐ Vegetable or olive oil (750ml - 1L)
- ☐ Tomato paste
- ☐ Spices (cumin, turmeric, chilli flakes, coriander, garam masala etc.)
- ☐ Honey, peanut butter, jam or tahini
- ☐ Instant coffee / black tea bags
- ☐ Sweet / savoury biscuits
- ☐ Deodorant/razors
- ☐ Toothbrush/Toothpaste



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**THE SMALLEST ACT
OF KINDNESS IS WORTH
MORE THAN THE
GRANDEST INTENTION,**

– OSCAR WILDE

”

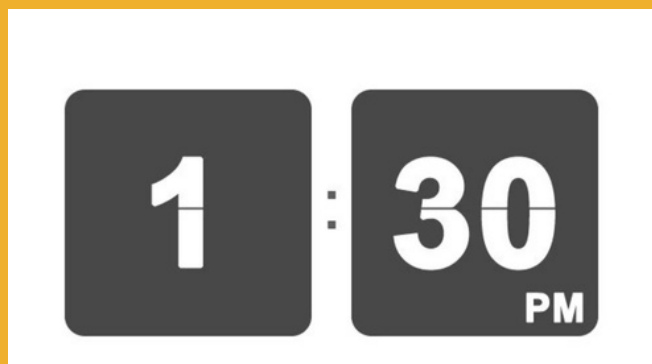


Reminder

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2024

TUESDAY
17TH DECEMBER

1:30PM FINISH



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

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



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