



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 19th June 2023
Term 2 Week 9

P.O. Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
Phone: 5331 6311
Fax: 5331 8337

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 2 (9 weeks)

Mon 24th April –
2.20pm Fri 23rd June

Mon 19th – Thurs 22nd June
Year 6 swimming

Mon 19, Tue 20 & Wed 21 June
Yrs 4/5/6 Golf Clinics

Mon 19, Tue 20 & Wed 21 June
SFX Music Showcases
6pm in Gym

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 10th July - Fri 15th Sept

Mon 10th & Tues 11th July
Year 3 Camp

Thursday 13th July
State Cross Country

Sacrament of Confirmation compulsory Parent Information Sessions
at St. Alipius hall
10.30am and 6pm

Friday 14th July
9.30am Mass in Gym

12.40pm 2EH Assembly

Friday 21st July
12.40pm 1MM Assembly

Fri 28th July
School closure day

Friday 4th August
12.40pm 5OH Assembly

Friday 11th August
12.40pm F LH Assembly

Friday 18th August
12.40pm 6MM Assembly

Wednesday 23rd August
Division Basketball

Friday 25th August
Book Week celebrations

Friday 25th August
Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics at Llanberris

Friday 1st September
Fathers' Day celebration

Tuesday 5th September
Division Athletics @ Llanberris

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

What a short but active term we have had. After eleven weeks of first term it seems like second term has flown. Nine weeks of learning calls for a focused approach to ensure that everything is covered for our students in all year levels. Having achieved our goals, it's now time to celebrate and have a little rest before we start again for third term and second semester.

Over the past nine weeks our students have participated in liturgical celebrations, book fair, evacuation drills, Mother's Day stalls, sporting events, dress-up days, hot chocolates, hot lunches, trade fair, sacramental programs, swimming program, excursions, camp, and from tonight onwards: a very special musical showcase. No wonder we are all feeling just a little bit tired!

As we enter the last week of term, I congratulate all students on a most successful nine weeks of learning. To our ever-caring staff, I thank you for your continued dedication. And to our parents who always show such support for our school we say thanks and enjoy the break. You have all earned it.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin.

St. Francis Xavier Music Showcase

It's time to get excited! Our first ever St. Francis Xavier musical showcase opens tonight. Over three evenings all students will be able to showcase their learning for an audience of appreciative mums and dads, carers and extended family members. We can't wait to share our talents so please come along and support all children on your allocated evening.



MONDAY JUNE 19	TUESDAY JUNE 20	WEDNESDAY JUNE 21
FMM	FGJ & FLH	FTW
1JS	1EMC	1MM
2CJ	2EH	2GH
3GW	3JVG	3NMC
4BW	4HC	4CP
5OH	5JF	5CC
6ZA	6PB	6MM
GUITAR ENSEMBLE GROUP 1	GUITAR ENSEMBLE GROUP 2	GUITAR ENSEMBLE GROUP 3
ISAAC & HARRY HATT	OLENA VALANCE	MAEVE WALDRON & MITCHELL BONE
EDIE & KARL WALDRON	YEAR 6 BAND	

**ALL WELCOME!
SFX GYM 6PM**

Thursday 7th September

6pm at St Alipius
Year 3 Confirmation

Friday 8th September

12.40pm 1JS Assembly

Mon 11th – Fri 15th Sept

Years 1 & 3 swimming

Term 4 (12 weeks)

Mon 2nd Oct - Wed 20th Dec

Mon 2nd – Fri 6th October

Years 2, 4 & 5 swimming

Friday 6th October

9.30am Mass at St Alipius

Friday 13th October

12.40pm 5JF Assembly

Friday 20th October

Grandparents' Day

Friday 27th October

12.40pm 2CJ Assembly

Friday 3rd November

12.40pm F MM Assembly

Friday 10th November

12.40pm 4CP Assembly

Friday 17th November

12.40pm 3NM Assembly

Friday 24th November

12.40pm F GJ Assembly

Friday 1st December

12.40pm 2GH Assembly

St Francis Xavier Feast Day
celebrations

Wednesday 6th December

Year 4 Camp

Monday 18th December

9.30am Mass in the Gym

Tuesday 19th December

Last 2023 student day

End of Term – Start of Term

Classes will cease for the end of term on Friday 23rd June at 2.20pm. Third term will commence on Monday 10th July at 8.55 am. Happy holidays everyone!

School Uniform Focus Our school uniform blitz this term has been so well supported by families at home. What a great effort! Over the course of this term we have focused on footwear, clothing, jewellery and hair styles so that we can all feel proud of our school uniform both at school and when we are out in the public domain. Well done everyone! Now the challenge will be to keep it up all through next term at school.



Toilets are back...Almost!

We gave our newly repaired toilets a try out on Friday and we are very pleased to announce that they are in perfect working order! There is still some work to be done with internal plastering and painting of the ceilings but they are now operational which is fantastic news!

Please find at the end of this newsletter: Sacrament of Confirmation Letter to Year 3 parents; Parish Bulletin; Assembly Awards; School belonging starts at home.

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday June 18 , 2023 Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 9:36 - 10:8

As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. So he said to his disciples, "The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it in. Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest."

Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Patriot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

These twelve men were sent out by Jesus with the following instructions: "Do not go to any Gentile territory or any Samaritan towns. Instead, you are to go to the lost sheep of the people of Israel. Go and preach, 'The Kingdom of heaven is near!' Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons. You have received without paying, so give without being paid.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation®)

Gospel reflection: Jesus can see that the people are worried, that they are struggling and that they are looking for some help. He is filled with compassion for them but he doesn't just feel sorry for them, he is also moved to action. Jesus knows that everywhere there are people who are looking for comfort and help. There are people who need to hear his message of love, but there is only so much that he and the twelve disciples can do themselves.

What do you think this means for us today? Sometimes we are the people who are in need of help and sometimes we are the people who can help others.

We are followers of Jesus and so we are called to do what we can to love and help other people. This might be a member of our family or a friend, someone at school or church or in our local community. It could be someone further away who we know, or even who we don't.

When we see a problem, we are asked not just to feel sorry for the person who is sad, worried, ill or struggling, but like Jesus, we are called to take some action to help.

Our Challenge: Let us share God's love with one another and act with compassion when others are looking for support.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

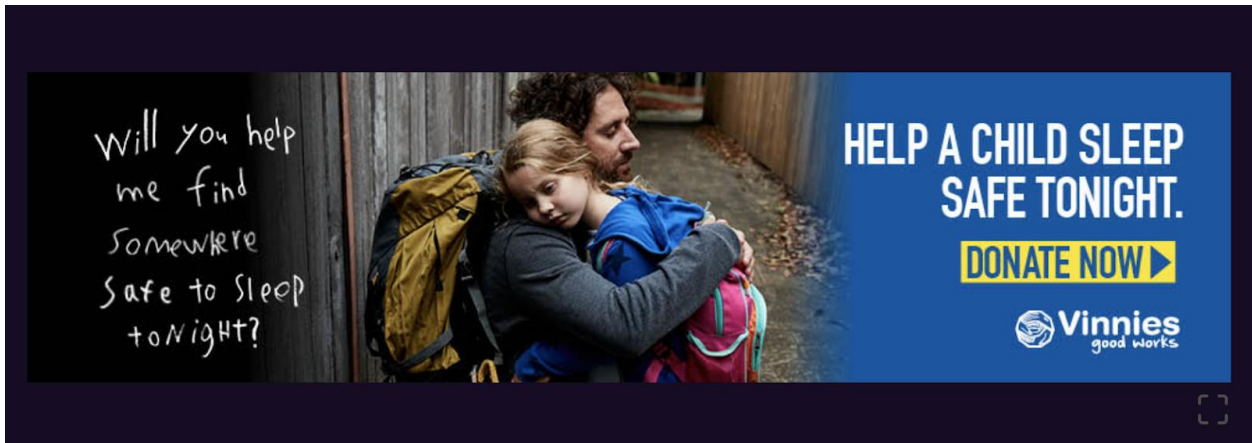
SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION

Over the weekend, many of our Year Four students received their Sacrament of First Communion. We congratulate these children and remember them in our prayers as they continue to grow in faith and love. Many thanks to our Parish Priest Father Jorge, their families, their teachers Ms Pearson, Ms Wrigley, Ms Howard, Ms Cicchini and all other staff who helped prepare and support them in their preparation and celebration!

FREE DRESS DAY FRIDAY JUNE 23rd

This morning at Assembly we were fortunate to have Ms Liz Bingham and Ms Mary Reus speak to us about the works of St Vincent de Paul and the many ways they help support people experiencing hardship in our community. The focus for this year is on homelessness.

Proceeds from our free dress day this week will be donated to the St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal. Please bring a gold coin donation or a gift of toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, body wash, sanitary items etc) to be donated to our local chapter who are working locally to help people experiencing homelessness.



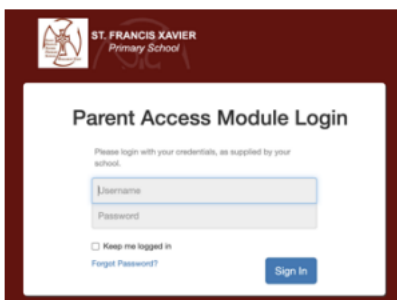
Liz Bingham, Mary Reus and Mary's granddaughters, Stella and Ivy.

Stella and Ivy were thrilled to hear the many good works their grandmother helps with!



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News



Mid-Year Reports Our end of Semester One reports will be available on PAM from Thursday 22nd June. Once again I thank the Specialists and Classroom Teachers for the energy, thoroughness, sincerity, professionalism and time that they have brought to their report writing. As communicated to families, St. Francis Xavier Primary School continues its firm commitment to working in partnership with parents to enable our children to achieve their best.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

Auslan Teachers as Co Learners

Last week I shadowed Chantelle Stacey, our Languages Assistant, as she spends a short time with our children and teachers as they present their Auslan lessons. The children are engaged and learning so much about hand signs, hand shape and location of hands when forming words/phrases. We only began this subject this term and the children are already soaking up the challenges and insights in the language of Auslan, asking many questions to Chantelle and making connections between signs and hand formations.

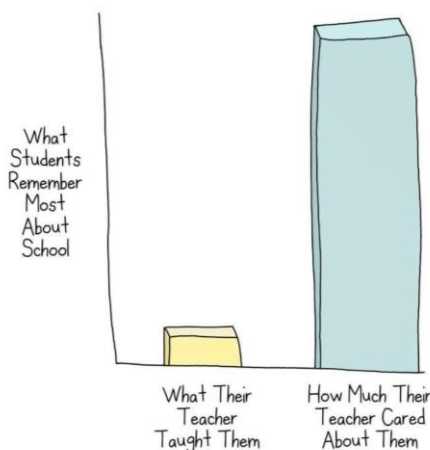
For this semester's report a general comment has been included for families for each year level.

Enjoy your holidays,



Jane Clark, **Deputy Principal – Learning Enhancement**

Wellbeing News



I'm in a very privileged position at St Francis Xavier, as I get to watch children interact with their teachers and friends every day. What I notice is the sense of belonging and connectedness most children feel at school and the efforts their teachers make to strengthen this connection.

I hear good morning welcomes ("it's so great to see you!" "I'm glad you are back- the class wasn't the same without you!"), lovely shared stories (new shoes, lost teeth and Pokemon/footy cards) and tales of woe (fighting with brothers and sisters, death of a loved pet, AFL team loss).

Although you might think these interactions have nothing to do with learning, they have everything to do with relationships. We know children learn best when they feel valued, loved and respected.

Parents can help the student-teacher relationship by keeping communication channels open, attending school events that allow opportunities to meet teachers and encouraging their children to ask their teachers for help when

needed. Parents could reflect on their own school experiences, share information about their favourite teachers when at school, and help their children identify a teacher's positive aspects, especially for those teachers their child is struggling to build rapport with.

In the attached Parenting Ideas, there are some great strategies for helping your child build and strengthen their feeling of belonging at school.

Happy holidays and we look forward to seeing you all again in Term Three!

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News



Greater Western Regional Netball

Well done to our Girls netball team that participated in last week's Greater Western Regional Netball tournament in Colac. They performed exceptionally well throughout the course of the day and managed to finish Runners Up. Congratulations girls!

A huge thank you to the families that travelled down to Colac to cheer on and support the team. And of course thank you to Mrs Barclay for all of your time and effort in coaching the team.

Interschool Sport

Last week we had students from St Pat's and Sienna Primary schools come to SFX and participate in a variety of sports and activities. The weather was kind to us and it was a magnificent day had by all students and staff. The sportsmanship and hospitality displayed by all students was fantastic to see.

Golf Clinics

This week we have Tony Collier from Golf Victoria coming to SFX to conduct some golf clinics with students in Year 4 - 6. All classes will have two sessions with Tony where they will learn the correct grip and swing techniques. From these clinics Tony will select students that he thinks will be capable to participate in the Division Golf Tournament later on in the year.

2023 Sports Dates

Term 2:

- Week 9 - Mon/Tue/Wed Jun 19/20/21 - Golf Clinics (Yr 4-6)
- Week 9 - Mon/Tue/Wed/Thur Jun 19/20/21/22 - Yr 6 Swimming (sessions 2-5)

Term 3:

- Week 1 - Thursday July 13th - State Cross Country
- Week 7 - Wednesday Aug 23rd - Division Basketball
- Week 7 - Friday Aug 25th - Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris
- Week 9 - Tuesday Sep 5th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris

SFX Football Jumpers, Singlets & Netball dresses/bibs

If you have any SFX Football jumpers, singlets or netball dresses/bibs at home could you please return them to either Mr Down or Mr Carroll.

Have a sensational week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

P&F News

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We currently have a large supply of second-hand items available for purchase. If you would like to check what is in stock and buy, please call into the front office. New items are available to buy from Crockers.



June 19th 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You are receiving this email as your child is in Year 3 at a catholic school in St. Alipius Parish.

In Year 3 the children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and in doing so are continuing their journey of initiation, a journey which began with their baptism.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin with a compulsory parent information session on Thursday July 13th. There are two options for sessions on this day, with both being held in St. Alipius hall. There will be a session at 10.30 am and another at 6pm.

During the parent information session, you will receive further details about the program as well as background to the Sacrament of Confirmation. You will also receive the materials that you will need to work with your child at home to help prepare them to receive the sacrament in September.

Within St. Alipius Parish, we recognise the preparation for sacraments as 'Family Based, Parish Co-ordinated and School Supported'. In respect to this we see that your family has the main role in the preparation of your child. The preparation you will do within your family will be supported by the school's Religious Education program and all aspects of the program will be co-ordinated by the parish.

A second aspect of the preparation for Confirmation will be your child's attendance at weekend Masses. Given that Mass is the central element of our Catholic faith, we believe that it is important that they experience Mass as often as they can. Children will be presented to the parish community at these Masses.

There will be a cost of \$50 for this program. This money covers the cost of the materials you will receive, plus some general running costs of the parish. We would ask that you pay via bank transfer where possible, using your family name and the word confirmation in your transfer. If you are unable to pay via bank transfer we would ask that you contact the parish office. Please indicate that you have paid when completing the enrolment form and place a receipt number on the form.

Bank Details - St Alipius Parish Account

BSB: 083 526

Acc No: 51566 6098

84 Victoria St, Ballarat East, 3350 • Fisker St, Burninyong, 3357
Phone: (03) 5332 6611 • Fax: (03) 5332 3303 • Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au • ABN 79 864 395 935



It is vital that you complete the enrolment form via the link below to ensure that we have all relevant details for your child and yourself. Please check that your child's names and your email address are correct as typing errors have caused us issues in the past.

<https://forms.gle/aASGnDpaMhd5NLDJA>

If your child received the sacrament of Baptism within the Ballarat Diocese, you will have received a tri-fold certificate. This tri-fold certificate needs to be collected again now by the parish. Please bring the certificate with you to the information session.

If you have any queries at all about this process, please don't hesitate to contact me at the parish office.

Regards,

Cathy Prunty

Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator

84 Victoria St, Ballarat East, 3350 • Fisker St, Buninyong, 3357
Phone: (03) 5332 6611 • Fax: (03) 5332 3303 • Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au • ABN 79 864 395 935

18 June 2023

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We are his people



▶ **SS PETER & PAULS**
701 FISKEN ST
BUNINYONG 3357



▶ **ST ALIPIUS**
82 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350



▶ **PARISH OFFICE**
84 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350
PH 5332 6611
OPEN TUE – FRI
10.00 AM – 1.00 PM

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Wed, Fri 9.30 AM in the Parish Hall
Saturday 9.30 AM, 6.00 PM
Sunday 9.00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)
10.30 AM (2nd & 4th)

Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th)
10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)
Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

Mass and prayer resources

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting team 1 this week – 9:30 AM

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

THE COMBINED
COMMUNITIES OF ST ALIPIUS
PARISH REACH OUT IN THE
SPIRIT OF FAITH, HOPE,
LOVE, AND ACCEPTANCE, AS
GOD CALLS US TO IN THE
GOSPELS.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Anniversaries: Danny Roche

Unwell: Peter McLachlan, Sarah
McLachlan, Carole Simmons

*Our parish is committed to all
children, young people, and
vulnerable adults' safety, well-
being, and dignity.*

*We acknowledge this land's
traditional owners and custodians
and pay our respects to Elders
past, present, and emerging.*



St Alipius
Parish Community

Parish Priest
Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Sacramental and Parish
Coordinator
Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant
Natalie Shannon

Parish Pastoral Council
Chair
David Morrison

Finance Officer
Bernadette Prestwood

Finance Chair
Paul O'Beime

Child Safety Officer
Emily Clarke

Liturgy Coordinator
Jason Fletcher
www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry
Carmel Flynn
stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

We are holding a Trivia Night at 7:00 PM on Friday 4 August. Tickets will be \$10 per person with tables of up to 8 people. BYO nibbles and drinks. Tea and coffee will be supplied. Please contact the office if you can secure a donation or would like to donate a prize for the raffle. Please call the office for further information.

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Buninyong Casserole Night 6:00 PM, Friday 30 June, Ss Peter and Paul's	
Parish Trivia Night 7:00 PM, Friday 4 August, St Alipius Hall	

PIETY STALL

The piety stall has a range of very affordable cards and gifts for sale. The current display shows items suitable for First Eucharist.

During a recent stocktake, many slow-to-move articles were identified. These have been placed on tables near the piety stall and are either free or \$2 each.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your generosity is appreciated.

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,145
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$953.20

FIRST EUCHARIST

This weekend we welcome the 49 children who are joining us to celebrate Eucharist for the first time. We congratulate them on becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church. The children have been preparing for this sacrament both with their families and in their schools. Please continue to pray for these children.

CASSEROLE NIGHT

To be held at Ss Peter and Paul's in Buninyong at 6:00 PM on Friday 30 June. Please bring casseroles or other food to share. Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available. \$15 per person. Everyone is welcome to attend.

REFUGEE WEEK LUNCHEON

The House of Welcome Ballarat, who assist refugees, asylum seekers, students, and those in need, are holding their annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon which resumes this year after pausing during the pandemic. This year's event will be held at 1:30 PM on Wednesday 21 June in the Uniting Church Hall, 107 Lydiard Street South, near the corner of Dana Street. There will be stalls, competitions, and great company. The guest speaker is Mr Anthony Krohn – BA(Hons), LI.B, B.Theol., who is a former member of the Refugee Review Tribunal and the Migration Review Tribunal. Entry is \$25 and all are welcome to attend. To book, text your name to 0401 175 045 or email annekav1234@gmail.com. Donations can be made to the House of Welcome Ballarat, BSB 633-000, account number 1440 44963.

SUNGLASSES FOUND

A pair of sunglasses were found at Ss Peter and Paul's church in Buninyong recently. Please contact the Parish office if they are yours.

PRAYER FOR REFUGEE WEEK

Lord, no one is a stranger to you, and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost, and those who have been exiled from their homes. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

JUBILEES OF ORDINATION

Bishop Paul will celebrate mass to acknowledge priests celebrating a Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood this year at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, 27 June at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. Priests of the diocese will concelebrate. All are welcome to attend. You are also invited to join the choir, which will be downstairs. Practice at 4:30 PM on the day of the mass.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal will focus on older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Appeal envelopes are located at the ends of the pews. People wishing to support the work of SVdP through our local conference can place their donation in an envelope and return it via the collection plate. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can be made at www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal, at Vinnies shops, or by calling 13 18 12.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

St Patrick's Cathedral is establishing Choral and Organ Scholarships to provide an opportunity for children with an aptitude and interest in music to sing regularly at Cathedral Masses. The children will receive annual scholarship payments towards their general education in return for their participation in the Cathedral Choir. They will benefit from vocal and musical tuition, and develop skills in teamwork, time management, professionalism, and discipline. Children in grades 3-6 are welcome to audition for the choir, which will have a gender balance.

The safety of the children will be of the highest priority, with the choir following the Diocese's Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

An information session will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday 3 August in the Mackillop/Glowrey room at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. The Choir Handbook, audition form and further information can be obtained by contacting the Choir Director, Mr Vincent Sully, on 0407 310 115 or vincenzo101923@gmail.com.

BAPTISMS

Elizabeth Christine and Hadley Raymond Riach
Children of David Riach and Karen Dovaston

*The church gives faith to your children through
Baptism, and you have the task to make it grow.*
Pope Francis

SILOAM PROGRAM

Siloam is a program for the formation of competent, experienced spiritual directors. It is open to women and men of varying faith and cultural traditions, who are drawn to listen deeply to their own hearts and the hearts of others and seek to discern whether they may be called to the ministry of spiritual direction. Siloam may be undertaken either full-time over one year (in-person) or part-time over two years (in-person or via Zoom). The part-time stream meets on Mondays for about 35 weeks each year. To register or for more information, visit <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/spiritual-formation/siloam-program/> or telephone (03) 9890 1101.

A 90-minute taster session of Heart of Life's formation programs will be held via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, 20 June. Register here:

<https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/taster-session/>.

REFUGEE WEEK PROGRAM

You can view the Refugee Week Program for Ballarat at the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Centre website: <https://www.brmc.org.au/refugee-week-2023-ballarat-program/>

NATSICC WEBSITE

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has launched a new website called "One Journey, Together" for Catholics to learn about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The website hosts stories and anecdotes from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations, Catholic figures, and Catholic organisations. Visit the website at this address: <https://indigenousvoice.church/>

LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is a new initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. The online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through the Diocese of Ballarat's partner, Dayton University at a cost of US\$50. There are 39 subjects to choose from. Registrations are open for the next cycle, which begins on 10 July. For more information, visit www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/, phone 5337 7121 or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

VOICE WEBINAR SERIES

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) and Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) invite you to a series of webinars to discuss the upcoming referendum on Constitutional Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Voice to Parliament on 29 June and 27 July from 4.00 PM – 5.00 PM via zoom. The cost is \$12.00 per session. CSSV and CSSA members are free of charge. Register at www.trybooking.com/events/landino/1052799?eid=1052799&. Enquiries to Kate Stilwell – office@css.org.au

PRAYING WITH THE POPE

Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. The Pope's intention for June is for the abolition of torture: We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families. Lord, hear us. View 'The Pope Video' – www.thepopevideo.org.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 9:36–10:8

On May 14 this year, a category five cyclone made landfall along the coasts of Myanmar and Bangladesh, with devastating consequences for two of the world's most vulnerable nations. In Bangladesh, which houses the world's most populous refugee camp, over a million Rohingya refugees were once more displaced from their temporary and disease-ridden shelters. Images of this event and its aftermath dominated the news for a few days so that the plight of those affected touched the hardest of hearts. Although the aid agencies are responding, the "harvest" of suffering humanity remains overwhelming, and the "labourers" are ever so few.

The compassion of Jesus signals nearness of God and of God's reign.

Compassion is an anticipated human response in the face of such tragedy. Not everyone, however, moves from the feeling of compassion that such events elicit towards action for transformative change. With so much suffering across the globe, those of us with access to food and shelter and clothing can easily lose perspective. Matthew has recounted story after story of the

compassion in the heart of Jesus of Nazareth who never lost perspective in the face of suffering. His compassion poured itself out in restoration to community life for a leper, in healing for a centurion's servant, in return to health and a call to ministry for Peter's mother-in-law, in a practical response to hunger ("You give them something to eat") and much more. He was "moved with compassion" (*esplanchnisthē*) and to be "moved with compassion" in the biblical tradition is never just a feeling. It is always expressed in action. The Greek verb means to be moved in the depths of one's being, one's innards or guts. It implies a physical reaction in the face of suffering. It translates the Hebrew *rahām*, to have "womb compassion". Like the Greek, its Hebrew antecedent has elements of deeply experienced emotion expressed in action to alleviate suffering. Compassion, womb love, gut love, parental love, and pity all communicate something of the meaning of this concept. Compassion is a key value in Matthew's gospel, a key value of God's empire or kin-dom.

The compassion of Jesus signals nearness of God and of God's reign. The work must continue, and



a structure is needed if that is to happen. Twelve male disciples are named as the core group invited to carry forward the work of Jesus, although other references in this gospel suggest that discipleship is by no means limited to the twelve. They are given authority to preach and to heal. For the present, their mission is restricted to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Jesus reaches out beyond his own people. His disciples, women, and men will do so only after they have walked the whole journey to Jerusalem in his company. The "harvest" is no less demanding in our times and our mandate is no less compelling than that of our first-century counterparts. We seek out the ways that are possible for us, always with compassion in our heart.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXODUS 19:2–8
ROMANS 5:6–11
MATTHEW 9:36–10:8

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JEREMIAH 20:10–13
ROMANS 5:12–15
MATTHEW 10:26–33


ASSEMBLY AWARDS 16th June 2023 Hosted by 4BW Theme: Respect

Respect means considering the feelings and wishes of others, respecting myself and caring for all of creation. We show respect because Jesus shows us that everyone is important and because our world needs our care.

F LH	Cruz Raine and Aurorah Rivett (F LH) Ted Gleeson and Khloe Nield (F GJ)	Billy Toohey and Oscar Martin (F TW) Thomas Green and Polly O'Loughlin (F MM)
Year 1	Judd Boyd and Oakley Smith (1JS) Violet Toohey and Arlo Troon (1EM)	Mila Quandt and Darcie Richardson (1MM)
Year 2	Thomas Hiscock and Hamish Nicholls (2EH) Flynn McKay and Lyla Nestor (2GH)	Livia Pietrantuono and Ben Walshe (2CJ)
Year 3	Lily Davison and Nixon George (3NM) Olive Lenaghan and Evangeline Spiers (3GW)	Sadie Ruxton and Sienna Block (3JVG)
Year 4	Evangeline Tuffen and Audrey Lunch (4BW) Luella Dunstan and Myles Youl (4CP)	Sophie Beseler and Harley Bye (4HC)
5 JF	Archer Spackman & Ivy Bromley	
5 OH	Flynn Boyd and Olivia Klein	
5 CC	Lachie Patterson and Ivy Reus	
6 PB	Kardia Sarra and Leo Thorp	
6 MM	Evie Knowles and Julian Simpson	
6 ZA	Zach Kennedy & George Britt	
Environmental Education	<p>Pippa Bourke 1MM and Edie Giles 1MM for the great respect they demonstrate towards the learning of their peers, helping those in need to achieve their learning goals in a calm, respectful manner.</p> <p>Ella Crumpton 3NM, Milla Richardson 3NM, Zara Thorp 4CP and Lois Cummins 4CP for the great respect they demonstrate for our learning space and for their fellow learners by taking time and care to sort and pack up all of our E.E. Room materials.</p> <p>Alfie Heywood 1MM, Paddy Quinlan 1MM, Hughey Roberts 1MM and Judd Boyd 1JS for always getting out and about in our yard with their tongs and buckets, helping show respect for Mother Earth by picking up litter and disposing of it into the correct bins.</p>	
Performing Arts	Jack Elliot and Mannix Treacy for showing so much respect for their classmates as they rehearse their song	
Visual Arts	Daisy Whitlam (FTW), Chloe Wilson and Eliza Simpson (3GW) for being respectful members of our Art class and working so conscientiously to create wonderful art!	
Physical Education	Harvey Kersley & Audrey Lynch - for always considering others and being respectful of all.	
Principal's Award	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wentworth Campbell for always helping students who have hurt themselves and making sure that they are being kind to one another on the yard. 2. Mitch Kane for showing that he cares for other students in our school through his words and actions. 	



INSIGHTS

happy families. 

ISSUE 2 | TERM 1 | 2023

School belonging starts at home

Belonging is a hot topic right now. It's on posters and internet memes, with some schools making it their number one priority. A sense of belonging at school has been linked to many benefits – including better grades, improved physical and mental health, and positive outcomes for future education or employment. But what does school belonging mean and what steps can you, as a parent, take to encourage it?

In psychology, a sense of belonging refers to the feeling that you form an integral part of your surroundings. Humans can be highly motivated to seek out a sense of belonging. For many people belonging emerges from relationships and bonds with other people. These bonds come from many sources. Most children first begin to form bonds with their family circle. As they grow up, their social connections expand beyond the household. Naturally, since kids spend a significant portion of their days at school, the school becomes a key environment to form connections and experience feelings of belonging.

Benefits of school belonging

The most accepted definition of school belonging comes from psychologists Goodnow and Grady (1993). They describe school belonging as “the extent to which students feel personally accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in the school social environment.” Psychologists often view school belonging from an ecological perspective. In other words, multiple supports (teachers, parents, peers, etc.) come together to encourage school belonging.

Overall wellbeing, academic achievements, better physical and mental health, and increased self-esteem are often cited as benefits of school belonging. Similarly, prosocial behaviours, including participation in classroom and extracurricular activities, have been reported in students who feel connected to their schools. School belonging can also have the potential to prevent negative outcomes such as school dropout, low academic achievement, low self-esteem, behavioural issues, and feelings of anxiety and loneliness.

Now that we've established the importance of school belonging, let's explore the role that parents play. The following suggestions are actions that you can take to support your kid's sense of belonging at school.

Offer academic support and encouragement

In a 2007 study of American middle school girls, Pauline Garcia-Reid found that parental support is directly related to school engagement. School engagement (e.g., participation in class or extracurriculars) is a facilitator of school belonging. The students in Garcia-Reid's study who reported higher levels of supportive parental behaviours were more positively engaged in school.

Examples of academic support and encouragement include having regular conversations about school, classes your kid is taking, and plans for the future. These conversations can help nurture a desire to engage and achieve at school and inspire plans for higher education.

Get involved

There are many ways to get involved in your kid's education – at home and at school. Ideally, your kid's school will provide opportunities for involvement, such as invitations to school activities or opportunities to provide

input in educational decisions. Other examples of at-home involvement include sharing educational values and supervising school activities (e.g., monitoring homework).

Contrary to popular belief, research suggests that parental school involvement is just as important during the middle and later years of education as it is for younger years (Mo & Singh, 2008). Of course, that may be easier said than done. As teens gain more independence and busy schedules get in the way, it is common for parents to step back from school involvement. But remember – school involvement comes in many forms. Small steps, like attending a parent evening or getting in touch with a teacher, can still go a long way for your kid’s engagement and performance in school.

Form close family relationships

Positive family relationships, for example, parent-child relationships, incorporate all of the strategies we have explored so far. Supportive behaviour, encouraging communication, and active involvement in your kid’s life – at school and beyond – all contribute to a strong relationship.

Close family relationships may not seem especially relevant to education. However, research shows that family relationships directly affect school connectedness and academic performance (Kelly et al., 2012; Mo & Singh, 2008).

At the end of the day, it’s about being there for your kids. When kids feel like they can come to you for support and advice in their everyday lives, that feeling will extend to support for school. A sense of belonging at home, in the community, and at school can do wonders for your kid’s academic engagement and achievement.

Most of us take the first steps to a healthy sense of belonging at home, closely followed by school. Although we continue to form our sense of belonging throughout our lives, school belonging plays a crucial role in kids’ development and motivation to belong moving forward. Teachers, educational policymakers, and parents all have a role to play in encouraging school belonging.

References

- Garcia-Reid, P. (2007). Examining social capital as a mechanism for improving school engagement among low income hispanic girls. *Youth & Society*, 39, 164-181.
- Goodenow, C., & Grady, K. E. (1993). The relationship of school belonging and friends’ values to academic motivation among urban adolescent students. *Journal of Experimental Education*, 62(1), 60-71.
- Kelly, A. B., O’Flaherty, M., Toumbourou, J.W., Homel, R., Patton, G. C., White, A. & Williams, J. (2012). The influence of families on early adolescent school connectedness: evidence that this association varies with adolescent involvement in peer drinking networks. *Journal of abnormal child psychology*, 40(3), 437-447.
- Mo, Y., & Singh, K. (2008). Parents’ relationships and involvement: Effects on students’ school engagement and performance. *Research in Middle Level Education Online*, 3(10), 1-11.



AUTHOR

Dr Kelly-Ann Allen

Dr Kelly-Ann Allen, PhD FAPS, is an Educational and Developmental Psychologist, a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education, Monash University, and an Honorary Senior Fellow at the Centre for Wellbeing Science, University of Melbourne. Her research underscores the importance of a sense of belonging as a universal human need and she has built an international reputation for her work in the area of school belonging.



Waste-Free Lifestyle!

WASTE LESS. SAVE MORE.

Funded by:



A free course designed to start you on your journey to waste-free living. You will learn new skills and knowledge, helping you to save money and reduce your waste.

9.15 am - 11.45 am, Tuesdays
Ballarat North Neighbourhood House



Register Now

0422 612 052

reception@ballarateastnh.org.au

ballarateastnh.org.au/support/waste-free-lifestyle



NETSTARS

NETBALL CLINICS



BALLARAT

DATE: Friday 7th July 2023
TIME: 9am - 3pm
AGES: 7 - 14 years old
VENUE: Selkirk Stadium,
989 Norman Street, Wendouree
COST: \$85 per participant



Every participant receives a Netstars T-shirt



Bookings essential and only a limited number of spaces available - book now to avoid missing out.

NETSTARS
NETBALL CLINICS

Book Online: www.netstarsnetball.com.au

It's that time of year again- season 23/24 is on the way!

AGM

Come along to the AGM for some nibbles and hear from our guest speaker Christine Christie- parent volunteer, Little Athletics and AV official, who officiates both nationally and internationally, and finalist for the Community Volunteer of the Year award.



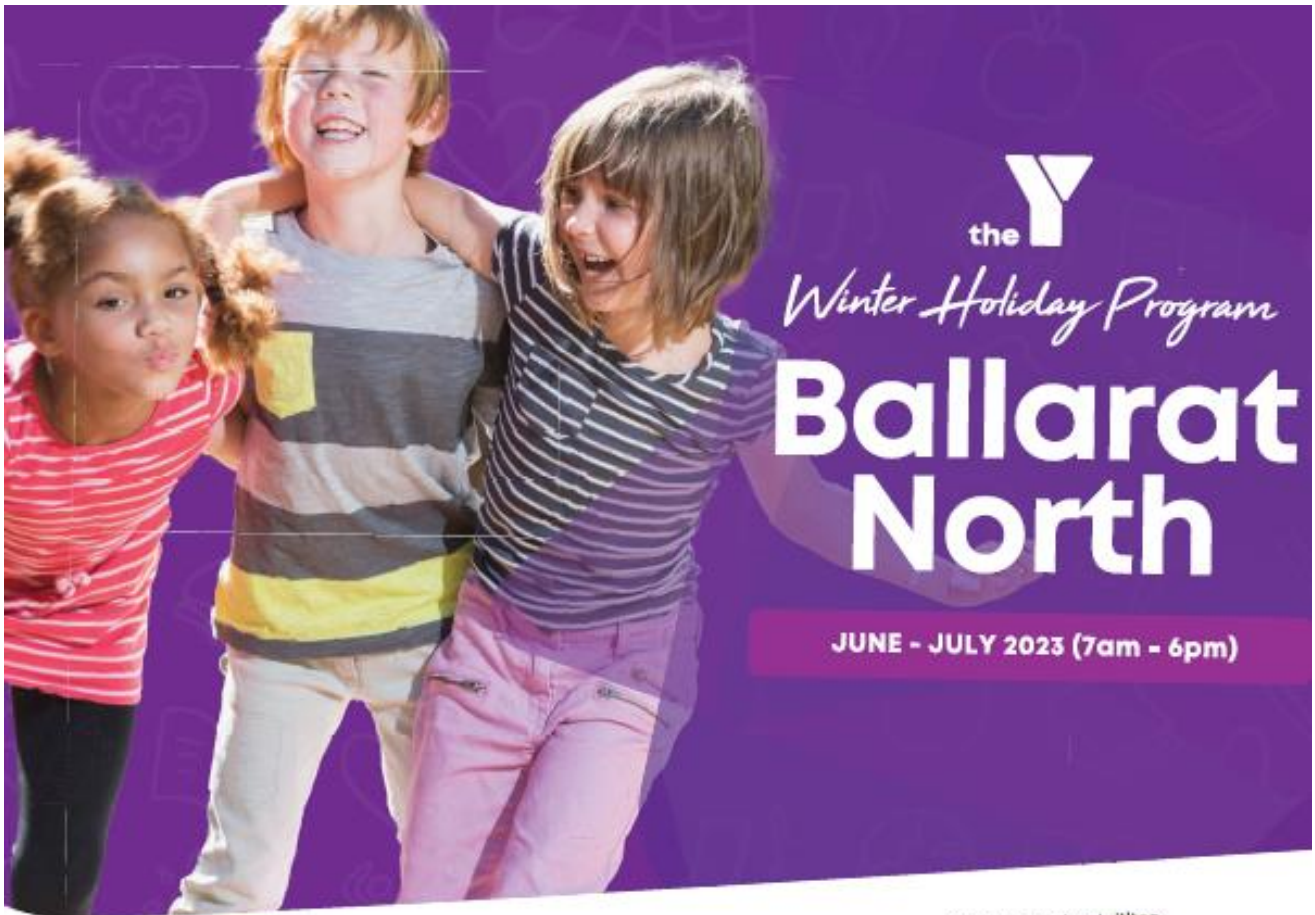
Monday 10th July – 7.45pm

Buninyong Community House

407a Warrenheip Street, Buninyong

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Please RSVP to buninyong@lavic.com.au so we can cater accordingly



Winter Holiday Program

Ballarat North

JUNE - JULY 2023 (7am - 6pm)

- MON JUNE 26** Winter Wonderland - Come down to OSHC to enjoy some winter related activities
- TUE JUNE 27** Spectacular Science - Lets do some science experiments today
- WED JUNE 28** Get Creative - Art and craft Galore and a special visit from bunnings to create your own masterpiece
- THUR JUNE 29** Games Day - Let's enjoy some technology in OSHC today and a trip to Major League
Excursion: 10:30am - 2:30pm
- FRI JUNE 30** Crazy Costume, Colour Day - Dress ups and lots of colourful activities
- MON JULY 3** Nature Exploration - Today we are getting out and about in our school to explore nature
- TUE JULY 4** Culture and Film Day - Come and learn about different cultures, make some Art for NAIDOC week and lets catch a movie too
Excursion: 10am-12.15pm
- WED JULY 5** Amazing Animals - Let's learn some new animal facts and do lots of animal based activities
- THUR JULY 6** Making Music - Lets make our own musical instruments and enjoy lots of musical games and a game of Disco Bowling
Excursion: 10am-12.15pm

● Venue
 ● Incursion
 ● Excursion

Scheduled activities and bus times may change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please confirm with the venue if needed.

For more information and to book call 0492 890 932 or visit yballarat.org.au

