



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.



Second Week of Lent

(Week beginning Monday 26 February)



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partner in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

Watch [Ronita's Story](#)

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes, online by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

You can change the lives of women in poverty around the world

Women and girls, particularly those in poverty, constantly face gender discrimination, inequality and economic hardship. This year alone, there are estimated to be **388 million women and girls worldwide living in extreme poverty**.

Since 2013, our dedicated Women for the World community have made remarkable strides, changing countless lives of women in poverty worldwide, helping provide education, developing livelihoods and improving healthcare and protection for some of the most vulnerable women and girls in marginalised communities.

We invite you to take a stand and join thousands of Australians by fundraising or donating to Women for the World. **Only together can we give our sisters living in poverty the support they truly deserve.**

Principal's Message

Dear students and families,

Wow, the month of February has flown by as it has been a very positive and productive start for all of our students at St Monica's. Last Friday in particular was an incredible day at school as we launched PBL for our school community with a fun filled day and a welcome bbq for all families after school. Thank you to Miss Helen for her amazing PBL display in our entrance, which well and truly set the scene for the day.

A **Huge shout out** to our amazing Parent Engagement Group (**PEG**) for all the planning, preparation and assistance to make this occasion memorable for our students and families. The SMF school yard was full of happy smiling faces and we look forward to many more opportunities for families to share time together. I would also like to thank staff for their attendance and involvement as well at this school community event.

It also important to remind families of our upcoming **'Family Information Session'** next Thursday 7th March. This is a great opportunity to listen to the 'why' and 'how' of what we do at SMF in our learning and teaching.

In Partnership,
Nathan

Learning and Teaching

This year our school is focusing on implementing a Science of Reading approach to literacy. This approach is based on a vast body of research from cognitive science, linguistics, psychology, education and neurology exploring the process of how children learn to read.

To enable our teachers to best support our students we have implemented a new literacy assessment called DIBELS. This assessment is designed to help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills. DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills.

DIBELS includes a range of 1-3 minute tests that are administered individually. These tests assess phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Students from Foundation through to year 6 will participate in the assessment 3 times per year. The data collected will then be used by teachers to forward plan for the next term, identify individual reading goals and create targeted interventions for students requiring additional support.

If you would like to learn more about this assessment please access this link:
<https://dibels.uoregon.edu/sites/default/files/2021-06/dibelsparentguide.pdf>

Melissa

Italian

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

Ciao a tutti,

It has been a great start into the year with lots of learning happening in our classroom. The students have done an amazing job at showing participation and enthusiasm as we have re visited our units 1A-1C from our learning last year

In these units the children have been able to greet one another and ask how they are feeling as well as seek to ask classroom instructions. There have been great songs to accompany the new words learnt throughout the week.

In the next few weeks our focus will be on how to say your name and ask how to say someone else's name, expressing likes and dislikes and polite requests.

Arrivederci fo now,
Signorina Danni



Family Information Session

Please join the staff of St Monica's to learn about what we have planned at St Monica's in 2024.

Date:

Thurs 7th March | 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Whole School Information 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Principal's Welcome

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Sacraments

Science of Reading

Home Learning

Teachers as Co-Learners approach to languages

Specialist subjects

Year Level Information Sessions 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Introduction to teachers

A day in the school life of a junior/middle/senior

Important dates/events

How you can support your child at home

Thurs 7th March

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Meet in the hall

New Date

Positive Behaviour for Learning - PBL



What an amazing day and evening we had launching and celebrating our PBL at SMF... We look forward showcasing more our great learning in this area as the year unfolds.



PE & Sport

On the 16th of February, we held our St Monica's School Cross Country at the Maribyrnong River. It was a perfect morning for the event and the students came dressed in their house colours ready to go. Every student who participated gained points for their House colour team, making it a great team effort.

The St Monica's staff were extremely proud of all of the students, it was great to see such positive attitude, willingness to 'give it a go' and the performances that occurred.

The results were: 1 st - Yellow, 2 nd - Blue, 3 rd -Green, 4 th -Blue.

On Friday we have some of our Grade 3-6 students competing in the District Cross Country event and we wish them all the best.

Students from Grade 1-6 got to participate in a Hockey clinic run by Footscray Hockey Club during our PE sessions and all students did really well. A flyer was sent home for anyone who was interested in their child participating in hockey, or just trying it out.

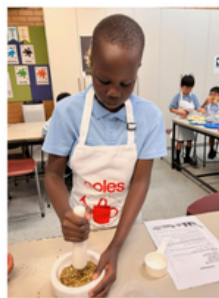
We have also been training during our PE sessions for our up-and-coming School Athletics, which is held on the 14 th of March (weather permitting). Please sign the Operoo form as soon as possible, so buses can be booked. If you can assist on the day, please email Liz as per the Operoo.

Thanks,
Liz

Kitchen Garden/Science



A huge thank you to all of the families who volunteered their time over the Summer holidays to help our Kitchen Garden flourish. As a result we have been excitedly watching fruit and vegetables such as zucchini, beans and cucumbers mature and ripen over the last few weeks. Many students expressed surprise at how much they enjoyed eating the raw beans!



This week students in 3/4 harvested coriander seeds from our garden as they consolidated their understanding of the lifecycle of a flowering plant. Using a mortar and pestle the 3/4 students used their harvested coriander seeds to make delicious nut free dukkah. We look forward to cooking with our ripening tomatoes and zucchinis in the coming weeks!



Our budding entomologists in F/1 went in search of the yellow ladybugs inhabiting our zucchinis plants this week. With magnifying glasses in hand they were able to find examples of every stage of the life cycle; the eggs, larvae, pupa and adult yellow lady bugs!



We are very excited to announce the upcoming whole school excursion to the **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show on Friday 22nd March**. Students will learn from expert horticulturalists and agricultural entomologists and also take part in interactive presentations, workshops and educational garden activities.



Creative Arts Exhibition 2024

Each year, MACS (**Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools**) invites Catholic primary and secondary schools to enter students' artworks for consideration into the Visual Arts Exhibition. Gallery curators examine all entries and choose the artworks to be exhibited. I am proud to announce the artists from St. Monica's whose artworks were selected.

Family groups are welcome. I encourage families to attend as it always proves to be a great display of talented artworks. Well done to all our students from St. Monica's!!!

Sandra Di Vita
2023 Arts Coordinator

Gallery Opening Hours:

Tue 12 March: 9am - 4pm
Wed 13 March: 9am - 7pm
Thu 14 March: 9am - 4pm
Fri 15 March: 12pm - 7pm
Sat 16 March: 11am- 4pm

Bookings via TryBooking. <https://www.trybooking.com/1175290>

2023 MIDDLES ART

Students studied colour, tones, light and dark in the artworks by George Seurat, Emily Kame Kngwarreye and Vincent Van Gogh. They were inspired to create their own version of a vase with flowers, using the techniques observed.



Cindy
The inspired Vase



Daisy
Majestic Pot



Lucia
The Big Pot



2023 JUNIORS ART
Students explored the colour wheel, warm and cool colours, shape and collage. They created their own interpretation of God's beautiful garden.

Mixed media- drawing, paint, oil pastel, collage

Archi- The Rainbow flower

Victoria- Colourful flower

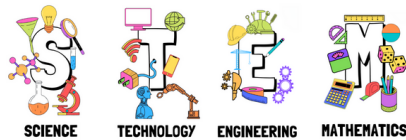





Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

STEM

The Year 3/4s have been learning about forces. Our most recent learning has been about friction. We explored how different surfaces like cardboard, sandpaper, fleece and timber may cause an object to move down slower or faster.

The Year 5/6s have been learning about using the Design Process to create designed solutions. They have worked collaboratively to create designs for the gravel area behind the basketball court (previously the Peace Garden). Developing this space is a project is very much still a 'work in progress' and our students designs will play an important part in the decision making process. Mr Owen looks forward to seeing the finished designs in the coming weeks.



<h2>NAPLAN Schedule</h2> 	
 ST MONICA'S  2024	
<small>To minimise disruption and promote a sense of calm and ease during the NAPLAN testing period, please ensure your child/ren arrive at school on time on these days. School starts at 8.50 am. Classes will continue their regular morning routines on the days of the tests, including prayer and an introduction to the day. NAPLAN tests need to follow a pre-scheduled timetable and will commence at 9am sharp, each day.</small>	
WED 13 MARCH	WRITING Year 3 & Year 5 9am
FRI 15 MARCH	READING Year 3 & Year 5 9am
MON 18 MARCH	LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS Year 3 & Year 5 9am
TUE 19 MARCH	NUMERACY Year 3 & Year 5 9am

Sacraments- Reconciliation

On Thursday the 7th of March some of our Year 3 students will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Sacrament reminds us of the importance of forgiveness and invites us to receive God's loving forgiveness.

Please keep these students in your Prayers.





SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES



2024 TERM 1

Week 2

Date: Monday 5/02 2:45pm

Location: Hall

Led by: Nathan, Andrea & Captains

Week 4

Date: Monday 19/02 2:45pm

Location: Hall

Led by: Seniors

Week 6

Date: Monday 4/03 2:45pm

Location: Hall

Led by: Middles

Week 8

Date: Monday 18/03 2:45pm

Location: Hall

Led by: Juniors - F/1 A & 1/2H

Week 9

Last Day

Date: Thursday 28/03 TBC

Location: Hall

Holy Week - Stations of the Cross

Junior Rockers
primary music
education specialists

Please note that Junior Rockers will be providing an entertaining musical performance at our next school assembly on Monday 4th March



Guitar



Piano



Singing



Drums



IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1 2024

1st March: District Cross Country Year 3-6

6th March: AFL X Day Year 3-6 (**cancelled**)

7th March: Family Information Session

11th March: Public Holiday NO SCHOOL

13th - 25th March: Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN

14th March: Athletics Carnival (ALL students)

15th March: St Patrick's Day activities

22nd March: Whole School Excursion (Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show)

Save the Date Family Easter Picnic

Footscray Community Arts Center grass area

28th March: Holy Week gathering/liturgy

28th March: Please note **End of Term is a 1pm finish**

Due to very low attendance at our after school program, Kelly Club will be finishing there program on Thursday 28th March (last day of Term 1).

If you wish to speak to me directly please come and see. Carson can also be contacted via his email carson@kellyclub.com.au

Kelly Club Schools Partnerships and Relationships Manager

