

St. Monica's Newsletter

2024 Term 4 - December (End of Year) 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.

Advent Prayer

Loving God,

As we begin our journey through Advent, May we open our hearts to the hope, peace, joy, and love that the birth of Jesus brings to the world.

Guide us to see Your light in the faces of others, And to share kindness with everyone we meet.
Help us prepare our hearts to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas,
And to welcome Your Son with gratitude and wonder.

Amen

Principal's Final Message

Dear families,

As the 2025 school year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the achievements and joys of 2025 and to thank each of you for being part of our vibrant school community.

To our students: You have all grown so much this year, not only in your learning but in the way you support and care for one another. You inspire us all with your creativity, curiosity, and spirit. I will miss all of you but I do hope to visit during 2025.

To our families: thank you for your partnership, encouragement, and unwavering commitment for myself over the past 3 year and for your children's education. Your support enriches our community and inspires us to continue striving for excellence.

To our staff: your dedication and passion for teaching have been the cornerstone of our students' success. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and I am truly grateful for your efforts every single day.

Thank you for your partnership and trust throughout this remarkable year. Together, we've fostered a thriving, faith-filled community where our students have grown spiritually, academically, and socially in so many ways


I wish you all a joyful and restful Christmas and New Year. May this holy season bring peace and blessings to your families.

God Bless,

Nathan

STAFF 2025

We are thrilled to announce the dedicated and talented staff members who will make up our team for the 2025 school year at St Monica's, Footscray. Our commitment to providing the best education for our students remains steadfast, and we believe these individuals will contribute greatly to our school's ongoing success.

ST MONICA'S
Catholic Primary School
Footscray

We're here to make a difference

2025 Staff

Acting Principal	Andrea Wilberger
Acting Deputy Principal	Amy Horan
Learning and Teacher Leader Mathematics Instructional Coach	Amy Horan
Learning Diversity/Wellbeing	Liz Clements (F-2) Amy Horan (3-6)
Literacy Instructional Coach	Melissa Bos
MHIPs	Lucy Vassallo
Religious Education Leader	Anna Scarmozzino

School Secretary	Anna Trainor
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Foundation	Molly Fisher
Year 1	Helen Power & Leanne Mailhot
Year 2	Ida Lantry
Year 3/4	Anna Scarmozzino
Year 5/6	Sami Tighe

STEM	Jodie Donaghey
Visual Arts	Melissa Bos
PE/ Health & Sports Coordinator	Liz Clements
Science / Kitchen Garden	Jodie Donaghey
Daily Languages Assistant (TCL)	Danni Scarmozzino
Learning Support Officers	Danni Scarmozzino - Junior Classes Zoe Denahy - Yr 3/4 - 5/6
Speech Pathologist	Cecilia Pham (Thursday)

We look forward to 2025 with great enthusiasm and optimism. Together, as a school community, we can achieve remarkable things. *We're here to learn and we're here to make a difference.*

Proposed

School Closure Days 2025

Aligned with MACS Vision for Instruction,
our School Improvement Plan and Annual Action Plan
subject to slight alteration



Start of 2025	Tuesday 28th January (Staff Professional Learning- Spelling Mastery at St Mary's Williamstown) Students Start Wednesday 29th January
Flourishing Learners Network for continuous school Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our SMF Science of Learning approach 	Term 1 Staff School closure Day: Friday 7th March
Flourishing Learners Professional Learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading 	Term 2 Staff School closure Day: Friday 16th May
Flourishing Learners Professional Learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics 	Term 3 Staff School closure Day: Friday 15th August
Professional Practice: SMF Assessment and reporting procedures	Term 4 Staff School closure Day: Monday 3rd November
End of 2025 Planning Preparation day for 2026	Last student Day - Tuesday 16th Dec Wednesday 17th Dec - Last day for 2024 Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time in Lieu days - 18th & 19th December

Farewell

NATHAN



It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Nathan, who has served as our Principal since 2022. Nathan has made a lasting and positive impact on our school community during his time here.

Nathan's leadership has been marked by a deep commitment to our students, staff, and families. He has fostered a culture of collaboration, kindness, and growth, always striving to ensure that every individual feels valued and supported.

While we are sad to see him go, we are happy that Nathan will be working closer to home, and we know that St Catherine of Sienna in Armstrong Creek is very lucky to have him.

Farewell



MARY

As we say farewell to Mary, our wonderful librarian, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks for her vibrant contribution to our school. Mary has been a bright and bubbly presence in our library. Her enthusiasm for reading and storytelling has inspired many of our children to explore new worlds through books, and her knowledge and passion have made the library a special place for all.

While we are sad to see Mary go, we are grateful for all the joy and inspiration she has brought to St Monica's.

We wish her the very best as she moves on to new adventures.

TOBEE

After two years at St Monica's, we farewell Tobee, who has been an integral part of our team as a Learning Support Officer. Tobee has played a vital role in supporting our students, ensuring they feel valued, encouraged, and empowered to achieve their best.

As Tobee moves on to the next chapter in her journey, we thank her for her contributions and wish her every success in the future.



Farewell



MARYANNE

This year, we have been fortunate to have Maryanne as our Art teacher, bringing creativity and inspiration to our classrooms. Over the past year, Maryanne has helped our students discover their artistic talents, express themselves, and develop confidence in their abilities. While Maryanne is stepping away from the Art teacher position, we're delighted that she will continue to be part of the St Monica's community as a casual relief teacher in 2025. We look forward to seeing her around the school and are grateful she will still be sharing her positivity and care with our students.

HA

It is with great gratitude and a touch of sadness that we bid farewell to Ha for 2025. Ha is accessing her accrued Long Service Leave for all of 2025. Ha has been an integral part of St Monica's for the past 27 years. Over nearly 3 decades, Ha has witnessed countless changes, milestones, and memories at our school. Her deep connection to St Monica's, its students, staff, and families, has made her a treasured member of our community.





**ST MONICA'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
END OF YEAR MASS**

**DATE:
MONDAY 16TH
DECEMBER**

**TIME:
2:15PM**

ST MONICA'S CHURCH

**LET'S COME TOGETHER AS A
COMMUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE
YEAR, CELEBRATE OUR
ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LOOK
FORWARD TO THE JOURNEY
AHEAD. WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU THERE!**

School Fees Reminder

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I would like to remind you of the details regarding School Fees and Levies for 2025.

Fee Structure

- Tuition Fee (**Family Fee**): \$1640.00
- Curriculum Levy: \$380
- Swimming Levy: \$130.00
- Excursion Levy: \$165.00

(4) QUARTERLY PAYMENTS NOTE: CAMP FEES NOT INCLUDED			
	1 CHILD	2 CHILDREN	3 CHILDREN
TERM	\$578.55	\$747.50	\$916.25
(10) PAYMENTS NOTE: CAMP FEES NOT INCLUDED			
MONTHLY	\$231.50	\$299.00	\$366.50
(20) PAYMENTS NOTE: CAMP FEES NOT INCLUDED			
FORTNIGHTLY	\$115.75	\$149.50	\$183.25

School Saving Bonus (SSB)

The School Saving Bonus recently seen in the media is \$400 of additional support for families who qualify for CSEF funding in 2025. To ensure this is distributed correctly SMF encourage eligible families to submit their CSEF/concessions 2025 application as soon as possible in Term 1 2025. This will be applied to your Student levy and/or camp payment to cover the cost of camps, excursions and school based activities. **MACS Schools cannot provide this SSB to families in a way of cash, vouchers or reimbursement.**

Any family who is experiencing difficulties in meeting their financial commitments or wishing to discuss alternate fee payment arrangements for 2025, is asked to arrange an appointment with Andrea Wilberger Acting (Principal - 2025). In line with the MACS Concessional Fee Policy, discounted fees are available for families experiencing financial difficulty (including those on an eligible HCC).

Fee Concessions/Remissions

St Monica's School provides fee remissions/concessions to families in need, including families who are:

- of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage
- holds a HCC and is eligible for CSEF
- experiencing severe financial hardship
- holds a DVA Gold Card
- identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard
- HSS who attend a MACS primary school on a part time basis, who meet any of the criteria detailed above.

Applications for concessional school fees must be made on the St Monica's school fees approved concession program form, which can be provided upon request. Information provided in support of concessional school fees will be treated in the strictest confidence, in accordance with the School's Privacy Policy. For approved applications for concessional fees, an automated payment plan will be established by direct debit/credit to the school.

Ensuring every child can flourish and achieve their fullest potential.

MACSEYE is a new approved provider, established by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools to offer a high quality Outside Schools Hours Care (OSHC) service, with a strong link to your school.

We believe in providing a safe and inclusive environment where every child can thrive. Our dedicated educators will support your child to explore their interests and choose how they spend their play time. Children can choose from a range of resources, including art and craft, games, and outdoor sports activities. We also have cozy, quiet spaces for anyone needing some down time.

There's also always a range of healthy foods available to help kids stay energised, and active.



Request for Bookings are now open, so contact our friendly team today!

Enrol now at
stmfootscrayoshc@macseye.vic.edu.au



Enrol your child for Outside School Hours Care today.

Request for Booking are now open for Term 1, 2025.

OSHC program

- For 5-12 year olds
- Monday to Friday [term time]
- After School – 3:15pm - 6.00pm

OSHC cost per session

- After School Care
(Permanent) – \$30.50
(Casual) – \$35.50



Request for Bookings are now open, so contact our friendly team today!

Enrol now at
footscrayoshc@macseye.vic.edu.au



Thank you to those parents who recently attended a *MACSEYE* information session. Please spread the word of the importance of enrolling your child in OSHC in 2025.

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

On Monday 25th November the Social Justice leaders, Mr Owen, Ms Andrea and Kirby went to the ASRC (Asylum Seeking Resource Centre) to donate food and items for people seeking refuge. The ASRC is an asylum that helps people seeking refuge, health, food and law. The Social Justice leaders, Mr Owen, Ms Andrea and Kirby got a tour around the whole building and what they do to help people in need. Our school had a fundraiser for the ASRC, we sent out food and toiletries. The class with the most items would be gifted a free zooper dooper as a reward. Altogether we had **710** items to give to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. The class with the most items was 5/6 Molly with a grand total of 199 items. The parents and the students worked very hard to make this help for the community happen! And we are very glad everyone took part in it.

Janelle and Missy Year 6
Social Justice Leaders



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE SM CHRISTMAS SING ALONG

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER
3:15PM - 6:00PM

SAUSAGES (FREE) SERVED FROM 3:30PM
ICE-CREAM TRUCK (FREE) AVAILABLE FROM 5-6PM

ALL CLASSES SINGING CHRISTMAS SONGS
SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FROM THE SCHOOL CHOIR

DRESS CODE:

STUDENTS COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED IN THEIR FAVOURITE
CHRISTMAS OUTFIT OR COLOURS.

CHILDREN ATTEND THE SCHOOL DAY DRESSED FOR THE
SING ALONG.

★ **Students must be with a family member**
from 3:15-6pm



Exciting News - Our First Kitchen Garden Recipe Book!

We're thrilled to announce
that our first-ever Kitchen
Garden Recipe Book will
be available for sale at
our Christmas Sing Along!





Queries: Addy
0431 861 135

Summer

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

DECEMBER

MON 23RD & TUES 24TH

JANUARY

THUR 2nd - FRI 17th

ST MONICA'S PS
FOOTSCRAY

Kids from ALL
schools welcome!



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



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

FUN
IN THE
SUN!



8am - 5pm Weekdays

Kinder - Grade 6

Enrol online

\$60 per child per day

www.kellysports.com.au/north-west

2025

