



ST. MONICA'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Familie's, New Staff in 2020

After a very long and exhausting recruitment process Father Tony Shallue has appointed the following Teachers to St Monica's Primary School commencing in 2020.

Miss Grace Grogan

Miss Ellie Lothian

Miss Eliza

McNamara

Mrs Zoe Sheean.

Please join me in welcoming these ladies to our St Monica's School Community.

Class Placements

The process used for student placement into a class is a comprehensive one.

As professionals, we take the responsibility of class placement very seriously. Beginning in Week 1 Term 4, and continuing right through Term 4, many factors are considered in the process of placing every child.

Our class placement procedure is extremely child-centred and begins with a conversation about each student. At Saint Monica's our goal is to create classroom environments that are conducive to learning for all students.

We attempt to accomplish this by analyzing over a dozen characteristics, which influence the classroom dynamic while continuously revisiting the individual children who comprise the class. As professionals, teachers spend many hours and put much thought and effort into placing their present students into next year's classes.

We respect that you know your child in ways we could not possibly know them. We likewise ask that you trust that your child's teacher/s also has knowledge about your child's academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs that may vary significantly from what you see in the home setting.

Requests for specific teachers are not appropriate and will not be considered when student placements are made. However, if there is important information that you think the school needs to consider in order to best meet the needs of your child, then I request that you make an appointment to discuss these with me and also leave your considerations in writing. This will enable me to revisit them when I am finalising all classes for the upcoming year.

Rest assured that staff at Saint Monica's will work to ensure they have structured classes that best meet the needs of all students.

Yours sincerely,

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Claudia Taylor 3/4 MK** and Family on the recent passing of Claudia's Great Grandmother.

Please keep Claudia and her family in you prayers and thoughts at this sad time.



Child Safe

Saint Monica's is a child safe school. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

All volunteers at Saint Monica's need to participate in a Volunteers Induction course before volunteering.

All Volunteers need to have signed a 2019 Code of Conduct.

Staff Spotlight

Name: Melinda Christie

Role: Learning Support (speech)

Favourite Holiday memory

Penang, Malaysia

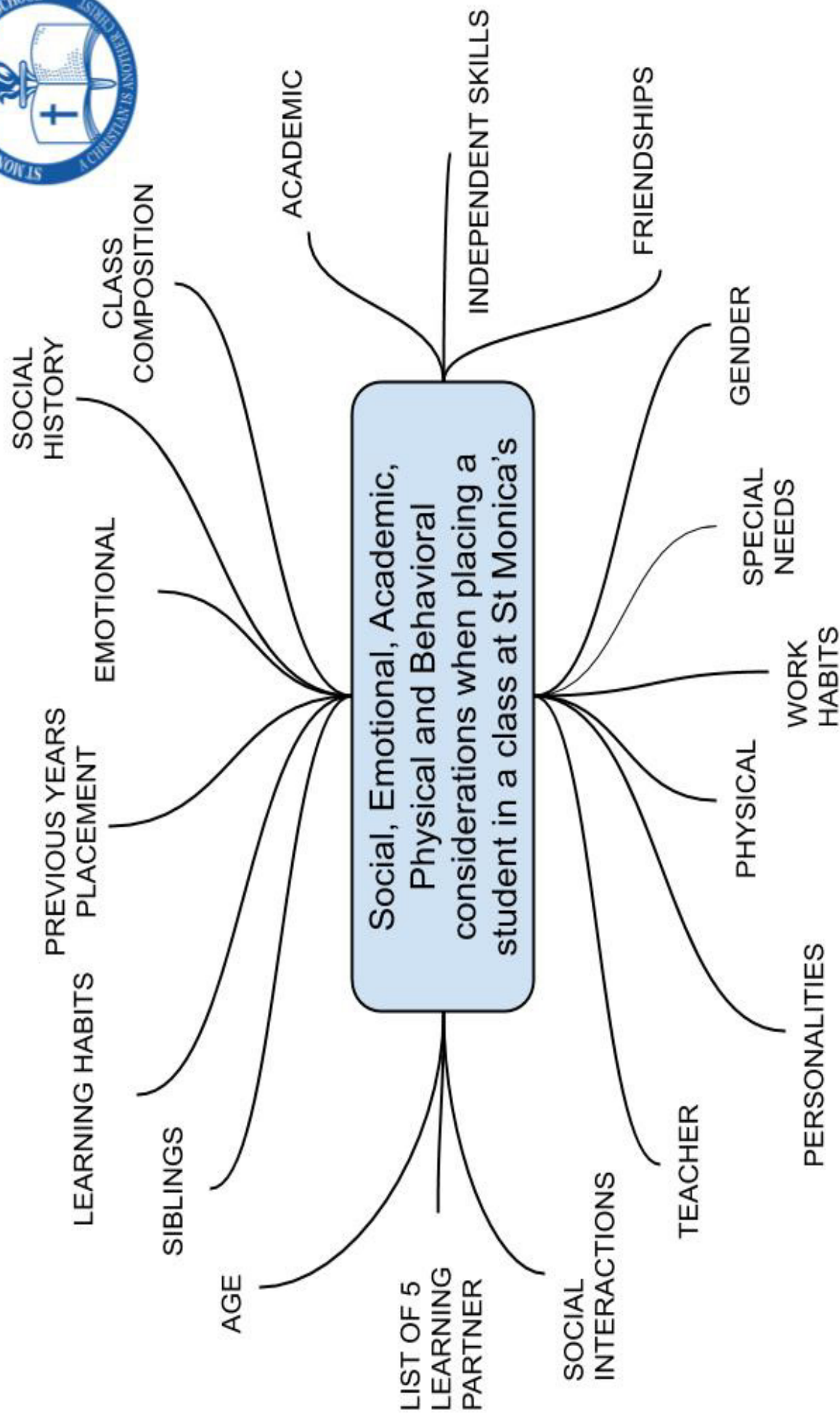
Gorgeous country, beautiful people, magnificent food and cheap!

Hobby/ Interest

- o Cooking
- o Travelling
- o Spending time with family & friends
- o Finding a bargain at the garage sales on a Saturday



Be Safe Be Friendly Be a Learner



Student Placements Frequently Asked Questions

What are Multi-age classes?

Multi-age classes are made up of students drawn from different year levels. The key to understanding multi-age grades is realising that growth is determined in stages and not magically by ages. Two findings stand out in the research done on multi-age classes:

- It makes no difference to performance whether students are in a straight year group or in a multi-age class. One of the most important factors in determining how well a student does is the quality of the teacher and his or her teaching.
- Multi-age classes may benefit students both socially and emotionally.

Why do we value multi-age at Saint Monica's?

Multi-age classes have many advantages, some of which are listed here:

- Children operate at their developmental level rather than their chronological age
- Draw attention to individual needs and development
- Classes individualise learning – all children can work at their level and children can be extended or supported
- Children can become more independent more quickly
- Self-esteem is heightened, as each child is encouraged to experience success
- Greater acceptance of responsibility for learning
- A focus on co-operation rather than competition
- There is increased initiative, tolerance, self-motivation and co-operation in the learning process
- Children are perceived to develop a more positive attitude to school

Do students of a multi-age class have the same opportunities like a straight grade class?

Yes, all classes are organised and operated in a manner that maximises opportunities for each student.

If my child is placed in a multi-age class with students from a year below, are they being kept back? Should I be concerned about their progress?

No. Multi-age classes can provide significant benefits to both the younger and older students in the class. Older students can benefit from helping younger students in co-operative learning situations. The younger students have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences when they are ready for it. Overseas research has shown children in multi-age classes do no better or worse academically than their peers in straight grade class, but that, socially, their development is enhanced. Most importantly, children in multi-age classes at Saint Monica's are given explicit teaching at their educational point of need, regardless of their age or grade level.

How can I help my child adjust to their new class?

The beginning of a new school year should be an exciting time, but it can be stressful for students starting at a new school or in a new class with a new teacher. Here are a few simple tips to help you help your child in this transition:

- Seek the positive.
- Tell your child future friends are everywhere you look. Teach them ways to make it easier to find them.
- Remind your child about other "firsts" they've experienced in their lives and how well they handled them. Tell them about some of your firsts.
- Get involved with the new class. If you're able to volunteer in the classroom, you'll get to know the teacher and your child's classmates firsthand. Talk to other parents from the class at drop off and pick up. Remember it's your actions that your child will model theirs on when trying to establish new relationships.
- Be patient and encourage your child to be resilient. Change takes time but with your love and support they will make a successful transition into their new class.
- Remind them that others in the class may also be feeling like they are.
- Transition time to meet peers and teacher/s

What if my child is in a class without a friend?

Our class placement procedure is extremely child-centred and begins with a conversation about each student. Our goal is to create classroom environments that are conducive to learning for all students. This may mean that whilst your child is in a class without a "friend" they will be in a class with other children they know. They also have a lot of opportunity to catch up with "friends" outside of actual learning time in the class.

When will my child find out what class they are placed in for next year? Are parents notified?

The process used for student placement into a class is a comprehensive one. In Week 1 Term 4, and continuing right through Term 4, until transition day. Children will be informed of their class on transition day just before first break. This will give them an opportunity to experience their new class and possible new teacher without a build up of anxiety or negativity based on someone else's experience. As parents you will be informed at the conclusion of the school day. Your child will bring home a note confirming their 2016 class placement. This is a great opportunity to build upon the positive experiences your child has had during the day. The tips discussed in question 5 can help you do this

Who do I talk to if I have concerns or issues?

If there is important information that you think the school needs to consider in order to best meet the needs of your child, then make an appointment to discuss these with the Principal and also leave your considerations in writing. This will enable the Principal to revisit them when finalising all classes for the 2016 year. If however, after transition day, you have concerns or issues, please make an appointment to see the Principal.

The secrets to changing children's behaviour

Most parents at some stage are driven to distraction by one or more of their children's annoying habits or behaviours, whether it is a toddler who continually whines, a school-aged child who leaves clothes lying around or a teenager who uses a less than pleasant vocabulary.

How to affect change is a challenge for many parents. Do you ignore a child's annoying behaviour or do you pick up on it? A useful rule of thumb is to pick up on behaviours that are dangerous to the child himself or significantly infringe on the rights and comfort of others.

Also ask yourself: Is this behaviour reasonable for the child's age? It is useful to take into account the child's current state of mind and what is going on in their lives that may be related to some unusual behaviour at home.

The following four principles for changing your child's behaviour will be effective if you are both patient and persistent.

Principle one: Change your initial response first. This is important because children's behaviour generally requires a pay-off, which may be your attention or an attempt to defeat you. The most important principle about changing children's behaviour is to change your own behaviour first.

Principle two: Practise with your child the behaviour that you want. The notion of behaviour rehearsal is fundamental to learning a new behaviour. Don't just tell kids what you expect, get them to practise the behaviour you want.

Principle three: Minimise the behaviour you don't want. That means when children continue their old behaviour despite your brilliant suggestions ignore it, sidestep it or implement a consequence but don't nag or harp on it. Remember it takes time often to change a behaviour, particularly if it has been happening for a long time.

Principle four: Spotlight the appropriate behaviour. When your children behave in the desired way show your sincere appreciation. We often take children for granted or, rather, we are trained to give children no attention when they are good, but plenty when they are less than perfect. The behaviours we focus on expand so we need to focus our attention on desirable behaviours more than on the negative behaviours.

Like any process it will only work if you stick to it and follow it through. And don't be afraid to adapt it to suit your circumstances. Remember, it is the fact that you have a plan rather than the nature of the plan that is most powerful in achieving a change in your children's behaviour.



Quick Parenting Quiz

1. Do more girls or boys ring Kids Help Line to discuss their problems?
2. Are boys or girls greater owners of mobile phones?
3. Do more girls or boys complete Year 12 in Australian schools?

Answers:

1. Girls: Between 70-80% of calls to Kids Help Line come from girls.
2. Girls.
3. Girls: Approximately 10-11 per cent more girls complete Year 12.

Vitamins for parents

You can choose.....within limits:

It is helpful to give children freedom to choose but within the limits you provide. For instance, children may choose how they allocate spend their pocket-money but first they may allocate some for spending, some for saving/ investing and some for charity. Or they can choose how they dress but they must decide between the parameters you set – perhaps, the good clothes/top shelf clothes when visiting relatives and shabbier/ bottom shelf clothes for playing.

Bright idea



Put it in writing

We are usually adept at putting our views forward to children verbally. But if you have something really positive to say or even want to show your appreciation why not do so in writing. This can be a permanent reminder of how you thought or felt about your child, his behaviour or efforts.

Wise & Witty Words

"We cannot direct the wind but we can adjust the sails."

Unknown

"See everything; praise most things; overlook many things; correct few things."

Pope John XXIII

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

Monday 21st	Swimming
Tuesday 22nd	Swimming
Wednesday 23rd	Swimming
Thursday 24th	Swimming
Friday 25th	Swimming
Monday 28th	Assembly 2.50pm
Wednesday 30th	Bendigo Cup Public Holiday

November

Friday 1st	Swimming Trials Grade 3-6 11.00am-1.30pm
Friday 8th	Swimming Carnival Grade 3-6 11.00am- 2.00pm
Monday 11th	McAuley House Day Remembrance Day
Tuesday 12th	Prep Information Evening 6.30pm
Thursday 14th	Art Show
Friday 15th	Art Show Junior Unit Excursion
Friday 22nd	Grandparents Day 2.00pm-3.30pm
Monday 25th	Assembly 2.50pm
Tuesday 26th	Prep Transition 9.15-10.30am Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
Wednesday 27th	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
Thursday 28th	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

December

December 3rd	Prep Transition 9.15-10.30am
December 10th	Whole School Orientation Day
December 12th	Christmas Carols 6.00pm
December 13th	Whole School Closure
December 17th	Grade 6 Graduation Dinner & Mass
December 18th	End of Year Mass Last Day of school 3.30pm Finish

Assembly

Our next Assembly in the
Jaara Centre.
Will be **Monday 28th October** at
2.50pm.

Position Vacant

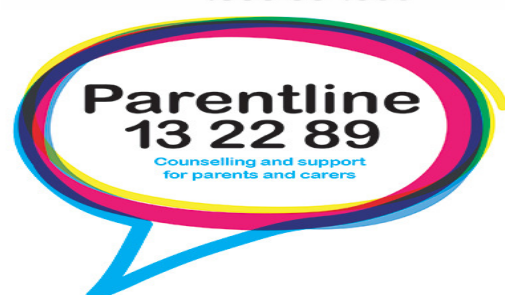
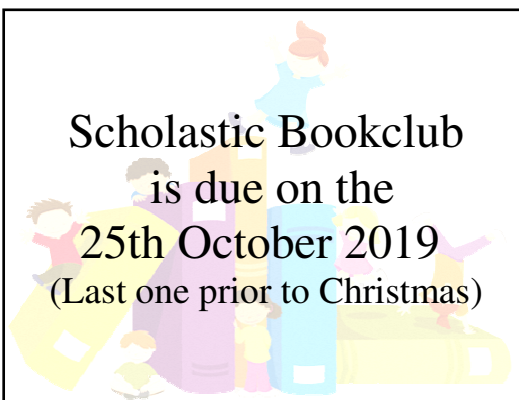
Marong Cup Co-ordinator

Please see Bron for more
information on this position.



School Uniform

All children are now to be in the
correct summer uniform. Hats are to
be worn at all times outside. If your
child does not bring their hat to
school they will be required to play



SPORTS

ATHLETICS

Well done to the following students who participated at the Loddon Mallee Regional Athletic Championships on Monday: **Daphne Reyes and Isabella Egan.**
Well Done Girls.

School Departure Time	Swimming Time	Monday-Friday Classes
9:10am Students can wear their bathers to school	9:30-10:15am	3/4 Driscoll and 3/4 Russell plus half of 5/6 O'Brien.
9:50am Students can wear their bathers to school	10:15-11:00am	3/4 Curnow and 3/4 Miller Knight plus half of 5/6 O'Brien
10:30am Students will change into their bathers at the pool	11:00-11:45am	Prep Pawsey, Prep Delahunty & Prep Flood
11:25am Students will change into their bathers at the pool	11:45-12:30pm	5/6 Nally and 5/6 Feeney
12:35pm Students will change into their bathers at the pool	1:00-1:45pm	1/2 Collins and 1/2 Polonowita
1.20pm Students will change into their bathers at the pool	1:45-2:30pm	1/2 Davies and 1/2 Tadich
Swimming Trials Year 3-6	11:00-1:30pm	Friday November 1st
Swimming Carnival Year 3-6	11:00-2:00pm	Friday November 8th

WALK TO SCHOOL

Together we can.....

WALK SCOOT SKATE OR RIDE
To School

Let's Meet: Friday 25th October
@ Rotary Park Car Park, Kangaroo Flat
At 8.15am for an 8.30am (sharp) leave

Must Haves: Parent/Carer (to walk with us)
Bike Helmet (for riding, scooting, skateboarding, etc)

We will follow the bike track to school.

See Wendy if you have any questions



Walk to School 2019

St Monica's are on board for Walk to School. Our prep students are enjoying scooting to school. If you have a photo of your family walking, scooting or riding to school send it in. We'd love to see you taking part in this great initiative.

"When you scoot to school it makes you feel happy"
Laura

"It gets my legs fit and makes my body nice"
Makayla

"When I scooter to school it makes you feel good and when its raining you don't get to ride your scooter"
Mason



Be Safe Award



Awarded to



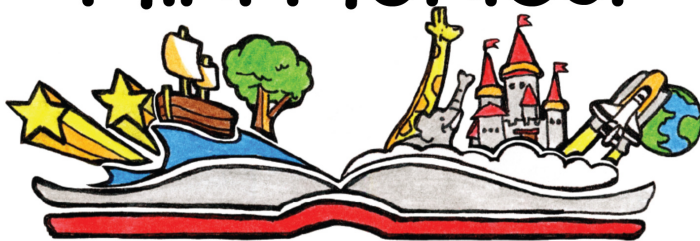
Signed: *R Johnson*

Date: 14/10/2019



Be Safe Be Friendly Be a Learner

Mini Monica



Storytime

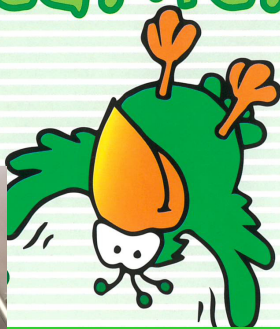
Do you have a preschooler or toddler at home?
Bring them along to Mini Monica Storytime. A morning of stories, songs, nursery rhymes and fun that will nurture your child's love of reading.

EVERY FRIDAY OF THE SCHOOL TERM
IN THE LIBRARY
9:10AM – 9:50AM

St. Monica's Primary School
91 High Street, Kangaroo Flat (03) 5447 7832



Be a Learner Award



Signed: *R Johnson*

Date: 14/10/2019



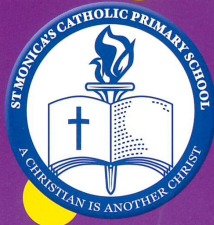
Be Safe Be Friendly Be a Learner

Be Friendly Award



Signed: *R Johnson*

Date: 14/10/2019



Be Safe Be Friendly Be a Learner

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



PROUDLY FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY:



FREE VICTORIA WIDE SERVICE

For:
Parents

Grandparents

Carers

of children aged 2
to 12 years

Positive Parenting Telephone Service

Our free 6 to 10 Week program helps you to:



Have
Stronger more
positive
relationships



Set rules and
limits



Manage
everyday
behaviour
problems

Participants complete a workbook or online modules which are supported by weekly 30 minute phone calls with a trained parenting educator.

All of this can be done from the comfort of your own home at a time that suits you.



**Enrol now and make a
positive start to last a lifetime**

Call us for more information or to enrol

1800 880 660

Enrolments are taken all year round



Art Show Reminders...

Art Show Assistance

I,, parent/carer of

am interested in helping to prepare for the Art show.

I can be contacted on (ph)..... and via email on

I have completed the Volunteer's Induction and have Working With Childrens Check....

RECYCLED ART PROJECT

OUR FAMILY IS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A PIECE TO BE EXHIBITED IN THIS YEAR'S ART SHOW ON NOVEMBER 14TH AND 15TH.

OUR STUDENTS NAME/S ARE.....

OUR ART PIECE WILL BE MADE FROM.....

THE SUBJECT OF OUR ART PIECE WILL BE.....

(Suggestion for sculptures could be animals, space, robots etc)

I can be contacted on (ph)..... and via email on.....