Dancing the Tarantella

The Year 3/4 children enjoyed a dance workshop with a professional Tarantella dancer, Rosa accompanied by percussionist Renato in preparation for Harmony Fest.

Ballarat Harmony Fest is set to be held on Sunday, 20 March from 11am to 4pm at Alfred Deakin Place, Camp Street and The Mining Exchange.

Cricket Champs!

Toby Cahill, Josh Smith and Alyssa Lucas have been nominated to try out for the School Sport Victoria 12 and Under Cricket Teams.

This program is sponsored by Cricket Victoria.

Congratulations and best wishes to Toby, Josh and Alyssa.

PLEASE NOTE: Wednesday, 24 & Thursday 25 February are scheduled pupil free days.
Dear Families.

A reminder that **tomorrow and Thursday are student free days** as our school is part of an Oral Language project with the Catholic Education Office Ballarat and will require a number of School Closure Days during the year. These are the first of our **OLSEL School Closure Days** for this year and there is no school for the children on these days.

We have our Friday morning **Prayer Time** again this week. Please make sure that your children are at school and ready for our prayer to start by 8.40am. Families are invited and most welcome to join us as an opportunity for our entire school community to come together and pray. Thank you for your support.

Our **assemblies** will be held each Monday at 3.00pm. During these times awards will be presented to children and reminders will be given. Parents, you are invited and most welcome to join us each Monday.

Please note the change of day of our **School Sports day** to Wednesday, 23 March. This avoids the clash with our Penance celebration. Further information regarding the Sports Day will be sent home to families soon.

**Enrolment** applications for Prep (Foundation) are now open. All existing families now need to complete an enrolment application (available from the school office), for those who have a child starting Foundation in 2017. Once you have completed this application we will be in touch with you early in Term 2. If you have any queries please speak to me in the office.

**School Nursing Program 2016** A reminder to our Foundation families that the completed School Nursing Program forms are due back to school by the end of this week.

**Medical Forms: Asthma Action Plans, Anaphylaxis Action Plans, Allergies etc.**, Please ensure that the school office has up to date information for your child, this is essential – ensuring accurate emergency contact information is provided.

**School Fee** accounts were distributed last week. NB: there are several means of paying accounts by fortnight, month, term or yearly. We accept cash (least preferred option), cheque, EFTPOS, direct debit, B-pay, Centrepay.

**Family Fee Assistance** As in the past couple of years the Catholic Education Office is once again offering financial assistance to those families who have an eligible Health Care card or pension card. An application form will be available from the school office from the week commencing 7th of March.

*We keep in our thoughts and prayers, Annette Hirth’s mother and grandmother to Ava and Lachlan, who passed away last week. May Margaret rest in the Peace of Christ.*

Kind Regards,

Joe Caruana
Principal
**JUNIOR NEWS**

Welcome to another week. This is a short week for us - with 2 days out! We are finishing our religion unit "I am Special" this week. The children have shared many things about themselves, their families and what makes them special. We are doing lots of work on our fine motor skills - cutting, tracing, drawing and threading. These things will help us greatly with our writing (forming letters correctly.) Today has been a very warm day and we have kept hydrated with many refills of our water bottles!!

Have a great week everyone. The Foundation Team

Welcome to another exciting week of life in the Grade 1/2 area.
The children are working very hard in all the classrooms. Thank you for the support in the Home Reading Program. We are starting to see amazing results already. The children are working hard with their spelling and achieving great success. Thank you for all children who organise themselves so well in the mornings and head outside for a great play before class. It is so lovely to see all our children arriving so promptly for our Friday Prayer time. Just a reminder if our Prayer time has started, please locate your grade and walk in silently ready to join in our special time together. A reminder also that this Wednesday and Thursday there is NO school for the children as staff will participate in a two day Literacy based in-service day.

Thank you for your support. Signing off, Savior, Bev and Shay

**MIDDLE NEWS**

This week is obviously a very short week but Jo, Anne and Kelvin and all the school staff are looking forward to learning about a whole school approach to literacy. The professional development is OLSEL. Its purpose is to equip teachers with more skills to enable students to perform better in literacy.

Homework is due on Friday of this week. Please remember to ensure your child does regular reading. Students have recently been learning the skill "There are three ways to read a book". Firstly, they look at the pictures and tell what the story is about. Secondly, they read the words and, thirdly, they retell the story without looking at the book. It is okay if they omit bits and pieces of the story and stumble over some parts that they are trying to remember. Please ask your child to retell a story to you. It may be whilst driving, walking, playing or just simply preparing a meal or cleaning up.

Best wishes Jo, Anne and Kelvin

**SENIOR NEWS**

Hello and welcome to our Senior news for this week! Yes, the rumours are true - the Year 5 children should receive their iPads this Friday. The children are very excited about this news and we thank our parents/guardians for being patient. Just a reminder that tomorrow (Wednesday) and Thursday are school closure days so your child/ren will not attend school on these days. This week during our Writing time we have been developing our, 'Summarising' skills. We have read a couple more chapters from, 'Charlotte's Web' and then we have summarised what has happened during these chapters. We are continuing our Religion unit: The Risen Christ as well as looking at how Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, is helping people throughout our world. This week we have been learning about a young boy named Hum Noy from Laos.

Thank you to our parents/guardians for their continued support. Enjoy your week.

June, Claire, Tamara and Katherine

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**ST ALOYSIUS SPORTS NEWS - CRICKET REPORT**

Last week we played against Buninyong Primary School at the very lush and green Buninyong oval. We batted first and amassed 57 runs. Our captain for the match, Joshua Smith once again starred with the bat making 22 runs. Austin Richardson also contributed well with the bat scoring 10 runs. Buninyong then batted and looked set to easily overcome our total of 57 runs but some very tight bowling and some brilliant fielding put the brakes on the Buninyoung batsmen and the match ended up a tie with both teams making 57 runs. The match was played in great spirits.

The last match is Wednesday this week. There is no more cricket training on a Thursday after school.

A big thank you to all the students and parents who have supported the St Aloysius Cricket Program.

Best wishes, Robert and Kelvin
TUCKSHOP is now operating for the Friday lunch orders.
ICY-POLES are available at lunchtime for 50 cents each during Term 1.
Second-hand Uniform. If you are interested in just having a browse or are after a particular item, please message - Bron Kennon, on a Thursday during school hours - Ph. 0409 162 353. If you would like to place uniform items for sale, please place clean washed item in a plastic bag, with attached envelope listing price and your contact details. If you would like to donate items to the second-hand uniform shop or as spare clothes for school, please leave clean washed items at the school office.

Upcoming meeting for P&F - Term 1
Tuesday, 15th March, 2016
All members of our school community are invited to attend.
Our meetings commence at 7:30pm in the Boardroom and aim to finish up by 9:00pm

Have a wonderful Week!

Come and join our friendly playgroup on Friday morning from 9.15am - 10.45pm at St Aloysius Primary School, 800 Ripon Street South, Redan (during school terms).

This is a great opportunity to meet other people in your community, provide time for children to interact with others and play with your children in a safe and supportive environment.

We provide a fun and engaging program including art activities, construction, singing and story time. We cater for all ages from 0-5 years and the playgroup is supported by a playgroup coordinator and ACU students.

Please bring a gold coin donation and a piece of fruit or other snack for morning tea.

Contact Louise Buckle-Smith on 0457 797 315 or louise@playgroup.org.au for further details.

Hello and welcome to the Library for 2016!
You would have noticed that WE’VE MOVED! Come in and have a look at our new space! Yes, that’s right, the Library is now in Ryan Hall - still with all the same books (and with some new ones for 2016 already!)
Teachers will have allocated a day for their students to come in to the Library to borrow, and many students already have lots of books in their book boxes in classrooms.
The Library is open for a short time after school on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons if you happen to miss out on borrowing during class time.
Please make sure your child has a Library Bag - it can be any cloth bag from home. And, each child needs to RETURN their previously borrowed books before they’re allowed to borrow another book!
Happy reading, Colleen
Sacramental Dates for 2016 - Reconciliation (Year 4 children who have been Baptised and Confirmed)

Celebration date – 16th March

This week a number of children from our school began their dismissal sessions in preparation for their Sacrament of Penance. This Sacrament is open to all children who have been Baptised and Confirmed, (in grade 4 or above) if you are wishing for your child to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist this year then they must celebrate the Sacrament of Penance first.

Enquiries please contact the Parish Office on 5335 9460 or redan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

First Communion
(First Eucharist) (Year 4 children or older who have been Confirmed and celebrated Reconciliation)

Parent Meeting, 28th April 10am or 7pm
Celebration dates – 28th & 29th May and 4th & 5th June

Confirmation – (Baptised Catholic and in Year 3 or older)

Parent Meeting – 21st July 10pm or 7pm
Celebration dates – 20th, 21st, 27th & 28th August

Thursday – Parish Mass Times

Each Thursday Mass will be attended by a different class, please refer to the following schedule to see when your child’s class will be attending Mass. Families are invited to share this occasion with the children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 25th February</td>
<td>School Closure Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 3rd March</td>
<td>3/4 E, 3/4 P &amp; 3/4 T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 10th March</td>
<td>1/2 H</td>
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<td>Thursday, 17th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
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Dear Families,

Lent is the time when we prepare for the Resurrection of Jesus, the most important event in our Catholic year. Lent is a time for prayer and preparation. We as a school have a huge focus on prayer this year with our children praying in their classroom 3 times a day and we as a whole school community coming together to pray every Friday morning. Please make sure that your children are at school and ready for our prayer to start by 8.40am. Families are invited and most welcome to join us as an opportunity for our entire school community to come together and pray.

May I suggest that as a way of your family preparation for Lent that all electronic gadgets are turned off for a few minutes and that you do something as a family. A family prayer would be good!

_We invite you to pray this prayer together as a family._

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**The Season of Lent**

**God of love,**

May this time of Lent help us to grow closer to you.

Open our hearts!

Change our hearts!

Turn our hearts back to You!

Help us to follow your son Jesus in all that we do and say.

_Amen_
# Term 1, 2016 School Calendar – Dates for your Diary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Wed 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Closure Day for staff OLSEL development – Student Free Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Closure Day for staff OLSEL development – Student Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Tues 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>SAC meeting 7:30 pm - School boardroom 7:30pm start</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wed 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>St. Aloysius 2017 Enrolment Open Day</td>
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<td>Mon 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Life Ed Van visit</td>
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<td>Mon 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Labour Day – Public Holiday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tues 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>P&amp;F meeting – School boardroom 7:30 pm start</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wed 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Penance Celebration</td>
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<td>Mon 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Sports – held at St. Patrick’s College Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 - 3:20pm dismissal for students.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Sun 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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**Important information regarding the distribution of Newsletters & School Fee Statements**

Dear Parents, as you may be aware, we have been trialling the ‘Skoolbag’ app as a way to enhance our communication with families, and as this has proven to be an effective method we are now moving towards the Skoolbag app as our primary way to distribute the Newsletter to families and we hope that this will be effective from the beginning of Term 2, 2016.

To assist us all with a smooth transition and to ensure that you do not miss out on important information we encourage all families who have access to a smart phone, iPad etc., to download the Skoolbag app, to receive your newsletter and other pertinent school information that will be distributed this way. If families do not have access to a suitable device, you can still obtain a printed copy of the newsletter by calling into the school office.

For School Fee Statements we are also moving towards electronic distribution and any family who has provided an email address will receive their fee statement via this. If you have not provided the school with an email address, please do so as soon as possible. Families who do not have email will still be provided with a paper statement.

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**CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND – (CSEF)**

Dear Parents, As you may be aware last year the Victorian Government introduced the - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Eligible families will receive $125 paid directly to the school, in Term 1 of each year. Families wishing to apply for the program should go to the CSEF website to download the parent application form. If you are unable to download an application form please enquire at the school office.

Applications close on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. Completed forms should be returned to the school office prior to this date. CSEF Eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being valid on 27, January 2016. For further information, please visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

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**BEAUFORT SECONDARY COLLEGE – Come & Try Day**

The date for our “Come and Try” day is Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, The day after the long weekend. The date of our Parent Information night is Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm in the school library. If parents would like an individual tour of the school and meeting they can contact me and I will arrange a time.

Heather Higgins, Assistant Principal
Beaufort Secondary College
Phone: 53 492 305
SEBASTOPOL CAMPUS

INFORMATION EVENING
Tuesday 8th March, 2016
Campus Expo and tours from 5.30pm
Information Briefing from 7pm

Parents and prospective students are warmly invited to attend our Information Evening.

The evening begins with an Expo and tour of the Sebastopol Campus from 5.30pm followed by discussion with Campus Leaders and Teaching Staff in the Learning Resource Centre.

A comprehensive Information Package with details about our Academic Achievers SEAL Program, Academic Curriculum, Community Scholarship Opportunities, Performing Arts and our Sports Program will be provided.

The College Principal Team or School Leaders would be pleased to conduct a personalised tour of the College at any time. Bookings can be made by contacting the General Office on 03 5329 3293.

“In Knowledge there is Opportunity”

Gordon Parish Festival
Proudly Supported by the Moorabool Shire Council
Sunday February 28th
11 am till 4 pm.
Wallace Recreation Reserve

$10 per Family
Gold Coin for Individuals

All rides free upon Entry!!!
You can install your Skoolbag app on your phone or tablet by following these instructions:

**For iPhone and iPad users:**
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open".
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

**For Android users:**
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device.
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

**Please Note:** Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

**For Windows 8.1 Phone and Windows 8.1 or 10 device users:**
1. Go to the Windows Store on your 8.1 Windows Phone or Windows 8.1/10 Device.
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search.
3. Install the Skoolbag app.
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

**Please Note:** The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows Phones, or Windows 8.1 and 10 devices.

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au
Look who is in the news…

Congratulations to the many students pictured, after receiving their awards during Monday’s assembly.

Well done everyone!

A lovely picture of Joshua, Ebony and Liam.

The children have begun their process to be Baptised into the Catholic Church and were presented to Bishop Paul on Saturday, 13th of February at the Cathedral.

The children and their parents will participate in preparation sessions over the next three months, with their Baptism to be celebrated in May. Please keep these children in your prayers.

Ballarat Parent Support Groups

Pinarc facilitate a range of social and support groups that for families of children with additional needs. These groups provide opportunities for parents and carers to share information and connect with others in a similar situation.

**Ballarat MyTime group**
This group is for parents and carers of young children with disabilities or chronic illness. An experienced Play Helper provides activities for any children who attend enabling parents to relax and chat. It runs 10am - 12pm on Wednesdays at Pinarc, 1828 Sturt St, Alfredton weekly in Term 1 from Feb 10th.

**Ballarat Autism Parent Connection**
This social group meets at The Robin Hood Hotel, 33 Peel St Nth, on the second or third Monday of the month. The first meeting for 2016 will be Monday 15th February at 10am.

**ADHD/ADD/ODD Parent Connection**
This social group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next meeting for this group will be Tuesday February 23rd, 10am at Ballarat Yacht Club. New members welcome.

**Down Syndrome Parent Support Group**
The Ballarat Down Syndrome Support Group meet regularly at local restaurants and cafes. Next meeting: The Specialist School Farm café on 19th Feb from 9:30am onwards. Contact Wendy at sharingal.park@bigpond.com to RSVP or for more information.

**Blokes Brigade**
This is a group for fathers of children with disabilities. Next meeting: Dinner and Chat, Monday 8th February, 2016 at 6.30pm. Lazy Mo’s Restaurant, 1845-1851 Sturt St Ballarat. R.S.V.P by Sunday 7th February to Matthew Smith blokesbrigade@hotmail.com or Ph: 0497 587 285

For more information contact Rebecca Paton, Parent Support Coordinator. Ph. 5329 1361  Email: rpaton@pinarc.org.au