

NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter: Vol 3

Week 5

Date: 20 August 2020

Vision Statement

St Michael's Catholic Primary School is a welcoming community, embracing the Gospel values of faith, hope and love. We provide a Catholic education that nurtures the development of all children to their full potential. Through Christian witness, we offer a safe and supportive learning environment for the families in our school community.

We would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal people and their ancestors who are the Traditional Owners of this land. May we and all Australian's, Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal, continue to be committed to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.



Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Our students have enjoyed celebrating Book Week with our Book Fair on display in the Library. Special thanks to Gemma Longford for adding her magical touch to our display. Our students shared a book with classes coming on Wednesday. It was great to see our older students being role models for our younger classes. Thanks everyone. The Book Week assembly will be held tomorrow (Friday) and will be followed by our Book Character Parade. Our students are all looking forward to dressing up as a book character.

Our 3/4 and 5/6 class will be attending the Peter Sell Sports Day next Friday at (St Anne's, Harvey). We will have a football team, two soccer and a hockey team. The day will commence at 10am and finish at 1.30pm. Please complete permission form attached to the newsletter.

Our Yr 4 students are now preparing for the sacrament of First Holy Communion (13th September, 8.30am Mass). Please keep them in your prayers.

God Bless
Phillip Rossiter

Catholic Day

A reminder to all parents that Monday 24th August is Catholic Day. This is a pupil free day.

Canteen Update

There will be no canteen this term.

Library

If any parents are able to volunteer some time in covering library books it would be a wonderful help.

Fathers' Day Breakfast

Fathers' Day Breakfast will be held on the 4 September abiding by the COVID-19 rules, more information to follow.

A Prayer for Willingness to Listen

Dear Father
So often I come to you with lists and demands.
Like a tornado I spew them out as commands.
To the next task, I move on with my day
Completely missing what you might have to say.
The noise of the world clogs my ears
And clouds my mind with fog and fears.
I need you to clear my senses, O Lord!
Give me a heart in tune with your Word.
May I be ever eager to hear your voice;
May listening continually be my choice.
Amen

School Photos

School photo envelopes were sent home this week. Please read instructions carefully and should you require a family photo please obtain an order form from the Office. Thank you.

P&F Meeting

A P&F Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 September in the Library at 6.00pm. All welcome.

We are looking for two new members to join our team as Bianca and Tegan will be retiring at the end of this year.

If you are interested please contact the P&F. Thank you.

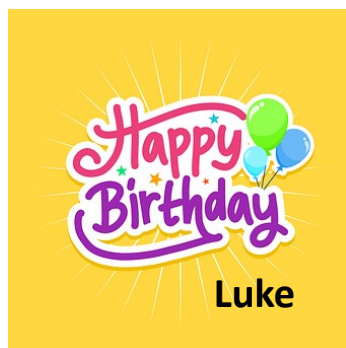
Uniform position is also up for nomination.

Term Dates

Term 3 final day for students - Friday 25 September

Please Note: Term 4 - Students return to school - Monday 12th October

Term 4 final day for students - Friday 11 Dec



Awards!

Congratulations to the following students in Week 5

K/PP - Logan & Lizzy

Well done Evi for raising the most money for the fun run



Dates to Remember

- 18-20 Aug - Scholastic Book Fair
- 21 Aug- Book Week Dress Up Parade Assembly
- 24 Aug- Catholic Day
- 28 Aug- Peter Sell Sports Day in Harvey
- 4 Sept- Father's Day Breakfast
- 6 Sept- Father's Day
- 8 Sep - School photos
- 9 Sep - Jumps and throws
- 11 Sep - Sports Day
- 13 Sept - First Holy Communion - 8.30am Mass
- 25 Sept- St Michael's Day. **Students Finish.**

Swooping Magpies During Breeding Season

The Department of Biodeversity, Conservation and Attractions would like to remind you that the magpie breeding season is approaching. Please find attached some literature for you to read.

It is not uncommon for magpies to defend their nests and young during spring, by swooping intruders. The season may last for six to eight weeks during late August to December.

The information enclosed contains precautionary steps that can be taken to avoid the swooping behaviour of magpies and other swooping birds which may be a very frightening experience for your children.



Identification and Distribution

The Australian magpie *Cracticus tibicen* (or *Gymnorhina tibicen*) is a large butcherbird with a black head, body, wing tips and tail tip with patches of white. The bill is bluegrey in colour, the legs are black and the eyes are brown. Males have a white nape, whereas females have a grey nape. Magpies are characterised by strong, rich and varied carolling.

The Australian magpie occurs throughout much of Australia, including bushland, farmland towns and other urban areas. Two of Australia's five sub-species occur in Western Australia: the western magpie *Cracticus tibicen dorsalis* occurs in the southwest and the black-backed magpie *Cracticus tibicen tibicen* is found in the central and northern regions. These two subspecies interbreed where their ranges meet. Refer to www.naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au to find further information on the species distribution.

Behaviour

The diet of the Australian magpie includes some plant material, but consists mainly of small animals that are found on the ground, including beetles, ants, spiders, lizards, frogs and carrion. They have very good hearing which allows them to locate lawn beetle larvae. They also eat other garden and farm pests and are valued as natural pest control agents. Magpies breed between August and October and at least 2-3 ha (0.02-0.03km²) of territory is needed for pairs to successfully raise young. The female selects the nest site, which is usually in a tall tree, and constructs the nest from sticks lined with grass, roots and other fibres. Up to 6 eggs are laid and a new clutch may be laid if the first brood fails. The female incubates the eggs for about three weeks and feeds the chicks for about four weeks. Young magpies are forced to leave the territory by their parents within two years. They then join another group or take over a territory as part of an adult breeding pair. The young are vulnerable and many die within the first months of independence due to poor weather conditions, lack of food, road hazards and natural predators.

Magpies have a complex social structure and form tribes and flocks. Tribes consist of 2-10 birds of both sexes, which defend a territory of up to 8 ha (0.08km²). They vigorously defend this territory against other magpies because this is the area in which they obtain their food, build nests and rear their young. Flocks consist of birds that are young or too old to breed and are unable to form a tribe or gain access to a territory. These birds live in areas that do not contain sufficient water, feeding or nesting resources. The flock is nomadic as it moves from place to place in search of food.

Environmental Law

All fauna native to Australia, including fauna that naturally migrates to Australia, are afforded protection under both State and Commonwealth legislation.

Depending on the type of fauna-related activity, a licence issued by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions may be required. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, trade, keep or move them unless authorised by a permit. To obtain a licence, the applicant needs to demonstrate that all reasonable non-lethal methods have been attempted and environmental impacts have been assessed. Further information is available on the Department's website.



Magpie-Human Interactions

Magpies swoop to protect eggs and young from potential predators during the nesting season. They rely largely on intimidation to deter human intruders by flying low and fast, often clacking their bill as they pass overhead. The sound of their wings whistling past and the movement of air can be alarming, but is usually just a bluff

FAUNA NOTES – Magpies – Swooping and Safety Issues

Like dogs, magpies seem to sense fear and may capitalise on this by pressing on with harassing any perceived threat. Occasionally, a magpie will actually strike an intruder on the head with its bill. While such strikes are rare, magpies can inflict serious injuries. Information collected at hospital emergency departments has shown that the eye was the most common target. Magpies are more likely to swoop cyclists and postal workers.

If you find a sick or injured magpie contact the [Wildcare Helpline](#) on (08) 9474 9055 for information on registered wildlife rehabilitators and centres who can assist you with your enquiry.

Reducing the risk from swooping magpies

If you have problems with a swooping magpie, several avenues of action are open to you. Keep in mind that the birds swoop only during the nesting and rearing period (from August to October) and each bird generally only swoops for a few weeks during this time. If we can understand the catalysts and the patterns of magpie behaviour, we can greatly reduce the risk.

Living safely with magpies

The following steps can be followed to avoid or reduce the impact of a swooping magpie:

- Never deliberately provoke or harass a magpie. Throwing sticks or stones usually makes them more defensive. Magpies have good memories and they may continuously swoop a potential aggressor.
- Avoid areas where magpies are known to swoop. Remember, magpie hostility lasts only a few weeks and they usually only defend a small area of about 100m radius around their nest.
- Locate the bird and keep watching it when entering its territory. If it swoops, don't crouch in fear or stop: move on quickly but don't run.
- If you are riding a bike make sure you wear a helmet, and dismount and walk through nesting magpie territory.
- Wear a hat and sunglasses or carry an umbrella for protection. Magpies initially attack from behind but can swoop back around.
- Adopt a confident stance as this can have a strong deterrent effect.

Remember that the magpies are just trying to protect their young. Learning to live alongside wildlife is an important step towards building a better living environment, and observing and listening to magpies can be an enjoyable experience.

Taking a bird or nest from the wild is illegal without a permit and while such actions may temporarily stop attacks, it is not uncommon for another nesting bird to move in. It is better to avoid the area or live with the swooping bird for six to eight weeks until the chicks learn to fly and the problem ceases.

Citation

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. (2017). *Fauna notes: Magpies – Swooping and Safety Issues*. Retrieved from <http://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/>

Disclaimer

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Permission Form
Peter Sell Sports Day- Friday 28 August
Years 3/4 and 5/6

I _____ give permission for my
child/children _____

to travel by bus to St Anne's School in Harvey on the 28 August.

Signed _____

Name _____

Permission Form
Sports Day Friday - 11th September
PP- Yr 6

I _____ give permission for my
child/children _____

to walk across to the Brunswick Oval on Sports Day, Friday 11 September

Signed _____

Name _____