



St. Margaret's
Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Term One, Week 3
February 14th, 2020

From Brian's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Parents, Friends and Students,

The 2020 School Year has made a tremendous start. The teachers are to be commended on their efforts in providing such an easy transition for students into their classes and the students are to be encouraged on the positive manner in which they have commenced this term.

Prior to our return to school I was wondering how best to acknowledge the bushfire disaster as our kids may be talking about it. I think it is important that our focus is one of Hope, acknowledging the great community spirit and not the devastation. This was presented at our welcoming assembly.



I believe the focus of 'Working Together' would cover this social issue as well as setting up regular school and class routines & expectations, even prayer times, on: How do we work together? How do you see community working together? Who do we work with? This term teachers will be focussing on a Wellbeing Unit across Years Prep to Six. This Unit will provide an opportunity to further explore how our community works together to support our wellbeing, look after each other and provide valuable assistance to those in need.

Something that we value at St Margaret's is student led learning and student voice. Today and next Friday all children will be allocated to a P-6 learning pod to provide feedback on some adventure playground designs that have been put together. Once again this will support our theme of working together and strengthen the collaborative spirit whilst valuing each person's opinion within our school.

In relation to St Margaret's Community of Trust 'Touchstones' I feel the touchstone 'Acknowledge the Collective' fits in well with our 'Working Together' focus whilst also supporting the work of teaching, administrative and parent teams in setting up a productive work climate.

We value an eco-system over an ego-system, 'I am who I am because of who we all are' (Ubuntu). In our community we believe that a culture is formed by the actions of the collective, we work as a collaborative team and everyone contributes. More can be achieved when we work together.

I also acknowledge our parents for your effort and support in preparing each child for such a smooth beginning to the school year and I welcome you to our school community, where coming together is a beginning and working together will bring success. We hope that we can all work together to create an open and caring environment, where parents and staff are of one mind to encourage all students to practise positive school habits.

I ask that you recognise and place special emphasis on the touchstone 'Acknowledge the Collective' in our joint endeavours this term.



Brian

School Community News

School Closure Days

Friday, March 20th has been set aside as a school closure day in first term. There will be a closure day on Tuesday, June 9th in second term. Once again the school will be closed on Monday, November 2nd and Tuesday, November 3rd (gazetted school holiday). Please note these dates in your diary. There will be one other school closure day. This date is still to be confirmed.

St Margaret's Family Picnic

Eastern Beach

Tuesday, February 25th, 5.30–7.30pm

This year's annual family picnic will be held Tuesday, February 25th at Eastern Beach. Families are asked to bring their own picnic meal and refreshments. This can range from a BBQ meal, pizza, fish and chips or anything you fancy. The whole objective is to gather together as a school community and have an enjoyable time.

Ash Wednesday Mass

St Mary's Basilica

Wednesday, February 26th at 12.00 pm

Students from Years 3-6 will be attending a special Ash Wednesday Mass with students from the three other parish schools at St Mary's Basilica on Wednesday, February 26th at 12.00pm. Students from Years 1-2 will participate in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy at St Margaret's School. Further details and permission forms will be forwarded home in the near future.

Shrove Tuesday

St Margaret's Pancake Morning tea and races are coming up soon. We would love some parent help with cooking and serving our children a Pancake morning tea. If you can help on the morning of the February 25th, from 9am please return the slip below.

Many thanks, The P&F Crew.



Health Care Holders – School Fees

Last year St Margaret's School made a commitment to assist families who qualify for CEM funding. Once again in 2020 families who qualify for a Health Care Holder (HCH) card and are eligible to claim Camp Sport Excursion Fund (CSEF) will be provided with a rebate. A \$1,000 rebate will be provided towards the Family Fee and \$125 CSEF rebate per student will also be credited towards the Family Fee. The balance of the Family Fee will be determined by Anne Miller and Libby Fitzgerald (Office and Business Manager) in relation to eligible student/s. All families will be required to pay the Building Levy and Student Curriculum Levy. Further information to Health Care Card recipients will be forwarded home once all details have been received at the office. I encourage school families to inquire about possible eligibility in relation to being a HCH. The relevant forms can be collected from the office.

Sacramental Adult Faith Evenings

For parents of children who are making either the sacrament of Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation this year, a **Parish Adult Faith and Enrolment Evening** will be held Tuesday, February 18th and Wednesday, February, 19th. It is a parish requirement that a parent attends **one** of these information and enrolment sessions.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Morning Tea, February 25th.

Helper's Name: _____

Contact Number- _____

Q & A with Miller



Miller in Grade 1 has been doing some fundraising on Mondays and Thursdays. He is asking for donations of money or medicine.

Q. What are you raising money for?

A. The kangaroo families that were caught in the fires.

Q. Why are you raising money?

A. I'm raising money so the kangaroos and their friends can get the medicine and care they need and to help them get new homes.

Q. Why did decide to do this?

A. I've got lots of kangaroo toys and it made me get the idea.

Q. What do the symbols on the collection box mean?

A. The love hearts are for the love for the kangaroos, the house is a hospital for kangaroos where they can get the care they need. I decorated it with my special badge collection that is very important to me to show how important the kangaroos are to me.

SIMON - Parent Communication Tool

<https://pam.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au/>



Parents are encouraged to activate an account for the learning management system the school has invested in called SIMON. The Parent Access Module (PAM) will allow families to access school calendars, book parent-teacher interviews & sacrament events, sign permission forms and access school reports **all in the one place**. The transition to SIMON will continue to develop over time and we see the program as an efficient tool for parent-teacher communication.

Account activation Instructions

Head to <https://pam.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au/> download the app (SIMON Everywhere). →

Click on "Forgot password" and enter your email address (use the email address that you have given to the school).

You will then receive an email from SIMON to reset your account. If you require further assistance, click "Request Support"

App Store



SIMON Everywhere 4+

Connecting teachers and parent

Chris Hordern

#115 in Education

★★★★★ 2.0, 4 Ratings

Free

School Community News

Parents & Friends' Association

The first meeting of the Parents and Friends' Association will be held on Friday, February 21st commencing at 2.15pm at St Margaret's School. This will be the Annual General Meeting which will be followed by a normal meeting. This year we are seeking nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer to form the P&F Executive. We will also be asking for parents to be involved in special lunches and Mothers and fathers' Day stalls. The P&F do a tremendous job in our school by assisting at school events and through fund raising. We are seeking more parents to join the P&F and provide support for St Margaret's School. If you can contribute to our school in any small way, your attendance at this meeting would be most appreciated.

School Advisory Board Meeting

The next School Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24th commencing at 7.00pm. This will be the final meeting of the current board. New nominations will be sought prior to the second school board meeting.

Special Lunch

Subway special lunch will be delivered on February 21st. Please send in any remaining orders now.

St Mary's Sporting Club Auskick Season 2020

Commencing Friday, April 17th, 2020
5.00pm – 6.00pm

St Mary's Football Ground,
La Trobe Tce., Geelong
Enquiries to Damian McKeegan
0423 021258

Registrations - aflauskick.com.au

Upcoming Dates

February

- 18th Parent Sacramental Enrolment Evening (1)
- 19th Parent Sacramental Enrolment Evening (2)
- 21st Parents & Friends' Annual General Meeting
2.15pm
- 21st Special Lunch
- 24th St Margaret's School Advisory Board
Meeting 7.00pm
- 25th Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day and Races
- 25th School Picnic Eastern Beach 5.30pm
- 26th Ash Wednesday
- 28th School Assembly Years 3-4

March

- 11th Sustainable Development Goals Launch.
Venue St Margaret's School
- 20th School Closure Day: Staff Professional
Learning
- 26th Stations of the Cross Paraliturgy – Easter
Raffle 2.20 pm
- 27th School Sports Thomson Reserve
- 27th Final day of term 1.30 pm Dismissal

Library News

We encourage our students to borrow books each week when their class visits our school library. Classroom teachers will let you know which day this will be for your children. Students and families are also welcome to visit and enjoy the library between 8.30 and 9 each morning. Borrowing is also welcome at this time.

Book Club orders are due by Friday February 14th. You can place your order online, or return the order form with money to the office.

Scholastic are also running a colouring competition at the moment. This is the chance to win a private movie screening for the winners class, of the new Trolls movie at a local cinema. Colouring page/entry is available from the library. Return completed entries to the Library by March 6th.

Kerrie-Anne Philbrick



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