



**St. Margaret's**  
Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

*Term Two, Week 7*  
*June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

## *From Rosa's Desk*

Dear Parents, Friends and Students,

This term, I have had the opportunity to meet many prospective new families interested in enrolling their children at St Margaret's. This can be quite a daunting decision, particularly if it is a parent's first child at school. I would like to congratulate our students, teachers, support officers and office staff on the positive atmosphere that they create within our school. This observation came through loud and clear from our new families with comments, such as 'I felt that St Margaret's was a welcoming, warm and inclusive Catholic community'. As we know too well, first impressions are critical in parents' final decision to enrol their child at a school.



It is very pleasing to have our students continue to engage in meaningful learning experiences either at school or in the local community. Last week, Year 1/2 showcased their learnings about 'biomes' by holding an Expo and inviting students across the school, parents and grandparents to celebrate their achievements. My takeaway was the simple delight on our Year 1/2 faces in sharing their dioramas and personal findings with the larger community. Each child felt proud of their personal achievements. It was also brilliant to see families filling the hallways and classrooms again after such an extended absence.

The work the 1/2s displayed is part of a school-wide focus on 'Environment' this term. Each term of the year is allocated an 'Integrated Studies' or 'Inquiry' focus through which our classes investigate the humanities and sciences curriculum. It was 'Wellbeing' in term one, and term three will be 'Identity'. Each year level has a different focus within the 'big idea' of the term, and Years

1-6 work on a 2-year cycle to avoid repetition. In many cases, we try to link learning with other subjects as well. For example, some classes combined our focus on Environment this term with the Creation topic in Religious Education. Some classes used the focus to develop the students' report writing skills by researching and producing writing pieces on aspects of the natural world.

We have also seen the re-emergence of experts and incursion within our school. In this week alone, our Year 3-6 will participate in a Surf Life Saving Research Program, a visit by Victoria Police to engage our Year 5/6 in navigating Social Media platforms, Healthy Harold returns with a focus in decision making and safety, SEDA Hockey clinics will be held across the school and our Environmental Saviour student leaders continue to immerse themselves in a collective action project with several other schools.

While it is wonderful to be moving towards more normality, we are very aware of the need for vigilance regarding sickness in our school community. Colds and touches of the flu have come back with a vengeance (!), and we rely on families acting responsibly by keeping students home if they are unwell. This enables a student to recover more quickly and protects others in the school. In this way, we can safeguard staff too, which leads to fewer disruptions, as regular programs can continue when teachers and learning support officers can be present and in full health.

Simple everyday actions such as reminding your child to wear a jumper, supplying a hanky or tissues, ensuring they get plenty of sleep without the distraction of devices, reminding them of frequent hand washing and sanitizing and encouraging lots of water drinking can go a long way.

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## *Leadership and Management News*

## ***Leadership and Management News***

### ***Child Safe Standards***

In July 2021, the Victorian Government announced new Child Safe Standards to strengthen child safe environments further and protect children from abuse. On 1 July 2022, Ministerial Order 1359 – the framework for child safety in schools, replaces Ministerial Order 870. Schools can build on existing child safety strategies, policies and practices to strengthen their culture of child safety and protect children from abuse.

Like all child-safe organisations, schools need to take deliberate steps to create environments where children are safe and feel safe.

So what do child safe organisations – including schools, need to do?

They need to:

- promote safety and wellbeing
- actively prevent harm
- empower everyone, including children, to speak up and respond effectively to concerns.

Schools have policies, strategies and practices to prioritise the safety of students. Schools also have processes to respond to and report all allegations of child abuse. The new Child Safe Standards work by further embedding a culture of child safety by clearly outlining the minimum standards for keeping children safe.

The new Child Safe Standards build on the current Standards, with changes and new requirements for organisations, including for schools to:

- involve families and communities in efforts to keep children and young people safe
- provide cultural safety for Aboriginal children and young people
  - This means that the environment is made safe - free from assault, challenge or denial of Aboriginal identity and experience.
  - Schools must meet this requirement regardless of whether or not Aboriginal children and young people are currently enrolled or using their services.
- better manage the risk of child abuse in online environments
- ensure governance, systems and processes to keep children safe.

We are in the process of updating Child Safe policies, which will be uploaded on our school website in the next few weeks. An action plan is being developed that will include staff and parent involvement in furthering unpacking and contributing to what each Child Safe Standard means in the context of St Margaret's School.

### ***Parent - School Relationships Code of Conduct***

From time to time, I will draw your attention to the policies and processes that St Margaret's clearly has in place to assist with concerns so they can be dealt with efficiently, effectively, and in line with our vision and mission, as stated below.

#### **Living our Catholic Faith**

To create a welcoming Catholic community where we promote commitment, service, respect, justice and compassion for all.

To involve and educate our community in Our Catholic Story and beliefs about the life of Jesus and St. Margaret.

To actively reflect Jesus' values in our decisions, choices and actions.

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## ***Leadership and Management News***

### ***St Margaret's School***

#### ***Parent – School Relationships Code of Conduct***

##### **Policy Statement**

St Margaret's School is committed to nurturing respectful relationships and active partnerships with you as parents. We believe that our students' learning journeys are enriched through the positive and reciprocal home and school relationships.

This Code of Conduct is intended to guide parents in dealings with staff, other parents, students and the wider school community. It articulates the school's key expectations of both staff and parents concerning respectful relationships and behaviours. It also specifies the school's position about unacceptable behaviours that breach our culture of respect.

##### **EXCERPT**

#### ***Raising Concerns and Resolving Conflict***

**In raising concerns on behalf of your child or making a complaint about the school's practices or treatment of your child, we expect that you will:**

- listen to your child, but remember that 'there are two sides to a story'
- observe the school's stated procedures for raising and resolving a grievance/complaint
- follow specified protocol for communication with staff members, including making appointments at a mutually convenient time and constructively communicating your concerns. Concerns raised via e-mail should be sent at a reasonable time, and there is an expectation that teacher response is during school hours
- refrain from approaching another child while in the care of the school to discuss or censure them because of actions towards your child. Refer the matter directly to your child's teachers for follow-up and investigation by the school.

**In responding to your concerns or a complaint, we expect that staff will:**

- observe confidentiality and respect for sensitive issues
- ensure your views and opinions are heard and understood
- communicate and respond in ways that are constructive, fair and respectful
- ensure a timely response to your concerns/complaint
- strive for resolutions and outcomes that are satisfactory to all parties.

When a parent behaves in such unacceptable ways, the principal, deputy principal, or student wellbeing leader will seek to resolve the situation and repair relationships through discussion or mediation.

#### ***Student Absences***

It is important that all parents notify the school of the reason their child is not attending school preferably prior to 9.45am. Reasons for your child's absence can be provided in the following forms of communication:

- E-mail
- Written communication
- Phone message
- PAM
- SeeSaw
- School absenteeism form (obtained from the office).

The preferred option is via PAM

Have a lovely long weekend,  
Rosa.

together in faith



**GSODA**  
Junior  
Players  
PRESENT

**LIGHTS  
LIP**

A VARIETY SHOW  
FOR ALL

**MCAULEY HALL  
SACRED HEART COLLEGE  
23-26 JUNE 2022**

Thursday 23 June Evening 7.30pm  
Friday 24 June Evening 7.30pm  
Saturday 25 June Matinee 2pm / Evening 7.30pm  
Sunday 26 June Matinee 2pm  
Tickets all concession price of \$36  
Tickets available through  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BZRPV>



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## ST MARGARET'S P&F

### TERM TWO – 26TH APRIL - 24TH JUNE

As we near the end of another Term, the P&F committee would like to extend a big thank you to all the wonderful parents who have volunteered and shared ideas to pull together an action packed first half of the year!

To wrap up Term 2 we will have a Special Lunch – Hot Dog day on Thursday 23rd June (forms out this week). This special lunch may require a few more helpers than usual, if you can spare a couple of hours on Thursday, 23rd we would love to see you there.

Coming into Term 3, we are excited to get parents and friends together again with our Trivia Night (details below). Tickets can be purchased via Bank transfer or cash, please let Anne/Libby know if you wish to book a full table or wish to sit with a few friends and we can work out full tables closer to that date.

We are also looking donations from any local businesses big or small for raffle, lucky door prizes and possibly a silent auction. Any donations of gifts or vouchers are greatly appreciated and all businesses will be thanked on the night and through the newsletter/year level Facebook pages.

Also, don't forget if you wish to grab some pies the pie drive is still up and running, all online this year! All the link details are below and orders will be delivered to school for pick up on Thursday 14th July. 25% of all sales will come directly back to the school for fundraising.



ST MARGARET'S P&F PRESENTS

# TRIVIA NIGHT

THOMSON FOOTBALL CLUB ROOMS  
(behind school)

22nd July  
7pm

Tickets available at the school office.  
Pay via bank transfer or cash.  
Book individual tickets or a table of 8.

PRIZES AWAIT OUR WINNERS!  
\$15 per person  
BYO FOOD/PLATTER/SNACKS  
drinks at bar prices

## TRIVIA NIGHT DONATIONS

St Margaret's P&F are looking for donations for our up coming trivia night on the 22nd July 2022. Do you own or know of a local business big or small who would like to donate?

We are looking for prizes, gift vouchers and lucky door prizes.

Do you have a spare moment to ask some of your favourite businesses?

We will ensure all businesses will be thanked in our school newsletter and across our social media platforms as well as recognised on the night.

## MEETING

Parents & Friends Meeting

Tuesday  
21st June  
7pm

STAFF ROOM

We hope to have a zoom link available before the night. Please stay tuned on socials/seesaw

ST MARGARET'S PIE DRIVE

## Pie Drive

The St Margaret's P&F Committee have joined forces with local legends Routley's Pies to give you the night off.



Orders must be placed by  
11th July for  
Delivery 14th July 2022

Head to the following link to order & 25% of all orders will come directly back to our school. So get ordering!

Please ensure you add the classroom code of your oldest child at checkout. All orders will be delivered to the school ready to take home on Thursday 14th July 2022



**SPECIAL LUNCH HOT DOG DAY**

# Can you help out on the day?

WE WILL NEED LOTS OF PARENT HELPERS PLEASE POP YOUR NAME DOWN AT THE FRONT OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP.

## THURSDAY 23RD JUNE

LOOK OUT FOR ORDER FORMS THIS WEEK  
PLEASE CHECK OVER ORDER FORMS BEFORE SUBMITTING

PLEASE ENSURE FORMS ARE FULLY FILLED OUT INCLUDING NAME, CLASS, ORDER, CASH OR BANK TRANSFER.  
THIS WILL MAKE OUR JOBS A LOT EASIER.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

## School Community News

### Troop Netball Lightning Premiership

Troop District Netball Premiership was played at Kardinia Park last Thursday. A girls and mixed team participated in the sporting event. All the games were outstanding and everyone demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. Well done to all netballers for displaying great skills and team spirit!



The mixed team remained undefeated, and it is with such a great pleasure to announce that they will now go to represent St Margaret's in the Division Netball Championship in two weeks. You are going to be amazing!

Special thanks to Scarlett and Lua, who put all their time and effort into umpiring and giving meaningful feedback throughout the day. It is fantastic to have past students joining in and supporting school events.

Many thanks to all the families who came along, watched and cheered us on! Your support and encouragement is always greatly appreciated.

Silvia Espachs



## Upcoming Dates

### June

- 13 Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
- 14 Division AFL – Yr 5/6
- 15 Division Soccer – Yr 5/6
- 16 Regional Cross Country
- 16 Hockey Clinics – Yr 1/2
- 17 Healthy Harold Incursion 3/4 and 1/2 AC/PB
- 17 Division Netball – Year 5/6
- 21 Parents and Friends meeting 7pm
- 23 Hot dog special lunch
- 23 Reports go home
- 24 End of Term 2 1.30 dismissal

### Trivia Night

It's fantastic that we can get together again as a community, so help support our P&F committee fundraiser on Friday, 22nd July. Organise a fun adult night out with family and friends. Book a table and brush up on your trivia knowledge.



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