



**St. Margaret's**  
Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

**Term Four, Week 10**  
**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

## ***From Rosa and Susan's Desk***

Dear Families,

The colour, excitement and giggles from our students at last week's Specialist Assembly were a delight to witness. Highlights of this year's music and sports program were on full show, and the students thoroughly enjoyed recapping these experiences. A big thank you to Gab Costa and Silvia Espachs for their dedication to providing engaging learning programs. How lucky are our students to have the talents and expertise of our Specialist team this year, which in addition to Gab and Silvia, included Matt de Jong 3-6 STEM, Sonja Ginn P-2 SEL, Patience Barnes Performing Arts and Lauren Ruffin Italian. Thank you.

Our Year 6 have had an exciting week as they finish their time at St Margaret's, with the Year 5s lucky to join in the celebrations. Adventure Park, Bounce and the Buddy Movie experience were all enjoyed by our students and a special way to celebrate graduation! Graduation is next Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and will begin with a Whole School Liturgy and Assembly before enjoying lunch with our guests and the formal speeches. Parents and carers who have students in other year levels are more than welcome to celebrate our final Whole School Liturgy, which will finish with our annual Prep Nativity performance.

This a reminder that Year 6 students are to wear neat casual clothes on this day as part of the celebrations. They are also invited to bring an item of school clothing they may like signed by their peers. Teachers have worked incredibly hard to ensure this event will be one to remember. I would also like to thank the P & F for their continued support and in organising the catering for this event.

The other classes across the school are also enjoying end-of-year celebrations. Our annual Torquay Beach Day will take place on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. We will notify families via PAM and SeeSaw if this day cannot proceed. Unfortunately, we will be unable to reschedule. Parents and carers are invited to join us for lunch at approximately 12 pm: however, we ask that you follow recommended positive, safe COVID behaviours such as regular hand sanitising. Remember that all students must return to school on the bus and not be collected from Torquay, even if you choose to join us for lunch.

Thank you for your cooperation with this process.

In 2023 we will welcome Fiona Moran to our staffing team. Fiona will be teaching Physical Education P-6 three days per week. We are excited for Fiona to bring her expertise to this area at St Margaret's. We also welcome Josh Wilson to our year 5/6 team. Josh has been working overseas in London as well as in several schools locally in Geelong. Josh brings experience working in an open plan flexible space and will bring this knowledge to our team. Our team of Learning Support Officers is growing too, and we appreciate Jess King, Tori Monaghan and Maniah Onekawa taking up positions at St Margaret's in 2023.

*...continued over*

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that St Margaret's is located on, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to Elders' past, present and emerging and acknowledge the importance of Aboriginal culture in all the work we do.



All students attending St Margaret's Primary School have the right to feel safe.

The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility of all within our school.

St Margaret's is a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of all children and young people are respected and valued.

## From Rosa and Susan's Desk

## Leadership and Management News



This evening we are blessed to come together as a school community to celebrate the year with a fun-filled Christmas event. Bring your singing voices and Christmas cheer; we would love to see all families there for a 5 pm start.

Thank you to Marg, Jess, Narelle and Year 3/4s students who have volunteered to visit Freedom Community Aged Care, Grovedale, on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Whitehaven Aged Care, Newcomb on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>, to spread some Christmas spirit to the residents. At this time of the year, the most vulnerable in our community need to be at the forefront of our minds.

A reminder we have a 'step up day' on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9.15 – 10.45am. Our Year 6 students will visit their Year 7 Schools, and we will welcome our 2023 preps on this day. Students will work in their 2023 classroom with their peers and teachers. Our staff have worked hard to consider all our student's needs, and I am confident your child will be well supported in the transition process.

End of School Reports will be released through PAM on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. If you require a hard copy, please contact the office so we can arrange this. Please contact your class teacher if you have any questions about your child's report.

We will finish our school year on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1.30 pm. An end-of-year newsletter will be released on this day.

Enjoy your weekend.

Rosa and Susan

## Calendar of Events

## Term 4

### December

Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>  
Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup>

Whole School Christmas Concert 5pm sharp  
Whole School Advent Liturgy 3 - 11.40am  
3/4 Carol Singing at Aged Care Residence  
Whole School Beach Excursion  
Reports released to parents  
Whole School Orientation morning  
2023 Prep Orientation Session 3  
Board Christmas Meeting 6.30pm  
End of Year Assembly & Graduation Liturgy 11.45am  
Yr 6 Graduation LUNCH  
3/4 Carol Singing at Aged Care Residence  
**Last Day Term 4 Early Finish 1.30pm**

*Term 1, 2023 Beginning of the year for students - Monday January 30<sup>th</sup>*



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Acting Principal: Susan Perks [sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au)  
Office Manager: Anne Miller [amiller@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:amiller@smgeelongeast.com.au)  
Business Manager: Libby Fitzgerald [lfitzgerald@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:lfitzgerald@smgeelongeast.com.au)  
Parish Priest: Father Jim Clarke [frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au)

## **Teaching Staff 2023**

<b>Principal</b>	► Susan Perks
<b>Deputy Principal / Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing Leader</b>	► Rosa O'Beirne
<b>Religious Education Leader</b>	► Marg Dunn
<b>Literacy Leader</b>	► Jaki Groves
<b>L&amp;T/Maths Leader</b>	► Matt de Jong
<b>Wellbeing &amp; Learning Diversity</b>	► Sonja Ginn
<b>Prep</b>	► Tienielle Buckby ► Sarah Bryant
<b>Year 1 / 2</b>	► Kellie Hanley ► Joel Kearney ► Ana Clifton / Emma Badr ► Patience Barnes
<b>Year 3 / 4</b>	► Leonie Cann ► Jess Barjasic ► Marg Dunn / Matt de Jong
<b>Year 5 / 6</b>	► Ned Aulsebrook ► Laura Doran ► Josh Wilson
<b>Literacy Intervention</b>	► Sarah Bryant / Tienielle Buckby (Prep) ► Rosa Genitori (Yr1/2) ► Kellie Barbour
<b>Physical Education</b>	► Fiona Moran
<b>Performing Arts</b>	► Gab Costa (Prep, Yr 3-6) ► Sarah Bryant / Tienielle Buckby (Yr1/2)
<b>Visual Art</b>	► Gab Costa
<b>Design Thinking (STEM)</b>	► Matt de Jong (Yr 3-6)
<b>Social Emotional Learning</b>	► Sonja Ginn (Prep- 2)
<b>LOTE</b>	► Lauren Ruffin
<b>Business Manager Office</b>	► Libby Fitzgerald ► Anne Miller
<b>Learning Support Officers</b>	► Leanne Donovan ► Tania West ► Marie McBride ► Tori Monaghan ► Narelle Crowe (ICT) ► Annette Thomas ► Kerrie- Anne Philbrick (Library) ► Annalise Trifiletti ► Maniah Onekawa ► Jess King



## ***School Community News***

### ***COVID Update***

As we are seeing an increased number of students presenting with COVID, we are encouraging all students to administer a RAT test each week. If your child is unwell, we ask that they stay home from school. Masks are encouraged to be worn by parents onsite if social distancing cannot be maintained. Thank you for your support as we try to reduce the spread of illness.

### ***Library Books***

Please have a hunt in bedrooms, bags, shelves and common areas for any books belonging to the school. All library books are due to be returned.

### ***Run Ned, Run- Movember Report***

Wow, what an awesome month it has been. After running 312km, I have become very acquainted with the 750m loop of the cross-country track. Plenty of early mornings and recess/lunch runs, totalling in 416 laps, have been made much easier thanks to the overwhelming support shown by the entire school community. As of December 1st, a whopping grand total of \$6420 has been raised for the very worthy cause of men's mental health. The money raised will go towards a number of initiatives in mental health education and suicide prevention.

Even more importantly, there have been a number of conversations around the importance of talking about our mental health that I have been a part of, or made aware of. Hopefully, there have been even more that I don't know about. The goal was to show our students that there are people within their community that have their backs and are looking out for them. It is OK to reach out if you are struggling.



Thanks to everyone who donated and supported the cause and the running. I could not have done it without the running companions and the high-fives every day. We ran in all weather conditions from the hot sun to intense hail! The final run was very special with the entire school out there cheering me on! Thanks to Isla Eslick for dobbing me into the Geelong Advertiser which also led to more donations. It is a credit to how great of a community we have here at St Margaret's.

Ned Aulsebrook



## School Community News

### *Celebrating Community Partnerships*

We are very excited to announce that St. Margaret's Primary School has partnered with the Department of Transport to generate artwork to be displayed on local traffic signal control boxes (big blue boxes near traffic lights).

Students were given the task of generating artwork that reflected key messages. A special thanks goes out to Miss Costa and Mrs Ginn in their support of this initiative. These artworks will now be turned into wraps and placed around traffic signal control boxes in our local area.

The intent of this initiative is to beautify our local environment and celebrate the talents of young people through the promotion of Road Safety and Community Diversity.

Congratulations to our talented shortlisted students: Pearl Foley, Leo Rivo, Chesta Ka Patel, Ivy Simonsen, Riley Budge, Liam Dillon, Charlotte Butcher, Georgina Middleton, Mia Wootton



### *Finalists whose works will be on display:*



Georgia Lydom



Jazmine Coronado



Gabrielle Mendiola

It is wonderful that our young artists' talents are once again being acknowledged!

## School Community News



***One Outdoor Classroom - Up and Running!***

### ***Welcome!***

The Bennett family welcomed baby Leo into the world on Monday December 5<sup>th</sup>. He joins sister Hazel in 1/2 JK and brother Toby. Congratulations!

### ***Wellbeing Snippets (Anxiety)***

Recently I have had the privilege of attending professional learning presented by Dr Jodi Richardson. Her insights around anxiety were encouraging as she drew from personal experiences. She spoke about a number of strategies she has implemented in managing her day-to-day life. Of particular interest to me was her podcast, where she interviews numerous people about anxiety. If you are interested in listening to her podcasts, see the links below.

Sonja Ginn

**Episode #60** [10 things I bet you didn't know about alcohol](#)

**Episode #59** [We don't have to fix it](#)

This episode will help you feel better equipped and more confident responding to and supporting the young people in your life when anxiety shows up.

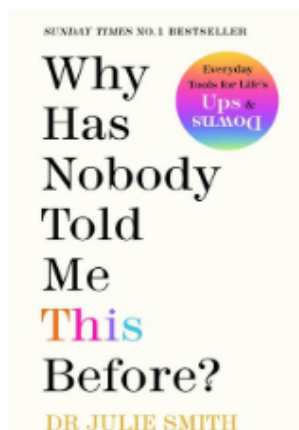
**Episode #58** [Stress Mastery](#)

In this episode you'll learn exactly what stress is, how the perspective we take when it comes to stress changes our experience of it, and practical proactive vitality strategies we can all adopt to cope better with stress, protecting our mental and physical health at the same time.

**Episode #57** [Nothing changes if nothing changes](#)

In this episode, I talk you through the notion that knowing more isn't enough, and how important it is that we take action if we want things to change.

### ***Recommended Reading - Suggested by Sarah Rusbatch***



#### **Why Has Nobody Told Me This Before? - Dr Julie Smith**

With trusted insights from one of the world's most popular Psychologists Dr Julie Smith; *Why Has Nobody Told Me This Before?* offers simple advice, effective strategies and powerful coping techniques to help readers stay positive and resilient no matter what life throws our way. From managing anxiety, dealing with criticism or battling low mood, to building self-confidence, finding motivation or learning to forgive ourselves, and much more, this book tackles everyday issues that affect us all and offers easy, practical solutions that are changing lives.

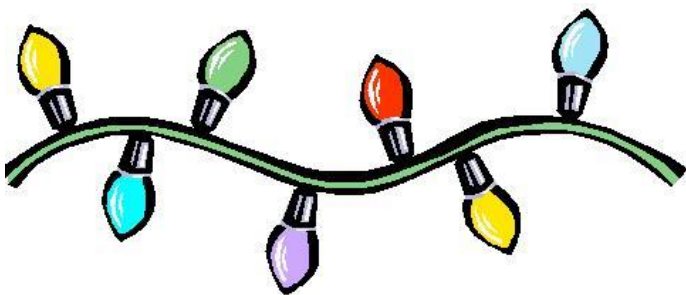


## School Community News

### *Food From the Garden*

3/4 LC got a chance to cook: spanakopita, Rhubarb cake and custard.

A big thanks to Linda Foley, Mrs Cann and Miss Kate for making this possible!



ST MARGARET'S  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

BUY A  
SAUSAGE  
OR  
BYO PICNIC

8TH DECEMBER

5PM



SPECIAL PERFORMANCES FROM ALL YEAR LEVELS

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

A VISIT FROM SANTA • BBQ • COLOURING  
STATION • ICY POLES • REINDEER FOOD •  
PLUS LOTS MORE

CASH ONLY - SAUSAGES \$2.50 • ICY POLES .50C •  
REINDEER FOOD .50C



# SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

GEELONG  
REGIONAL  
LIBRARIES



## JOIN THE HOLIDAY FUN AT NEWCOMB LIBRARY

We've got your kids covered these school holidays!

Check out the exciting range of in-person events to keep your kids of all ages entertained.

Scan the QR code for the full details of these events. Events will be listed on our website & available to book 2 weeks before each event.



[www.grlc.vic.gov.au](http://www.grlc.vic.gov.au)



### Summer Stories All Ages

Wed 4th 2:30-3:30 & Thurs 19th 10:30-11:30

### Read and Create Maps Ages 5+

Thursday 5th 10:30-11:30

### Pom Pom Creations Ages 5+

Friday 6th 10:30-11:30

### Sew This Summer Ages 8+

Fri 13th 10:30-11:30 & Wed 18th 10:30-11:30

### Ultimate Challenge Ages 8+

Monday 23rd 10:30-11:30

### Family Movie Night All Ages

Tuesday 10th 3:00-5:00

book  
now

All events are **FREE** unless otherwise specified.  
**Bookings essential.**

Online [www.grlc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.grlc.vic.gov.au/events).

In person at any branch, or phone 4201 0500.

