



St. Margaret's  
Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

Term Four, Week 5  
October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

#29

## From Susan's Desk

## Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

Thank you to all our families who visited our Art Show last Friday evening. It was wonderful to see our students proudly showing their artistic talents to their family and friends and for our community to gather together and celebrate the creative work of our students. The many engaging activities, face painting and sausage sizzle ensured a fun evening for all. Thank you to the staff for supporting and attending this event and the amazing talents of Miss Costa! Endless hours of preparation took place, and this could not have occurred without the enthusiasm of Miss Costa or the support of the P&F. THANK YOU!

Our Year 5 / 6 students headed off to Camp Kangarooie on Monday morning. They were very excited to be finally going to camp and to enjoy the 3 days of team building and amazing outdoor activities the staff have planned. We have heard they have settled in well and are enjoying the experiences on offer. We thank our dedicated teaching staff who have taken time away from their busy lives and families to care for our students and to offer them this experience. A reminder that **Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup> is a student free day for our 5 / 6 students** to allow them to rest and for our staff to take Time in Lieu as outlined by the EBA. Thank you to our families for supporting our staff with this arrangement.

Our Year 3 / 4 students will have their sleep over at school this Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are looking forward to the activities that have been planned, the movie night and sleeping in the classrooms. Again we thank the generosity of our staff in organising and taking part in this evening. We ask that our 3 / 4 students are collected at 1.30pm on Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> so our staff that attended the sleep over can take Time in Lieu as outlined by the EBA. The special lunch on Friday will be delivered early to these classes to ensure students have enjoyed their lunch before heading home.

Our 1 / 2 students are taking part in their swimming programme this week, with daily lessons at the Leopold Swim School. This is a great opportunity for students to become familiar with water safety and to continue to practise their swimming skills. Thank you to the parents that are taking the time to assist us at the pool this week.

There will be no newsletter in week 6, next week, as it is a short week with a school closure day on Monday November 6<sup>th</sup> and the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday on Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to our 1 / 2s presenting assembly on Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Currently we are working together as a staff to place students in classes for 2024. We have many areas to consider and although we ask for student input it is not always possible to accommodate their wishes for a variety of reasons. We are also mindful of the many parent requests we receive, yet again it is impractical for all of these to be met. We do our best and take all these into consideration as well as the professional opinion of our staff. We ask for your trust and support as we navigate this situation to ensure the best outcome for all our students.

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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.

## School Community News

Term 4

Our Colour Explosion Fun Run will take place on **Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please note the change of date due to the availability of Thomson reserve.

I am on leave from this Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be back at school on Monday December 4<sup>th</sup>. Rosa O'Beirne will be Acting Principal in my absence.

Have a wonderful week,  
Susan

### The Colour Run

Making a difference starts with knowing what we're fundraising for. Let's join forces and achieve great things 🍌 We still have three weeks to go and need lots more donations to reach our goal of \$15,000 to purchase [equipment for the school]. Can you help us 💖

Most importantly, visit

[www.australianfundraising.com.au](http://www.australianfundraising.com.au)

to create your profile page and share with family and friends to spread the word! 🇦🇺

#schoolrun4fun #funrun #australianfundraising #fundraising #colourexpllosion



### School Fees are now OVERDUE

Please see the office staff if you would like to set up direct debit, which is our preferred payment option.

### Icy Poles

Our Year 6 leaders will begin selling icy poles weekly on Fridays beginning in week 3, Friday October 20th. These will now be \$1 per Zooper Dooper! All funds raised go to support Viqueque. Thank you for your support.



Well done to JK who has raised the most money so far for our school ~ Keep up the great work!

Rank	Class	Profiles	Online	Cash	Bonus	Total
1st	1/2 JK	16	\$1909	\$0	135	\$1909
2nd	3/4 LC	10	\$1130	\$0	45	\$1130
3rd	Prep TB-SB	20	\$966	\$0	55	\$966

## Calendar of Events

Term 4

(new items in bold)

### October

Mon, Oct 30<sup>th</sup> - Wed, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>  
Monday October 30<sup>th</sup> (week)

5/6 Camp Kangaroobie  
Years 1 / 2 Swimming Program

### November

Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup>  
Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>  
**Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> (week)  
**Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> (week)

3/4 Sleep Over  
P&F Special lunch  
**Student Free Day – No Kelly Club**  
**Melbourne Cup Public Holiday – No Kelly Club**  
Prep Excursion to Scienceworks  
Sacrament of Reconciliation 12pm - St. Margaret's Church  
**Remembrance Day 11am Service at Flagpoles**  
Assembly – 1/2 presenting  
P&F Meeting 7pm in the staff room  
St. Margaret's Feast Day  
2024 Prep Orientation Session 2  
3/4 Swimming Program  
**Colour Explosion Run P&F (note change of date)**  
5/ 6 Swimming Program

### December

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Assembly – 3/4 presenting  
2024 School & House Captain Speeches  
Assembly – Prep presenting  
Whole School Beach Picnic  
2024 Prep Orientation Session 3  
Step Up Day  
School Board  
Year 6 Graduation 2.30pm  
**Casual Clothes (touch of Christmas)**  
**End Term 4, 1:30 finish**  
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## 2024

### January

Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Students start

*Preps will attend Tuesday to Friday for Week 1 with a 1.30pm finish*



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## School Community News

### RECONCILIATION

*We ask your prayers for this year's  
Reconciliation students:*



"O my God, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you. Because you are so good and with your help, I will try not to sin again. Amen."

Archer Arlo Camilla Finley  
Harrison Ishea Ivy H Ivy S Toby  
Jack James Liam Lily Loyola  
Piper Quinnie Rafi Sonny  
Tamiko

### *Farewell Year 5/6 Campers*



### *A Great Initiative*

Last term two of our senior students decided to run a competition to raise funds for our new library.

Fajr Kamran and Kiana Lee Wilkins organised a colouring competition that ran every recess for a week. A gold coin donation was all that was required to enter, and as you can imagine, there were many participants.

Fajr and Kiana agreed it was very difficult to decide on the winners, however they settled on the following students.

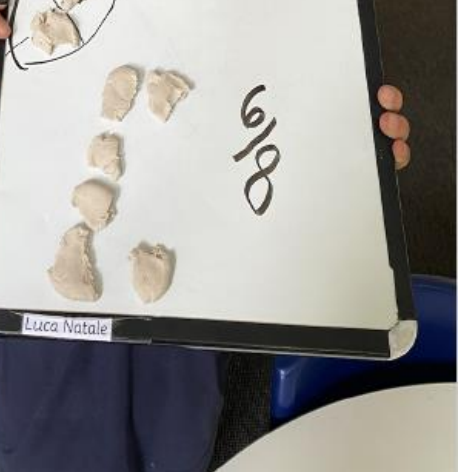
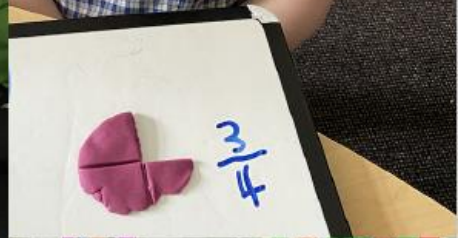
Well done to Melody Kessler and Elouise Horton of 5/6 D and Airlia Likoudis in 3 /4.

The amount raised was enough to purchase four new books for our library. We would like to congratulate Fajr and Kiana on their leadership.





## Exploring Fractions in 1/2PB





# KABOOM SPORTS & DISCO PARTY

Theme: 80s Disco/80s Sports

with fun activities throughout the day

Thursday 16th November

St Margaret's Feast Day

**FREE  
ENTRY!**








# Reverse Advent Calendar



**This year, the St Margaret's P&F, in collaboration with Ms Marg and the grade 6 leaders, are embarking on a heartwarming initiative to spread the joy of the holiday season. We are thrilled to announce that we will be delivering boxes to all classrooms, aimed at filling them with not only food but also Christmas cheer.**



**Our mission is to extend compassion and kindness to families throughout Geelong, ensuring that everyone can experience the magic of Christmas. With that in mind, we kindly ask all families who are able to contribute to this wonderful cause, by sending along thoughtful items to be included in your classroom reverse advent box. You can even create your own family box and deliver it to the school for us to share with those in need - simply let us know, and we will provide you with a box.**

**Now, let's delve into the workings of our Reverse Advent Calendar. Starting from St Margaret's Feast Day on the 16th of November until the 14th of December, an empty box will gradually transform into a symbol of hope, generosity, and abundance. Each day, for 28 days leading up to Christmas, we kindly ask you to place one or two non-perishable food item or toiletry into the box.**


**After the 28 days, our dedicated school leaders will collect your filled Reverse Advent Box and convey it to The Parish Pantry, where it will be distributed to people in our immediate community who are experiencing food insecurity. Through this initiative, we hope to make a tangible difference in the lives of those less fortunate, offering a helping hand of support and love during the holiday season.**





## **So, how can you contribute to this incredible cause?**

**It's simple! Begin by sending along items to put in the box, which will undoubtedly make a significant impact on another family's Christmas. To assist you, we have compiled a list of suggested items.**



**Meal boxes, Jar fruit, canned meals, dried fruit, nuts, crackers, biscuits, juice, tea, coffee, milo, peanut butter, Vegemite, jam, rice, pasta, noodles, pasta sauce, cereal, pancake mix, maple syrup, muesli bars, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissues, toilet paper, treat food, chips, chocolate & Christmas items.**

**Together, let's make this holiday season a truly unforgettable one for those in need. Join us in spreading love, joy, and hope by participating in our Reverse Advent Program. Your contributions will undoubtedly bring smiles to the faces of families throughout Geelong, inspiring compassion and making a lasting difference in our community**



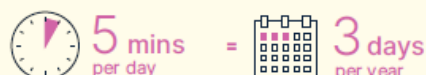


# School is better when your child is here

Going to school every day is the most important part of your child's education. There are no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness. The best thing you can do is support your child to get to school every day.

A positive attitude towards school, healthy habits and routines, and parental involvement can support your child's regular school attendance and prevent chronic absence patterns.

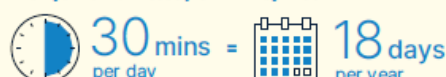
When your child misses just... they miss



When your child misses just... they miss...



When your child misses just... they miss



When your child misses just... they miss...



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## 1. Establish positive habits to promote attendance

- Set good bedtime and morning routines to make the process of getting to school smoother for everyone. Try to prepare as much as possible the night before, e.g. school uniform, school bag packed.
- Ensure your child gets enough sleep and exercise to support their physical and mental health.
- Talk positively about the importance of school attendance with your child. Explain that it is an important part of growing up, a legal obligation and that you expect them to attend every day.
- Show an interest in your child's school and become involved where possible. Keep notes, newsletters, etc. in a place where they are visible reminders of school news for the whole family. Talk about school activities in a positive manner.
- Discuss any changes to usual routines in advance with your child, such as alternative drop-off and pick-up arrangements, to ensure clarity and minimise anxiety.

## 2. Changes in your child's attitude towards school

We all have those days when it is just too hard to get up and feel motivated to go to work or school, but if this occurs regularly, it may be a sign that your child needs support. Early intervention is vital to address physical, emotional or social reasons for school avoidance before it progresses to chronic absence problems and on to school refusal.

### Signs of school avoidance to look out for

- feeling sick before school, e.g. waking up with a headache, stomach-ache or sore throat
- tearfulness, clinginess and dawdling before school – struggling to get out of bed, leave the house or get out of the car
- complaints about attending school and reluctance to talk about school
- missing classes and being late for class.

### What is happening at school?

Early signs of school avoidance may be identified at school through observations and insights by your child's teachers. Work in partnership with the school to support your child's attendance and wellbeing.

## Further Resources

[Anxiety about going to school](#) – Victorian Government  
[Attendance and missing school](#) – Victorian Government  
[How can I get my teenager to school?](#) – Victorian Government  
[Early Signs of School Avoidance/Refusal](#) – Travancore School  
[Tips for Promoting School Attendance](#) – Travancore School

[Understanding School Avoidance and School Refusal](#) – Travancore School  
[School refusal: children and teenagers](#) – Raising Children Network  
[Understanding school refusal](#) – Headspace  
[School refusal](#) – Be You  
[Everything you need to know about school refusal](#) – ReachOut

## 3. What can you do when you see the signs?

- Work with your child to understand what is happening and so that they feel supported and empowered. Listen with compassion but be consistent in expectations.
- Speak with your child's teacher(s) about your concerns.
- Consider taking your child to the GP to rule out or address any physical or emotional health problems.
- Request and attend school meetings with your child and their teacher to develop strategies to support increased attendance.



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools

Dr. Seuss's  
**THE CAT**  
IN  
**THE HAT**



**LIVE ON STAGE IN THE**  
**SUMMER HOLIDAYS!**

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