

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

This coming weekend, Saturday 24th and Sunday the 25th of February we invite our families of students who are to receive a sacrament this year to attend Mass at St Mary's. Parents and their child are to attend one Sacramental Enrolment Mass for the 2024 sacraments of Confirmation in March, First Eucharist in August and Reconciliation in November. Joel Kearney and myself will be present at the 7am Mass on Sunday. A Representative from Christ the King will be able to assist families on the Saturday at 6pm. At 9.30am Sunday a representative from St Mary's will be present and at 11am a representative from St Roberts. The same arrangements will also take place the following weekend the 2nd and 3rd of March. If you wish for your child to receive a sacrament this year, but are unable to attend one of these Mass times, please contact Joel Kearney as soon as possible. These masses are an important first step and a commitment to supporting your child on their faith journey.

Please ensure you have downloaded and are able to access PAM and SeeSaw. These are the main ways we communicate with families and it is vital you have access to these. If you are having difficulties accessing these apps, please see your classroom teacher for assistance. All communication to your child's classroom teachers must be to their email address.

Throughout the year we encourage families to help out at school events and excursions. It is a wonderful way to become involved in the school community and your child's classroom for 2024. We ask that you please complete the updated Child Code of Conduct for 2024 and ensure you have given this to the office along with a current copy of your Working With Children's Check. These are essential if you wish to help out throughout the year. If you are unsure if these are up to date, please contact the school office so we can check and up date anything as needed. New 2024 Code of Conduct forms are available from the front office.

On Monday February 26th, our Prep to Year 4 students will be involved in an incursion around responsible pet ownership. Dogs will be involved in this well controlled and supervised session. If you wish for your child not to attend, please let your classroom teacher know.

NAPLAN begins on the 18th of March. Families of Year 3 and 5 students will be notified of the times and dates for these assessments shortly. If you have concerns about your child participating in NAPLAN, or any general questions, please make contact with your child's classroom teacher or Renee Cunningham.

Have a great week!

Susan



STUDENT AWARDS -FRIDAY 9th February 2024

CLASS	STUDENT	AWARD
PREP	Rose Purser	For her wonderful start to Prep
PREP	Indy McIntosh	For his wonderful start to Prep
PREP	Emmanuelle Spitale	For her wonderful start to Prep
1 / 2 JB	Izzy Porter	For her generosity to help others and put her best foot forward at all times.
1 / 2 JB	Luca Natale	For his positive transition into Year 2, keep up the great work Luca.
1 / 2 TB	Patrick Noonan	For setting an amazing example to others when following our class and school expectations
1 / 2 TB	Georgia McGennissen	For showing great leadership and responsibility in the classroom
1 / 2 PB	Ezra Knight	Following our school expectations of being safe, respectful and responsible
1 / 2 PB	Luella Young	for enthusiastically embracing new learning experiences and always trying her best.
3 / 4 HM	Holly Maloney	For always following teacher requests and being responsible in class
3 / 4 HM	Azariah Steed	For working diligently on additional tasks.
3 / 4 LC	Friday Foley	For supporting other students with their learning when she sees a need
3 / 4 LC	Jack O'Brien	For demonstrating excellent focus and learning behaviours
3 / 4 JK	Mackenzie Ballard	For a wonderful beginning to the year. Thanks for being a kind and caring member of our class.
3 / 4 JK	Amilia Shill	For a wonderful attitude to starting at a new school. We are lucky to have you.
5 / 6 KH	Jake Poole	Great start to the year- having a fantastic and positive attitude.
5 / 6 KH	Danile Thomas	Welcome to St Margaret's - Well done on adjusting to school and for being a friendly class member.
5 / 6 KH	Sophia Peat	Well done for being a focused, diligent, kind and friendly member of our class.
5 / 6 JW	Chloe Bidlo	An outstanding start to the year in grade 5/6! Your helpfulness shines brightly. Keep up the excellent work.
5 / 6 JW	Archie Turner	A positive start to grade 5/6 keep trying your best.

5 / 6 DJFM	Eliana Vaz	For making a fantastic start to the school year.
5 / 6 DJFM	Lucas Wolak	Well done on making a positive start to the school year, and working hard on your writing.
Principal Award	Kiana Lee-Wilkins Seth Stevenson	For displaying St Margaret's qualities and leading by example.



Have you got your 2025 enrolment in?

School tour dates
Monday 12th Feb 9.30 & 4pm
Friday 16th Feb 9.30am
Or
Call our office to arrange a 1-1 tour.

TO BOOK A TOUR PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY ON (03) 5229 7453

THE BEST OF LUCK TO YOU.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

WEAR A TOUCH OF GREEN

Gold coin donation to enter.

Drawn
Monday 18th March

GUESS HOW MANY LOLLIES ARE IN THE JAR.

YOU WILL FIND THE BIG JAR OF LOLLIES AT THE FRONT OFFICE FROM THE 4TH MARCH

ST MARGARET'S P&F
EASTER EGG Raffle

Easter Donations

We are seeking donations of Easter eggs and Easter themed prizes for our annual Easter raffle.

We are hoping all families can seek fair trade chocolate or items for our Easter fundraiser.

Please drop all donations to the school office. We thank you for your ongoing support.

DRAWN ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM THURSDAY 28TH MARCH

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.

Calendar of Events

February

Monday 19th February
Tuesday 20th February
Wednesday 21st February
Thursday 22nd February
Friday 23rd February
Saturday 24th February
Sunday 25th February
Monday 26th February
Tuesday 27th February
Wednesday 28th February

Parent Teacher Interviews 3.40pm-6pm
Parent Teacher Interviews 2pm-5.30pm
Prep Rest Day
5 /6 Fit For Life Excursion
3/4 Assembly
Sacramental Enrolment Mass 6.00pm
Sacramental Enrolment Mass 7.30am, 9.30am, 11am
P-4 Responsible Dog Ownership Incursion
P&F Meeting 7pm Staffroom
Prep Rest Day

March

Friday March 1st
Saturday 2nd March
Sunday 3rd March
Wednesday 6th March
Thursday 7th March
Friday 8th March
Monday 11th March
Tuesday 12th March
Tuesday 12th March
Thursday 14th March
Friday 15th March
10th-17th March
Monday 18th March
18th- 25th March
Tuesday 19th March
Wednesday 20th March
Friday 22nd March

Special lunch pizza P&F
Sacramental Enrolment Mass 6.00pm
Sacramental Enrolment Mass 7.30am, 9.30am, 11am
District Sport 5 /6 students
Confirmation Preparation Day Yr 6 students
1 /2 Assembly
Labour Day Public Holiday
School Captains & Vice Captains Leadership Conference Melbourne
Combined School Swimming event (selected students)
School photos
Indigenous author visit - Gregg Dreise
Catholic Education Week
St Patrick's Day wear a touch of green. Yrs3-6 Liturgy. Guess the lollies
NAPLAN
School Board 7pm
Confirmation 7pm
Prep Assembly
Special lunch Hot Dog Day P&F
Netball/AFL Lightning Prem 5/6 students
Last Day Term 1 1.30pm finish. Easter Raffle Draw.

Tuesday 26th March

Thursday 28th March

April

Monday 15th April
Tuesday 16th April
Friday 19th April
Tuesday 23rd April
Wednesday 24th April
Thursday 25th April
Friday 26th April

School Closure Day. Staff Professional Learning
Term 2 Begins for students
2025 Applications Due
School Board 7pm
District Cross Country 4-6 selected students
ANZAC Day public holiday
School Closure Day for staff Professional Learning

May

Friday 10th May

Wednesday 15th May

Thursday 16th May

Friday 17th May

Tuesday 28th May

Muffins with Mum 8am. Raffle Draw
Mother's Day Stall
Division Cross Country selected students
Netball/AFL Lightning Prem 5/6 students
Whole School Aths & P&F BBQ
School Board 7pm

June

Friday 28th June

Term 2 finishes 1.30pm

July

Monday 15th July

July 23rd

Tuesday 30th July

First Day Term 3
Cheer Truck PF& lunch & Grandparents Day
School Board 7pm

August

Friday 16th August
Sunday 18th August
Friday 30th August

School Closure Day for staff Professional Learning
Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm
Donuts with Dad 8am. Raffle draw
Father Day Stall
Bake Sale P&F

Saturday 31st August

September

Tuesday 3rd September
Friday 6th September
Thursday 12th September

School Board 7pm
Italian Day & P&F lunch pizza
Footy Colour Day. Pie Day. Longest kick
R U OK? P&F Pie lunch
Term 3 finished 1.30pm

Friday 20th September

October

Monday 7th October
Tuesday 15th October
Monday 21st October
Friday 25th October
Wednesday 30th October-
Friday 1st November

First Day Term 4
School Board 7pm
School Closure Day for staff Professional Learning
Grandparents Day
Year 5 /6 Camp-Anglesea

November

Monday 4th November
Tuesday 5th November
Thursday 21st November

School Closure Day
Melbourne Cup Public holiday
Sacrament of First Reconciliation;12noon

December

Friday 6th December
Tuesday 10th December
Tuesday 17th December

School Closure Day. Staff Professional Learning
School Board 7pm
Last Day Term 4 1.30pm finish



St Margaret's Primary School

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Ph 5229 7453

Principal: Susan Perks sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au

Office Manager: Anne Miller amiller@smgeelongeast.com.au

Business Manager: Libby Fitzgerald lfitzgerald@smgeelongeast.com.au

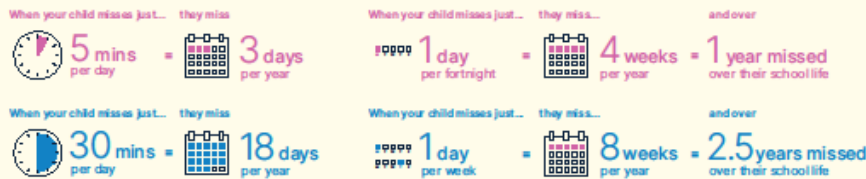
Parish Priest: Father Jim Clarke frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au

School & Community News

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.



Adapted from material © State of New South Wales (Department of Education), 2023

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

DISCOVERY DAY 2024

FRIDAY 22 MARCH

shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au

BOOK ONLINE TODAY



Discover life at
Sacred Heart College

together in faith

School & Community News