



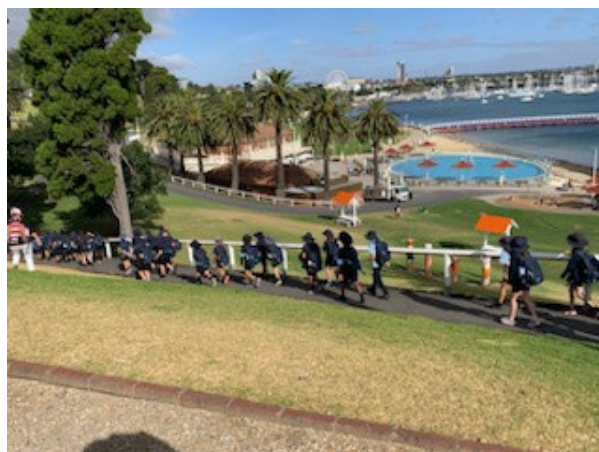
From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

Last Monday our Prep to Year 4 students enjoyed a session with Darcy and Mel around responsible pet ownership and safety around dogs. It was great for our students to learn how to interact safely with dogs when they first greet them and what to do if a dog becomes aggressive. The interactive session was an engaging learning experience, with Darcy the whippet being the highlight.



Our Year 5 and 6 students enjoyed their 'Fit For Life' excursion to Eastern Beach. They engaged in activities for mind, body and spirit and consolidated their learning about how to ensure their physical, mental, and spiritual health is nurtured throughout their life.



Last week we farewelled Georgia from the front office. Georgia has been a welcoming face and helpful staff member that will be missed. Georgia is taking some personal leave to overcome some health concerns. We thank her for her time at St Margaret's and her contribution to our school. We wish her well and hope to see her soon.

We have some students who love 'tinkering'! Pulling apart old bikes, looking at how they work and fixing them up again. We are hoping to get together a tinkering area that these students may engage in during recess and

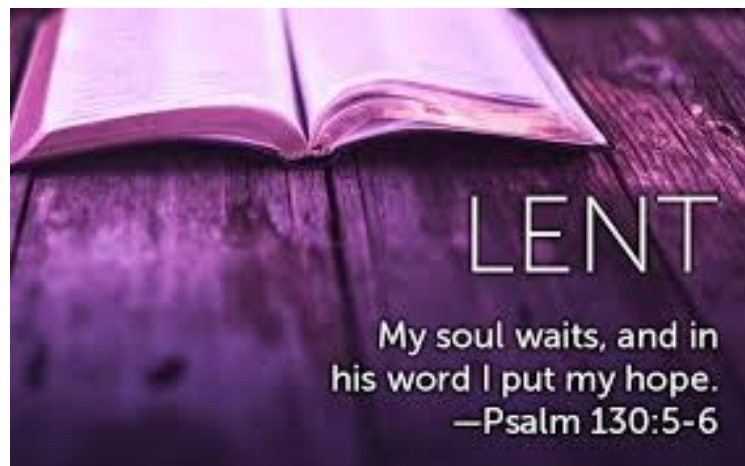
lunch. If you have any old tools, bikes or things that students could pull apart, please let me know.



A reminder that if your child is absent from school due to illness, or any other reason, please let the office know via email, PAM or a phone call. When we have an unexplained absence, we send a text message to the families. Please respond to this by calling the office. If we cannot get a response from the family, we are required to ask the police to conduct a welfare check on the family and student. This response to attendance is to ensure a student's whereabouts is known and that they are safe and is mandated across all primary schools. Thank you for your support by letting us know of all student absences.

Have a great week!

Susan



St Margaret's
Primary School

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

together in faith

School News

Let's Thank the Parents and Friends Committee

Our generous Parents and Friends committee makes so many things possible for our students. It is with great appreciation that I share where these incredible fundraising dollars have been spent recently.

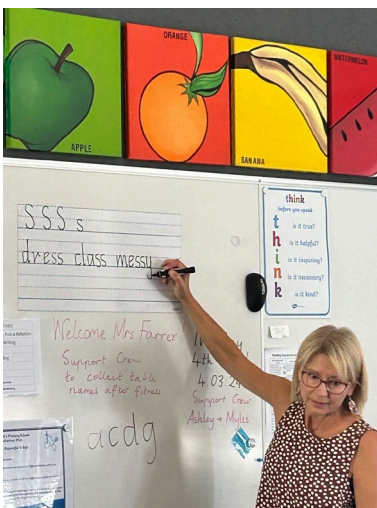
Let's Get Writing

This year we have reintroduced handwriting lessons for all year levels. This involves explicit, modeled instruction and practice for 10 minutes at least 3- 4 times per week.

We know that handwriting proficiency reduces the cognitive load of writing tasks for students. When handwriting becomes more automatic, students are free to focus their attention on other writing processes. An article recently in The Sun- Herald this weekend, discussed how high school teachers are seeing a decline in handwriting skills, to the students detriment. [Bad Handwriting? Stay After School](#)

A variety of resources are needed for this type of instruction as it requires the teacher to model correct formation, spacing and sizing. In preparation for 2024 the Parents and Friends committee generously provided funds for every student in the school to have a lined, magnetic writing strip. Larger, lined magnetic boards have also been purchased for every class.

The great news is that teachers have already noticed improvements in their students' handwriting after only a month of handwriting lessons.



Let's Get Reading

Year 1 and 2 students have been reading up a storm with brand new decodable texts.

With money provided by the P & F we have purchased a substantial amount of take home decodable readers that supports the learning in the classroom.

The variety of both fiction and non fiction texts provide opportunities for students to build their knowledge of the world, vocabulary and fluency along with their phonemic awareness.

Previous take home readers, known as predictable texts have been re-sorted into subject interest areas, such as fairytales, animals and sports. These will be used in the classroom to read for pleasure.



Let's Get a Hot Cross Bun

Mini whiteboards have become a necessary teaching tool in most classrooms. This strategy provides teachers with an instant visual to gauge student thinking and depth of understanding of skill acquisition. It is also an efficient way for students to receive immediate feedback about their learning and deeper engagement.

This year our teachers will continue to use white boards to practice handwriting, grammar, spelling and maths, however this means that all students need access to their own whiteboard.

By purchasing Hot Cross Buns in the next P & Fundraiser you will help to raise money to purchase a board for everyone. **SO LET'S BUY HOT CROSS BUNS**



together in faith

Let's Play Safely

While the P&F have supported in class, and at home learning with handwriting resources and more books, they are also funding an upgrade to the Yard Duty Communication System.

We are very fortunate to be able to play across the road at Thompson Reserve, and an update of our radio system means we are able to call between the reserve and school to deliver messages backward and forward, and seek assistance for any first aid / medical or student needs.

Once again, a huge thank-you to our very dedicated P&F Committee for their fundraising efforts, and to our school community for supporting these. Our P&F meets at school on a Tuesday evening, usually twice a term. Please see Libby in the office for further information and keep an eye in the newsletter to sign up for specific school events. More hands means light work.



ST MARGARET'S P&F
EASTER EGG
Raffle
Easter Donations

DRAWN ON THE
LAST DAY OF
TERM
THURSDAY
28TH MARCH

*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.**

An illustration of a rabbit wearing an orange shirt and pants, riding a blue bicycle. The rabbit is holding a basket of fruit on the handlebars. The background is white.



Calendar of Events

Term 1

March

Wednesday 6th March

Thursday 7th March

Thursday 7th March

Thursday 7th March

Friday 8th March

Monday 11th March

Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 12th March

Wednesday 13th 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

Tuesday 26th March

Thursday 28th March

District Sport 5 /6 students

Confirmation Preparation Day Yr 6 students

Prep Photo for the Advertiser

Confirmation Preparation Day at school

1 /2 Assembly

Labour Day Public Holiday

School Captains & Vice Captains Leadership Conference Melbourne

Combined School Swimming event (selected students)

School nurse visit

1 /2 Excursion to Barwon Grange

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 6.30pm

Confirmation 7pm

Prep Assembly

Special lunch Hot Dog Day P&F. Hot Cross Bun collection.

Harmony Day; students to wear a touch of orange

Netball/AFL Lightning Prem 5/6 students

Last Day Term 1 1.30pm finish. Easter Raffle Draw.

Term 2 and Beyond

April

Monday 15th April	School Closure Day. Staff Professional Learning
Tuesday 16th April	Term 2 Begins for students
Friday 19th April	2025 Applications Due
Monday 22nd April	Cyber Safety Information evening 5.30-6.30
Tuesday 23 rd April	School Board 7pm
Wednesday 24 th April	District Cross Country Yrs 4-6 selected students
Thursday 25 th April	ANZAC Day public holiday
Friday 26 th April	School Closure Day for staff Professional Learning
May	
Friday 10 th May	Muffins with Mum 8am. Raffle Draw Mother's Day Stall
Wednesday 15 th May	Division Cross Country selected students
Thursday 16 th May	Netball/AFL Lightning Prem 5/6 students
Friday 17 th May	Whole School Aths & P&F BBQ
Tuesday 28 th May	School Board 7pm
June	
Friday 28 th June	Term 2 finishes 1.30pm
July	
Monday 15 th July	First Day Term 3
July 23 rd	Cheer Truck PF& lunch & Grandparents Day
Tuesday 30 th July	School Board 7pm
August	
Friday 16 th August	School Closure Day for staff Professional Learning
Sunday 18 th August	Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm
Friday 30 th August	Donuts with Dad 8am. Raffle draw Father Day Stall
Saturday 31 st August	Bake Sale P&F
September	
Tuesday 3 rd September	School Board 7pm
Friday 6 th September	Italian Day & P&F lunch pizza
Thursday 12 th September	Footy Colour Day. Pie Day. Longest kick R U OK? P&F Pie lunch
Friday 20 th September	Term 3 finished 1.30pm
October	
Monday 7 th October	First Day Term 4
Tuesday 15 th October	School Board 7pm
Monday 21 st October	School Closure Day for staff Professional Learning
Friday 25 th October	Grandparents Day
Wednesday 30 th October-	Year 5 /6 Camp-Anglesea
Friday 1 st November	
November	
Monday 4 th November	School Closure Day
Tuesday 5 th November	Melbourne Cup Public holiday
Thursday 21 st November	Sacrament of First Reconciliation; 12noon
December	
Friday 6 th December	School Closure Day. Staff Professional Learning
Tuesday 10 th December	School Board 7pm
Tuesday 17 th December	Last Day Term 4 1.30pm finish

together in faith

Getting to Know PAM (SIMON everywhere)

Connect

Connect is a new feature of PAM (that we are using this year) of PAM that allows you as a parent to provide consent and agreement of policies or statements that apply to your child(ren). The consent and non-consent responses are saved in our SIMON as **Connect Fields**, which are seen by relevant staff members.

For example - during the year, our school will take photographs and videos, which may capture your child(ren)'s participation, directly or indirectly. We utilise a **Connect Field** to request permission from yourselves to publish this media in items like our school newsletter, Yearbook, Annual Report, College website, social/digital media, and newspapers.

When a notification for an Incomplete Connect Field appears in PAM, click on it to go to the relevant Connect Field. Alternatively, click on your child, go to Connect and it will take you to all incomplete Fields awaiting completion. Fill out all questions, review the documents in the Connect Field and complete the response.

The screenshot illustrates the PAM Connect interface. On the left is a sidebar for user Emma Adams, with the 'Connect' option highlighted. The main area shows a 'Connect Field' modal for a 'Photographic Permission Form'. The modal includes a warning, a description, options (Yes/No), and a 'View Connect Documents' section showing 1 document. A red arrow points from the 'Connect' button in the sidebar to the 'Connect Fields' table below. This table lists an 'Incomplete Connect Field' for 'Photographic Permission Form' with a 'Current Value' of 'Awaiting Completion' and a 'Reset Date' of '01/01/2022'. A 'Complete' button is next to the entry. To the right, another window titled 'Incomplete Connect Fields' lists four entries for Michael Adams and Tess Adams, each with a 'Date Sent' of '20 Oct 2021' and a link to 'click to view details & complete'.


Please check “connect” in your PAM account as we have sent an updated photograph permission and a Child Safety Code of Conduct

Please don't hesitate to contact Narelle (ncrowe@smgeelongeast.com.au) if you have any quires about PAM

together in faith

School & Community News

Save the date



SENIOR CONSTABLE ROBERT NOGGLER
VICTORIA POLICE

E SAFETY INFORMATION NIGHT


Join us at St. Margaret's Primary School for a cyber safety information night with Senior Constable Robert Nogglar. Gain a better understanding about how to be safe and respectful online, our digital footprints and how our choices impact others.

Date:
Monday 22nd April

Time:
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Invited:
Grade 5/6 students &
Parents from Grades 3 - 6

Venue:
St Margaret's Primary
School
Multi Purpose Room



St Margaret's Primary School

83 St Albans Road

East Geelong 3219

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

together in faith



Hi there,

I hope you're well. My name is Regan Young and I work for School Crossings Australia.

As part of our commitment to the ongoing safety of your students, School Crossing's Victoria, together with your local council, is looking for the 'Supervisor of the Year' 2023/2024.

It is our goal to reach as many parents, residents and school staff as possible and by involving them in the nomination process encourage all road users to think about, and reward, the active role the Supervisors play in the safety of their children. Your support of this program will help ensure your Crossing Supervisor is shown the appreciation they deserve.

Nominations are open now, and close on Friday 31st May 2024 go to the School Crossings Victoria website www.schoolcrossingsvictoria.com.au and complete an online nomination.

Alternatively if you would like to share via social media we have our pinned post at the top of our facebook page with the picture attached and a direct link:

<https://www.facebook.com/schoolcrossingsaustralia>

There are seven regions across the state.

A winner will be selected in each region, and the overall winner, will be selected from the regional winners. The winner of the 2021/2022 Supervisor of the Year is Gail Birch from Glenelg Shire in Portland Victoria. School Crossing's Victoria would like to enlist your help to boost this year's nominations. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope you will be able to support this initiative. Regan Young; Business Support Officer, School Crossings Australia,

PIANO LESSONS

Open to all ages and levels!

Preparation for exams or play for pleasure.

Mobile: 0426 737 449



Modern and Classical lessons available

Theory lessons included

Samantha Locke

