



From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

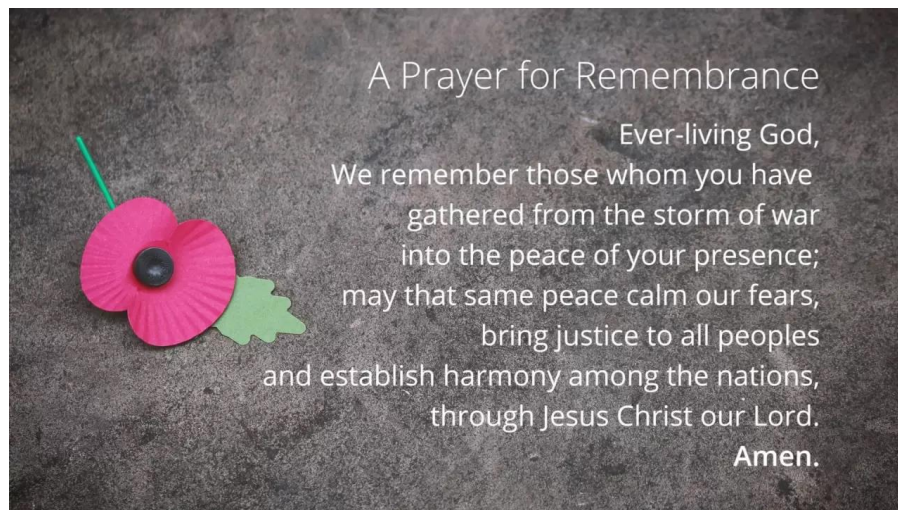
Dear Families,

As we approach ANZAC Day on April 25th, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this day and share how our school will be commemorating this important event. ANZAC Day is a day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that honours the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who served and sacrificed during the Gallipoli Campaign of World War I. It has since evolved into a day to recognize all Australians and New Zealanders who have served in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping missions.

At St Margaret's we believe it's crucial to educate our students about the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women and the importance of remembering their contributions. Here's how we will be commemorating ANZAC Day this year:



1. ANZAC Day Assembly: We will be holding a special assembly where students will learn about the history and significance of ANZAC Day through presentations and readings. This will be an opportunity for our school community to come together in remembrance.
2. Classroom Activities: Teachers will be incorporating age-appropriate activities into their lessons to help students understand the themes of courage, sacrifice, and remembrance associated with ANZAC Day.
3. Minute of Silence: On April 24th, at our ANZAC Assembly, our school will observe a minute of silence to honour the fallen and reflect on the impact of war on our communities.



We encourage families to take part in ANZAC Day commemorations in their own way, whether by attending local dawn services, watching the televised ANZAC Day march, or engaging in discussions about the significance of this day with your children. St Mary's Basilica will be hosting a 9am mass on ANZAC Day. Joel Kearney and three of our student leaders; Ivy, Kiana-Lee and Jackson will be in attendance representing St Margaret's and laying a wreath. All our families are invited to attend this mass.

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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.

Leadership and Management News

Regular attendance is crucial for student success and academic progress. If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or any other reason, it is essential to notify the school promptly. Not only does this help us ensure the safety of our students, but it also assists us in keeping accurate records.

If your child will be absent from school, please follow these steps to report the absence:

1. Contact the Office: Notify our school office by phone or email on the morning of the absence. Please do not contact teachers directly via email or see saw as these are not regularly monitored.
2. Please provide the following information when reporting an absence:
 - Your child's full name
 - Class/grade
 - Reason for the absence
 - Expected duration of absence (if known)
3. Medical Certificates: If your child is absent due to illness for more than a week, please provide a medical certificate or doctor's note upon their return to school.
4. Extended Absences: For planned extended absences (e.g., family vacations), please notify the school in advance by emailing Susan.

If you have not contacted the school, an SMS asking for an explanation will be sent. If no response is received, we follow up with a phone call. If we are still unable to locate the student, the police will be called to conduct a welfare check. Prompt reporting of absences allows us to monitor student attendance effectively and ensures that we can follow up with families in case of any concerns. It also helps us keep our records accurate and up-to-date.

A reminder that **Thursday April 25th** is a public holiday for ANZAC Day and **Friday April 26th** is a school closure day. Staff will be engaging in professional learning off site.

Enjoy your week
Susan

Introducing MACS Vision for Instruction: Empowering Learning Excellence

We are excited to share with you the MACS vision for instruction, designed to enhance teaching and learning excellence across our school system. This vision is rooted in evidence-based practices and aims to provide a consistent approach to nurturing your child's educational journey.

Our vision focuses on enhancing cognitive engagement, which is essential for effective learning. Drawing from Cognitive Load Theory and The Science of Learning, we are implementing best practices in instruction, curriculum design, and assessment across all MACS schools.

Key Elements of Our Vision:

- Best Practice Instruction: Our teachers are equipped with the latest research-backed strategies to engage students and facilitate effective learning.
- Curriculum Design: We ensure that our curriculum is evidence-based, knowledge-rich, coherent, and well-sequenced to optimize learning outcomes.
- Assessment Practices: Our assessment methods are designed to provide meaningful feedback and guide instructional decisions.

At St Margaret's we have already started to implement elements of this vision. We will outline these in upcoming newsletters and discuss the ways you can support your child at home. Next Friday we continue our professional development around the Science of Learning ensuring St Margaret's continues to offer outstanding instructional practice.

If you would like more information about our Vision for Instruction, please take the time to read the MACS document which can be found here: <https://www.macs.vic.edu.au/Our-Schools/Curriculum-Learning-Programs/Vision-for-Instruction.aspx>

Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term 2

April

Monday, April 22nd
Wednesday, April 24th
Wednesday, April 24th
Thursday, April 25th

Cyber Safety Information evening 5.30 – 6.30pm
District Cross Country Years 4-6 selected students
ANZAC assembly 11.50am
ANZAC Day public holiday Mass St Mary's 9am
Selected School Leaders attending. ALL welcome
School Closure Day. Staff Professional Learning

Friday, April 26th

May

Wednesday, May 1st
Friday, May 10th

1/2 Excursion to Marine Discovery Centre Queenscliff
Muffins with Mum 8am
Raffle Draw
Mother's Day Stall

Friday, May 10th
Wednesday, May 15th
Thursday, May 16th
Friday, May 17th
Friday, May 24th
Friday, May 24th
Tuesday, May 28th

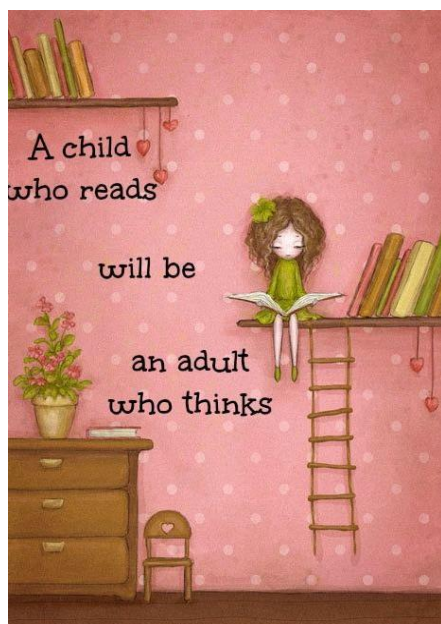
Assembly – 5/6 presenting
Division Cross Country selected students
Netball/AFL Lightning Premiership 5/6 students
Whole School Athletics & P&F BBQ
FIRE Carrier Commissioning Ceremony; selected students
Assembly – 3/4 presenting
School Board 7pm

June

Friday, June 7th
Monday, June 10th
Wednesday, June 12th
Friday, June 21st
Friday, June 28th

Assembly – 1/2 presenting
King's Birthday Public Holiday
Prep Excursion Werribee Zoo
Assembly – Prep presenting
Final day of Term 2. 1.30pm dismissal

'Lit Pro'



Classes in Years 3 – 6 use a program called *Lit Pro* to help students monitor their reading progress and choose books that are right for them. It has been great to see the enthusiasm students have shown making their book choices for the beginning of term 2 after completing an assessment.

We encourage every student to make reading a part of their daily routine at home as well as at school.

Reminder

Please ensure all student's clothing and items are clearly labelled with their name. We often gather quite a collection of 'homeless' drink bottles containers, and clothing.



Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term 3

July

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday, July 15 th | First Day of Term 3 |
| Tuesday, July 23 rd | P&F lunch - Cheer Truck |
| Tuesday, July 23 rd | Grandparents' Day |
| Tuesday, July 30 th | School Board 7pm |

August

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Friday, August 16 th | School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning |
| Sunday, August 18 th | Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm |
| Friday, August 30 th | Donuts with Dad 8am |
| | Raffle draw |
| | Father's Day Stall |
| Saturday, August 31 st | P&F Bake Sale |

September

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 3 rd | School Board 7pm |
| Friday, September 6 th | Italian Day |
| | P&F pizza lunch |
| Thursday, September 12 th | R U OK? & Footy Colours Day |
| | P&F Pie lunch |
| | Longest kick event |
| Tuesday, September 20 th | Final day of Term 3. 1.30pm dismissal |

Term 4

October

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Monday, October 7 th | First Day of Term 4 |
| Tuesday, October 15 th | School Board 7pm |
| Monday, October 21 st | School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning |
| Wednesday, October 30 th | Year 5 /6 Camp-Anglesea (until Friday, November 1 st) |

November

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Monday, November 4 th | School Closure Day |
| Tuesday, November 5 th | Melbourne Cup public holiday |
| Thursday, November 21 st | Sacrament of First Reconciliation: 12noon |

December

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Friday, December 6 th | School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning |
| Tuesday, December 10 th | School Board 7pm |
| Thursday, December 12 th | Whole School Carols Evening |
| Tuesday, December 17 th | Final day of Term 4. 1.30pm dismissal |



St Margaret's Primary School

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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



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ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEELONG

Year 7 2025

We welcome all boys from all Primary Schools to apply

Applications Close **Friday 3 May 2024**

Apply Online sjc.vic.edu.au

Thomson Tigers

11 Apr · 🌐

AUSKICK REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN 🍌

WHEN: Each Friday from 3 May 2024 (various breaks throughout the program)

TIME: 5pm to 6pm

WHERE: Thomson FNC - Godfrey Street

Visit <https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/7b1909> to register and secure your Auskick pack asap!

