NEWSLETTER





Term Four, Week 6 November 11th, 2024 #34

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families.

Our students have enjoyed some truly memorable experiences over the past few weeks. The Year 5/6 camp at Anglesea was a huge success, with students achieving personal goals and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Meanwhile, our Year 3/4 students had a fantastic time during their sleepover at school. They participated in games facilitated by Kelly Club, followed by a BBQ dinner, a movie night, and a breakfast the next morning. We extend our gratitude to the staff involved in organising and running these events. Their dedication, time, and willingness to be away from their own families made these incredibles.



and willingness to be away from their own families made these incredible experiences possible for our students.

This Friday, our school will be celebrating St. Margaret's Day and marking the 75th anniversary of our school! It promises to be a wonderful day, with students taking part in exciting activities throughout the day, including a disco organized by the P&F and sports activities facilitated by KABOOM! We warmly invite families to join us for the St. Margaret's Day Mass at 11:15 am at the church to share in the festivities. Additionally, the P&F is organising a special birthday cake for each class to celebrate our school's milestone. We look forward to celebrating together!

Last week, I sent correspondence to all current families regarding the 2025 fees. We always strive to keep fee increases to a minimum, but as outlined in the letter, rising costs have made this necessary. Please note that direct debit is our preferred payment option, and office staff are available to assist you in setting this up. Alternatively, fees are strictly payable one term in advance. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your individual circumstances, please feel free to arrange a time to meet with me.

I wish to inform you that this year's 3/4 sleepover will be our last. This decision has not been made lightly and has come after extensive discussions and careful consideration by our staff. Originally introduced in 2020, this sleepover was created to foster connection and a sense of community among students during the challenging lockdown period. However, as we look ahead, the staff believe that the sleepover is no longer feasible due to increasing time commitments and the financial strain related to time-in-lieu requirements. Staff members have also raised concerns regarding child safety regulations and reportable conduct, which present heightened risks during an overnight event. Additionally, our school's limited space presents challenges in meeting our students' privacy needs—an important consideration brought up after previous sleepovers. Taking all these factors into account, we believe that an evening of games, dinner, and a movie could offer a similarly enriching experience for our 3/4 students without the added challenges of an overnight stay. I understand that this decision may be disappointing to some in our community, but it is made with our students' safety and our staff's professional insights in mind. We thank you for your understanding and continued support. We will look forward to a re imaged 3/4 experience in 2025.

...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.

Leadership and Management News

The Wellbeing Pod was installed last Thursday, after a slight delay. We are excited to see this take shape over the coming weeks ready for 2025! We plan to have an official opening of the Wellbeing Pod on Wednesday December the 11th at 9am. We will be able to acknowledge the incredible work of the P&F, our community and the generous donation of Nicholas Walsh. Further information about this event will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Our start dates for 2025 have been set, and we're excited to kick off the school year with an approach that prioritises one-on-one time for each student. We believe this start will provide the support our students need and give staff valuable insights into each student's learning goals. Tuesday, January 28th, will be a student-free day, allowing staff to come together and prepare for the year ahead. On Wednesday, January 29th, each student will be scheduled for a 20-30-minute session with their class teacher. This time is an opportunity for students and teachers to get acquainted and complete a few initial assessments. You will be notified about your child's time to attend school this day by the end of the school year.

Our Year 1-6 students will officially begin the school year on Thursday, January 30th, while our Preps will continue with individual testing sessions alongside their teacher. The 2025 Prep class will then officially start on Friday, January 31st with a full day of school. We hope this approach ensures a smooth transition for all students and sets the foundation for an engaging and supportive year ahead.

Have a great week! Susan

2025 Fee Structure

2023 Fee Structure	
FAMILY FEE	\$1700
CURRICULUM LEVY	\$420
Includes: incursions, excursions, all classroom stationary, workbooks, whiteboards & markers, handwriting books,	
spelling text book, class novels, class resources, swimming	
program.	
P-2 ICT LEVY	\$60
Includes: iPad maintenance and upgrades. Usage in the classroom.	
3-6 ICT LEVY	\$120
Includes 1-1 Chromebook usage & updates.	
5 /6 CAMP	\$320
MAINTENANCE	\$220
Includes: garden maintenance, installation of bark and sand,	
OH&S risk management & compliance.	

2025 Enrolment Demand

We have a growing demand for enrolments in 2025, with some year levels already having a wait list. If you know of anyone considering a move to St Margaret's please ask them to get in touch with us as soon as possible, as we only have a limited number of space available.





Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term 4

November

Monday, Nov 11th - 14th Tuesday, November 12th

Wednesday, Nov 13th

Friday, November 15th

Thursday, Nov 14th

Friday, November 22nd Thursday, November 28th Thursday, November 28th Friday, November 29th Friday, November 29th

Year 1/2 Swimming Programme

GALS online student session for Year 6 girls 2025 Prep Orientation Session 1 - Groups 1 & 2

9.15-10.30 OR 11.45-1.00

2025 Prep Orientation Session 1 - Groups 3 & 4

9.15-10.30 OR 11.45-1.00

Saint Margaret's Day Celebrations &

75th Anniversary of our School Assembly -1/2 presenting

Sacrament of First Reconciliation: 12 noon GALS at Deakin 9.30-2.30 for Year 6 girls

Assembly – Prep presenting RSVP for Year 6 Graduation due

December

Monday, December 2nd Tuesday, December 3rd Wednesday, December 4th Friday, December 6th

Tuesday, December 10th

Tuesday, December 10th Wednesday, Dec 11th Thursday, December 12th Friday, December 13th Monday, December 16th

Tuesday, December 17th

Year 5/6 excursion to Adventure Park

2025 School Captain speeches & leadership applications due

GALS project launch

School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning

Whole School Step Up Orientation Day 2025 Prep Orientation Session 3

Parent Session 9.30-10.45.

School Board 7pm

Welling Pod Official Opening Whole School Carols Evening

Whole School Movie & Picnic end of year celebration

Year 6 Graduation

Final day of Term 4. 1.30pm dismissal

2025 Start Dates

January

Tuesday, January 28th Wednesday, January 29th Thursday, January 30th

Staff Day. Student Free Day 1-1 testing P-6

Year 1-6 First Day of School for 2025

Prep Testing

Prep First Day of School. All P-6 onsite. Friday, January 31st

St Margaret's Primary School



83 St Albans Road East Geelong 3219

Ph 5229 7453





Website: www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Susan Perks sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au

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

Georgia Kavenagh gkavenagh@smgeelongeast.com.au

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

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

Learning and Teachinng News

123 Let's Engage!!!

Teachers have a lot of content to get through in each lesson, and they know how valuable every minute is. One way of managing this is to use engagement norms and consistent routines across the school. All teachers from Foundation to Year 6 have implemented efficient strategies to engage and direct students during class to maximize learning time.

Examples of some of the engagement practices you will hear and see in our classrooms are:

123 Track with me - used when the teacher reads aloud from the board so students can follow the text. If students have their own text they will follow the words with their finger. Teachers use this to model new vocabulary, pace, accuracy or expression.

Creating Academic STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- · Pronounce With Me
- · Track With Me
- · Read With Me
- Gesture With Me
- Pair-Share
- Attention Signal Eyes Front, Back Straight
- Whiteboards
- Complete Sentences
 Public Voice, Academic Vocabulary

123 Read with me - used to direct students to read aloud along with the teacher at the same time. Often as a whole class, or in designated groups or pairs.

White Boards







Using mini white boards during explicit instruction is now a common practice used in many primary and high schools across the state. Specific engagement norms that use quick and easy phrases direct students throughout the lesson.

These phrases are visible in all classrooms:

Chin it, Bin it, Park it, Hover It, Tick It or Fix It

Chin It - students place mini white boards under their chins, facing the teacher to show their work. Teachers see student's work and give immediate feedback.

Hover It - Students flip their boards to face downwards. This shows the teacher that they are ready and still allows other students to continue their work uninterrupted.

Bin it- students clean their mini white boards

Park it- Students take everything out of their hands so that they are not distracted by the next instruction. Students place whiteboards, markers and erasers down on the table or the floor.

Tick It or Fix It- A great feedback tool for the teachers and engagement strategy for students. The teacher asks all students to show their answers on their boards at the same time, teacher models answer, students tick ro fix their work.

These engagement norms will be used in every class room across the school to reduce cognitive load and maintain consistency and efficiency. Look out for them when you are in the school next!!





Student of the Week Awards

CLASS	STUDENT	AWARDS – Friday, November 1st, 2024	
PREP	Ari Kelly	For always trying her best in her learning, we are so proud of you Ari!	
PREP	Michael Walker	For being so enthusiastic during our shop play. You worked well in your group and did an excellent job on the cash register, Well done!	
1/2 JB	Fletcher Eslick	For demonstrating kindness towards others.	
1 / 2 JB	Pearl Timmins	For being a great role model to others in the classroom.	
1/2 TB	Jonah Smith	For showing resilience when working with Ms Marie.	
1/2 TB	James Kessler	For showing kindness always and including others in games.	
1/2 TB	Marcella Tyrrell	For always being reliable and displaying our school values.	
1/2 TB	Caden Mirmilstein	For his outstanding commitment to learning.	
1/2 PB	Jonathon Reid	For demonstrating perseverance and resilience in his learning.	
1/2 PB	Jayda Sperling	For always showing kindness, empathy and respect to others.	
3/4 HM	Lani Richardson	For your awesome data investigation display identifying 3/4 HM's favourite Harry Potter character.	
3 / 4 HM	Ivy Heather	For being a great role model to others in the classroom.	
3/4 LC	Sophie Butcher	For being a great role model to others as a responsible learner.	
3/4 LC	Miya Pradeep	For her creative, skilful drawing and careful work presentation.	
3/4 JK-KB	Lacey Chapman	For her teamwork and positive attitude during our Healthy Heroes excursion.	
3 / 4 JK-KB	Piper Stephenson	For her choice of vocabulary in a descriptive writing piece.	

(Years 5/6 on camp)

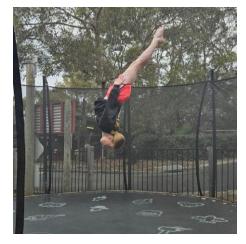


Camp













Sleepover









School Community News



JUNIOR BASKETBALL COURTS

12TH

P & F BBQ

DECEMBER

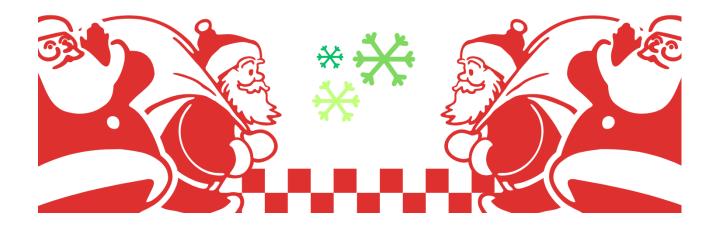
5:30 PM





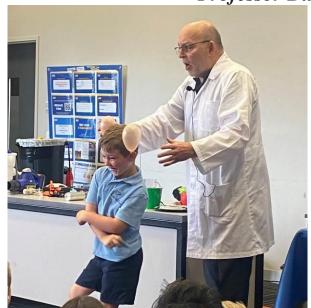


BYO PICNIC RUG & SNACKS



School Community News

Professor Bunsen Incursion

















ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Where? Hibernian Hall & Pioneer Room @ (Parish Centre) 150 Yarra St 12.00pm (noon) – 3.00pm.

Karaoke Carols & Performances start at 12.30pm

Please register prior to the date using this link to the form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSeDS0KAH1u875rTpZ1qUOtCjOHPpsa_c_DoF4YemdNx-HeBKBQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

(Entry for the Karaoke/ Performance is free)

Cabaret style table seating in Pioneer Room for audience. Free Tea/ Coffee for patrons, and soft drinks @ \$1.00 per can

ALL ARE WELCOME