

NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term One, Week 6
March 3rd, 2025
#6

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

Shrove Tuesday is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to celebrating this significant day in our school community. Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday marks the day before Lent begins, a time when many people prepare for the solemn season by using up rich ingredients such as eggs, milk, and butter—hence the tradition of making pancakes.

To honour this custom, our much-anticipated Pancake Races will commence at 10:15 am, and we warmly invite parents to join in the fun and be a part of this annual school event. The Parents and Friends (P&F) group has generously offered to prepare and cook pancakes for every student, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for their support. However, more volunteers are needed to help with this event, so if you are available, please sign up via the Flexischools app. It's a great opportunity to help out, while enjoying watching the races! A reminder that students must bring a plastic plate and any cutlery they may require to enjoy their pancakes.

The following day, we will gather as a school to mark Ash Wednesday, a significant day in the Catholic calendar that signifies the beginning of Lent. This day serves as a time of reflection, repentance, and preparation leading up to Easter.

During the Ash Wednesday Mass, students in Years 1 to 4 will receive ashes on their foreheads, a symbol of humility and a reminder to live with kindness and compassion. Parents are warmly invited to attend this special service at 9.15am. Meanwhile, our Year 5/6 students will be participating in the District Athletics Carnival on Wednesday, but they will still have the opportunity to learn about the significance of Ash Wednesday through their Religious Education lessons this week.

A big thank you to all the parents who attended our recent parent-teacher chats. It was wonderful to see our staff and families working together in partnership to support the learning and wellbeing of each student. Positive feedback from these meetings reinforces the importance of strong home-school connections, as they allow us to better understand each child's unique strengths, challenges, and goals. When teachers and families collaborate, students feel supported and encouraged both at school and at home, which fosters a positive learning environment for all.

At our school, the wellbeing and safety of our students is always our top priority. We are committed to upholding Child Safe Standards to ensure that all children feel safe, respected, and valued within our community. These standards help guide our policies and practices in creating an environment where students can learn and grow with confidence. We encourage parents to engage in conversations with their children about personal safety and wellbeing and to reach out to the school if they ever have concerns or need support.

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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

A Prep Information Session on how to support your child with home reading will be held on Monday, March 17th, at 3:30 pm. This session will provide valuable insights and practical strategies to help foster a love of reading and build strong literacy skills at home. To support families attending, Kelly Sports will be offering a free session for students during this time, allowing parents to engage fully in the discussion. We strongly encourage all Prep families to attend, as well as any families from other year levels who would like more information on how to support their child's reading at home. Establishing positive reading habits early on is key to developing confident and capable readers, and this session will equip parents with simple yet effective ways to make home reading an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We look forward to seeing you there!

Although summer is coming to an end, our SunSmart policy remains in place, and students are still required to wear their hats during outdoor activities. We remind all families to clearly label their child's hat, as we often have many go missing, and named items are much easier to return. Our rule remains the same: "No Hat, No Play!" This policy ensures that all students are protected from harmful UV rays, reinforcing our commitment to sun safety.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a safe, welcoming, and engaging place for all students. We look forward to seeing many of you at our Shrove Tuesday celebrations next week!

Have a great week!

Susan Perks



Shrove Tuesday
PANCAKE DAY



**4
MAR**

BYO PLATE & FORK

**We are looking for volunteers to help mix, cook
and serve pancakes!**

If you can help, please SIGN UP via the flexischools app

**Pancake races start on the basketball courts
at 10.15am**

Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term One

March

Monday, March 3rd

2026 School Enrolments open School tours - 9.30am & 4pm
House Captains tour of the MCG

Tuesday, March 4th

Shrove Tuesday Pancake races - 10:15am

Wednesday, March 5th

Prep Testing

Ash Wednesday Mass – 9.15am

District T-Ball @ Grinter Reserve

District Soccer @ Howards Glover Reserve

P & F Meeting - 7pm

Assembly Yr 3/4 - 9.15am

Friday, March 7th

Monday, March 10th

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday, March 11th

School Closure Day - Staff PL

Division Swimming

Wednesday, March 12th

Sacrament of Confirmation - 5pm at St Mary's Basilica

Prep Photo for Geelong Advertiser

Thursday, March 13th

Bookclub Issue 2 orders due

Friday, March 14th

P&F Barefoot Bowls

School tours - 9.30am & 12noon

Monday, March 17th

5/6 Surfing excursion

Prep Information Session: Reading at Home - 3.30pm

Monday, March 17th-21st

Catholic Education Week - Year of Jubilee

Monday, March 17th-21st

Smile Point School Dental Visits TBC

Tuesday, March 18th

St Patrick's Day Liturgy - Yr 3-6 students 2.30pm

Wednesday, March 19th

Pilgrims of Hope Geelong schools - selected student leaders

Friday, March 21st

Schools' Mass St Patrick's Melbourne - selected students

Tuesday, March 25th

School Board - 7pm

SEDA sports sessions for Years One to Six

Wednesday, March 26th

Student Leadership Conference - selected students

Thursday, March 27th

School Photos

Friday, March 28th

Assembly Yr 1/2 - 9.15am

Cross Country

Monday, March 31st

Parents & Friends Special Lunch

School tour - 10am

April

Tuesday, April 1st

SEDA sports sessions for Years One to Six

Wednesday, April 2nd

AFL Girls 9s

Thursday, April 3rd

Whole School Athletics Day

Friday, April 4th

Assembly PREP - 9.15am

Last day of Term One - 1.30pm dismissal. Casual clothes

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

Calendar of Events

Term Two

April

Monday, April 21st
Tuesday, April 22nd
Friday, April 25th

Easter Monday public holiday
Term Two begins
ANZAC DAY public holiday

May

Tuesday, May 6th
Wednesday, May 21st

School Board - 7pm
National Simultaneous Storytime - 12noon

June

Monday, June 9th
Tuesday, June 10th
Tuesday, June 24th

King's Birthday public holiday
School Closure Day - Staff PL
School Board - 7pm

July

Friday, July 4th

Term Two ends - 1.30pm dismissal

Term Three

July

Monday, July 21st
Tuesday, July 22nd

School Closure Day - Staff PL
Students begin Term Three

August

Tuesday, August 5th
Wednesday, August 13th
Sunday, August 31st

School Board - 7pm
Emmaus Meal - 5.30pm
Sacrament of First Eucharist - 2.30pm

September

Tuesday, September 9th
Friday, September 19th

School Board - 7pm
Term Three ends - 1.30pm dismissal

Term Four

October

Monday, October 6th
Tuesday, October 7th
Tuesday, October 21st

School Closure Day - Staff PL
Students begin Term Four
School Board - 7pm

November

Monday, November 3rd
Tuesday, November 4th
Wed-Fri, Nov 5th-7th
Monday, November 10th
Tuesday, November 11th
Wednesday, November 12th
Thursday, November 20th

School Closure Day
Melbourne Cup Public holiday
Year 5/6 students at Camp Kangarooie
Year 5/6 only, student free day (TIL staff day)
Remembrance Day
Penance Preparation Family Evening - 5.30pm
Sacrament of Penance - 12 noon

December

Friday, December 5th
Tuesday, December 9th
Monday, December 15th
Tuesday, December 16th

School Closure Day - Staff PL
School Board - 7pm
Year 6 Graduation
End of Term Four - 1.30pm dismissal

Bookclub 2025

Cataloges to order from **Issue 2** are available in classrooms for students to bring home.

Our first bookclub this year earned us over \$120 in rewards that we can use to purchase new books.

If anyone has unwanted plastic zip lock bags (the type that come with temu and shein purchases), please send to Miss Marg in the library for giving out bookclub purchases.

Book Club rewards your school

Every purchase you make earns your child's school Scholastic Rewards that can be used to purchase valuable educational resources that benefit your child.



Book Club

ORDERS ARE DUE
Thursday,
March
13th

SCHOLASTIC **Book Club**

Eudcation in Faith News

Lent

On Wednesday March 5th at 9.15am we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent. The cross placed on our foreheads reminds us of Jesus' great gift of love for us-his death and resurrection.

In his 2014 reflection Pope Francis commented on the notion that Jesus 'became poor so that by his poverty we may become rich'. (cf 2, Cor 8-9) Pope Francis went on to discuss how St Paul encouraged the early Christians to be helpful to the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need in many ways, both physical and spiritual.

In the same way Pope Francis is challenging all Catholics to reach out to the marginalized in our society. In what ways can we reach out to those in need in 2025? Sometimes we don't have to look too far to find those in need.

The starting point is always our own family and close circle of friends. Reaching out to others is a common theme during Lent. A starting point may be a conversation with our own children and family members. What is important to reflect upon is that we can all make a difference to someone else's lives.

DID YOU KNOW?

The forty days of Lent (Sundays in Lent are not counted) are a time of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing Lent, Christians replicate Jesus' sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for forty days. For Christians today, Lent is marked by fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Although **fasting** is primarily about self control, it can help us realize the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering. More time given to **prayer** during Lent draws us closer to God. In your prayer, I encourage you to pray for the people in our community, the nation and the world. May they gain some courage and strength through our prayerful support.

Almsgiving is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. During Lent, Catholics are encouraged to support the work of Caritas through Project Compassion. As a family, you might like to keep a Project Compassion Box in your home or contribute to the one in your child's school.

*"If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life,
we have to reach out to others and seek their good".*

Pope Francis Dec 2013



PRAY



FAST



GIVE



83 St Albans Road
East Geelong 3219



2026 Enrolment

St. Margaret's Primary School. Living our Catholic faith, engaging passionately in learning, connecting with and shaping our world.

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you to St Margaret's Primary School. We are a Catholic co-educational primary school in East Geelong, Victoria with approximately 240 children from Prep to Year 6. Our caring and dedicated staff are committed to sharing their passion for learning, helping our students to reach their full academic potential, develop their Catholic identity and acquire social responsibility. Our goal is to support all children in a nurturing environment that promotes academic excellence and a commitment to service.

TOUR DATES:

MONDAY MARCH 3rd 9.30AM & 4.00PM

FRIDAY MARCH 14TH 9.30AM & 12PM

MONDAY MARCH 10AM

Applications are open now and close May 2nd

To book a tour contact the school directly on (03)5229 7453





St Margaret's P&F
BAREFOOT
BOWLS NIGHT

EASTERN PARK
BOWLING CLUB

51 GARDEN STREET, EAST GEELONG

***Drinks at bar prices.**

***Amazing Raffles, Prizes & Wine Wall!**

FRI 14
MARCH

6.30PM


TICKETS VIA
OUR FLEXI
SCHOOL
APP

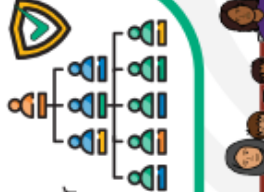
\$15


PER HEAD FOR
BOWLING & BBQ


Victoria's Child Safe Standards


Plain language summary

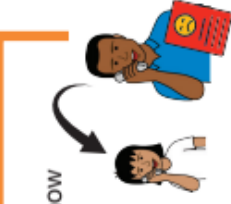
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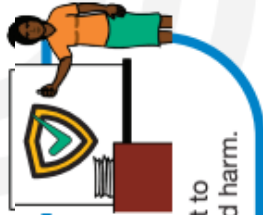
1 Your organisation welcomes Aboriginal children. You support them to express their culture and to enjoy their rights. You don't allow racism.
- 


2 Child safety is important to everyone at all levels in your organisation. You document how you find, avoid, and stop risks of child abuse or harm.
- 

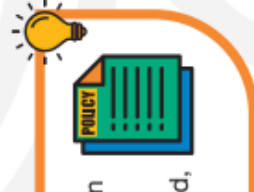
3 Your organisation supports children to know their rights to be safe from abuse, informed, and involved. You help them to talk openly and take part in decisions that affect them.
- 


4 Your organisation tells families and the community about what you do, and how you keep children safe from harm and abuse. You help families to have a say and to take part in decisions that affect their child.
- 


5 Your organisation understands that every child is different and has different needs. You make sure that they can get the information and help that they need.
- 

7 Children and their families know how to make a complaint and what happens when a complaint is made. Your staff know how to respond properly to complaints.
- 

8 Your organisation trains and supports staff to keep children safe from abuse and harm. Your staff know the signs of child abuse and harm and what to do if there are issues of abuse and harm.
- 

9 Your organisation makes sure children are safe when they use your services, settings, and activities. This includes when children are online.
- 

10 Your organisation checks and improves the ways you keep children safe from abuse and harm.
- 

11 Your organisation has written policies about how you keep children safe from abuse and harm. They are easy to understand, and all staff follow them.
- 

6 Staff know what they must do to keep children safe from abuse and harm. They record, report, and share information about child safety when they should. Staff who work with children have had the background checks they need.



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

For more information,
contact the Commission for
Children and Young People
www.cccyp.vic.gov.au

TFNC

Come & Try Evenings



FREE JUNIOR MEMBERSHIPS

Join us for some fun, make some new friends and check out this great local family club.

Dates & Times

Thursday 20th Feb 5pm-6pm

Thursday 27th Feb 5pm-6pm

Thursday 6th March 5pm-6pm



Thomson Football Netball Club - Godfrey St Thomson
Junior Football - Back Oval Junior Netball - Main Courts