

NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term One, Week 9
March 24th, 2025
#9

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

Last week, we celebrated Catholic Education Week with a range of incredible activities and opportunities for our students. On Monday, our Year 5/6 students had the exciting chance to take part in a surfing lesson at Torquay with Go Ride a Wave. This experience was about much more than just learning to surf—it was a lesson in resilience, water safety, and embracing new challenges. Students had the opportunity to test their skills in the ocean, face the waves with determination, and develop their confidence in a new and exhilarating environment.

Our Religious Education Leaders guided the school in a special St Patrick's Day liturgy, a moment of reflection and gratitude for the legacy of St Patrick. St Patrick's Day holds a significant place in the Catholic calendar, commemorating the patron saint of Ireland, who played a crucial role in spreading Christianity. It is a day that reminds us of the power of faith, perseverance, and service to others—values that are at the heart of Catholic Education. During the celebrations, we also announced the winner of our lolly jar competition, with a correct guess of 516. Congratulations to Quinn on the fantastic estimation!

Wednesday was a particularly meaningful day for our Social Justice and School Captains, who embarked on a pilgrimage alongside representatives from all 20 Catholic primary schools of Geelong. This reflective and educational journey took them to significant historical sites connected to the Catholic faith. The day began at the Eastern Cemetery, where we were welcomed with a traditional smoking ceremony before engaging in a historical reflection on the Catholic section of the cemetery. From there, students walked to the Geelong Gaol, where they learned about the role of Catholic sisters in providing education to children in challenging times. The journey continued to St Mary's Hall before culminating in a shared Mass at St Mary's Basilica, led by Father Jude. The day concluded with a presentation from Julia from The Village (formerly Geelong Mums) at St Mary's Football Club, highlighting the importance of community support and service. It was an incredible experience for both staff and students, and a privilege to take part in this pilgrimage during the Year of Jubilee in Catholic Education Week.

On Friday, our School Leaders and RE Leaders traveled to Melbourne to represent our school at a special Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. This was followed by a visit to the gardens, where they joined in the wider celebrations of Catholic Education Week. It was a truly enriching and inspiring week, filled with opportunities for faith, learning, and leadership.

...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

Next week, leadership opportunities continue as our School Captains attend the Annual Youth Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre. This event will provide them with a chance to engage with inspiring speakers, connect with other young leaders, and explore ways to make a positive impact in their school and community. Meanwhile, our Sustainability Leaders will attend the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, where they will learn more about sustainable practices, environmental stewardship, and creative ways to incorporate sustainability into our school. These are incredible opportunities for both our students and staff, reinforcing our commitment to leadership, learning, and a brighter future.

A reminder to our families that while our Prep students are collected from the playground, this area, including the sandpit, is unsupervised by staff after school. We kindly ask that students refrain from using the sandpit and that parents actively supervise their children if they wish to play on the playground equipment. Additionally, Kelly Club will begin using the outdoor space from 3:30pm, so we appreciate your support in ensuring a smooth transition for their program. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school environment safe and well-managed.

Wishing everyone a fantastic rest of the week!

Susan Perks

Please note the change of date for the upcoming board meeting from this Tuesday to next week Tuesday April 1st. Thank you.

Cross Country

When: 28th March (10am)

Where: Track (Running track next to the school)

Students wear sports uniform and can wear their house colour T-Shirt.

9/10 boys and girls run 2km

11/12 boys and girls run 3km

Parents are welcome to come and support



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

(new items in bold)

Term One

March

Tuesday, March 25th

Wednesday, March 26th

Thursday, March 27th

Friday, March 28th

Monday, March 31st

SEDA sports sessions for Years One to Six

Sustainability Group visiting Melbourne Garden Show

Year 1/2 Excursion to Botanical Gardens

Student Leadership Conference - selected students

School Photos

Assembly Yr 1/2 - 9.15am

Cross Country

Parents & Friends Special Lunch

Project Compassion boxes due back to the office

School tour - 10am

April

Tuesday, April 1st

Wednesday, April 2nd

Thursday, April 3rd

Friday, April 4th

School Board - 7pm

SEDA sports sessions for Years One to Six

Coins for Caritas - 2.30pm

P&F - 7pm in the staffroom

AFL Girls 9s

Whole School Athletics Day

Assembly Prep - 9.15am

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

Term Two

April

Monday, April 21st

Tuesday, April 22nd

Friday, April 25th

May

Tuesday, May 6th

Tuesday, May 13th

Wednesday, May 21st

June

Monday, June 9th

Tuesday, June 10th

Tuesday, June 24th

July

Friday, July 4th

Easter Monday public holiday

Term Two begins

ANZAC DAY public holiday

School Board 7pm

P-2 Incursion: Responsible Pet Education

National Simultaneous Storytime 12noon

King's Birthday public holiday

School Closure Day - Staff PL

School Board 7pm

Term Two ends - 1.30pm dismissal

Term Three

July

Monday, July 21st

Tuesday, July 22nd

August

Tuesday, August 5th

Tuesday, August 12th

Wednesday, August 13th

Monday, August 18th

Sunday, August 31st

School Closure Day - Staff PL

Students begin Term Three

School Board 7pm

Book Fair Week

Emmaus Meal 5.30pm

Book Week begins 'Book an Adventure'

Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm

Calendar of Events

Term Three cont.

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 Kangarooobie
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

Barefoot Bowls Thank you!

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following businesses for their support with catering for our event:

East Geelong Quality Butchers
East Fruit Market

Ann Chi Em Vietnamese Restaurant
Bakers Delight Newcombe

Thank you to the following businesses for their generous donations:

Sailors Rest
The Range
Mi Shells Seafood
Stiengan
Bakers Delight Newcomb
MOPA (Museum of Play and Art)
The Finn Salon
Questioning Autumn
Winston and Co Cafe
Bounce
Routleys
Okay VA & Creative Solutions
Limeburners

*Thank
you!*

We appreciate the time and dedication of the P & F for organising this event and their tireless work to contribute and enhance our school for every student!

together in faith

School Community News



**ST MARGARET'S P&F
ARE SEEKING
DONATIONS FOR OUR
ANNUAL**

EASTER RAFFLE

**TAKING DONATIONS UP
UNTIL THURS 3 APRIL**

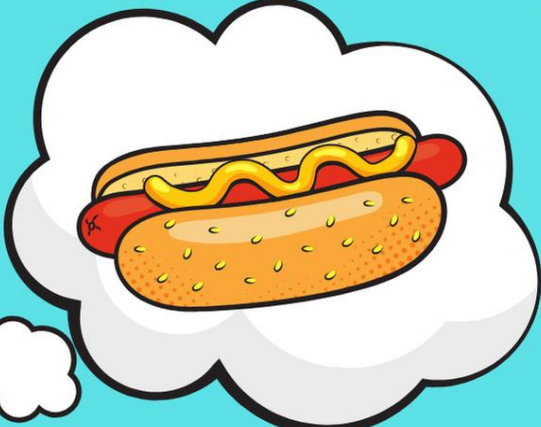
**EASTER EGGS,
EASTER CRAFT, EASTER
COLOURING IN BOOKS -
PLEASE LEAVE AT RECEPTION**





**SPECIAL LUNCH
HOT DOG
DAY**

**FRIDAY
28TH MARCH**



**Our first
special lunch
for term 1!**

**Can you help out on
the day?**

WE WILL NEED A NUMBER OF
PARENT/GRANDPARENT HELPERS
FROM 12-2PM

together in faith

School Community News

Have You Ordered Your School Photos?

Your photo day is: **27/03/2025**



LEADING
IMAGE School Photos

leadingimage.com.au

St Margaret's Primary School

DON'T MISS OUT!

To order your school photos:

1. Go to www.leadingimage.com.au
2. Click on Order Your School Photos
3. Enter your Access Key

! Individual & family photos can be ordered with the same access key. Family photographs must be ordered **before 4:30pm the night before photo day**. Please ensure your orders are placed before this time.

Access key: **YZKK65A8**



St Margaret's
Primary School

Scan to order!



LEADING
IMAGE School Photos

As I reflect on this day, I am grateful for the simple things: the warmth of the sun, the fresh air, and the opportunity to connect with others. I am thankful for the people who have helped me, the lessons I've learned, and the beauty of the world around me.



ST MARGARETS P&F

Hot Cross Bun fundraiser

Check out the
FlexiSchools app
for ordering
details

Available in
Traditional
Choc Chip
Fruitless
Apple & Cinnamon

**Orders due by
Tuesday 1st April**

**Packs delivered to
classrooms on
Friday 4th April**



\$9.50
per 6 pack

PARENT EDUCATION EVENTS

GEELONG and BARWON
SOUTHWEST REGION



TERM 2, 2025

All Regional Parenting Service programs along with MELI (*formerly Barwon Child Youth & Family (BCYF) and Bethany*), Family Relationship Centre, Drummond St Services and Barwon Southwest Region programs will be offered face to face or online. Bookings are essential. For details of dates, times and venues please see below.

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

The First 1000 Day

The first 1,000 days of life is a program for parents with children aged under 2 years and designed to nurture parents as they embark on their journey. It provides parents with knowledge about brain development and an understanding of how children grow and what they need. The centrality of family relationships and opportunities for parents to reflect on their own childhood and how to connect with their children are all explored.

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

Bringing up Great Kids is a 6-week supportive program for parents of children aged 12 months to 9 years.

The program aims to:

- develop parents' skills to enhance communication with their child/ren;
- promote positive interactions between parents and their child/ren;
- encourage the development of a child's positive self-identity.

CIRCLE OF SECURITY

Circle of Security is an 8-week supportive program for parents of children aged birth to 5 years.

The program aims to:

- help parents understand how to build feelings of security for children in their early years;
- assist parents with skills to build on the positive relationship with their child;
- develop confidence in parents to respond to their child in a way which builds a secure foundation for children.

TUNING IN TO KIDS

Tuning in to kids is a 6-week supportive program for parents of children aged 4 to 10 years.

The program aims to:

- help parents teach and support their child/ren to understand and manage their emotions;
- support parents in encouraging children to express emotions appropriately;
- maximise children's social, behavioural and learning outcomes.

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

Parenting Adolescents

The program builds on maintaining positive relationships and interactions between parents and adolescents during the ages of 10 to 17 years.

This 6-week program will look at having a better understanding and being able to support your adolescent.

- Finding meaningful ways to stay connected with your adolescent;
- Understand that all behaviour and interaction have a meaning attached to it;
- Develop an increased understanding about the messages that they communicate to their adolescent through their behaviour, actions and attitudes;
- Develop skills to identify and manage their stress associated with parenting.

STRENGTHENING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Strengthening Family Connections is a free 8-week program for parents and their children aged 8 to 12 years. The program aims to build a positive family culture and strengthen family connections.

OUR KIDS – Parenting After Separation

Our Kids is a 6-week course on parenting after separation and the impact of parental conflict on children. The course encourages parents to focus on the needs of their children and develop helpful communication strategies following separation. Courses run weekly for 6 weeks during school terms. Morning and evening sessions are available.

FLOURISHING FAMILIES

A 5-week program for parents with children of all ages to discover how you can help your family to flourish.

Learn about:

- how you can promote resilience;
- increase awareness of your family's strengths;
- create and nurture positive family relationships;
- give feedback to support individual growth.

THE ANXIETY COACH

Reducing Anxiety and Building Resilience in Children

A 5-week program for parents of children 5 to 12 years to gain an understanding of the increasing levels of anxiety in a child and strategies to help manage the "traps and tripwires" with strengthening sayings, questioning strategies and mindful exercises.

TUNING IN TO TEENS

Tuning in to teens is a 6-week supportive program for parents of teens aged 12 to 18 years.

The program aims to:

- support parents to connect and communicate with their teens;
- assist parents with understanding adolescent development;
- help parents to assist their teen to develop emotional intelligence;
- remain empathetic and stay connected.

THE DAD WORKSHOP

This 6-week program will focus on giving you the tools you need to create a better life for your entire family.

We will look at simple things you can do to improve:

- your relationship with yourself;
- your relationship with your partner;
- your relationship with your kids.

POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

Available online via the Triple P website

www.triplep-parenting.net.au/vic-uken/triple-p/

LIVING WITH TEENS

A model for building strong, secure connections. Living with Teens is a 3-week program.

The program aims to cover:

- what parents need to be able to meet teen's needs;
- what teens need from parents;
- adolescent development.

BUMPS TO BUBS

Bumps to Bubs brings young mothers and mothers-to-be (up to 23 years) with babies 0 to 1 year, together to support the journey of parenting.

BUBS TO TOTS

Bubs to Tots brings mothers (up to 24 years) of children in the 1 to 2 year age group together for support and education.

DADS TUNING INTO KIDS

Dads Tuning into Kids is a 6-week supportive program specifically for Dads of children aged 3 to 12 years.

The program aims to:

- help dads to effectively tune in to their child's emotions;
- encourage dads to strengthen their emotional connection with their child;
- support dads to build skills in emotion coaching to assist their child's individual needs.

STEPPING STONES

Stepping Stones is a 5-week program for families with a child who has a disability. The program aims to help parents use Positive Parenting to acquire new skills and knowledge. Skills are practiced and parents receive constructive feedback about their use of skills.

GRANDPARENTING PROGRAM

Being a grandparent is one of the most exciting times in our life. A lot of information and safety recommendations have changed since we had our own young children.

In this session, come together with other grandparents to discuss some of the fun times we share with our grandchildren but to also look at the many guidelines that have changed since we had our own young children.

Program	Location / Venue	Days / Dates	Time	Bookings
Tuning in to Kids	Virginia Todd 9-15 Clarence Street, Geelong West	Mondays 28 Apr – 02 June	5.30pm - 7.30pm	 <p>Regional Parenting Service</p> <p>www.geelongaustralia.com.au/parenting</p> <p>Ph: 5272 4741</p> 
Circle of Security	Virginia Todd 9-15 Clarence Street, Geelong West	Wednesdays 07 May – 25 June	7.00pm - 9.00pm	
Grandparenting Program	Virginia Todd 9-15 Clarence Street, Geelong West	Thursdays 08 May – 29 May	1.30pm - 3.00pm	
The Dad Workshop	Online via Zoom	Wednesdays 30 Apr – 04 June	7.00pm - 9.00pm	
Bringing up Great Kids - Adolescents	Online via Zoom	Tuesdays 13 May – 17 June	7.00pm - 9.00pm	
Bringing up Great Kids – First 1000 Days	Online via Zoom	Mondays 28 Apr – 26 May	7.00pm - 8.30pm	
Our Kids – Parenting after Separation	Family Relationship Centre 1/100 Brougham Street, Geelong	Thursdays 08 May – 12 June	12.00pm - 2.00pm	 <p>Family Relationship Centre</p> <p>www.catholiccarevic.org.au</p> <p>Ph: 5246 5600</p>
Online parenting programs	Drummond St Services offer a range of online programs, please see their website for further details.	Various dates and times		 <p>Drummond Street Services</p> <p>ds.org.au/events/</p>

Program	Location / Venue	Days / Dates	Time	Bookings
Circle of Security	Bellarine Learning & Living Centre 20 Worden Court, Whittington	Tuesdays 06 May – 24 Jun	10.00am - 12.00pm	 <p>Meli, the new name for BCYF and Bethany</p> <p>www.meli.org.au</p> <p>Ph: 5226 8900</p> 
Tuning into Kids	Meli 16 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights	Thursdays 08 May – 12 Jun	10.00am - 12.00pm	
Dad's Tuning into Kids	Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre 12 Merrijig Drive, Torquay	Tuesdays 06 May – 10 Jun	5.30pm - 7.30pm	
Tuning in to Teens	Meli 222 Malop Street, Geelong	Wednesdays 07 May – 11 Jun	10.00am - 12.00pm	
To express your interest for the following programs please contact MELI				
Bumps to Bubs Strengthening Family Connections Bubs to Tots				

Circle of Security Grandparents	TBA	Thursdays 29 May – 03 Jul	6.30pm - 8.30pm	 <p>CatholicCare Victoria – Warrnambool</p> <p>www.catholiccarevic.org.au</p> <p>Ph: 4344 4588</p> <p>E: helen.diamond@catholiccarevic.org.au</p>
Circle of Security (Abbreviated version)	TBA	Tuesdays 29 Apr – 03 Jun	6.30pm - 8.30pm	
Living with Teens	Online via Zoom	Thursdays 08 May – 22 May	6.30pm - 8.30pm	

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS



BLUEBIRD
FOUNDATION INC.



Felted Terrarium

Learn the basics of felting as you craft your own woolly terrarium with Bec Wilson.

10-1pm \$75 incl. materials

APRIL

07



Character Illustration

Unleash your imagination in this hands-on character design workshop with Melissa O'Shea.

10-12noon \$55 incl. materials

APRIL

08



Let's Explore Print

Explore the exciting world of printmaking in this hands-on workshop with Ellise Roberts

10-1pm \$85 incl. materials

APRIL

10

bluebirdfoundationinc.org.au/workshops



BLUEBIRD
FOUNDATION INC.



FELTED EASTER TERRARIUM WORKSHOP

*Get ready for Easter with a
hands-on creative experience*

Begin the workshop by felting an adorable toadstool, then learn to use wire to create definition and movement in Mr Bunny's limbs.

Hosted by Bec Wilson
Enrol via QR code or check out our website

www.bluebirdfoundationinc.org.au/workshops

🕒 Adults
Saturday
6th April 2025
2pm - 4:30pm
\$95 includes materials
*Bring a friend and save \$5
per person (\$90 per
person)

📍 Bluebird House
Corner Carr &
Swanston Streets
South Geelong





TERM 2, 2025 - REGISTER NOW @
CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU

SPECIALISED CHESS COACHING

Since 2002, we have been providing our popular Chess For Schools program in schools throughout Melbourne and Greater Geelong.



'Children love attending Phil's chess classes as he actively fosters their sense of wellbeing and motivation to learn more'.

*Rob Horwood Principal,
Stella Maris Primary, Beaumaris.*

HOW CAN CHESS BENEFIT YOUR CHILD?

Educational: Improved IQ, critical thinking, concentration, analytical skills, memory.

Social: Develop new friendships, social interaction skills, sportsmanship.

Emotional: Confidence, self esteem, resilience through winning/losing games.

CLASS STRUCTURE:

Different lessons are taught each week from a structured syllabus ranging from tactics, strategies, master openings, traps & special moves. After the lesson children are paired up in a fun tournament playoff. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 players at end of term.

BOOK HERE



CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU

CLASS DETAILS - ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY - GEELONG

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DATES	COST
Wednesdays	1:30-2:20pm	Multi-purpose Room	30 April to 25 Jun	\$145 per child/per term

"Alex loves chess club and gets very upset if he misses a session. His chess has definitely improved and his teacher, Anita feels that it helps with his math in class in terms of concepts and thinking. Keep up the great work!" **Katrina Lambert: Hampton Primary School**