

# NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's  
Primary School

Term One, Week 10  
March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
#10

## From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

As we quickly approach the end of the term, we'd like to remind everyone that school will finish at 1:30 pm this Friday. We will also be drawing our Easter raffle at 1pm under the tree in our yard, so we encourage families to join us for this exciting event.



This Friday, our School and Vice Captains have organised a casual dress and crazy hair day fundraiser. We invite all students to come with their most creative and wacky hairstyles and bring a gold coin donation. The funds raised will go towards the installation of a friendship bench in our yard. This bench will serve as a welcoming and inclusive space where students can sit if they are looking for someone to talk to or play with, fostering a culture of kindness and connection in our school community.

Our school tours have been very well attended, and we encourage any families with siblings hoping to enrol for next year to submit applications as soon as possible. Demand for 2026 placements is high, and we want to ensure all our existing families have the opportunity to secure a place.

Athletics Day is coming up this Thursday, and we are looking forward to a fantastic day of competition and fun. Please note that all students must arrive at, and be collected from school rather than Landy Field. Due to the need for bus bookings, the logistics can become costly, and ensuring a child-safe environment is our priority. To maintain the highest level of safety, all students will return to school on the bus at the conclusion of the event. We encourage families to come along and cheer on our students. A coffee van and a Parents & Friends BBQ will be available on the day, with cash and EFTPOS options. Please support the school by purchasing a sausage and enjoying the atmosphere!



Last Friday's Cross Country event was a great success. Our students showed outstanding effort and sportsmanship, and we are incredibly proud of their participation. Mr. Wilson will be reviewing the results and selecting students to move on to the district-level competition. Well done to all who participated!

It has been a busy and productive term, and we appreciate the ongoing support of our families. A reminder that Term 2 fees are now due. If you have not yet set up a direct debit, we strongly encourage you to do so to ensure a smooth and consistent payment process. Otherwise, please ensure that a full term's fees are paid in advance. Timely payment of school fees is essential in allowing us to continue providing quality education, maintaining resources, and offering enriching opportunities for our students.

...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



Thank you to the amazing parents who set up our new 'Friendship Station Shed' last week. Their incredible work means we have some storage back onsite as well as a new friendship station for our students to enjoy. We are so grateful to Luke and Fran Jackson, Maggie and Brad Walker and Cassie Rufus. Thank you for the time and commitment you have dedicated to our school. We sincerely value our home-school partnership and thank you for your commitment to our school community.

Wishing you all a happy Easter and a wonderful holiday break. We look forward to welcoming students back for Term 2 on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please note that it will be a short three-day school week, as Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, is the ANZAC Day public holiday.

Happy Easter and enjoy the school holidays.

*Susan Perks*



## Caritas Coin Line for Project Compassion



**Date:** *Wednesday, April 2nd*  
**Prize:** *Hot chip lunch in term two for the winning class*  
**Location:** *Basketball court*  
**When:** *After Lunch*



## Our Term One Chess Champions



## St Margaret's Primary School



83 St Albans Road  
East Geelong 3219

Ph 5229 7453



Website: [www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Susan Perks [sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au)

Office Managers: Anne Miller [amiller@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:amiller@smgeelongeast.com.au)  
Georgia Kavenagh [gkavenagh@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:gkavenagh@smgeelongeast.com.au)

Business Manager: Libby Fitzgerald [lfitzgerald@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:lfitzgerald@smgeelongeast.com.au)

Parish Priest: Father Jim Clarke [frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au)

## Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

### Term One

#### March

Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

Project Compassion boxes due back to the office  
School tour - 10am

#### April

Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

SEDA sports sessions for Years One to Six  
Coins for Caritas - 2.30pm  
P&F - 7pm in the staffroom  
AFL Girls 9s

Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Whole School Athletics Day  
Assembly PREP - 9.15am  
**Crazy Hair Day & Casual clothes – Gold coin donation**  
Last day of Term One - 1.30pm dismissal.

### Term Two

#### April

**Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Monday public holiday**  
Term Two begins  
**Prep excursion to Werribee Zoo**  
**ANZAC DAY public holiday**

#### May

Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

School Board 7pm  
P-2 Incursion: Responsible Pet Education  
National Simultaneous Storytime 12 noon

#### June

**Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

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

#### July

Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

Term Two ends - 1.30pm dismissal

### Term Three

#### July

**Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

**School Closure Day - Staff PL**  
Students begin Term Three

#### August

Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>

School Board 7pm  
**Book Fair Week**  
Emmaus Meal 5.30pm  
**Book Week begins 'Book an Adventure'**  
Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm

#### September

Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

School Board 7pm  
Term Three ends. 1.30pm dismissal



## Calendar of Events

### Term Four

#### October

**Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

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

#### November

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

**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 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

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



## Aussie of the Month

Awarded to

### *Claudia Walker*

for displaying the attribute of

*Mateship - generosity of spirit and compassion for those in need*

*Claudia consistently supports her peers with a positive attitude, always offering help when needed. Claudia's willingness to lend a hand and her friendly, approachable nature truly embodies the spirit of 'Mateship', making her an important and respected member of the school community.*

***Congratulations Claudia!***

***Our School and Vice School captains attended the Youth Leadership Conference in Melbourne.***





*School Community News*

*Division Swimming Competition*

A huge congratulations to Ivy, Kartia, Niah, Fletcher, and Hazel for their fantastic efforts at the Division Swimming competition at Kardinia Aquatic Centre! You all represented St. Margaret's with great skill and determination in a highly competitive event. A special shoutout to Kartia, who finished second overall in backstroke and has qualified for regionals. We wish her the best of luck!



*Cross Country*





**School Community News**

**Mass at St Patrick's**

As part of Catholic Education Week our RE Leaders and School Captains attended Mass at St Patrick's in Melbourne followed by activities in the gardens.



**ST MARGARETS  
P&F**

**THURS  
3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL**

**Aths Day  
BBQ**

**SAUSAGE IN  
BREAD  
\$2.50**

**EGG & BACON  
ROLL  
\$5.00**

**BBQ VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

**11AM - 2PM**

See FlexiSchools for  
more details

together in faith

*School Community News*

Gold Coin to raise money for our  
Friendship Bench.

# GET READY FOR CRAZY HAIR DAY!

## FRIDAY APRIL 4TH

LAST DAY OF TERM!



*Celebrating Harmony Week*





ST MARGARETS P&F

## **Hot Cross Bun fundraiser**

Check out the  
FlexiSchools app  
for ordering  
details

**Available in**  
Traditional  
Choc Chip  
Fruitless  
Apple & Cinnamon

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**Orders due by  
Tuesday 1st April**

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



**\$9.50**  
per 6 pack



## School Community News

### Spelling Mastery: Parent Information

#### Spelling Mastery Program

At St. Margaret's, students in Years 3-6 are four weeks into our Spelling Mastery program. Students develop their spelling skills through the **Spelling Mastery** program, a differentiated and research-backed approach to teaching spelling. This program follows **Direct Instruction**, an explicit, teacher-directed method that ensures students receive consistent and effective lessons.

Spelling Mastery equips students with essential spelling strategies to help them become confident, lifelong spellers. It focuses on building an understanding of the relationships between sounds, word parts, and spelling patterns, ultimately enhancing their writing proficiency.

Students are grouped at their point of need and from 9:10am - 9:30am four days a week, they attend these Mastery lessons.

#### How Spelling Mastery Works

Students learn to spell through three key approaches:

1. **Phonemic Approach** – This method teaches students how sounds correspond to letters and spelling patterns, helping them recognize predictable spellings.
2. **Whole-Word Approach** – Students memorize commonly used words that have irregular spellings, such as *friend*, *answer*, and *people*, which cannot be easily sounded out.
3. **Morphographic Approach** – This approach teaches students how to combine word parts, called **morphographs**, to form different words. By learning spelling rules for morphographs, students can construct a wide range of words with confidence.

#### The Structure of Spelling Mastery

Spelling Mastery follows a structured **Direct Instruction** model, where teachers use a scripted lesson format. This ensures consistency across different teaching groups, providing all students with an equal learning experience regardless of their teacher.

Lessons include regular repetition of previous content, reinforcing knowledge and helping students transfer spelling skills from their **working memory to long-term memory**. This makes it easier for them to apply their spelling knowledge independently in reading and writing.

Each student works from an individual workbook, where they record and practice new spelling concepts as they progress through the program.

Students in Years 1-2 will join this program in Semester 2, once they have established their Little Learners Love Literacy sequence.

### Environmental Saviours attend the Melbourne Flower Show



### ***St. Margaret's School Literacy Update***

As you may know, education is continually evolving and St. Margaret's is adopting an evidence-based approach to our learning. To assess our progress and refine our skills in Daily Review, we have partnered with Classroom Mastery and expert coaches from The Knowledge Society.

*'Classroom Mastery provides leaders and teachers with the knowledge, skills and strategies they need to create classroom behaviours and school culture that foster positive learning environments for all students.'*

This term, we were excited to welcome Nellie Wilmott from The Knowledge Society who modeled a Daily Review session for our teachers. Teachers had the opportunity to observe Nellie in action, gaining valuable insights into best practices.

In addition to this, Nellie observed some of our teachers leading Daily Review sessions in their own classrooms, offering professional and actionable feedback. This process has been incredibly affirming for teachers who are embracing new methods in their teaching, while also providing an opportunity for reflection and adjustments where needed.

A big congratulations to our amazing teachers, who demonstrated professionalism and openness during peer observations and feedback sessions.

Looking ahead, Nellie will return in Term 2, where our focus will shift to fluency. We look forward to continuing this journey of growth and excellence in literacy!

### ***St Margaret's Leaders attend Geelong Pilgrimage of Hope***





### *Student of the Week Awards*

CLASS	STUDENT	AWARDS - Friday, March 28th, 2025
<b>Prep PB</b>	Fionn Kelly	For bringing joy and humor to his peers and teachers.
<b>Prep PB</b>	James Porter	For always trying his best and encouraging his peers. We appreciate you James!
<b>Prep SB</b>	Harry Haberfield	For giving everything a go and putting in 100% effort. We are proud of you Harry!
<b>Prep SB</b>	Edie Harvey	For always doing her very best and for the wonderful role model she is to others.
<b>1/2 EK</b>	Bailey Cardigan	For giving great suggestions and insights into mascots during our text based unit.
<b>1/2 EK</b>	Billie Jobson	For increasing your reading stamina.
<b>1/2 JB</b>	Stevie Bakker	For always striving to put your best foot forward in the classroom. Well done Stevie!
<b>1/2 JB</b>	Michael Walker	For your kindness shown towards others in the classroom. Well done Michael!
<b>3/4 EC</b>	Charlotte Nolan	For consistently applying yourself across all areas of the curriculum and embracing challenges with enthusiasm.
<b>3/4 EC</b>	Kartia Mirmilstein	For showing fantastic active participation in our maths discussions, sharing your ideas with confidence and enthusiasm. I am very proud of your effort and willingness to contribute, keep up the great work!
<b>3/4HM</b>	Miles Hope	For your terrific effort in reading and your dedication to your work in Macqlit.
<b>3/4 HM</b>	Winnie Timmins	For your kindness and willingness to help others. Thank you for offering your support and encouragement.
<b>3/4 LC</b>	Sophie Butcher	For perseverance with her persuasive writing and for presenting work beautifully.
<b>3/4 LC</b>	Bonnie Martini	For thinking deeply and asking good questions; for being a super role model to others.
<b>3/4 JK-CB</b>	Liam McGuane	For being focused on your learning and for working to improve your persuasive writing skills. Well done!
<b>3/4 JK-CB</b>	Boston Coots	For your determination and effort in all class tasks. Keep it up!
<b>5/6 DJ-JW</b>	Xavier Marshall	For giving new things ago and showing perseverance.
<b>5/6 DJ-JW</b>	Shae Rufus	For an amazing presentation in our wellbeing sessions.
<b>5/6 FM</b>	Harrison Spark	For showing excellent leadership skills in our class. Well done!
<b>5/6 FM</b>	Loyola Jackson	For your excellent narrative writing piece this week. Well done!
<b>5/6 KH</b>	Ruby O'Leary	For being well organised and focused during class learning time. Ruby is a great role model for others.
<b>5/6 KH</b>	Jack Reynolds	For making a fantastic start to Year 6. Jack is a great role model and friend to others.
<b>5/6 KH</b>	Lily Bell	For having a positive attitude towards her learning and always ready to give things a go.
<b>PRINCIPAL'S AWARD</b>	Winnie Timmins	For always giving a helping hand to those in need.



TERM 2, 2025 - REGISTER NOW @

[CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU](http://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](http://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*





**Learn tennis  
for life**

[hotshots.tennis.com.au](http://hotshots.tennis.com.au)

**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL HRS  
TERM 2**

**TENNIS HOT SHOTS  
CARDIO TENNIS (ADULTS)  
ST. MARY'S TENNIS CLUB  
THOMSON RESERVE  
CONTACT: MARK**

**0416288956**

**NEW  
Easter Dates!!**



**A Creative Anxiety and  
Resilience Workshop For  
Young People**

# **Calm The Guard Dog And Hear The Owl**

Approaching anxiety and resilience in a practical and creative way, with therapeutic support, using art and narrative

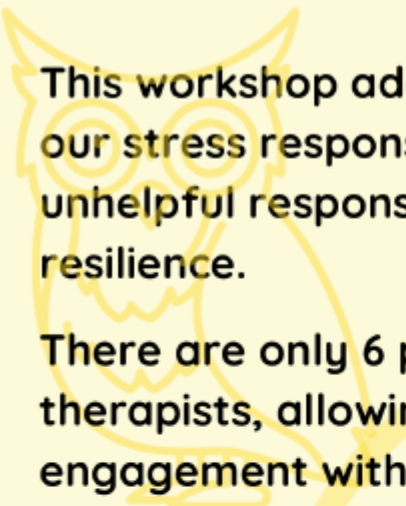
**2 day Creative Art Therapy Workshop, \$295**

**16th & 17th April 2025, 9am-11am (5-8 yrs)**

**16th & 17th April 2025, 1pm-3pm (9-12 yrs)**







This workshop addresses how we recognise anxiety, what our stress responses are and how we can calm these unhelpful responses to combat the overwhelm and build resilience.

There are only 6 participants per group and 3 art therapists, allowing for comprehensive therapeutic engagement with each child.

### Day 1 - When does the Guard Dog Bark?

Here we will explore anxiety triggers and stress responses in an engaging way, in order to gain a deeper understanding of our unique experience with anxiety.

### Day 2 - How to Hear the Owl

The second day will uncover ways in which we can combat the unhelpful stress responses and build resilience.



## How Can I Find Out More?

For more information please scan this QR Code to refer to our website

[www.lemondropskidstherapy.com.au](http://www.lemondropskidstherapy.com.au),  
20 Heyers Road, Grovedale, 3216,  
0481 304 975



# CD Kids



## Expressive Social and Emotional Learning Group Program

Chakradance Kids™ is a Social and Emotional Learning program that applies many Child Development Theories. It is designed to assist children of ages 3-9 with lessons, tools and skills that will help them to navigate life's challenges with greater understanding (of themselves and others), and greater resilience.



The classes are based around a life lesson and consist of a story, mindfulness breathing practice, meditation, art, movement and optional sharing circles.



## How Does This Benefit My Child?

- Decreases anxiety
- Improves behaviour and attitude
- Increases confidence for self-expression, both verbally and in writing
- Develops emotional intelligence and self-awareness
- Introduces valuable tools for social interaction
- Develops group communication abilities
- Builds self-confidence and self-esteem
- Builds compassion for self and others

## What Does It Look Like?

There are 9 classes and each class uses a carefully-structured mix of stories, **music**, **movement** and **creative art**. We delve into essential life lessons, guided by the endearing journey of Naga, the friendly dragon seeking self-discovery (6-9 years) and Nixie the dragon bringing magic back to her tree (3-5 years). The children are taught **important life lessons** in ways that they can understand, and find engaging. Relaxation and **emotional self-management** techniques such as belly-breathing and mindfulness are also taught in these classes.

The classes accommodate a maximum of **8 participants**, ensuring personalised attention and a supportive environment. We encourage caregivers to join initially, fostering connection and understanding. While caregiver participation is optional, their presence enriches the experience for both child and adult and the **caregiver will be offered support by the therapist outside of classes.**



Classes are held on Mondays (3-5 years) and Wednesdays (6-9 years) 4pm-5pm at Grovedale Community Hub.

## How Can I Find Out More?

For more information and FAQs please scan this QR Code to refer to our website

[www.lemondropskidstherapy.com.au](http://www.lemondropskidstherapy.com.au),  
20 Heyers Road, Grovedale, 3216,  
0481 304 975







# JUNIOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS WANTED FOR THE 2025 SEASON

U10, U12, U14, U16, U18  
ALL PLAYING LEVELS WELCOME

contact Jade Morris on 0402 614 894 or  
email [junior.football@stalbandsfc.com](mailto:junior.football@stalbandsfc.com)

