

# NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's  
Primary School

*Term Two, Week 5*  
*May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025*  
*#15*

## *From Susan's Desk*

Dear Families,

We're thrilled to launch our Tree Drive – a green initiative that supports our school garden makeover while also giving families the chance to add beauty to their own gardens. There are three easy ways to get involved. You can buy trees or plants for your own backyard by selecting items from the 'HOME GARDEN' section of the Tree Drive event. All orders will be delivered to the school for collection, and for large home orders, we'll be in touch to arrange direct delivery. Our prices are lower than standard retail, and a portion of each sale goes directly back into our school garden project. If there's something you'd love to see added to the list, let us know – we're happy to include more options.

Another wonderful way to contribute is by donating a plant or tree to the school garden. Simply select from the 'SPONSOR A TREE' items, and your donation will go directly into our garden makeover. To recognise your generosity, your family's name will be displayed on a plaque beside your sponsored plant – a lasting contribution to our learning environment. If you don't need any plants but still wish to support, you can make a dollar donation of any amount. Every contribution helps us purchase trees, plants, and essential gardening tools for our students to use and enjoy. If you have any questions about what's available, please reach out to Luke on 0490 400 038. We can't wait to grow something wonderful together.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our FIRE Carriers hot chocolate fundraiser last week – we're proud to share that \$122 was raised for the Opening The Doors Foundation, which supports educational opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Our FIRE Carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) are student leaders who promote reconciliation and deepen our community's understanding of Indigenous culture. Their leadership and initiative are a wonderful example of the values we strive to live by at St Margaret's.

We are also incredibly grateful to all the families who rolled up their sleeves at our recent working bee in preparation for the reimagining of our garden space. It was a beautiful display of school, home, and community connection, and it reminded us once again of how lucky we are to be part of such a generous and involved school community. Thank you for contributing your time, effort, and support.

We've also received many kind messages following the recent article in the Geelong Advertiser, which so beautifully reflected the heart and spirit of our school. Thank you to Nuwain and Harriet for representing us with such confidence and care during their interview with me. Their thoughtful responses helped share the story of St Margaret's with the wider Geelong community.

...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.



## Learning and Teaching News

It's also a big week for our Year 5/6 students, with many participating in the Lightning Premiership and chosen students from 3-6 participating in the next level Cross Country. We wish them all the very best and know they will represent our school with courage, kindness, and great sportsmanship. We are so proud of their efforts and the way they support one another in every endeavour.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind families that a high number of students have been presenting to school unwell in recent weeks. This is having a significant impact on staffing and, more importantly, is placing other students at risk of illness. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home and ensure they are regularly tested for COVID-19 and Influenza A. Your support in this matter helps us keep everyone safe, healthy, and learning effectively.

Thank you once again to everyone who continues to support our school in so many ways – through fundraising, volunteering, kind words, and shared enthusiasm. Every act of support helps us grow as a school and as a community. We look forward to all that's ahead, including the continued development of our garden space and the upcoming celebrations for National Reconciliation Week.

Have a great week!

*Susan Perks*



## Term Two

### May

Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**

Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

Year 5/6 Lightning Premiership  
Division Cross Country – Selected Students  
5/6 Internet Safety Session with Vic Police  
National Simultaneous Storytime 12 noon  
Story Dogs  
**3/4 Coastal Nectar Incursion**  
FIRE Carriers excursion to GMHBA  
Tree Drive orders close  
School Assembly (Years 3/4)  
Story Dogs

### June

Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

Story Dogs  
**King's Birthday public holiday**  
**School Closure Day - Staff PL**  
School Assembly (Years 1/ 2)  
P&F Special Lunch  
Story Dogs  
Working Bee (planting /tree collection)  
Working Bee (planting /tree collection)  
Division Soccer - Selected Students  
Story Dogs  
School Board 7pm  
Division Tee-Ball – Selected Students  
School Assembly (Prep)  
Story Dogs  
School Board 7pm

### July

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

Reports to Parents  
Term Two ends - 1.30pm dismissal

## Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

### 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>  
Tuesday, August 19<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'  
Book Week Dress Up Parade  
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

### 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

### Destiny

Watch your thoughts,  
They become your words.  
Watch your words,  
They become your actions.

Watch your actions  
They become your habits.  
Watch your habits,  
They become your character.  
Watch your character,  
It becomes your destiny.



## 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 [sperts@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:sperts@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)

## School Community News



OPENING THE  
DOORS  
FOUNDATION  
FUNDRAISING -  
\$122.00



# THANK YOU

*Thank you to our FIRE Carriers for serving hot chocolate this week for a worthy cause;  
Opening the Doors Indigenous Foundation.*



Q&A

# 'Schools can truly change lives'

## Why St Margaret's principal Susan Perks loves her job

St Margaret's Primary School captains, Harriet Salkeld and Nuwain De Silva, sat down with their principal, Susan Perks, to learn more about her and what makes St Margaret's East Geelong such a wonderful school.

**What inspired you to become a principal?**

I was inspired to become a principal because I believe schools can truly change lives.

I loved being a teacher, but I wanted to support not just one class, but a whole school community. As principal, I can help create a safe, welcoming place where students feel confident to learn, try new things, and grow.

Every day at St Margaret's, I see the happiness on students' faces when they achieve something new – and that's what inspires me to keep leading with kindness and purpose.

**When you were my age, did you know you wanted to be a teacher?**

Yes I did! When I was your age, I liked learning and I admired my teachers. I enjoyed reading to my friend's younger siblings and I also role-played schools a lot at home.

I remember loving reading stories and writing my own. I also enjoyed helping my

friends with their work. As I got older, I realised I was happiest when I was helping others learn and feel confident. That's when I knew teaching was the path for me – and I've never looked back.

**If you hadn't become a teacher, what job would you have liked to do?**

If I hadn't become a teacher, I think I would have gone into something that still involved caring for others.

I was interested in the work of World Vision and Caritas and considered heading overseas to help communities that have day-to-day hardships.

I've always been interested in how people feel and think, and I love being part of someone's journey. Even now as principal, I think a big part of my job is supporting wellbeing – helping people feel safe, heard and encouraged.

**Why do you love St Margaret's?**

St Margaret's is more than just a school – it's a community where every child is truly known, supported and celebrated. From the moment you walk through our gates, you'll feel the welcoming and supportive atmosphere. We're proud of the way we nurture learning, faith and wellbeing



St Margaret's Primary School principal Susan Perks with captains Harriet Salkeld and Nuwain De Silva.

in a way that helps every student thrive.

St Margaret's is a place where children feel loved, challenged and inspired to be their best. We work hard to create a safe and welcoming environment where students feel confident to take risks, grow in their learning and build strong friendships.

Our students are thoughtful, curious and caring, and our teachers are dedicated and passionate. Families are involved and supportive, and our Catholic values shine through in how we treat each other.

I love seeing how everyone is included, how we look out for one another and how we aim to be the best version of ourselves, in learning and in kindness.

**What will you do when you leave St Margaret's?**

Leaving will be bittersweet. I'll always be proud of my time here and the memories we've made together.

When I do leave, I plan to take some time to rest, reflect and enjoy being with my family. I might travel, read all the books I never had time for and maybe even volunteer in education in a different way. No matter what, I'll carry the spirit of St Margaret's with me.

**How do you help students have the best learning possible?**

Students learn best when they feel safe, happy and confident.

At St Margaret's, I work closely with our teachers to make sure learning is engag-

ing, challenging and fun. We focus on knowing each student – what helps them thrive and how we can support them when things are tricky. I also make sure students have a voice and feel respected.

We want every student to feel like they belong and can succeed. Students learn best when they feel happy and safe. That's why we focus strongly on wellbeing through our Social and Emotional Learning program, positive behaviour practices, and close relationships between staff and students. Our small school environment means every child is known and supported, and we work together as a team – students, staff, and families – to make sure everyone feels they belong.

*together in faith*

*School Community News*

# ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL TREE DRIVE

**BUY A TREE  
FOR HOME**

**MAKE A  
DONATION**

**SPONSOR  
A TREE**

FROM LITTLE SEEDS,  
BIG THINGS GROW



## **BUY A TREE FOR HOME**

- Order a mature-sized tree for your home via Flexischools
- Get it delivered to school for pick-up or straight to your door!
- A portion of each sale supports the school garden

## **SPONSOR A TREE**

- Choose a tree from our garden wishlist on Flexischools
- Your family's name will be added to a plaque at the tree
- A lovely way to leave your mark (no shovel required!)

## **MAKE A DONATION**

- Make a donation. No tree required!
- Every dollar supports the creation of our new garden space

Check out the full list of available trees and donation options on the Flexischools app. Can't see anything you like?

Call Luke on 0490 400 038.

Trees delivered to the school or your home: 13-14 June

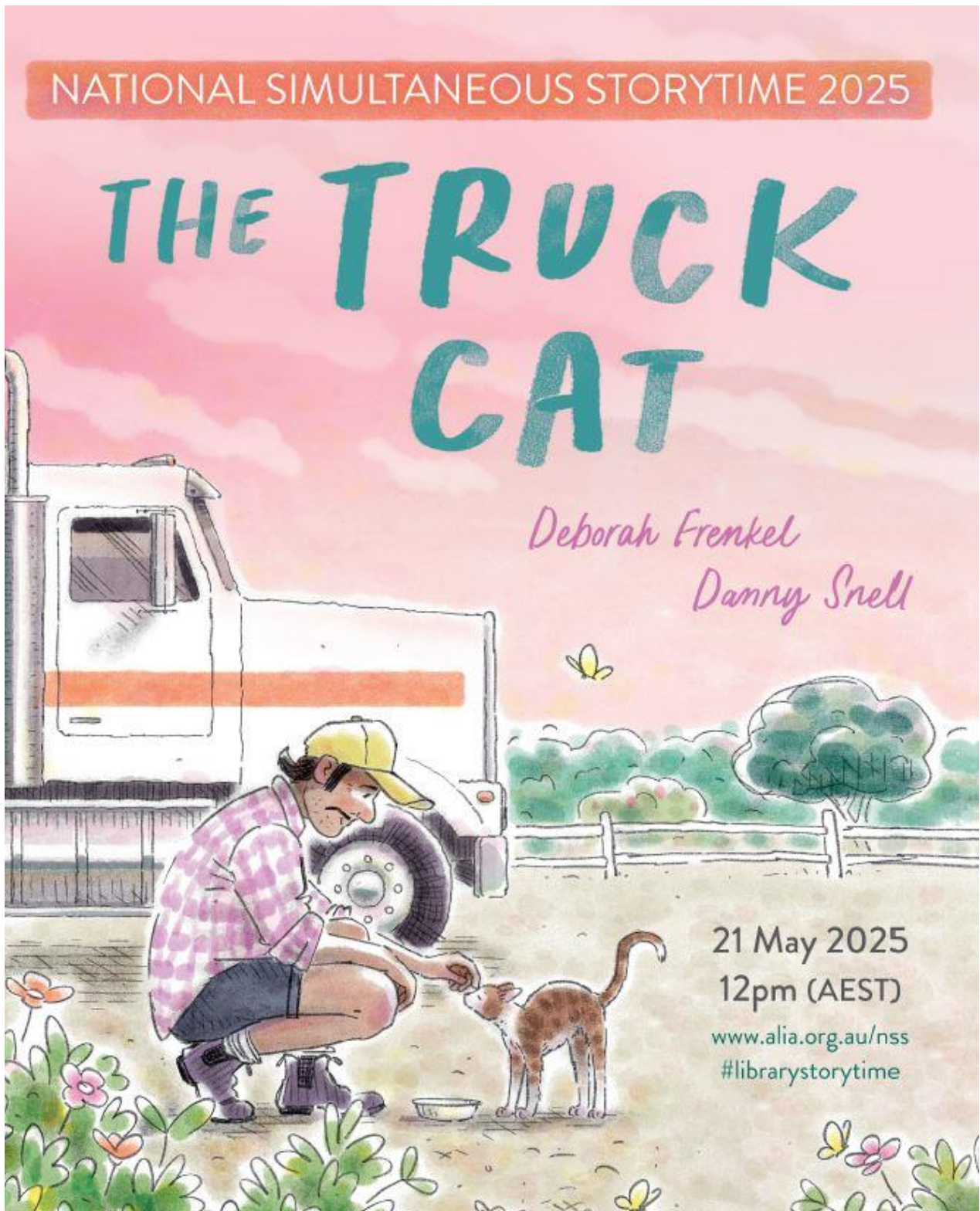
Pick-up dates: 14 & 16 June

## Student of the Week Awards

CLASS	STUDENT	AWARDS - Friday, May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Prep PB	Joseph Brown	For using his imagination to inspire his learning and demonstrating creative thinking.
Prep PB	Koa Gonzales	For demonstrating confidence by sharing his thoughts and ideas appropriately with his class.
Prep SB	Murphy Wilson	For always showing kindness and care to her peers and teachers. Well done Murphy.
Prep SB	Millie Flood	For being an outstanding role model in the classroom! We all appreciate your kind and friendly nature.
1/2 EK	Isla Ventieri	For contributing to whole class discussions appropriately and respectfully. Well done Isla!
1/2 EK	Solomon Westwood	For entering the classroom each morning calmly and independently. Great work Solomon.
1/2 JB	Ruari Dooris	For demonstrating great focus and effort during Spelling Mastery. Well done Ruari!
1/2 JB	Emmanuelle Spitale	For demonstrating a growth mindset towards your schooling. Well done Emmanuelle!
3/4 EC	Colton Blackwell	For always exhibiting St Margaret's values of being responsible, respectful and safe. What a great role model you are!
3/4 EC	Elsie Heather	For showing curiosity in your Inquiry learning, what a fabulous labelled butterfly diagram you did!
3/4 HM	Olive Spencer-Harmer	For your terrific results in PAT testing.
3/4 HM	Kiwan De Silva	For your consistent effort in maths and for extending yourself.
3/4 LC	Patrick Noonan	For deep and creative thinking in Maths and Writing. For playing with positivity and enjoyment.
3/4 LC	Ivy Mason	For being an all round star in her effort with learning, sport skills and care for the classroom environment.
3/4 JK-CB	Austin Ariyappilly	For adapting positively to our school and showing our values, respectful, responsible and safe!
3/4 JK-CB	Pearl Timmins	For always contributing positively in class and always giving her all into everything she does.
5/6 FM	Sonny Kirwan	For your outstanding writing in your 'Alfred's War' reflection task. Fantastic Sonny!
5/6 FM	Airlia Likoudis	For creating a beautiful reflection writing piece about 'Alfred's War' in literacy. Great work Airlia!
5/6 KH	Holly Maloney	Having a great attitude towards school and her learning. Well done Holly
5/6 KH	Jai Power	Producing an excellent diary journal entry based on the text: 'Alfred's War'. Well done Jai.
5/6 DJ-JW	Eliana Vaz	For always being positive in the classroom and for showing kindness to others

*School Community News*

*This Wednesday our students will join  
people all over Australia in the  
National Simultaneous Storytime*





# KELLY SPORTS

**Who can attend:**  
Boys & Girls aged 5-12 years old.

**General Information:**  
We believe in giving children opportunities to do the things they love and enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment. Our friendly staff are passionate about working with children. They are provided with training on behaviour management techniques, first aid and activity planning/delivery.

**What do you need to bring:** Appropriate clothing, jacket or sweatshirt, hat, drink bottle and food for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

**Food:**

Please bring plenty of packed food and drink for morning tea/lunch/afternoon tea. Lunch will be from approximately 12.30pm to 1.30pm each day.

**Programme activities:**

Programme activities are adapted to suit children of all ages and children may be grouped by age depending on numbers. Programme activities may vary without notice dependent on weather conditions and programme numbers.

**Payment details:**

Payment is required upfront within 2 hours of your booking. A receipt will be issued when a completed booking is received. All details will be included on the receipt.

**Please note:**

Every care will be taken to ensure the safety of your child/ren and their property. However, organisers of Kelly Sports accept no liability for any injury sustained to your child/ren or any loss or damage to his/her property whilst on the programme.



**Website:** [www.kellysports.com.au](http://www.kellysports.com.au)

**Contact:** Nick Clydesdale

**Email:** [geelong@kellysports.com.au](mailto:geelong@kellysports.com.au)

**Phone:** 0497 770 909

**Facebook:** Kelly Sports Geelong

**Address:** Geelong Sports Hub, 1 Crown St, South Geelong

# GEELONG WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

## WEEK 1

**Mon 7th July**



**SUPER SOCCER DAY**

- NETBALL
- SOCCER
- BASKETBALL

**Tues 8th July**



**DYNAMIC DODGEBALL**

- DODGEBALL
- FOOTY
- CRICKET

**Wed 9th July**



**NERF WARS**

- NERF WARS
- HOCKEY
- BASKETBALL

**Thurs 10th July**



**KIDS OLYMPICS**

- OLYMPICS
- SOCCER
- RUGBY

**Fri 11th July**



**BAT & BALL SPORTS**

- CRICKET
- FOOTY
- TENNIS

## WEEK 2

**Mon 14th July**



**BASKETBALL BLITZ**

- DODGEBALL
- BASKETBALL
- SOCCER

**Tues 15th July**



**DANCE DAY**

- DISCO
- CRICKET
- NETBALL

**Wed 16th July**



**FOOTY FRENZY**

- FOOTBALL
- SOCCER
- RUGBY

**Thurs 17th July**



**KIDS SURVIVOR**

- ULTIMATE SURVIVOR
- ULTIMATE FRISBEE
- BASKETBALL

**Fri 18th July**



**KIDS VS COACHES DAY**

- CHALLENGE FUN
- AFL
- BASKETBALL

**EACH DAY WILL ALSO INCLUDE FUN GAMES AND DODGEBALL.**

**FULL DAY: \$65**  
Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 5:00pm

**FULL WEEK: \$275**  
8:00am - 5:00pm



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# 2026 OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

We now offer a range of scholarships to passionate and talented students who might not otherwise be able to access our College. Applications for Outstanding Leadership Scholarships, for Years 7-10 entry in 2026, are open from May 12 to June 02, 2025.

Learn more about the Scholarship Programs on offer at Christian College Geelong: [www.christiancollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.christiancollege.vic.edu.au) or call **5241 1899** for more information.



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