

# NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's  
Primary School

*Term Three, Week 1*  
*July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025*  
**#21**

## *From Susan's Desk*

## *Leadership and Management News*

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 3! We hope you had a restful break and are ready for another exciting and productive term of learning and growing together. Last term, we farewelled Miss Patience as she began her maternity leave, and we send her all our best wishes for this incredibly special time. We are thrilled to welcome Jill Connor to our school community. Jill will be teaching in Prep for the remainder of the year and brings with her a deep understanding of our school and students, having already worked across classes as a Casual Relief Teacher. Jill and Patience spent the final week of Term 2 working closely together to ensure a smooth and thorough handover. We're confident your children will enjoy learning with Jill, and we know you will join us in making her feel warmly welcomed.

The cold weather has certainly arrived, and with it a reminder about the importance of wearing the correct school uniform. We ask that students wear either the full academic or full sports uniform—not a combination. Items such as the summer dress paired with tights or sports jumpers over the academic uniform are not in line with our uniform expectations. Wearing the correct uniform builds a sense of pride, belonging, and equality among students. If your child would like to wear a beanie during outdoor times, please ensure it is the official school beanie, which can be purchased via the Flexischools app. There are still plenty available. Non-school beanies will be asked to be removed.

A few reminders as we begin the term: nail polish and fake nails are not permitted at school. They pose a safety risk during learning and play and are not in line with our school uniform policy. We've also had many students return from holidays with hair extensions and decorative braids. While we understand these may be part of cultural celebrations or special travel experiences, we ask that all such hair additions be removed before returning to school to support student safety and maintain focus during learning.

A huge thank you for your generous support of our Story Dogs fundraiser. We raised \$390 for this incredible program, which supports children's literacy by pairing them with trained reading dogs like our much-loved Dash. The students had a wonderful day celebrating Dash and learning more about how Story Dogs help build reading confidence, engagement, and joy. We are so grateful to be part of a community that values and supports initiatives like this.

This term promises to be a busy and exciting one. Our swimming program begins soon, Year 6 students are off to their AFL camp, and we have a number of excursions and extracurricular activities planned across the school. We are proud to be able to offer so many enriching experiences for our students, made possible by the tireless efforts and passion of our staff.

*...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

Please join us for our upcoming Parents & Friends (P&F) meeting next week. It's a great opportunity to connect with other families, share your ideas, and help make our school the best it can be. Your voice and input are valued and appreciated.

Finally, our building project to rectify structural issues in the main building is progressing well. We are hoping that drainage works will begin shortly. This may mean that part of the basketball courts will be out of action for a few weeks, but the result will be a safer, more functional environment for our school community. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as this essential work is completed.

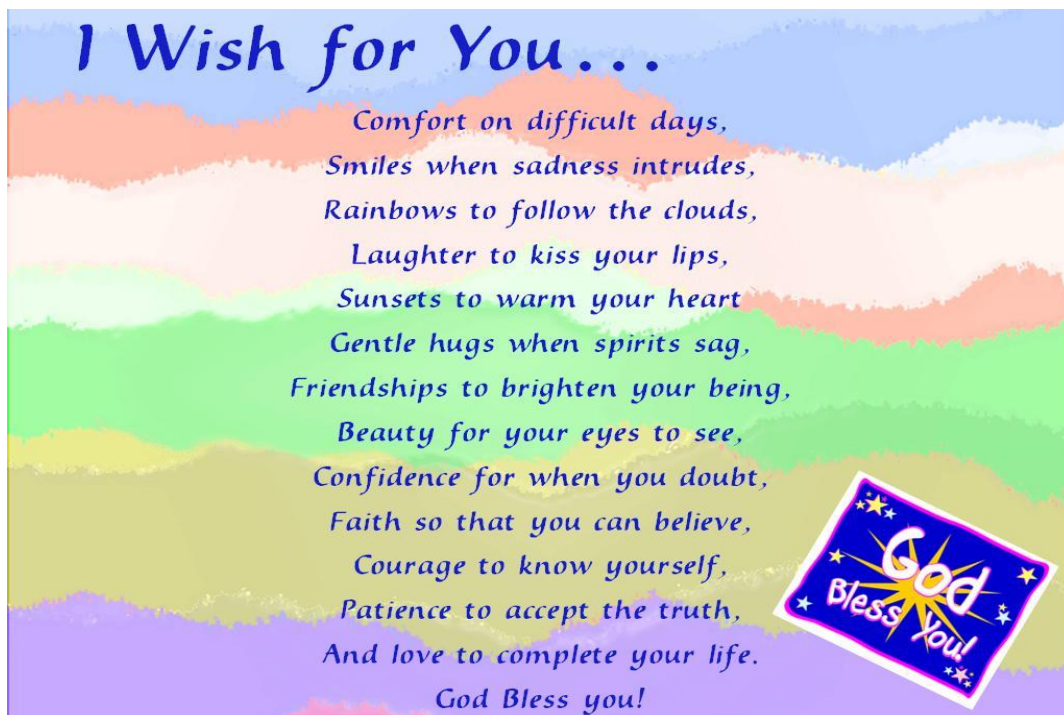
We look forward to a wonderful term ahead and thank you for your ongoing support in making our school such a vibrant and nurturing place for every student.

Have a great week!

*Susan Perks*



***Please note that Friday August 1st is Census Day.  
We ask all students to attend school and arrive on time.  
Thank-you for your support.***



### 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)

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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

### What is Wellbeing Literacy?

Wellbeing literacy means having the words and skills to understand, talk about, and care for our own and others' mental health and wellbeing.

In Semester One, Ms Margie, our Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL), has been working with the Year 3–6 students to explore ways we can use positive, respectful language that helps everyone feel safe, strong and connected.

Students have been learning the importance of self-regulation strategies for healthy brain development. They're not just learning why caring for mental health and wellbeing matters, they have also been experiencing it for themselves through activities that build resilience, kindness, and confidence.

St Margaret's School is proud of the thoughtful ways our students are growing their wellbeing skills!

## Calendar of Events

### Term Three

#### July

**Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**

Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### August

**Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**

Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

**Mon-Fri, Aug 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

**Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**

Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

**Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>

#### September

Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

Monday, Sep 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

**Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

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

**School Closure Day - Staff PL**

Students begin Term Three

**Tee Ball Lightning Premiership (selected students)**

**P&F at Limburners 6.30pm**

**Assembly – Year 5/6 presenting**

School Board 7pm

District Athletics (selected students)

**Matific Math Olympiad**

Book Fair Week

Emmaus Meal 5.30pm

**Assembly – Year 3/4 presenting**

Feast of the Assumption; St Mary's Mass Yrs 4-6

Book Week begins 'Book an Adventure'

"Ruggie, Plushie, Read" event 2.20pm

– parents invited to join in from 3pm

Swimming week for 3/4

Family Quiz activity sent home – return on Thursday

Book Week Dress Up Parade

Book Week activities morning

**Assembly – Year 1/2 presenting**

Cultural Day

Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm

Swimming week for 1/2

Year 6 AFL Camp

School Board 7pm

Specialist Spectacular from 3.30pm

**Assembly – Prep presenting**

Term Three ends. 1.30pm dismissal

## Calendar of Events

### Term Four

#### October

##### Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

##### School Closure Day - Staff PL

Students begin Term Four

Swimming week for Prep

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>

Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

Monday, November 17<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

St Margaret's Feast Day

Swimming week for 5/6

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

## School Community News



Say goodbye to the hassle of making dental appointments, taking time off work, and disrupting your schedule just to ensure your child receives dental care. Smile Patrol is coming to St Margaret's Primary School so your child will benefit from dental care during school hours, so easy!

Smile Patrol School Dental will be visiting our school the week of Monday 20th October, 2025.

Smile Patrol provides free dental health education to all students. If your child is eligible under the Childcare Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) treatments can be done for free depending on the remaining benefits. If your child is not eligible we will send you an email with an option for a private checkup. But to do this we need your consent.

If you would like more information, please refer to the website: [School Services – Smile Patrol](#)

To sign up you can visit : [School and Childcare Consent Form – Smile Patrol](#)

It's very easy and takes less than 5 mins to complete. A paper form will be sent home this week, and either it, or the online consent must be completed by the deadline 22nd August, 2025 (online consent preferable)

Contact information:

For more information please feel free to contact us.

Email: [info@smilepatrol.com.au](mailto:info@smilepatrol.com.au)

Thank you for prioritising your child's dental health. We want to make sure every Victorian child has access to quality dental care.



## *School Community News*

# St Margaret's Cultural Day

Dear Families,

St Margaret's are excited to announce that we are, once again, having our Cultural Day to be held at St Margaret's school on **Friday, 29 August** between 11:40am and 1:40pm.



The event is to celebrate our families and their stories and where we may have come from. The first 100 minutes of our celebration will consist of activities involving a national dress parade, singing, dancing, storytelling and crafts from around the world. This will be followed by a shared lunch where we will all get to enjoy the culinary delights of many different cultures.

As a part of our activities session, we are seeking any community members who may be able to share a tradition from their cultural background. This is open to **any activity** with which the person, with the support of a teacher, could teach or share this tradition with a small group of children. Please let us know, preferably by **Friday, 1 August**, if you or someone you know could help us out

in this area so we can start planning for these groups. We have done this in the past resulting in an extremely rewarding experience for those involved. Previous examples include, Spanish Dancing, Felting, Bocce, Kush (Board Game), Henna, Japanese Drumming, Lei Making, Touch Rugby, Cow Bells, etc. There is no limit! We would love it, if you have held an activity before, for you to come back and repeat the activity.



On the day, we also ask that each family bring a plate of food to share for lunch from your cultural background. With this, we ask that you clearly list any ingredients in the food, particularly any food with eggs or nuts, due to some strict dietary requirements and allergies. It will also help on the day if you bring a picnic rug to sit with your family.

Thanks,

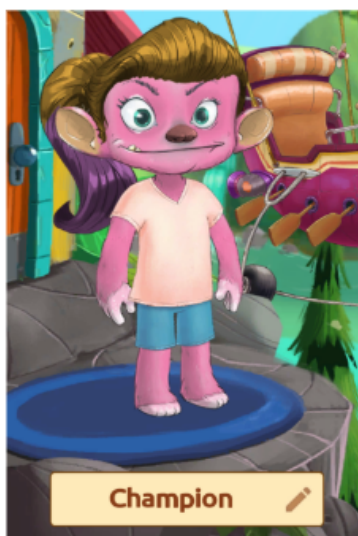
St Margaret's Staff

If you're looking for some extra Maths work at home, try...



matific.com

The Maths program that we use at school is perfect for extra support at home. All your child needs is their username and password and away they go! See your child's teacher for the details.



There are three zones the children are encouraged to explore.

**Adventure Island** - Designed to practice work that is currently being taught in class, at the child's ability level.

**Training Zone** - This is where the child can choose what they want to practice, and at which level.

**Arena** - The child can play safe Maths games against other children around the world.

#### Matific works

3rd party studies show proven effectiveness in performance of students



#### Improves results

↑ **34%**

Using Matific in the classroom increases student results.

University of Western Sydney

#### Drives Engagement

↑ **89%**

Teachers recommend Matific to their colleagues and continue to use it in class.

Virginia, USA

#### Increases Interest

**73%**

Teachers reported that Matific increased their students' interest in maths.

SEG Measurement study, USA

And, coming up, what the kids keep asking for...

And, coming up, what the kids keep asking for...



More details to follow.



**TERM 3, 2025 - REGISTER NOW @**  
**[CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU](https://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



'I am thrilled with the tremendous success of the chess program run by Chess for Schools. The students' adoration for the program is evident as they eagerly anticipate lunchtime on Tuesdays, bursting with excitement. The instructors' dedication, patience and attentiveness foster an engaging and nurturing learning environment, igniting the children's passion for chess as their skills flourish'.

**Jessica Ward, Teacher - Loreto Toorak.**

### 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 and 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 play off. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 players at end of term.

**BOOK HERE**



**[CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU](https://chessforschools.com.au)**

### CLASS DETAILS - ST MARGARETS PRIMARY - GEELONG

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DATES	COST
Wednesdays	1:30pm - 2:20pm	Multipurpose Room	30 July to 10 September	\$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 concept and thinking. Keep up the great work!"

**Katherine Lambert: Hampton Primary School**