

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Three, Week 2
July 28th, 2025
#22

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

Last week, we proudly celebrated an incredible milestone—30 years of service to St Margaret's by Anne Miller. Anne has been a cornerstone of our school community, having experienced life at St Margaret's as a student, a parent, a dedicated Learning Support Officer, and, for many years now, the friendly, welcoming face of our front office. Her calm, compassionate, and ever-reliable presence has supported countless students, families, and staff members over the decades. Anne's deep connection to our school and her tireless work behind the scenes have had an immeasurable impact, and we are so fortunate to have her as part of our team. We extend our congratulations and gratitude to Anne for her outstanding contribution to St Margaret's—we celebrate her with joy and appreciation!



Leadership and Management News

On Monday, our staff participated in a full day of professional learning led by MACS-accredited Team Teach facilitators. Team Teach is a framework that supports staff in fostering positive behaviour, building respectful relationships, and responding safely and confidently to challenging situations. This training is essential for ensuring all staff are equipped with consistent, proactive approaches that promote a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for every student. It aligns closely with our commitment to student wellbeing and helps us strengthen a whole-school culture of care and calm regulation.

We invite all families to attend the upcoming Parents and Friends meeting, now taking place at The Commo at 6.30pm (please note the change of venue). This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other families, contribute to the planning of upcoming events, and support the fundraising efforts that benefit every student in our school. We'd love to see many of you there to help shape a vibrant and engaging Term 3 together.

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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.

Learning and Teaching News

As part of our continued focus on improving learning and teaching across the school, we're thrilled to announce that St Margaret's has been selected to participate in a MACS mathematics initiative. This initiative centres on developing strong mental strategies, improving student fluency, and enhancing engagement in mathematics. Throughout the remainder of the year, staff will take part in professional learning days and intensive coaching, following a successful model similar to what we've been using in literacy. This initiative will support teachers in delivering high-impact instruction and help all students develop confidence and a deeper understanding of mathematical thinking. We're excited about the possibilities this work brings for our learners.

Parent Teacher Interviews will take place in Week 6 on **Monday August 25th** and **Wednesday August 27th**. A note will be sent home this week with details on how to book your time. Please note, if your child has a PSG (Program Support Group) meeting scheduled, you do not need to book a separate interview, as PSG meetings are designed to give greater time and focus to each child's individual learning plan. This year, we are shifting from the student-teacher-parent format to a more traditional parent-teacher model. This change is supported by current research and feedback from our school community, which highlights the value of giving teachers and parents dedicated time to discuss student learning, growth, and needs in a focused and confidential setting. Student voice remains an important part of our practice and will continue to be fostered throughout the year in other meaningful ways.

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.***

Reminder: Home Reading

The connection between home and school plays a vital role in supporting your child's reading development, especially in the early years. Regular reading practice at home is essential for building strong literacy skills and fostering a lifelong love of reading.

At St Margaret's, it is an expectation that all students from Prep to Year 6 engage in home reading at least three times per week, with the exact frequency depending on their year level. Reading should be recorded in either a reading journal or a class reading sheet, which will be monitored by the class teacher or learning support officer. This process helps us track progress and provide meaningful feedback.



Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey at home. We greatly appreciate your involvement.

St Margaret's Primary School



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Parish Priest: Father Jim Clarke frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au

School Community News



Smile Patrol School Dental

Smile Patrol School Dental will be visiting our school
the week of Monday October 20th, 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 has been sent home this week, and either it, or the online consent must be completed **by the deadline August 22nd, 2025** (online consent preferable)

Contact information: For more information please feel free to email: info@smilepatrol.com.au

Calendar of Events

New items in bold

Term Three

July

Wednesday, July 30th

P&F at Commo 6.30pm 209 Bellerine Street
(please note change of venue)

August

Friday, August 1st

Assembly – Year 5/6 presenting

Bookclub orders due

Tuesday, August 5th

School Board 7pm

Thursday, August 7th

District Athletics (selected students)

Mon-Fri, Aug 11th-15th

Matific Math Olympiad

Tuesday, August 12th

Book Fair Week

Wednesday, August 13th

Emmaus Meal 5.30pm

Friday, August 15th

Assembly – Year 3/4 presenting

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

Monday, August 18th

Book Week begins 'Book an Adventure'

"Ruggie, Plushie, Read" event 2.20pm

Swimming week for 3/4

Family Quiz activity sent home – return on Thursday

Tuesday, August 19th

Book Week Dress Up Parade

Thursday, August 20th

Book Week activities morning

Monday, August 25th

Parent Teacher interviews 2pm-5.40pm

Wednesday, August 27th

Parent Teacher interviews 3:30pm-6:00pm

Friday, August 29th

Assembly – Year 1/2 presenting

Cultural Day

Sunday, August 31st

Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm

September

Monday, September 1st

Swimming week for 1/2

Monday, Sep 1st - 3rd

Year 6 AFL Camp

Tuesday, September 9th

School Board 7pm

Thursday, September 11th

Specialist Spectacular from 3.30pm

Friday, September 12th

Assembly – Prep presenting

Friday, September 19th

Term Three ends. 1.30pm dismissal

Calendar of Events cont.

Term Four

October

Monday, October 6th

Tuesday, October 7th

Monday, October 13th

Tuesday, October 21st

School Closure Day - Staff PL

Students begin Term Four

Swimming week for Prep

School Board 7pm

November

Monday, November 3rd

Tuesday, November 4th

Wed-Fri, Nov 5th-7th

Monday, November 10th

Tuesday, November 11th

Wednesday, November 12th

Friday, November 14th

Monday, November 17th

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

St Margaret's Feast Day

Swimming week for 5/6

Sacrament of Penance 12 noon

December

Friday, December 5th

Tuesday, December 9th

Monday, December 15th

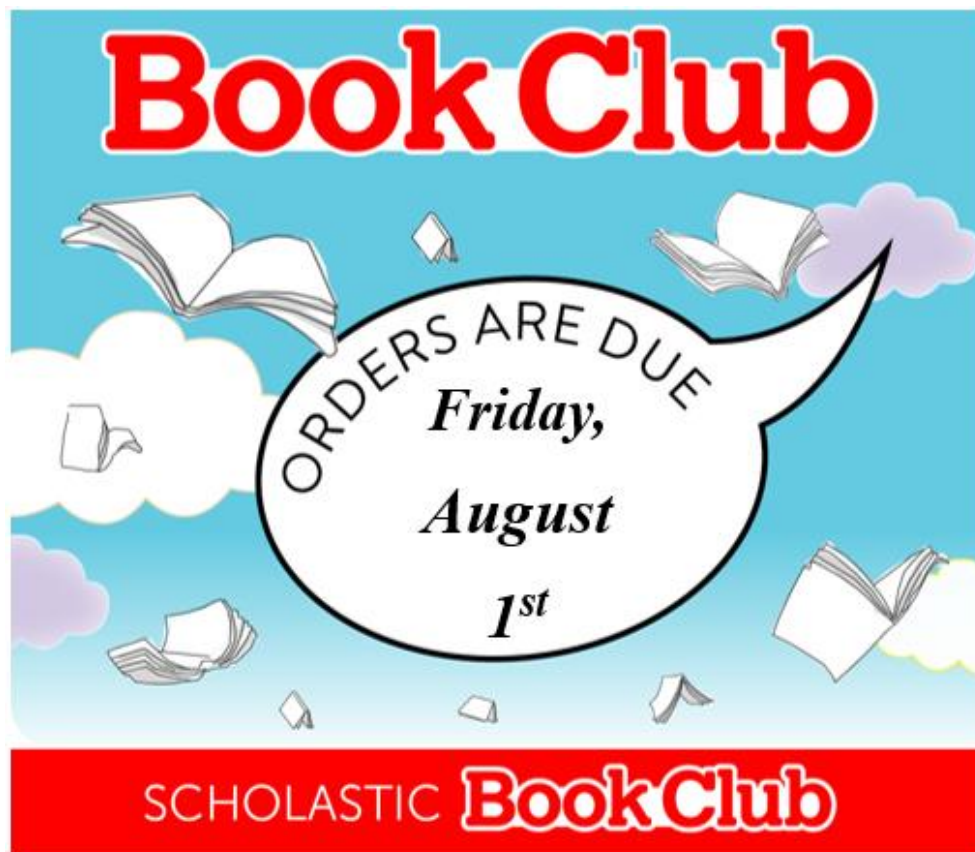
Tuesday, December 16th

School Closure Day - Staff PL

School Board 7pm

Year 6 Graduation

End of Term Four 1.30pm dismissal



*Upcoming in Week 4
August 12th – 15th*

***Scholastic Book Fair
Live Shop at our school.***

*Come browse for books
before and after school.*

***Grandparents welcome!
(books make great gifts!)***



Proceeds from bookclub and the book fair help us buy more books for the school.

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...

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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