

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Three, Week 3
August 4th, 2025
#23

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

Parent-Teacher Interview bookings are now open for **Monday, August 25th** and **Wednesday, August 27th**. Please make your booking through PAM. This year, we are moving to *Parent-Teacher Interviews* rather than the traditional *Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences*. This change is based on current research and feedback, allowing for deeper conversations between families and teachers about learning progress, strengths, challenges, and how we can work in partnership to support your child's continued growth. These meetings are an essential part of strengthening the school-home connection and we strongly encourage every family to book a time.

We encourage all families, particularly those with students in Years 3 to 6, to attend the *Digital Tattoo* parent session on Monday, August 25th, presented by Batforce. This workshop is designed for parents and carers of primary-aged children and complements the important messages shared by Victoria Police and the eSafety Commissioner. *Digital Tattoo* explores how children interact online through gaming, chat platforms and social media, and focuses on building ongoing conversations at home that reflect your family's values. It's about relationships, not just technology—helping families support their children as they grow up in an increasingly digital world, and understand the impact of their online footprint.

We're also pleased to be offering the *Ready to Launch* parent information session, presented by Batforce on Monday, September 1st. This session is designed to support families as children prepare for the next phase of growing up—particularly as they head toward adolescence and secondary school. Topics will include building healthy and respectful relationships, supporting kids to "ride the bumps" of everyday challenges, and exploring opportunities for positive role modelling, boundary setting, and conflict resolution. The session will also look at the importance of community connections, how to navigate social media and the transition to secondary school, and what to do when worry shows up—including a practical "What's your plan?" tool that families can take away and use at home. It promises to be a valuable, insightful session and we encourage all families, particularly of upper primary students, to attend.

These sessions are particularly timely as we have received reports of some students not using digital technologies respectfully outside of school hours. We know how difficult and complex this can be to navigate as parents. We are committed to working with families to ensure consistent messages and boundaries are shared between home and school. Batforce will also deliver sessions to our senior students, and our classrooms continue to engage with the Digital Technologies curriculum and Kids Helpline virtual programs focused on online safety. Your support in this space is both appreciated and vital.

Book Week is almost here! This year's theme, "Book an Adventure", celebrates the power of books to transport us to other worlds, inspire our imaginations, and spark curiosity. We're planning a full week of fun and engaging activities (including the Scholastic Book Fair in the week before). Book Week will include our much-

...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

loved dress-up parade, family quizzes, and whole-school reading events. Book Week is a special time in our calendar where we pause to celebrate literacy and the joy of reading. More information will be sent home shortly—stay tuned!

Finally, our swimming program has kicked off this term, with Years 3 and 4 beginning their lessons on Monday, August 18th. We strongly encourage all students to wear rash vests during their sessions. This is not a sun protection requirement, but rather a key part of our commitment to student wellbeing and child safety. Wearing rash vests helps staff quickly and clearly identify our students in and around the pool, supporting our supervision practices and ensuring that our Child Safe Standards are consistently upheld. As a school, we place the highest importance on creating environments where children feel safe, supported, and secure at all times. Please ensure you've read all the information in the permission form carefully and that your child is ready for each session with the appropriate gear. Swimming is a key part of the PE curriculum, and we appreciate your support in ensuring a smooth and successful program for all students.

We are proud to share that Quinnie, along with her grandfather and mother, were invited to attend a special afternoon tea at Parliament House, Victoria, as part of DonateLife Week. They represent Transplant Australia—a cause that holds deep personal meaning for their family. Quinnie's story is an inspiring one: her grandfather generously donated his kidney to another recipient as part of a paired exchange program, which in turn made it possible for Quinnie to receive a perfectly matched kidney. It's a powerful reminder of the life-changing impact of organ donation and the extraordinary acts of kindness that make such outcomes possible.

A reminder that our next School Board meeting will be held at 7:00pm this Tuesday. We thank our Board members for their continued time and support in guiding the direction of our school.

Have a great week!

Susan Perks



An Evening Family Prayer

*Lord, behold our family here assembled.
We thank you for this place in which we dwell,
for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded to us this day,
for the hope with which we expect the morrow;
for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies
that make our lives delightful;
for our friends in all parts of the earth. Amen.*

--- Robert Louis Stevenson

Calendar of Events

New items in bold

Term Three

Monday, August 4th

Tuesday, August 5th

Thursday, August 7th

Friday, August 8th

Mon-Fri, Aug 11th-15th

Wednesday, August 13th

Friday, August 15th

Monday, August 18th

Tuesday, August 19th

Thursday, August 20th

Friday, August 22nd

Monday, August 25th

Wednesday, August 27th

Friday, August 29th

Sunday, August 31st

September

Monday, September 1st

Monday, Sep 1st - 3rd

Friday, September 5th

Saturday, September 6th

Tuesday, September 9th

Friday, September 12th

Thursday, September 18th

Friday, September 19th

**Supporting Girls through social & emotional challenges;
presented by Wonderkind**

School Board 7pm

District Athletics (selected students)

St Mary Mackillop Feast Day Classroom Liturgies

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

Father's Day Raffle Opens

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

Book Week Dress Up Parade

Book Week activities morning

100 days of Prep Celebration

Parent Teacher interviews 2pm-5.40pm

Digital Tattoo Parent Info session by BatForce 6.30-8.00pm

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

Parents & Friend Meeting Staff Room 7pm

Assembly – Year 1/2 presenting

Cultural Day

Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm

Swimming week for 1/2

Ready to Launch Parent Session by BatForce 6.30-8.00pm

Year 6 AFL Camp **POSTPONED**

Donuts with Dad from 8am. Father's Day Raffle Draw

Father's Day Stall

Father's Day Bake Sale 8am-1pm

School Board 7pm

Assembly – Prep presenting

Footy Colours Casual Dress Day & Pie Special Lunch (P&F)

Term Three ends. 1.30pm dismissal

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 cont.

Term Four

October

Monday, October 6th

Tuesday, October 7th

Monday, October 13th

Tuesday, October 21st

Thursday, October 30th

School Closure Day - Staff PL

Students begin Term Four

Swimming week for Prep

School Board 7pm

Specialist Spectacular from 3.30pm with P&F Sausage Sizzle

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

Next Week... Scholastic Book Fair

Book for sale will be set up in the corridor outside 5/6. Book Fair will be open before and after school each day, except Monday morning and Friday afternoon. Families are welcome to visit the book fair. We especially invite grandparents to visit as books make great gifts!

WEEK 5 IS BOOK WEEK (August 18th – 22nd)

MONDAY - Family Quiz - sent home Monday. Return by Thursday. Winners announced Friday / next newsletter. Each family with all correct answers will receive a bookmark assortment pack.

After lunch - Ruggie, Plushie, Read - bring a rug, plushie or soft toy and your favourite book and let's get settled around the school for an afternoon of comfy reading. Parents invited after 3pm.

TUESDAY, first thing - Book Parade Dress Up Day - on the basketball court weather permitting. Followed by photos and voting for the best books.

THURSDAY - Book Week Rotations - in each class

Student of the Week Awards

CLASS	STUDENT	AWARDS – Term 3 Week 2 Friday, August 1 st , 2025
Prep PB	Chase Zahra	For challenging himself in writing and sounding out tricky words.
Prep PB	Airlee Hale- Rufus	For excellent effort in sounding out words during reading groups.
Prep SB	Levi Poole	For his commitment to nightly reading. We are so proud of the progress you have made in your reading. Well done Levi!
Prep SB	Haven Petrovski	For being an outstanding role model. You consistently demonstrate our core values, being respectful, responsible and safe in your interactions with peers and teachers. Well done Haven!
Prep SB	Adam Alex	For the warmth, energy, fun and kindness you have brought to St Margaret's. We will miss you!
1/2 EK	Angus Smith	For having a positive start to the term and working on your spelling.
1/2 EK	Valentina Ghin	For always trying your best and working on your reading. Well done!
1/2 JB	Ezra Knight	For your dedication and persistence shown through our Literacy block. Well done Ezra!
1/2 JB	Lina Hirwa Rugira	For being an outstanding role model in the classroom environment. Well done Lina!
3/4 EC	Niah Mirmilstein	For starting Term 3 with a responsible attitude, showing kindness to others, and always making safe and respectful choices.
3/4 EC	James Kessler	For starting Term 3 with a positive attitude and a readiness to learn. Your note taking skills have been fabulous!
3/4 HM	Frank Pease	For supporting a classmate in a time of need. Thank you for being kind.
3/4 HM	Thomas Marriott	For working hard in Spelling and Fluency. Well done Thomas!
3/4 LC	Gunnu Parinja	For great focus in partner reading and improving her expression.
3/4 LC	Nico Pinheiro Martins	For terrific improvement in reading with accuracy and expression.
3/4 JK-CB	Gus O'Kane	For the determination he has shown towards completing learning activities.
3/4 JK-CB	Andrew Nabati	For showing quality learning habits, especially during inquiry lessons.
5/6 DJ-JW	Lucas Spark	For being a responsible student who makes good choices around the classroom.
5/6 DJ-JW	Madison Ballard	For being kind, caring and thoughtful towards all in her area and completing her work to the best of her ability.
5/6 FM	Harriet Salkeld	For being a positive role model in our class by doing your best work every day. Best efforts always!
5/6 FM	Harry Harvey	For working hard on your writing tasks, doing your best work. Well done Harry!
5/6 KH	Aliza Cole	For having a positive attitude towards school and her learning. Well done!
5/6 KH	Archer McIntosh	For outstanding math problem solving and focus
Principal's Award	Giuliano Bucedì	For amazing achievements with his learning and being a kind and inclusive friend.



READY TO LAUNCH: PARENT/CARER WORKSHOP

St Margaret's PS values the relationship they have with parents and carers and have taken the opportunity to invite you to a parent carer workshop. Young people will go through many transitions between 0-25 years, a number of them occurring at school. The last few years has reminded us how important it is to have Families & Schools on the same page when it comes to supporting their Young Person.

As Grown ups our job is not to build a future for our children but to equip them with the tools they require to build a future of their own. This presentation is interactive, focuses on strengths, looks at strategies & practices language that may be helpful in your family.

Topics:

- Building healthy & respectful relationships
- Supporting kids to ride the bumps
- Opportunities for rolemodelling
- Boundary setting & conflict resolution
- Importance of community connection
- Social media & secondary school
- Where to go when worry happens
- 'What's your plan?' tool



6.30-8.00pm



Monday 1st Sept



St Margaret's Primary School



With:

LEIGH BARTLETT

This is a BATForce/Parkbench presentation delivered by Leigh who has a background in education, wellbeing, sports coaching & has practiced the content on a few kids of her own. Leigh has presented many community workshops with Students, Families and Professionals.

**REGISTER NOW WITH
YOUR SCHOOL**

When your children go online – they have left the house

If the Young People in your world are:

- Using online platforms
- Gaming with friends
- Using chat /messenger functions
- Keen to have their own youtube channels
- Asking for personal devices & eager to access more online platforms



This session is for you!

DIGITAL TATTOO

Supporting Children as we introduce them to the world via the internet, social media/chat platforms and gaming is very much a conversation about relationships not the tech itself.

This workshop is for:

- parents and carers of primary aged students
- aims to complement information delivered by Vic Police and e-safety

Digital Tattoo focuses on how:

- Young People interact with each other
- parents and carers can create ongoing conversations that mirror their own family values
- we can support Young People as they grow in their online worlds
- families can create meaningful conversations about their families online footprints

Monday: 6.30 – 8.00pm
25 Aug 2025



**St Margaret's
Primary School**

READY TO LAUNCH STUDENT WORKSHOPS

LEIGH BARTLETT



Hi there,

I am excited to be reconnecting with the St Margaret's PS students and running some of our most popular workshops. I am a trained teacher who has worked with Young People for over 35 years. In 2025 I will be running student workshops in:

Tools to Launch (Year 3/4): 1 Sept

Content will include:

- being your authentic self
- looking out for your mates
- emotions and regulation
- healthy and respectful relationships
- leadership and communication
- repair vs conflict
- how we make choices
- respecting differences
- consent and ethics
- where to go when worry happens
- having a plan

and most importantly having great expectations of ourselves, those who are supporting us and each other.

Digital Tattoo (Year 5/6): 25 Aug

This workshop has been developed to complement the messages students receive in school everyday.

Content will include:

- ways to stay safe
- when and where to ask for help
- respect for self and others online
- recognising strange behaviour online
- impact of sharing information
- consent
- risks of sharing nude pics
- when someone shares content about you without your permission

and most importantly creating a digital footprint that your adult self would be proud of.

These interactive workshops have been developed to complement the information provided through 'Respectful Relationships' programs and are delivered through a healthy relationships framework.

A big thank you to the school for offering two parent/carers workshops to be held on the same nights as the student workshops (see flyers for more information). I hope to see you there. If you have any queries regarding these workshops, you can email me at leigh@batforce.org.au

Teacher testimonies:

"Was well pitched for our age group, students were engaged, gave us follow up activities".

"Leigh engaged our students perfectly and the content reflected an understanding of our school's needs."

"Wish we could have more regular sessions".

"Leigh was very flexible in moving the content based on student need".

Leigh Bartlett

August 11 - 15

Next Week... Scholastic Book Fair

Book for sale will be set up in the corridor outside 5/6. Book Fair will be open before and after school each day, except Monday morning and Friday afternoon. Families are welcome to visit the book fair. We especially invite grandparents to visit as books make great gifts!



EVERY DOLLAR EQUALS RESOURCES FOR OUR SCHOOL



SCHOLASTIC
REWARDS

 SCHOLASTIC