

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Three, Week 5
August 18th, 2025
#25

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

This week we were blessed to share a truly special evening at our Emmaus Meal on Wednesday night, celebrating and supporting the students and their families who are preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. This sacred occasion is such an important step in our Catholic faith, as our young people are welcomed more fully into the Eucharistic life of the Church. It was wonderful to see our community come together to encourage and walk alongside these students in their preparation. We extend our thanks to our Religious Education Leader, Joel Kearney, for his leadership in planning this evening, and to our dedicated Year 3/4 teachers—Leonie Cann, Hunter Merryful, Emma Clancy, Joel Kearney and Cassi Benning—who have worked tirelessly to prepare the students for this special milestone at St Mary's on Sunday 31 August. We are also deeply grateful to the many staff who attended on the night to support the children and ensure the event ran so smoothly. It is these moments that remind us we could not achieve such beautiful celebrations without the generosity and commitment of our amazing staff.

Next week we look forward to the joy and creativity of Book Week, which will be celebrated with a range of activities across the school. A highlight will be our Book Parade on Tuesday, where students are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character. Book Week is always a special time to ignite a love of reading, inspire imagination, and connect as a school through the shared joy of stories.

Our Year 3/4 students will also begin their swimming program, an important part of our Health and Physical Education curriculum. Swimming lessons not only teach vital water safety skills but also build confidence, resilience, and fitness. We are proud to provide this opportunity to equip our students with skills that may one day save a life.

For our Year 6 families, we are delighted to announce that our AFL camp has been rescheduled to Monday November 24th for one night. This will be an incredible opportunity for our students, and we are thrilled that we could find a new date to ensure this much-anticipated experience can go ahead.

There are also many exciting events coming up from our P&F for our community to enjoy and support. Our Father's Day Raffle boasts incredible prizes, including a chartered fishing trip, Bunnings vouchers, and a professional pet photo shoot. We encourage everyone to get involved, and we also invite families to put on their aprons and bake for our Father's Day Stall—always a much-loved tradition. This year's stall will be set up in Garden Street on Saturday September 6th. On Friday September 4th, we will celebrate "Donuts with Dad," a special morning recognising the important men in our lives, followed by the Father's Day Raffle draw and P&F stall. Later in the term, we will hold our Footy Colours Day, with a pie special lunch and the chance to win a signed Geelong Cats poster and football in our raffle.

...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

Events like these remind us of the richness of our school community—how we gather to celebrate, support, and share life together. Whether it is through faith, learning, sport, or fun, it is the people of St Margaret's—students, staff, and families—who make our community so special.

At St Margaret's we know that many families provide their child with a mobile phone or smartwatch for peace of mind, especially when travelling to and from school. While we appreciate the importance of these devices for safety, we ask that they are not used during school hours so that students can remain fully engaged in their learning and connected with those around them. Mobile phones should be handed to the classroom teacher each morning and collected at the end of the day, while smartwatches must be set to silent or "school mode" from 9.00am–3.20pm. If urgent contact is needed, parents can call the school office and messages will be passed on, and students can contact parents via the school phone if required. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a respectful, focused, and distraction-free learning environment for every child. Our policy around this will be sent home via email through PAM at the same time as this newsletter.

We remind all families that for safety reasons, students are not permitted to wear fake nails to school. These can pose a risk during play, sports, and classroom activities, and may also make it difficult for students to complete certain tasks. We appreciate your support in ensuring our school remains a safe environment for everyone.

Have a great week!

Susan Perks



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



Calendar of Events

New items in bold

Term Three

August

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

Wednesday, September 3rd

Friday, September 5th

Saturday, September 6th

Tuesday, September 9th

Friday, September 12th

Thursday, September 18th

Friday, September 19th

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

St Margaret's Cultural Day

Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm

Swimming week for Year 1/2

Ready to Launch Parent Session by BatForce 6.30-8.00pm

Mental Health & Wellbeing Session with Miss Margie 9-10am

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

**I had a hen that
could count her
own eggs. She was a
mathemachicken.**



***Congratulations to all students on their
efforts in the Maths Olympiad, with
everyone contributing to Saint Margaret's
achieving overall 3rd position in schools
from Australia and New Zealand!***

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

Friday, October 10th

Monday, October 13th

Tuesday, October 21st

Wednesday, October 22nd

Thursday, October 30th

School Closure Day - Staff PL

Students begin Term Four

Grandparents & Special People Lunch - Cheer Truck (P&F)

Swimming week for Prep

School Board 7pm

2026 Prep Orientation Sessions: 9.15-10.30 or 11.45-1.00

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, Nov 12th

Friday, November 14th

Monday, November 17th

Thursday, November 20th

Monday, November 24th

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

2026 Prep Orientation Sessions: 9.15-10.30 or 11.45-1.00

Penance Preparation Family Evening 5.30pm

St Margaret's Feast Day

Swimming week for 5/6

Sacrament of Penance 12 noon

Yr 6 AFL Max camp; rescheduled

December

Friday, December 5th

Tuesday, December 9th

Monday, December 15th

Tuesday, December 16th

School Closure Day - Staff PL

Step Up Day

2026 Prep Orientation Session: 9.30-11.00am

School Board 7pm

Year 6 Graduation

End of Term Four 1.30pm dismissal

Mental Health & Wellbeing Session

with Miss Margie –

Wednesday 3 September 2025

9:00 – 10:00am

Join St Margaret's Primary School for a warm and engaging session with Miss Margie as she shares the importance of mental health and wellbeing education and gives you a glimpse into what your child has been exploring throughout this year.

With over 25 years in education and a passion for creating safe, dynamic spaces for learning, Miss Margie brings both heart and skill to her work. This session is a great opportunity to connect, ask questions, and discover how we're helping students build confidence, resilience, and emotional literacy.

RSVP: By Wed 27 Aug 2025 to sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au

Note: **Parents of students from Grade 3-6**



School Community News

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day

On Friday August 8th, our Student Religious Education Leaders led our school in a beautiful and prayerful liturgy to celebrate the Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first saint. They spoke with confidence and care, guiding us through prayers, scripture, and reflections that reminded us of St Mary's kindness, faith, and commitment to helping others. A big thank you to all our students for the respectful and thoughtful way they participated, making this a truly special celebration for our whole school community.



Baptism

On Saturday August 9th, we celebrated a very special occasion as five of our students were baptised at St Mary's Basilica by our Parish Priest, Fr Jim Clarke. Surrounded by their families, the students took this important step in their faith journey with joy and reverence. We congratulate them on this significant milestone and thank all who joined in prayer and support, making the celebration a truly memorable and faith-filled moment.



Student of the Week Awards

CLASS	STUDENT	AWARDS – Term 3 Week 4 Friday, August 15 th , 2025	
Prep JC	Maliah Robinson	For her fantastic efforts in the Matific Olympiad.	
Prep JC	Evalyn Mae Allwright	For growing in confidence and embracing challenges with courage and positivity.	
Prep SB	Murphy Wilson	For her outstanding commitment to nightly reading. What wonderful progress you have made.	
Prep SB	Oliver Menheerer	For his excellent efforts in the Matific Olympiad. Well done Ollie!	
1/2 EK	Mithra Balasubramani	For consistently demonstrating kindness and compassion towards friends, listening with understanding and making others feel valued.	
1/2 EK	Ari Herwynen	For consistently demonstrating fantastic listening skills and always striving to do your best in every task.	
1/2 JB	A.J Chapman	For your fantastic efforts during class discussions. Well done!	
1/2 JB	Ari Kelly	For your amazing work in all your subjects. Fantastic job!	
3/4 EC	Brax Jobson	For your enthusiasm and dedication towards completing and helping others with the \ Matific Maths Olympiad! Go Brax!	
3/4 EC	Azariah Steed	For your creative diary entry from the perspective of a convict from the First Fleet. It was so descriptive!	
3/4 HM	Giuliano Bucedì	For showing a keen interest and dedication to all learning tasks.	
3/4 HM	Mac Salkeld	For his dedication to helping his classmates during Matific Week.	
3/4 JK-CB	Brooklynn McRandall-Jones	For her wonderful descriptive sentence writing.	
3/4 JK-CB	Rafferty Vaughan	For his attention to detail when constructing a quality sentence.	
3/4 LC	Jake O'Toole	For accuracy in Maths: mental calculations, understanding angles and telling the time.	
3/4 LC	Camryn Smith	For persistence with her writing and expanding the vocabulary she uses.	
5/6 DJ-JW	Willow Clarke	For being an amazing role-model in our class and setting high expectations.	
5/6 DJ-JW	Jack Hearsch	For being kind and considerate to others within our 5/6 cohort.	
5/6 FM	Charlie Richardson	For working hard to achieve 150 stars in the Matific Olympiad.	
5/6 FM	Piper Stephenson	For working hard on our fractions unit in maths, well done Piper.	
5/6 KH	Nuwain DeSilva	For outstanding diary writing for the Velveteen Rabbit including embedded clauses.	
5/6 KH	Ivy Simonsen	For working really hard during math sessions - keep up the great effort.	
PRINCIPAL'S AWARD		Jack Reynolds	For outstanding leadership and problem solving skills!

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

Thank you, families!

Your support of the Book Fair will enable us to buy over \$800 of new books for the library. It was brilliant to see so many parents and grandparents encouraging reading!



**ST MARGARETS P&F
FATHERS DAY**

Bake Sale

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8AM - 12.30PM

**GARDEN ST SHOPS
EAST GEELONG**

**POP BY AND
GRAB MORNING
TEA TO SHARE
WITH DAD!**



DONUTS WITH DAD!

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH
FROM 8AM**

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE WILL BE
DRAWN



ST MARGARETS P&F

FATHER'S DAY

Raffle



A FISHING CHARTER FOR 2 THANKS TO OCEAN GROVE FISHING CHARTERS!

Win 5 hours on the water for Dad and a mate, valued at \$360



WIN DAD A FAMILY PORTRAIT SESSION WITH MAN'S BEST FRIEND!

A family and pet portrait session including photo print thanks to Best in Show Pet Photography



\$200 BUNNINGS VOUCHER

+

\$100 X GOLF VOUCHER



GEELONG GALLERY'S **WHO'S WHO?** PORTRAIT

30TH AUG-9H NOVEMBER

**FREE
ENTRY**

**STUDENT ARTWORK
SHOWCASE**

2025 ARCHIBALD PRIZE



GEELONG GALLERY: LITTLE MALOP STREET GEELONG 3220

SWIMMING LESSONS

**CAPS COMPLUSARY
RASHIES ENCOURAGED**



YEAR 3 / 4:	18-22 AUGUST
YEAR 1/ 2:	1-5 SEPTEMBER
YEAR PREP:	13-17 OCTOBER
YEAR 5/ 6:	17-21 NOVEMBER

GEELONG AQUATIC CENTRE