

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Three, Week 8
September 8th, 2025
#28

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

Last week we celebrated Learning Support Officer Appreciation Week, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful LSOs for their dedication, care, and tireless efforts in supporting our students each and every day. They play such an important role in classrooms, working closely with teachers to ensure all children are included, supported, and able to thrive. Their patience, kindness, and commitment do not go unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for everything they bring to our school community.

Our Donuts with Dad morning was another highlight of the week, and it was so wonderful to see so many dads, grandfathers, uncles, and special friends come along to share this time with the children. The school was buzzing with laughter, chatter, and sticky fingers as families enjoyed a relaxed morning together. Events like this remind us how special it is to have strong connections between home and school, and we thank our Parents & Friends committee for making it such a memorable occasion.

On Saturday in Garden Street, our Bake Sale was a huge success. Thank you to the families who generously donated baked goods, and to all who came along to support the stall. From slices and cupcakes to cookies and slices, everything looked amazing and tasted even better! The community spirit on the day was wonderful, and the funds raised will go directly back into supporting resources for our students.

We also celebrate some very special personal news. Miss Patience welcomed her beautiful daughter, Coco Clara, last week. We send our congratulations and wish her and her family all the very best as they enjoy these precious first months together. We know the St Margaret's community will be keeping them in our prayers during this happy time.

Looking ahead, we are currently reviewing enrolment numbers for 2026. Interest has been strong and waitlists are forming in several year levels. If you know of any families who are considering St Margaret's, we encourage them to contact the school office as soon as possible to discuss the enrolment process. Early applications are the best way to ensure places are available.

Our next exciting Parents & Friends event is Footy Colours Day on Thursday, September 18th. Students are invited to come dressed in their favourite team's colours to celebrate the spirit of the game. A special Pie Lunch can now be ordered via the Flexischools app, making the day even more fun. We are also thrilled to be running a Footy Raffle, with some incredible prizes up for grabs, including a framed signed photo of the Geelong Cats team, footballs, a Harvey Norman gift card, and vouchers for Inflatable World and Kelly Sports. Each student will receive a raffle book to sell, and additional books are available at the front office. Please support this fundraiser generously, as all proceeds will go toward purchasing 30 new iPads for our Prep-Year 2 classrooms in 2026. This investment will ensure our younger students have the tools they need for engaging and effective learning experiences.

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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.

Leadership and Management News

We are also excited to announce that Phase 1 of our Building Project is set to begin on September 22nd. This stage of the works will focus on important structural improvements, including the restumping of the Administration building and the Year 1/2 classrooms, as well as repairs to damaged drainage in these areas. Our hope is that the majority of the work will be completed during the school holidays, however it is possible that the project may extend into the first two weeks of Term 4. If this occurs, the Administration Office, including First Aid, will be temporarily relocated to the Art Room to ensure school operations continue smoothly. We will keep families updated once work is underway and thank you in advance for your patience and support as we take this important step forward in maintaining and improving our learning spaces.

Have a great week!

Susan Perks



Do you have access to a pie warmer? We are in need of several to help out on our Special Pie lunch day. Please email Susan if you can help out.



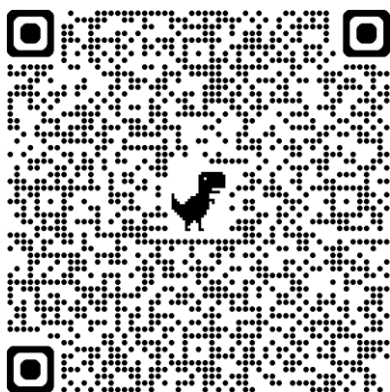
Westfield Local Heroes

Our staff are proud to volunteer at the Christ Breakfast Program once a fortnight, helping provide a meal and a welcoming start to the day for those in need. The program's incredible organiser, Jan McGowan, has been nominated for Westfield's Local Heroes award in recognition of her dedication and compassion. Now, Jan needs our community's support to win! We encourage everyone to vote and help celebrate the amazing impact she has on so many lives.

The winner of the award is through public vote and 1st Place is worth around \$20 000.

Please use this link or scan the QR Code to vote for Jan.

https://surveys.reputation.com/surveys3/run?tenantKey=7afa4106785&templateId=6886b9af445f3c6b144b6332&locationCode=survey&property-value-heroID=16824&property-value-centrecode=Geelong&locale=en_US



Jan McGowan Christ Church Community Meals Program Compassionate. Driven. Dynamic.

Jan has provided daily meals at to those in need at Christ Church Geelong, for the past 35 years, even during the Covid-19 pandemic. Serving around 500 people weekly with meals sourced through community generosity, Jan offers nutrition, kindness and community interaction. Now in her 80s, Jan is committed to ensuring the service continues. If Jan is successful, the money will fund more food for the program, and the replacement of ageing equipment.



Calendar of Events

New items in bold

Term Three

September

Tuesday, September 9 th	Division Athletics (selected students) School Board 7pm
Friday, September 12 th	Assembly – Prep presenting
Thursday, September 18 th	Footy Colours Casual Dress Day & Pie Special Lunch (P&F)
Friday, September 19 th	Term Three ends. 1.30pm dismissal

Term Four

October

Monday, October 6th	School Closure Day - Staff PL
Tuesday, October 7 th	GALS workshop at Deakin Uni. Year 6 girls Students begin Term Four
Friday, October 10 th	Grandparents & Special People Lunch – Cheer Truck (P&F)
Monday, October 13 th	Swimming week for Prep
Wednesday, October 15 th	P&F Meeting 7pm
Tuesday, October 21st	P-2 Prayers in Pyjamas
Wednesday, October 22 nd	School Board 7pm
Thursday, October 30 th	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	School Closure Day
Tuesday, November 4th	Melbourne Cup Public holiday
Wed-Fri, Nov 5 th -7 th	Year 5/6 students at Camp Kangarooobie
Monday, November 10 th	Year 5/6 only, student free day (TIL staff day)
Tuesday, November 11 th	Remembrance Day
Wednesday, Nov 12 th	2026 Prep Orientation Sessions: 9.15-10.30 or 11.45-1.00 Penance Preparation Family Evening 5.30pm
Friday, November 14 th	St Margaret's Feast Day
Monday, November 17 th	Swimming week for 5/6
Thursday, November 20 th	Sacrament of Penance 12 noon
Monday, November 24 th	Yr 6 AFL Max camp; rescheduled

December

Friday, December 5th	School Closure Day - Staff PL
Tuesday, December 9 th	Step Up Day
	2026 Prep Orientation Session: 9.30-11.00am
	School Board 7pm
Monday, December 15 th	Year 6 Graduation
Tuesday, December 16 th	End of Term Four 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

School Community News



On Wednesday, September 3rd the RE student leaders and school captains attended Mount St. Joseph's School in Altona to do a special Socktober liturgy hosted by Catholic Mission and Bishop Martin Ashe. They spoke about what it means to be Catholic and also raised awareness about people living in a hunger crisis in Zambia.

Our timetable was: Liturgy, morning tea, activities and lunch. We did activities at different locations in the school, with two of the students from MSJ leading us around. The school was incredible and we had lots of fun going around.

After we went back inside, Father Jackson Saunders came up and gave a talk about his experience of becoming a Priest and also about his job as a sports commentator.

Harriet and Nuwain were called to the stage for a little performance and he commentated it like a football game. We then got into little groups making a sock ball out of socks, spare pieces of fabric, old clothes, a plastic bag and bubble wrap.

In Term 4 we will be using the sock ball to have a fundraiser for the people of Zambia. There will be more details shared early next term.



Please note that the student art pieces have been moved from the Geelong Gallery to the **Drysdale Library.**

Boronggook Drysdale Library
Phone:
(03) 4201 0656
2-8 Wyndham Street
Drysdale VIC 3222

Opening hours
Monday: 9am – 5.30pm
Tuesday: 9am – 5.30pm
Wednesday: 9am – 8.00pm
Thursday: 9am – 5.30pm
Friday: 9am – 5.30pm
Saturday: 9am – 5pm
Sunday: 2pm - 5pm

(All libraries are closed on public holidays).

School Community News

Parent Workshop on Mental Health & Wellbeing

We had 11 parents attend a workshop on Mental Health and Wellbeing which is great

1. We did some connections and line ups on the topic.
2. We explored some of the struggles their students face
3. We explored some of their super powers as parents and the area they need to work on to help be the best version of themselves and to support their child/children

Then we worked in small groups to discuss and respond to the questions below: I've included the top 3 responses

What do you see as the biggest challenges to children's mental health today, and what helps them stay resilient?

- social media/tech, self-image and what helps them stay resilient were free play, risk-taking and accepting boundaries

How do your own experiences and beliefs about mental health shape the way you support your child?

- getting support ourselves so we can help the whole family, not isolating the person must be a whole of family approach

Where do you turn for guidance when you're worried about your child's wellbeing?

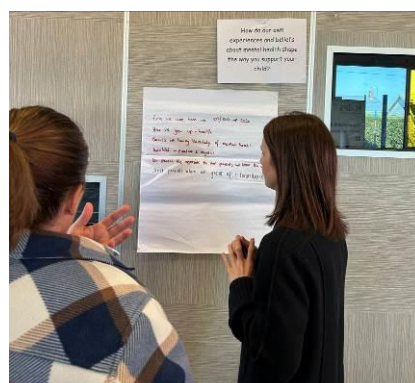
- Mrs Ginn & teachers, friends and family, GP

What's worked (or not) when talking to your child about their mental health?

- one on one time, listening to what the child needs, modelling discussions that have positive feedback

They all really seemed to enjoy the session and so did I ,

Margie Foulkes
Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader



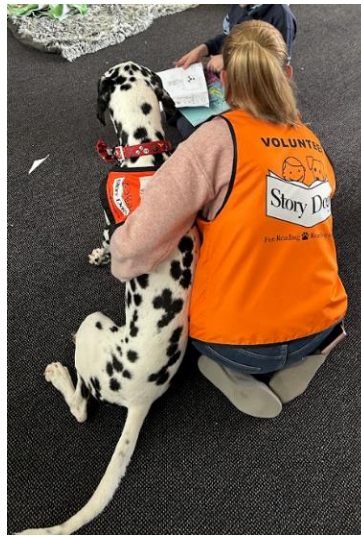
School Community News

GET WELL SOON DASH!

Our favourite dog, Dash, hasn't been feeling well lately. His handler Bri has informed us that Dash has had some trouble with his eyesight lately and that he needs to have a small operation on the 8th of September.

Please keep Dash and Bri in your prayers for a speedy recovery as we look forward to seeing them both back at St Margaret's where they belong.

GET WELL SOON DASH!



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





Pure Wonder

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

- ✓ Mindfulness
- ✓ Movement
- ✓ Emotional literacy
- ✓ Social skill development

245 Pakington street Newtown

EMAIL: RACHEL@NAYADAWN.COM





SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES

TERM 4 & BEYOND

A SUPPORTIVE GROUP FOR YOUNG
GIRLS TO GAIN SOCIAL SKILLS AND
TO HAVE FUN WITH NEW FRIENDS IN
A SAFE & SUPPORTED ENVIRONMENT.



with Rachel



& Meg

245 PAKINGTON
STREET NEWTOWN



GOAL:

TO IMPROVE SOCIAL SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE WHILST MAKING NEW FRIENDS. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE CRAFTING, ART, MOOD BOARDS, THERAPLAY, GAMES, YOGA, AND MORE!



WHO:

FEMALE IDENTIFYING YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 11-14 AND 15-18 YEARS. NDIS PARTICIPANTS WARMLY WELCOMED.



WHAT:

SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES IS A SUPPORTIVE GROUP FOR MEMBERS TO GAIN EXPERIENCE IN APPLYING SOCIAL SKILLS AND INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

WHY:

SOMETIMES ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL IS REQUIRED TO DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS AND SOCIAL CONFIDENCE.



WHERE:

MEETING POINT: 245 PAKINGTON STREET, NEWTOWN, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, 3220.

HOW:

EMAIL STUDENT@WONDERKINDANDCO.COM TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST.





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 up-front 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.



GEELONG SPRING HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Website: www.kellysports.com.au
Contact: Nick Clydesdale
Email: geelong@kellysports.com.au
Phone: 0497 770 909
Facebook: Kelly Sports Geelong
Address: Geelong Sports Hub, 1 Crown St, South Geelong



SUPER SOCCER DAY



KIDS SURVIVOR



NERF WARS



AFL GRANDFINAL DAY



PUBLIC HOLIDAY

PROGRAMME NOT ON TODAY



KIDS OLYMPICS



DANCE DAY



DODGEBALL DAY



BASKETBALL BLITZ



CHALLENGE DAY



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

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT
KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU