

# NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's  
Primary School

*Term Four, Week 1*  
*October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025*  
**#30**

## *From Susan's Desk*

## *Leadership and Management News*

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope the holidays brought some time for rest, family, and fun. This is always a busy and exciting term as we look ahead to special events, celebrations, and the final part of the school year together.

We are looking forward to celebrating **Grandparents' Day on Friday, October 10th**. This is always a very special occasion where we acknowledge the important role grandparents play in the lives of our students and school community. More details about the day have been shared on our socials and through see saw. The Cheer Truck will be onsite, and families can pre-order a delicious toastie via the Flexischools app. We can't wait to come together to celebrate our grandparents and show them how much they mean to us.

St Margaret's is excited to share an important update about our class structures. From 2026, we will move from composite classes to a single-stream model from Prep to Year 6, with three dedicated Year 5/6 classes for specialist lessons. This decision, made in consultation with staff and the School Advisory Board, is based on research showing that straight grades allow for more targeted teaching, stronger curriculum alignment, and greater peer connection. We believe this shift will strengthen both academic outcomes and student wellbeing. A detailed letter has been emailed to families.

As we look ahead to Term 4, a reminder that the warmer weather is on its way. Please make sure your child's school hat is found during the holidays and ready for the first day back. Our "No Hat, No Play" policy will be in place, so all students will need their hat each day for outdoor activities. It is also a great time to check that your child's summer uniform still fits comfortably after the winter months. Please ensure that students are wearing the correct uniform, including navy blue socks. We have noticed many students wearing black or branded socks such as 'Globe', which are not part of our school uniform. We kindly ask that families use the holidays to restock if needed so everyone is ready to begin Term 4 in full and correct uniform.

With works continuing on the external oval and playground, we have made some adjustments to our play spaces. Students in Prep–Year 3 will remain onsite, while students in Years 4–6 will have access to the far oval and, when available, the tennis courts. A new basketball ring has also been installed for our junior students, ensuring a safe and fun play space. Thank you to the amazing students—Lorenzo, Harriet, Louis, Pearl, Friday and their families—who came in over the break to remove the old CDs and help prepare the basketball area.

We are pleased to share that the restumping work has been completed ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, the drainage works have taken longer than expected due to unforeseen complications. For safety, the affected areas will remain fenced off. Staff will be out on Tuesday morning to ensure all students arrive safely and that access points are clearly managed. We appreciate your patience and understanding as these works are finalised.

*...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

A reminder that **Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, is a student-free day**, with staff engaging in professional learning. We look forward to welcoming all students back on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership in the life of our school. We are excited for a joyful and productive Term 4 and look forward to the many learning opportunities and celebrations it will bring.

Have a great week!

*Susan Perks*



# TIME TO FIND YOUR HAT FOR TERM 4!



## Make sure it's labelled!

### Grandparents and Special Person's Day

Dear Families,

We will be holding our **Grandparents and Special Person's Day** on Friday October 10<sup>th</sup> between 11:30am and 1:30pm. There will be 3 main events taking place during that time:

11:30am - Grandparents and Special People invited to share in a classroom activity with their loved ones.

12:15pm – Assembly

1:00pm - Shared Lunch - Cheer Truck Cheese Toasties (Please order on the FlexiSchools App)

As part of the Assembly, we would like to do a photo reflection of your child/ren and their grandparents/special person. If you would like to contribute a photo as part of this reflection, could you please upload a photo to this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/KPc8HBuFC1BRTCDn9>

We ask that there be no more than one photo per child, per set of Grandparents. I believe that you need a google account to be able to upload photos in this way. This is the preferred method to ensure that we don't miss any photos, however, if you are unable to do this, then feel free to email your photos to [jkearney@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:jkearney@smgeelongeast.com.au) with your family name as the subject.

Please ensure photos are uploaded by 6pm Wednesday, 8th October. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

Regards,

Joel Kearney

Religious Education Leader

## St Margaret's Primary School



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Parish Priest: Father Jim Clarke [frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au)

## Calendar of Events

*New items in bold*

### Term Four

#### October

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

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

Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

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

**Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

**Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

**School Closure Day - Staff PL**

GALS workshop at Deakin Uni. Year 6 girls

**Students begin Term Four**

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

Swimming week for Prep

**Free Lunchtime Chess Class Years 1-6**

P&F Meeting 7pm

Year 3/4 AFL SEDA clinic in PE hour

Assembly - 5/6 presenting

**Smile Patrol Dental (most of the week)**

**BATFORCE Parent information night 6.30pm**

P-2 Prayers in Pyjamas

School Board 7pm

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

**Socktober Event**

Year 3/4 AFL SEDA clinic in PE hour

Specialist Spectacular from 3.30pm with P&F Sausage Sizzle

Assembly - 3/4 presenting



#### November

**Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

Wed-Fri, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

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

Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

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

Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

**School Closure Day**

**Melbourne Cup Public holiday**

Year 5/6 students at Camp Kangarooobie

Prep Excursion to MoPA

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

Assembly - RE Leaders presenting

Swimming week for 5/6

Sacrament of Penance 12 noon

Yr 6 AFL Max overnight camp

Assembly - 1/2 presenting

#### December

**Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

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

Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

**2026 Student Leadership speeches at 11:40am**

**School Closure Day - Staff PL**

Step Up Day

2026 Prep Orientation Session: 9.30-11.00am

School Board 7pm

Assembly - Prep presenting

Year 6 Graduation

End of Term Four 1.30pm dismissal





# 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**

# PARENT EDUCATION EVENTS

GEELONG and BARWON  
SOUTHWEST REGION



## TERM 4, 2025

All Regional Parenting Service programs along with MELI (*formerly Barwon Child Youth & Family (BCYF) and Bethany*), Family Relationship Centre, Drummond St Services and Barwon Southwest Region programs will be offered face to face or online. Bookings are essential. For details of dates, times and venues please see below.

### FEATURE FORUM

#### THE PARENTING MANIFESTO SERIES

Wednesday nights  
18<sup>th</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
7.00pm – 8.30pm  
Waurn Ponds Library,  
230 Pioneer Rd, Grovedale



Scan the QR code to learn more and book,  
or visit [Geelong.link/ParentingManifesto](https://geelong.link/ParentingManifesto)

Presented by Sue Wong and Justin Robinson

Parenting is one of life's greatest responsibilities — and one of its most rewarding challenges. Amidst the noise, the nappies, and the never-ending to-do lists, it's easy to lose sight of who you are.

This in-person series, guided gently by My Manifesto co-authors Sue Wong and Justin Robinson, offers parents of young children and teenage children a unique and inspiring opportunity: to pause, reflect, and intentionally create a life statement that anchor them in their values, strengths, dreams, and personal wisdom

Over six intimate and uplifting workshops, you'll craft your personal manifesto — your private declaration of intention and clarity — and reconnect with the self you want to bring to parenting, partnership, and daily life.

All participants receive a complimentary copy of the book: *My Manifesto* — A compassionate guide to reveal your best life, and a beautiful set of inspiration cards to accompany their journey.

### BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

#### The First 1000 Days

The first 1,000 days of life is a program for parents with children aged under 2 years and designed to nurture parents as they embark on their journey. It provides parents with knowledge about brain development and an understanding of how children grow and what they need. The centrality of family relationships and opportunities for parents to reflect on their own childhood and how to connect with their children are all explored.

### BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

Bringing up Great Kids is a 6-week supportive program for parents of children aged 12 months to 9 years.

The program aims to:

- develop parents' skills to enhance communication with their child/ren
- promote positive interactions between parents and their child/ren
- encourage the development of a child's positive self-identity

### CIRCLE OF SECURITY

Circle of Security is an 8-week supportive program for parents of children aged birth to 5 years.

The program aims to:

- help parents understand how to build feelings of security for children in their early years
- assist parents with skills to build on the positive relationship with their child
- develop confidence in parents to respond to their child in a way which builds a secure foundation for children



### TUNING IN TO KIDS

Tuning in to kids is a 6-week supportive program for parents of children aged 4 to 10 years.

The program aims to:

- help parents teach and support their child/ren to understand and manage their emotions
- support parents in encouraging children to express emotions appropriately
- maximise children's social, behavioural and learning outcomes

### BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

#### Parenting Adolescents

The program builds on maintaining positive relationships and interactions between parents and adolescents during the ages of 10 to 17 years.

This 6-week program will look at having a better understanding and being able to support your adolescent.

- Finding meaningful ways to stay connected with your adolescent
- Understand that all behaviour and interaction have a meaning attached to it
- Develop an increased understanding about the messages that they communicate to their adolescent through their behaviour, actions and attitudes
- Develop skills to identify and manage their stress associated with parenting

### STRENGTHENING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Strengthening Family Connections is a free 8-week program for parents and their children aged 8 to 12 years. The program aims to build a positive family culture and strengthen family connections.

### OUR KIDS – Parenting After Separation

Our Kids is a 6-week course on parenting after separation and the impact of parental conflict on children. The course encourages parents to focus on the needs of their children and develop helpful communication strategies following separation. Courses run weekly for 6 weeks during school terms. Morning and evening sessions are available.

### FLOURISHING FAMILIES

A 5-week program for parents with children of all ages to discover how you can help your family to flourish.

Learn about:

- how you can promote resilience
- increase awareness of your family's strengths
- create and nurture positive family relationships
- give feedback to support individual growth

### THE ANXIETY COACH

#### Reducing Anxiety and Building Resilience in Children

A 5-week program for parents of children 5 to 12 years to gain an understanding of the increasing levels of anxiety in a child and strategies to help manage the "traps and tripwires" with strengthening sayings, questioning strategies and mindful exercises.

### TUNING IN TO TEENS

Tuning in to teens is a 6-week supportive program for parents of teens aged 12 to 18 years.

The program aims to:

- support parents to connect and communicate with their teens
- assist parents with understanding adolescent development
- help parents to assist their teen to develop emotional intelligence
- remain empathetic and stay connected

### THE DAD WORKSHOP

This 6-week program will focus on giving you the tools you need to create a better life for your entire family.

We will look at simple things you can do to improve:

- your relationship with yourself
- your relationship with your partner
- your relationship with your kids

### POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

Available online via the Triple P website

[www.triplep-parenting.net.au/vic-uk/en/triple-p/](http://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/vic-uk/en/triple-p/)

### LIVING WITH TEENS

A model for building strong, secure connections. Living with Teens is a 3-week program.

The program aims to cover:

- what parents need to be able to meet teen's needs
- what teens need from parents
- adolescent development

### BUMPS TO BUBS

Bumps to Bubs brings young mothers and mothers-to-be (up to 23 years) with babies 0 to 1 year, together to support the journey of parenting.

### BUBS TO TOTS

Bubs to Tots brings mothers (up to 24 years) of children in the 1 to 2 year age group together for support and education.

### DADS TUNING IN TO KIDS

Dads Tuning into Kids is a 6-week supportive program specifically for Dads of children aged 3 to 12 years.

The program aims to:

- help dads to effectively tune in to their child's emotions
- encourage dads to strengthen their emotional connection with their child
- support dads to build skills in emotion coaching to assist their child's individual needs

### STEPPING STONES

Stepping Stones is a 5-week program for families with a child who has a disability. The program aims to help parents use Positive Parenting to acquire new skills and knowledge. Skills are practiced and parents receive constructive feedback about their use of skills.

### GRANDPARENTING PROGRAM

Being a grandparent is one of the most exciting times in our life. A lot of information and safety recommendations have changed since we had our own young children.

In this session, come together with other grandparents to discuss some of the fun times we share with our grandchildren but to also look at the many guidelines that have changed since we had our own young children.