

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Four, Week 2
October 13th, 2025
#31

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,



What a beautiful celebration we shared last Friday for Grandparents' Day. Our time together began with an assembly and liturgy dedicated to our grandparents, where students led us in prayer and reflection on the special role grandparents play in our lives. Grandparents then were able to spend time in the classrooms, sharing in activities and celebrating the student's learning, before a toastie lunch was shared. Moments like these remind us of the deep sense of connection and community that make St Margaret's so special. Thank you to everyone who joined us, shared stories, and took the time to be part of this memorable day. A special mention to Joel Kearney who organised the day, assembly and liturgy. A big thank you also goes to our Parents and Friends Association for their support with the Cheer Truck. The smell of toasties filled the air, and we're so grateful to all who purchased one—your support helps us continue to create these memorable moments. Special thanks to those who organised, cooked, and served throughout the morning—it was a real team effort and greatly appreciated.



Leadership and Management News

Our Prep students are looking forward to swimming this week. Please remember that a swimming cap is essential, and a rashie is strongly encouraged. Make sure your child has socks, underwear and a bag for wet clothes each day. Students are required to change and dry themselves, so please take some time to talk with your child about managing this independently.

Last week, our Year 6 girls attended Deakin University for their first GALS (Girls as Leaders in STEM) session. This program encourages young women to explore leadership and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We are so fortunate to partner with Deakin University to give students these kinds of exciting extra-curricular opportunities, and we can't wait to see how the girls' STEM projects develop over the coming weeks.

We are also thrilled to announce that Shon Productions will be visiting our school on Friday, 24th October, to film a promotional video celebrating life at St Margaret's. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the great things happening in our school with the wider community.

A reminder about the importance of daily reading. Research consistently shows that children who read every day for just 20 minutes are exposed to 1.8 million words per year, helping build vocabulary, comprehension, and confidence as learners. Encouraging your child to read at home is one of the most powerful ways you can support their learning journey.

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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.

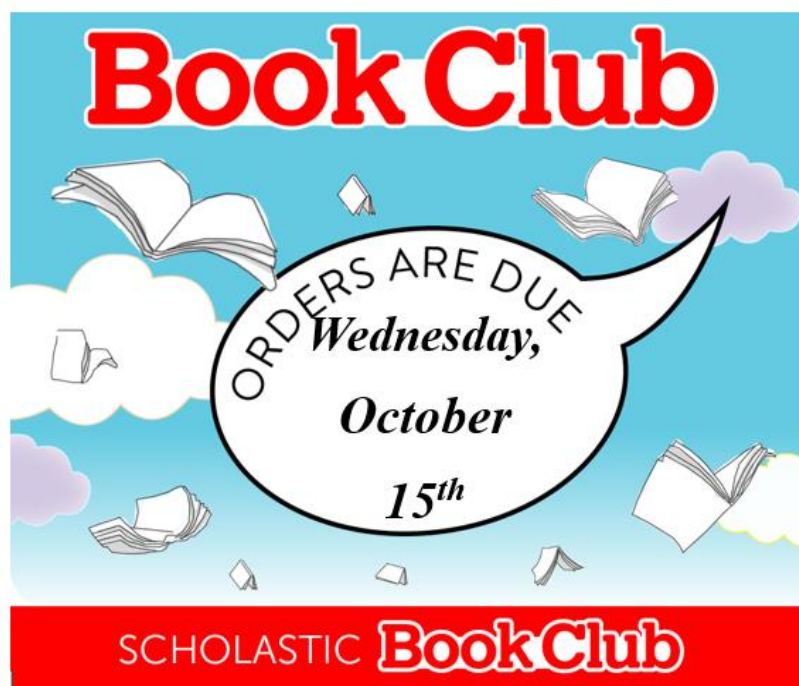
Leadership and Management News

As we start Term 4, I am already beginning to receive parent requests for 2026. As we have previously shared with our community, from next year our school will move to single-stream classes. Although we do our best to accommodate requests, we will not be offering students the opportunity to nominate friendship preferences when class lists are created. Classroom time will remain focused on learning, while playtimes will continue to provide opportunities for students to enjoy time with their friends. We will also be encouraging students across the different year levels—Years 1/2, 3/4, and 5/6—to play together during breaks, helping to build and strengthen connections across our school community.

As always, we ask that you place your trust in our teachers and staff as professionals, committed to placing children in the best possible learning environment. If you have anything in particular you wish to discuss, please contact Susan.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and for working with us to achieve the best educational outcomes for all students.

Have a great week!
Susan Perks



***XMAS ideas inside
this issue of
bookclub magazine***

Prep Swimming this Week



St Margaret's Primary School



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Ph 5229 7453



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Business Manager: Libby Fitzgerald lfitzgerald@smgeelongeast.com.au

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

Calendar of Events

New items in bold

Term Four

October

Monday, October 13 th	Swimming week for Prep
Wednesday, October 15 th	Free Lunchtime Chess Class Years 1-6
	P&F Meeting 7pm
Friday, October 17 th	Year 3/4 AFL SEDA clinic in PE hour
	Assembly - 5/6 presenting
Monday, October 20 th	Smile Patrol Dental (most of the week)
	BATFORCE Parent information night 6.30pm
Tuesday, October 21 st	P-2 Prayers in Pyjamas
	School Board 7pm
Wednesday, October 22 nd	2026 Prep Orientation Sessions: 9.15-10.30 or 11.45-1.00
Thursday, October 23 rd	Socktober Event
Friday, October 24 th	Year 3/4 AFL SEDA clinic in PE hour
Thursday, October 30 th	Specialist Spectacular from 3.30pm with P&F Sausage Sizzle
Friday, October 31 st	Assembly - 3/4 presenting

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 Kangaroobie
Friday, November 7 th	Prep Excursion to MoPA
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
	Assembly - RE Leaders presenting
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 overnight camp
Friday, November 28 th	Assembly - 1/2 presenting

December

Monday, December 1 st	2026 Student Leadership speeches at 11:40am
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
Friday, December 12 th	Assembly - Prep presenting
Monday, December 15 th	Year 6 Graduation
Tuesday, December 16 th	End of Term Four 1.30pm dismissal

School Community News

Olive's Community Service

Off her own bat, Olive has been helping out her community with some rubbish collection. Great job Olive!



Grandparents' Day



School Community News

Grandparents' Day cont.



School Community News

Division Cricket

Our talented Grade 5/6 students had a terrific day competing in the Division Cricket competition!





ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & FEED ME GEELONG

EAT A BUN. FEEL GOOD.



**ORDER VIA FLEXISCHOOLS
4 FLAVOURS AVAILABLE
\$2.40 EACH
RAISE MONEY FOR FEED GEELONG**

NORLANE ARC
THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

Kids FunFest



Get ready for **TWO**
high energy events featuring
The Mik Maks!

9.30AM | 10.30AM

Join us for a morning full of music, laughter, and hands-on activities as we celebrate children's rights with fun, interactive experiences from amazing local community organisations. Don't miss out!

Bookings are essential.

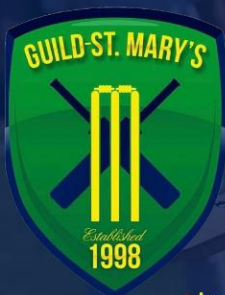


For event details or to book, scan the QR code or visit geelong.link/KidsFunFest2025



CITY OF GEELONG
GEELONG

VICTORIA
State Government



GUILD ST.MARY'S CRICKET CLUB JOIN OUR CLUB

Under 11 and 13's players wanted!

Why Join?

- **Learn New Skills-** Batting, bowling, fielding, and teamwork
- **Stay Active & Healthy-** Build fitness, coordination, and confidence
- **Make Lifelong Friends-** Be part of a supportive team and community
- **Grow With the Game-** Build confidence and resilience
- **Family-Friendly Club Culture-** Families encouraged to be part of every moment
- **Train and Play on Turf-** Encourages smart decision-making under more dynamic conditions

The Details

- **Club Location-** Frier Reserve 107-119 West Fyans St, Newtown 3220
- **Junior Training-** Thursday's 4.30pm
- **Game Day's-** Under 11's Friday Afternoons | Under 13's Saturday Mornings
- **Bonuses-** No fees | Equipment provided

Contact the Coach - Brendan 0409 503 805



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

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.

 6.30-8.00pm  Monday 1st Sept

 St Margaret's Primary School



**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
18th March to 6th 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/

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.