

NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's
Primary School

*Term Four,
Week 8
November 24th,
2025
#37*

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

Today our Year 6 are attending the AFL MAX camp as a day experience. Although disappointed that the agenda changed, we are thrilled that our students will still be attending a greatly extended day experience. This ensures they can still participate in the wide array of activities and fully experience the camp's offerings, including dinner. We believe strongly in the importance of these enriching, real-world experiences outside the classroom, and we are grateful that the students will still have this opportunity to build teamwork and confidence together.

Last Thursday marked a very special moment for some of our students as they received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Penance) for the first time. Reconciliation is a beautiful Sacrament of Healing within the Catholic faith, which allows individuals to confess their sins, express sorrow, and receive God's forgiveness through the priest. This process helps restore their relationship with God and the Church. The students were exceptionally well-prepared for this important spiritual step, which is a testament to the dedication of their teachers Leonie Cann, Hunter Merryfull, Joel Kearney, Emma Clancy, and Cassi Benning. We extend our deepest thanks to them for their commitment to Catholic education and for guiding the children through this preparation. Thank you also to our Religious Education Leader, Joel, for his meticulous work in preparing the Sacrament, and to Father Jim and Father Venoth for conducting the service. These Sacraments are key milestones in the individual faith journeys of our students, and we are proud to support them in this development.

Congratulations to the students who celebrated their sacrament: Austin Ariyappilly, Charles Brown, Annie Butcher, Mason Chappell, Levi Deocampo, Fletcher Eslick, Mila Ghin, Xavier Hanan, Elsie Heather, Peter Jackson, Brax Jobson, James Kessler, Thomas Marriott, Bonnie Martini, Georgia McGenniskien, River Munn, Patrick Noonan, Gus O'Kane, Izzy Porter, Jayda Sperling, Koda Sperling, Pearl Timmins, Chester Toohey, Mila Tran, Ria Vadivel, Rafferty Vaughan, Claudia Walker and Luella Young.

We are delighted to announce that the first phase of our essential building works has now been completed. The scaffolding, which has been a visible feature of our school grounds recently, was successfully removed last Friday. This completion marks an important step forward in our school improvement plan. Phase two of the building project is now being put out to tender, and we will continue to provide families with updates as soon as we have firm timelines. Thank you once again for your patience and flexibility during this period. We recognise that construction can present minor disruptions, but these vital works will significantly enhance our learning environment for years to come.

Planning for the 2026 academic year is well underway. We are currently finalising staffing arrangements and the locations of classrooms to ensure a smooth and effective transition for all students. We are working hard to optimise the learning spaces and resources for every cohort. These decisions regarding class placements and structure will be shared with families on our Step Up Orientation Day, scheduled for Tuesday, December 9th. This Friday, November 28th, marks the final visit for 2026 from our wonderful Story Dogs team, Bree and Dash. We are incredibly fortunate to be part of this program. The Story Dogs initiative involves accredited reading dogs visiting the school each week, providing a relaxed and non-judgemental audience for students who may be reluctant or struggling readers. This safe and quiet environment helps improve children's reading skills, confidence, and self-esteem, making the act of reading a positive and enjoyable experience.

...continued over

We extend our sincere gratitude to Bree and Dash for their generosity and commitment to our students throughout the year.

Finally, a few key dates for your calendar. A reminder that letters of application and speeches for our 2026 student leadership positions are due next Monday, December 1st. We encourage all eligible students to consider applying. Additionally, please note that the school will be closed on Friday, December 5th for a Staff Professional Learning Day. Our staff will be undertaking required professional development to prepare thoroughly for the 2026 school year.

Have a great week

Susan Perks



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.

Congratulations to our Year 3 students
on completing their Sacrament of
Reconciliation!



Calendar of Events

New items in bold

Term Four

November

Monday, November 24th
Friday, November 28th

Yr 6 AFL Max DAY EXPERIENCE
Assembly - 1/2 presenting

December

Monday, December 1st
Tuesday, December 2nd
Friday, December 5th
Tuesday, December 9th

2026 Student Leadership speeches at 11:40am
Adventure Park 5/6 Excursion
School Closure Day - Staff PL
Step Up Day
2026 Prep Orientation Session: 9.30-11.00am

Thursday, December 11th

School Board & P&F Dinner 7pm

Thursday, December 11th

Whole School Movie Day

Monday, December 15th

Year 6 Graduation

Tuesday, December 16th

Assembly - Prep presenting (note change of date)
End of Term Four 1.30pm dismissal

Beginning of the Year dates 2026

January

Wednesday, January 28th
Thursday, January 29th

1-1 Testing* P-6

Year 2-6 First Day of School for 2026

1-1 Testing* Prep & 1-1 Testing* Yr 1

Friday, January 30th

Prep & Yr 1 First Day of School. All P-6 onsite.

**You will be allocated a time for your child to meet with their teacher individually to complete some assessment tasks so we can determine their starting point of learning for 2026.*

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

Sports Academy News

Olympics Sports Academy

IN OLYMPICS SPORTS ACADEMY I LEARNED HOW TO DO HIGH JUMP REALLY WELL! WE ALSO LEARNED HOW TO DO DISCUS, WAS REALLY FUN ESPECIALLY THAT IT WAS MY ONLY THING I NEED TO WORK ON OUT OF ALL THE SPORTS I DO.

BY KIWAIN DE SILVA

Sport Academy Cricket

I love doing cricket academy because it has helped me get better at bowling and batting but I am a good fielder.

Mason 3/4

Basketball Sports Academy



Basketball Sports Academy was fun but the part that was even funner was that we learnt layups different skills dribbling and many other things! Mila.G

Soccer Sports Academy:

for the first week in soccer we did dribbling and then we had to kick the ball towards a cone. You would get a point for everytime you hit the cone. Sports Academy has made me better at soccer.

Giuliano 3/4



OLYMPICS SPORTS ACADEMY

My favourite part in Olympics sports academy is when we did high Jump. It was so fun and I learnt so much different skills.

Georgia. M



Olympics SPORTS ACADEMY

For sports academy I did olympics which we did different sports like high jump, discus, hurdles, shot put. This was helpful because I got to the next round in High Jump in athletics!

Olive Spencer Harmer

AFL Sports Academy:

AFL was so fun we did so many things. Something I found fun was laying on the group and trying to catch the ball, it was all about reaction time! Mr. Wilson said he would give me a prize and he did, he gave me a high five 🙌

Zainab 3/4





St Margaret's is spreading the sweetest Christmas cheer! 🎄

We've proudly joined forces with local legends @sugarandsliceau to bring our community some truly delicious festive treats – all available to order now on Flexischools!

✨ ✨ Rocky Road Christmas Wreaths
✨ ✨ Slice Packs (including gluten free)
✨ ✨ The most amazing cookies you will EVER eat

\$7.00 from every pack comes straight back to our school to support our students and community projects.

Whether you're grabbing a gift or treating yourself (we won't tell 😊), make sure you get your orders in by 9th December on the flexischools app.



Delivered to school Friday 12th December



Sweet treats + supporting St Margaret's = Christmas magic!



**SUGAR
&
SLICE**

**ORDER NOW ON
FLEXISCHOOLS**



Raising funds one slice at a time.
Easy, convenient & local



We are SunSmart - a note for families

Too much of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. It is also one of the most preventable cancers.

You can't see or feel the sun's UV. Whatever the weather, if the UV levels are three or more, it's important to *Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!*

Sun protection times

Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be.



Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available from the SunSmart widget on our school website, in the weather section of the newspaper, on the SunSmart website at sunsmart.com.au and as a free SunSmart app. Sun protection times can also be found at the Bureau of Meteorology website and live UV levels are available from ARPANSA.

SunSmart membership

Our school is a registered member of Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Schools Program. We aim to protect students and staff from too much UV.

Sun protection and skin cancer prevention is a shared responsibility. Please help support our SunSmart membership and sun protection efforts by ensuring your child follows the SunSmart measures included in our policy at school and at home.

During the daily local sun protection times (usually from mid-August to the end of April), **use these 5 SunSmart steps – even if it's cool and cloudy.**

1. **SLIP** on covering clothing

For free dress days, ensure your child wears clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.



2. **SLOP** on SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen

Apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day and make sure children have sunscreen in their bag ready to reapply throughout the day. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours. Please ensure children get plenty of sunscreen application practice at home so they'll be all set when they are at school. Under supervision, ask children to put a dot of sunscreen on each cheek, nose and chin and rub it in (avoiding the eye area) and sunscreen squiggles or dots on the back of the neck, arms and legs to cover these areas.

3. **SLAP** on a hat that protects the face, neck and ears

Choose a wide-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat. Peak caps and visors do not offer enough UV protection so please leave them at home. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved **school hat**. Please keep this at school so they will always be ready for outdoor activities, outdoor learning and play during school days. For the walk to and from school and weekends, please have an extra **home hat** to help keep children protected at home.

4. **SEEK** shade

Choose shady spots for learning and play whenever possible.

5. **SLIDE** on wrap-around AS1067 sunglasses

When appropriate and practical, help protect the eyes with sunglasses.

Need information in another language? Call 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to Cancer Council Victoria in your language