

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Four, Week 9
December 1st, 2025
#38

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

Our students had a busy and engaging couple of weeks with both fun and serious occasions.

Last Monday, our Year 6 students thoroughly enjoyed their day camp experience at AFL Max. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to engage in a variety of physical activities that promote teamwork, skill development, and healthy competition. Throughout the extended day, the students participated in different zones within the facility, tackling challenges that required communication and strategic thinking. Activities ranged from testing their kicking and handball skills to navigating obstacle courses and participating in small-sided games.

The chance to spend an extended day enjoying the camp and sharing dinner at the facility was a wonderful way for the students to bond further as a cohort outside of the regular school environment. This experience offered valuable lessons in sportsmanship and resilience. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Wilson for meticulously organising and facilitating this memorable experience, and a huge thank you also goes to Matt de Jong and Kellie Hanley for taking the students and dedicating their extended day to ensuring the event's success.



We are also incredibly grateful to have Maranda Hart working with some of our students weekly through the Heart to Heart program, supporting strategies for emotional regulation. This valuable program focuses on equipping students with practical strategies for understanding and managing their feelings, navigating social situations, and developing essential coping mechanisms. Maranda's tailored approach helps students identify the link between their emotions, thoughts, and actions, fostering self-awareness and promoting a calmer, more focused learning state. Last week, she hosted a very successful parent/student evening, sharing foundational strategies and ways for families to support their children's emotional well-being at home. This collaborative approach between the school, Maranda, and parents is key to seeing positive, lasting changes in our students' ability to regulate their emotions.

Today is the deadline for leadership letters to be submitted, and we are now moving into the next exciting stage of our selection process. The speeches for our School and House Captain roles will take place this Monday, and we are eagerly looking forward to hearing our Year 5 students present their ideas and vision. We truly appreciate the significant time and effort all applicants have put into preparing their applications for these important roles. The 2026 school leaders will be officially announced during our final assembly of the year, with their badges being formally presented early in 2026. This is always a proud moment for our school community.

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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



Last Friday marked the final session of the year for our wonderful Story Dogs program in 2025. This initiative is profoundly important for our students, particularly those who are developing their reading confidence. Reading aloud to a non-judgmental and calm therapy dog creates a relaxed and positive environment, significantly reducing anxiety often associated with practicing reading. The gentle presence of the dogs, such as Dash, helps make reading a fun and enjoyable experience, which in turn boosts student self-esteem and literacy skills. We are incredibly thankful to Bri and her faithful dog Dash for generously giving their time each week to visit us and support our students' growth. Their dedication makes a genuine difference in the lives of the children they interact with.

Please be aware that I will be taking Long Service Leave commencing this Tuesday. I anticipate returning in time to join the Year 6 Graduation ceremony on Monday, December 15th. During my absence, Renee Cunningham will be acting as Principal. I am confident the school will be in excellent hands. Wishing you all a busy but successful few weeks ahead, and I look forward to seeing you all again upon my return.

Have a great week!

Susan Perks



Library News

As the year comes to a close, the library will enter a very busy time – collecting all the library book returns and stocktaking all our titles.

This week will be the final week for borrowing and all books should be returned by December 12th

Please check all those bookshelves, schoolbags, cupboards, under beds and all the sneaky places books can disappear within the house!

The final bookclub purchases from Issue 8 should arrive soon.

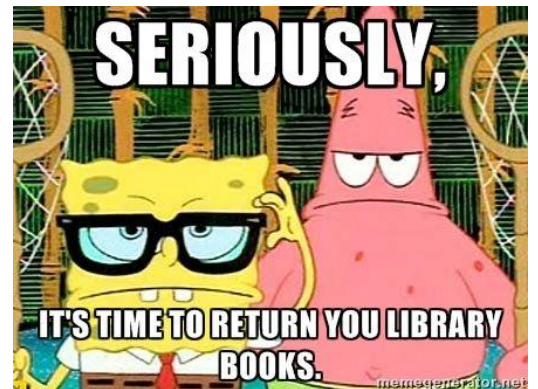
Thanks to everyone who has supported both bookclub and the book fair in 2025. We've been able to add many titles to our collection using the bonus points from these two book-buying opportunities.

Huge thanks to the P&F for their contribution to the 2025 Library budget. This enabled us to buy the shortlisted books for Book Week and many more titles in the popular categories of graphic novels and picture books, and some brilliant information texts for our non-fiction shelves.

On a personal note, I've had an exciting first year working in the Saint Margaret's library. It's been a steep, learning curve and I thank staff, students and families for your support as I work towards ensuring our library promotes a love of reading, discovery and learning.

Lastly, thanks to Miss Ash for taking on the newsletter for the past three weeks in my absence.

With thanks
Margaret Dunn
Library



Calendar of Events

New items in bold

Term Four

December

Monday, December 1 st	2026 Student Leadership speeches at 11:40am
Tuesday, December 2 nd	Adventure Park 5/6 Excursion
Friday, December 5th	School Closure Day - Staff PL
Tuesday, December 9 th	Step Up Day
	2026 Prep Orientation Session: 9.30-11.00am
Thursday, December 11th	School Board & P&F Dinner 7pm
	Whole School Movie Day
Friday, December 12th	All Library books returned
Monday, December 15 th	Year 6 Graduation
Tuesday, December 16 th	Assembly - Prep presenting (note change of date)
	End of Term Four 1.30pm dismissal

Beginning of the Year dates 2026

January

Wednesday, January 28 th	1-1 Testing* P-6
Thursday, January 29 th	Year 2-6 First Day of School for 2026
	1-1 Testing* Prep & 1-1 Testing* Yr 1
Friday, January 30 th	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.*

Aussie of the Month

Annie Butcher

Nominated for Inclusion

Annie could be nominated in all areas. She consistently includes others. She is kind, respectful and caring. is a wonderful friend and role model for others.



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

Our new marquee!
Thank you to the P&F for this awesome purchase!



Social Media Age Restrictions

How to support your child under 16 with the new social media age restrictions

From 10 December 2025, the *Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024* will require social media platforms to:

- prevent children and young people under 16 from having a social media account
- deactivate or freeze existing accounts held by people under 16.

Delaying access to social media protects the health and wellbeing of young people and gives them extra time to build real world connections and digital literacy skills.

The responsibility will be on the social media platforms, not parents, carers, children or schools, to implement these new restrictions.

Most popular social media platforms will be age restricted. These include Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Reddit and YouTube.

Messaging services and online games, as well as apps and platforms that support health and education, can still be used.

How to help under 16s prepare for the change

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting their children to be safe online.

To help get under 16s ready for the social media minimum age requirements, you can go to the [eSafety website](#) to learn more about the social media age restrictions and find [tips on how to talk about social media age restrictions with young people](#).

What the change means for our school

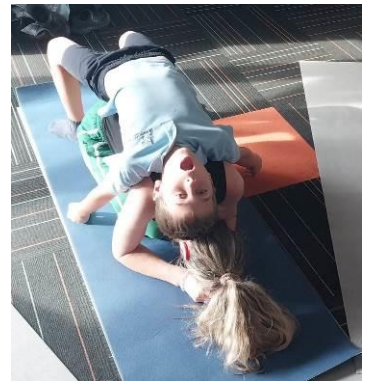
At our school, all age-restricted social media platforms are blocked for student use on the school network.

To keep up to date about the new social media age restrictions, visit the [eSafety website](#) and [subscribe](#) to their newsletter.

School Community News

Maranda Hart Parent and Student Night.

We are so fortunate to have Maranda sharing her knowledge with students and parents on Monday night.



Student of the Week Awards

CLASS	STUDENT	AWARDS – Term 4 Week 8 Friday, November 28 th , 2025
Prep JC	Agatha Salkeld	For her determination when sounding out challenging words in writing. Well Done Aggie!
Prep JC	Arthur Brauer	For consistently showing kindness and being a great friend to all his peers. Well Done Arthur!
Prep SB	Adam Alex	For transitioning so well back into St Margaret's! Your warm and caring nature was missed and your peers are so happy to have you back.
Prep SB	Mille Flood	For being an excellent example of our St Margaret's values, always being respectful, responsible and in all her interactions.
1/2 EK	Lachlan Noonan	For demonstrating great blending strategies during your reading. Keep up the good work!
1/2 EK	Harley Ballard	For showing kindness to all. Well done!
1/2 JB	Mia McGennissen	For your dedication shown towards your reading. Well done Mia!
1/2 JB	Landon Munn	For your enthusiasm and hard work demonstrated towards your reading. Well done Landon!
3/4 EC	Colton Blackwell	For persisting with your writing goal of using compound sentences!
3/4 EC	Koda Sperling	For demonstrating effort across all learning areas, well done Koda!
3/4 HM	Archer Robinson	For your responsible behaviour in class and your great work ethic.
3/4 HM	Mason Chappell	For your commitment to your learning and making good progress in testing.
3/4 JK-CB	Chester Toohey	For the consistent effort he puts into doing his very best in his reading tasks.
3/4 JK-CB	Kenny Golding	For the teamwork and positive learning habits he has shown during classroom activities.
3/4 LC	Charles Brown	For using accurate mathematical thinking to solve number problems - great use of strategies, Charlie!
3/4 LC	Friday Foley	For using outstanding creative and critical thinking skills to enhance class discussion and to problem solve
5/6 DJ-JW	Arlo Bakker	For his consistent efforts to complete work to the best of his ability and the positive manner he treats his classmates.
5/6 DJ-JW	Jarren Cheng	For his positive attitude towards his work. Fantastic effort Jarren.
5/6 FM	Aiden Cardigan	For your hard work finishing an excellent writing piece on The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - well done Aiden!
5/6 FM	Jai Power	For his excellent behaviour and work ethic at school. Well done Jai and thank you.
5/6 KH	Jai Power	For his excellent behaviour and work ethic at school. Well done Jai and thank you.
5/6 KH	James Jimenez	For working really hard at school and having great manners. Thanks James.

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POTTERY STUDIO-EVENTS & GALLERY

School Holiday's Pottery & Craft Sessions

Tues 30th Dec 1-4pm Kids Pottery Class

Tues 6th Jan 1-4pm Kids Pottery Class

Additional classes will be listed on these dates and other dates if these book out. Adults may book a spot for themselves to join in and make something as well. You can either stay or drop off.

\$55 per person for 2 hours. Includes clay, colours, glazes and 2 kiln firings.

To book visit the website <https://hazytales.com/events/events-calendar/>

These are a few of the other things we do at Hazy Tales Studio:
Bespoke Pottery Parties for Adults & Kids. Custom events. Hen parties.
Adult evening 'Clay & Cocktails by Candlelight'. Porcelain products & jewellery for sale.

16 MAYALL WAY, DRYSDALE, BELLARINE

✉ sally@hazytales.com ☎ 0439 709 492
www.hazytales.com



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



ARTISTS ASSEMBLE!

Calling all artists & creative legends. Get hands on with painting, origami, cut & pasting, & all things art & craft. Activities vary each week. Come along & let your imaginations fly!

Recommended ages 5-18



No Booking Needed

Every Thursday
Commencing 5 February 2026
Finishing 2 April 2026
4:00PM to 5:00PM
Children's Area
Newcomb Library

grlc.vic.gov.au

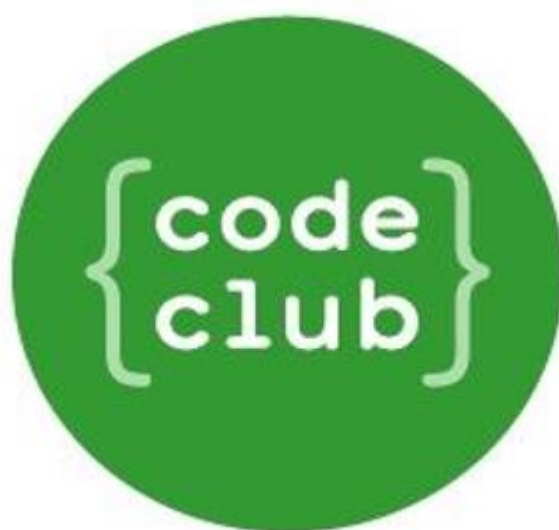
book
now

All events are **FREE** unless otherwise specified.

Bookings essential.

Online grlc.vic.gov.au

In person at any branch, or phone 03 4201 0657



AUSTRALIA

CODE CLUB

Join us for Code Club and take a tour of Scratch 1 or stretch your coding muscles with advanced projects in Scratch 2 and 3.

Children will need a Scratch account. To create an account, go to scratch.mit.edu. Please bring along their username and password each week.

Recommended ages 8-15.

Bookings essential.

book
now

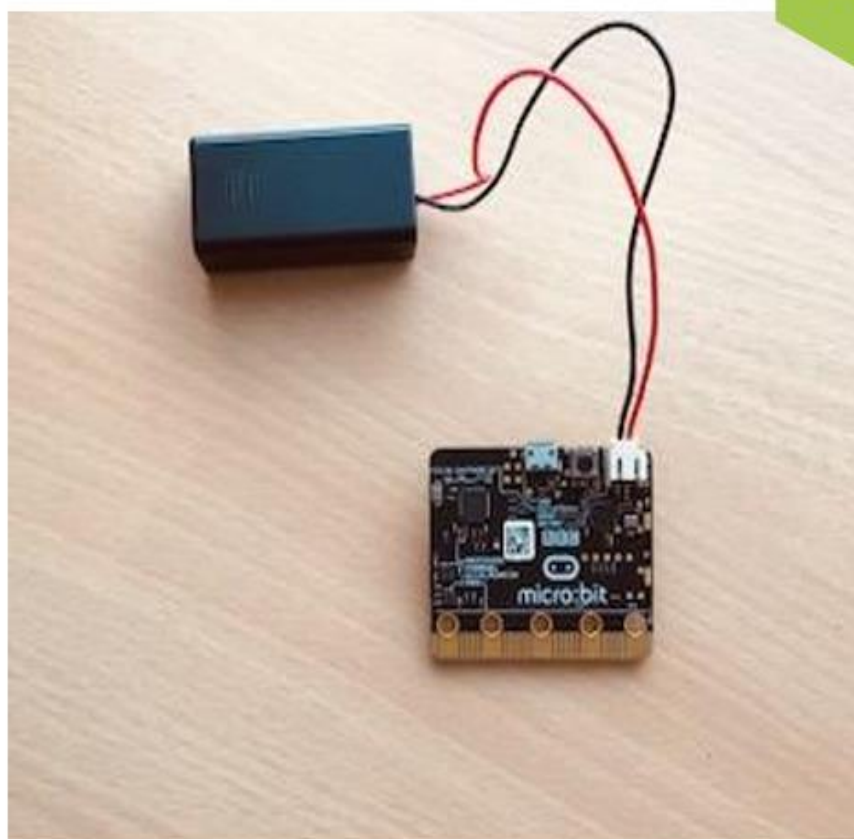


Every Wednesday
Commencing 4 March 2026
Finishing 1 April 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm
Level 1, Meeting Room
Newcomb Library

grlc.vic.gov.au

book
now

All events are **FREE** unless otherwise specified.
Bookings essential.
Online grlc.vic.gov.au
In person at any branch, or phone 03 4201 0655



CODING WITH MICROBITS

Experience some of the endless possibilities of the micro:bit micro-computer in this 4-week program. Learn coding skills while creating games, music and more.

The micro:bit is a handheld programmable micro-computer that can be used for all sorts of cool creations. This 4-week course is designed to progressively build on the skills developed each week.

Recommended ages 8-15.

book
now



Every Wednesday
Commencing 4 February 2026
Finishing 25 February 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm
Level 1, Meeting Room
Newcomb Library

Bookings essential.

grlc.vic.gov.au

book
now

All events are **FREE** unless otherwise specified.
Bookings essential.
Online grlc.vic.gov.au
In person at any branch, or phone 03 4201 0657