

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term One, Week 1
January 27th, 2026
#1

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

Welcome Back to the 2026 School Year!

We trust you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are ready for another fantastic year of learning. A warm welcome is extended to all the new students, families, and staff joining our community this year. A full list of staff is included in this newsletter for your reference.

Included in this edition are the designated uniform days for each class. We kindly ask all families to ensure students are in the correct school uniform each day, including the correct socks. At our school, the uniform is more than just clothing; it plays a vital role in fostering a sense of belonging, pride, and equality. Wearing the correct attire ensures every student feels part of our shared community, promoting unity and reducing distractions. Furthermore, the uniform helps instill responsibility, discipline, and a professional mindset. These skills will serve students well throughout their lives. Students who are not in the correct uniform will receive a slip to bring home to help address any issues, and we thank you for reinforcing these standards at home.

In addition to personal presentation, we are focusing this year on the importance of taking care of our shared belongings. Respecting school resources, from library books and sporting equipment to classroom furniture, is a key part of building a responsible community. When students take care of these items, they show respect for the school, their peers, and the environment, ensuring that high-quality resources remain available for everyone to enjoy. By working together to look after our shared space and materials, we teach our children the value of stewardship and collective responsibility.

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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

To ensure the safety of all students and comply with child-safe standards, we ask all parents to register at the front office when entering the school. If you need to collect your child or drop off a forgotten item, please see our office staff who will arrange for your child to meet you at the office. For those wishing to volunteer at the school, please remember to complete our Code of Conduct and provide a copy of your Working with Children Check (WWCC). Regarding school fees, these are now due, and direct debit is our preferred method of payment. Timely payments allow us to provide quality resources and programs for all students; please contact the office if you need assistance with this process.

We have included an outline of key dates for the year in this newsletter, though please be aware these are subject to change. We are also currently seeking new members for the School Board. If you are interested in contributing to the governance of our school, please email Susan for more information. Additionally, our Parents and Friends (P&F) AGM will be held on Wednesday, February 11th, at 7:00 pm in our staff room. We encourage all parents, especially those new to the school, to get involved as the P&F's efforts make a significant impact on our community.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year filled with growth, learning, and community spirit. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Enjoy your week!
Susan Perks



2026 Sport Uniform Days

Prep: Mondays and Wednesdays
Year 1: Wednesdays and Fridays
Year 2: Thursdays and Fridays
Year 3: Thursdays and Fridays
Year 4: Wednesdays and Fridays
Year 5: Thursdays and Fridays
Year 6: Thursdays and Fridays



Welcome to the commencement of another school year when home and school come together to bring success to a new phase of development for each child.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

St Margaret's Primary School



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

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

Calendar of Events

Term One

January

Tuesday, January 27 th	Staff Day. Student Free
Wednesday, January 28 th	Prep - Year 6 Testing day compulsory individual times
Thursday, January 29 th	Year 2 - Year 6 Students begin
	Prep - Year 1 testing compulsory individual times
Friday, January 30 th	Prep & Year 1 students begin

February

Wednesday, February 4 th	Prep Rest /Testing Day
Friday, February 6 th	Assembly @ 9:10am Year 6 Leadership Badges handed out
Monday, February 9 th	PSGs
Wednesday, February 11 th	Prep Rest / Testing Day
Wednesday, February 11 th	Andrew Chinn RE incursion Years 1-6
Wednesday, February 11 th	P&F AGM 7pm Staff room. All Welcome
Monday, February 16 th	PSGs
Tuesday, February 17 th	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday, February 18 th	Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 18 th	Prep Rest / Testing Day
Friday, February 20 th	Assembly @9:10am Year 5 hosting
Saturday, February 21 st	Family Enrolment Mass 6pm
Sunday, February 22 nd	Family Enrolment Mass 7.30am, 9.30am and 11am
Monday, February 23 rd	PSGs
Monday, February 23 rd	Responsible Pet Ownership P-6 Incursion
Wednesday, February 25 th	Prep Rest / Testing Day
Saturday, February 28 th	Family Enrolment Mass 6pm

March

Sunday, March 1 st	Family Enrolment Mass 7.30am, 9.30am and 11am
Monday, March 2 nd	PSGs
Wednesday, March 4 th	Prep Rest / Testing Day
Friday, March 6 th	Confirmation Retreat Preparation Day
Friday, March 6 th	Assembly @9:10am Year 4 hosting
Monday, March 9th	Labour Day Public Holiday
March 11th-March 20 th	NAPLAN Test Window
Friday, March 13 th	School Photos
Wednesday, March 18 th	Student Leadership Conference (School & Vice Captains)
Wednesday, March 18 th	Geelong Student Pilgrimage Queenscliff
Friday, March 20 th	Assembly @ 9:10am Year 3 hosting
Wednesday, March 25 th	Sacrament of Confirmation @5pm
Monday, March 30 th	Whole School Athletics Landy Field

April

Thursday, April 2 nd	End Term 1 at 1.30pm
Friday, April 3 rd	Good Friday



Calendar of Events

Term Two

April

Monday, April 20th
Tuesday, April 21st
Friday, April 24th
Friday, April 25th

Student Free Day; Staff Professional Learning
Term Two begins for students
ANZAC Liturgy for students
ANZAC DAY public holiday

May

Monday, May 4-7th
Wednesday, May 27th

Smile Patrol Dental Van onsite
National Simultaneous Storytime

June

Friday, June 5th
Monday, June 8th
Friday, June 26th

Student Free Day
King's Birthday public holiday
Term 2 ends at 1.30pm

Term Three

July

Monday, July 13th
Tuesday, July 14th
Friday, July 24th

School Closure Day; Staff PL
Students begin Term Three
Grandparent's Day

August

Wednesday, August 19th
Monday, August 24th-28th
Sunday, August 30th

Emmaus Meal 5pm First Eucharist preparation family night
Book Week "Symphony of Stories"
Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm

September

Monday, Sep 7th-11th
Friday, September 18th

Book Fair Week
Term 3 ends at 1.30pm

Student Free Dates 2026

Tuesday, January 27th

Monday, April 20th

Tuesday, June 5th

Monday, July 13th

Monday, October 5th

Monday, November 2nd

Friday, December 4th

October

Monday, October 5th
Tuesday, October 6th

Student Free Day; staff PL
Students begin Term Four

November

Monday, November 2nd
Tuesday, November 3rd
Monday, Nov 9th-11th
Thursday, November 12th
Tuesday, November 10th
Monday, November 16th
Thursday, November 19th

Student Free Day
Melbourne Cup Public holiday
Year 5 /6 Camp Wilkin
Year 5 /6 student rest day
Reconciliation Family Preparation evening
St Margaret's Feast Day
Sacrament of Reconciliation 12:15pm

December

Friday, December 4th
Monday, December 14th
Tuesday, December 15th

Student Free Day; staff PL
Year 6 Graduation
Assembly - Prep presenting
End of Term Four 1.30pm dismissal

Staff 2025

Prep	Sarah Bryant Jill Connor
Year 1	Jess Barjasic Emily Koutsafitis
Year 2	Caitlin Reynolds
Year 3	Hunter Merryfull Ashley Calnan
Year 4	Leonie Cann James Chappell
Years 5	Kellie Hanley Fiona Moran
Year 6	Matt de Jong / Josh Wilson Kellie Barbour for literacy support Gabrielle Costa
Visual Arts P-6	
Physical Education P-1	Kate Horton
2-6	Josh Wilson
Italian P-1	Emma Badr
2-6	Daniela Cucinotta
Performing Arts P-6	Cassie Benning
Intervention Support	Kellie Barbour Ana Clifton Jaki Groves Susan Perks
Principal	Renee Cunningham
Deputy Principal / Learning & Teaching Leader	Sonja Ginn
Wellbeing / Learning Diversity Leader	Kellie Barbour
Religious Education Leader	Matt de Jong
Numeracy Leader	Jaki Groves
Literacy Leader	Renee Cunningham
Mental Health Leader	Jye Boyle
School Psychologist	Cassi Benning
Special Events Coordinators	Sarah Bryant
Library Co-ordinator	Marg Dunn
ICT Co-ordinator	Narelle Crowe
Learning Support Officers	Bianca Anwari Narelle Crowe Jack Fisher Linda Foley Daniel Maruff Jill Mayes Mikalah McCormack Jade Porter Stacey Rochow Annie Strom Tania West Kath White Libby Fitzgerald Anne Miller Georgia Kavenagh
Business Manager	
Office Staff	

Book Club

Dear Families,

One of the best gifts families can give their children is the love of books and the joy and benefits of independent reading for fun. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school.

Our school participates in Scholastic Book Club each year. Up to twice a term, during the school year, a new issue of the catalogue is made available to the students to bring home. It contains books for all ages. You'll find award-winning books and bestsellers, as well as old and new favourites. They span a wide range of children's reading levels and interests and they are inexpensive (some books cost as little as \$3).

It is easy to order. **The Book Club LOOP platform for parents** allows you to pay by credit card. Your child's order is submitted directly to school safe and sound and the books will be delivered to class. You can place your child's order at scholastic.com.au/LOOP or using the **LOOP app**, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

Owning your own books is something special! I hope that you will encourage your child to order books this year. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our school, however there is never any obligation to order. I know of no better way to encourage reading than to allow children to choose the books they want to read.

Sincerely,

Margaret Dunn
St Margaret's Library

*Creator God,
Thank you that we are all safely
back at school.
We pray for energy for the year
ahead for students, teachers and
families.
We pray that school days are filled
with fun and great memories.
We pray for cheerful hearts as we
journey through this school year,
sharing your love and light
through our words and deeds.
We give thanks for all the
blessings you have given us.*

Amen

