

# NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's  
Primary School

*Term One, Week 1*  
*January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026*  
*#1*

## *From Susan's Desk*

## *Leadership and Management News*

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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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



83 St Albans Road  
East Geelong 3219

**Ph 5229 7453**



**Website:** [www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Susan Perks [sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au)

Office Managers: Anne Miller [amiller@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:amiller@smgeelongeast.com.au)

Georgia Kavenagh [gkavenagh@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:gkavenagh@smgeelongeast.com.au)

Business Manager: Libby Fitzgerald [lfitzgerald@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:lfitzgerald@smgeelongeast.com.au)

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

## Calendar of Events

### Term One

#### January

Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>  
  
Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Staff Day. Student Free  
Prep - Year 6 Testing day compulsory individual times  
Year 2 - Year 6 Students begin  
Prep - Year 1 testing compulsory individual times  
Prep & Year 1 students begin

#### February

Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Prep Rest /Testing Day  
Assembly @ 9:10am Year 6 Leadership Badges handed out  
PSGs  
Prep Rest / Testing Day  
Andrew Chinn RE incursion Years 1-6  
P&F AGM 7pm Staff room. All Welcome  
PSGs  
Shrove Tuesday  
Ash Wednesday  
Prep Rest / Testing Day  
Assembly @9:10am Year 5 hosting  
Family Enrolment Mass 6pm  
Family Enrolment Mass 7.30am, 9.30am and 11am

Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

PSGs  
Responsible Pet Ownership P-6 Incursion  
Prep Rest / Testing Day  
Family Enrolment Mass 6pm

#### March

Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**  
March 11th-March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

Family Enrolment Mass 7.30am, 9.30am and 11am  
PSGs  
Prep Rest / Testing Day  
Confirmation Retreat Preparation Day  
Assembly @9:10am Year 4 hosting  
**Labour Day Public Holiday**  
NAPLAN Test Window  
School Photos  
Student Leadership Conference (School & Vice Captains)  
Geelong Student Pilgrimage Queenscliff  
Assembly @ 9:10am Year 3 hosting  
Sacrament of Confirmation @5pm  
Whole School Athletics Landy Field

#### April

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

End Term 1 at 1.30pm  
Good Friday



## Calendar of Events

### Term Two

#### April

**Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
**Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

#### May

Monday, May 4-7<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Smile Patrol Dental Van onsite  
National Simultaneous Storytime

#### June

**Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

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

### Term Three

#### July

**Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>

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

#### August

Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

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

#### September

Monday, Sep 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

Book Fair Week  
Term 3 ends at 1.30pm

### Term Four

#### October

**Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

**Student Free Day; staff PL**  
Students begin Term Four

#### November

**Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Monday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

**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 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

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

#### Student Free Dates 2026

Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

## **Staff 2025**

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

 SCHOLASTIC

# 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](https://www.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*

