

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term One, Week 2
February 2nd, 2026
#2

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

It has been wonderful to see our classrooms filled once again as we welcome our students back for the 2026 school year. The first week is always a pivotal time for settling into the rhythm of learning, and our primary focus has been on reestablishing the routines and expectations that allow every child to thrive. By setting these clear foundations early, we ensure that our classrooms remain productive and calm environments where every student understands how to succeed.



Part of maintaining this respectful school environment involves a commitment to our uniform policy, which helps foster a sense of belonging and pride. As we settle back in, please remember that hair reaching the shoulders must be tied back, and navy socks are required with both our formal and sports uniforms. Additionally, as we are currently in a high-UV period, hats are mandatory this week and throughout the term. Our "no hat, no play" policy will be strictly enforced to keep everyone sun safe. We appreciate your support in ensuring these standards are met every day.

We would like to extend a very warm invitation to our first Parents & Friends meeting of the year on February 11th at 7:00 pm in the staff room. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other families and play a direct role in supporting our students. We currently have an incredible and active group, though we are small in number and would dearly love to welcome some new faces for 2026. The P&F is vital to our school spirit, driving events such as our Shrove Tuesday celebrations, the ever-popular Easter raffle, and the preparation for our Mother's and Father's Day stalls and raffles. We are also eager to organise a new social event this year and would value your input and energy.

In addition to the P&F, our School Board meets once or twice per term to contribute to the strategic direction of our community. We are currently seeking representatives from our Prep and Year 2 year levels to join us. If you are interested in contributing to the governance and future of the school, please reach out to the office to express your interest. It is a rewarding way to be involved and share your perspective on our school's growth and development.

Child safety remains of central importance to everything we do here. Attached to this newsletter, you will find detailed information regarding Child Safe Standard 1, which focuses on culturally safe environments. Throughout the year, we will be highlighting a different standard each month to ensure our community is well informed about the rigorous frameworks in place to protect our children. These standards are not just a legal requirement but a core part of our mission to provide a secure and nurturing space for all.

...continued over

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

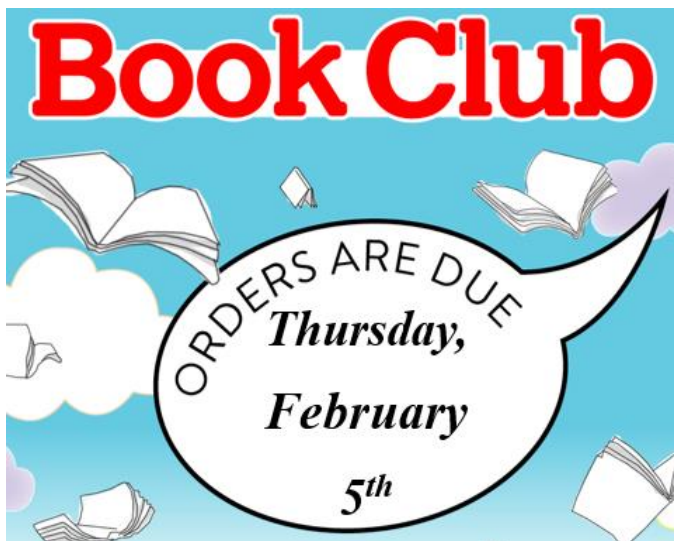
Finally, please take a moment to note the various important dates listed in this edition. You should have already received emails regarding bookings for Term 1 Program Support Group meetings and our upcoming parent-teacher interviews will be released this week. We encourage you to secure your time early through PAM so we can continue to work in partnership to support your child's progress. We look forward to a productive term ahead with you all.

Enjoy your week!

Susan Perks

Andrew Chinn Concert

On Wednesday 11th February, Australian religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting our school to share his songs with our children. Andrew's songs, such as "These Hands", "Rainbow", "An African Blessing" and "Rise Up!" are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. The concert will take place in St Margaret's Church, at 2.25pm. Our Prep children are not at school on this day, however we invite them to come along with their families and watch the performance. We look forward to seeing you there.



Library book borrowing begins this week. Each class visits the library on a regular weekly basis. Students don't need a library bag but are encouraged to borrow 1 or 2 books each week. The library is open some mornings before school and during most lunchtimes. Books can be returned anytime into the tubs inside the library door.



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

Calendar of Events

Term One

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 |
| Friday, February 27th | Assembly @9:10am Year 4 hosting (note change of date) |
| Saturday, February 28 th | Family Enrolment Mass 6pm |

March

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday, March 1 st | Family Enrolment Mass 7.30am, 9.30am and 11am |
| Monday, March 2nd | Parent Teacher Interviews |
| Tuesday, March 3rd | Parent Teacher Interviews |
| Wednesday, March 4 th | Prep Rest / Testing Day |
| Friday, March 6 th | Confirmation Retreat Preparation Day |
| Monday, March 9th | Labour Day Public Holiday |
| Tuesday, March 10th | School Advisory Board 7pm |
| 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 25th | Sacrament of Confirmation @7pm (note change of time) |
| Monday, March 30 th | Whole School Athletics Landy Field |

April

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Thursday, April 2 nd | Easter Liturgy |
| | 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

Tuesday, April 28th

May

Monday, May 4-7th

Wednesday, May 27th

June

Friday, June 5th

Monday, June 8th

Tuesday, June 16th

Friday, June 26th

Student Free Day; Staff Professional Learning

Term Two begins for students

ANZAC Liturgy for students

School Advisory Board 7pm

Smile Patrol Dental Van onsite

National Simultaneous Storytime

Student Free Day

King's Birthday public holiday

School Advisory Board 7pm

Term 2 ends at 1.30pm

Term Three

July

Monday, July 13th

Tuesday, July 14th

Friday, July 24th

August

Tuesday, August 18th

Wednesday, August 19th

Monday, August 24th-28th

Sunday, August 30th

September

Monday, Sep 7th-11th

Friday, September 18th

School Closure Day; Staff PL

Students begin Term Three

Grandparent's Day

School Advisory Board 7pm

Emmaus Meal 5pm First Eucharist preparation family night

Book Week "Symphony of Stories"

Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm

Book Fair Week

Term 3 ends at 1.30pm

Term Four

October

Monday, October 5th

Tuesday, October 6th

Tuesday, October 27th

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; staff PL

Students begin Term Four

School Advisory Board 7pm

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

Tuesday, December 10th

Monday, December 14th

Tuesday, December 15th

Student Free Day; staff PL

School Advisory Board 7pm

Year 6 Graduation

Assembly - Prep presenting

End of Term Four 1.30pm dismissal

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



Child Safe Standard 1

"Establish culturally safe environments in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children, young people and students are respected and value"

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Overview of the Victorian Child Safe Standards

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must meet. These standards are designed to:

- Prevent child abuse and harm
- Make child safety a shared responsibility
- Support the wellbeing of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with disabilities
- Promote the participation and empowerment of children and young people

These standards apply to all school staff, volunteers, contractors, and anyone working with children in schools.

Our Commitment

Our commitment to the protection of students is enables in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This vision is driven by the Gospel message of love, justice and abundance, beautifully reflected in the words of John:

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full"

(Jn 10:10)

Note: The term 'Aboriginal' includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is important to be respectful of how individual children, students, their families and community refer to themselves and use appropriate language when referring to individuals or communities.

Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 1

Creating a Culturally Safe Environment for Aboriginal Children

Child Safe Standard 1 relates to children and young people feeling culturally safe, respected, and valued.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Celebrating culture:** We include and celebrate Aboriginal culture in our classrooms/events e.g. NAIDOC Week, researching stories to share, inviting guest speakers.
- **Taking a stance:** We lead by example against racism and swiftly respond if it is observed.
- **Working together:** We contact and engage with Aboriginal families and communities to make sure our school is welcoming and inclusive. We ask families what they need to feel supported at our school.
- **Ongoing development:** Our staff receive training and knowledge to better understand and support cultural safety.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Here's how you can support:

- **Familiarise** yourself with the school's child safety policies and understand how they support student wellbeing.
- **Provide feedback** when you notice something that may impact a child's safety or wellbeing.
- **Support** your child when they express their views and that their opinions are valued and heard.
- **Join in** on school activities, parent committees or forums that promote child safety and wellbeing.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).

Check out these additional resources below to learn more!

- [Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation](#)
- [Koori Heritage Trust](#)
- [Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria](#)
- [AIATSIS: Map of Indigenous Australia](#)
- [Yoorrook Justice Commission](#)

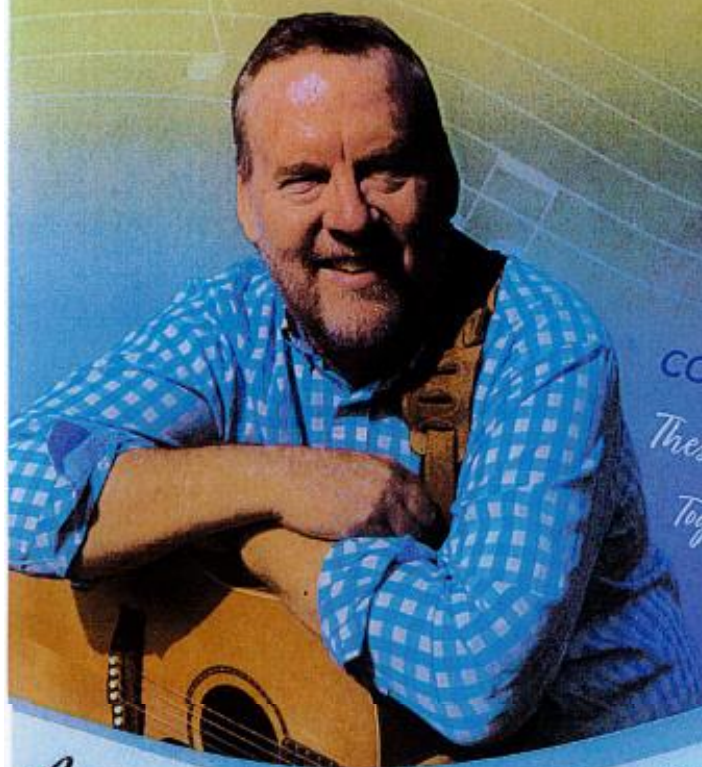
Working together for Child Safety





A CONCERT WITH

ANDREW CHINN



COMPOSER OF...

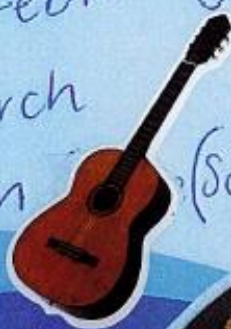
*These Hands • Rainbow • May God Be In My Heart
Together As One • In The Beginning • An African Blessing
Ubuntu • Rise Up! • We Are God's Hands • Pilgrims of Hope*

Appearing at... St Margaret's Primary School

When: Wednesday 11th February 2026

Where: St Margaret's Church

Time: 2.25pm - 3.15pm (School Concert)



www.butterflyhouse.online

Online resource for Catholic Primary school teachers!

Now used in more than 1200 schools



More than 5000 concerts in schools across Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada



PREPARATION FOR PREP

with Maranda

A 4 WEEK PROGRAM FOR PARENT &
PREP CHILD TO CO-REGULATE

DEEPENING CONNECTION & FOSTERING A NOURISHING
RELATIONSHIP. LEARNING TOGETHER AS YOU BOTH
DEVELOP IMPORTANT SELF-EMPOWERMENT SKILLS
THROUGH YOGA, PLAY, SOUND, SOMATIC EXPRESSION,
EFT (TAPPING), MEDITATION, MINDFUL PRACTICE,
HEARTMATH & MEANINGFUL, CREATIVE ART

EBB AND FLOW WELLNESS STUDIO, NEWTOWN
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 25
1:30PM - 2.15PM

PROGRAM INVESTMENT \$140
CONTACT MARANDA TO SECURE YOUR PLACE
@ HART IN HARMONY ON 0422218000 OR
MARANDA@HARTINHARMONY.COM.AU





Year 7 2027 enrolment applications now open.



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Saint Ignatius
College Geelong



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Saint Ignatius
College Geelong

A portrait of Abbey Holmes, a woman with blonde hair in a ponytail, smiling and looking to the left. She is wearing a light blue blazer and a small gold hoop earring.

International Women's Day

Community Evening with Abbey Holmes

Tuesday 10th March, 2026

Drinks and nibbles from 5.30pm

Main address 6.30pm