

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.

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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

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!

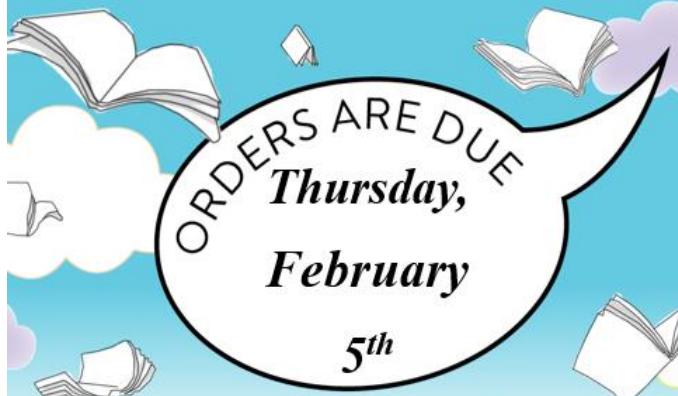
Susan Perks

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.



Book Club



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



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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

Student Free Day; Staff Professional Learning
Term Two begins for students
ANZAC Liturgy for students
School Advisory Board 7pm

May

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

Smile Patrol Dental Van onsite
National Simultaneous Storytime

June

Friday, June 5th
Monday, June 8th
Tuesday, June 16th
Friday, June 26th

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

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

August

Tuesday, August 18th
Wednesday, August 19th
Monday, August 24th-28th
Sunday, August 30th

School Advisory Board 7pm
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
Tuesday, October 27th

Student Free Day; staff PL
Students begin Term Four
School Advisory Board 7pm

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
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



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 valued"

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 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 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.

Working together for Child Safety



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](#)

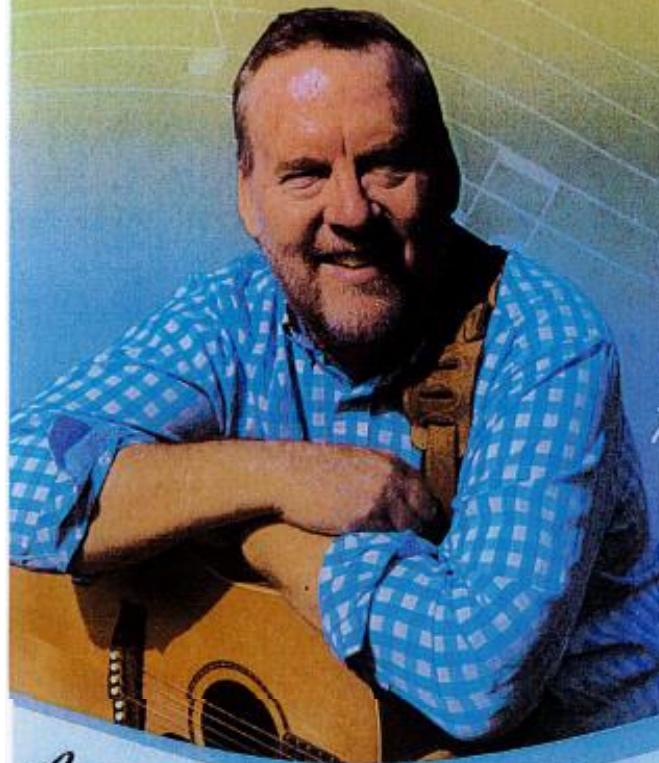
Working together for Child Safety





A CONCERT WITH

ANDREW CHINN



COMPOSER OF...

These Hands · Rainbow · May God Be In My Head
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)



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enrolment
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now open.**



Melbourne Archdiocese
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**Saint Ignatius
College Geelong**



Melbourne Archdiocese
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Saint Ignatius
College Geelong

International Women's Day

Community Evening with Abbey Holmes

Tuesday 10th March, 2026

Drinks and nibbles from 5.30pm

Main address 6.30pm