

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term One, Week 4
February 16th, 2026
#4

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

Last Wednesday, our school community was treated to a truly wonderful experience with Andrew Chinn. It was wonderful to see so many families gather for our afternoon concert, sharing in the music and spirit that defines our vibrant community. These moments of connection remind us of the strength of our school family, and it was lovely to witness the engagement and smiles from students and parents alike. As we look toward the future, we are now calling for sibling enrolments for the 2027 school year. We are also busy advertising our wonderful school through upcoming open days, flyers, and our social media channels. We encourage you to share your positive experiences with friends and extended family and invite them to enrol, as places are becoming increasingly limited. We are very much looking forward to meeting many prospective families in the coming weeks and showing them what makes our environment so special.

This week promises to be an exciting one as we begin our preparations for Lent. We will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday starting at 2:30 pm, and we ask that students bring their own reusable fork and plate to enjoy a pancake. To make this event a success, we are calling for volunteers to assist with mixing and cooking pancakes from 1:00 pm. If you are able to lend a hand, please sign up via the Flexischools app. We would like to extend a huge thank you to our amazing P&F for coordinating this treat. The P&F has a busy term ahead with several other events, including an Easter raffle, a hot cross bun drive, a hot dog special lunch, Aths Day BBQ and a hot cross bun special morning tea. Detailed information will be shared as each event approaches. All funds raised from these initiatives go directly back to the school, and this year we are hoping to raise enough to provide additional outdoor seating, a new cubby, and a much-needed undercover shared area. Your continued support is deeply valued and appreciated.



As a community, we are incredibly lucky to share our sacred space with Fr. Sijeesh and the parish. We would like to remind all families that when attending assemblies, liturgies, or special events held in the church, we must respect the sanctity of the building. We ask that you please refrain from bringing coffee or food into the church and ensure that church items are handled with care. This includes ensuring that doors are not opened unnecessarily and that liturgical objects are not handled. While toddlers are always more than welcome to join us, we ask that they remain with their parents at all times. In the classroom, we are working hard at explicitly teaching our students the expected behaviors for such formal settings, such as sitting quietly and avoiding distractions for others. We thank you for your support in modeling these respectful expectations whenever we gather in the church.

...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, we are delighted to share that new Indigenous prayer cloths are being delivered to each of our classrooms this week. These beautiful additions to our prayer spaces serve as a meaningful connection to country and faith. We would like to extend a special thank you to past students Maeve Noonan and Amelia Brown for their incredible sewing expertise in creating these cloths for us. It is wonderful to see our alumni continuing to contribute their talents to our school long after they have graduated.

Enjoy your week!

Susan Perks



Smile Patrol School Dental.

No more juggling appointments or taking time off work. Smile Patrol is visiting St Margaret's Primary on **May 4th, 2026** to provide onsite dental care in our mobile dental van —super convenient!

Smile Patrol offers free dental health education for all children. If your child qualifies under the Childcare Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS), they may receive free treatments based on remaining benefits. If they don't qualify we will still see them for a oral health check and education session for free.

To sign up hop online <https://smilepatrol.com.au/consent-form/> and complete the consent form by the deadline **March 6th, 2026**

Contact information:

For more information please feel free to contact us.

Email: info@smilepatrol.com.au



Seeking Old Playing Cards



If families have unused decks of cards at home, we can use them! Our mental maths strategy tasks use Ace to 10 cards for hands-on activities to practise number skills. Please send old decks (complete or partial) to school and invite extended family (grandparents, aunts, uncles etc) to see if they have any old ones they'd be happy to declutter as well.

St Margaret's Primary School



83 St Albans Road
East Geelong 3219

Ph 5229 7453



Website: www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Susan Perks isperks@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

(new items in bold)

Term One

February

Monday, February 16 th	PSGs
Tuesday, February 17 th	Shrove Tuesday <i>Activities starting at 2.30pm. P&F cooking pancakes</i>
Wednesday, February 18 th	Ash Wednesday <i>Yrs 1-2 Liturgy. Yrs 3-6 Mass at St Mary's</i>
Wednesday, February 18 th	Prep Rest / Testing Day
Friday, February 20 th	Assembly at 9:10am - Year 5 hosting
Saturday, February 21 st	Family Sacrament Enrolment Mass 6pm
Sunday, February 22 nd	Family Sacrament 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 25th	Year 5/6 Wellbeing Day Excursion Prep Rest / Testing Day
Thursday, February 26 th	Open Day: 9.30am and 12pm
Friday, February 27 th	Assembly at 9:10am - Year 4 hosting
Saturday, February 28 th	Family Sacrament Enrolment Mass 6pm

March

Sunday, March 1 st	Family Sacrament Enrolment Mass 7.30am, 9.30am and 11am
Monday, March 2 nd	Parent Teacher Interviews
Tuesday, March 3rd	ParaOlympian visiting Yrs 3-6 at school Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday, March 4 th	Prep Rest / Testing Day
Monday, March 9th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday, March 10th	Confirmation Retreat Preparation Day <i>(please note change of date due to availability of the church space)</i> School Advisory Board 7pm
Thursday, March 12 th	Open Day: 9.30am and 12pm
March 11th-March 20 th	NAPLAN Test Window
Friday, March 13 th	School Photos
Tuesday, March 17th	P&F Meeting 7pm
Wednesday, March 18 th	Student Leadership Conference (School & Vice Captains)
Wednesday, March 18 th	Geelong Student Pilgrimage Queenscliff (RE Leaders)
Friday, March 20th	Harmony Day - School uniform with a touch of orange P&F Special hot dog lunch Catholic Education Week Mass, St Patrick's Melbourne (RE leaders & school captains) Assembly at 9:10am - Year 3 hosting
Wednesday, March 25 th	Sacrament of Confirmation 7pm
Friday, March 27 th	School Cross Country (running track next to school) 10am start
Monday, March 30 th	Whole School Athletics - Landy Field

April

Thursday, April 2nd	P&F special morning tea (hot cross bun) Hot Cross Bun Drive Pick up Easter Liturgy
Friday, April 3 rd	End Term 1 - 1.30pm dismissal Good Friday

Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

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 - Staff Professional Learning
King's Birthday public holiday
School Advisory Board 7pm
End Term 2 - 1.30pm dismissal

Term Three

July

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

Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning
Students begin Term Three
Grandparent's Day

August

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

School Advisory Board at 7pm
Emmaus Meal at 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
End Term 3 - 1.30pm dismissal

Term Four

October

Monday, October 5th
Tuesday, October 6th
Tuesday, October 27th

Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning
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 - Staff Professional Learning
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 Professional Learning
School Advisory Board 7pm
Year 6 Graduation
Assembly - Prep presenting
End Term 4 - 1.30pm dismissal

School Community News



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday February 18th

Students in Years 1-2 will attend the Ash Wednesday Liturgy in St Margaret's Multipurpose room at 10.40am.

There will be a distribution of ashes during this time. Parents are invited to attend.

Students in Years 3-6 will travel by bus to St Mary's of the Angel's Parish for Ash Wednesday Mass at 12pm.

Parents are invited to attend.



Library Borrowing Days

Each class comes to the library once a week to return and borrow books. We encourage each child to borrow and if they don't wish to take books home, they can keep them in their tubs.

Books can be returned any day into the containers inside the library door. The library is open some mornings and each lunchtime for borrowing, reading and quiet activities.

- Prep JC - Tuesday - 1 or 2 books
- Prep SB - Thursday - 1 or 2 books
- 1 EK - Monday - 1 or 2 books
- 1 JB - Monday - 1 or 2 books
- 2 CR - Wednesday - 1 or 2 books
- 3 AC - Thursday - 1, 2, or 3 books
- 3 HM - Thursday - 1, 2, or 3 books
- 4 JC - Monday - 1, 2, or 3 books
- 4 LC - Thursday - 1, 2, or 3 books
- 5 FM - Tuesday - 1, 2, or 3 books
- 5 KH - Tuesday - 1, 2, or 3 books
- 6 DW - Wednesday - 1, 2, or 3 books

CARITAS AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION

*Unite Against Poverty this
Lent with Caritas Australia's
Project Compassion*



Each Lent, Australian Catholic Schools come together through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, to support vulnerable communities. Together, we show that when faith and action unite, we can transform lives and create lasting change.

Each student from St Margaret's Primary School will bring home a Project Compassion Box on Monday February 16th, if you, your family and friends would like to make a donation. There is also a QR code you can use, which is on the side of the Project Compassion Box.

Thank you!
Kellie Barbour
Religious Education Leader



WHAT IS PROJECT COMPASSION?

For over 60 years, Project Compassion has united thousands of Australians each Lent in a powerful movement of generosity and hope. As Caritas Australia's biggest fundraiser, now it's your turn to join in and help turn compassion into lasting change for communities in need.

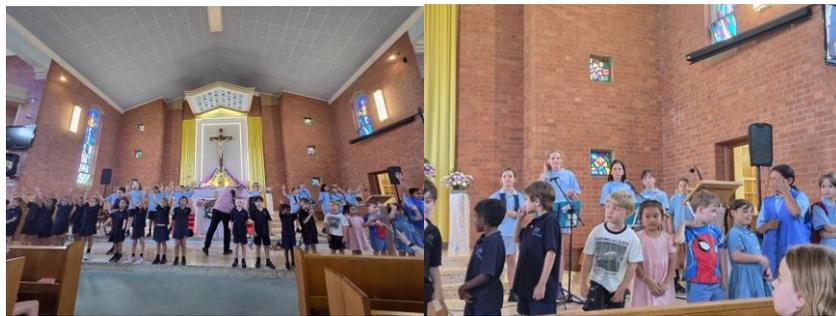
School Community News

Andrew Chinn Workshop and Concert

What an incredible experience for our students to have Gospel singer and songwriter Andrew Chinn visit our school last Wednesday.

Years 1 - 6 were involved in workshops throughout the day, which involved singing and dancing along to some of Andrew's famous songs, including 'Rainbow', 'These Hands' and 'Rise up!' Andrew also shared stories from his teaching days, which gave the students plenty of laughs.

Our students enjoyed learning new songs and actions and put on a fabulous concert for family and friends. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us, especially our Prep students.



ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

EAST GEELONG

OPEN DAYS

*A place to learn, grow, and
be inspired!*



- ✓ Thursday 26th Feb
9.15am & 12 noon
- ✓ Thursday 12th March 9.15am
& 12 noon



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



To book a personal tour or
find out more
52297453

Visit us:

<https://www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au/>

TUESDAY 17TH
FEBRUARY FROM
2.20PM

SHROVE TUESDAY



PANCAKE RACE FOLLOWED BY
PANCAKES PROVIDED BY THE
P&F. SIGN UP TO HELP VIA
THE FLEXI SCHOOLS APP

Please bring your own
plate and fork.



Scan the QR code to download the app

Our school is online with Flexischools

Step 1

Register with Flexischools

- 1 Download the Flexischools app and click **"Sign Up."**
- 2 Enter your email to **create an account.**
- 3 Go to your inbox and click the link to **verify your email.**
- 4 Follow the prompts to complete your registration.



Step 2

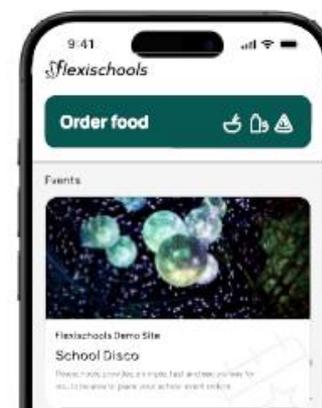
Enter your child's details

- 1 In the navigation bar, add your student(s) under **"Profile" > "Students" > "Add new."**
- 2 **Add your child's details** to the new student profile.

Step 3

Place an order

- 1 On the home page, click the **"Order food"** button.
- 2 **Select the student** you would like to order for. Choose a **service** and **order date.**
- 3 **Select the items** you would like to order
- 4 Click **"View order"** and select **"Checkout and pay"** to place your order.



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www.flexischools.com.au

WANTED



(MISS COSTA AGE 3, PAINTING IN A HOME-MADE ART SMOCK)

ART SMOCKS

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAVE A LABELED ART SMOCK IN THEIR LOCKERS, READY TO USE THIS TERM.

IF YOUR CHILD DOESN'T HAVE AN ART SMOCK PLEASE REMEMBER, ART SMOCKS CAN BE OLD T-SHIRTS AND THE OP-SHOP IS A GREAT PLACE TO SHOP.



**ST. MARY'S TENNIS CLUB
EAST GEELONG, THOMSON RESERVE.**

COACHING FOR ALL LEVELS.

CARDIO TENNIS FOR ADULTS.

BOOK FOR PLACEMENTS: TERM 1.

CONTACT: MARK

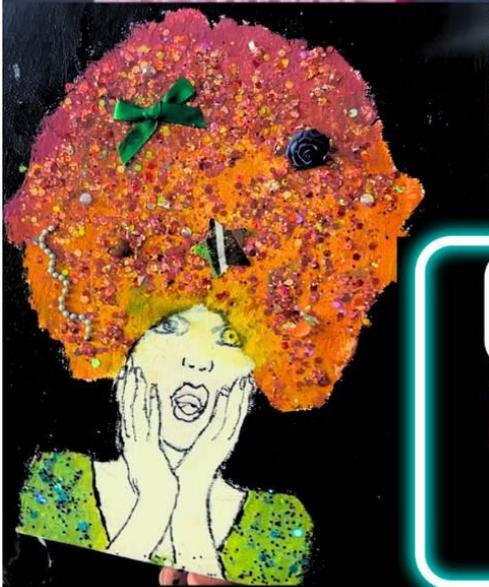
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GEELONG
Creators
CLUB

KIDS ONLY!



CREATIVITY
unleashed
with **Wishart**
CREATIVE

TUESDAYS 16:00-17:30 132 LITTLE MALOP ST