

# NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's  
Primary School

Term One, Week 6  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026  
#6

## From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

Last Friday, our school community was led in a beautiful period of reflection and prayer by our dedicated RE leaders as we marked the beginning of Lent. This first week of the Lenten season is a significant time in the Catholic faith, serving as a period of preparation, penance, and spiritual growth. It allows us all to slow down and consider how we can better serve others and draw closer to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Seeing our student leaders take such a reverent role in guiding us through this transition set a wonderful tone for the weeks ahead.



It was also a joy to see so many families gathered at St Mary's last weekend to officially commit and sign up for our 2026 Sacramental program. This commitment is a vital milestone in our students' faith journeys, and having the support of the wider Catholic community is essential as they take these next steps. The partnership between home and school is the foundation of our children's spiritual and academic success, and witnessing so many parents and guardians actively engaging in this process reinforces the strength of our parish and school connection.

Our recent Open Day was a resounding success, with overwhelming numbers of prospective families visiting our classrooms and facilities. It was a pleasure to meet so many new faces and share the wonderful things happening within our walls. We will be continuing with school tours over the coming weeks to accommodate the high level of interest. If you have siblings, friends, or family members looking to join our community, please ensure that enrolment applications are submitted as soon as possible to secure a place, as demand remains high. We thank you for continuing to be such positive ambassadors for our school.

We are thrilled to announce that our resident artist, Beanie, will soon begin her next mural on the brick wall in the laneway near the back pedestrian crossing. Beanie's talent has already brought so much life to our environment, and we are excited to see her brighten this specific learning space. To support the funding of this creative project, we will soon be launching a fundraiser featuring St Margaret's school drink bottles. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to contribute to the beautification of our grounds while receiving a practical item!

Looking ahead, we are proud to announce that the commissioning ceremony for our 2026 FIRE Carrier student leaders will take place at assembly on Friday, March 20th, as part of our Harmony Day celebrations. FIRE Carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) are student leaders who are tasked with keeping the fire of reconciliation alive within our school. This role is deeply important as it promotes indigenous perspectives, justice, and shared stories within our Catholic identity. We warmly invite the families of our 2026 FIRE Carriers to attend this assembly and be a part of this significant event in our school calendar as these students officially take on their leadership responsibilities.

...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 pleased to share that our internal building works are scheduled to begin in mid-March. This project involves the installation of dedicated staff bathrooms and a reconfiguration of our front offices to ensure compliance and provide much needed office space for our growing team. Once works commence, the main office will temporarily relocate to the front intervention room, which can be accessed via the side door near the wellbeing hub. We will provide detailed maps and signage before the move to ensure a smooth transition for all visitors. We anticipate these enhancements will be completed by July and look forward to the improved facilities they will provide for our school.

Enjoy your week!

Susan Perks

## RUN CLUB

Lace up and get moving together!



**When:** Monday & Friday mornings  
8.40 - 8.55am



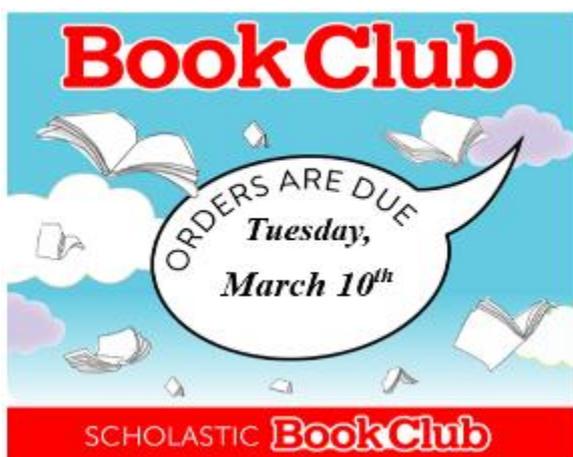
**Duration:** Until end of Term 1



**Who:** Years 3 - 6 Students (optional)



**Where:** Meet at the oval track



*Issue 2 has been made available to students. How about an Easter book to go with the Easter eggs?! Issue 1's bookclub reward points bought our library books to the value of \$71.*

### 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

#### March

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

March 11<sup>th</sup>-March 20<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, March 17<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>

Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

#### April

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### April

**Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

#### May

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

Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

#### June

**Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

Parent Teacher Interviews

ParaOlympians visiting Yrs 3-6 at school

Parent Teacher Interviews

**5/6 Lightning Premiership – Soccer & Tee-Ball**

Prep Rest / Testing Day

**Labour Day Public Holiday**

Confirmation Retreat Preparation Day (*please note change of date due to availability of the church space*)

School Advisory Board 7pm

NAPLAN Test Window

Open Day: 9.30am and 12pm

School Photos

MCG excursion - House Captains and Sustainability Leaders

P&F Meeting 7pm

Student Leadership Conference - School & Vice Captains

Geelong Student Pilgrimage Queenscliff - RE Leaders

Harmony Day - School uniform with a touch of orange

Assembly at 9:10am - Year 3 hosting

P&F Special hot dog lunch

Catholic Education Week Mass, St Patrick's Melbourne  
(RE leaders & school captains)

Sacrament of Confirmation 7pm

School Cross Country (running track next to school) 10am start

Whole School Athletics - Landy Field

Easter Liturgy

P&F special morning tea (hot cross bun)

Hot Cross Bun Drive Pick up

End Term 1 - 1.30pm dismissal

**Good Friday**

### Term Two

**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 - Staff Professional Learning**

**King's Birthday public holiday**

School Advisory Board 7pm

End Term 2 - 1.30pm dismissal

## Calendar of Events

### Term Three

#### July

**Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>

#### August

**Sunday, August, 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

#### September

Monday, Sep 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

#### October

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

Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

#### 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>

#### December

**Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

**Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning**

Students begin Term Three

**Emmaus Meal at 5pm - First Eucharist preparation family night**  
*(please note change of date due to the change of Eucharist date)*

Grandparent's Day

**Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm**

*(please note change of date due to Basilica availability)*

School Advisory Board at 7pm

Book Week "Symphony of Stories"

**Book Week dress up day with morning parade**

Book Fair Week

End Term 3 - 1.30pm dismissal

### Term Four

**Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning**

Students begin Term Four

School Advisory Board 7pm

**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

**Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning**

School Advisory Board 7pm

Year 6 Graduation

Assembly - Prep presenting

End Term 4 - 1.30pm dismissal



## Student of the Week Awards

Class	Student	Awards presented Friday, February 27 <sup>th</sup>
Prep JC	Adalyn Oliver	For her great start to prep and asking for help when needed.
Prep JC	Haddie Stephenson	For being a great friend and including others in play.
Prep SB	Archer Ferguson	For building his resilience when things get tricky and having a go! Well done Archer.
Prep SB	Neve Ferrier	For showing confidence in sharing her ideas during whole class discussions.
Yr 1 EK	Max Mactier	For trying your best at all times and having great discussions during circle time.
Yr 1 JB	Murphy Wilson	For trying your best in all areas of your schooling. Well done Murphy!
Yr 2 CR	Alfred Holland	For an improved attitude to learning! Well done Alfred!
Yr 3 AC	Ihsan Fareed	For your persistence and participation in all aspects of your learning. Well done!
Yr 3 HM	Zed Withington	For extending and challenging yourself with your learning.
Yr 4 JC	Peter Jackson	For consistently striving to improve and producing high quality work. Well Done Peter!!!
Yr 4 LC	Austin Arappilly	For striving for accurate work and taking options to extend his learning.
Yr 5 FM	Kartia Mirmilstein	For your enthusiastic contributions to class and your positive start to the year. Well done!
Yr 5 KH	Niah Mirmilstein	For always working to a high standard- being focused and engaged. Well done!
Yr 6 DW	Jobe Greenwood	For his excellent attitude towards his learning at the beginning of this school year.
Yr 6 DW	Ivy Heather	For her outstanding leadership in our room, and across the school. She has been an excellent role model for others.
Principal's Award	Finley Vaughan	For showing kindness to others and supporting our preps settling into St Margaret's.

## Aussie of the Month February

**Mithra**  
**Balasubramani**  
(2CR)

**Consistently shows all values, supports her peers during emotional and social situations, includes others and is the first to check in on those not feeling their best.**

**Congratulations Mithra!**



together in faith

*School Community News*

***School Photo Day: Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>***

# Order now!

To order your school photos:

- 1 Go to [leadingimage.com.au](http://leadingimage.com.au)
- 2 Click on Order Your School Photos
- 3 Enter your Access Key.



Individual & family photos can be ordered with the same access key. Family photographs must be ordered **before 4:30pm the night before photo day**. Please ensure your orders are placed before this time.

Access Key: **L3B6UM4A**

## *School Community News*

# *Fluency - a Daily Practice*

At St Margaret's Fluency is part of daily instruction during the Literacy block.

### *What is Fluency?*

Fluency is the bridge between reading and comprehension. Fluent readers recognise words automatically. Without fluency, students may struggle to understand what they read.

There are three main components to reading with fluency: The ability to read with accuracy, appropriate rate, and prosody (expression)

- Accuracy: being able to read words correctly.
- Rate: reading at an appropriate speed or pace—not too fast or too slow.
- Prosody: reading with appropriate phrasing, intonation and expression.

### *What does a typical fluency lesson look like at St Margarets?*

Students are given a paragraph or half a page of text to read many times throughout the week at school and at home.

The teacher selects a passage that in some way is connected to the learning that week.

The teacher displays the passage on the board for students to view and proceeds to 'unpack' - highlighting new vocab and phrases. The teacher reads and models the text for students so that students become familiar with pronunciation, pacing and expression.

Students then follow along, reading the passage with the teacher as a whole class and then gradually, students read the passage on their own. This is often done in pairs.

A fluency session runs for about 15 minutes each day and sometimes students are timed to see how many words they can read per minute. This is referred to as the *reading rate* - however this needs to be done with accuracy. Accuracy comes before reading rate.

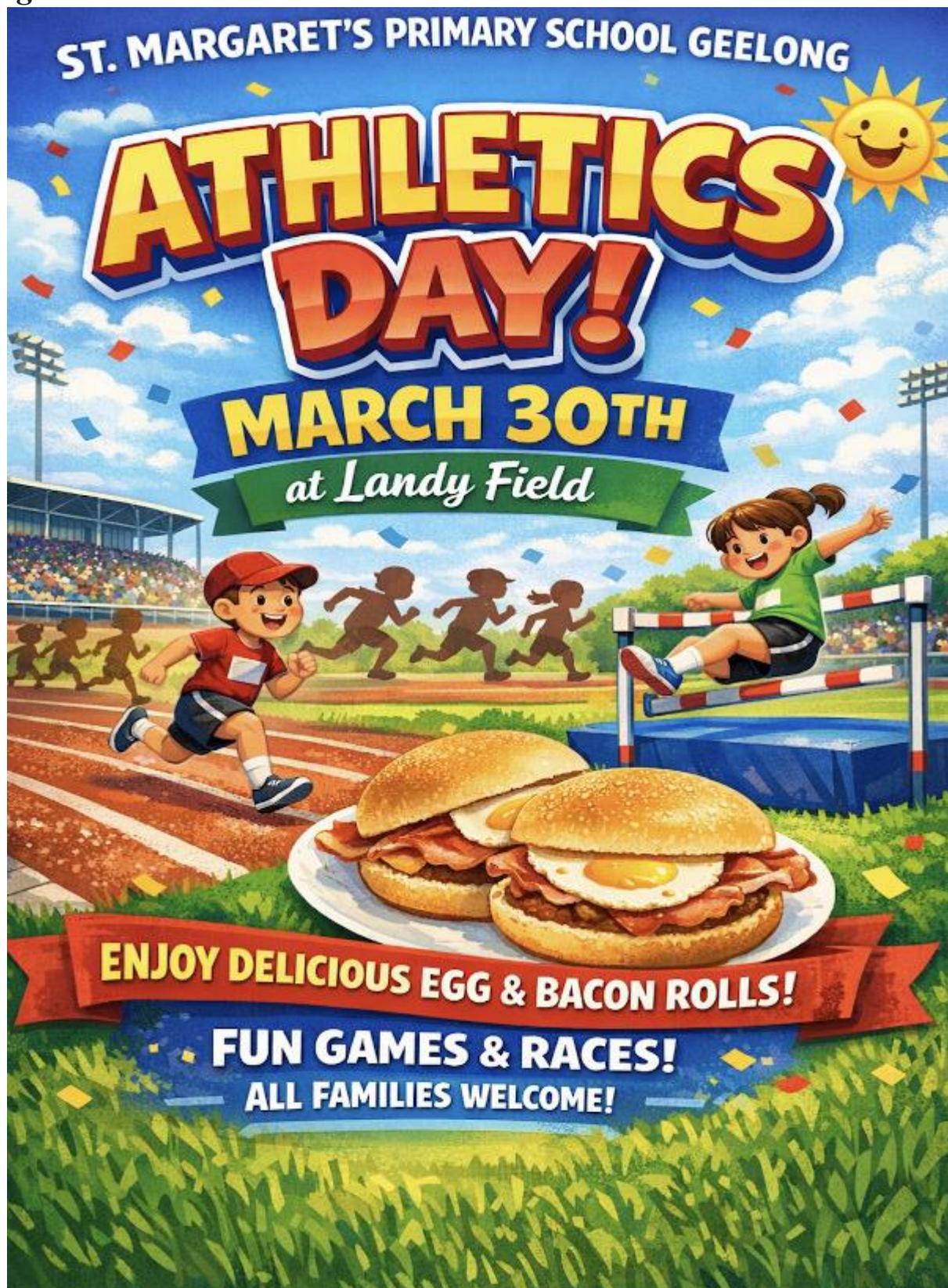
Students completed a fluency assessment at the beginning of the year. All students in Year 1 to Year 6 have set an *Average Rate of Reading* numerical goal with their teacher in the first few weeks of Term 1. The teachers will monitor this progress throughout the term.

### *Fluency at Home*

Students will bring home a reading passage from school that has been previously read with the teacher. It is ideal that this passage is read at home throughout the week. It is important to note that *the same passage is read every night, not a new passage.*



*Sporting News*



***Changes: to this year's Athletics Day***

- High Jump event will be completed at School prior to athletics day.
- No shade area due to Landy Field construction. Therefore we will be using the river side end.
- Students will sit in Year Levels not in Houses.
- Relay races only for 3-6s (1 race)

*together in faith*

*Sporting News*

**ST. MARGARET'S**  
**CROSS COUNTRY**  
**FOR GRADES 3 - 6**  
**FRIDAY 27th MARCH**  
★ 10AM - AT THE RUNNING TRACK NEXT TO THE SCHOOL ★

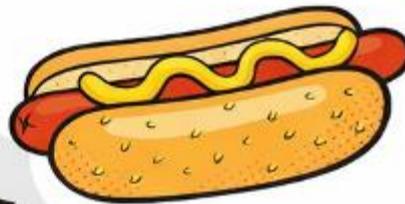
1st 2nd 3rd

★ 9 & 10 YEAR OLDS RUN 2KM ★  
★ 11, 12 & 13 YEAR OLDS RUN 3KM ★  
JOIN THE FUN & GIVE IT YOUR BEST!



**SPECIAL LUNCH  
HOT DOG  
DAY!**

**FRIDAY  
20TH MARCH**



**Our Special  
lunch for term 1  
Orders via flexi app**

# ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## EAST GEELONG

# OPEN DAYS

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



- ✓ Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb  
9.15am & 12 noon
- ✓ Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 9.15am  
& 12 noon



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's  
Primary School

To book a personal tour or  
find out more

**52297453**

Visit us:

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

# College Information



Multiple information and tour sessions will be run during March. Bookings are essential. Book via: [clonard.vic.edu.au](http://clonard.vic.edu.au) early in Term 1.

College Tour and further information is available via the college website : [clonard.vic.edu.au](http://clonard.vic.edu.au)

Address: 225 Church St Herne Hill VIC 3218  
Phone: (03) 5278 2155  
Email: [registrar@clonard.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@clonard.vic.edu.au)  
Web: [www.clonard.vic.edu.au](http://www.clonard.vic.edu.au)

Follow us on social media:



We welcome families to visit us on a College Tour in 2026. Bookings are essential, please register via [www.sjc.vic.edu.au](http://www.sjc.vic.edu.au)

#### Tours commencing at 9.15am

- Tuesday 17 March
- Friday 20 March
- Tuesday 24 March
- Wednesday 25 March



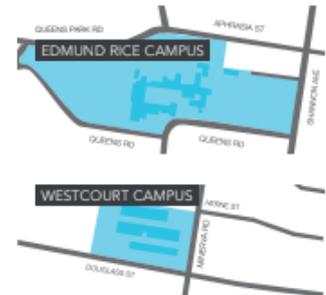
Scan the QR code to book a tour

#### Tours commencing at 1.45pm

- Wednesday 18 March
- Wednesday 25 March

Address: 135 Aphrasia Street Newtown VIC 3220  
Phone: (03) 5226 8100  
Email: [registrar@sjc.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@sjc.vic.edu.au)  
Web: [www.sjc.vic.edu.au](http://www.sjc.vic.edu.au)

Follow us on social media:



Sacred Heart College will host guided tours during Term 1 2026 and Discovery Day will be held on Friday 27 February 2026. Time(s): Refer to the website.

Discovery Day bookings, College Tours and further information is available via the College website [www.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au)

Address: Retreat Road Newtown VIC 3220  
Phone: (03) 5221 4211  
Email: [admissions@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admissions@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au)  
Web: [www.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au)

Follow us on social media:



# College Information



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



Saint Ignatius  
College Geelong

The College warmly welcomes our community to visit our school with tour dates in February, March, April and May 2026, when we will be conducting a series of guided tours.

- Monday, 23 February 2026, 4pm, 5pm
- Friday, 27 February 2026, 9:15am, 11:15am, 2pm
- Thursday, 5 March 2026, 9:15am, 11:15am, 2pm
- Thursday, 12 March 2026, 9:15am, 11:15am, 2pm
- Wednesday, 1 April 2026, 9:15am, 11:15am, 2pm
- Thursday, 23 April 2026, 4pm, 5pm
- Monday 4 May 2026, 9:15am, 11:15am, 2pm

Address: 27 Peninsula Drive Drysdale VIC 3222

Phone: (03) 5251 1136

Email: [registrar@ignatius.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@ignatius.vic.edu.au)

Web: [www.ignatius.vic.edu.au](http://www.ignatius.vic.edu.au)

Follow us on social media:



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



## Information Sessions and Tours

We invite prospective families with students in Grades 5 and 6 to attend our Information Sessions and Tours, held during Term 1. Bookings can be made through our website. Please note, numbers are limited to a maximum of three people per booking.

### Session Dates and Times:

- Monday 16 March, 4.15 pm – 5.45 pm
- Tuesday 17 March, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
- Wednesday 18 March, 9.00 am – 10.30 am
- Wednesday 18 March, 4.15 pm – 5.45 pm
- Thursday 19 March, 9.00 am – 10.30 am

In addition, we offer group tours year-round, led by our Registrar. These tours can be booked via our website from April to November.

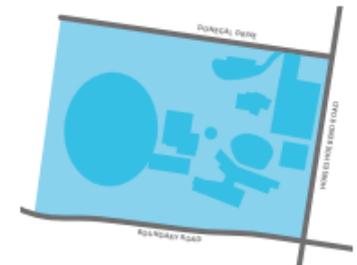
Address: 15 Donegal Drive, Charlemont 3217

Phone: (03) 5229 0004

Email: [registrar@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@iona.vic.edu.au)

Web: [www.iona.vic.edu.au](http://www.iona.vic.edu.au)

Follow us on social media:





GEELONG YOUTH CHOIR PRESENTS

# WE SING

A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT



## FREE 2026 Program for Primary & Secondary Students

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- No interruption to school program - weekends only
- Open to students aged 8-18 from Geelong region
- Fully supervised - no teacher needed
- Parent/Guardian to complete enrolment form
- Massed choir performance with orchestra
- Digital learning materials sent to student and nominated teacher with support available
- Great development or extension opportunity
- Individuals, small groups or full choirs welcome



### Program Schedule

#### Workshop 1

Sunday 24 May  
2-4pm  
Deakin Uni  
Wairn Ponds

#### Workshop 2

Sunday 31 May  
2-4pm  
Deakin Uni  
Wairn Ponds

#### Performance Day

Saturday 13 June  
10am-4pm  
Katsumata Centre  
Bell Post Hill

Performance  
Day Audience  
Tickets  
Adult: \$5  
Under 18: free

ENROL BY  
2 APRIL

### Sign Up Now!



PARENT/GUARDIAN  
Scan the QR code  
to ENROL YOUR  
CHILD

Support available. Recorded  
webinar Week 9, Term 1

#### Enquiries

Genevieve Newton  
GYC Project Manager  
geelongyouthchoir@gmail.com

### HOW SCHOOLS CAN BE INVOLVED

- Promote the program to your school community using this flyer and in your school newsletter
- Talk to your students about getting involved
- Encourage parents to enrol one or more child
- Teach the two massed-choir songs at school using the digital learning materials provided
- Refer students to GYC's Wednesday rehearsals held after school during term 2 (no charge for program participants)



Supported by a City of Greater Geelong Community Grant

*Igniting an interest in the joy of community singing*



[geelongyouthchoir.com](http://geelongyouthchoir.com)



[geelongyouthchoir@gmail.com](mailto:geelongyouthchoir@gmail.com)



0408 770 376

# TERM 1 PROGRAMS

ELITE DEVELOPMENT. REAL RESULTS



REGISTER NOW  
SCAN THE QR CODE

ATHLETIQ\_GEELONG GEELONG SPORTS HUB

## MONDAY

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Rising Star (GIRLS ONLY Ages 12-16)

Coach: Matt Johns

5pm - 6pm

Rising Star (Ages 7-10)

Coach: DeMarcus Gatlin

## TUESDAY

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Future Foundations (Ages 5-8)

Coach: Malik Davis

## THURSDAY

5pm - 6pm

Rising Star (Ages 10-14)

Coach: DeMarcus Gatlin

# 1:1 SESSIONS AVAILABLE

EMAIL:  
[PETE@ELITESPORTSGEELONG.COM.AU](mailto:PETE@ELITESPORTSGEELONG.COM.AU)  
TO BOOK

