

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term One, Week 8
March 16th, 2026
#7

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

This week looks to be an incredibly busy and spiritually nourishing week as we celebrate Catholic Education Week. This week provides a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on our identity as a Catholic community and celebrate the faith that binds us together. Our student leaders will be particularly active, representing our school with pride across the region. On Wednesday, our School and Vice Captains will travel to Melbourne for the Student Leadership Conference, where they will engage with peers from across the state to develop their leadership skills and discover new ways to serve our community. Meanwhile, our Religious Education Leaders head to Queenscliff for the Geelong Catholic Schools Pilgrimage. This is a significant journey of discovery, allowing our students to learn about the rich history and growth of the Catholic faith within our local area. The week concludes this Friday, as those same RE leaders head back to Melbourne for a special Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral followed by celebrations in the Treasury Gardens. Simultaneously, our Year 6 Confirmation candidates will attend Mass at St. Mary's and have the unique privilege of meeting Bishop Martin Ashe as they enter their final week of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Our sporting community also has much to celebrate following the District Swimming sports. We saw amazing effort and sportsmanship from all participants; Claudia, Niah, Pearl, Fletcher, Tamiko, Ivy M, Hazel, George L and Karti. A huge congratulations to our 9/10 girls relay team—Claudia, Niah, Pearl, and Karti—who took out 1st place! Individual achievements include Karti, who placed 2nd in backstroke, and Fletcher, who won his backstroke event and placed 2nd in freestyle. We have 5 students who will now progress to Regionals. We are also proud of the many students who achieved personal bests, including Niah and Claudia in breaststroke and Karti in freestyle (46 seconds).



...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

In other school news, our recent Open Day was very well attended, and we are already receiving many applications for the 2027 school year. Looking ahead, our Year 5 students are busy preparing to host Easter activities for our local kindergarten groups, which is always a lovely way to connect with our future families.

The P&F have a massive calendar of events coming up, including the Hot Cross Bun drive, a special morning tea, the Athletics Day BBQ, our Easter raffle, and a special hot dog lunch to celebrate Harmony Week. Please check the Flexischools app to place your orders or sign up as a volunteer. The next P&F meeting is at 7:00 pm this Tuesday, March 17th, in the staffroom. We would love to see some new faces there!

Please note two important administrative reminders. First, assembly this Friday, March 20th, has been moved to 2:30 pm in the church to accommodate our Year 6 students attending morning Mass. The FIRE Carrier commissioning ceremony will take place at this assembly as part of Harmony Week. Secondly, internal building works are scheduled to begin this week near the staffroom. At this stage, the only major change is that the back door near the staffroom will be out of use, though the rest of the school remains fully accessible at this time. We will keep you updated on any further impacts as the project progresses.

Enjoy your week!

Susan Perks

NCCD Information:

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the **Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)**.

The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students. This assists schools to formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students and helps the government with future planning.

For more information, please visit the [official NCCD portal](#).

Bracelets for Sale at the Library

By Ivy Heather

- ***Only \$1 each***
- ***Selling to buy some more books for the school***
- ***Only on sale when the library is open (lunchtimes, library lessons and some mornings)***



St Margaret's Primary School



83 St Albans Road
East Geelong 3219

Ph 5229 7453



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Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term One

March

Monday, March 16th
Tuesday, March 17th

Wednesday, March 18th
Wednesday, March 18th
Friday, March 20th

Wednesday, March 25th
Friday, March 27th
Monday, March 30th
Tuesday, March 31st

MCG excursion - House Captains and Sustainability Leaders
St Patrick's Day Liturgy Church 1pm. All welcome
P&F Meeting 7pm
Student Leadership Conference - School & Vice Captains
Geelong Student Pilgrimage Queenscliff - RE Leaders
Assembly at **2.30pm** - Year 3 hosting *Please note change of time due to confirmation students meeting the bishop*
Confirmation students at 10am Basilica Mass and meeting Bishop Martin
Harmony Day - School uniform with a touch of orange
P&F Special hot dog lunch
Catholic Ed Week Mass, St Patrick's Melbourne (RE leaders)
Sacrament of Confirmation 7pm
School Cross Country (running track next to school) 10am start
Whole School Athletics - Landy Field
Thomson Kinder School visit with Year 5 students

April

Wednesday April 1st

Thursday, April 2nd

Friday, April 3rd

12.30 Easter Liturgy with Father Sijeesh 12.30pm. All welcome
5/6 Girls 9-a-side AFL (selected students)
Easter Liturgy 12.45pm followed by raffle draw. All welcome
P&F special morning tea (hot cross bun)
Hot Cross Bun Drive Pick up
End Term 1 - 1.30pm dismissal
Good Friday

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
Wednesday, June 10th
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 - Staff Professional Learning
King's Birthday public holiday
Division Soccer Myers Reserve (selected students)
Division Tee-Ball Stead Park (selected students)
School Advisory Board 7pm
End Term 2 - 1.30pm dismissal

Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term Three

July

Monday, July 13th
Tuesday, July 14th
Wednesday, July 15th

Friday, July 24th

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

August

Sunday, August, 2nd

Tuesday, August 18th
Monday, August 24th-28th
Tuesday, August 25th

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

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



together in faith

School Community News

St Margaret's Drink Bottles



\$10

Available from
the front office.



together in faith

School Community News

Confirmation Retreat Day



together in faith

School Community News

Confirmation Retreat Day



HARMONY WEEK

2026

When: Friday 20th March.

Who: Everyone!

What: Celebrate by wearing a touch of orange!



Celebrating Australia's Cultural Diversity



FIRE CARRIERS COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Come help us celebrate our 2026
Fire Carriers for their Commissioning
Ceremony..

FRI 20TH MARCH

2:30pm @ The Church



P&F REMINDERS

TERM 1

HOT DOG LUNCH
MARCH 20TH
HARMONY DAY; TOUCH OF
ORANGE
FLEXI SCHOOLS APP

EASTER RAFFLE
DONATIONS
TO THE FRONT
OFFICE

HOT CROSS BUN
MORNING TEA
WEDNESDAY
APRIL 1ST
FLEXISCHOOLS APP

ST PATRICKS DAY
TOUCH OF GREEN
GUESS THE
LOLLIES

ATHS DAY
BBQ

HOT CROSS BUN
DRIVE
FLEXISCHOOLS APP.
COLLECTION WEDNESDAY &
THURSDAY END OF TERM

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



St Margaret's
Primary School

To book a personal tour or
find out more
52297453

Visit us:

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

Child Safe Standard 2

“Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.”

Rooted in the Gospel and the teachings of the Church, MACS Catholic schools uphold the sacred dignity of every child as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). This belief places Catholic educators in a privileged and profound position to protect and nurture the most vulnerable.

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 Child Safe Standard 2:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- A public commitment to child safety
- Champion a child safe culture at all levels
- Ensure governance supports child safety policies
- Develop and enforce a Code of Conduct
- Implement risk management strategies that focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks to children
- Ensure staff, volunteers and contractors understand their obligation and the role they play in keeping children and young people safe. This includes information sharing and record keeping.

The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organisations create safe environments for children and young people.

They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to, and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies, and a culture that puts children first.

As a parent or carer, you can expect organisations to involve families, empower children, train staff properly, and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.

This standard promotes a shared responsibility for safety across the entire school community and all levels of the organisation. It ensures a child safe culture is actively championed and modelled from the top down and bottom up.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Leadership commitment:** School leaders actively promote child safety and wellbeing as a priority in decision-making and daily operations.
- **Ongoing training and professional development:** Staff are provided with ongoing training and professional development opportunities that increase capacity and confidence surrounding all aspects of child safety.
- **Clear governance:** Policies and procedures reflect child safety responsibilities and are regularly reviewed, updated and publicly available.
- **Staff modelling safe behaviours:** Expectations of staff are clearly defined. All staff demonstrate respectful, inclusive, and protective behaviours towards children. All staff are encouraged and empowered to speak up if any alternative is observed.
- **Ongoing culture building:** Child safety is embedded in school values, professional development, and community engagement with the objective to continually improve practice.
- **Thorough recruitment processing:** Applicable to all staff working in a school context, extending to volunteers and contractors. Valid credentials, references and Working with Children Checks apply. Ongoing monitoring and supervision of all staff and intervention if required.

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](#).



SCHOOL HOLIDAY KIDS ART @ **we made.**



BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL AT WE-MADE.COM.AU/SCHOOL-HOLIDAY-PROGRAM 3 FOR \$90
 SUITABLE FOR AGES 5-14 USE CODE "APRILHOLIDAYFUN"
 \$35 PER SESSION OR 3 FOR \$90 *PRICING & AGE RESTRICTIONS DIFFER FOR
 11 RUTLAND ST, NEWTOWN COLLABORATION SESSIONS

6 MONDAY
 10-11:30
VIDEO GAMES
 (DRAWING)
 1-2:30
FLORAL
TEXTURES
 (PAINTING)

7 TUESDAY
 10-12
LEAH GRANT X
WE MADE
STENCIL
MASTERCLASS*
 1-2:30
DREAM CATCHERS
 (CRAFT)

8 WEDNESDAY
 10-11:30
POLYMER CLAY
CREATIONS
 (CRAFT)
 1-2:30
JUNK ART
SCULPTURES
 (CRAFT)

9 THURSDAY
 10-11:30
POWER UP PIPE
CRAFT
 (CRAFT)
 1-2:30
AT THE FARM
 (PAINTING)

10 FRIDAY
 10-11:30
TREASURE MAPS
 (DRAWING)
 1-2:30
MAGIC DRAWING
PADS
 (CRAFT)

13 MONDAY
 10-11:30
WIND CHIMES
 (CRAFT)
 11:45-3:15
HART IN
HARMONY X
WE MADE*

14 TUESDAY
 10-11:30
WORRY STONES
 (CRAFT)
 1-2:30
FREESTYLE
PAINTING
 (PAINTING)

15 WEDNESDAY
 10-11:30
STREETSCAPES
 (DRAWING)
 1-2:30
ALL VOICES X
WE MADE*

16 THURSDAY
 10-11:30
OUT OF THIS
WORLD
 (CRAFT)
 1-2:30
ICE CREAMS
 (PAINTING)

17 FRIDAY
 10-11:30
HEADBANDS
 (CRAFT)
 1-2:30
ANIMALS IN
ACCESSORIES
 (PAINTING)



POTTERY STUDIO-EVENTS & GALLERY

School Holiday's Pottery & Craft Sessions

Wed 8th April 10am-12pm Kids Pottery Class

Thurs 9th April 9am-11am Kids Pottery Class

Wed 15th April 10am-12pm Kids Pottery Class

Additional classes will be listed on these dates and other dates if these book out. Adults may book a spot for themselves to join in and make something as well. You can either stay or drop off.

\$55 per person for 2 hours. Includes clay, colours, glazes and 2 kiln firings.

To book visit the website <https://hazytales.com/events/events-calendar/>

These are a few of the other things we do at Hazy Tales Studio:
Bespoke Pottery Parties for Adults & Kids. Custom events. Hen parties.
Adult evening 'Clay & Cocktails by Candlelight'. Porcelain products & jewellery for sale.

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