

NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term One, Week 10
March 30th, 2026
#9

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

As we reach the conclusion of Term 1, we find ourselves in a season of reflection and spiritual renewal. From a Catholic perspective, Easter is not merely a holiday but the pinnacle of our faith, marking the victory of life over death and light over darkness. It is the foundation of our Christian belief, reminding us that through the Resurrection of Jesus, we are offered the promise of new life and eternal hope. For our school community, this season is especially significant as it serves as a lived example of the values we instill in our students, sacrifice, compassion, and the transformative power of love. By celebrating Easter, we acknowledge that even in times of challenge there is always the promise of hope through God's grace. It teaches our children that they are part of a story much larger than themselves.

This week, our school community looks forward to our whole school athletics carnival today, providing a wonderful opportunity for sportsmanship and house spirit. Our Year 5 students will also spend meaningful time with our local kindergarteners this week, fostering bonds of leadership and kindness. To celebrate our journey of Easter, we warmly invite all families to join us for our Easter Liturgy led by Father Sijeesh in the Church this Wednesday at 12:30. This will be followed by our final assembly at 12:45 on Thursday, also held in the church. During this time, our RE leaders will guide us in prayer, followed by the presentation of Aussie of the Month, student awards, and the Easter raffle. Please note *we finish at 1.30pm on Thursday*. Students are to wear their school uniform with a touch of Easter.

We ask that families note the change in procedure for external allied health observations. St Margaret's continues to value the collaboration of external allied health professionals in supporting student wellbeing and learning. To ensure we uphold Victorian privacy legislation and Child Safe Standards, please note that from Term 2, allied health staff will no longer be permitted to conduct observations or support within the classroom. Families are still welcome to book 1:1 sessions by coordinating with their child's classroom teacher to avoid scheduling conflicts. All visiting therapists must be registered with Sam 4 Schools and adhere to our Code of Conduct and child safety policies. Please note that it is your responsibility to let the therapist know if your child is not at school that day, or if something has come up event wise and the session needs to be re-scheduled or cancelled. We encourage parents to include external agencies in PSG meetings with prior notice, as we remain committed to working together to provide a safe and inclusive environment for every student.

We extend our thanks to the P&F for organising the delicious hot cross bun morning tea and drive, which is always looked forward to at the end of term 1.

We wish all our families a holy and safe break. Staff will be engaging in professional learning on-site on Monday, April 20th, and we look forward to welcoming all students back for the *start of Term 2 on Tuesday, April 21st*. We wish our dedicated staff a restful and well-deserved holiday.

Susan Perks

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.

Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term One

March

Monday, March 30th
Tuesday, March 31st

Whole School Athletics - Landy Field
Normanby Kinder visit with Year 5 students
Thomson Kinder visit with Year 5 students

April

Wednesday April 1st

Coins for Caritas afternoon

Alphabet Kinder visit with Year 5 students
12.30 Easter Liturgy with Father Sijeesh 12.30pm. All welcome
5/6 Girls 9-a-side AFL (selected students)

Thursday, April 2nd

Year 3-6 Cross Country 9.15

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

Friday, April 3rd

Good Friday

Term Two

April

Monday, April 20th

Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning

Tuesday, April 21st
Friday, April 24th

Term Two begins for students
ANZAC Liturgy for students

Saturday, April 25th

Choir singing at ANZAC Service – Norlane, 10am

Tuesday, April 28th
Wednesday, April 29th

School Advisory Board 7pm
Parents & Friends 7pm

May

Friday, May 1st

Year 1 Assembly

Monday, May 4-7th

Smile Patrol Dental Van onsite

Tuesday, May 5th

Melbourne Shrine Schools ANZAC Service (selected students)

Friday, May 8th

Muffins with Mum and P&F Mother's Day Stall

Friday, May 15th

Year 2 Assembly

Monday, May 18th

PSGs Years 3, 5 & 6

Monday, May 25th

PSGs – Prep, Year 1 & Year 2

Wednesday, May 27th

National Simultaneous Storytime

Thursday, May 28th

Year 4 Incursion – Reconciliation

Friday, May 29th

Prep Assembly

June

Monday, June 1st

PSGs Year 4

Tuesday, June 2nd

Year 3 Incursion – Reconciliation

Thursday, June 4th

Prep Excursion to Werribee Zoo

Friday, June 5th

Student Free Day – Staff Professional Learning

Monday, June 8th

King's Birthday public holiday

Wednesday, June 10th

Division Soccer – Myers Reserve (selected students)

Friday, June 12th

Year 6 Assembly

Tuesday, June 16th

Division Tee-Ball – Stead Park (selected students)

Friday, June 19th

School Advisory Board 7pm

Friday, June 26th

Special Lunch P&F – Pizza

Year 5 Assembly

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

August

Sunday, August 2nd

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

September

Monday, Sep 7th-11th
Friday, September 18th

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

December

Friday, December 4th
Tuesday, December 8th
Tuesday, December 10th
Monday, December 14th
Tuesday, December 15th

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 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
Whole School Christmas Concert
Year 6 Graduation
Assembly – Prep presenting
End Term 4 – 1.30pm dismissal

St Margaret's Primary School



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Parish Priest: Father Jim Clarke frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au

School Community News



St Margaret's
Primary School



30/3/26

Dear Parents and Families,

Early next term we will be commencing our Baptism Preparation Program for any current students from Prep to Year 6 interested in being baptised in the Catholic Church.

The candidates will be taken through weekly sessions of activities and learning opportunities, over a period of about 5 weeks, where they will learn about the history and symbolism of Baptism and its place in their lives.

We are very fortunate to be working in collaboration with our Parish Priest, Fr Jim Clark, and the staff at St Mary's Parish to schedule a time and date for the students who undertake the Preparation Program to be Baptised in the same Ceremony. Once the preparation program has been completed, there will be a date set with St Mary's Parish for this Ceremony to take place. A date will be confirmed once the Preparation Program is completed. This will be a special time to come together and celebrate our Catholic faith as a school community as we welcome many of our students as the newest members of the church.

Once this date has been confirmed, you will be agreeing to the following terms:

- To be in attendance for your child's Baptism on this date.
- To attend a meeting prior to this date after school hours to discuss the finer details of the Mass and how to best prepare your child for the Sacrament of Baptism. The time/date of this meeting will be communicated following the confirmation of this date. If your attendance at this meeting is not possible, you must organise an alternative time to meet and discuss these details with the school Religious Education Coordinator.
- You understand that Baptism is the first Sacrament of Initiation and is a celebration that is a priority over other events that may occur on this date. (eg. Having a sporting commitment on the date of the Ceremony is not a valid reason for missing this event).

As part of your child's baptism, you will be required to fill out an enrolment form for St Mary's of the Angels Parish. This note will be handed out during the meeting at school prior to the Baptism Ceremony.

Some important points to note about Baptising your child:

- One parent **must** be a baptised Catholic and the Church requires parental consent, even if one parent is not a Catholic. The non-Catholic parent can have a part to play in the baptismal ceremony and is free to choose the extent to which he or she is involved
- If parents are not living together, then written permission from the parent not living with the child must be produced.
- At least one Godparent must be a baptised, and confirmed, preferably practicing Catholic. All other Godparents must be baptised in one of the Christian Religions.
- There will be a cost involved regarding the purchase of a Baptismal Candle and Stole that can be purchased from the St Mary's Parish Office.

If you would like your child to participate in the program and receive the Sacrament of Baptism, can you please email me at kbarbour@smgeelongeast.com.au by Wednesday 22 April, 2026.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to this celebration with your child.

Kind Regards,
Kellie Barbour
Education in Faith Leader

School Community News

***Cross country 3-6 will take place
this Thursday 9.15; last day of term***



Uniform Reminder

As the weather begins to cool down, we ask that all students wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in, whether that is the winter or summer option. Please ensure that students do not wear a combination of the two, such as wearing tights with the summer dress. Tights should only be worn with the correct designated school uniform.

Additionally, we have [school beanies](#) available for purchase at the front office for \$20, along with our [school drink bottles](#) for \$10.



This Wednesday afternoon, we will be having our 'Coins for Caritas' afternoon. Each class will be in competition to create the longest line out of the coins they have kindly donated for those in need. Please return your Project Compassion boxes to school by Tuesday 31st March. Thank you to our families who have donated. Your support through Project Compassion helps transform lives – *bringing clean water, education, healthcare and opportunities to communities facing poverty and injustice.*

Hello! I'm
Gabrielle



About Me



I'm an Australian artist and visual art teacher based in Winchelsea, Victoria, and the creative force behind Little Lyrebird Studio.

My work celebrates Australian fauna alongside introduced pest species such as deer, rabbits, and foxes.

Beyond the studio, I'm a musician, step-mum, and an avid lover of the outdoors.

I find inspiration when camping, fishing, and hunting with friends and family, which translates into my greeting cards, postcards, photography, paintings, and illustrations.



- Illustration
- Photography
- Oil Pastel
- Acrylic Paintings
- Digital Illustrations
- Wood burning
- Greeting cards
- Postcards



Contact Me

Email: LittleLyrebirdStudio@gmail.com

YouTube:
www.youtube.com/@MissGabrielleCosta

Instagrams:



PARENTING SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Geelong & Barwon Southwest

Term 2, 2026



Free parenting programs for families with children, babies to teens aged (0–18 years)

Programs delivered by:

Geelong Regional Parenting Service, MELI, Catholic Care Victoria, and Drummond St Services

- ✓ In person and online options
- ✓ Evidence based, supportive programs
- ✓ Delivered by trusted local services
- ✓ Bookings are essential for all programs

NEW for 2026

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN FOR JUNE

1-2-3 Emotion Coaching – Additional Needs

This is a gentle, supportive program for parents and carers of children who experience big or unpredictable emotions.

Designed for families supporting children who are neurodivergent, have a developmental delay or disability, or need extra help with emotional regulation.

Using a simple 1-2-3 approach, parents learn to notice and name emotions, support calming through connection and co-regulation, and guide behaviour once emotions settle.

Flexible, practical strategies.
No pressure, just support

Are you a new Grandparent? GRANDPARENTING PROGRAM

Being a grandparent is one of the most exciting times in our life. A lot of information and safety recommendations have changed since we had our own children.

In this program join other grandparents as we look at:

- understanding and managing child behaviour
- connecting in meaningful ways to strengthen relationships
- safety tips
- looking after ourselves within the context of grandparenting
- where to find reliable information regarding raising children

Expressions of Interest now open for April



PROGRAMS FOR BABIES & YOUNG CHILDREN (0–9 YEARS)

BUMPS TO BUBS

For: Young mothers and mothers-to-be (up to 23 years) with babies aged 0–1 year
Bumps to Bubs brings young mothers together to support the journey of early parenting in a welcoming and supportive environment.

BUBS TO TOTS

For: Mothers (up to 24 years) with children aged 1–2 years
Bubs to Tots supports mothers through shared learning, connection, and parenting education during the toddler years.

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS – THE FIRST 1000 DAYS

For: Parents with children under 2 years
This program supports parents to understand early brain development, nurture secure relationships, and reflect on their own experiences of being parented.

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

For: Parents with children aged 12 months to 9 years
This program supports parents to strengthen communication with their child/ren, build positive parent–child relationships, and encourage the development of children’s positive self-identity.

CIRCLE OF SECURITY

For: Parents of children aged 1-5 years
Length: 8 weeks
This program helps parents build strong, secure relationships by understanding children’s emotional needs and responding in ways that support healthy development.

PROGRAMS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN (4–12 YEARS)

TUNING IN TO KIDS

For: Parents of children aged 4–10 years
Length: 6 weeks
Supports parents to help children understand and manage emotions, strengthen relationships, and improve social and learning outcomes.

THE ANXIETY COACH

For: Parents of children aged 5–12 years
Length: 5 weeks
Focuses on understanding childhood anxiety and learning practical strategies to build resilience and confidence in children.

STRENGTHENING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

For: Parents and children aged 8–12 years
Length: 8 weeks
Supports families to build positive relationships, strengthen communication, and create a strong family culture.

PROGRAMS FOR ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (10–18 YEARS)

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS – ADOLESCENTS

For: Parents of children aged 10–17 years
Length: 6 weeks
Supports parents to stay connected with adolescents, understand behaviour, and manage the challenges of parenting during this stage.

TUNING IN TO TEENS

For: Parents of teens aged 12–18 years
Length: 6 weeks
Focuses on communication, emotional intelligence, adolescent development, and maintaining empathy and connection.

THE DAD WORKSHOP

This 6-week program will focus on giving you the tools you need to create a better life for your entire family.
We will look at simple things you can do to improve:

- your relationship with yourself
- your relationship with your partner
- your relationship with your kids

OUR KIDS – PARENTING AFTER SEPARATION

For: Parents following separation
Length: 6 weeks
Supports parents to focus on children’s needs and develop helpful communication strategies after separation.

Parent Education Events

Term 2, 2026

Program	Location / Venue	Days / Dates	Time	Bookings
The Dad Workshop	Online Via Microsoft Teams	Thursdays 23 April - 28 May	7.00pm – 9.00pm	  <p>Regional Parenting Service</p> <p>www.geelongaustralia.com.au/parenting</p> <p>Ph: 5272 4741</p> 
Tuning in to Kids	Online Via Microsoft Teams	Tuesdays 21 April – 26 May	7.00pm – 9.00pm	
1, 2, 3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Adaptation	Norlane ARC 1-15 Cox Road, Norlane VIC	Thursdays 4 June – 25 June	7.00pm – 9.00pm	
BUGK First 1000 Days	Online Via Zoom	Thursdays 28 May - 25 June	7.00pm – 8.30pm	
Bringing up Great Kids	Virginia Todd Hall 9 Clarence St, Geelong West VIC	Thursdays 23 April - 28 May	7.00pm – 9.00pm	
Circle of Security	Highton Child and Family Centre 74 Belle Vue Avenue, Highton	Wednesdays 22 April - 3 June	7.00pm – 9.00pm	
Grandparenting program	Grovedale Child and Family Centre 45 Heyers Road, Grovedale	Thursdays 16 April - 7 May	1.30pm – 3.00pm	
Our Kids – Parenting after Separation (Parenting Orders Program)	Family Relationship Centre Level 1 92-100 Brougham Street, Geelong	Thursdays 30 April – 4 June	11.00am – 1.00pm	 <p>Family Relationship Centre - Geelong</p> <p>www.catholiccarevic.org.au</p> <p>Ph: 5221 7055</p>
Online parenting programs	Drummond St Services offer a range of online programs, please see their website for further details.	Various dates	Various times	 <p>Drummond Street Services</p> <p>ds.org.au/events/</p>

Parent Education Events

Term 2, 2026

Program	Location / Venue	Days / Dates	Time	Bookings
Various parenting programs	CatholicCare Victoria – Warrambool offer a range of parenting programs, please see their website for further details.	Various dates	Various times	 <p>CatholicCare Victoria – Warrambool www.catholiccarevic.org.au Ph: 5559 3000 E: Marea.Sholly@catholiccarevic.org.au</p>
Bringing up Great Kids (after family violence)	Meli 16 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights	Mondays 4 May - 15 June	12.30pm – 2.30pm	
Bumps to Bubs	Whittington Neighbourhood House 20 Worden Ct, Whittington	Tuesdays All term	9.30am – 11.30am	
Bringing up Great Kids	Korayn Birralee Family Centre 146-152 Purnell Road (corner Cheshire Street), Cono	Tuesdays 5 May - 16 June	9.30am – 11.30am	
Dads Tuning in to Kids	Poa Banyul 110 Unity Drive, Mt Duneed	Tuesdays 5 May - 16 June	5.30pm – 7.30pm	
Circle of Security	Meli 16 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights	Wednesdays 29 April - 17 June	12.30pm – 2.30pm	
Tuning In to Teens	Whittington Neighbourhood House 20 Worden Ct, Whittington	Wednesdays 6 May - 10 June	12.30pm – 2.30pm	
Tuning In to Kids	Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre, 12 Merrijig Dr, Torquay	Thursdays 7 May - 11 June	10.30am – 12.30pm	
To express your interest for the following programs please contact MELI				
Bumps to Bubs Strengthening Family Connections Bubs to Tots Navigating Separation				

MELI

Meli, the new name for BCYF and Bethany

www.meli.org.au
 Ph: 5226 8900

