

# NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's  
Primary School

Term Two, Week 2  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
#11

## From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

On Friday morning we gathered as a school community for our ANZAC Day liturgy. These occasions are a vital part of our school life as they allow us to pause and reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who served in our armed forces. By holding such commemorations, we teach our students the importance of gratitude and remembrance, ensuring that the legacy of the ANZAC spirit, built on mateship, endurance, and bravery, continues to be honored by the next generation.

## Leadership and Management News



Our school was also honored to have the choir invited to the Norlane RSL this past Saturday to perform during their commemorative service. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect with the broader community and offer their voices in tribute to our veterans. We extend a huge thank you to Miss Costa, Miss Stacey, Miss Cassi and Mrs Barbour for giving up their time to attend with the students, and we also recognise the incredible preparation work done by these staff members. Seeing our students represent St Margaret's with such talent and respect in a public forum was a proud moment.

As the unseasonably warm weather continues, we want to ensure all students remain comfortable during the school day. Children are welcome to wear the uniform that they feel is most appropriate for the temperature, though we do ask that you avoid a hybrid of the formal and sports uniforms. To help everyone stay hydrated and prepared, we have school drink bottles and beanies available for purchase at the front office, so we certainly have you covered for all conditions.

This week also marks the district cross country competition, and we are excited to see our runners in action. We wish all students competing the very best of luck and hope they truly enjoy the experience of testing their endurance. We look forward to seeing them represent our school with pride, great school spirit, and the kind of good sportsmanship that defines our school.

...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

(new items in bold)

For those families requiring Program Support Group meetings this term, invitations have now been sent out via PAM. We ask that you please book in a time promptly to ensure we can facilitate these important discussions regarding your child's learning journey. If you find you are having any difficulty navigating the booking system, please reach out to Sonja Ginn for assistance.

Attached to this newsletter is a document regarding Child Safe Standard 3, which focuses on the empowerment of children and young people. Child safety is a high priority at our school, and this specific standard emphasizes the importance of ensuring children know their rights, feel empowered to find their voice, and are actively involved in decisions that affect them. We encourage you to take the time to review this document as part of our shared commitment to keeping every child safe and supported.

I hope you are all finding some time to enjoy these beautiful, warm autumn days, and I wish you all a great week ahead.

Susan Perks

## District Cross Country 2026 Team



9/10 BOYS	9/10 GIRLS	11 BOYS	11 GIRLS	12/13 BOYS	12/13 GIRLS
Harvey Little	Niah Mirmilstein	Franki Pease	Bella Cioch	Ishe Tobayiwa	Tamiko Kai
Raff Vaughan	Kartia Mirmilstein	Harry Higgins	Summer Ryan	Toby Broad	Loyola Jackson
Taha Ammar	Claudia Walker	Mateo Horvatic	Hazel Bennett	Archer Mcintosh	Piper Stephenson
Boston Coots		Eden Tran	Ivy Mason	Jack Geoghegan	Lani Richardson
Levi Deocampo		Miles Hope	Holly Maloney		
Kiwain De Silva		Harry Harvey			
Mason Chappell		Mac Salkeld			
Caden Mirmilstein		Oscar Poole			

### 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

(new items in bold)

### Term Two

#### April

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

**Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

#### May

Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

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

Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

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

Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>

Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

#### June

Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>

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

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

Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

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

Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

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

School Advisory Board 7pm

**District Cross Country**

Parents & Friends 7pm

**Bookclub orders due in**

Year 1 Assembly

Smile Patrol Dental Van onsite

Melbourne Shrine Schools ANZAC Service (selected students)

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

Year 2 Assembly

PSGs Years 3, 5 & 6

PSGs – Prep, Year 1 & Year 2

National Simultaneous Storytime

Year 4 Incursion – Reconciliation

Prep Assembly

PSGs Year 4

Year 3 Incursion – Reconciliation

Prep Excursion to Werribee Zoo

**Student Free Day – Staff Professional Learning**

**King's Birthday public holiday**

Division Soccer – Myers Reserve (selected students)

Year 6 Assembly

Division Tee-Ball – Stead Park (selected students)

School Advisory Board 7pm

Special Lunch P&F – Pizza

Year 5 Assembly

End Term 2 – 1.30pm dismissal

### 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>

**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, 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>

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

#### September

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

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

Book Fair Week

End Term 3 – 1.30pm dismissal

**Calendar of Events**

*(new items in bold)*

**Term Four**

**October**

**Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

**Student Free Day – Staff Professional Learning**  
Students begin Term Four  
School Advisory Board 7pm

**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>

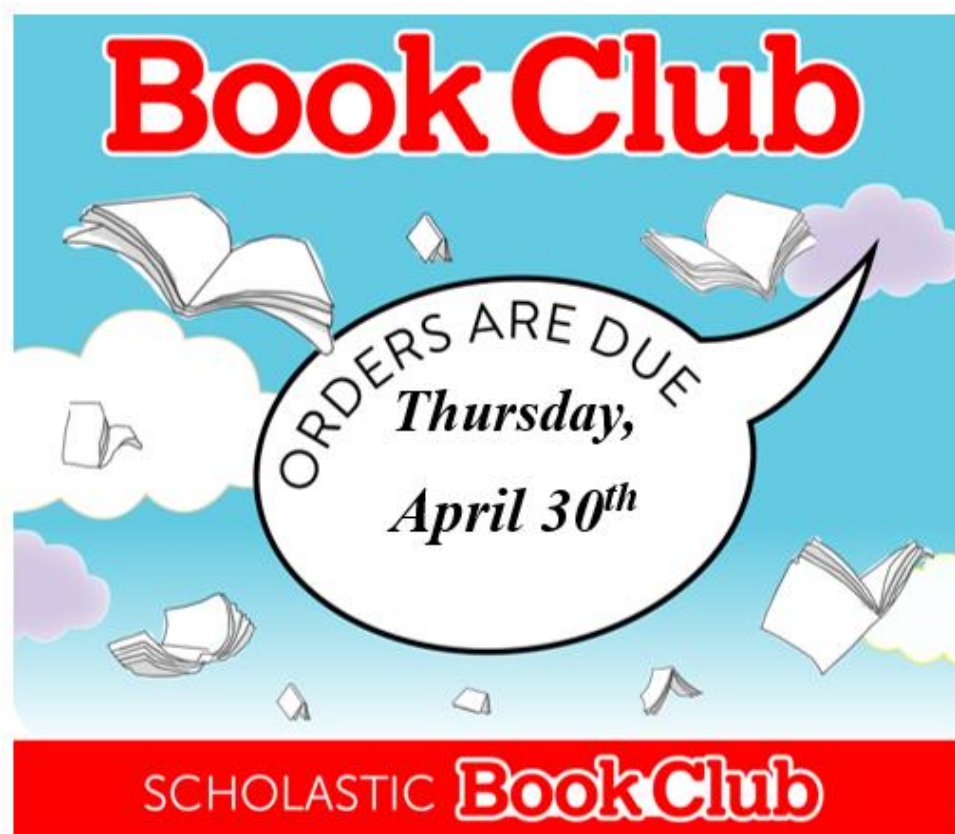
**Student Free Day – Staff Professional Learning**  
**Melbourne Cup Public holiday**  
Year 5/6 Camp Wilkin  
Year 5/6 student rest day  
Reconciliation Family Preparation evening  
St Margaret's Feast Day  
Sacrament of Reconciliation 12:15pm

**December**

**Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, December 8<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**  
School Advisory Board 7pm  
Whole School Christmas Concert  
Year 6 Graduation  
Assembly – Prep presenting  
End Term 4 – 1.30pm dismissal

**ISSUE 3**



**REMINDER**

**BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM**



This term, in week 3, we will be commencing our Baptism Preparation Program for any current students from Prep to Year 6 at St Margaret's who would like to be baptised in the Catholic Church.

A letter was sent out in the newsletter at the end of Term 1 with the preparation information and for parents to contact Kellie Barbour if they would like their child/children to join the baptism program. (the letter is in today's newsletter for those who may have missed it)

If you are interested in having your child/children baptized and you haven't contacted Kellie, please do this by Wednesday 29th April.

A letter will be sent out to families by the end of the week who have been in contact with Kellie and have confirmed their child's/children's participation in the program. You can contact Kellie via email: [kbarbour@smgeelongeast.com.au](mailto:kbarbour@smgeelongeast.com.au) and/or by contacting the school on 52297453.



**ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEELONG**

**YEAR 7 2027 ENROLMENTS**

Enrolments for Year 7 in 2027 are now open and will **close on Friday, 8 May 2026**. If you believe Joeys is the right place for your son, we encourage you to submit an application before the deadline.

Visit the College website to access the enrolment page. If you have any questions, please contact our College Registrar at [registrar@sjc.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@sjc.vic.edu.au)

## School Community News



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](mailto: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**

**Students to Celebrate**



Congratulations to Quinnie who came first in the solo competition state championships over the holidays. She is the best 12 year old in division 3 for the State!



The StM Rhinos were premiers in the Gr5/6 Summer Basketball competition winning the GF on Easter Thursday.

StM squad members were Archer, Jack, Isha, Toby & Arlo (absent for final few games) + Cliffy & Zayn.

Arlos dad Corey, has been the primary coach until they moved to Singapore over summer.

The StM Rhinos have been playing for 4 years now in this is the first time they have triumphed 🏆

Other StM alumni that have been part of the journey over the years include Aidan, Sonny, Oscar, George, Raffi & Luca!

**Our Choir represented St Margaret's at the Norlane RSL ANZAC service.**





**HAPPY MOTHER'S  
DAY**

JOIN US FOR MUFFINS  
WITH MUM  
FRIDAY MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM  
8AM.



**MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE WILL  
BE DRAWN**

ST MARGARETS P&F

# Mother's day Raffle

tickets  
\$15

Enter  
Now!



Prizes Drawn  
Fri 8 May

over \$1500 worth of  
prizes to be won!

*1st prize*

Ninja Luxe Cafe Premier Espresso Machine pack

*2nd prize*

Kitchen Couture 2L Slushie Machine pack

*3rd prize*

About Time Bath House - 90 minute massage + social  
bathing package



**GEE LONG ALL ABILITIES**

# Sports and Family Services Expo



Join us for inclusive and engaging sports activities for children aged 1–5 years with or without disabilities, creating a fun and developmentally supportive environment for families.

Featuring information stalls connecting parents and carers to local services.



Thursday 30 April



10.30am – 12.30pm



Geelong All Abilities Sports Club Hub  
St Albans Reserve, Thomson 3219



Free (registration required)



Scan the QR  
code to register



**MELBOURNE**



## **ST. MARY'S TENNIS CLUB**



Thomson Reserve, East Geelong

### **Coaching Lessons Available**

- Private Coaching
- Group Sessions
- Cardio Tennis

All ages and skill levels welcome!

Contact Mark



**0416 288 956**



## Child Safe Standard 3

**‘Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.’**

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 Child Safe Standard 3:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- Children are informed about all their rights, including safety, information and participation
- The importance of friendship is recognized and support from peers is encouraged
- Where relevant to setting or context, young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs in an age-appropriate way
- Staff are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child friendly ways for children to express their views, participate in decision making and raise their concerns
- Organisations have strategies to develop a culture that facilitates participation and are responsive to input from children and young people.

### 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 focuses on empowering children and young people by ensuring they are informed, respected, and actively involved in decisions that affect them. This participation helps build a school culture that is safe for them and values their voice.

**What does this look like in a school environment?**

- **Creating Opportunities for Student Voice:** We create formal structures such as student councils and leadership programs, but we also include fewer formal opportunities so all students, especially the most vulnerable, can have their voice heard.
- **Acting on Student Feedback:** We listen deeply to what students are telling us and we respond to concerns, suggestions and ideas. This includes making sure students are aware when we have acted on their feedback.
- **Building Staff Capacity:** Our staff receive professional learning, so they understand the importance and benefits of listening to and responding to, student voice. This also includes training for staff regarding how to incorporate student voice, agency and empowerment in their daily interactions and decision making.

**How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!**

- **Listen and talk often:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings. Let them know it's always ok to speak up.
- **Talk about rights and safety:** Help your child understand that everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.
- **Be a role model:** Show kindness, respect, and inclusion in everyday life, children learn from what they see.
- **Stay connected with the school:** Take part in conversations or surveys about student wellbeing and safety.
- **Support student voice:** Encourage your child to get involved in school activities where their ideas can make a difference.

**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](#).



**Working together for Child Safety**

