

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Three, Week 3
July 27th, 2026
#21

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

It was so wonderful to see so many grandparents at our special Grandparents Day celebration last Friday. The Liturgy was led by our REL leaders, followed by wonderful classroom activities and a shared toastie treat from the Cheer truck. Grandparents play such an important role in our lives, bringing wisdom, warmth, and an enduring connection to our heritage. Days like this highlight the strength of our school community, bringing generations together to connect, celebrate, and grow in faith. Thank you to the P&F for organising the Cheer truck and to Kellie Barbour for organizing the Liturgy and mentoring our REL student leaders. Last week, our Year 5/6 students also enjoyed a creative incursion organised by Miss Costa, where artist Geoffrey Carran shared insights into his artwork and creative process.

We extend our congratulations to the students in our community who received the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday at St Mary's. We welcome Charlie Chappell, Ruby Withington, Zed Withington, Phoenix Withington, Aira Vadivel, and Taj Reynolds into our faith family. Baptism is a sacred milestone, marking the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith and spiritual community. Looking ahead to this week, we are excited to receive our cookie dough orders, and we thank the P&F once again for managing this delicious fundraiser. We are also eager to celebrate 100 Days of Prep, alongside our upcoming celebration for the Sacrament of First Eucharist on Sunday, August 2nd.

Creating and maintaining a child-safe environment is our highest priority, and requiring a Working with Children Check (WWCC) for anyone assisting at school is a cornerstone of our school-wide risk management strategy. Background screening through a WWCC ensures that every adult who interacts with our students meets strict child safety standards, giving our school community peace of mind. Having a valid WWCC is essential for all parents, family members, and P&F volunteers helping out at events and activities. Applying for a volunteer check is completely free, quick, and simple to complete online through Service Victoria. You can head to the Service Victoria Working with Children Check website, submit your personal details, choose "Volunteer" as your check type, and verify your identity online using your smartphone or in person at a local Australia Post branch. Once approved, a copy can be left at the front office for our records. Volunteer checks remain valid for five years, so completing the application process once ensures you are cleared to support our school community across most of your child's primary schooling.

Finally, I wish to share an important update regarding future planning. Rising operational costs across the education system are impacting our school as we prepare for 2027. In response, I am working closely with Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) to transition to a tiered fee structure for 2027, which will abolish our current family fee model. This is a system-wide directive that all Catholic schools within the Archdiocese are moving toward. Under new guidelines, all camps and excursions must be fully funded within our fee structure, covering venue fees, transport, staffing, and time-in-lieu relief costs for staff back at school.

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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

To keep fees as reasonable as possible for our families while maintaining these enriched learning experiences, we will adjust our camping program starting in 2027. Year 6 students will attend a two-night camp in Anglesea, Year 5 students will participate in an extended long-day camp at Sovereign Hill, and Year 3/4 students will continue enjoying their school-based movie night experience. These decisions were not made lightly, but with the support of the School Advisory Board to ensure financial sustainability for our families. Further updates regarding these structural changes will follow as directives arrive from MACS. I thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

I hope you all have a great week ahead.

Susan Perks

Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome Charlie Chappell, Ruby Withington, Zed Withington, Phoenix Withington, Aira Vadivel, and Taj Reynolds into our faith family.



Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term Three

July

Wednesday, July 29th
Friday, July 31st

Cookie Dough orders distributed
Assembly Prep (& Yr 6) 100 Days of School

August

Sunday, August, 2nd
Mon 3rd & Tues 4th

Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm
Fire Carriers "Opening The Doors" Hot Chocolate Fundraiser
8:40am- 9am BYO MUG

Wednesday, August 5th
Monday, August 10th
Friday, August 7th
Friday, August 14th

P&F Special Morning Tea - Finger Buns
Year 3 & 4 Swimming
District Athletics - Landy Field (selected students)
Assembly Yr 1

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

Prep Incursion: Build-a-Bear
School Advisory Board 7pm
P&F Special Lunch - Vietnamese
Book Week "Symphony of Stories"
Ruggie – Plushie – Read for Book Week

Tuesday, August 25th
Friday, August 28th

Year 1 & 2 Swimming
Book Week dress up day with morning parade
Assembly Yr 5

September

Tuesday, September 1st
Friday, September 4th

Division Athletics (selected students)
Donuts with Dad
Fathers' Day Stall
Fathers' Day Raffle
Bake Sale items due at school

Saturday, September 5th
Monday, Sep 7th-11th
Friday, September 11th

Fathers' Day Bake Sale
Book Fair Week
Assembly Yr 2

Monday, September 14th
Thursday, September 17th

Prep and Year 6 Swimming
Footy Colours Day
P&F Special Lunch - Pies
Footy Raffle

Friday, September 18th

End Term 3 - 1.30pm dismissal

St Margaret's Primary School



83 St Albans Road
East Geelong 3219

Ph 5229 7453



Website: www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Susan Perks sparks@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 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 26th

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
Please note change of date

December

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

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



Lord, our God, You have given the elderly in our community the grace to maintain their hope in You through all life's changes and to taste and see Your goodness. We bless You for the gifts You have showered on them for so many years. We ask that they may find joy in a renewed strength of spirit, that they may have good health, and that they may inspire us with the example of their serene way of life. Amen.

Classroom Library Days for Returning & Borrowing Books

Monday - 1 EK 1 JB 4 JC

Tuesday - 5 KH 5 FM Prep JC

Wednesday - 6 DW 2 CR

Thursday - 3 HM 3 AC 4 LC Prep SB

The library is open each morning for browsing and borrowing. Books can be returned anytime by leaving them in the 'returns' trolley just inside the library door.

WONDER SCHOOLS SHOWCASE 2026

Geelong Wonder Children's Festival

**The St Margaret's Choir will be
performing at the Wonder Schools
Showcase:**

**Session 2: Tuesday 15th
September 2026,
9.45am - 11.15am**

**Tickets for parents & families wanting to attend are now on
sale via the link below:**

<https://geelongartscentre.org.au/whats-on/all-events/wonder-schools-showcase-2/>

Tickets are limited so get in early!

Permission notes and further information for performers will be sent out shortly.





P&F Upcoming EVENTS

AUG

5

SPECIAL
MORNING TEA
FINGER BUNS
FLEXISCHOOLS
APP

JULY

15

COOKIE DOUGH
ORDERS CLOSE

AUG

19

SPECIAL LUNCH
VIETNAMESE
FLEXISCHOOLS
APP

JULY

16

P&F MEETING
STAFF ROOM
FROM 7PM

SEPT

4

DOONUTS WITH
DAD
FATHER'S DAY
STALL
FATHER'S DAY
RAFFLE

JULY

24

GRANDPARENTS
DAY
TOASTIE CHEER
TRUCK
FLEXISCHOOLS
APP

SEPT

5

FATHER'S DAY
BAKE SALE

JULY

31

WINSTON & CO
LUNCH ORDERS
BEGIN WEEKLY
FLEXISCHOOLS
APP

SEPT

17

FOOTY COLOURS
DAY
SPECIAL LUNCH
PIES
FOOTY DAY
RAFFLE





DONUTS WITH DAD!

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH
FROM 8.15AM**

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE WILL BE
DRAWN





WEEKLY LUNCH *orders*

Freshly made, delicious, and ready for you!



winston & co

ORDER VIA FLEXISCHOOLS APP

BEGINNING FRIDAY JULY 31ST



Getting Ready for High School

Transition program for Year 6 students to support the transition from primary to secondary school by explicitly teaching practical and social-emotional skills in a respectful, strengths-based way.



Details



- understanding timetables
- identifying core subjects
- navigating school maps and classrooms
- organising lockers
- managing unstructured times like lunch breaks
- planning for public transport
- understanding expectations around uniforms
- managing sensory needs
- recognising helpful and unhelpful behaviours in friendships
- navigating social dynamics and peer pressure
- setting and respecting personal boundaries
- managing online interactions
- bullying
- identifying trusted adults
- conversation skills (joining in, asking open ended questions, sharing interests and exiting social situations confidently).

Scan to Register



Therapists

- Jen Absalom, Speech Pathologist
- Alex Trezise, Clinical Psychologist



Where

165 Myers Street, Geelong



When

Mondays in Terms 3 & 4
4:00pm to 6:00pm (Starting 20/7)



Cost

Approximately \$4,000 to \$4,200 per participant. Costs are calculated in line with NDIS group billing guidelines and may vary depending on the final number of participants.

Contact Us



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