

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Three, Week 7
August 24th, 2026
#25

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

St Margaret's is immensely proud to celebrate our highest-ever NAPLAN achievements, with our Year 3 and Year 5 cohorts significantly outperforming both state and national benchmarks across all key learning domains. These extraordinary results showcase our highest scaled scores on record, including Year 3 Numeracy at 438, Year 5 Reading at 526, and Year 5 Numeracy at 522. We also achieved our widest performance gap above state averages, leading by up to 28 points in Year 5 Reading and 23 points in Year 3 Grammar and Punctuation. Over 84% of our Year 5 students reached the top two proficiency bands of 'Exceeding' or 'Strong' in Reading, alongside nearly 78% in Numeracy. This exceptional academic growth is a direct testament to the dedication of our students, the expertise of our staff, and the strong learning partnership we share with our families.

Our school community continues to shine beyond the classroom, as evidenced by the outstanding feedback from our recent Year 3/4 Swimming Week. Instructors, bus drivers, and pool center management all went out of their way to commend our students on their exceptional behavior, grateful attitudes, and ability to follow instructions seamlessly. Visitors, prospective families, and educators from neighboring schools frequently observe this vibrant, calm, and engaged learning culture during tours. To celebrate these achievements and thank our hard-working students, we treated everyone to a delicious hot chip treat and an extended recess play last Friday.



As part of our commitment to child safety and procedural duty of care, we remind families that students must not be on school grounds before **8:40am**, as staff supervision does not begin until this time. If a student arrives up to five minutes early, they must wait quietly in the passive play space without engaging in ball games or running activities. Unless children are actively supervised by their parents on the playground or tennis courts, they must remain seated in passive play. For families needing earlier supervision, Kelly Club offers fantastic before-school care. Please note that students arriving prior to 8:30am will be signed into Kelly Club for their safety, and the casual session fee will be charged to the family.

Looking ahead, details regarding our transition to a tiered fee system and levies for 2027 will be emailed to all families shortly. As a Catholic school, the timely collection of school fees is essential to maintaining our rich educational resources, modern facilities, and dedicated staffing. Direct debit remains our preferred payment method, and we strongly encourage families to set up recurring payments prior to the end of Term 4 to begin seamlessly for 2027. Libby is available in the office to assist you with this. Additionally, if you are experiencing financial hardship or have outstanding 2026 fees, please reach out to me directly so we can work together on a supportive plan that ensures fairness and equity for our entire school community.

...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 gearing up for a wonderful Father's Day celebration featuring Donuts with Dad, our P&F stall, a bake sale, and an exciting raffle. Bake sale packs have been sent home, and our Instagram page offers plenty of quick, easy, and affordable recipe ideas. This year, we are trialing pre-payments for the Father's Day stall via the Flexischools app, so please purchase your child's gift token on the app now so they can select their gift on the day. You can also buy Father's Day raffle tickets via the Rafflink QR code, with all proceeds going directly toward our new shade sail project.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and dedication to making St Margaret's such a thriving community.

Susan Perks



**P&F meeting - 7pm this
Wednesday Aug 26th in the staff room.
All welcome to discuss and finalise
Father's Day and Footy Day events.**

Term 3: Week 7 10:20 - 11:20 am (1/2s) Two Sessions

Term 3: Week 10 12:30 - 1:00 pm (5/6s) One Session

Term 3: Week 10 12:00 - 12:30 pm (Preps) One Session



A Prayer for the Week Ahead

For Monday (Peace): Calm my worries. Help me trust that you are in control of this new start.

For Tuesday (Strength): Give me physical and mental power to do my daily tasks.

For Wednesday (Faithfulness): Keep my heart true to you when things get busy or hard.

For Thursday (Wisdom): Show me the right choices to make in my work and relationships.

For Friday and the Weekend (Rest): Help me finish well and find time to rest in your goodness.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen

(Life Church Finds)

St Margaret's Primary School



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East Geelong 3219

Ph 5229 7453



Website: www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Susan Perks sperks@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 Three

August

Monday, August 24th-28th
Monday August 24th

Tuesday, August 25th
Wed, August 26th

Friday, August 28th

September

Tuesday, September 1st
Friday, September 4th

Saturday, September 5th
Monday, Sep 7th-11th
Wednesday, September 9th

Friday, September 11th
Monday, September 14th
Thursday, September 17th

Friday, September 18th

Book Week "Symphony of Stories"
Ruggie - Plushie - Read for Book Week
Year 1 & 2 Swimming
Book Week dress up day with morning parade
P&F meeting 7pm in the staff room
District Basketball (Yr 6 selected students) Beyond Bank Stadium
Assembly Yr 5

Division Athletics (selected students)
Donuts with Dad
Fathers' Day Stall
Fathers' Day Raffle
Bake Sale items due at school
Fathers' Day Bake Sale
Book Fair Week
Yr 5 Excursion Rollerway
Cricket Blast Prep-2 (during PE)
Assembly Yr 2
Prep and Year 5/6 Swimming
Footy Colours Day
P&F Special Lunch - Pies
Footy Raffle
End Term 3 - 1.30pm dismissal



Term Four

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 26th

December

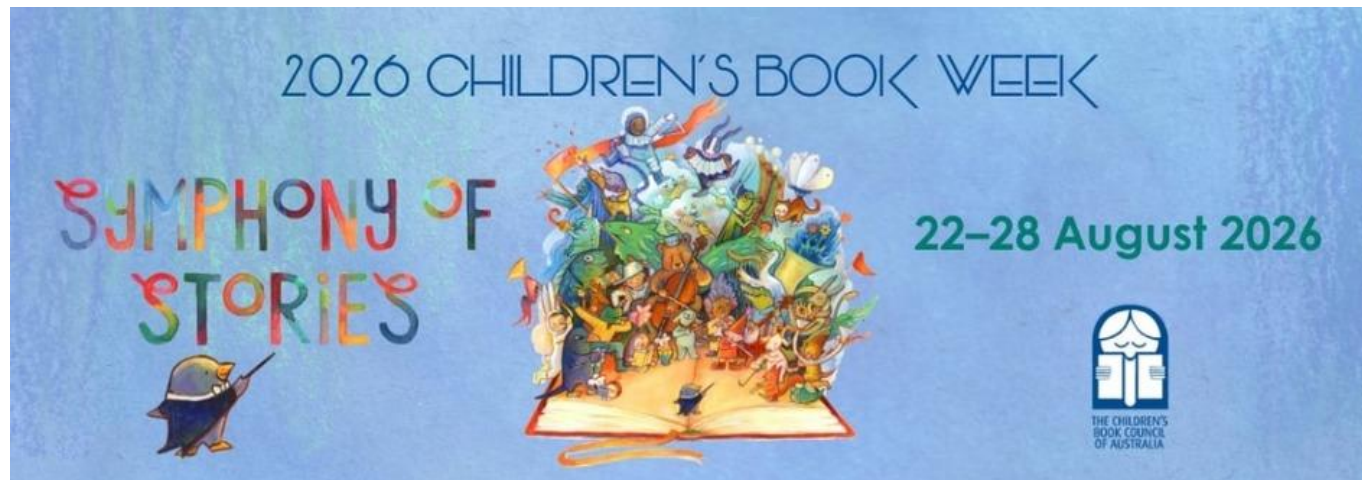
Friday, December 4th
Tuesday, December 8th
Tuesday, December 10th
Monday, December 14th
Tuesday, December 15th

Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning
Students begin Term 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

Library News



BOOKWEEK EVENTS



FAMILY QUIZ

Sent home Monday, due back Friday. Each family with all correct answers will receive a bookmark assortment pack.

RUGGIE, PLUSHIE, READ!

Monday, August 24th.

Students invited to bring a rug, plushie or soft toy and their favourite books and we'll all get settled around the school for a comfy afternoon of reading.



BOOK PARADE

Book Week dress up day with Tuesday morning parade on the basketball court (weather permitting).

COMING UP... ST MARGARET'S SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

*Our school is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in the **second last week of term** (September 7th-11th) and we would love to see you there. There will be a huge range of affordable books kids love and want to read. Every book sold benefits our school, adding resources to our library and classrooms. Families, including Grandparents welcome (books make great gifts!).*

LITERACY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST
2026



Words or Vocabulary

Here at St Margaret's we are all about making things better. That includes our vocabulary because we want our writing to sound good/ exceptional/ impressive/ impactful/ remarkable/ exemplary/ insightful/ vibrant.

By intentionally swapping basic words for more compelling vocabulary, students can elevate the clarity, impact, and sophistication of both their writing and speaking.

We call these words Tier 2 words. Tier 2 words can transform everyday writing into something truly extraordinary, or even prodigious !!!!

For example:

Instead of 'look at,' try 'analyze' or 'inspect'!

Instead of 'show,' try 'demonstrate' or 'display'!

Instead of 'good,' try 'exceptional' or 'impressive'!

Your turn:

What can you say instead of: run, thirsty, hungry, sad, tired, smart, quiet?

What Makes a Great Sentence?

The Magic of Conjunctions and Subordinating Conjunctions

*The dog ran **and** had a drink **and** went for a walk **and** had a sleep **and** jumped in a puddle!*

And, and, and, and is what students use in their writing when they don't know about conjunctions, **even though** they try their best to make their writing sound more engaging.

Conjunctions and subordinating conjunctions connect words that join two shorter ideas into one longer, more detailed sentence **so** that the writing sounds better.

When we teach writing, we want students to master basic grammar and punctuation, **but** as their confidence grows, we want them to stretch their ideas, **although** it is challenging.

Students at St Margaret's have improved the quality of their writing **because** they are in the practice of using a variety of conjunctions in their sentences.

Have you been able to guess what the conjunctions and subordinating conjunctions in this passage are?

See this in action



DONUTS WITH DAD!

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH
FROM 8.15AM**

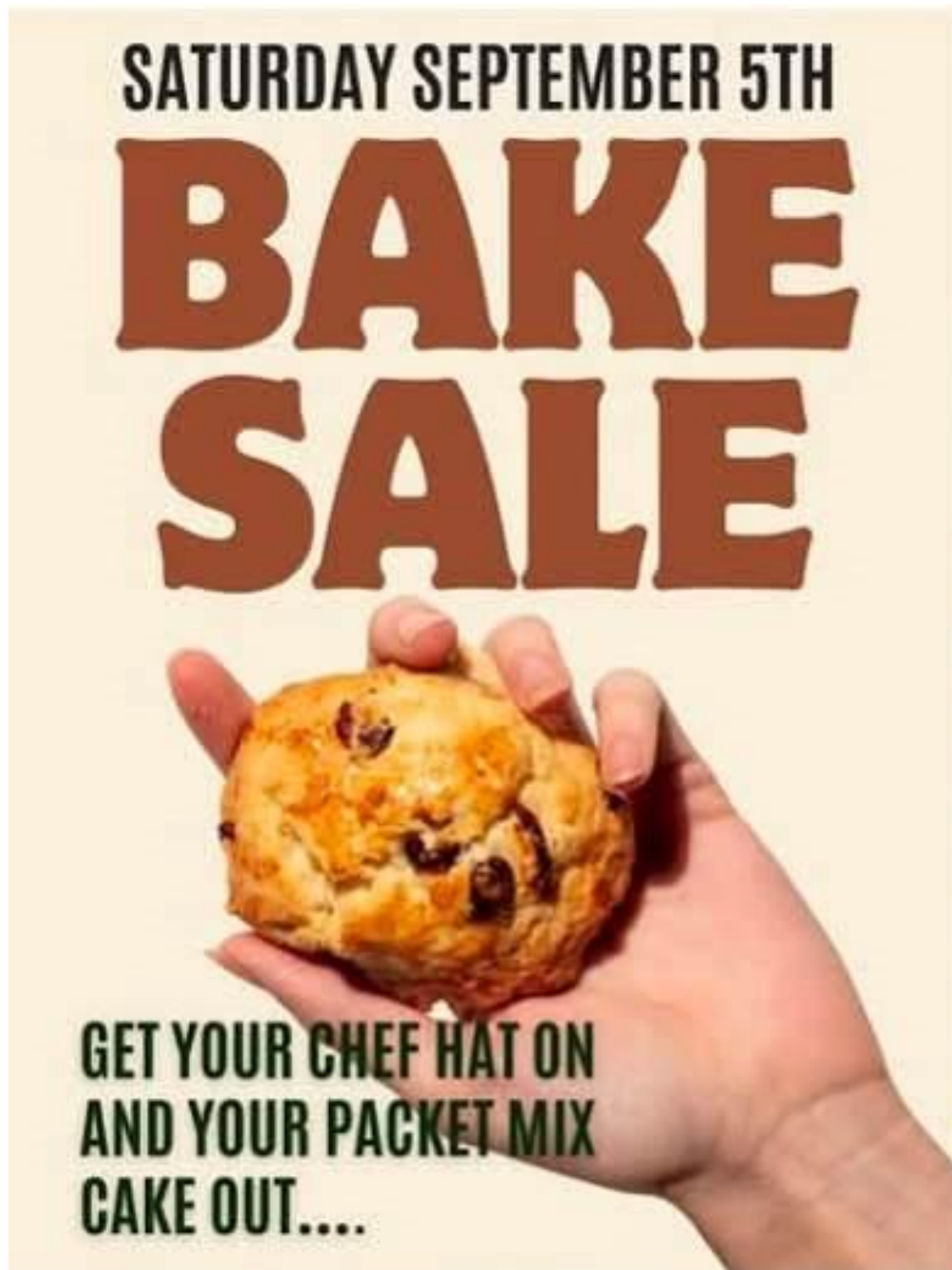
FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE WILL BE
DRAWN



School Community News

St Margaret's Bake Sale

This year we're celebrating 25 YEARS of the St Margaret's Primary Bake Sale. That's a lot of banana bread. Packs will start being handed out at school in the coming week, so get your chef hat on and start preparing. This year we'd love to see your family's FAVOURITES. Remember, every dollar we make at the sale goes directly to our shade sail fundraiser, so get baking!



ST MARGARETS P&F



Father's Day Raffle



EAST GEELONG GOLF CLUB EXPERIENCE

★
Win Dad a great day on the greens with a round of golf for 2 + cart hire.
Kindly donated by East Geelong Golf Club



LOFT GOLF TRAINING PACK

★
Help Dad take his golf game to the next level with 10 sessions at Loft Golf! Enjoy premium practice facilities and plenty of opportunities to work on your swing.
Kindly donated by Loft Golf Geelong



RELAX & INDULGE PACK

★
Let Dad kick back in a new BCF Hammock and enjoy a great night out with a Murphy's Gift Voucher. The perfect combination of relaxation and good times! Thanks to BCF and Murphy's Geelong



FAMILY & PET PHOTO PACK

★
Win Dad a family and pet portrait session including photo print.
Thanks to Best in Show Pet Photography

TICKETS
\$10



Scan for tickets!

RAFFLE
DRAWN
FRIDAY SEP 4

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ST MARGARETS COMMUNITY!

together in faith

School Community News

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

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

LOFT
GOLF STUDIO

**ST MARGARET'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS GET
20% OFF
ANY CASUAL BOOKING**

USE THE CODE **STMARGS AT CHECKOUT**

 **8/158 Fyans Street, South Geelong**

 **hello@loftgolfstudio.com**

 **www.loftgolfstudio.com**

Book Now



*Free Athletics Trial Day Saturday 19th September 2026
10am - 2pm at John Landy Field.*

East Geelong Athletics club invites children of all ages and abilities to attend our free trial day. This is a great opportunity for children to experience a range of track and field activities in a fun, supportive and inclusive environment before committing to the athletics season. Families are encouraged to register their interest to receive further information about the season and athlete registration. Please refer to the flyer for more details.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

SEASON 2026/27



EAST GEELONG LITTLE ATHLETICS CLUB



AGES 5-17 · ALL ABILITIES WELCOME · OCT-MAR · SAT MORNINGS

FREE TRIAL · SAT 19 SEPTEMBER 2026 · 10AM-12PM · LANDY FIELD

Keep active. Have fun. Belong.

Kids **run, jump and throw** your way through a season – where the measure of a good day is being active with friends and achieving personal bests. Athletes develop skills and confidence that shows up well beyond the track. No experience needed – our coaches are there to help.

We are a **community club** and it shows: local families come together week after week, helping out and making lifelong friendships. Join us at John Landy Field this summer.

SCAN THE CODE
TO REGISTER
YOUR INTEREST



GET IN TOUCH

✉ hello@eastgeelonglac.org.au

🌐 www.eastgeelonglac.org.au

📘 [eastgeelongaths](https://www.facebook.com/eastgeelongaths)

📷 [eastgeelongaths](https://www.instagram.com/eastgeelongaths)

A proud member of



KIDS RUN



100KM
SURF COAST CENTURY

2.5km run for kids on the beach + paths

9:00am
13 SEP
2026

- ▶ \$12 entry fee includes finisher ribbon, race plate and fruit at the finish
- ▶ for kids aged 3 - 12yrs
- ▶ Anglesea Green (next to the Lawn Bowls)

SURFCOASTCENTURY.COM.AU



MELI

FREE 3 and 4-year-old
kindergarten places at

St Albans Park Kindergarten

2027 applications now open!

SCAN HERE



ASHIHARA KARATE

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

NO JOINING FEES

LOOSE WEIGHT.
GAIN STRENGTH AND
FLEXIBILITY.
LEARN SELF-DEFENSE.



CLASSES ARE HELD ON MONDAY
& WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

SAINT BARNABAS CHURCH
105 WILSONS ROAD
NEWCOMB VIC 3219

Juniors. 5.45 to 6.45 pm
Seniors. 7.00 to 8.30 pm

MARK: 0414 508 374

FIRST 2 CLASSES ARE FREE