

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Three, Week 8
August 31st, 2026
#26

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

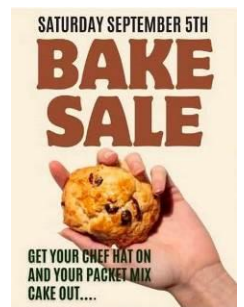
Dear Families,

What a fantastic week we have had celebrating Book Week at our school. A huge thank you goes to Miss Marg for all of her incredible hard work in organising such a memorable event. Despite the rain coming down, our parade was a truly wonderful occasion that brought everyone together in celebrating a symphony of books. Events like Book Week remind us of the immense benefits that reading brings to our children. Books open up new worlds, spark imagination, foster empathy, and build critical literacy skills that support learning across every subject. Reading regularly encourages curiosity and provides a foundation for lifelong learning. To keep this wonderful momentum going, we are excited to continue celebrating books with our Book Fair starting on Monday, September 7th. Thank you once again to Marg for making this all possible.

This week, we take a moment to celebrate and honor our incredible Learning Support Officers (LSOs) for LSO Appreciation Week. Our LSOs are the heartbeat of our classrooms, working tirelessly behind the scenes and alongside our teachers to ensure every student feels supported, encouraged, and empowered to succeed. Whether providing one-to-one assistance, guiding small group learning, or offering a compassionate ear, their dedication, patience, and warmth make a profound impact on our school community every single day. On behalf of the entire staff, our students, and families, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our LSOs for everything they do. Make sure to give them an extra thank you when you see them around school this week!



Looking ahead to next week, we are looking forward to celebrating the special men in our lives on Friday, September 4th for Donuts with Dad. Please come along from 8:10 am to share a hot drink and a donut with your children. Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets, which will be drawn that morning with some incredible prizes up for grabs and all profits going directly towards our school. Right after Donuts with Dad, our Father's Day Stall will be open for students. Please remember to purchase your gifts for dad via the Flexischools app beforehand, as we are going completely cashless this year. We are also still in need of two more parent helpers to assist at the stall, so please reach out if you can lend a hand.



The weekend celebrations continue with our upcoming Bake Sale on Garden Street on Saturday, September 5th. Please bring in your baked goods to school on Friday, September 4th, and then be sure to visit us on Saturday to purchase some delicious treats. We still need helpers to run the stall on Saturday, and you can sign up for available time slots via the Flexischools app. This is a fantastic fundraising opportunity because all products are donated, meaning every sale is pure profit for our school. The more we bake and sell, the more we raise to support our students. If you need inspiration, check out our Instagram page for some great ideas for easy recipes, and get cooking! Also, if you have any spare packing sets at home, please return them to the office so families who have requested extras can use them.

...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

We want to extend a thank you to the small group of P&F parents who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Your dedication makes such a massive difference for our school community in organizing these wonderful events for everyone to enjoy.

We also want to acknowledge the students representing St Margaret's at the Division Athletics competition on Tuesday. We hope they thoroughly enjoy the experience and represent our school with pride and great sportsmanship.

Have a wonderful week ahead, and we look forward to seeing you all on Friday for Donuts with Dad.

Susan Perks

NAPLAN 2026



St Margaret's is proud to celebrate our highest-ever NAPLAN achievements, with our Year 3 and Year 5 cohorts outperforming both state and national benchmarks across key learning domains.

These results reflect the dedication of our teaching staff and the hard work of our students in building strong foundational skills in literacy and numeracy.

Performance Summary:

Cohort & Subject	St Margaret's Mean Score	State Mean	National Mean	% in Top 2 Bands (Exceeding/Strong)
Year 3 Reading	430	418	402	76.6%
Year 3 Grammar & Punctuation	446	423	408	70.0%
Year 3 Numeracy	438	417	403	76.7%
Year 5 Reading	526	498	487	84.6%
Year 5 Grammar & Punctuation	520	508	497	64.1%
Year 5 Numeracy	522	504	494	77.8%

NAPLAN Highlights

- **All-Time High Scaled Scores:** Achieved our highest scaled scores on record in Year 3 Numeracy (438), Year 5 Reading (526), and Year 5 Numeracy (522).
- **Widest Gap Above State Benchmarks:** Marked our largest performance differential against the state average in Year 3 Reading (+12), Grammar & Punctuation (+23), and Numeracy (+21), as well as Year 5 Reading (+28), Grammar & Punctuation (+12), and Numeracy (+18).
- **Outstanding Top-Tier Proficiency:** Over 84% of Year 5 students achieved the top two proficiency bands ('Exceeding' or 'Strong') in Reading, alongside nearly 78% in Numeracy.



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

MACSSIS

Imagine if, in about 30 minutes,
you could help **improve your
child's school.**

The MACSSIS **family survey** is open
Monday 31 August – Friday 18 September 2026.



Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term Three

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

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 20th
Tuesday, October 27th

Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning
Students begin Term Four
Parents and Friends 7pm
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

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

St Margaret's Primary School



83 St Albans Road
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

Student of the Week Awards

Class	Student	Awards presented Friday, August 28 th
Prep JC	Kyah Batterbury	For her wonderful fluency whilst reading.. Well Done Kyah!
Prep JC	Estee Deocampo	For her efforts and persistence in reading to learn more complex sounds. Amazing work Estee.
Prep SB	Heidi Pritchard	For all the hardwork and commitment you give to your learning. It is a great example to others.
Prep SB	Amelia Pfaffel	For all her efforts in learning the letter sounds to support her reading, Well done Amelia!
Yr 2 CR	Aksel Sibi	For a great week at swimming! Well done Aksel!
Yr 2 CR	Bailey Cardigan	For his enthusiasm towards book week activities. Well done Bailey!
Yr 3 AC	Max Higgins	For your positive attitude towards your learning! Great work Max!
Yr 3 AC	Piper Drever	For your persistence in your writing tasks! Well done Piper!
Yr 3 HM	Paris Likoudis	For always being an upstander and a responsible class member.
Yr 3 HM	Kenley Nguyen	For your outstanding effort in writing and including vocabulary.
Yr 4 JC	Mila Ghin	For her creative poetry writing about a panda during our literacy block. Well done Mila!
Yr 4 JC	William Ferguson	For always giving 100% effort across all curriculum areas. Well done William!
Yr 4 LC	Arlo Bailey-Lane	For demonstrating the skills of a reflective and persistent problem solver. Brilliant effort, Arlo.
Yr 4 LC	Claudia Walker	For presenting her work creatively and with great attention to detail. Amazing work, Claudia.
Yr 5 FM	Archie McLaren	Well done on being part of the PPP program and showing enthusiasm and care to younger students. Great work Archie!
Yr 5 FM	Franki Pease	For your enthusiasm and care participating in the PPP program with our junior students. Well done Frank!
Yr 5 KH	Addison Launer	For her positive engagement in our text-based unit: 'The Grandest Bookshop in the World'.
Yr 5 KH	Mateo Horvatic	For being a great friend to others, demonstrating kindness and care. Well done and thank you Mateo.
Yr 6 DW	Sonny Kirwan	For always putting in his best efforts with his school tasks, supporting his classmates and doing all of this with good humour.
Yr 6 DW	Ivy Simonsen	For her outstanding attitude in Maths, putting in her best efforts which is leading to great improvement.
Principal's Award	Koda Spirling	For including and helping others during play performances in Performing Arts

School Community News

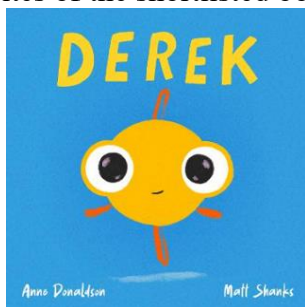
Book Week

Thanks everyone for another successful Book Week. The costumes on parade Tuesday were a symphony of colour, imagination and enthusiasm!

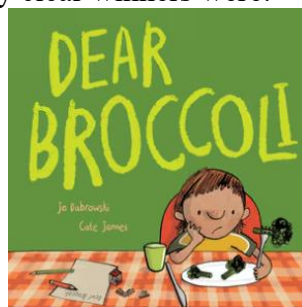
Over 40 families participated in the family quiz with all of these families receiving full marks and a 10-pack of bookmarks prize:

Knight, MacColl, Launer, Batterbury, Weber, Merrigan, Connor, Pritchard, Bartlett, Foley, McCallum, Williams, Mactier, Young, Toohey, Bailey-Lane, Jolly, Oliver, Nolan, Brauer, Wilson, Martini

The students had the opportunity to have their own say in choosing their favourites of the shortlisted books and the very clear winners were:



Best Junior Picture Book



Best Childrens' Picture Book

Book Week Family Quiz Family Name: Amorus
 Name of eldest student at the school: _____
Sent home Monday. Returns by Friday. Winners announced in newsletter. No late entries. Each family with all correct answers will receive a bookmark assortment pack.

- Draw a line to match the correct books with the authors

Aaron Blabley	Mr McGee and the Biting Flea
Andy Griffiths	Hairy McClarey from Donaldson's Dairy
Greg Dreiss	The 13-Storey Treehouse
Lynley Dodd	Awesome Emu
Pamela Allen	Thelma the Unicorn
- Circle the story that doesn't go to a magical world?

Peter Pan	Alice in Wonderland	The Wizard of Oz
<u>Anne of Green Gables</u>		The Magic Faraway Tree
- Circle the 3 friends of Winnie the Pooh

Pluto / Tigger	Bluesy	Piglet	Eeyore	Mickey
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- There's another book in the WEIRDO series released later this year. What number will it be? 27
- Circle the 4 Disney movies that were NOT based on books or fairy tales.

<u>Moana</u>	Cinderella	<u>Bolt</u>	<u>Zootopia</u>
<u>Lilo & Stitch</u>	Mary Poppins	Pinocchio	Rapunzel
- Who wrote these fairy tales: The Little Mermaid, The Ugly Duckling, The Emperor's New Clothes, and Thumbelina? Hans Christian Andersen
- True or False? Our school library organizes books by these categories:

Novels	Picture Books	Non Fiction	Graphic Novels
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True

Story Dogs



Book Week wouldn't be the same without our annual guests of honor from Story Dogs, Bri and Dash. This year Dash rocked Woody from Toy Story, lapping up every bit of attention while he trotted through the parade to cheers, waves and pats.

Thank you to Bri - Dash's unwavering handler - who never misses an opportunity for Dash to participate in so many of our school events. Stay tuned for a special Story Dogs event coming in Term 4.



together in faith

School Community News



NEXT WEEK – SEPTEMBER 7TH – 11TH

BEFORE SCHOOL: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

AFTER SCHOOL: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

**EACH CLASS ALSO HAS A VISITING
TIME TO SEE WHAT'S AVAILABLE**

**PLEASE INVITE GRANDPARENTS AND FAMILY
MEMBERS – BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!**

EVERY DOLLAR EQUALS RESOURCES FOR OUR SCHOOL

SCHOLASTIC



**SCHOLASTIC
REWARDS**

Come by and support our school whilst getting your hands on the best new children's books!

together in faith

School Community News



BOOK WEEK!



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!

School Community News



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



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





IMAGINE THE FUN

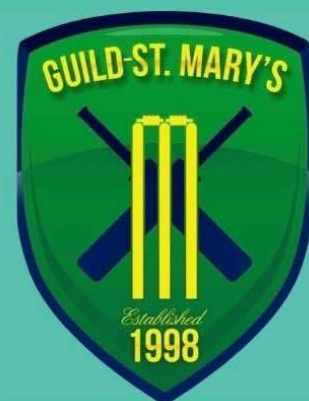
Join Woolworths Cricket Blast

Designed specifically for kids, our weekly 60-90 minute sessions are filled with game-based activities that get kids moving and having fun!

St Mary's Guild Cricket Club - Big Hits, Big Smiles, Big Fun!

- Starts 5th of November 2026
- Time: 4:45 pm - 5.45 pm
- Frier Reserve Newtown
- No equipment required

Club contacts: 0409503805 or guildstmaryscc@outlook.com



Also recruiting for under 11's and 13's teams

SIGN UP TODAY!

Q Play Cricket



We are SunSmart - a note for families

Too much of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. It is also one of the most preventable cancers.

You can't see or feel the sun's UV. Whatever the weather, if the UV levels are three or more, it's important to *Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!*

Sun protection times

Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be.



Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available from the SunSmart widget on our school website, in the weather section of the newspaper, on the SunSmart website at sunsmart.com.au and as a free SunSmart app. Sun protection times can also be found at the Bureau of Meteorology website and live UV levels are available from ARPANSA.

SunSmart membership

Our school is a registered member of Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Schools Program. We aim to protect students and staff from too much UV.

Sun protection and skin cancer prevention is a shared responsibility. Please help support our SunSmart membership and sun protection efforts by ensuring your child follows the SunSmart measures included in our policy at school and at home.

During the daily local sun protection times (usually from mid-August to the end of April), **use these 5 SunSmart steps – even if it's cool and cloudy.**

1. **SLIP** on covering clothing

For free dress days, ensure your child wears clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.



2. **SLOP** on SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen

Apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day and make sure children have sunscreen in their bag ready to reapply throughout the day.

Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours. Please ensure children get plenty of sunscreen application practice at home so they'll be all set when they are at school. Under supervision, ask children to put a dot of sunscreen on each cheek, nose and chin and rub it in (avoiding the eye area) and sunscreen squiggles or dots on the back of the neck, arms and legs to cover these areas.

3. **SLAP** on a hat that protects the face, neck and ears

Choose a wide-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat. Peak caps and visors do not offer enough UV protection so please leave them at home. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved **school hat**. Please keep this at school so they will always be ready for outdoor activities, outdoor learning and play during school days. For the walk to and from school and weekends, please have an extra **home hat** to help keep children protected at home.

4. **SEEK** shade

Choose shady spots for learning and play whenever possible.

5. **SLIDE** on wrap-around AS1067 sunglasses

When appropriate and practical, help protect the eyes with sunglasses.

Need information in another language? Call 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to Cancer Council Victoria in your language



Kids Learn to Sail

At Royal Geelong Yacht Club

school holiday programs
open to book now!

visit:

rgyc.com.au/sailingacademy/tackers

for details

questions?

 0422 813 204

 sailing@rgyc.com.au



25 Eastern Beach Road
Geelong Waterfront

Join the Grovedale Cricket Club Family This Summer!



Grovedale Cricket Club is welcoming new players to our **Master Blasters, Junior Boys and Junior Girls programs** for the 2026/27 season. Whether your child is new to cricket or looking to build their skills, our focus is on fun, participation, friendship and development in a safe and supportive environment.

Our proud **"One Club" culture** brings together players, parents and families from juniors through to seniors, creating a strong sense of community and belonging. With experienced coaches, great facilities and clear development pathways, Grovedale is the perfect place for children to learn, grow and enjoy the game.

Registrations and enquiries:

Junior Boys registration link – NOW OPEN

<https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/61ccc9>

Junior Girls registration link – NOW OPEN

<https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/b350a7>

Blasters registration link – Open 1st September

<https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/3a06ec>

email - juniors@grovedalecricket.com.au

Matt Luttrell
President
Grovedale Cricket Club



FREE 3 & 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN

REGISTER
NOW
FOR 2027

PLACES NOW AVAILABLE AT
THOMSON KINDERGARTEN 2C GODFREY ST, THOMSON 3219

Scan to register



www.geelongaustralia.com.au


CITY OF
GEELONG



GKR KARATE
KARATE FOR EVERYONE

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
3 FUN FILLED SESSIONS
FOR ONLY \$35**

**HELP YOUR CHILD BUILD CONFIDENCE...
MAKE NEW FRIENDS...
LEARN PRACTICAL SELF-DEFENCE...
& HAVE FUN WHILE STAYING ACTIVE!**

**BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW & YOUR CHILD
WILL RECEIVE A FREE TRAINING T-SHIRT**

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

TUESDAY 29th • THURSDAY 1st • FRIDAY 2nd

**10:00 - 11:00AM / SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER HOLIDAYS
1/3 RAPTOR PLACE - SOUTH GEELONG**

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE SEPTEMBER 25th

**TO REGISTER SCAN THE QR CODE OR
TEXT 'GKR HOLIDAYS' TO **0481 236 541****

