

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Four, Week 3
October 19th, 2026
#30

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

It was wonderful to host our first 2027 prep orientation session last week. Seeing our incoming families and newest students take their very first steps into our school community is always a highlight of the year. Our new preps settled in remarkably well, exploring their future classrooms, meeting their teachers, and making early connections with peers. We are proud to welcome each new family into our school community, and we look forward to watching these young learners grow, thrive, and build lasting friendships with us over the coming years.

As we move through the term, we have noticed a rise in seasonal illnesses among both students and staff. To help keep our whole community healthy, we kindly remind families of the importance of keeping children home whenever they are showing signs of illness. Staying home while unwell gives your child the rest they need to recover properly and plays a critical role in stopping the spread of germs throughout our classrooms. At the same time, we fully recognise the vital importance of consistent school attendance. Being present at school every single day gives students the structure, routines, and continuous learning opportunities they need to thrive academically and socially. We deeply appreciate your partnership in striking this balance, keeping unwell children at home to protect others, while ensuring healthy students arrive ready to learn every day.

With the sunny days returning, our **No Hat, No Play** policy is now strictly enforced during all outdoor break times. This policy is essential for ensuring our students are protected from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation while enjoying outdoor play. We ask that all parents ensure their child has their school-approved sun hat packed each day, clearly labeled with their name. Students without a hat will be directed to play in designated shaded areas to safeguard their skin health.

Alongside sun safety, we ask for your full cooperation in maintaining our school uniform standards during this transition of seasons. With unpredictable weather, it can be tempting to mix and match elements, but students are required to wear either a full summer uniform or a full winter uniform, rather than hybrid combinations of both. Wearing our uniform correctly fosters a sense of unity, school pride, and equality among our students, and we appreciate your effort in helping your children present themselves neatly each day.

At this time of year, we are also beginning the process of looking ahead to 2027 class formations. Class allocations are thoughtfully designed around creating the optimal learning conditions for every child, and we ask that families trust our dedicated teachers and leadership team to determine the best fit. If you have a specific request regarding 2027, or if your family plans on leaving our school community next year, please send an email to Susan by the end of next week. Additionally, we still have limited vacancies available across select year levels. If you know of any families considering a move to our area or looking for a new school, please encourage them to contact us to arrange a tour.

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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.

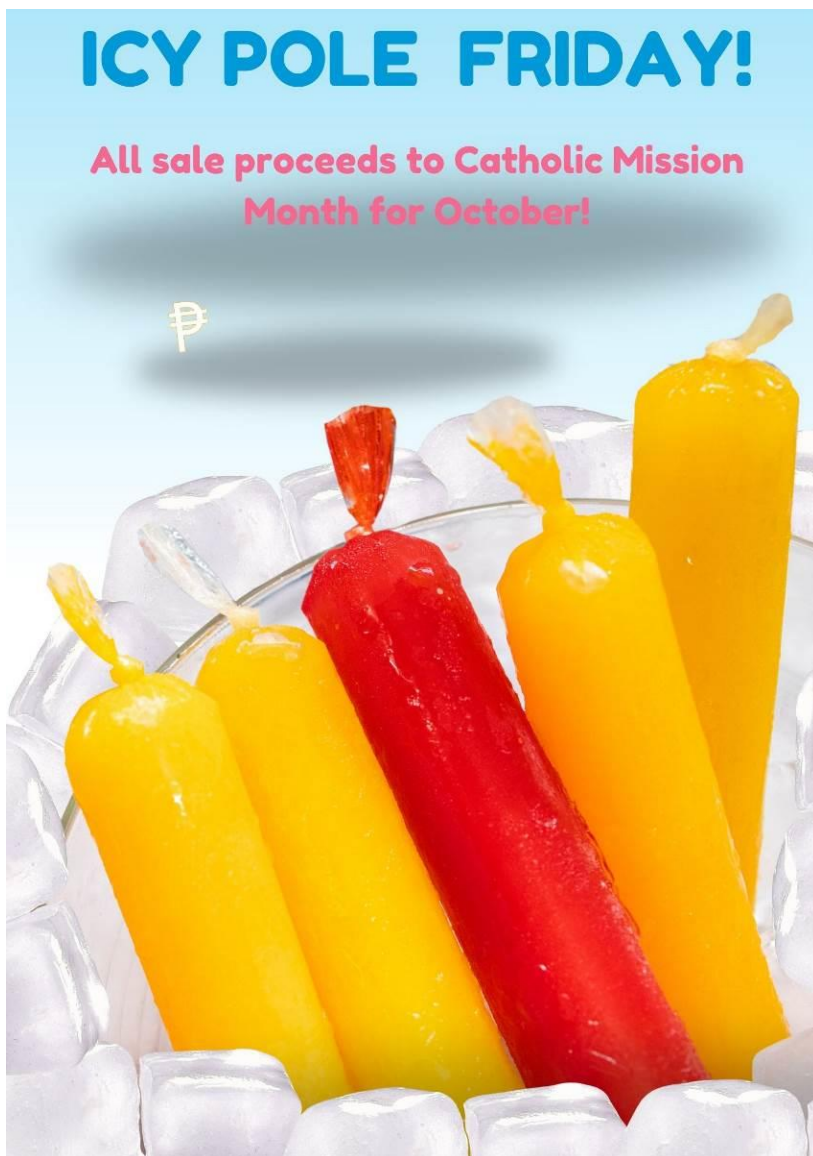
Leadership and Management News

For our senior students and their families, please ensure you have read the recent correspondence sent regarding upcoming graduation events and the exciting 2027 student leadership opportunities. These milestones mark a crucial transition in your child's educational journey, and we want to ensure every student has the opportunity to participate and apply. If you have not received these email communications, please contact the front office or your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible so we can provide you with a copy.

Finally, important information regarding school fees for 2027 has now been sent home, detailing how to calculate individual family fees and levies. We encourage families to review this paperwork carefully and begin planning early. Setting up a direct debit arrangement now is an excellent way to maintain consistent payments across the coming year and avoid end-of-year stress. Libby and our front office team are more than happy to guide you through the process, and you are welcome to establish direct debit payments straight away, continuing through the upcoming school break, to get ahead on your 2027 accounts.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support, dedication, and active partnership in making our school a warm and thriving environment for every student.

Susan Perks



Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term Four

October

Monday, October 19 th	Batforce Parent Session: "Sex, Gender and the Pastoral Approach" Year 4 parents welcome Year 5 & 6 parents compulsory
Tuesday, October 20 th	Prep, Year 1 & 2 Bravehearts Incursion Parents and Friends 7pm
Tuesday, October 27 th	2027 Prep Orientation - visit 2 School Advisory Board 7pm
Thursday, October 29 th	P & F Hot Dog Special lunch
Friday, October 30 th	Year 4 Assembly

November

Monday, November 2nd	Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning
Tuesday, November 3rd	Melbourne Cup Public holiday
Monday, Nov 9 th -11 th	Year 5/6 Camp Wilkin
Tuesday, November 10 th	Reconciliation Family Preparation evening
Thursday, November 12 th	Year 5/6 student rest day
Friday, November 13 th	Year 1 Assembly
Monday, November 16 th	St Margaret's Feast Day with Kaboom event
Tuesday, November 17 th	2027 Prep Orientation – visit 3
Monday, November 23 rd	P & F Slice Morning Tea
Wednesday, Nov 25 th	Year 5 Incursion Greek Special Lunch
Thursday, November 26 th	Sacrament of Reconciliation 12:15pm
Friday, November 27 th	Assembly Year 2

December

Friday, December 4th	Student Free Day - Staff Professional Learning
Tuesday, December 8 th	2027 Prep Orientation – visit 4 2027 Step Up morning School Advisory Board 7pm
Thursday, December 10 th	Whole School Christmas Concert
Friday, December 11 th	Whole School Activity Day
Monday, December 14 th	Year 6 Graduation
Tuesday, December 15 th	Assembly - Prep presenting 12 noon End Term 4 - 1.30pm dismissal

**No newsletter Melbourne Cup Long Weekend
(Monday, November 2nd)
due to short week**

St Margaret's Primary School



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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, October 16 th
Prep JC	Hudson Little	For his wonderful start to the term and his persistence in sounding out four letter words with confidence. Well Done Hudson!
Prep JC	Murphy Weber	For her great persistence when reading her heart words and always helping her peers when needed. Fantastic work Murphy!!
Prep SB	Heidi Pritchard	For showing great resilience and flexibility whilst recovering from injury, well done Heidi!
Prep SB	Aiyla Nabati	For being an excellent role model during whole class instruction. We appreciate your great focus and attention.
Yr 1 EK	Pippi Dooris	For being an active member of the 1 EK class, and contributing to our learning. Incredible work Pippi!
Yr 1 EK	Harlow Weber	For continuing to challenge yourself in your learning. Keep it up!
Yr 1 JB	James Porter	For applying yourself to all areas of your learning. Well done James!
Yr 1 JB	Edie Harvey	For always employing a growth mindset towards your learning. Well done Edie!
Yr 2 CR	Harley Ballard	For being an excellent peer, returning and settling back to St Margarets. Well done Harley!
Yr 2 CR	Arlo Stefanidakis	For an excellent first week in 2CR! Welcome Arlo.
Yr 3 AC	Marcella Tyrrell	For your hard work in your writing about 'The One and Only Ivan'!
Yr 3 AC	Isla Ventieri	For your persistence in all areas of your learning!
Yr 3 HM	Jonah Smith	For your great effort in your reading fluency. Well done!
Yr 3 HM	Zed Withington	For your continued effort to extend your learning.
Yr 4 JC	Charles Brown	For always going above and beyond to improve and finish his work. Well Done Charles!
Yr 4 JC	Annie Butcher	For demonstrating our school values of Respectful, Responsible and Safe consistently and to a high level. Well Done Annie!
Yr 4 LC	Georgia Harpur	For excellent expression when reading, and sharing valuable ideas during discussion
Yr 4 LC	Xavier Hanan	For using his prior knowledge to give accurate explanations during class discussion.
Yr 5 FM	Kenzie Ballard	For your excellent work in the first weeks of the term. You have settled in so well.
Yr 5 FM	Caitlyn Budge	For settling into Year 5 so well and completing excellent work. Well done!
Yr 5 KH	Giuliano Bucedì	For making a great start to Term 4 - working well and having a go at everything. Well done!
Yr 5 KH	George Lynch	For always having a great attitude towards school and his learning. Congratulations George and well done!
Yr 6 DW	Bella Cioch	For the positive energy she brings to the classroom, and the joy she wants to make others feel.
Yr 6 DW	Raffaello Natale	For his willingness to take risks and put his ideas out there, with the thought that this will help him grow his understanding.
Principal's Award	Finley Vaughan	For ensuring all our students feel included, including our 2027 Preps!



Tier 2 & 3 Wellbeing Term 3

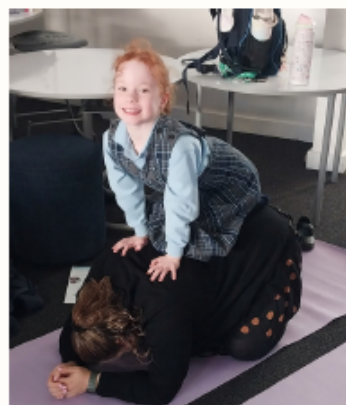
National Student Wellbeing Program grant enabled us to access;

- Hart in Harmony
 1. Parents of students who attended Tier 2 intervention were invited to learn about regulation strategies with their children after school.
 2. Lunch and class time sessions were provided to 51 students: from prep, year 1, 3,4,5,6.
- Wonderkind & Co, BEAM - Shine!
 1. 10 Year 2 students were guided in highlighting their personal strengths, exploring emotional regulation, personal values, identity, friendship conflict and how to resolve conflict safely.
 2. Session was also able to be often at a tier 3 level 1-1 by Deakin Social Workers
- Partnered with Deakin to provide additional intervention
 1. Social Worker, Counselling and Occupational Therapist.

Tier 2 Wellbeing Term 4

MAT - Martial Arts Yr 5/6

10 Students from year 5/6 classes will participate in structured activities and positive behavior support, to learn how to manage stress, work collaboratively, and gain confidence in handling everyday challenges for 40 minutes over 7 weeks.



Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationships

This term students are exploring the topics, 'Gender Norms and Stereotypes' *Helping children understand fairness and respect by exploring how expectations, stereotypes, and gender norms influence how people think, feel, and act, and*

'Positive Gender Relations', *Teaching children how to build respectful, supportive relationships, promote gender equality, and challenge unfair behaviors like bullying or discrimination.*

Parent information night - Navigation 'the' conversation: Compulsory Year 5/6, Optional but recommended Year 3/4, others are welcome. Monday 19th October 6.30-8pm. Multi purpose room

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS



Well Hello Anxiety - Dr Jodi Richardson



Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online
22nd October 2026 Webinar



Raising Children Network
An abundance of information and advice for parents to support all ages



**SAVE THE DATE:
ST MARGARET'S
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

THURSDAY 10.12.2026

6PM

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

together in faith

School Community News

Crazy Hair Day

FOR A GOLD COIN DONATION, COME
TO SCHOOL WITH CRAZY HAIR ON

**Friday 23rd
October**



TO SUPPORT

**transplant
australia**



Message from Dr Edward Simons

For school newsletters



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Please share the following message with your school communities.

A special message from Dr Edward Simons Executive Director, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

As schools communicate their fees for the coming year, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic education and to reaffirm our commitment to keeping Catholic schooling accessible and affordable for families.

Thank you for choosing to be part of our Catholic education community of more than 120,000 young people across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Today, one in five Victorian families choose a Catholic education, and in the past year alone almost 2,000 additional students have enrolled in a MACS school. Together, we share a commitment to providing an education grounded in faith, where every child is known, valued and inspired to flourish.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant work undertaken by principals and school leadership teams across MACS as they finalise plans and budgets for the year ahead. Their careful stewardship helps ensure our schools continue to provide outstanding learning opportunities, strong wellbeing support and vibrant faith communities for every student.

Like many families, our schools continue to face rising costs. We know that cost-of-living pressures continue to place strain on household budgets, and we remain committed to keeping school fees as affordable as possible. At the same time, we have a responsibility to attract, support and fairly reward the teachers and staff who make such a profound difference in the lives of our students each day, including maintaining pay parity with their colleagues in government schools.

Across MACS, we continue to review the way we operate, seeking efficiencies and making thoughtful decisions so that resources are directed where they matter most: teaching and learning, student wellbeing and the faith formation of young people.

Thank you for the trust you place in your school and in Catholic education. The continued growth in enrolments across our system is a sign of the confidence families place in Catholic education and the outstanding work of our principals, teachers and staff. As we continue to grow, our focus will remain on responsible stewardship, strong partnerships with families and a shared commitment to excellence. In doing so, we can ensure that Catholic education remains strong, sustainable and accessible, offering thriving communities of faith and learning for generations to come.

macs.vic.edu.au

