

NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term Three, Week 4
August 5th, 2024
#23

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

This week at St Margaret's has been filled with a variety of engaging and meaningful activities. On Tuesday night, we held our Prayers in Pyjamas event, which turned out to be a resounding success. Many families joined us to spend a peaceful and reflective hour with their children, fostering a calm and prayerful atmosphere across the school. It was heartwarming to see our P, 1 and 2 families come together in such a meaningful way. Special thanks to everyone who attended, the dedicated P-2 staff, the Learning Support Officers (LSOs), and Mr. Kearney for organising this experience.

Thursday was marked by our participation in the District Athletics Day. Our students put forth their best efforts and represented St Margaret's with great pride and enthusiasm. While we eagerly await the official results, we are hopeful that some of our talented athletes will advance to the next round. A heartfelt thank you goes to Miss Fiona for her meticulous organisation, Mr. de Jong for his support and presence, and the many family members who cheered on our students, contributing to a vibrant and encouraging atmosphere.

Friday brought a burst of national pride with our Green and Gold Day in honour of the Australian Olympic team. The Year 5/6 students did an exceptional job planning and running a variety of Olympic-related sports and games. It was a joy to see everyone dressed in green and gold, celebrating the spirit of the Olympics with fun, sportsmanship, and valuable learning experiences. The day was filled with energy and enthusiasm, reflecting our community's support for our Olympic athletes.

Additionally, I want to express my gratitude for the thoughtful messages I received from students on World Principals Day. Your kind words and support means the world to me. I feel incredibly blessed to be part of this wonderful learning community and to have the support of so many dedicated individuals.



Looking ahead, we have another exciting week planned. The Matific Maths Olympiad kicks off, and Mr. de Jong is eager to see our students' maths skills on display. We're aiming to surpass our impressive 3rd place finish from last year. On Wednesday evening, we will gather with our First Eucharist candidates and their families for the Emmaus Meal, an important preparatory step for this sacrament. Mr. Kearney has sent home all the details for this special night.



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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.

Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

On Thursday, we invite families to join us for Mass at 12 noon in celebration of the Feast Day of Mary of the Cross. Our Year 3-6 students will attend this special Mass. On Friday, our First Eucharist candidates will attend Mass at St. Mary's, our ICT leaders will embark on their excursion, and our preps will celebrate their milestone of 100 days of school. Additionally, some of our Year 3-6 students will participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition.

A big thank you to all our staff who continuously plan these enriching extracurricular activities for our students. Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.

Have a great week.
Susan

Term 3

August

Monday, August 5 th -9 th	Matific Math Olympiad
Wednesday, August 7 th	Emmaus Meal for students making First Eucharist - 6pm
Thursday, August 8 th	Australian Maths Competition Years 3-6
Thursday, August 8 th	Feast Day Mary of the Cross; 3-6 Mass, 12pm
Friday, August 9th	100 Days of Prep
Friday, August 9th	Eucharist students attending mass at the Basilica
Friday, August 9 th	ICT Leaders Excursion
Friday, August 9 th	Assembly - Year 3/4 presenting
Monday, August 12 th	School Review Day 2
Monday, August 12 th -16 th	Book Week
Wednesday, August 14 th	Book Week Dress-up day. Theme: "Reading is Magic"
Thursday, August 15 th	Great Book Swap: Indigenous Literacy Foundation
Thursday, August 15 th	School Review Day 3
Friday, August 16 th	School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning
Sunday, August 18 th	Sacrament of First Eucharist; St Mary's Basilica, 2.30pm
Monday, August 19 th	3 way conversations 2-6pm
Tuesday, August 20 th	3 way conversations 4-6pm
Friday, August 23 rd	Assembly - Year 1/2 presenting
Monday, August 26 th	Smile Patrol Dental
Monday, August 26 th -30 th	Year 3/4 Swimming Programme
Thursday, August 29 th	Prep/1/2 Liturgy 10.15am
Friday, August 30 th	Donuts with Dad - 8am
	Raffle draw
	Father's Day Stall
Saturday, August 31 st	P&F Bake Sale

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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

Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

September

Monday, September 2 nd -5 th	Year 5/6 Swimming Programme
Tuesday, September 3 rd	School Board 7pm
Tuesday, September 3 rd	Bravehearts Incursion Prep & 1/2 PB
Wednesday, September 4 th	Bravehearts Incursion 1/2 TB & 1/2 JB
Thursday, September 5 th	Year 5/6 Rail Project Incursion
Thursday, September 5 th	School Review Day 4
Friday, September 6 th	Italian Day P&F pizza lunch
Friday, September 6 th	Assembly - Prep presenting
Thursday, September 12 th	R U OK? - Wear a touch of yellow
Thursday, September 19 th	Footy Colours Day; Gold Coin donation. P&F Pie lunch
Friday, September 20 th	Longest kick event Final day of Term 3; 1.30pm dismissal - Sports uniform

Term 4

October

Monday, October 7 th	First Day of Term 4
Tuesday, October 15 th	School Board 7pm
Friday, October 18 th	P&F special lunch
Monday, October 21 st	School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning
Tuesday, October 29th	Year 5/6 ONLY Student Free Day (staff TIL day for camp)
Wednesday, October 30 th	Year 5/6 Camp - Anglesea (until Friday, November 1 st)

November

Monday, November 4 th	School Closure Day
Tuesday, November 5 th	Melbourne Cup public holiday
Wednesday, November 6 th -8 th	Prep Swimming Programme
Thursday, November 7 th	Year 3 /4 Sleep Over
Friday, November 8 th	P&F Special lunch
Monday, November 11 th -15 th	Year 1/2 Swimming Programme
Thursday, November 28th	Sacrament of First Reconciliation: 12 noon (please note change)

December

Friday, December 6 th	School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning
Tuesday, December 10 th	School Board 7pm
Thursday, December 12 th	Whole School Carols Evening
Tuesday, December 17 th	Final day of Term 4. 1.30pm dismissal



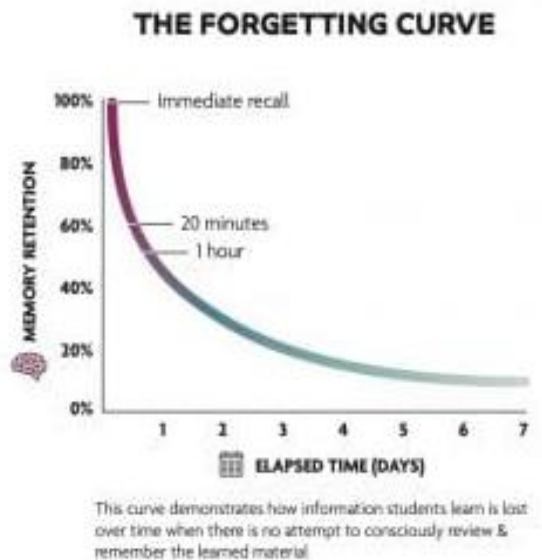
Curriculum News

MACS: Vision for Instruction: How Students Learn

Ebbinghaus's Forgetting Curve

The forgetting curve was developed by German psychologist [Hermann Ebbinghaus](#) and is a visual representation of the way we all learn and how information can disappear over time. Hermann also discovered that the rate at which a person forgets information can also depend on factors including: memory strength, how meaningful the material is, and physiological factors such as stress.

The forgetting curve demonstrates when students learn something the biggest drop in retention of information happens very soon after learning. Without reviewing or reinforcing the learning, a student's ability to retain the information plummets. For example, a student may leave a class with their head full of information only to find that they don't actually remember very much of it a short time later. The other important aspect of the forgetting curve is that if students don't make any attempt to relearn the information they are taught, they will remember less and less of it as the hours, days and weeks go by.



What can we do to ensure students don't forget?

Daily Review

The Most Powerful 8 - 10 Minutes

8- 10 minutes of Daily Review is a fast paced, highly impactful, instructional strategy that provides students the opportunity to revise what they have previously learnt. The daily review sequence asks the students to recite, recall and apply. This gives the teacher an opportunity to check students' understanding of past learning.

If we look at Daily Reviews through the [Science of Learning](#) lens, it assists student's to begin strengthening the neurons in their brain to ensure that learning builds and stays in the long term memory. It also helps to build up automaticity (information that is recalled instantly). When students can recall facts or information quickly, this reduces cognitive load, which makes a clear path for new learning to occur.

Our teachers have begun trailing daily review as part of every Literacy and Mathematics lesson. Most literacy blocks begin at 9:10am, and if you are lucky enough to be walking around the school at that time, you will see students repeating facts and phrases, answering in unison and, or using whiteboards for quick responses. It is fun, fast paced and now a regular practice in every classroom. The content isn't reviewed just once, by regularly retrieving and reviewing information (Spaced Retrieval Practice) over time we can halt the forgetting curve, and the change in long term memory is achieved.

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PEN Principle

Spacing-Out Practice Enhances Memory



Psychology

Spacing Effect
Individuals demonstrate enhanced learning, memory, & performance when study/practice is divided into several short sessions distributed over a longer time span rather than one long session done in a short time span.

Improved performance has been demonstrated in both mental and physical domains.

Roediger, J. L., & Karpicke, J. D. (2009). A meta-analytic review of the distribution of practice effect. *Review of Educational Research*, 79(2), 189-218.

Education

The benefits of spaced practice have been demonstrated in students at all levels across nearly every domain. This ranges from pre-schoolers learning how to read...

...to medical students learning how to perform difficult surgical procedures.

Anderson, R., Brown, D. D., & Salyer, J. C. (2002). Spacing and performance practice: From education to education. *Journal of Cognitive Psychology*, 34(1), 107-122.

Wolfe, C. A., et al. (2008). Teaching surgical skills: what kind of practice makes practice? *Academic Medicine*, 83(12), 2422-2426.

Neuroscience

This brain is learning new words in a 'massed' fashion (1 long, continuous study session).

This brain is learning new words in a 'spaced' fashion (4 short, spread out study sessions)

Frontal activity decreases during massed practice leading to impaired learning. Frontal activity increases when study time is distributed across spaced sessions.

Cooper, D. A., & Dunlosky, J. (2012). Neural correlates of the spacing effect in adult verbal learning: Implications for educational practice. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 3(14), 443-459.

Classroom Applications

Though *cramming* may provide short-term gains, spacing out study/practice will improve long-term memory and performance



When preparing for an exam, offering several short practice sessions throughout the term will be more beneficial than one lengthy 'review' session prior to the test date.

Consider adopting a 'circular' curriculum, whereby topics are revisited or reviewed at certain intervals throughout a term rather than only once.



Ideas and Future Questions...

- What is the most effective duration between practice/training sessions?
- Is it possible the duration can be increased with increased practice/training sessions?



Curriculum News



Check us out! When we placed third in the Matific Olympiad last year, our students took part in a promotional video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_jWR8SVhSQ

Students are also able to log on at home and continue their pursuit for Matific glory!



We'll be seeing a great deal of this next week!



Book Week

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th August



Scholastic Book Fair

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th August
Open 8.40-9 and 3-3.30

Dress-up Day

Wednesday 14th Aug
Parade at 9.15

On the basketball court
(weather permitting)

Dress-up to theme of **READING IS MAGIC**
or your favourite Book character.
Families and fiends welcome.



St Margaret's Great Book Swap

Fundraising for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.
Thursday August 15th

Prior to this event students are asked to donate a favourite book.

This can be new or preloved but it must be in good condition.
Students bring a gold coin donation on the day of the Great Book Swap
and choose a new book for themselves to keep.

Reading is Magic

Library News

On Thursday August 15th as part of our Book Week celebrations, St Margaret's will be running a "Great Book Swap".



Our school has been teamed with the Yari language House in WA.



We are holding a Great Book Swap to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) to provide books and learning resources to children living in remote Communities across Australia.

The Great Book Swap is a fantastic way to celebrate reading locally, learn more about Indigenous languages and culture, and raise funds for a great cause.

We will also have the chance to

WIN A VIRTUAL VISIT FROM BELOVED ILF AMBASSADOR ANDY GRIFFITHS

[Andy Griffiths - Supporting the Great Book Swap](#)

Between now and the beginning of Book Week celebrations (August 12th) students are asked to donate a book, new or preloved (but must be in good condition). These can be left at the office. On the day of the Great Book Swap students donate a gold coin and choose a new book for themselves to keep.

Thank you for your support with this event. Direct donations can also be made directly to ILF via our school's fundraising page using the following link:

[St Margaret's Great Book Swap Fundraising Page](#)

[The Great Book Swap - Gregg Dreise](#) - Gregg is an ILF Ambassador

["Voices of the Future" - ILF promotion](#)

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7 Years



REGISTER NOW!

- ✓ Visit our website
- ✓ Select 'Find a Class'
- ✓ Enter your location
- ✓ Check availability

● - available

● - waitlist

- ✓ Join the team!

*free trial subject to availability

Junior Indoor Soccer

Register a team
or as an
individual at
our website



Seasons
Starting in
September!!

Mixed and
non-mixed
teams
welcome

Wednesday,
Thursday and
Friday Nights

Contact us
info@geelongindoorsports.com.au
(03) 5222 1822
www.geelongindoorsports.com.au
13 Gravel Pits Road South Geelong



Juniors & Seniors



Register as an individual player or a team

Seniors 4 a side
Juniors 5 a side

Our indoor footy program is a fast paced strictly NON CONTACT sport which lasts 40 minutes per game, we encourage people to have fun and increase your fitness

Junior seasons starting August, seniors starting in September on Mondays, Tuesday and Friday nights

Mixed and non-mixed teams welcome

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