

# NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's  
Primary School

Term Four, Week 3  
October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
#32

## From Susan's Desk

## Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

Today, the school is closed as our teaching staff are off-site participating in a professional learning day alongside 700 other staff from the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS). The focus of today's session is centred on spelling and writing, specifically on the explicit instruction of these critical skills within the classroom. These learning opportunities are vital for our educators, as they ensure that we are consistently improving the quality of our teaching, providing students with the best possible tools to advance their literacy skills. Days like today allow teachers to reflect, collaborate, and explore new methods to bring back to the classroom, ultimately enriching the learning experience for every student.

Last Friday, we were thrilled to announce that our wellbeing pod for 2025 has been officially ordered! We are eagerly anticipating its delivery, which is scheduled for Monday November 4th, during our student-free day. This wellbeing pod will be a remarkable addition to our school, providing a dedicated space for students to focus on their mental and emotional wellbeing. It's an initiative that we believe will have a lasting positive impact, offering a calm and nurturing environment where students can regulate, reflect, and feel supported.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous school community for their unwavering support in helping the Parents & Friends Association (P&F) make this dream a reality. A special thank you goes out to Nicholas Walsh for his significant donation, which played a vital role in ensuring this project could come to fruition. At St. Margaret's, we deeply value the wellbeing of our students, and this pod will help us continue fostering a supportive and caring environment. We are incredibly excited for our students to benefit from this incredible new space!

Last week, our Year 6 girls had an exciting opportunity to participate in the GALS (Girls as Leaders in STEM) program at Deakin University. This program was designed to empower young girls by engaging them in activities related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), areas that are increasingly vital in today's world. Throughout the day, the girls were introduced to various hands-on challenges and projects, encouraging critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork. The experience was both enriching and inspiring, giving the girls not only a deeper understanding of STEM fields but also confidence in their abilities to lead and innovate in these areas. It was a wonderful day filled with learning and discovery, and we are so proud of how our students embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity. They will continue to engage with this program throughout term 4 with some school based tasks.

A reminder that permission forms and paperwork are due for both the Year 5/6 camp and the Year 3/4 sleepover. These extracurricular activities offer incredible opportunities and experiences for our students, allowing them to build independence, form strong bonds with peers, and engage in enriching activities outside the classroom. We encourage all parents to ensure the necessary forms are completed and returned promptly, so students can fully benefit from these exciting events.

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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

Additionally, fee statements have been sent home, and a reminder that all 2024 fees were due by Friday, October 18th, unless you have a payment plan in place. Setting up a payment plan is our preferred method and helps families manage costs in a structured and convenient way. If you haven't yet established a plan, we kindly ask that you do so as soon as possible. For those without a payment plan, please ensure all fees for 2024 are paid in full. These fees are essential in allowing us to continue providing the excellent opportunities and programs that make our school experience so valuable for your children.

Have a great week and see you all tomorrow (Tuesday)!

Susan

## Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

### Term 4

#### October

Monday, October 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning</b>
Friday, October 25 <sup>th</sup>	World Teacher's Day
Tuesday, October 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 5/6 ONLY Student Free Day</b> (staff TIL day for camp)
Wednesday, October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5/6 Camp - Anglesea (until Friday, November 1 <sup>st</sup> )

#### November

Friday, November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Assembly – 3/4 presenting
Monday, November 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>School Closure Day</b>
Tuesday, November 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Melbourne Cup public holiday</b>
Wednesday, Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Years 1/2/3/4 Science Incursion
Wednesday, Nov 6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Prep Swimming Programme
Thursday, November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5/6 Rail Incursion
Thursday, November 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3/4 Sleep Over
Friday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>	P&F Special lunch
Monday, Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1/2 Swimming Programme
Tuesday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>	GALS online student session for Year 6 girls
Wednesday, Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	2025 Prep Orientation Session 1 - Groups 1 & 2 9.15-10.30 OR 11.45-1.00
Thursday, Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	2025 Prep Orientation Session 1 - Groups 3 & 4 9.15-10.30 OR 11.45-1.00
Friday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Margaret's Day Celebrations & 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our School
Friday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Assembly – 1/2 presenting
Thursday, November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sacrament of First Reconciliation: 12 noon
Friday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly – Prep presenting
Friday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>	RSVP for Year 6 Graduation due

#### December

Friday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning</b>
Tuesday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Step Up Orientation Day 2025 Prep Orientation Session 3 Parent Session 9.30-10.45.
Tuesday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	School Board 7pm
Thursday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Carols Evening
Friday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Movie & Picnic end of year celebration
Monday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Graduation
Tuesday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Final day of Term 4. 1.30pm dismissal

*School Community News*



# ICE POLE FRIDAY

**\$1**

Thank you Social Justice Leaders

# CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER

Our staff are currently running a fundraiser to ensure we have the texts our students need for 2025!

If you'd like to support this, ADULTS (not students, please) can purchase a Cadbury Sweet Treat for \$1-\$2. There will be a box located in the front office. Thanks for your ongoing support!



**May my life shine  
like a star in the night,  
filling my world  
with goodness and light.  
From Philippians 2:15**

## ***St Margaret's Primary School***



83 St Albans Road  
East Geelong 3219

Ph 5229 7453



Website: [www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smgeelongeast.catholic.edu.au)

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Parish Priest: Father Jim Clarke [frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au)



*Student of the Week Awards*

CLASS	STUDENT	AWARDS – Friday, October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
PREP	Bailey Cardigan	For being a reading superstar!
PREP	Harley Ballard	For his excellent start to Term 4. It's great to see you arriving happily each day.
1 / 2 JB	Lina Hirwa Rugira	For your positive attitude shown towards all aspects of your schooling.
1 / 2 JB	Chester Toohey	For positively contributing to classroom discussions.
1 / 2 TB	Toby Bennett	For his amazing persistence when making a marble run.
1 / 2 TB	Harper Fischer	For her excellent problem solving when creating a marble run.
1 / 2 PB	Elsie Heather	For demonstrating excellent teamwork and always supporting her peers.
1 / 2 PB	Luella Young	For consistently demonstrating kindness to others and being a positive role model.
3 / 4 HM	Holly Maloney	For showing great commitment to your learning and being a great helper in class.
3 / 4 HM	Taj Reynolds	For your outstanding commitment to helping other students in the class with tech issues.
3 / 4 LC	Jaxon Chappell	For extending his writing with extra details and description.
3 / 4 LC	Giuliano Bucedì	For the excellent effort and pride shown in his work.
3 / 4 JK-KB	Myles Drever	For his focus and engagement during our literacy groups.
3 / 4 JK-KB	Camryn Smith	For her friendly nature and positive interactions during play.
5 / 6 KH	Tom Higgins	For his fluency reading and also giving 100%
5 / 6 KH	Liam Dillon	For his fluency and sharing his knowledge of machines
5 / 6 JW	Elizabeth Mendiola	For outstanding presentation in your literacy and maths books
5 / 6 JW	Loui Lagana	For outstanding presentation in your literacy and maths books
5 / 6 DJFM	Alex Werner	For displaying excellent collaboration skills while taking part in the GALS program at Deakin. Well done!
5 / 6 DJFM	Isaak Flannagan	For a fantastic effort on your Celebrations Inquiry project, . Well done!
Principal Award	Molly Herwynen	For excellent tactical thinking during team sport in PE

## *School Community News*



We are beyond excited to announce that, thanks to the overwhelming support from our school community, we have raised enough funds to officially order our Wellbeing Hub. The Wellbeing Hub, aims to create a dedicated space where students can focus on their mental and emotional well-being and regulate their emotions to allow them to engage with their learning. The idea behind the Wellbeing Pod is to offer a retreat within the school grounds, allowing students to take a moment to breathe, reflect, or seek help when they need it most.

As our school is growing, the current wellbeing space will need to be used for a classroom in 2025. The Wellbeing Pod ensures our commitment to the wellbeing of our students continues.

The success of this initiative would not have been possible without the generous contributions from various corners of our community. Special recognition must go to our incredible Parents & Friends Association, whose tireless efforts have made a significant impact. Through their organisation of numerous fundraisers, including community events, special lunches and raffles, they were able to secure the majority of the funds needed to make the Wellbeing Hub a reality. We are also delighted to share a heartwarming story from our recent Bake Sale. During the event, an ex-student of ours, Nicholas Walsh, returned to reconnect with the school. Upon learning about our vision for the Wellbeing Space, he was moved by the initiative and generously offered to cover the outstanding funds required. His contribution not only completed the fundraising efforts but also reflected the lasting bond that many of our alumni feel towards the school.

Nicholas's gift was an extraordinary gesture of kindness and a testament to the spirit of giving that continues to thrive within our school community. To honour his generosity, we will place a plaque on the Wellbeing Hub to acknowledge him and our generous community. This space, which will serve students for years to come, will stand as a lasting tribute to his support and commitment to the well-being of future generations.

We are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed to this cause, whether through donations, time, or participation in events. The Wellbeing Hub will be a transformative addition to our school, and we are excited to share more updates as it progresses.

We look forward to unveiling the brand new Wellbeing Hub in the coming months.

*together in faith*

*School Community News*

*St Margaret's*  
**CHOIR**



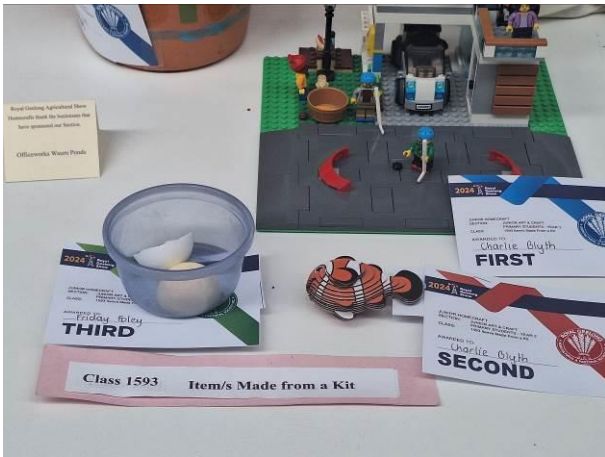
**MONDAY LUNCHTIME  
MULTI PURPOSE ROOM**

**With Miss Cassi**



School Community News

**Congratulations to Friday and Pearl Foley for their prize winning entries in the Geelong Show!**



# Kids' Funfest 2024

Kids Funfest 2024 at St Albans Reserve - an exciting day of fun and learning at this year's Kids Funfest...!

Take the kids for a day of laughter, learning, and community spirit. The team can't wait to see you there! Take a picnic, and a bag to take your treasures home in.

Plenty of parking (enter via Boundary Road)

Perfect for preschoolers, this event is brought to you by the City of Greater Geelong as part of Children's Week.

[Children's Week](#) runs from Saturday 19 October to Sunday 27 October. Many of the events throughout the week are proudly funded by the City's Children's Week grants program.

Below is a hand full of activities that will be there on the day:

- \* Giant ducks on display by [Life Saving Victoria](#)
- \* Upcycling crafts activities with [Urban Upcycle](#)
- \* Safety chats with [Victoria Police](#)
- \* Tips on kids' car seats from [Baby Bunting](#)
- \* [De Grandi Cycle & Sport](#) fitting bike helmets for best road safety
- \* Learn about safety with [Life Ed Vic](#) and more!

For more information, please click the link. [Kids FunFest - City of Greater Geelong \(geelongaustralia.com.au\)](#)





# Kids FunFest

TUESDAY  
22 OCTOBER

ST ALBANS RESERVE | 9.30AM-12PM



For more information about the event scan the QR code or head to [geelong.link/KidsFunFest2024](https://geelong.link/KidsFunFest2024)

