

# NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's  
Primary School

Term Four, Week 9  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
#37

## From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,

Last Thursday, many of our students experienced a significant spiritual milestone, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. It was a reverent and joyful occasion in the church, beautifully guided by Father Jim and Father Jude. Our thanks go to them, as well as to Joel Kearney, our Religious Education Leader, and the Year 3/4 teachers—Leonie Cann, Hunter Merryful, and Kellie Barbour—who prepared our students with great care and spiritual guidance.

We pray for our student who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time:



*Hazel Bennett Colton Blackwell Giuliano Bucedì Caitlyn Budge  
Sophie Butcher Jaxon Chappell Lacey Chapman Aiden Coumans  
Myles Drever Friday Foley Jack Geoghegan Kenny Golding  
Tommy Hearsch Harry Higgins Mateo Horvatic Charlotte Lagana  
Addison Launer Ivy Mason Liam McGuane Andrew Nabati  
Charlotte Nolan Jake O'Toole Nicolas Pinheiro-Martins Oscar Poole  
Summer Ryan Olive Spencer-Harmer Allegra Spitale  
Winnie Timmins George Vapp*

As we begin preparations for 2025, we are taking steps to sustainably manage our resources. We have some excess furniture that we hope to save from landfill. An email with details about this has been sent out, so please let us know if you're interested in any items. Additionally, work will soon commence at the back area of the school. For safety reasons and to make space for a portable arriving in early 2025, we will be removing some trees and demolishing the 'friendship station' shed on December 14<sup>th</sup>. A new shed will be installed in its place early next year.

Excitement is building as we prepare for our 2025 student leadership speeches, scheduled for Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students and staff will hear from the candidates and vote for our school and house captains. Families are welcome to attend the school captain speeches after recess, around 11:30 a.m. The results will be announced at our final assembly on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, where we'll also bid farewell to departing staff and enjoy the Prep students' Nativity Play—always a highlight of the year.

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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.

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## ***Leadership and Management News***

Looking ahead to 2025, we are delighted to welcome two new classroom teachers to St. Margaret's. Emma Clancy, currently a Year 3/4 teacher at Lisieux Primary School in Torquay, will join our Year 3/4 team, bringing extensive experience and a passion for education. Emily Koutsaftis, a Year 2 teacher from St. Anthony's, will join our Year 1/2 team. Emily is excited to bring her expertise and enthusiasm to our school. We look forward to welcoming them officially on Step-Up Day.

Class lists for 2025 are almost finalised. This is always a challenging task, as we balance parent requests, friendships, and staff insights to create the best learning environments for our students. While friendships are vital, we prioritise fostering calm, focused classrooms where students can thrive academically. Thank you for trusting us to make these decisions with the best interests of your children in mind.

A reminder that all 2024 school fees should now be finalised. For families on a payment plan, there's no need to make additional payments. However, for those not on direct debit, full payment is required. These fees enable us to provide essential learning supplies and exciting extracurricular activities, such as the upcoming whole-school movie event and the Year 5/6 Adventure Park experience. Please ensure all fees are settled before the end of the school year.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week ahead,  
Susan

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## ***God of Promise and Hope at Advent***

*May we always care for those around us.*

*May we be generous with our time and our talents.*

*May we always treasure our families.*

*May we pray often for ourselves and for others.*

*May we value education and make the most of our time at school.*

*We ask that hope be always a presence and influence in our lives this Advent season. Amen*



**Calendar of Events**

(new items in bold)

**Term 4**

**December**

Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Year 5/6 excursion to Adventure Park  
2025 School Captain speeches & leadership applications due  
GALS project launch  
**School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning**  
**3/4 singing at Aged Care residence (selected students)**  
Whole School Step Up Orientation Day  
2025 Prep Orientation Session 3  
Parent Session 9.30-10.45.  
School Board 7pm  
Welling Pod Official Opening  
Completion of relay events from Athletic sports day  
Whole School Carols Evening  
Whole School Movie & Picnic end of year celebration  
Year 6 Graduation  
Final day of Term 4. 1.30pm dismissal

**2025 Start Dates**

**January**

Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Friday, January 31st

Staff Day. Student Free Day  
1-1 testing P-6  
Year 1-6 First Day of School for 2025  
1-1 Prep testing  
Prep First Day of School. All P-6 onsite.

**2025 School Closure Dates**

**Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Lost Property**

Dear Parents,  
The day of Athletics at Goldsworthy Reserve Elouise Horton's blue school jacket went missing. It did have an iron-on name tag on the collar (but it may have rubbed off). There was also a small Tupperware container in the pocket. If you happen to find it, please send it to the school office.  
Thank you, Kate Horton.

**Thank you to all families that have returned library books. Keep them coming in!**

**St Margaret's Primary School**



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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, November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Prep	Eden Martini	For working extremely hard during literacy sessions.
Prep	Angus Smith	For working super hard on his reading!
1/2 JB	Lina Hirwa Rugira	For showing kindness towards your peers at all times. Well done Lina!
1/2 JB	Paris Likoudis	For always putting your best foot forward in the classroom. Well done Paris!
1/2 TB	Harry Ferrier	For having the confidence to be a problem solver. Keep it up Harry!
1/2 TB	Koda Sperling	For consistently displaying our school values of being responsible, respectful and safe.
1/2 PB	Bonnie Martini	For the wonderful contribution you make to our classroom everyday. We appreciate you Bonnie!
1/2 PB	Luella Young	For the wonderful contribution you make to our classroom everyday. We appreciate you Luella!
1/2 PB	Annie Butcher	For the wonderful contribution you make to our classroom everyday. We appreciate you Annie!
3/4 HM	Madison Ballard	For always setting the standard for your classmates in upholding St Margaret School values.
3/4 HM	Charlotte Lagana	Thank you for your continuous effort towards your learning goals.
3/4 LC	Ivy Mason	For demonstrating excellent learning behaviours and beautiful work.
3/4 LC	Shae Rufus	For always giving her best effort and taking pride in her work.
3/4 JK-KB	Amilia Shill	Thank you for the wonderful contribution you have made to our classroom and the friends that you have made.
3/4 JK-KB	Nico Pinheiro-Martins	For the time he has been dedicating towards improving with Ms Rosa.
5/6 KH	Asha Clapinski	Being a great role model for others - thank you and congratulations.
5/6 KH	Airlia Likoudis	Having a positive attitude towards school and her learning - Well done.
5/6 KH	Jock Golding	Working really well and finishing off the school year with a positive attitude- Well done.
5/6 JW	Elizabeth Mendiola	For creating a positive and fun environment in our classroom.
5/6 JW	Tom McGuane	Always lending a helping hand to staff and students.
5/6 DJ-FM	Molly Jones	For displaying amazing responsibility with your jobs throughout term 4. Well done!
5/6 DJ-FM	Max Russell	His dedication to helping run school assemblies throughout the year - terrific work Max!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ST MARY'S PARISH COMMUNITY

# Christmas Carols

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 8**



- Christmas Gift Stall
- Treats & Cake Stall
- Free Face Painting
- Free BBQ Sausage Sizzle Lunch
- Raffle \$1 per ticket
- Christmas Karaoke & Performances

## **ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**Where? Hibernian Hall & Pioneer Room @ (Parish Centre) 150 Yarra St  
12.00pm (noon) – 3.00pm.**

***Karaoke Carols & Performances start at 12.30pm***

Please register prior to the date using this link to the form

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDS0KAH1u875rTpZ1qUOtCjOHPpsa\\_cDoF4YemdNx-HeBKBQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDS0KAH1u875rTpZ1qUOtCjOHPpsa_cDoF4YemdNx-HeBKBQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0)

(Entry for the Karaoke/ Performance is free)

Cabaret style table seating in Pioneer Room for audience.  
Free Tea/ Coffee for patrons, and soft drinks @ \$1.00 per can

**ALL ARE WELCOME**