

# NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's  
Primary School

Term Four, Week 10  
December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
#38

## From Susan's Desk

## Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

Our students have been immersed in a week brimming with activities, some celebrating the end of the year and others enriching their learning experiences. On Monday, our Year 5/6 students visited Adventure Park as part of the Year 6 graduation celebrations. The weather was perfect, and both staff and students relished a day filled with fun games, thrilling rides, and splashes at the water park. The students represented our school with exemplary behaviour, enjoying quality time with their peers. We extend our thanks to the Year 6 teachers for organizing such a memorable event.



Our Prep students had an equally engaging outing, taking a walk through the local community to post letters they had carefully written. The joy on their faces was evident as they explored the neighborhood and eagerly anticipated receiving responses from their recipients.

Year 5 students aspiring to school and house leadership positions showcased their courage and resilience by delivering outstanding speeches to their peers, parents, and families. The quality of the speeches left everyone impressed. Voting is now complete, and we are in the process of finalising the selection of our 2025 school leaders, whose names will be announced during the final assembly on Tuesday, December 17th. This assembly will begin at noon with the Prep students presenting their nativity play.

Meanwhile, our wellbeing pod is taking shape thanks to the incredible efforts of Luke, Fran, and Maggie, who generously donated their time, expertise, and materials to construct the ramp and prepare the space for use. Their dedication embodies the community spirit that supports our vision for a thriving school environment.

Last Friday, while students enjoyed a long weekend, our staff gathered for a day of professional learning and planning for 2025. Working in their new teams, we welcomed new staff members and engaged in activities aimed at ensuring a smooth start to the new year. We are excited to introduce some of our new staff. Kate Horton will teach PE to Prep and Year 1/2 students, Daniela Cucinotta will share her passion for the Italian language, and Margaret Foulkes, our Mental Health in Primary Schools leader, will bring her expertise to support our students' wellbeing.

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 ones our students have enjoyed this week.

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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

As we approach another busy week, we remind families of upcoming events and starting times. Additionally, we need volunteers to assist with packing up the Friendship Station and moving furniture on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, while students enjoy a movie. So far, we have had only one parent volunteer, and any additional help would be greatly appreciated to ensure the school is ready for every student. If you or a family member, including high school alumni, can lend a hand, we would be most grateful.

### Upcoming Events

**Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday December 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>**

Step Up Day and new family information session

Opening of the wellbeing pod. 8.30am coffee van. 9.15am

ALL WELCOME

Carols evening. Join us at 5pm for food. Sausage Sizzle and Potato Van or BYO picnic. Students gather from 5.30pm for a 6pm sharp start time.

WholeSchool Movie Day and furniture move.

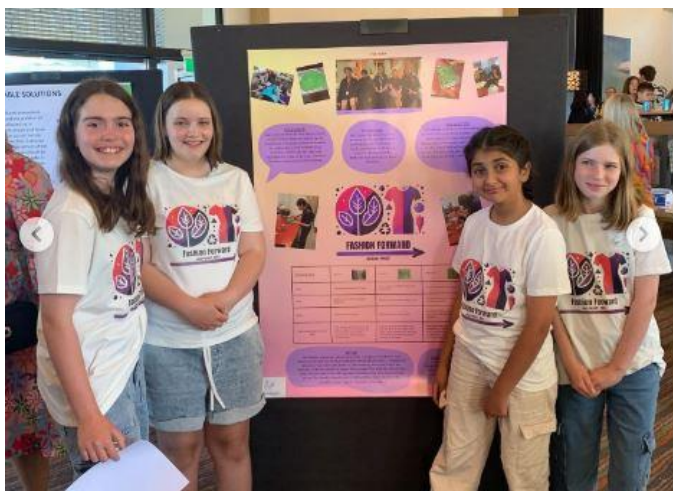
HELP NEEDED

Year 6 Graduation. Mass begins 2.10pm sharp

Final Assembly 12 noon. Prep Nativity Play, Farewell to staff and 2025 leaders announced (including Yr 5 FIRE Carriers)

**1.30pm FINISH**

On Wednesday evening, our Year 6 girls proudly represented St Margaret's at Deakin University, presenting their innovative projects developed through the GALS (Girls As Leaders in STEM) program. This initiative encourages girls to tackle real-world challenges through STEM. The Hive and Thrive team proposed a solution to combat the varroa mite threatening Australia's honeybee population, while the Fashion Forward team designed biodegradable plastic wrap for clothing. Their work will be showcased at the Waurn Ponds Shopping Centre during the GALS Public Showcase from January 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. We encourage families to visit and admire the impressive achievements of these young innovators. We thank Mr de Jong and Miss Tania for supporting the girls through the program and on Wednesday evening,



Wishing everyone a wonderful week ahead,  
Susan

**Calendar of Events**

*(new items in bold)*

**Term 4**

**December**

<b>Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3/4 singing at Aged Care residence (selected students)</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
Wednesday, Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Welling Pod Official Opening
Wednesday, Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Completion of relay events from Athletic sports day
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

**2025 Start Dates**

**January**

Tuesday, January 28 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Day. Student Free Day
Wednesday, January 29 <sup>th</sup>	1-1 testing P-6
Thursday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1-6 First Day of School for 2025
	1-1 Prep testing
Friday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Prep First Day of School. All P-6 onsite.

**2025 School Closure Dates**

**Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tuesday, 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>**

**Thank you to all families that have returned library books. Keep them coming in! We still have over 100 books overdue to be returned.**

**St Margaret's Primary School**



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*School Community News*

**2025 Sacrament Dates**

**Enrolment Masses**

*All families with students receiving a sacrament in 2025 must attend one of the following masses:*

Saturday February 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025	6pm
Sunday February 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025	7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am
Saturday March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025	6:00pm
Sunday March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025	7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

**Sacrament of Confirmation**

Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 5:00pm



**Sacrament of Eucharist**

Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 2:30pm



**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 12:00pm



*together in faith*

*School Community News*



# OFFICIAL OPENING



JOIN US FOR YOGA & COFFEE

**WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER  
8.20AM TO 9.30AM**

Plus see our muralist Ella Carroll painting our  
well-being hub live!



ALL WELCOME  
TO JOIN IN ON THE BASKETBALL COURT

**Complementary Coffee & Yoga**  
With thanks to Kelly Club and Maranda of Hart in Harmony

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*Year 1/2 Eastern Beach Excursion*



*Parents & Friends' News*



# Reverse Advent Calendar



**This year, the St Margaret's P&F, in collaboration the grade 6 leaders, are embarking on a heartwarming initiative to spread the joy of the holiday season. We are thrilled to announce that we will be delivering boxes to all classrooms, aimed at filling them with not only food but also Christmas cheer.**

**Our mission is to extend compassion and kindness to families throughout Geelong, ensuring that everyone can experience the magic of Christmas. With that in mind, we kindly ask all families who are able to contribute to this wonderful cause, by sending along thoughtful items to be included in your classroom reverse advent box. You can even create your own family box and deliver it to the school for us to share with those in need - simply let us know, and we will provide you with a box.**

**Now, let's delve into the workings of our Reverse Advent Calendar. At the start of December until the last day of school, an empty box will gradually transform into a symbol of hope, generosity, and abundance. Each day, leading up to Christmas, we kindly ask you to place one or two non-perishable food items or toiletries into the box.**

**After the 14 days, our dedicated school leaders will collect the filled Reverse Advent Box from each class and deliver it to Feed Me - Geelong, where it will be distributed to people in our immediate community who are experiencing food insecurity. Through this initiative, we hope to make a tangible difference in the lives of those less fortunate, offering a helping hand of support and love during the holiday season.**



*Parents & Friends' News*



## So, how can you contribute to this incredible cause?

**It's simple! Begin by sending along items to put in the box, which will undoubtedly make a significant impact on another family's Christmas. To assist you, we have compiled a list of suggested items.**

**Meal boxes, Jar fruit, canned meals, dried fruit, nuts, crackers, biscuits, juice, tea, coffee, milo, peanut butter, Vegemite, jam, rice, pasta, noodles, pasta sauce, cereal, pancake mix, maple syrup, muesli bars, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissues, toilet paper, treat food, chips, chocolate & Christmas items.**



**Together, let's make this holiday season a truly unforgettable one for those in need. Join us in spreading love, joy, and hope by participating in our Reverse Advent Program. Your contributions will undoubtedly bring smiles to the faces of families throughout Geelong, inspiring compassion and making a lasting difference in our community**







Read Alouds



Art Tutorials



# Gabrielle Costa



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