

# NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's  
Primary School

Term Four, Week 11  
December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
#39

## From Susan's Desk



Dear Families,

The Christmas Carol Evening was a resounding success, and we couldn't be more thrilled with how the night unfolded. Ivy and Charlotte, our wonderful School Captains, took on the role of MCs with confidence and flair, guiding us through an evening filled with joy and community spirit. It was truly a celebration of family and togetherness, as we gathered to share in the magic of the holiday season. The student performances were nothing short of spectacular, showcasing their talent and hard work. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who attended and supported this special event. To our dedicated staff, your support behind the scenes was invaluable. A very special mention must go to the amazing Miss Cassie, whose incredible efforts and countless extra hours ensured every detail was perfect. Her collaboration with Miss Ruffin in preparing the students and bringing the performances to life was nothing short of extraordinary. Thank you both for your passion and dedication. This event truly highlighted the strong sense of community we have at our school. It was a night to remember!

## Leadership and Management News



All families will soon receive an email and a hard copy detailing their child's allocated testing time for the start of the school year. Testing will take place on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, and it is essential that your child attends at their designated time. This ensures a smooth start to their learning journey in 2025 and allows us to tailor support to their individual needs.

We are thrilled to share some exciting news for 2025! Our school has been awarded a \$740,000 Federal Building Grant to address structural issues at the front of our school. This grant will fund essential repairs to drainage and footings, along with general maintenance. Securing such a highly competitive grant is a significant achievement and a testament to our school's commitment to providing the best facilities for our students.

While the construction work won't commence immediately, planning will begin over the school holidays. As part of this project, we will also receive a brand-new double portable building, which will be located along the back fence where the friendship station and trees have recently been removed. Two of our Year 5/6 classes will move into these modern spaces, allowing us to reclaim the entire multipurpose space for broader use. This is a wonderful time for our school as we continue to grow and make the necessary improvements to maintain our beautiful facilities. We are excited about what the future holds and are grateful for the resources to support our thriving school community.

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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***

On Monday, we will come together to celebrate and farewell the Graduating Class of 2024. All families are warmly invited to attend our whole school Mass in the church, beginning promptly at 2:10 pm. Please arrive by 2:00 pm to ensure a smooth start. This will be a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the graduates' primary school journey and express gratitude for their contributions to our school community. During the Mass, we will also bid farewell to our Year 6 leaving families.

On Tuesday, we will mark the end of the 2024 school year with a whole school assembly at the church following recess, beginning at 12:00 pm sharp. A highlight of this event will be the Preps' traditional Nativity Play, after which we will farewell departing staff and announce the 2025 student school leaders.

Being part of such a wonderful school community is truly a privilege. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the amazing members of our Parents and Friends group, especially its President, Bethany Young. Her incredible leadership, energy, and dedication have been instrumental in making this year a success. We are so grateful for all she has done. As we look ahead to 2025, we encourage every family to volunteer for just one event during the year to help share the load and ensure the continued success of our fundraising efforts, which benefit all our students.

Our School Advisory Board has worked tirelessly throughout the year to support our school's mission. I particularly thank Kristy Fletcher, Sam Butcher, and Janelle Geoghegan for their contributions as they step down. I also acknowledge and thank Luke Jackson, Maggie Walker, and Virginia Salkeld for their time, expertise, and commitment.

A special thank-you goes to our crossing supervisors, who ensure the safety of our children each day, rain or shine. Please take a moment this week to show your appreciation for their hard work. Our school's excellent appearance is a credit to our wonderful cleaning team, Rod and Colby, who go above and beyond to keep our facilities in top shape. Similarly, our outdoor spaces have been beautifully maintained thanks to Andrew Herwynen and his team from Jim's Mowing. We truly value their efforts.

Finally, I want to express my sincere and unwavering gratitude to all our staff at St Margaret's. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and care for every student are evident in everything they do. From planning engaging lessons to supporting our students' growth, their commitment to education is inspiring. I am incredibly thankful for our strong and devoted team of office staff, LSOs, and teachers.

As we wrap up the year, please remember that we will have an early finish at **1:30 pm on Tuesday**. Students may wear casual clothes with a touch of Christmas spirit—no coin donation is required.

I wish you all a joyful summer break and a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones. May Santa visit every home, and whether you're traveling or staying close to home, please stay safe. I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2025.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Warm regards,  
Susan



### Upcoming Events

- Monday December 16<sup>th</sup>** Year 6 Graduation. Mass begins 2.10pm sharp
- Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>** Final Assembly 12 noon.  
Prep Nativity Play  
Farewell to staff  
2025 leaders announced  
Yr 5 FIRE Carriers announced  
**1.30pm FINISH**

### 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.

**PLEASE NOTE: Assembly next year will be held fortnightly on Friday MORNINGS at 9.15am**

### 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** overdue books to be returned.*

#### St Margaret's Primary School



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

**School Community News**

**Staff 2025**

<b>Prep</b>	Patience Barnes
	Sarah Bryant
<b>Years 1 &amp; 2</b>	Jess Barjasic
	Emily Koutsaftis
<b>Years 3 &amp; 4</b>	Leonie Cann
	Joel Kearney & Cassie Benning
	Hunter Merryful
	Emma Clancy
<b>Years 5 &amp; 6</b>	Matt de Jong & Josh Wilson
	Kellie Hanley
	Fiona Moran
<b>Visual Arts P-6</b>	Gab Costa
<b>Digital Technologies P-6</b>	Gab Costa
<b>Physical Education P-2</b>	Kate Horton
<b>3-6</b>	Josh Wilson
<b>Italian P-6</b>	Daniela Cucinotta
<b>Performing Arts P-2</b>	Cassie Benning
<b>3-6</b>	Gab Costa
<b>Intervention Support</b>	Kellie Barbour
	Ana Clifton
	Jaki Groves
	Susan Perks
<b>Principal</b>	Renee Cunningham
<b>Deputy Principal / Learning &amp; Teaching Leader</b>	Sonja Ginn
<b>Wellbeing / Learning Diversity Leader</b>	Joel Kearney
<b>Religious Education Leader</b>	Matt de Jong
<b>Numeracy Leader</b>	Jaki Groves
<b>Literacy Leader</b>	Margie Foulkes
<b>Mental Health Leader</b>	Maya Broszeweski
<b>Learning Support Officers</b>	Ash Calnan
	Narelle Crowe
	Jack Fisher
	Linda Foley
	Georgia Kavenagh
	Jill Mayes
	Tori Monaghan
	Jade Porter
	Stacey Rochow
	Jess Tarrant
	Tania West
	Kath White
<b>Library</b>	Marg Dunn
<b>Business Manager</b>	Libby Fitzgerald
<b>Office Staff</b>	Anne Miller
	Georgia Kavenagh

*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*

*Our Xmas Concert*



together in faith

*School Community News*

*Our Xmas Concert*



together in faith

*School Community News*

*Our Xmas Concert*





together in faith

*School Community News*

*Our Xmas Concert*



*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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 YouTube

@MissGabrielleCosta

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