

NEWSLETTER



St Margaret's
Primary School

*Term One, Week 1
January 29th, 2025
#1*

From Susan's Desk

Leadership and Management News

Dear Families,

Welcome Back to the 2025 School Year!

We trust you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are ready for another fantastic school year. A warm welcome to all the new students, families and staff joining our community in 2025. A full list of staff is included in this newsletter for your reference.

Included in this edition are the designated uniform days for each class. At St Margaret's, the uniform is more than just clothing; it plays a vital role in fostering a sense of belonging, pride, and equality among students. Wearing the correct school uniform ensures that every student feels part of our shared community, promoting unity and reducing distractions caused by differences in clothing choices. The uniform is also an essential part of preparing students for broader societal expectations. It encourages them to take pride in their appearance and teaches the value of adhering to guidelines and respecting shared standards. This foundation helps instil responsibility, discipline, and a professional mindset - skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. Students who are not in the correct uniform will receive a slip to bring home to help address any issues. Thank you for reinforcing the importance of the uniform at home. By working together, we create an environment where students learn respect, responsibility, and the value of upholding shared expectations.

Specialist Classes for 2025

In response to student needs and staff availability, the following specialist classes will take place this year:

- **Prep and Year 1/2 students** will participate in:
 - PE with Kate Horton
 - Performing Arts with Cassi Benning
 - Visual Arts with Gab Costa
 - Italian with Daniela Cucinotta
 - DigiTech with Gab Costa in Semester 2.
- **Year 3–6 students** will engage in:
 - PE with Josh Wilson
 - Visual Arts in Semester 1 and Performing Arts in Semester 2 with Gab Costa
 - Italian with Daniela Cucinotta
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing with Margie Foulkes
 - DigiTech with Gab Costa in Semester 1

Assemblies for 2025

Please note that assemblies will take place at 9:15am on Friday mornings in the church.

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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

Important Procedures for Parents

When entering the school, we ask all parents to register at the front office. If you need to collect your child or drop off a forgotten item, please see our office staff and they can arrange for your child to meet you at the front office. This procedure ensures the safety of all students and helps us comply with child-safe standards. For those wishing to volunteer at the school, please complete our Code of Conduct and provide a copy of your Working with Children Check (WWCC).

School Fees

School fees are now due, with direct debit being our preferred method of payment. Timely payment of fees allows us to provide quality resources, programs, and support for all students. If you have any questions, or need assistance setting up direct debit, please contact the office.

Key Dates for the Year

An outline of key dates for the year is included in this newsletter. Please note these dates are subject to change and will be updated as necessary throughout the year.

School Advisory Board Members Needed

Our School Advisory Board meets twice per term on a Tuesday evening. If you are interested in contributing to the governance of our school, please email Susan for more information.

Our 2025 Advisory Board Members:

Prep: Sarah Poole

One: Maggie Walker

Two: Alicia Smith

Three: Luke Jackson

Four: Natalie Hearsch

Five: **Member Needed**

Six: Virginia Salkeld

P&F Annual General Meeting

Our Parents and Friends (P&F) AGM will be held on **Wednesday, February 12th, at 7:00 pm**. We encourage all parents, especially new ones, to get involved and continue the invaluable work of this committee. The P&F's efforts make a significant impact on our school community, and your support is greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year filled with growth, learning, and community spirit. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope to see you at upcoming events!

Enjoy your week!

Susan Perks

St Margaret's Primary School



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Ph 5229 7453



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Principal: Susan Perks sperks@smgeelongeast.com.au

Office Managers: Anne Miller amiller@smgeelongeast.com.au
Georgia Kavenagh gkavenagh@smgeelongeast.com.au

Business Manager: Libby Fitzgerald lfitzgerald@smgeelongeast.com.au

Parish Priest: Father Jim Clarke frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au

Calendar of Events

Term One

January

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

February

Wednesday, February 5 th	Prep Testing Day
Friday, February 7 th	Assembly Yr 6 Leaders 9.15am
Wednesday, February 12 th	P&F Annual General Meeting 7pm in the staff room
	Prep Testing Day
Tuesday, February 18 th	School Board 7pm
Wednesday, February 19 th	Prep Testing Day
Friday, February 21 st	Assembly Yr 5/6 9.15am
Saturday, February 22 nd	Sacramental Enrolment Mass 6pm
Sunday, February 23 rd	Sacramental Enrolment Masses 7.30am, 9.30am, 11.30am
Monday, February 24 th	Confirmation Preparation Day 9:15 - 3:20
	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-6pm
Tuesday, February 25 th	Parent Teacher Interviews 2.00-6pm
Wednesday, February 26 th	Prep Testing Day

March

Saturday, March 1 st	Sacramental Enrolment Mass 6pm
Sunday, March 2 nd	Sacramental Enrolment Masses 7.30am, 9.30am, 11.30am
Monday, March 3 rd	2026 Enrolments open
Tuesday, March 4 th	Shrove Tuesday Pancake races 10:15am
Wednesday, March 5 th	Prep Testing
Wednesday, March 5 th	Ash Wednesday Mass 9:15-10am (time TBC)
Friday, March 7 th	Assembly Yr 3/4 9.15am
Monday, March 10th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday, March 11th	School Closure Day - Staff PL
Wednesday, March 12 th	Sacrament of Confirmation 5pm at St Mary's Basilica
Friday, March 14 th	P&F Barefoot Bowls TBC
Monday, March 17 th -21 st	Catholic Education Week Year of Jubilee
Monday, March 17 th -21 st	Smile Point School Dental Visits TBC
Tuesday, March 18 th	St Patrick's Day Liturgy - Yr 3-6 students 2.30pm
Wednesday, March 19 th	Pilgrims of Hope Geelong schools - selected student leaders
Friday, March 21 st	School Mass St Patrick's Melbourne - selected students
Tuesday, March 25 th	School Board 7pm
Wednesday, March 26 th	Student Leadership Conference - selected students
Thursday, March 27 th	School Photos
Friday, March 28 th	Assembly Yr 1/2 9.15am

April

Thursday, April 3 rd	Whole School Athletics Day
Friday, April 4 th	Assembly PREP 9.15am
	Last day of Term One - 1.30pm dismissal. Casual Clothes

Calendar of Events

Term Two

April

Monday, April 21st
Tuesday, April 22nd
Friday, April 25th

Easter Monday public holiday
Term Two begins
ANZAC DAY public holiday

May

Tuesday, May 6th

School Board 7pm

June

Monday, June 9th
Tuesday, June 10th
Tuesday, June 24th

King's Birthday public holiday
School Closure Day - Staff PL
School Board 7pm

July

Friday, July 4th

Term Two ends - 1.30pm dismissal

Term Three

July

Monday, July 21st
Tuesday, July 22nd

School Closure Day - Staff PL
Students begin Term Three

August

Tuesday, August 5th
Wednesday, August 13th
Sunday, August 31st

School Board 7pm
Emmaus Meal 5.30pm
Sacrament of First Eucharist 2.30pm

September

Tuesday, September 9th
Friday, September 19th

School Board 7pm
Term Three ends. 1.30pm dismissal

Term Four

October

Monday, October 6th
Tuesday, October 7th
Tuesday, October 21st

School Closure Day - Staff PL
Students begin Term Four
School Board 7pm

November

Monday, November 3rd
Tuesday, November 4th
Wed-Fri, Nov 5th-7th
Monday, November 10th
Tuesday, November 11th
Wednesday, November 12th
Thursday, November 20th

School Closure Day
Melbourne Cup Public holiday
Year 5/6 students at Camp Kangarooobie
Year 5/6 only, student free day (TIL staff day)
Remembrance Day
Penance Preparation Family Evening 5.30pm
Sacrament of Penance 12 noon

December

Friday, December 5th
Tuesday, December 9th
Monday, December 15th
Tuesday, December 16th

School Closure Day - Staff PL
School Board 7pm
Year 6 Graduation
End of Term Four 1.30pm dismissal

together in faith

Calendar of Events

2025 School Closure Dates (subject to change)

Tuesday, March 11th

Tuesday, June 10th

Monday, July 21st

Monday, October 6th

Monday, November 3rd

Monday, November 10th Year 5/6 only, student free day (TIL staff day)

Friday, December 5th

PLEASE NOTE:

*Assembly time for this year is **9.15am** on the designated Fridays in the Church.*

Term 1 2025 Sport Uniform Days

Prep: Tuesday and Thursday

Year 1/2: Thursday and Friday

Year 3/4: Thursday and Friday

Year 5/6: Tuesday and Friday

Creator God,

Thank you that we are all safely back at school.



We pray for energy for the year ahead for students, teachers and families.

We pray that school days are filled with fun and great memories.

We pray for cheerful hearts as we journey through this school year, sharing your love and light through our words and deeds.

We give thanks for all the blessings you have given us.

Amen

School Community News

Staff 2025

Prep

Patience Barnes

Sarah Bryant

Years 1 & 2

Jess Barjasic

Emily Koutsaftis

Years 3 & 4

Leonie Cann

Joel Kearney & Cassie Benning

Hunter Merryful

Emma Clancy

Years 5 & 6

Matt de Jong & Josh Wilson

Kellie Hanley

Fiona Moran

Visual Arts P-6

Gab Costa

Digital Technologies P-6

Gab Costa

Physical Education P-2

Kate Horton

3-6

Josh Wilson

Italian P-6

Daniela Cucinotta

Performing Arts P-2

Cassie Benning

3-6

Gab Costa

Intervention Support

Kellie Barbour

Ana Clifton

Jaki Groves

Susan Perks

Principal
Deputy Principal / Learning & Teaching Leader

Renee Cunningham

Wellbeing / Learning Diversity Leader

Sonja Ginn

Religious Education Leader

Joel Kearney

Numeracy Leader

Matt de Jong

Literacy Leader

Jaki Groves

Mental Health Leader

Margie Foulkes

School Psychologist

Jye Boyle

Learning Support Officers

Ash Calnan

Maya Broszeweski

Narelle Crowe

Jack Fisher

Linda Foley

Georgia Kavenagh

Jill Mayes

Tori Monaghan

Jade Porter

Stacey Rochow

Annie Strom

Jess Tarrant

Tania West

Kath White

Library

Marg Dunn

Business Manager

Libby Fitzgerald

Office Staff

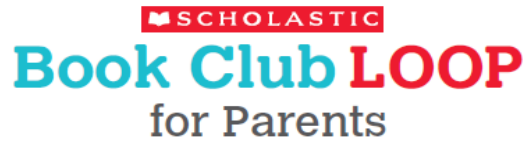
Anne Miller

Georgia Kavenagh

Bookclub is Back for 2025!

Catalogues to order from are available in classrooms for students to bring home.

Orders from **Issue 1** are due back by **Monday, February 17th**



SCHOLASTIC
Book Club LOOP
for Parents

Healthy reading habits are forged through Book Club.
Parents can order books easily through the
Scholastic **LOOP** platform.

- 1** Log in, or create a new account at scholastic.com.au/LOOP
- 2** New parents can follow the Wizard to set up a child's profile
- 3** Click the ORDER tab, and select the child's school and Issue of Book Club
- 4** Select your child's name
- 5** Enter the product item number from the Book Club catalogue
- 6** Apply promotional codes that children may have earned from previous issues
- 7** Make a payment via credit card
- 8** Feel great about the Scholastic Rewards that have been earned for the school

Book Club rewards your school

Every purchase you make earns your child's school Scholastic Rewards that can be used to purchase valuable educational resources that benefit your child.





TERM 1, 2025 - REGISTER NOW @

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SPECIALISED CHESS COACHING

Since 2002, we have been providing our popular Chess For Schools program in schools throughout Melbourne and Greater Geelong



'I am thrilled with the tremendous success of the chess program run by Chess for Schools. The students' adoration for the program is evident as they eagerly anticipate lunchtime on Tuesdays, bursting with excitement. The instructors' dedication, patience and attentiveness foster an engaging and nurturing learning environment, igniting the children's passion for chess as their skills flourish'.

Jessica Ward, Teacher - Loreto Toorak.

HOW CAN CHESS BENEFIT YOUR CHILD?

- Educational:** Improved IQ, critical thinking, concentration, analytical skills, memory.
- Social:** Develop new friendships, social interaction skills, sportsmanship.
- Emotional:** Confidence, self-esteem, resilience through winning and losing games.

CLASS STRUCTURE:

Different lessons are taught each week from a structured syllabus ranging from tactics, strategies, master openings, traps & special moves. After the lesson children are paired up in a fun tournament play off. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 players at end of term.

BOOK HERE



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CLASS DETAILS - ST MARGARETS PRIMARY - GEELONG

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DATES	COST
Wednesdays	1:30pm - 2:20pm	Multipurpose Room	05 February to 26 March	\$145 per child per term

"Alex loves chess club and gets very upset if he misses a session. His chess has definitely improved and his teacher, Anita feels that it helps with his math in class in terms of concept and thinking. Keep up the great work!"

Katherine Lambert: Hampton Primary School