

NEWSLETTER



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Margaret's
Primary School

Term One, Week 8
March 17th, 2025
#8

From Susan's Desk

Dear Families,



Last Friday's Barefoot Bowls event was a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together in a relaxed and social setting. It was wonderful to see families and friends enjoying a mix of fun and friendly competition. A huge thank you to our amazing Parents & Friends Committee for organizing such a great evening, complete with delicious food, entertaining bowls games, and exciting raffle prizes, including the ever-popular wine wall. Events like these strengthen our school community and create lasting connections.

Leadership and Management News

We also celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation last Wednesday evening, a significant milestone for our students as they received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Congratulations to all the students who took this important step in their faith journey. The ceremony was a beautiful and meaningful occasion, made possible by the dedicated efforts of Joel Kearney, whose exceptional organisation ensured everything ran smoothly. We are also grateful to Bishop Ash, Father Jim, and Father Jude for leading the celebration, as well as the Year 5/6 teachers for preparing the students with care and guidance. The gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord—serve as a guide for our students as they continue to grow in faith and character.

As we journey through the season of Lent, we take time to reflect on its significance in our Catholic tradition. Lent is a period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, encouraging us to grow spiritually and prepare our hearts for Easter. Each Friday after recess, our school gathers for a Lenten Liturgy led by our RE student leaders. These moments of prayer and reflection allow us to deepen our understanding of the sacrifices made during this season and remind us of the importance of kindness, generosity, and renewal.



Developing independence is an essential skill for our students, and we continue to encourage all children to enter the school building on their own, unpack their belongings, and prepare for the day ahead. By fostering these habits, we help build confidence, resilience, and responsibility, which will benefit them both in school and beyond. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home, as they contribute to the personal growth of each student.



A friendly reminder to all families about morning drop-offs: for safety reasons, students should not arrive at school before 8:40AM, as this is when staff supervision begins. Ensuring that children arrive within this timeframe helps us maintain a safe and supportive environment for all.

...continued over

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

Information about the upcoming school photos is attached to this newsletter. Please note that all payments and orders must be completed online before photo day to ensure your child's photos are processed. To maintain a consistent and professional look, all students are required to wear their full dress uniform on the day. Jumpers will not be worn for the class photos. Student's hair should be tied back neatly, as for a usual school day. Thank you for your cooperation in making photo day a smooth and successful event.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement in our school community. We look forward to another great week ahead!

Wishing everyone a fantastic rest of the week!

Susan Perks

This week is Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to celebrate their Catholic identity, the pivotal role they play within their local community and the strength of the sector.



The theme is 'Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you'. (Is 60: 1)

Some of our school leaders will attend the Schools' Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne on Friday.

Loving God, We thank you for our Catholic school communities in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

We pray that we may walk 'the way of the gospel' together, as we accompany each other in our learning this year. May the Holy Spirit guide us and give us new eyes, new ears and open hearts, helping us to bring your love to all we encounter.

Mary, mother of the living gospel, pray for us. We ask this prayer through Jesus our Lord and teacher, Amen.

A yellow poster for a basketball game. At the top, it says "GRADE 6 VS TEACHERS BASKETBALL GAME." Below that is a basketball with "St. Margaret" written on it. The text on the poster includes: "WHEN : Wednesday the 19th March", "HOW MUCH : \$1 for 2 raffle tickets or \$2 for 5 raffle tickets.", "WHERE: On the junior yard at lunch", "PRIZE: Game Ball", and "- The money goes towards new sports equipment." There are blue basketball graphics on the sides.

**GRADE 6 VS TEACHERS
BASKETBALL GAME.**

**St.
Margaret**

**WHEN : Wednesday the 19th
March**

**HOW MUCH : \$1 for 2 raffle
tickets or \$2 for 5 raffle tickets.**

**WHERE: On the junior yard at
lunch**

PRIZE: Game Ball

**- The money goes towards new
sports equipment.**

St Margaret's Primary School



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

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

Calendar of Events

(new items in bold)

Term One

March

Monday, March 17 th	5/6 Surfing excursion Prep Information Session: Reading at Home - 3.30pm Smile Point School Dental Visits
Monday, March 17 th -21 st	Catholic Education Week - Year of Jubilee
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	Schools' Mass St Patrick's Melbourne - selected students
Tuesday, March 25 th	School Board - 7pm SEDA sports sessions for Years One to Six
Wednesday, March 26th	Year 1/2 Excursion to Botanical Gardens Student Leadership Conference - selected students
Thursday, March 27 th	School Photos
Friday, March 28 th	Assembly Yr 1/2 - 9.15am Cross Country Parents & Friends Special Lunch
Monday, March 31 st	Project Compassion boxes due back to the office School tour - 10am

April

Tuesday, April 1 st	SEDA sports sessions for Years One to Six
Wednesday, April 2 nd	Coins for Caritas - 2.30pm P&F - 7pm in the staffroom AFL Girls 9s
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

Term Two

April

Monday, April 21st	Easter Monday public holiday
Tuesday, April 22 nd	Term Two begins
Friday, April 25th	ANZAC DAY public holiday

May

Tuesday, May 6 th	School Board 7pm
Tuesday, May 13 th	P-2 Incursion: Responsible Pet Education
Wednesday, May 21 st	National Simultaneous Storytime 12noon

June

Monday, June 9th	King's Birthday public holiday
Tuesday, June 10th	School Closure Day - Staff PL
Tuesday, June 24 th	School Board 7pm

July

Friday, July 4 th	Term Two ends - 1.30pm dismissal
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Calendar of Events

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

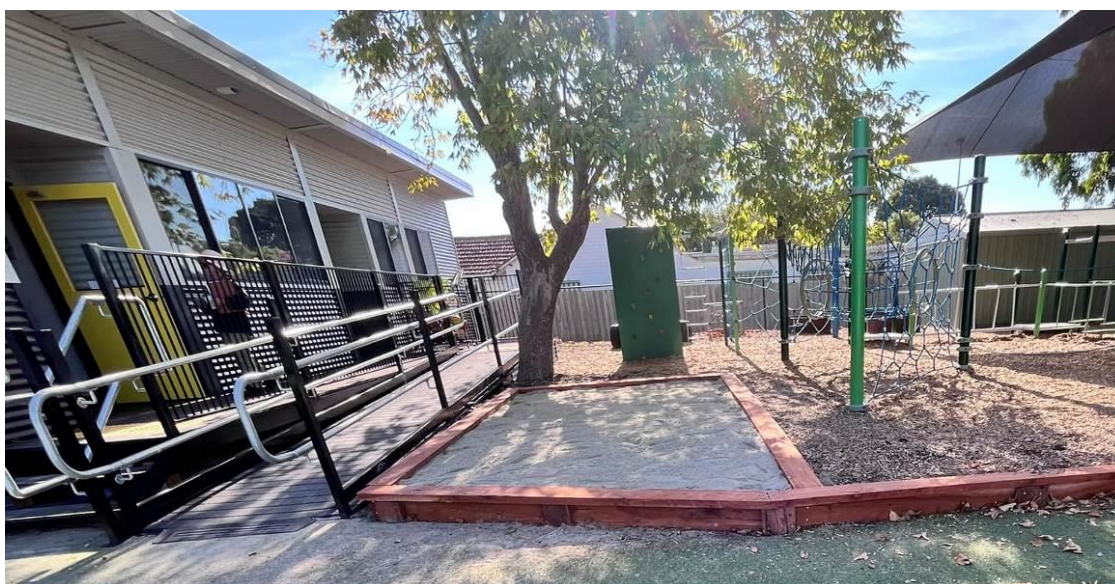
Monday, November 3rd
Tuesday, November 4th
Wed-Fri, Nov 5th-7th
Monday, November 10th
Tuesday, November 11th
Wednesday, November 12th
Thursday, November 20th

School Closure Day
Melbourne Cup Public holiday
Year 5/6 students at Camp Kangarooie
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



Our new sandpit is ready thanks to Tom the handyman!

Education in Faith News

Sacrament of Confirmation

We're delighted to share that the following 24 students recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Alexander Lacorte, Alyssa Neal, Amelia Brown, Asha Clapinski, Chloe Bidlo, Daniel Thomas, Elizabeth Mendiola, Francesca Payne, Freya Dooris, Jack Hearsch, Jai Power, Jake Poole, Lenny Spencer-Harmer, Liam Dillon, Lorenzo Manna, Maeve Noonan, Miller Clarke, Pearl Foley, Ruby O'Leary, Rylan Littlewood, Thomas O'Toole Ludena, Willow Clarke, Xavier Marshall, Zac Winterton

On Monday, February 24th, our students engaged in special learning activities focusing on the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These activities promoted deep engagement with scripture along with building teamwork skills with a focus on Gospel values.

These activities complemented the Confirmation preparation work that our Year 5/6 classes have been diligently completing. Thank you to our Year 5/6 teaching staff, Matt de Jong, Kellie Hanley, Fiona Moran and Josh Wilson with the support of Narelle Crowe and Tania West.

We celebrated the Sacrament last Wednesday, May 12th, with Bishop Martin Ashe, Fr. Jim Clarke, and Fr. Jude Johnson leading the ceremony. It was a joyous occasion for our school community, celebrating our students' faith journey and commitment to their spiritual growth.



IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise with you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God keep you
in the hollow of his hand.

**HAPPY
SAINT PATRICK'S
DAY**

**ST PATRICK'S DAY
LITURGY
2.30PM TUESDAY
MPR**



School Community News

Story Dogs

Hi, I'm Dash!

I am from **Story Dogs** and this is my handler and friend Bri. She will bring me to St Margaret's every Friday so I can listen to students read, because I love reading!

My first visit was last Friday, I had fun sniffing EVERYTHING!! So now I am ready for my first official day on Friday March 21st.

Bri will take me into classrooms and tell you how and where I like to be patted. She also keeps me on a lead so I don't run off to chase the teachers away or eat their food!



Please say hello to me and Bri when you see us, but remember not to rush up and crowd me because I might get scared, just approach me quietly and ask Bri if you can pat me. You will know it is us because we will always be wearing our orange vests.

I will see you soon,
Dash and Bri



We welcome Dash and Bri to our school. Bri is a qualified volunteer and has a WWCC.

If you would like to know anything further about Story Dogs, please contact our Literacy Literacy, Jaki Groves on jgroves@smgeelongeast.com.au



Fun Reading  Reading for Life

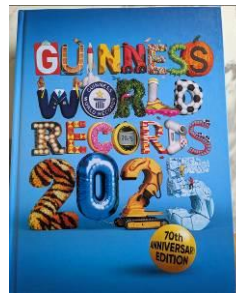
School Community News

Snapshots from the Library

Our Lunchtime Library is alive and active with students finding a cool, calm, quiet place to read. We've also begun a group learning to write 'fancy' (!) with calligraphy pens and a loom banding group. All 'whisper quiet'!



Students are able to buy loom bands in the library for 50c each or 3 for \$1. Here's what the library has purchased with the money so far...



together in faith

School Community News




**ST MARGARET'S P&F
ARE SEEKING
DONATIONS FOR OUR
ANNUAL**

EASTER RAFFLE

**TAKING DONATIONS UP
UNTIL THURS 3 APRIL**

**EASTER EGGS,
EASTER CRAFT, EASTER
COLOURING IN BOOKS -
PLEASE LEAVE AT RECEPTION**





**SPECIAL LUNCH
HOT DOG
DAY**

**FRIDAY
28TH MARCH**

**Our first
special lunch
for term 1!**

**Can you help out on
the day?**

WE WILL NEED A NUMBER OF
PARENT/GRANDPARENT HELPERS
FROM 12-2PM

together in faith

School Community News

School Photos - Thursday, March 27th

Have You Ordered Your School Photos?

Your photo day is: 27/03/2025



leadingimage.com.au

St Margaret's Primary School

DON'T MISS OUT!

To order your school photos:

1. Go to www.leadingimage.com.au
2. Click on Order Your School Photos
3. Enter your Access Key

! Individual & family photos can be ordered with the same access key. Family photographs must be ordered **before 4:30pm the night before photo day**. Please ensure your orders are placed before this time.

Access key: **YZKK65A8**



Scan to order!



SMILE PATROL
SCHOOL DENTAL

Is on its way!

**Victorian School
Dental Health Service**



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GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK



GROVEDALE TIGERS

Burdoo Reserve

Friday Nights 5:30pm
Starting May 2nd 2025

