



ST MARGARET MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 4 , Term 1, Week 8 2026

**Special
Announcements**

Mon 23rd Mar - Open Morning

Thur 2nd Apr - Easter Bonnet Parade 12pm

Thur 2nd Apr - Last day of term 1pm finish

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Over the past fortnight our school grounds have been full of energy and community spirit. From athletics events and classroom learning to celebrations of faith and inclusion, there have been many moments that reflect the life of St Margaret Mary's. These moments also remind us of the strong connection between our parish and school community; something that continues to shape the identity and mission of Catholic education.



Currently I am enjoying the privilege of serving as the Western Region Primary Principal representative, assisting Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) in reflecting on and renewing the Working Together in Mission charter. This document supports the partnership between parish priests, principals, staff and families in nurturing Catholic education and strengthening parish-school relationships. The intention is to ensure the revised charter continues to honour the rich tradition of parish-school partnership while recognising the diverse contexts in which Catholic schools now operate.

Here at St Margaret Mary's, we see this partnership lived out in very practical ways. This Sunday, you are invited to join us for the blessing of school staff and parish volunteers who actively support the mission of our parish and school community. Their generosity reminds us that Catholic education is sustained through the commitment of many people working together in faith for the good of our children.

I have enjoyed working in partnership with students from many year levels so far this term. Alongside our year 6 leaders (quiet area resourcing), school captains, (school tours, supporting junior SRCs) Evelyn's book club, and in recent weeks the F-6 SRCs have 2 initiatives approved for action.

Principal's Message

Michaela, 2025 SRC continues in her work with me to ensure our school uniform is comfortable for all students and we are meeting with Karen from Noone this Monday to see what types of winter long pants may be available for girls this year. (No major changes in uniform coming, just refinement of options) This week I have also met with Eve and Ruby about their proposal for a school concert. Plans are now underway for this event, and we look forward to sharing more details soon.

Our Athletics Carnival was a wonderful day for the whole school community. With beautiful weather and plenty of house spirit, students participated with enthusiasm and encouraged one another throughout the events. What stood out most was the sportsmanship shown by the children and the way they supported one another. Thank you to James Mitchell and Emma McGuirk for their organisation of the day, to our staff for supporting the event, and to the many parents and family members who came along to assist and cheer on the students.

We also recently welcomed prospective families to our Foundation 2027 Information Evening. It was lovely to share a glimpse of life at St Margaret Mary's and the learning opportunities available to our students. Thank you to Andrew, who spoke on behalf of our School Advisory Council, and Claire, who shared about the work of the Fundraising Social Group. Georgia and Jackson, our Year 6 School Captains, along with Alex, Maddi and Patrick, were excellent advocates for our school. Thank you also to our leadership team – Paul, Anne, Julia, Lucy and James – for their preparation and presentations on the evening.

Interest in the school continues through our regular Monday and Thursday morning tours, where families can visit classrooms and see learning in action. Foundation enrolment interviews will begin next week, and we look forward to meeting many new families over the coming weeks.



Yesterday we gathered with Fr Kapani to celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph, the patron saint of our parish. Saint Joseph is remembered as a quiet and faithful servant – someone who cared deeply for his family and responded to God with humility and trust. His example reminds us that faith is often lived through simple acts of care, responsibility and service. To mark the day, students enjoyed a casual clothes day and raised funds for St Joseph's Corner, supporting people in our local community who may be experiencing hardship.

Students also embraced Crazy Sock Day in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day. The colourful socks across the school were a joyful reminder that every person is unique and that our differences are something to be celebrated. It was a simple but meaningful way to reinforce the message that everyone belongs at St Margaret Mary's.



As the cooler and wetter months approach, a quick reminder about our morning routine. (Now that I have written this we may need sunscreen again next week!) Students are supervised in the yard from 8:30am each day. When the weather is fine, children place their bags on the green and enjoy some time in the yard with friends before the bell.

Principal's Message

On wet or inclement mornings, students place their bags in their class lines in the undercover area and wait under cover until the bell. If it's light rain or drizzle, children may continue to play outside and are encouraged to use the sheltered areas. When the rain becomes heavier, students are directed into classrooms. Students are supervised at all times, and staff on duty make consistent, professional judgements based on the conditions, particularly as Melbourne weather can change quickly. At SMM, we support children to develop independence and confidence in a range of weather conditions, while always ensuring their safety and wellbeing. During the wetter months, we recommend that children keep a light rain jacket in their school bag.



Our student leaders also had the privilege of attending the St Patrick's Schools Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral today, joining students from Catholic schools across the Archdiocese. It was a special opportunity for them to represent our school and participate in this important celebration of Catholic education.

Existing families who have a child you wish to start at SMM in 2027, please use our website link to fill in an enrolment form at your earliest convenience. Families who know others considering a Catholic primary education are always welcome to encourage them to join one of our Monday or Thursday morning tours.

As we move closer to Easter, preparations are beginning for two much-loved community events – our Easter Raffle and Easter Bonnet Parade. Our Fundraising Social Group is busy organising the raffle and families are warmly invited to support this by donating Easter eggs, Easter crafts or treats, which can be brought to the school office over the coming weeks. Students have also begun thinking about their Easter bonnet creations and we look forward to seeing their creativity on display.

Take care, Colleen

**Welcome
Gina Daley**



Gina is a provisional psychologist currently completing her Master of Clinical Psychology. Gina has experience working with children, adolescents, and adults from diverse cultural backgrounds, providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive therapeutic environment. As a dedicated psychologist, Gina works collaboratively with individuals to foster healing, personal growth, and resilience. She approaches therapy with an open mind, from a trauma-informed, holistic, and person-centred perspective. Gina recognises and values the uniqueness of human experience, adapting her approach to meet individual client needs in a way that feels safe, supportive, respectful, and meaningful.



ST. MARGARET MARY'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SPOTSWOOD



EASTER BONNET PARADE
Thursday 2nd April 12:00

Your donations of Easter eggs or crafts to the front office for our raffle hampers are gratefully appreciated, with all proceeds going towards the school

RAFFLE TICKETS
WILL BE SENT HOME
WITH STUDENTS
SHORTLY

FAMILIES INVITED
TO COME ALONG
AND SEE ALL THE
BEAUTIFUL
CREATIONS

Important Dates



TERM 1, 2026 DATES

11th - 23rd Mar	NAPLAN
15th - 22nd Mar	Catholic Education Week
Fri 20th Mar	St Patrick's Feast Day Mass
Mon 23rd Mar	Catholic Ed Week Open Morning - 9:30
Mon 30th Mar	Palm Sunday Liturgy (Foundation) - 2:45pm
Tue 31st Mar	Last Supper Liturgy (3/4s) - 2:45pm
Wed 1st Apr	Good Friday Liturgy (5/6s) - 2:45pm
Thu 2nd Apr	Easter Bonnet Parade 12pm
	Last Day of Term 1 - Students finish at 1pm



TERM 2, 2026 DATES

Mon 20th Apr	Term 2 begins
Mon 20th - Wed 22nd Apr	Grade 5/6 Camp - Phillip Island
Fri 24th Apr	ANZAC Commemoration
Mon 27th April	Student Free Day - No School
Tue 28th Apr	Class Mass - 3/4 Orange
Thu 30th Apr	School Photo Day
Mon 4th May	Assembly - Foundation Blue
Wed 6th May	Mother's Day Stall
Fri 8th May	Mother's Day Breakfast - 8:00am
Tue 12th May	Class Mass - 3/4 Purple
Thu 14th May	Confirmation Parent Evening
Mon 18th May	Assembly - 1 Green
Fri 22nd May	Winter Sports Gala Day
Tue 26th May	Class Mass - 1 Green
Wed 27th May	National Simultaneous Storytime - 12:00pm
Mon 1st Jun	Assembly - 3/4 Purple
Wed 3rd Jun	Confirmation Evening - 5:30pm
Fri 5th Jun	Student Free Day - No School
Mon 8th Jun	King's Birthday Public Holiday - No School
Fri 12th Jun	Feast of the Sacred Heart
Mon 15th Jun	Assembly - 2 Yellow
Tue 16th Jun	Class Mass - Foundation Blue
Thu 25th Jun	Parent Teacher Interviews
Fri 26th Jun	Last Day of Term - 1pm finish

Week 8 Awards

FB	Violet F - For demonstrating integrity by following classroom expectations and making thoughtful choices! Wonderful effort, Violet!
1G	Sam M - For demonstrating excellence in his learning by participating in class discussions and applying feedback to improve the quality of his work. Well done Sam!
2Y	Layla D - For displaying excellence in every learning activity and showing confidence in attempting things independently before asking for help. Keep up the great work!
3/4O	Rozalia B - For demonstrating excellence by consistently challenging herself and striving to do her very best in every learning opportunity.
3/4P	Raphael A - Congratulations to Raphael for consistently demonstrating the school value of Respect. Raphael shows kindness and consideration towards his classmates. Well done!
5L	Grace M - For consistently demonstrating perseverance in your writing and taking great care in editing and presenting your work to the highest standard. Great work!
5/6R	Lachlan M - For displaying excellence in writing by showing perseverance and actively taking on feedback to improve his work. Well done, Lachlan!



Student Representative Council

In the past fortnight, the Student Representative Council (SRC) met on two occasions to share the ideas they developed with their classes to present to Mrs McCambridge. Some of these ideas included lunch time clubs, raising money for charity, planting flowers around the school, more play equipment and sportsmanship awards.

The SRC students voted and the two ideas that polled the most votes were a lunchtime board game club and an assembly Sportsmanship Award. Together, we drafted a letter to Mrs McCambridge to present our ideas and she responded with a letter, asking some questions about our proposal. We then met again as an SRC to answer these questions to respond back to Mrs McCambridge.

In our next newsletter, we will share our proposed ideas with the school community and what these ideas will look like. It has been fantastic to see students confidently expressing their opinions, demonstrating strong student voice and agency while participating in a structured process that allows them to contribute to decisions affecting their wellbeing.



Julia Foott

Learning Partnerships and Inclusive Practices Leader

Literacy

It's hard to believe we are already heading into the home stretch of Term 1. Across all year levels, our students have been busy honing their reading, writing, and speaking skills. As we approach the end of the term, our focus has shifted toward consolidating the routines established in February and diving deeper into our genre studies, and thank you to parents for their continued encouragement in Reading at home.

The Power of "Talk Homework"

Research shows that the more children speak about complex ideas, the better they write about them. You can support our current literacy goals at home by:

1. The "Why" Game: Ask your child's opinion on a news story or a family decision and encourage them to provide three pieces of evidence to support their view.
2. Vocabulary Spotlight: If you encounter a "juicy" word while reading together (e.g., resilient, stagnant, vibrant), try to use it in conversation three times the following day.
3. Reading for Pleasure: Whether it's a graphic novel, a recipe, or a classic chapter book, 15 minutes of shared or independent reading makes a world of difference.

Teacher's Tip: Don't forget that audiobooks count! They are a brilliant way for students to access complex vocabulary and sophisticated storytelling while improving their listening comprehension.



Lucy McCarthy
Literacy - Learning Enhancement Leader

MHiPS

Mental Health in Primary Schools News

SMM is one of many Catholic primary schools participating in the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) initiative, which aims to strengthen student wellbeing and support positive mental health.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL), Kath, works with staff to promote wellbeing, build teachers' confidence in supporting students' mental health, and help identify students who may need extra support. The role is responsive to the school context and chiefly contributes to a safe and supportive learning environment for students. The MHiPS approach focuses on prevention, early support, and building partnerships to create better conditions for a child to thrive academically and emotionally.

Understanding the Children's Wellbeing Continuum

At our first parent-teacher 'meet-and-greets', staff used **The Children's Wellbeing Continuum** developed by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, to guide conversations. The Continuum is a simple framework to support students' social and emotional well-being. It recognises that children's wellbeing can change over time and exists along a continuum—from thriving to coping to struggling and sometimes experiencing significant difficulty.

This approach helps school staff notice when a child may need extra support. Many students are thriving and benefiting from positive well-being classroom practices and social and emotional learning (SEL) lessons. Some may need short-term support to help them manage challenges, while a smaller number may require more targeted or specialised help.

Using the wellbeing continuum helps schools respond early, investigate any support that may be required, and work in partnership with families to ensure every child feels safe, supported, and ready to learn.

The Wellbeing Continuum Can be a Helpful Tool for Parents. It reminds us that children's well-being changes over time and that it's normal for children to move between thriving, coping, or sometimes struggling or feeling overwhelmed. The continuum can help parents notice changes in their child's behaviour or emotions and encourage open communication between families and the school, so that, together, we can respond early and explore available supports.



© 2022 Murdoch Children's Research Institute

MHiPS

Organisation	Links, Websites, Contact
Parentworks	<u>Parentworks</u> ParentWorks is a free online program for Australian parents and caregivers of children aged 2 to 17. "It is an 'evidence-based' program, meaning it has been tested in research and found to be effective in improving parenting skills, parenting confidence and child behaviour."
Triple P	<u>Triple P Online</u> (Evidence-Based program)
Relationships Australia	<u>Child Parenting Courses Relationships Australia</u> We provide programs designed to improve the well-being and safety of children and young people, providing strategies for communication and emotional development. We also offer <u>programs to assist with co-parenting after separation.</u>
MacKillop Family Services	<u>Parenting Workshops- MacKillop Family Services</u>
Tuning in to Kids	<u>Tuning in to Kids for Parents</u> Tuning in to Kids is a suite of parenting programs that focuses on strengthening the connection between parents/caregivers and their kids. When kids and parents develop skills in effectively communicating about emotions, family relationships are stronger. Tuning in to Kids programs are evidence-based.
Raising Children Network (Australian Parenting Website)	<u>School-age behaviour</u> <u>Raising Children Network</u>
Better Health Channel	<u>Children (4-12)</u> <u>Better Health Channel</u> Information about children from 4-12 years old, including fact sheets on development, behaviour, nutrition, activity, wellbeing, identity, health, safety and trauma
Helplines and hotlines	<u>Parent helplines and hotlines</u> <u>Raising Children Network</u>
Kids Helpline for Parents	https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents We're here to help you with things like: Family, Relationships, Mental Health, School, Safety and Abuse. Talking to a Parentline counsellor can help you navigate difficult parenting dilemmas.

Kath Novak
MHiPS Leader

Athletics Carnival

On March 10th we participated in the Whole School Athletics Day. It was held at Newport Athletics Track and luckily the weather was perfect.

Prep, year 1 and 2 all participated in events such as sack racing, chuck the chook, parachute, tunnel ball and egg and spoon. They had such a fun time doing their activities because it helped them develop very good skills and teamwork. All up the year levels had an amazing time especially the preps because it was their first time and they enjoyed it.

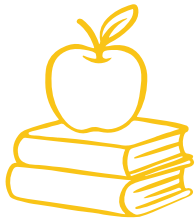
The year 3 to 6 did activities like 800 meters in the morning to warm everyone up and other active activities like long jump, triple jump, shot put, discuss, hurdles and many more activities which made everyone sore and tired the next day.

Over the day there was laughter, happiness and a lot of ribbons but at the end of the day the main thing wasn't about ribbons it was about doing your best and having fun.

We would like to thank all the parents that came to help or support us on the day. It was a great day.

The Sports Captains





Teaching & Learning Around the Rooms

Teaching & Learning

Dear Families,

As we move into the change of season, we are seeing an increase in common illnesses such as coughs, colds and fevers. To help keep our school community as healthy as possible, we kindly remind families to keep children at home if they are unwell.

Children who have a fever, persistent cough, vomiting, diarrhoea, or generally feel unwell should remain at home until they have recovered. This helps reduce the spread of illness among students and staff and supports the wellbeing of the whole school community.

We understand that managing work and family commitments can be challenging, and we appreciate families doing their best to help minimise the spread of germs. Thank you for supporting a healthy environment for all of our students.

Paul Smith

Deputy Principal - Director of Inclusive Learning & Teaching



Foundation

Prep Authors at Work

In Writing, Prep students have been developing their storytelling skills by creating a story about a mysterious box. Students explored the ideas of characters and setting, thinking carefully about who might be in their story and where it might take place. Using their growing knowledge of letters and sounds, students had a go at writing a sentence for the beginning, middle and end of their story. It has been wonderful to see students using their known letters and words to bring their creative ideas to life and begin to understand how stories are structured.

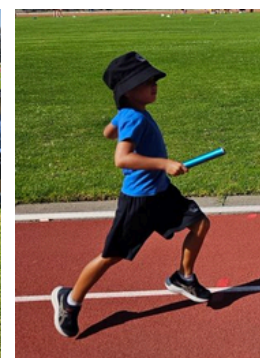
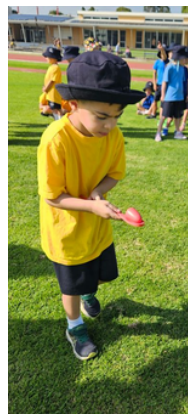
Buddy Time

We have also been enjoying special Sharing Time with their Year 5 and 6 buddies. This has been a wonderful opportunity for students to get to know each other better by learning about their interests, hobbies and favourite things. Together, they talked about how they can help and support each other throughout the year as big buddy and little Buddy.



Athletics Day Fun!

Prep students also had a fantastic time participating in Athletics Day, showing great determination and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. They enthusiastically cheered on their classmates and gave every activity a go. Students took part in a range of fun events including sack races, egg and spoon races, tunnel ball, baton relays and running races. They also enjoyed some extra fun with the parachute and throwing the chook. It was a wonderful day filled with energy, encouragement and team spirit.



1 Green

Curriculum:

Every morning we are beginning our day with 10 minutes of targeted whiteboard work. Not only are the students supported to have a more successful transition into the content, they are receiving timely feedback on sentence writing concepts and formation of numerals and letters.

We also have special books that are used three times a week for explicit handwriting instruction, with 1 Green working hard to make sure every sentence is a 'super sentence'. The students are in the successful routine of combining actions with the correct language to remember the components needed in a sentence.

Our fruit snack routine has become targeted teaching time, a way we maximise learning in 1 Green. The students participate in a read-aloud, and engage in a series of comprehension questions while enjoying their snack. Following fruit snack, we remain on the mat to engage in 10mins of Heggerty. This phonemic awareness program combines movement and choral responses to allow students to better identify the sounds in each word.

These three short, sharp experiences within our day have had a wonderful impact on the quality of writing produced in 1 Green.

Athletics Day:

Last Tuesday's Athletics Day was a wonderful opportunity for students to shine outside of the classroom. 1 Green participated to their fullest during every activity, demonstrating the skills they have learned during PE lessons this year. The parachute and chuck the chook were by far the most memorable. We even have some future track stars in Year 1, with the class all eager to run a whole lap around the track!



Year 2

Each morning this fortnight, we began our day with stamina writing. We are given a topic and 5 minutes on the timer, to just keep writing. We don't worry about spelling or asking for help, we just try to remember what a sentence needs and write, write, write.

12/3/25 elephants have long necks and live in most places but most elephants live in africa. Places were you can see them the Zoo

11/3/26 Topic: Athletics Day I had fun weddied. Egg and spoon rase we did the long geump. And chuch the chach but my faffit was the rassing.

In Core Knowledge, we have been exploring the Geography of Australia and have just begun looking at Ancient India. In Religion we have looked at the first few significant days of Holy Week; Palm Sunday and The Last Supper. In Maths, we have wrapped up our time unit by exploring calendars and in week 8 have begun to put our addition and subtraction skills to the test using tens frames and number lines as a visual resource. In Social Emotional Learning we have been discussing and brainstorming ways we can make friends, calm ourselves down or cheer ourselves up.

In Literacy we have been continuing our spelling and comprehension journey by reading a familiar narrative text and breaking it down into parts for a story map.

Willow			
Zim/Elly/mum Skate park School home	nervous friends won't be able to say it right Zim is trying to shorten his name	tries to shrink his name is the dryer	tries to shrink crumple his name into a ball
tries to fold it like origami	Mum says give people a chance to say it right because it's special	Elly taught him to skate board and accepted his name	Zim did the trick and used his whole name

Harvey			
Zim/Elly/mum home school skate park	friends won't be able to say it right ZIM is trying to shorten his name	tries to shrink his name is the dryer	tries to shrink crumple his name into a ball
tries to fold it like origami	Mum says give people a chance to say it right because it's special	Elly taught him to skate board and accepted his name	Zim did the trick and used his whole name

3/4 Orange

It has been a wonderful and eventful fortnight in 3/4 Orange!

Last Tuesday, we enjoyed a fantastic Athletics Day where students showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and house spirit. Our Year 3 students also successfully completed NAPLAN, and we are incredibly proud of the effort and positive attitude they showed throughout the testing period.

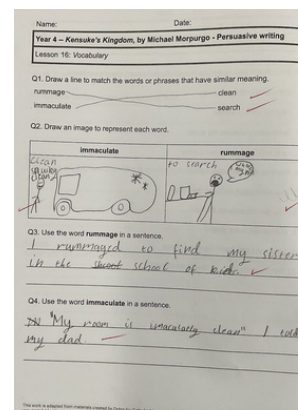
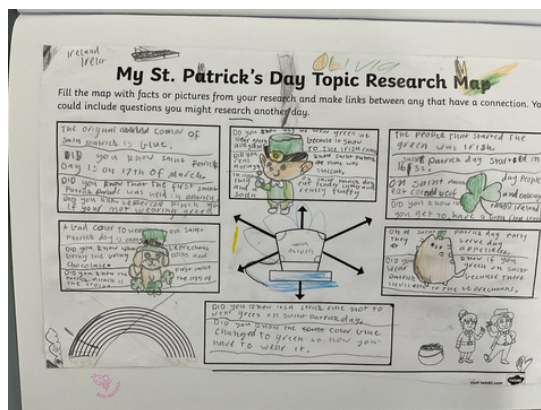
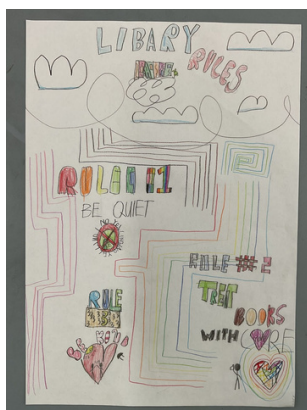
In Numeracy, we completed our learning about multiplication and division, using arrays to help us understand these concepts in a visual and practical way. We will expand on this knowledge again next term!



In Literacy, we have been learning about high modality words and how to write a body paragraph in a persuasive text.

In Geography, students have begun an exciting research project on a specific river, building their inquiry, researching and note-taking skills.

In Religion, we explored the significance of St Patrick's Day and its importance within the Catholic tradition. Students also demonstrated creativity and responsibility by designing library rules posters, which were entered into our school competition.



3/4 Purple

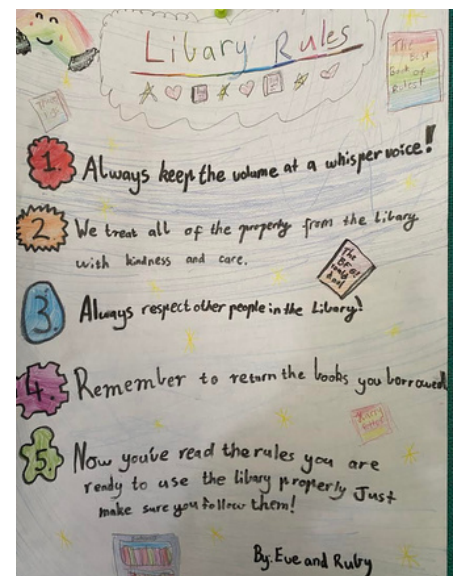
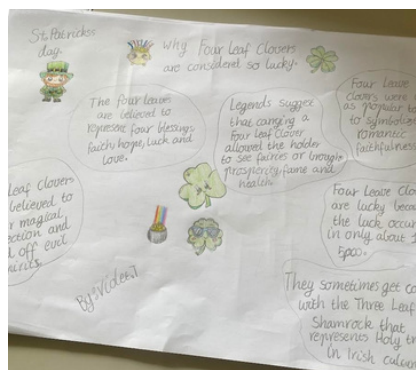
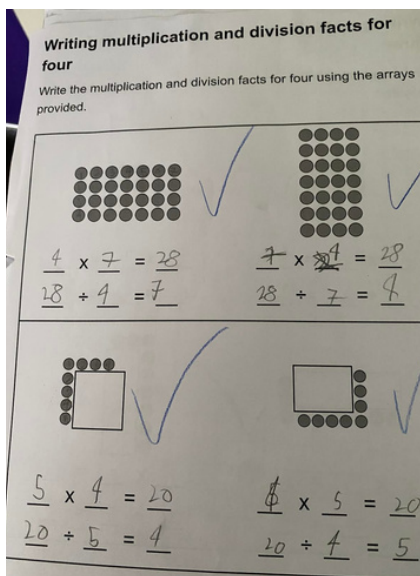
3/4 Purple have had another busy and productive few weeks of learning.

In Geography, students have begun their project on a river from around the world, where they are researching its location, features and importance to the people, farms and cities that rely on it.

The class also spent time learning about the meaning behind Saint Patrick's Day, exploring the history and traditions connected to this special day.

In Maths, students have been developing their understanding of multiplication and division through a variety of strategies and problem-solving activities, and we will soon begin our next focus on learning about time.

A big congratulations to our Year 3 students for the wonderful way they approached their NAPLAN assessments. They sat beautifully and completed their tests with very few technical issues. A big thank you also to parents for supporting students by ensuring laptops were charged and headphones were packed.



5 Lime

The past few weeks have been very busy in 5 Lime!

After the long weekend, our whole school came together for the annual athletics day. It was fantastic to see students giving their best effort, encouraging their classmates, and celebrating each other's successes. Many students surprised themselves with what they were able to achieve!

During Week 7 and part of Week 8, students have been working hard to demonstrate their learning during the NAPLAN assessments. We are very proud of the effort and focus shown by everyone throughout this time.

In our Core Knowledge lessons, we have been exploring the Americas, and will be learning about the fascinating Maya, Aztec and Inca civilisations. Students have enjoyed brushing up on their geographical knowledge, using maps to infer comprehension questions.

Our buddy sessions have been a wonderful opportunity for students to spend time together and get to know one another better. It has been lovely to see the Year 5 and 6 students stepping up and taking the lead as they support and guide their buddies through the activities.



Junior School Council Meeting

On the 6th of March, the Wellbeing Captains (Maddisen S, Alex S, and Patrick L) went to the Junior Council meeting. At the council meeting, there were students representing their schools from all around Hobsons Bay. Each school chose a student to raise awareness about an issue at their school and got to bring it up with the Mayor of Hobsons Bay.

For example, we had Alex representing our school. He talked about what we have been up to this term and how he would like to create more events for the craftier kids, like an art show or a science fair. Some other students talked about air pollution, more school crossings, or making more rules about e-bikes. This really made the Mayor think about more choices and ideas for the nearby areas. She was impressed with all the ideas and noted them down to bring up at future council meetings.



In the last part of the Junior Council meeting, we had some guest speakers talk to us about different issues in our local community. The first presentation was about microchipping pets. This taught us about the fines you could get if you are not a responsible pet owner. The second presentation was about School Crossing Guards and all about the safety they provide when helping people cross the road.

It was really interesting to learn more about the role of the mayor and the local council. We are looking forward to the next meeting in Term 2!

Written by Alex, Patrick, and Maddisen (2026 Wellbeing Captains)

Specialists

Music

Here are a few photos of our SMM students enjoying music-making in class. Our Grade 5/6 students are now independently practising switching between the chords they have learned and are ready to begin their first songs, *Bull Frog Blues* and *Funky Fish*. Meanwhile, our Juniors and Middles have been working in groups to compose their own rhythms and perform them using percussion instruments.



Specialists

AUSLAN

Here are some of our Middle students performing their own skits *Lost in the City* using Auslan. Students worked in small groups to create short scenes using the signs they have been learning, such as city, street, left, right and lost. They enjoyed acting out their stories while practising their signing and building confidence communicating in Auslan.



Get Your Glue Guns Ready... The Easter Bonnet Parade is Here!

It's time to raid the craft cupboard and find your most festive feathers! All are invited to our annual Easter Bonnet Parade, a day of high fashion, creative chaos, and holiday spirit.

The Details

- When: Thursday, April 2nd
- Time: 12:00pm Sharp
- Where: The Main School Court (or the Hall if the weather decides not to play nice!)

Important: Early Departure

Please note that the parade is our grand finale for the term! Students will head home for the school holidays immediately following the parade.

Quick Tips for Success:

1. Chin Straps are your friend: Wind happens! A little bit of elastic goes a long way in keeping those creations on heads.
2. Comfort is Key: If the hat is taller than the student, make sure they can still see where they're walking!

Recycle & Re-use: Some of the best bonnets we've seen started as cereal boxes or egg cartons.



How much screen time is okay for our kids?

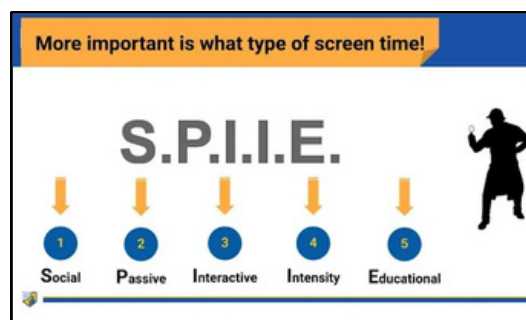
Shifting our thinking from how much screen time to also include what kind of screen time. I often get asked by parents, "how much screen time is ok for my kids?". Well, here's the thing, when we use the term 'screen time', it can refer to such a myriad of different ways in which we engage with screens. It is time we reconsidered the generic use of the term 'screen time', and here's why.

Consider how different the following activities are, that are all loosely categorised as screen time:

- Building an imaginative city in Minecraft collaboratively with their sibling
- Watching "epic fail" videos
- Playing an intense, multiplayer, first person shooter game
- Watching a Disney film
- Learning a language using an app like Duolingo

As you can see, it is clear that not all screen time is created equal! We need to start reshaping our understanding of screen time to be much more than just a number of hours per day/week but instead focus more on the type of screen time.

Click on the video on the right below to watch a video where I explain a simple way that you, together with your children, can use the **SPIIE** challenge to start reflecting on the different types of screen time. From this reflection comes balance, and after all, balance is the key!



Marty McGauran
Inform & Empower

EASTER BONNET PARADE

Thursday 2nd April 12:00

Your donations of Easter eggs or crafts to the front office for our raffle hampers are gratefully appreciated, with all proceeds going towards the school

RAFFLE TICKETS
WILL BE SENT HOME
WITH STUDENTS
SHORTLY



FAMILIES INVITED
TO COME ALONG
AND SEE ALL THE
BEAUTIFUL
CREATIONS





Please join us for our school Holy Week events

Palm Sunday Liturgy

Monday, 30th March 2:45pm

Hosted by Foundation

Last Supper Liturgy

Tuesday, 31st March 2:45pm

Hosted by 3/4s

Good Friday Liturgy

Wednesday, 1st April 2:45pm

Hosted by 5/6s

Easter Bonnet Parade & Easter Raffle

Thursday, 2nd April 12:00pm

Please donate chocolate eggs!





Parent/Carer Newsletter

2

Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Working
together for
Child Safety

Child Safe Standard 2

“Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.”

Rooted in the Gospel and the teachings of the Church, MACS Catholic schools uphold the sacred dignity of every child as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). This belief places Catholic educators in a privileged and profound position to protect and nurture the most vulnerable.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Overview of Child Safe Standard 2:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- A public commitment to child safety
- Champion a child safe culture at all levels
- Ensure governance supports child safety policies
- Develop and enforce a Code of Conduct
- Implement risk management strategies that focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks to children
- Ensure staff, volunteers and contractors understand their obligation and the role they play in keeping children and young people safe. This includes information sharing and record keeping.

The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organisations create safe environments for children and young people.

They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to, and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies, and a culture that puts children first.

As a parent or carer, you can expect organisations to involve families, empower children, train staff properly, and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.

This standard promotes a shared responsibility for safety across the entire school community and all levels of the organisation. It ensures a child safe culture is actively championed and modelled from the top down and bottom up.

Working together for Child Safety



What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Leadership commitment:** School leaders actively promote child safety and wellbeing as a priority in decision-making and daily operations.
- **Ongoing training and professional development:** Staff are provided with ongoing training and professional development opportunities that increase capacity and confidence surrounding all aspects of child safety.
- **Clear governance:** Policies and procedures reflect child safety responsibilities and are regularly reviewed, updated and publicly available.
- **Staff modelling safe behaviours:** Expectations of staff are clearly defined. All staff demonstrate respectful, inclusive, and protective behaviours towards children. All staff are encouraged and empowered to speak up if any alternative is observed.
- **Ongoing culture building:** Child safety is embedded in school values, professional development, and community engagement with the objective to continually improve practice.
- **Thorough recruitment processing:** Applicable to all staff working in a school context, extending to volunteers and contractors. Valid credentials, references and Working with Children Checks apply. Ongoing monitoring and supervision of all staff and intervention if required.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Here's how you can support:

- **Familiarise** yourself with the school's child safety policies and understand how they support student wellbeing.
- **Provide feedback** when you notice something that may impact a child's safety or wellbeing.
- **Support** your child when they express their views and that their opinions are valued and heard.
- **Join in** on school activities, parent committees or forums that promote child safety and wellbeing.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).

Working together for Child Safety



Reviewed: January 2026



OPEN MORNING

You Are Invited!

Join us for a tour of
St. Margaret Mary's
Primary School, Spotswood.



MONDAY
MARCH 23RD

REGISTER NOW
VIA OUR **QR CODE**

9.30am | 10am | 10:30 am

All members of the community are warmly invited to come along and see our school for yourselves, and discover why we are proudly known as "the gem of the West."



181 Hudsons Road, Spotswood 3015 (enter via Arras st)

www.smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au

P: [03 9391 3118](tel:0393913118)

*Upcoming celebration and fundraisers
so that you can plan ahead!*

MOTHER'S DAY STALL & BREAKFAST

Mother's Day Stall:
Wednesday 6th May


Held throughout the school day.
Items available, ranging from \$3 to \$10.

Mother's Day Breakfast:
Friday 8th May, 8am


Tea, coffee and simple breakfast provided.

Photo booth entertainment.

More details to follow.



ST ALOYSIUS
NORTH MELBOURNE 1887




A Journey of Excellence

Year 7 2028 and 2029 Now Enrolling

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY

Year 7 2028 Applications Closing
14th August 2026



31 Curran Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051
03 9325 9200
E: enquiry@aloyus.vic.edu.au
W: www.aloyus.vic.edu.au

Be Curious.
Become Brilliant.



book a tour today

Places available for 2027 and beyond.




ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Upcoming Tour Dates

- 19 March
- 31 March
- 23 April
- 14 May
- 28 May
- 11 June
- 23 June
- 16 July

www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au



COME & TRY HOCKEY




Who: 4 -12 year olds NEW to the game of hockey
Where: Footscray Hockey Club, Fogarty Ave Yarraville (Down by the Westgate Freeway)
Time:
U6 5.15 – 6.00 Wed
U8 & U10 5.30 – 6.30 Wed
U12 Girls 5.30 – 6.45 Tue
U12 Boys 5.30 – 6.45 Thu
Book a Try: come-and-try@footscrayhockey.com.au
Cost: FREE!
Equipment: All equipment provided!

Fun **Friendly** **Inclusive** **Engaging**

Come and Try enquiries please contact:
Nicole 0424 132 715 come-and-try@footscrayhockey.com.au
www.footscrayhockey.com.au Facebook: @footscrayhockey



NEW U12 GIRLS TO CLUB HOCKEY HALF SEASON FEES




Any new girl in the U12 age group born 2014 & 2015 who is registering for club hockey for the first time will receive half season fee discount in their first year (only \$175 usually \$350). We can also lend a stick and shin guards for the season.

Fun **Friendly** **Inclusive** **Engaging**

Come and Try enquiries please contact:
Nicole 0424 132 715 come-and-try@footscrayhockey.com.au
www.footscrayhockey.com.au Facebook: @footscrayhockey

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Sharpen your footy skills at one of our School Holiday Programs
Suitable for kids aged 4-12.

MISSION WHITTEN OVAL, FOOTSCRAY
FRIDAY, 10 & 17 APRIL

SCAN TO BOOK

LANARD COPELAND

ALTONA SPORTS CENTRE
Altona Sports Centre
Altona Park Drive
Altona VIC 3211

SCAN ME

WED 8 - THURS 9 APRIL
9am - 3pm

AUTUMN HOLIDAY BASKETBALL CAMP
2026

OPEN TO ALL BALLERS AGED 5-14 YEARS

\$170 PER PERSON

BYO LUNCH, WATER & BASKETBALL

BOOK BEFORE 30 MAR 2026 TO GO INTO THE DRAW TO WIN A 3-IN-1 GAMES TABLE!

For more info and to register, visit online at altonasportscentre.com.au

AIS SPECTRUM GROUP Emmanuel College Reebok HOBSONS BAY PHYSIOTHERAPY fb Facebook

Ages 5-13

Holiday Camps on sale now!

MINECRAFT • Coding
Robotics • Animation • Craft & more

Book now at codecamp.com.au/flyer

SAVE \$25 Use coupon code **FLYER25** at checkout

Supported by **W GROUP**



MOUNT ST. JOSEPH
GIRLS' COLLEGE
Virtue Courage

Open Mornings

9-11.30am

(All Dates)

Thursday, 5 March, 29 April,
18 June, 18 July, 13 August

Visit us and experience the College on a typical school day.

Step into our classrooms to see learning in action and enjoy a tour with our student ambassadors.

You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and gain authentic insight into our programs and life at Mount St. Joseph Girls' College.



Register to Attend

Educating today, shaping tomorrow.

133 Maidstone St, Altona VIC 3018
(03) 8398 2000
www.msj.vic.edu.au



MOUNT ST. JOSEPH
GIRLS' COLLEGE
Virtue Courage

Open Day

Sunday, 17 May 2026
10am - 2pm

Come and discover our welcoming learning and faith community.

Meet our Principal, connect with our passionate staff and students, and experience our dynamic curriculum first-hand.

Enjoy a guided tour of our innovative facilities, led by our wonderful student ambassadors.



Register to Attend

Educating today, shaping tomorrow.

133 Maidstone St, Altona VIC 3018
(03) 8398 2000
www.msj.vic.edu.au





Free workshop

1 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers

Yarraville, VIC



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to register

This workshop is for parents, full time carers and grandparents.



Wednesday
13 May, 2026
9:15am to 3:00pm



Yarraville Club
135 Stephen Street
YARRAVILLE VIC 3013

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided



Interpreters available upon request

During the workshop you will learn about:

- The diversity of autism
- Sensory processing
- Working together with your child's school.

Learn more about autism and neurodiversity-affirming ways to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

For more information or to register visit:

www.positivepartnerships.com.au/PC
 jfeary@positivepartnerships.com.au



0477 574 746

Positive Partnerships is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education. The views expressed within this program do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.



At St Margaret Mary's, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of our children as a central and fundamental responsibility of all staff of our school.



As a Catholic Community we respect the Yalukit Willam and Boonwurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation, traditional custodians of the land upon which our school resides, and commit ourselves to reconciliation and justice for all in our community and nation.

St Margaret Mary's students are independent life-long learners inspired by Gospel values and empowered with a sense of purpose and responsibility. They confidently engage with others and are equipped with skills to adapt to an ever changing world.

Follow our social media accounts for the latest news and learning from around the school:



@stmargaretmarysspotswood



St Margaret Mary's Primary School - Spotswood



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



**ST. MARGARET MARY'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SPOTSWOOD**