



Important Dates

9.15 School Tour
Monday 20 February

Student Free Day -
OSHC available
Monday 27 February

Adelaide Cup Public
Holiday
Monday 13 March

Parent Teacher
Conversations
Week
Monday 20 March

SACPSSA Swimming
Thursday 30 March

Sports Day
Friday 31 March

Good Friday
Friday 7 April

Easter Monday
Monday 10 April

Last day of Term 1
- 3pm finish
Friday 14 April

From our Principal



Over the past weeks our primary students have been discussing leadership and how they can be an authentic leader at St Margaret Mary's School. Our upper primary Student Leadership Team met for the first time this week, and the list of these leaders are outlined in Mr Harrison's report later in the newsletter. Congratulations to all students involved.

We have also elected our Sports Captains for the year and these students have an important role in organising and leading our sports day later this term.

Congratulations to:

Gia and Markus (Blue)

Celeste and Deng (Green)

Yalda and Jett (Red)

Justina and Henry (Yellow)

Our School Board met for the final time of our 2022 reporting year and are planning for our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 22nd March. We require at least 3 more parent nominations. Being a member of the school board is a great way to contribute to our community and help shape our continual improvement.

School Board and Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22nd March 2023

6.30pm St Margaret Mary's School

Our AGM will be a 'paper AGM'. The reports will be made available to the community prior to this meeting, and I welcome any questions or queries.

We are calling for nominations for the school board.

The school board does not require a huge commitment, it is 2 meetings each school term (6.30-8pm, on a Wednesday evening). The school board is important in shaping policy and future direction of the school. It is a vital part of parent voice and is a great chance to

meet other parents, offer ideas and discuss school planning. You do not require any particular experience other than an interest in the strategic direction our school.

Please give me a call (or catch a staff member in the yard) if you'd like to discuss.

An expression of interest for nomination can be made via email to info@smms.catholic.edu.au

There is also some information about school boards at <https://www.schoolboards.cesa.catholic.edu.au/recruitment/for-parents/joining-a-board>

News from Ms Boylan

The term is moving very quickly and we have already had many events happen within the school. Such events provide an opportunity for us to come together as a community, meet parents and carers and get to know the different families within the school.

A big thank you to all families who were able to attend the **Parent Welcome and Information Evening**. The children are always excited to come along to school after hours and to bring their families in to show them around. It is wonderful to see the children so proud and excited to be at the school!

We have had our first **Whole School Mass**, which is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together to give thanks for the new school year and to welcome new staff and students. This was then followed by a **Commissioning Mass** as part of the Parish's Sunday Mass.

Later this term we will also be having our **Parent Teacher Learning Conversations** (Week 8) and **Sports Day** (March 31). We look forward to these events as it provides a range of different opportunities for families to come into the school and participate actively in their child/ren's schooling.

Healthy Eating at School

It has been pleasing to walk around the school and seeing the wide variety of healthy food choices that students have in their lunchboxes. As we have been having some warmer days, you may like to put an icepack in the lunchbox, or to add ice to water bottles, however all school bags are stored inside and are not exposed to the hot outdoor temperatures.

Please read through the article that I wrote in Week 1 regarding healthy eating....

At St Margaret Mary's School and Preschool we encourage **healthy eating**. All year levels have a healthy snack in the morning, which should include fresh fruits and/or vegetables.

All classes eat their main 'lunch' at around 11.20-11.30am, when the orders are delivered. We encourage children to eat a healthy and substantial meal which may include sandwiches, rice, noodles or last night's leftovers! Children then have another snack after their second play.

As a nut-aware school, children should not be having Nutella, nuts or nut bars. We also strongly discourage children having sweets or chocolates. Your child may be asked to take home chocolate bars etc as these are not appropriate for school or preschool.

We also ask that children only drink **water** at school. There are taps both inside and outside that allow children to drink cool water or refill their water bottles throughout the day.

Volunteering At School

Many of the events offered by the school require the support of volunteers to make them successful. These include Sports Day and Swimming Lessons (Term 2 Week 4 (R-2) and Week 6 (3-5)), as well as excursions and community events such as the Mid-Autumn Festival. If you or anyone in your family would like to become a registered volunteer at the school, please contact Angela for further details. There is a process that Angela is able to support volunteers with.

It is difficult to become a volunteer at short notice and we strongly encourage you to become a volunteer at the beginning of the school year, so that you are ready and available when you would like to support your child in this way.

Occasional Care and Playgroup

Occasional Care and Playgroup have started for 2023. These provide an opportunity for children to visit and become familiar with the Preschool learning space prior to beginning Preschool.

Occasional Care is available on Wednesday mornings. Children must be registered prior to attending Occasional Care. Please contact

Angela if you would like to enquire about your younger children beginning Occasional Care.

Playgroup is available on Friday mornings. Vicky Manalo runs Playgroup. She provides a welcoming program that encourages young children and their parent/carers to explore, play, sing and learn together.

Please feel free to talk to your friends or family members about the early years experiences that are offered at St Margaret Mary's School.

Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you at school soon.

Alicia



APRIM News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

On Thursday 9 February, we gathered for our Beginning of Year Mass celebration. Following the Mass we presented Welcome Certificates to the students in our two new Reception classes and new students across the school.

Continuing with the new year, school staff also received a Commissioning Blessing on Sunday 12 February as part of the 10:30am Family Mass. It has been wonderful to share both celebrations with our Parish Priest Fr Charles Lukati, our families and parishioners.

Sacramental Program

We currently have 10 students enrolled in the 2023 Sacramental Program and most of the families were able to join us on Wednesday 8 February for a Parent Information and Reconciliation Meeting.

On Sunday 19 February, the sacramental candidates will be presented to the parish at either St Patrick's 8:30am Mass or St Margaret Mary's 10:30am Mass. If you would like to enrol your Baptised child in the program, there is still time. Forms can be collected from the school front office.

Student Leadership Team

On Monday 20 February, we will have a Year 5/6LO 2:20pm assembly. As part of the assembly, we will officially acknowledge our new Semester 1 Student Representatives. As such, our Student Representatives are asked to wear their badges to the assembly on Monday.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is on the 21 February. Christians traditionally used up their fresh foods like milk and eggs in preparation for a time of fasting in Lent. Therefore, on Tuesday the students will have the option to enjoy one plain "Golden" pikelet (small pancake). No donation is needed. The pikelets will include dairy, egg and wheat.

If your child has special dietary requirements and you do not want them to have a pikelet please let their teacher know. Families considering specific dietary requirements, may alternatively prepare a pancake in the lunchbox for their child to enjoy at this time.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on the 22 February. As part of Ash Wednesday our students are invited to receive ashes. The ashes come from the palms used during the previous year's Palm Sunday Eucharistic celebration. Receiving the ashes helps us to reflect that from ashes springs new life. To our students this means being 'the best version of themselves.'

The Year 3-6 classes will attend a 9:15am Mass at St Margaret Mary's Church and Preschool to Year 2 classes will attend a 11:30am Liturgy at St Margaret Mary's Church. All families are welcome to attend our Ash Wednesday gathering and if you wish receive a cross of ashes on your forehead with the children.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Matthew Harrison

Student Free Day



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)



We are excited that we can offer some specialist STEM learning for students this year. Our Year 3-6 students have already started their learning with Will Dacombe-Bird...

I would like to formally introduce myself as the new STEM teacher at St Margaret Mary's School. I believe that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) is such an important multi-disciplined way of learning and I'm very excited to introduce it to the school as a specialist subject. Students will be afforded opportunities to learn about and investigate all 4 of the subject areas in an integrated manner, making the most of the 1 to 1 digital technology provided to the years 3 - 6 students. In semester 1, I will be working closely with the year 3/4 & 5/6 teachers to deliver an authentic and comprehensive STEM program, with focuses on earth & space science for the 3/4 classes, and physical science with the year 5/6s. I also look forward to terms 3 and 4 where I will have the opportunity to work with the junior primary classrooms to deliver a similar STEM curriculum.

Looking forward to meeting you all!

Will Dacombe-Bird (Mr DB)

Gifted and Talented Program at St. Margaret Mary's School



My name is Greg Parker and my role this year at SMMS is to support the school in identifying students who would most benefit from a program aimed to enrich and extend their thinking skills. Once we have selected individuals and formed groups, we shall commence our programs aimed at challenging and supporting those who demonstrate high intellectual, social and emotional intelligence (these students

are referred to as Gifted and Talented children). I am very excited about this initiative as whilst provision for our Gifted and Talented is a Catholic Education S.A. priority, St. Margaret Mary's School is very much an early adopter and innovator in this space.

A little bit about me. I developed a passion for Gifted and Talented Education undertaking my undergraduate studies and my first teaching position was Teacher of Gifted and Talented in Sydney. I also ran camps for children from a range of schools, offering out of school enrichment programs. I became particularly focused on Mathematics enrichment and continued this when I moved to Adelaide in the 1990's. Here I took up classroom teaching, then a Mathematics Consultant for seven years with CESA, a Deputy Principal, then Principal of St. Monica's and St. Pius X schools. I retired as Principal in 2021 but jumped at the opportunity to complete the full circle and give back to Gifted and Talented education in my final career years. My belief is that Gifted and Talented children have complex needs like other children and if not harnessed, these needs can lead to unrealized potential and often poor educational outcomes, particularly in later years of school. There is a misconception that these 'bright' children will always be successful in their schooling. Our Gifted Students need support and challenge.

Our plan is to run a range of enrichment and extension programs, initially from Year 2-6, with Year 1's joining later in the year. Children will come in and out of the program depending on their strengths and interests. We will commence with Thinking Skills, Philosophy for Children and later introduce Mathematical Challenges and Problem Solving.

Over the past two weeks I have been undertaking a process to help identify children who will benefit from the program. This has included extensive surveys of 2022 teachers, exploring assessment data of each child, interviewing leadership, surveying all Year 2-6 students and finally Parent/ Caregiver surveys that were sent out this week. (Please let your child's teacher know if you have not received this survey.)

Other initiatives will include a lunchtime Chess club for interested students. The 'Tournament of Minds' and Children's University will also be a component of the Gifted and Talented program at St. Margaret Mary's School.

To help assist parents of the children in the first cohort, I will be holding a Parent Information Session in coming weeks. If your child is not selected in the first round, children with other strengths will be identified and may be included in the program as the year progresses.

I am looking forward to working with the community at St Margaret Mary's School.

Thank you, Greg Parker

School Times & Term Dates

Front Office: 8.30am - 3.45pm

Student Supervision: 8.30am - 3.20pm

Classes: 8.45am - 3.00pm

Term 1: Monday 30 January to Friday 14 April;

Term 2: Monday 1 May to Friday 7 July;

Term 3: Monday 24 July to Friday 29 September;

Term 4: Monday 16 October to Friday 15 December

Preschool Times



Group 1: Monday & Tuesday 8.45am - 2.45pm;
Wednesday 8.45am - 11.45am

Occasional Care: Wednesday 9-12 (bookings required)

Group 2: Wednesday 12.15pm-3.15pm;
Thursday & Friday 8.45am - 2.45pm

Crossing Monitors

Thank you to these students who have volunteered to be crossing monitors:

Week 3 - Kira, Celeste, Isabella

Week 4 - Yalda, Gia, Alexis

Week 5 - Elena, Jessie, Rebecca

Uniform Shop Times



Tuesday: 2.30pm - 3.30pm;
Friday: 8.30am - 10.00am

OSHC Hours



Morning: 6.30am - 8.30am;
Afternoon: 3.00pm - 6.15pm
Phone Camp Australia: 1300 105 343

[Read More](#)

Student Absences

Student Absences/ Late Arrivals

When a student is absent or going to be late, parents should notify the school by 9am on that day by texting the Absentee Line on 0407 682 137, emailing absent@smms.catholic.edu.au or phoning (08) 8245 5855.

You will need to state the following:

Name of Child;

Year Level;

Reason for Absence (if late, approximately what time your child will arrive)

Phone: 8245 5855 (answering service - call anytime)

Email: absent@smms.catholic.edu.au

SMS: 0407 682 137

Croydon Park Catholic Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Charles Lukati

Ph: 8346 0944

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday

We wish the following students who celebrate a birthday in January and February a very happy and blessed birthday:

Lachlan	1VC	Liam	5/6LO
Layla	5/6LO	Crystal	3/4KR
Katelyn	3/4JM	Tungavidya	2KB
Evelyn	PRE2	Anisha	5/6LC
Dhairya	2KB	Diesel	3/4JM
Ajay	RRB	Adam	5/6LC
Gurshabad	1VC	Pano	3/4JM
Nira	3/4MC	Minha	RRB
Audrey	5/6LO	Helena	5/6LO
Joshua	5/6LC	Siya	2KB
Han	PRE2	James	1VC
Raymond	2KB	Liliya	5/6LC
Sohail	PRE2	Hannah	2NW
Rachel	3/4JM	Sunny	2KB
Ivy	5/6GG	Jackson	5/6GG
Raymond	2NW	Dan	3/4JM
Ayden	2NW	Jordan	1VC
Alexis	5/6LC	Rubysiang	10V
Scotti	RRB	Selena	3/4JM
Athena	2KB	Isabella	3/4KR
Apuk	5/6GG	Cooper	3/4JM
Amber	3/4MC	Senna	2NW
Mary	10V	Elijah	RML
		Louis	RRB
		Lucas	RRB

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Newsletter

Date St Margaret Mary's 13th February 2023



handball

Hi Everyone

HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(March 20-24, 2023)



Yes, the National Handball Championships are back for round three. At Camp Australia, the children are at the heart of everything we do, and our OSHC service is all about inspiring children. The National Handball Championships has been created to give children the chance to showcase their skills in the game they love the most. Children will be participating in the Rocketeers Championships and the OSHC Championships to make their way to the Regional Championships. Every service winner will progress to the Regional Championships, where they will compete against the best of the best to take home the ultimate prize and the beautiful glory of being the Handball Champion 2023.

Next week we are focusing on Recycling, using plastics, paper, cardboard, boxes, glass, and pegs. By improving our recycling habits, we can help keep the environment clean and preserve our natural resources.

WEEK 4



Monday	Growing Plants from Food Scraps, Recycled Bottle Planter
Tuesday	Recycled Junk Modelling, Recycled Garden Scare Crow, Handball Practice
Wednesday	Recycled Plastic Bird Feeders, Recycled Cardboard Pen Holders
Thursday	Nature Flower Crowns, Recycled Bottle Penguins, Handball Practice
Friday	Creating with Recycled Boxes, Recycled Dragon Fly Pegs

Please phone Camp Australia 1300-105-343 for bookings, rebates will apply.

To find out more about the program, view fees and to register, visit.

www.campastralia.com.au Keep Smiling 😊 Louise & Jenny



ROCKETEERS

Your OSHC.

To register and book, visit www.campastralia.com.au

Newsletter



SLIP
SLOP
SLAP
SEEK
SLIDE

Your OSHC.

To register and book, visit www.campastralia.com.au



Newsletter



OSHC

PUPIL FREE DAY



Monday 27th February



OSHC

AVAILABLE

FROM 6:30am UNTIL

6:15pm



Please phone Camp

Australia 1300-105-343 for

bookings.



Please provide a packed lunch

COOKING,

ART & CRAFT'S

GAMES, SPORTS,

FACE PAINTING

MOVIE AND POPCORN.



**Your
OSHC.**

To register and book, visit www.campastralia.com.au



