



St Mary's Primary School

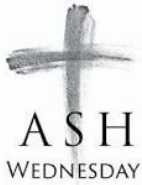
We aspire, we include, we achieve.

Newsletter # 2 | 14 February 2024



News from the Principal

Dear Families,



Today is **Ash Wednesday** and it marks the beginning of the Lenten season. All Year 1-6 students attended a parish Mass today, participating reverently and respectfully. Lent is a time set aside for reflection, penance, and spiritual renewal. The ashes that are placed on our forehead in the sign of the cross, are a reminder of the need for repentance and forgiveness. For many, Lent is a time of sacrifice and self-discipline, a time to focus our attention on spiritual matters. Others use this time to engage in acts of service or to deepen their prayer life. It is a season of introspection and growth, a time to draw closer to God and to become more aware of one's place in the world. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying before beginning his public ministry. Lent is an opportunity to follow in his footsteps, to imitate his example of selflessness and devotion. Lent is a time to focus on our personal relationship with God.

Thank you to everyone, particularly St Mary's School staff, who contributed to making yesterday's Shrove Tuesday, pancake making (and eating) so enjoyable. We all worked together to ensure all students had the opportunity to enjoy a freshly cooked pancake with delicious toppings, before the heat of the day set in. In class, the students had and will continue to have the opportunity to learn about Shrove Tuesday traditions and the significance of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

At last Friday's assembly we formally acknowledged our Year 6 Leaders, presenting each one with a Senior 6 Polo Shirt. We place trust in our school leaders and rely on them to be role models for all our students. They lead by example, upholding our school's values, particularly being safe, respectful and responsible. We also presented our captains with their badges.

THE 2024 ST MARY'S SCHOOL CAPTAINS ARE:

School Captains:

Celeste Banks, Max Davidson, Lucinda Kurelja.

House Captains:

Mercy (Blue) **Henry Erlenbusch**, McAuley (Gold) **Tilly Buckingham**, Mannix (Red) **Olliver Ruyg**.

At last week's P&FA Meeting, it was lovely to have returning and new members join us. Time was spent planning many friendraising and fund-raising events for the year. Another item discussed was the school uniform. You may remember last year that the P&FA asked for feedback about the sport's polo and the rugby top. After much consideration of both the students and families' input, the change has been approved and production of these items will commence this month. It is hoped that these items will be slowly introduced, beginning in 2025 and the older items will slowly be phased out over time. One of our school captains, Lucinda also suggested a skort to be added as an item of choice for the Summer uniform. This was tabled at the P&FA meeting and opinions of the middle and senior students gathered. Overwhelmingly, the students voted for the skort and this will be added as an option to the Summer uniform. This item is not a custom item and readily available at the Bellarine uniform shop.

This Friday evening, we look forward to welcoming our Foundation parents and staff to the **Centra** for a gathering to welcome them to St Mary's School. It is hoped that it will be a great opportunity for new friendships to be forged that will continue as their children learn and socialise together over the next seven years. Thank you to the Parents and Friends' Association who will support the event. All Foundation parents/carers are warmly invited to attend.

Kind Regards, Annice Lappin



ST MARY'S SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A SAFE, NURTURING AND EMPOWERING CULTURE FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

Catholic Education Commission Victoria

CALENDAR

TERM 1

Week 3

Wednesday 14 February

Ash Wednesday
Foundation Rest Day

Friday 16 February

Foundation Families' Welcome Evening, Centra, 7:00pm

Week 4

Monday 19 February

School Assembly, 3:00pm
(3/4 Garnet)
Gates open 2:55pm

Wednesday 21 February

Foundation Rest Day

District Basketball/Volleyball—
participating Year 5/6 students

3:30pm—5:50pm

Parent & Teacher Conversations

Thursday 22 February

3:30pm—5:50pm

Parent & Teacher Conversations

[Term 1 School Calendar, Page 3](#)

2024 School STAFF Email List

Follow the [link](#)



FAMILY HANDBOOK

Scan the QR Code or

follow the [link](#)



St Mary's School acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.



News from the Deputy Principal

Dear Families,

Last week, information regarding the **Sacramental Program** was sent to families with children in Year 3 (Penance), Year 4 (First Eucharist) and Year 6 (Confirmation).

Families wishing to enrol their child/ren in the Sacramental Program facilitated by the school are required to attend **one Sacramental Enrolment Mass** at St Mary's Basilica held over two weekends:

- **Saturday 24 February, 2024; 6:00pm**
- **Sunday 25 February, 2024; 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:00am**
- **Saturday 2 March, 2024; 6:00pm**
- **Sunday 3 March, 2024; 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:00am**

At the Sacramental Enrolment Mass, families attending will receive an Enrolment Form to complete. Enrolment Forms will be distributed and collected by staff representatives from our Parish Schools. **A reminder that a completed Sacramental Enrolment Form for students celebrating a Sacrament this year, is a requirement of the Parish.**

For families attending either of the 9:30am Masses (Sunday 25/2 or Sunday 3/3), many familiar faces will be there - St Mary's School staff will be present.

THIS YEAR'S SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR ST MARY'S SCHOOL ARE AS FOLLOWS:



Sacrament of Confirmation
Thursday 21 March at 5:30pm
(St Mary's Basilica)



Sacrament of First Eucharist
Sunday 11 August at 2:30pm
(St Mary's Basilica)



Sacrament of Penance
Friday 22 November at
12:00pm
(St Mary's School)



For quite a number of years, **SeeSaw - The Learning Journal** has been utilised by St Mary's School. Initially introduced as part of the school's 'in real time' reporting strategy. SeeSaw was an effective platform for parents/carers to access their child's assessment pieces. With the onset of COVID19 in 2020, SeeSaw took on a different role, keeping families informed of home learning tasks, community days and general learning updates. Since 2022, parent engagement with student SeeSaw Journals has been less than expected and the effectiveness of this platform no longer meets our intended purpose. Therefore, SeeSaw will no longer be used as part of our reporting strategy, but rather as a '**Windows into Learning**' that celebrates the wonderful experiences, events and activities happening in our classrooms. You are encouraged to access your child/ren's SeeSaw Journals on a regular basis.



It has been an extremely successful transition into a new school year, with the atmosphere around the learning spaces feeling calm and content. Classroom teachers are looking forward to sharing with you, your child/ren's start to the 2024 school year at the upcoming Parent & Teacher Conversations held next week on **Wednesday 21 February** and **Thursday 22 February (3:30pm-5:50pm)**.

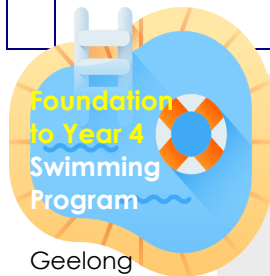
These Places are still available and bookings remain open until midday, **Monday 19 February**. Click [here](#) or visit www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the event code **45d9u**

Cari Saluti, Marie Monea

Term 1 School Calendar, 2024



Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	FEB 12	FEB 13 Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday (Students bring a plate and cutlery)	FEB 14 Ash Wednesday Foundation Rest Day Newsletter Day	FEB 15	FEB 16 7:00pm Foundation Families' Welcome Evening
4	FEB 19 3:00pm School Assembly (3/4 Garnet) Bookings close for Parent & Teacher Conversations (12midday)	FEB 20	FEB 21 Foundation Rest Day District Basketball/Volleyball (Participating Year 5/6 Students) 3:30pm-5:50pm Parent & Teacher Conversations	FEB 22 3:30pm-5:50pm Parent & Teacher Conversations	FEB 23
5	FEB 26 PSG Meetings District Cricket (Participating Year 5/6 Students) 2025 Foundation Enrolments Open	FEB 27 9:15am 2025 School Tour	FEB 28 Foundation Rest Day PSG Meetings Newsletter Day	FEB 29	MAR 1 School Photo Day (Summer Uniform) World Day of Prayer Geelong Advertiser Photo—Foundation Students
6	MAR 4 F-4 Swimming 3:00pm School Assembly (5/6 Sapphire)	MAR 5 F-4 Swimming	MAR 6 F-4 Swimming 7:00pm School Advisory Council Meeting, Staffroom	MAR 7 F-4 Swimming	MAR 8 F-4 Swimming
7	MAR 11 SCHOOL CLOSED Labour Day Public Holiday	MAR 12	MAR 13 NAPLAN (Years 3&5) Assessment Period Opens Newsletter Day 7:00pm Parents & Friends' Meeting, School Staffroom	MAR 14	MAR 15 LUNCH ORDER DAY Routley's Bakery
8	MAR 18 9:15am 2025 School Tour	MAR 19	MAR 20	MAR 21 5:00pm Sacrament of Confirmation	MAR 22 NAPLAN (Years 3&5) Assessment Period Ends FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
9	MAR 25 PSG Meetings	MAR 26 CROSS COUNTRY F-2 (School Site) 3-6 (Eastern Gardens) Open Classrooms; 3:30pm—4:30 pm	MAR 27 2025 Foundation Enrolments (Siblings) Close 12:30 pm School Assembly (1/2 Pearl) Newsletter Day. Easter Raffle Draw. End of Term 1: 1:00pm	MAR 28 STUDENT FREE DAY	MAR 29 SCHOOL CLOSED: Good Friday



Foundation to Year 4 Swimming Program

Geelong Aquatic Centre (GAC)
4 to 8 March

SESSION 1:
3/4 QUARTZ, YEAR 1 STUDENTS
11:45 pm Bus pick at St Mary's
11:55 pm Change at GAC
12:15—1:00 pm
Swimming Lesson
1:00 pm Change at GAC
1:15 pm Depart GAC
1:25pm Arrive St Mary's

SESSION 2:
3/4 GARNET, FOUNDATION STUDENTS
12:30 pm Bus pick at St Mary's
12:40 pm Change at GAC
1:00—1:45 pm
Swimming Lesson
1:45 pm Change at GAC
2:00 pm Depart GAC
2:10 pm Arrive St Mary's

SESSION 3:
3/4 ONYX, YEAR 2 STUDENTS
1:15 pm Bus pick at St Mary's
1:25 pm Change at GAC
1:45—2:30 pm
Swimming Lesson
2:30 pm Change at GAC
2:45 pm Depart GAC
2:55 pm Arrive St Mary's

PSYCH CORNER

I'm Dani Spencer.

I'm thrilled to be returning to St Mary's School for 2024. We're introducing 'Psych Corner' to our fortnightly newsletters this year. Here we'll explore topics to enhance the wellbeing of young people and families.

1.



ABOUT ME

I am a provisional Psychologist, under the supervision of Dr. Mikaela Smee. I'm a Mum to two teenagers (a girl and boy). In my previous career, I was a leader in Inclusive Education. I love working with young people and the adults around them to navigate the challenges life throws our way, and to find ways to flourish.

In my spare time I enjoy cooking, gardening, beach walks, dancing like no-one is watching and belting out ballads in the car!

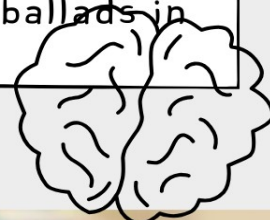
SERVICES

I provide **weekly or fortnightly counselling** to young people, with **regular parent sessions** to ensure that the goals and strategies align well with home.

Comprehensive psychoeducational assessments are available. Please speak to Bernie - Head of Learning Diversity about this in the first instance.

Over the course of the year more services may be offered. For instance, parent workshops, or small group supports for young people. **Please let Bernie, Annice or Marie know if you have any suggestions for services that may be of benefit.**

2.



3.

GREAT PEOPLE TO FOLLOW ONLINE



They say it takes a village, and I recommend following some wise folk from the online village. The Allied Health Professionals below are excellent sources of trustworthy information for parents. **Please let me know if there are others you recommend so we can share great information with the SMG community.**

NeuroWild is fantastic for information and strategies to support young people with Autism and/or ADHD.

Kelly Mahler is a world leader in strategies to promote interoception development. These skills are essential for the development of emotional regulation.

Hey Sigmund provides great resources to support parents and to support young people, particularly those with anxiety.

4.

STARTING NEXT FORTNIGHT...

The focus for our remaining Term 1 newsletters will be on **Managing Stress**: what causes it and what strategies we can try to manage it effectively.

Foundation 2025 Enrolment

Foundation 2025

Enrolments OPEN 26 February 2024

Enrolments CLOSE:

Current School Families 27 March 2024

New School Families 19 April 2024

SCHOOL TOUR DATES:

Tuesday 27 February, 2024 | 9:15 am

Monday 18 March, 2024 | 9:15 am

Thursday 18 April, 2024 | 9:15 am

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 66-68 Lt Myers Street, Geelong

Tour bookings open 30 January | Book your school tour at:
www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au/enrolments



Enrolment Process

CURRENT SCHOOL FAMILIES (Siblings)

First Round Offers By T2, Week 1

Enrolment Interviews Monday 13 May
Link will be sent via the offer letter

Current Families at the school **DO NOT** pay a \$50 non-refundable **application** for enrolment deposit.

NEW SCHOOL FAMILIES

Enrolment Interviews Monday 22 April Tuesday 23 April
Link to book will be sent when application and enrolment deposit received

First Round Offers 24 April

New Families to the school pay a \$50 non-refundable **application** for enrolment deposit.

Enrolment Form

Hardcopy Enrolment Forms available at the school office.

Book a School Tour

2024 School Captains



*Pictured Above l-r:
Max, Celeste, Annice
Lappin (Principal), Henry,
Tilly, Oliver.
Absent - Lucinda*

We are extremely grateful for the role of School Captains. As St Mary's School Captains, we will ensure that everyone feels comfortable in their learning environment. We each have a different focus, however, we always like to work together:

Celeste - Environmental Captain with a focus on improving the environment.

Lucinda - Social Justice Captain with a focus on lending a helping hand to those in need.

Max - Wellbeing Captain, focusing on making sure everyone has a great day, every day.

As School Captains we are leading with compassion, empathy, kindness and collaboration, and making our school a better place.

We are so proud and excited to be leaders of the school in 2024!

Celeste, Max and Lucinda



CELESTE BANKS
School Captain



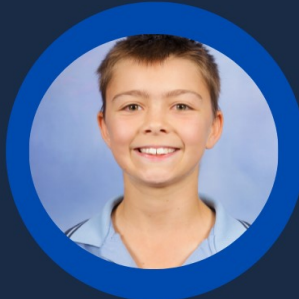
MAX DAVIDSON
School Captain



LUCINDA KURELJA
School Captain



TILLY BUCKINGHAM
McAuley House
Captain



HENRY ERLENBUSCH
Mercy House
Captain



OLLIVER RUYG
Mannix House
Captain

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2024 - Important Registration Information



School Photographs will be taken at

St Mary's School Geelong

Friday 1 March 2024

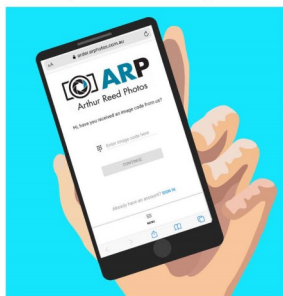
There is no need to return any forms or payment to school before photo day

Flyers with Unique Image Codes will be issued to all students on or after photo day

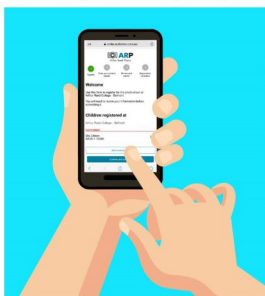
When you receive your child's 2024 image code

Follow these 3 simple steps -

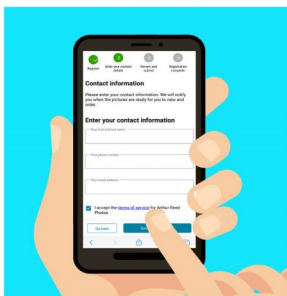
1 Go to order.arphotos.com.au and enter your child's **2024 image code**



2 Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings



3 Fill in your contact details & review before confirming your registration*



*This information will only be used for distribution of personal image codes and ordering details.

That's it!

It's important to register each year to link your child's **NEW** images to your contact details
When 2024 images are ready to view in our secure webshop you'll be notified by email and SMS

- Create photo packages with any layout & YOUR choice of images + Multiple Image Downloads
- Order on any mobile device
- Share the images with family & friends for FREE

**** Please wait to receive notifications that new images are online BEFORE ordering for 2024****



Arthur Reed Photos Pty. Ltd.
A.B.N 48 528 494 590
(03) 5243 4390
customerservice@arphotos.com.au

School Photos 2024 Friday 1 March

Annual school photos including sibling photos will be taken by Arthur Reed Photos on **FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024.**

There is no need to return any forms or money to school.

Unique image codes will be issued to all students on/after photo day so families can register online to view images when they become available in the webshop.

Registration is simple, just follow the 3 simple steps on your child's personalised flyer once you receive it and remember to add the codes for all your children attending this school.

Even if you registered last year, it's important that you do again this year using your child's 2024 image code to link their images for the current year with your contact details.

When images are ready to view and in the webshop, all parents who have registered will be notified by SMS and email.

Once registered, please wait for notification that 2024 images are online to view before making your purchase.

Art



Welcome back, I hope everyone had a great holiday. Just a friendly reminder to please send an **art smock** to protect uniforms during art classes. An old oversized shirt or t-shirt, clearly labelled with their name would be fine. Art can be a very messy activity so it is important for the students to wear something to prevent little accidents.

Thank you in advance for your assistance, I look forward to another great year of amazing creations.

Liza Rosati
Visual Arts Teacher



The poster features a light green background with a repeating pattern of grey leaves and circles. At the top center is a colorful illustration of a wicker basket with a pink bow, containing three Easter eggs in pink, blue, and yellow. Below the basket, the text reads: "HOP TO IT!!! PLEASE SUPPORT ST MARY'S SCHOOL P&FA". The main title "Easter Egg Raffle!" is written in a large, black, cursive font. Further down, it says "Tickets \$1 each" and "Purchase via Trybooking:" followed by the URL "https://www.trybooking.com/CPHWQ". The raffle draw details are "Raffle drawn Wednesday 27 March at School Assembly 12:30 pm". At the bottom, it provides contact information: "Any Queries contact Simone Shannon: 0438 089 906".

**HOP TO IT!!!
PLEASE SUPPORT
ST MARY'S SCHOOL P&FA**

Easter Egg Raffle!

Tickets \$1 each
Purchase via Trybooking:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CPHWQ>

**Raffle drawn Wednesday 27 March
at School Assembly 12:30 pm**

**Any Queries contact Simone Shannon:
0438 089 906**

School News

Join the **St. Mary's School Choir!**

All students from Year 1 to 6 are welcome.



No cost, no auditions -
free and fun!

**Tuesdays at
8:30am
from 13th of Feb**

Mackillop Room / After School Care space

Note: Foundation students will be invited to join later in the year.

Secondary School: OPEN DAYS



Come and See
OPEN DAYS 2024

**Wednesday 13, Friday 15
and Friday 22 March 2024**

Multiple Information and Tour Sessions

Bookings are essential
and can be made online from
Wednesday 31 January 2024

clonard.vic.edu.au




ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEELONG COLLEGE TOURS

St Joseph's College Geelong invite you to join our College Tours this semester.

We are proud to continue offering an innovative education, and we welcome all senior primary school boys and their families to come and visit us.

Year 7 applications for 2025 are now open, apply via the college website.

Bookings essential, register via our College Website: sjc.vic.edu.au



Tours commence at 9:00am

Monday 18 March	Wednesday 20 March
Tuesday 26 March	Wednesday 27 March
Wednesday 17 April	Friday 19 April



ENROL NOW FOR YEAR 7 2025

Open Tour Dates:

- MONDAY 18 MARCH 4.15 PM – 5.45 PM
- TUESDAY 19 MARCH 11.00 AM – 12.30 PM
- WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 11.00 AM – 12.30 PM
- THURSDAY 21 MARCH 9.00 AM – 10.30 AM
- THURSDAY 21 MARCH 4.15 PM – 5.45 PM

BOOK A TOUR ONLINE NOW
IONA.VIC.EDU.AU

Community News

INDOOR CRICKET

Register a team
or
individual player!

At our website:
geelongindoorsports.com.au



13 Gravel Pits Rd
South Geelong 3220

Seasons starting soon!

Monday night: 8 a side cricket.



Tuesday night: mixed cricket 6 a side.



Wednesday night: 6 a side cricket.

Friday night juniors: 6 a side cricket.



For more information:
Call: 52221822.
Or
Email: info@geelongindoorsports.com.au

ATTENTION PREP PARENTS

Come along to our **NOURISH TO FLOURISH**
Workshop with your **PREP** child, on **WEDNESDAY**

Make the most of the upcoming Wednesdays while your child is not at school by joining our interactive workshop. We will help your child understand that the food they eat fuels their day for learning, helps them feel great, and live healthier lives.

WEDNESDAY 14 & 21 FEBRUARY
10:30 - 11:30AM

THE KIDZ KITCHEN - 79 HEYTESBURY STREET, HERNE HILL


PLUS
FUN GAMES
EXPERIMENTS
& COOKING



with **Suzi Miller**
Owner of The Kidz Kitchen
& Certified Instructor
The Root Cause



Don't miss this tasty and educational experience!



**GET
TICKETS
NOW**





PIANO LESSONS

OPEN TO ALL AGES AND LEVELS

Preparation for exams or play for pleasure.

Mob. 0407059048

Modern and Classical lessons available

Theory lessons included

SANDRA DOUGLAS BEdSt, A.N.Z.T., Associate Teacher A.M.E.B.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP- WAURN PONDS LIBRARY

FOR PARENTS/CARERS & GRANDPARENTS OF
PRIMARY SCHOOL THROUGH TO YR 8 STUDENTS

Digital Tattoo

BATForce is excited to be partnering with Geelong Regional Libraries and Geelong Connected Communities to deliver a community-based Digital Tattoo workshop, a family approach to supporting Young People online.

As school returns this is a great opportunity to come together with your friends and discuss how you can best support your children as they explore their online worlds. Technology has changed our lives in so many ways in that time, yet one thing remains constant, parents and carers are still Young Peoples primary educators and their actions matter.

Leigh Bartlett has 30+ years' experience in education and has been delivering Digital Tattoo for over 15 years.

This session aims to explore how families/communities can create safe and supportive environments for their Young People to explore technology, build healthy relationships and increase protective factors as they grow.

- Boundary setting
- Navigating social media
- Strategies for introducing new platforms
- Health relationships
- Online representation
- Consent & ethics
- Managing mistakes
- Teaching consent
- APPs gaming & gambling
- Managing friendship groups online

When: Tuesday, 20th February

Time: 6.30 - 8pm

Cost: Free

Limited places!

Book via the link below or at the Waurn Ponds Library

REGISTER TODAY!

BOOK ONLINE OR SCAN THE QR CODE -
WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/COVYI



SCAN ME!



BARWON ADOLESCENT TASK FORCE





Community News

ROLLER SKATING CLASSES

BARWON VALLEY
ACTIVITY CENTRE



MONDAYS 4-5PM KIDS CLASS

THURSDAYS 7-8PM BEGINNER CLASS

BOOK HERE — WWW.THESKATESTUDIO.COM.AU

facebook.com/theskatestudio instagram.com/theskatestudio

St Mary's Sporting Club AUSKICK SEASON

Commencing Friday
19 April, 2024

5:00 to 6:00 pm

St Mary's Football Ground
LaTrobe Terrace
Geelong

Enquiries to:
Damien McKeegan
0423 021258

Registrations -
play.afl/play/auskick

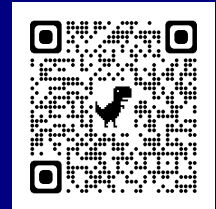
2024 Staff Email List

Follow the [link](#)



Family Handbook

Scan the QR Code or
follow the [link](#)



Facebook:
[@St.Mary'sPrimaryGeelong](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysPrimaryGeelong)

Instagram:
[stmarys_ps_geelong](https://www.instagram.com/stmarys_ps_geelong)

Twitter:
[@StMarysPS3220](https://twitter.com/StMarysPS3220)

School Website:
www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Parent Portal password -
mary175



St Mary's School, Geelong
www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

T: 5229 9453

Newsletter # 2
Term 1—Week 3



Are you looking to join the Eagles?

We welcome girls of all abilities; with
a focus on fun, enjoyment, teamwork
and skill development

- 4-9 y/o miniroos
- 5-11 y/o miniroos club
- 12-18 y/o youth

WOMENS & GIRLS SOCCER COME & TRY CLINICS

SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY 10:30AM

@ HOWARD GLOVER RESERVE

Contact breakwatereagles1@gmail.com or 0410 007 990 for more info