

### Principal News

Dear Families,

Towards the end of Term 1, I was asked by the **Geelong Advertiser** to be interviewed by a couple of our St Mary's School students for an education feature that was published during the holiday break. I'm not sure how many in our school community read the Addy, so I thought I would include my interview in today's newsletter. I was grateful to be interviewed by **Clementine Oliver** and **Campbell Garry** from Year 3/4, as it gave me the opportunity to reflect on the amazing learning community that St Mary's School is and articulate why I love my job!

**An Interview with Annice Lappin, Principal of St Mary's School, Geelong - 17/04/2025**

**As the principal, what at St Mary's School makes you most proud?"**

It is an honour and a privilege to be the principal of St Mary's School. I am most proud of our students' kindness, resilience and dedication to learning. Our passionate teachers and staff, supportive families and strong values create a community where every child thrives spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally.

**How long have you been a principal and what is your favourite part of your job?**

This is my tenth year as a principal and my favourite part is seeing students learn, succeed and develop confidence. Building relationships with students, staff and families while fostering a positive and supportive learning environment brings me immense joy and fulfilment every day.

**What is the hardest part of your job as a principal?**

Managing paperwork, compliance and endless emails can sometimes be hard. At times, making tough decisions that serve the greater good of our school community, can be challenging, but I always act with integrity to ensure the best outcomes for our staff, students and their families. The rewards of principalship definitely outweigh the hard parts.

**What's your favourite school event or activity?**

I love our school concert, art show and the whole school athletics day! Each event showcases students' talents, creativity and teamwork. Whether performing, displaying artwork, or competing in sporting events, every child shines and the whole school community comes together during these events to celebrate their achievements.

**What is it like to work with the teachers and staff?**

Working with our teachers and staff is truly inspiring. They are amazing, knowledgeable, supportive and kind. We are a real team,



Q&A

## Amazing staff and dedicated learners

Why St Mary's principal Annice Lappin loves her job

St Mary's School Year 4 students Clementine Oliver and Campbell Garry caught up with their principal Annice Lappin to ask her a few questions.

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**What is it like to work with the teachers and staff?**

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We are a real team, dedicated to creating a positive, nurturing environment where students thrive.

Their passion and commitment make our school a very special place.



St Mary's School principal Annice Lappin loves having a positive influence in students' lives.

**“Whether performing, displaying artwork or competing in sporting events, every child shines and the whole school community comes together”**

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**Why did you want to be a teacher and then a principal?**

I loved school and had many wonderful teachers who inspired me. I became a teacher to make a positive difference in students' lives. Becoming a principal allowed me to support even more students, teachers and families in creating a thriving, faith filled school community.



I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all mothers and special women in our lives a lovely **Mother's Day** on Sunday. May you know how loved and valued you are and the positive influence you have on the children and young people in your care. May God's continued blessings be present in your lives.

Kind regards,



Annice Lappin  
Principal

## Deputy Principal News



Deborah Boland  
Deputy Principal

Dear Families,

The Physical Education area of the curriculum has hit the ground running this term with a flurry of exciting events and competitions! Our students have shown incredible enthusiasm and sportsmanship across various activities, including the District Cross Country, Whole School Athletics Day and today many senior students participated in the District AFL and Soccer tournaments. These events have not only showcased our students' sporting abilities but also the great teaching and learning that occurs in this area, as well as fostered a sense of school spirit.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the students, staff, and parents who have contributed to making these events a success. A special mention goes to **Mr Nicholas Coots** for his dedication and organisational skills in coordinating the physical education lessons and our Whole School Athletics Day. His efforts have been key to creating engaging and memorable experiences for our students as well as promoting a love for sports and physical activity throughout the school community.

Warm regards,

Deb

## Spotlight into Learning Foundation



This week, I would like to spotlight the **Foundation** students and their participation for the first time in our **School Athletics Day**.

The Foundation students had a fantastic time at their very first Athletics Day! With big smiles and boundless energy, they eagerly took part in a range of fun events, including sprint races, an egg and spoon race, and a sack race that brought lots of laughter. They also enjoyed trying their skills in the bean bag target throw, vortex throw, long jump, and a relay race that encouraged great teamwork and cheering from their classmates. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and effort, and the day was filled with excitement, encouragement, and plenty of proud moments for our young athletes.







## Mother's Day Breakfast and Liturgy



Yesterday morning, the St Mary's School community gathered in the atrium to celebrate a beautiful Mother's Day breakfast and Liturgy. It was a special opportunity to honour and give thanks for the mothers, grandmothers, and all the remarkable women who support and care for our students each day.

We shared a delicious bacon and egg roll together, surrounded by warmth, gratitude, and community spirit. The Liturgy offered a meaningful time to pray for the women in our lives and to remember those who are no longer with us.

A highlight of the morning was hearing our students express their love through heartfelt words of thanks and a touching song. As we celebrated these inspiring women, we also reflected on the loving presence of Mother Mary in our lives, offering the 'Hail Mary' prayer as a reminder of her guidance, care, and example of selfless love.

We wish all our mothers and special women a joyful and blessed Mother's Day.



**Sacrament of  
First Eucharist (Yr 4)**

**NEW DATE**  
**Sunday 17 August, 4:00pm**  
St Mary's Basilica



**Sacrament of  
Penance (Yr 3)**

**Friday 21 November**  
**12:00pm**  
St Mary's School



Caitlin Steven  
RE Leader





## Mother's Day Breakfast







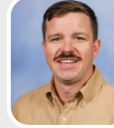
Mother's Day Breakfast







**Bernie Hellard**  
Learning Diversity  
Mental Health &  
Wellbeing Leader



**Nicholas Coots**  
Wellbeing Leader  
Physical  
Education  
Teacher



**Dr Moira Whelan**  
Provisional  
Psychologist

## What is sleep hygiene?

### The importance of a good night's sleep

Sleep hygiene refers to healthy habits and practices that promote consistent, quality sleep. Just like brushing teeth prevents cavities, good sleep hygiene can help sleep issues and set kids up for better moods, focus, and behaviour during the day.

#### The Importance of Routines

Children thrive on consistency. Establishing a predictable bedtime routine sends a clear signal to the brain that it's time to wind down. Here's what a healthy evening routine might look like:

**Wind-down time (30–60 minutes before bed):** Turn off screens, dim the lights, and switch to calming activities like reading, colouring, or quiet play.

**Bath or shower:** A warm bath can help relax the body and signal bedtime is near.

#### Brushing teeth and using the bathroom

**Storytime or quiet chat:** Reading together is not only calming, it's also a great bonding moment.

**Lights out at the same time each night** — even on weekends, as much as possible.

#### Tips for Better Sleep Hygiene

**Set a consistent sleep schedule:** Try to keep bedtime and wake-up times the same every day.

**Limit screen time:** Avoid screens at least 60 minutes before bed. The blue light from devices can interfere with melatonin, the body's natural sleep hormone.

**Create a sleep-friendly environment:** Cool, dark, and quiet rooms work best. Consider blackout curtains or a white noise machine if needed.

**Watch food and drink:** Avoid caffeine (even hidden in chocolate or sodas) and heavy snacks close to bedtime.

**Be a role model:** Children often mirror adult behaviour — if you practice good sleep hygiene, they're more likely to follow suit.

#### Final Thought

Building a strong bedtime routine takes time and patience, but the payoff is well worth it. Better sleep supports better learning, emotional regulation, and overall well-being — for both children and parents.

**Wishing you restful nights ahead !**

## Year 3/4 News



Last week in the Year 3/4 learning area, students elected their **Term 2 Head Rangers**.

Congratulations **Jack, Charlotte, Cassie, Thomas, Danudri and Oscar!**

We are looking forward to your leadership during our Friday afternoon Head Ranger sessions.

Thank you to our Term 1 Head Rangers - Jimmy, Maya, Alfie, Matilda, Paddy and Nina.

## Gem Chat

This week's GEM chat is focusing on **Gratitude**.



**St Mary's School is committed to Child Safety.**

**We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.**



## Term 2 School Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
3	MAY 5 Year 1/2 Wool Museum Excursion Students wear <b>Winter School Uniform</b>	MAY 6 Mother's Day Breakfast 8:15am & Liturgy Coffee Van	MAY 7 Year 5/6 District AFL & Soccer Newsletter	MAY 8 PSG Meetings #1	MAY 9	Mother's Day Sun 11 May 
4	MAY 12 3:00pm School Assembly (1/2 Pearl)	MAY 13	MAY 14 Year 5/6 District Netball	MAY 15	MAY 16	
5	MAY 19 PSG Meetings #2 Baptism Preparation Program	MAY 20 Division Cross Country	MAY 21 Foundation Library Visit PFA Meeting; 7:00pm Newsletter	MAY 22	MAY 23	
6	MAY 26 3:00pm School Assembly (5/6 Turquoise) <b>National Sorry Day Reconciliation Week</b>	MAY 27	MAY 28	MAY 29	MAY 30 <b>PFA FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY</b>	
7	JUNE 2 Baptism Preparation Program	JUNE 3	JUNE 4 Newsletter	JUNE 5 <b>STUDENT FREE DAY</b> Staff Professional Development	JUNE 6 <b>STUDENT FREE DAY</b> Staff Professional Development	
8	JUNE 9 <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b> King's Birthday Public Holiday	JUNE 10	JUNE 11	JUNE 12 PSG Meetings #3	JUNE 13	
9	JUNE 16 Baptism Preparation Program	JUNE 17	JUNE 18 School Advisory Council Meeting; 7:00pm Newsletter	JUNE 19 Languages Celebration Day	JUNE 20	
10	JUNE 23 3:00pm School Assembly (Foundation)	JUNE 24 Dance Incursion (all year levels) Parent & Teacher Conversations; 3:30- 6:00pm	JUNE 25 Parent & Teacher Conversations; 3:30- 6:00pm	JUNE 26	JUNE 27 <b>T2 Lunch Order Day— PIZZA; 1:00pm</b>	
11	JUNE 30 Baptism Preparation Program	JULY 1 Semester 1 School Reports sent to families	JULY 2 OPEN Classrooms; 3:15- 4:15pm Newsletter	JULY 3 School Choir Excursion (GPAC)	JULY 4 End of Term 2; 1:00pm Dismissal	



**St Mary's School Concert**  
Thursday 28 August  
Geelong West Town Hall



## Links

Staff Email

Family Handbook

School Website

Parent Portal  
password:  
mary175



Facebook:  
[@St.Mary'sPrimaryGeelong](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysPrimaryGeelong)  
Instagram:  
stmarys\_ps\_geelong



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.





# 2025 CONCERT COSTUME REQUIREMENTS



The 2025 St Mary's School concert is on **Thursday 28 August**.  
Our theme is ***A Night at the Museum***

Please find your child's costume requirements on this page and page 7

## NOTES:

- Students will work with Mrs Rosati in visual art lessons to make extra costume pieces to wear with their coloured top and black bottoms
- Costumes will not come to school until Term 3, date TBC
- All tops and bottoms should be plain coloured and free from any logos or images (but tops can be turned inside out with tag cut off if needed)
- Availability of items at stores is correct at the time of publishing (but won't last forever!)
- Please send any questions to your child's classroom teacher as a first point of call



**FOUNDATION:  
COSTUME  
REQUIREMENTS**

**UNDER THE SEA THEME**

Blue or green t-shirt  
(any shade except navy blue)

Long black pants  
(leggings are ideal)

\*\* No shoes required

Blue and green t-shirts are currently available at Best and Less, Kmart and Cotton On.

**1/2 TOPAZ:  
COSTUME  
REQUIREMENTS**

**JUNGLE THEME**

Brown t-shirt.  
(any shade is fine)

Long black pants  
(leggings are ideal)

\*\* No shoes required

Brown t-shirts are currently available at Best and Less and Target.

**1/2 CRYSTAL:  
COSTUME  
REQUIREMENTS**

**BUG THEME**

Long black pants  
(leggings are ideal)

Black t-shirt

\*\* No shoes required

Black t-shirts are currently available at Target and Kmart.

**1/2 PEARL:  
COSTUME  
REQUIREMENTS**

**DINOSAUR THEME**

Long black pants  
(leggings are ideal)

Red or green t-shirt  
(any shade is fine)

\*\* No shoes required

Red and green t-shirts are currently available at Cotton On, Best and Less and Big W



**3/4 GARNET: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS**

**ANCIENT EGYPTIAN THEME**



Long black pants (leggings are ideal)

White t-shirt

**\*\* No shoes required**

White t-shirts are currently available at Target and Kmart.

**3/4 ONYX: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS**

**80s / 90s THEME**

Think fluoro colours, layers and accessories - fun and vibrant!



**\*\* No shoes required, but can be worn as a part of the costume.**

**5/6 TURQUOISE: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS**

**SPY THEME**



Black t-shirt.

Long black pants (leggings are ideal)

Black shoes (school shoes are fine)

If students have a torch they can use, that would be great. Nothing precious or expensive.

**\*\*TORCHES DO NOT NEED TO COME IN UNTIL TERM 3**

Black t-shirts are currently available at Target and Kmart.

**5/6 SAPPHIRE: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS**

**BURGLAR THEME**



Black beanie (optional)

Long black pants (leggings are ideal)

Black and white striped top - long sleeve OR short sleeve. (width of stripe doesn't matter)

Black shoes (school shoes are fine)

Striped tops are currently available at Target.

**5/6 EMERALD: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS**

**POLICE THEME**



Navy blue pants (school pants are fine)

Light blue polo top (school top is fine)

Black shoes (school shoes are fine)

**3/4 QUARTZ: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS**

**PICK A COSTUME!**

This class can pick a costume that works for them, from any theme above.



**\*\* No shoes required, but can be worn as a part of the costume.**



## Parents & Friends' Association

# Second Hand Uniforms

### *Price List*

BLUE POLO TOPS	\$5.00
PLAIN PANTS	\$5.00
PLAIN SHORTS	\$5.00
SPORT SHORTS WITH LOGO	\$10.00
SUMMER DRESS	\$15.00
WINTER KILT/PINAFORE	\$20.00
SPORT TOP (House colour)	\$15.00
JUMPER WOOLLEN or SPORT	\$20.00
SHELL JACKET	\$25.00
HAIR SCRUNCHIE	\$2.00
SCHOOL BEANIE	\$5.00
SCHOOL HAT	\$5.00
SCHOOL BAG	\$5.00

For information or queries, **please email:**  
**[pfauniforms@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pfauniforms@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au)**

Payment via **EFTPOS** or **bank transfer:**  
 St Mary's Primary School **Project Fund** | BSB: **083-347** | Account Number: **647087522** | Reference: **NAME**  
**PLEASE NOTE, CASH CAN NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED**



**\$60 VOUCHER TO ANY SESSION**

**EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL OFFER**

**REDEEM VOUCHER HERE**

**WHO CAN JOIN:**  
BEGINNER  
INTERMEDIATE  
GIRLS & BOYS  
AGES: 5 - 12

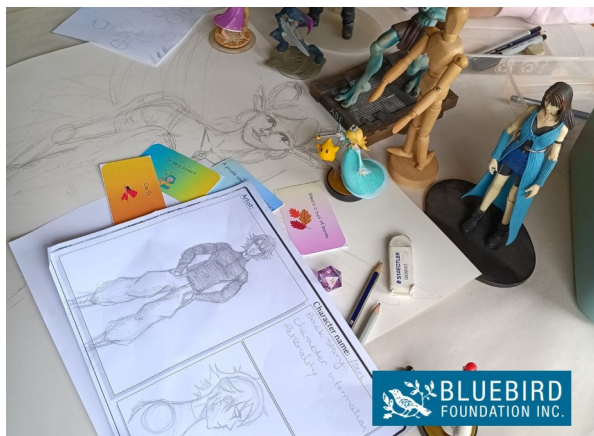
**LOCATION:**  
GEELONG  
EAST GEELONG  
ARMSTRONG CREEK  
OCEAN GROVE

**SCAN TO REDEEM YOUR VOUCHER TODAY!**  
VALID UNTIL 30/05/25

**LIMITED SPACE**

**BUILD SKILLS  
CONFIDENCE  
FRIENDSHIPS**





## CHARACTER ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

*Imagine and create your own characters*

Come join Mel in this 6 week workshop, young creatives will dive into the world of character creation, sketching, designing and exploring the art of visual storytelling. They'll play creative character games, swap ideas, and learn simple, lasting techniques to bring to their artwork.

[www.bluebirdfoundationinc.org.au/workshops](http://www.bluebirdfoundationinc.org.au/workshops)

🕒 Tweens 8-12 yrs  
6-weeks  
Thursdays  
29th May - 2nd July  
4:00pm - 5:00pm  
\$180 for 6-week series  
includes all materials

📍 Bluebird House  
Corner Carr &  
Swanston Streets  
South Geelong




**THE MUSIC BUS**

LEARN ON THE MUSIC BUS IN TERM 2 2025!

**PROGRAM FEATURES:**

- ✓ Skilled teachers
- ✓ Fun Curriculum
- ✓ Supportive Environment

**SIGN UP NOW!** 📞 1300 168 742 🌐 [themusicbus.com.au](http://themusicbus.com.au)



## The Music Bus classes at St Mary's School for 2025 - Enrol Now!

**Classes offered are**

Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Ukulele, Singing

If you wish to enrol, please complete this Expression of Interest Form as soon as possible as places will fill quickly.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee4627a5204c46158e1ab17e7c8069c6>

For more general information about the program, go to [www.themusicbus.com.au](http://www.themusicbus.com.au)



<https://chessforschools.com.au/>

**TERM 2, 2025 - REGISTER NOW @**  
**[CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU](http://CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU)**