

Principal News



Annice Lappin
Principal

Dear Families,

It is difficult to believe that this is the final 2025 school newsletter and we have less than two weeks of the school year remaining! That being noted, there are still some fabulous activities and events planned for our students and families and everyone is warmly invited to be involved.

The Colour Run and Family Picnic is tomorrow afternoon from 5:00pm-7:00pm! Please note that the venue is new and every family is asked to please pre-purchase a \$10 Family ticket via the [Trybooking link](#). We hope to see as many families there as possible. Thank you to everyone who has or will assist in making this school event enjoyable and memorable.

Thank you to the families who have already donated to our St Mary's School, **Bay Leaf Community Kitchen Christmas Hamper Appeal**. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If your family is yet to donate and is in a position to do so, gifts of Christmas food and/or vouchers can be delivered to the school's administration area and will be collected from the school on Wednesday, 17 December.

A reminder that the **'Thank You Morning Tea'** will be hosted on Thursday, 11 December from 9:00am until 10:00am. Thank you for responding to the Operoo for catering purposes. You may like to bring your own morning coffee.

Our final whole school assembly for 2025 will be held at 12:15pm on Tuesday 16 December before students are dismissed at 1:00pm for school holidays. At this assembly, we will pray, announce the Year 6 leadership award recipients, announce our 2026 School Captains, farewell leaving students and staff and the traditional ringing of the bell will take place.

In staffing news, we farewell **Dianne Dolley** and **Ella McCartney**. Thank you Dianne for your many contributions over 8 years here at St Mary's School. Thank you Ella for your 2 years of service, particularly as our Italian assistant in your first year. You will both be missed and we wish you both all the very best for the future. **Catherine McGrath** has been employed as our Year 3/4 Garnet teacher for 2026. Catherine has been a CRT at St Mary's School and is very familiar with our School Vision and pedagogy. We look forward to welcoming Catherine in 2025.

On Monday, 15 December we will farewell our Year Six students, who over the past seven years have grown into fine young people. We know they will take with them into their future, all they have learned at St Mary's School, continuing to positively contribute to the lives of others. We will also farewell many families, whose journey at St Mary's School comes to an end as their final child graduates. I take this opportunity to personally thank them for their support and partnership throughout their child/ren's primary schooling journey and wish them all the very best for the future.

As we come to the end of another remarkable year at St Mary's School, I feel truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to lead such a vibrant and caring community. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has played a part in shaping 2025 into a year of growth, achievement and connection.

I extend our deep appreciation to **Fr Jim** and **Fr Vinoth** for their ongoing spiritual leadership and for nurturing the strong partnership between our parish and school. Their presence continues to enrich our community in so many ways.

Thank you to our **School Advisory Council** for their commitment and guidance throughout the year. We especially acknowledge and thank outgoing member **Caz Trotter** for her dedicated service over the past two years. Our **Parents and Friends'** also deserve sincere thanks for their commitment and the energy and support they bring to our school. To our families—your encouragement, involvement and willingness to assist across countless areas make a significant difference. Thank you for working in partnership with us throughout 2025.

A special thanks to **Jackie** and **Jacqui** in our office. Their professionalism, efficiency and warmth ensure the daily operations of our school run smoothly, and we are truly grateful for all they do.

To our Leadership Team, **Deb**, **Bernie**, **Jack F**, **Hannah** and **Nic**—thank you for the care and expertise you bring to your roles. Your support of both staff and students strengthens our school immeasurably.

To our **wonderful teachers** and **LSOs**, thank you for your dedication, passion and unwavering commitment to placing students at the heart of your work. And to our students, your joy, curiosity and spirit create the welcoming and happy atmosphere that makes St Mary's School such a special place.

Finally, thank you to all **families** and **students** who have shown their kindness and thanks through emails, cards, treats and gifts already received. Your generosity is warmly appreciated by all staff.

On behalf of everyone at St Mary's School, I wish each member of our community a safe, joyful and blessed Christmas and a happy and hope-filled New Year.

Kind regards, Annice

School Links

2025 Staff Email

Family Handbook

School Website

Parent Portal
password:
mary175



Facebook:
[@St.Mary'sPrimaryGeelong](#)



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.



Dear Families,

At St Mary's School, we believe that the **behaviour curriculum** is just as important as the academic learning in the Victorian Curriculum. While our academic scope and sequences across the school develop students' knowledge and skills, our behaviour curriculum provides the foundation for how students interact, communicate and contribute to a positive school community. It explicitly teaches expectations around respect, responsibility and safety, helping students to understand not only what they learn, but how they learn and behave as part of a supportive environment.

A great deal of time and effort has been invested across the school to establish consistent expectations and routines that allow all students to learn and play safely. Staff have worked collaboratively to ensure that every student understands what safe and respectful behaviour looks like in the classroom and the playground. This consistent approach helps to build a sense of belonging and predictability, giving students the confidence to focus on their learning and build positive relationships with others.

As we move into the final weeks of the school year, it is especially important that we continue to uphold and enact our behaviour curriculum. These weeks provide valuable opportunities to reinforce the routines, values and habits that set students up for success in the future. Our partnership between school and home is pivotal in maintaining these expectations, when families and staff work together with shared language and goals, students thrive. We thank all families for their ongoing support and encouragement in helping us nurture a safe, respectful and successful learning community.

Over the past few weeks, I have been fortunate to travel through some of Europe's most beautiful and historic cities - London, Paris, Budapest, Vienna and finally Prague. Each destination has offered a unique charm, from London's timeless landmarks and Paris' elegant boulevards to the rich culture of Budapest and Vienna's grand architecture. I can truly say it has been a magical experience and a wonderful reminder of the beauty and diversity of the world around us.

What has struck me most throughout this journey is how powerfully the spirit of Christmas is expressed across these cities. Everywhere I have gone, there has been a strong sense of community, kindness and togetherness, which has been reflected in the twinkling markets, shared meals and joyful celebrations. In each place, I have been reminded of the holiness of this season, as people come together to celebrate the birth of Christ and to share His message of hope and love. The message of peace, goodwill and gratitude transcends languages and borders, reminding us of the universal importance of compassion and connection.

As we approach the Christmas season at home, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all our families. May this time bring you peace, joy and precious moments shared with loved ones. I hope everyone enjoys a restful and rejuvenating holiday and I look forward to seeing our school community return in the new year refreshed and ready for the exciting term ahead.

Warm Regards, Deborah Boland

Spotlight into Learning *Year 3/4*

During Term 4, the Year 3/4 students explored the topic of where our food and fibre come from as part of their **Reading for Knowledge** sessions. They investigated how different materials and foods are produced, from natural fibres such as cotton and wool to synthetic alternatives. Students examined the benefits, drawbacks and environmental impacts of each type of fibre, developing a deeper understanding of how everyday products are made. They also learned about Geelong's rich history in the wool industry and followed the fascinating journey of bananas from farm to table. In addition, students explored Indigenous perspectives by learning about bush tucker and the cultural importance of possum skin cloaks, gaining an appreciation for traditional knowledge and sustainable practices. To further enhance students' understanding, the 3/4 students attended the **Common Ground Project** in FreshWater Creek, which explored farming and sustainability.



School Fees & Levies

Thank you to the many families that have finalised their **2025 School Fees & Levies account**. We are very grateful for your support. Final Fee Statements for 2025 with nil balances as at 30 November 2025 will be sent out this week.

Families with amounts still outstanding (without a prior arrangement in place) will be contacted shortly to discuss as the full balance is now due.

Yesterday, an email was sent through Operoo communicating the **2026 Annual Fees & Levies** which will be billed to families at the start of the new school year (27 January, 2026). Full details are available on the school's [website](#) or see details on this page.

Any queries regarding Fees & Levies, including changes to your current Fee Commitment payment option, can be directed to Jacqui Kol (Admin Finance) at:

schoolfees@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Phone 5229 9453 option 2 'Fees/Accounts'.

To arrange a meeting to discuss Private Fee Agreements please contact Annice Lappin (Principal) at:

principal@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au



DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT SCHEDULE

As per families' DDR Forms. [DDR Form link](#).

ANNUAL

Processed on 28 February each year *

QUARTERLY

Processed on the third Thursday in February, May, August and November

MONTHLY

Processed on the 20th of each month *
(February to November x 10 payments)

FORTNIGHTLY

Commences on the third Thursday in February
(February to November x 20 payments)

(*Payments falling on a weekend will be processed on the first business day following)



FEE & LEVIES COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

NEW FAMILIES to the school
Please complete an [agreement](#)

CURRENT SCHOOL FAMILIES

Only complete a New Agreement if you wish to make a change to your current arrangement (i.e. Split Billing)

2026

Family Fee	\$2,325.00
Building Levy	390.00
	\$2,715.00
Additional Charges (PER CHILD)	
Curriculum Levy (All Students)	220.00
Technology Levy (All Students)	90.00
Activity & Event Levy (All Students)	20.00
Chromebook Levy (Yrs 3-6)	50.00
Sacramental Levy (Yrs 3, 4 & 6)	30.00
Swimming Levy (Yrs Foundation-4)	110.00
Camp Fee*—Extended Day Camp (Yrs 3&4)	185.00
Camp Fee*—3 days/2 nights (Yrs 5&6)	470.00

Family School Fees Statements

Families are billed annually for School Fees & Levies at the commencement of each school year for their enrolled child(ren). Any student commencing or leaving during the school year will receive rebates as per the Principal's discretion. Financial support is available through the **Victorian Government's Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund** and the **School Fees Concession Program**. Information and Application Forms for these will be available at the start of 2026 for eligible families wishing to apply.

Payment of School Fees

All families are required to have a **Fee & Levies Commitment Agreement** in place. The preferred payment option by **Direct Debit** either **annually, quarterly, monthly** or **fortnightly**. Families selecting payment by Direct Debit also complete a **Direct Debit Authority Form**, which will continue to operate for the length of time the family has any child(ren) enrolled in St Mary's School Geelong or amounts still owing following departure from school. Amounts payable for your chosen option are adjusted accordingly each year. **Please note: Families who request individual split billing will need to complete separate Fee & Levies Commitment Agreements and their payments will be adjusted accordingly.**

Alternatively, families preferring to make a one off, **lump sum, full payment** at the beginning of the year can do so by cash, credit/debit card or EFT prior to **28 February, 2026**.

If families are unable to comply with either of these methods of payment you are asked to **make an appointment with the Principal** to organise a **Private Fee Agreement**, which will be reviewed each year.

If school fees are not paid, and there is no approved payment arrangement in place, your child(ren)'s enrolment will be reviewed. Legal advice may also be sought for outstanding accounts to be forwarded to a commercial collection agency with any additional collection costs payable (if applicable) payable by the family.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Education Curriculum is GST exempt, and as such GST does not apply to School Fees & Levies. However other activities of a recreational nature (e.g. Food on School Camps) do attract GST and is charged accordingly.

Term 4 School Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
9	DEC 1	DEC 2	DEC 3 PFA Meeting, AGM; 6:30 pm Newsletter Advent Prayer Service, 8:55am	DEC 4 Bravehearts Foundation—Year 2 PSG Meetings #3 PFA Colour Run; 5:00- 7:00pm Final Music Bus	DEC 5 FINAL CHESS CLUB Choir Excursion 12:30pm	2nd Sunday Advent
10	DEC 8 3:00pm School Assembly (Foundation)	DEC 9 Step Up Transition Day; 9:00-11:00am Foundation Transition #3; 9:15-10:30am Open Classrooms; 3:15 to 4:15pm	DEC 10 Advent Prayer Service, 8:55am Semester 2 School Reports emailed to families	DEC 11 Thank you morning tea; 9:00am for parents/volunteers Year 1/2 Excursion Year 5/6 Excursion	DEC 12 2026 School Captain Photo; 9:00am Foundation Excursion	3rd Sunday Advent
11	DEC 15 Year 6 Graduation Liturgy; 5:00pm Advent Prayer Service, 8:55am Year 3/4 Excursion	DEC 16 End of Term 4 for Students; 1:00pm Dismissal Assembly 12:15pm	DEC 17 STUDENT FREE DAY	DEC 18 STUDENT FREE DAY	DEC 19 School Closed	4th Sunday Advent

2026 SCHOOL DATES

Term 1
27 January -
2 April

Term 2
20 April -
26 June

Term 3
13 July -
18 September

Term 4
5 October -
18 December
*Last day for
students
15/12*

Students Commence 2026 School Year Wednesday 28 January

2026 STUDENT FREE Days

TERM 1

Tuesday 27 January

TERM 2

Monday 20 April

Tuesday 21 April

Friday 5 June

TERM 3

Friday 14 August

Monday 17 August

TERM 4

Monday 16 November

Wednesday 16 December

Thursday 17 December

2026 SCHOOL CLOSURE Days

TERM 1

Monday 9 March; Labour Day

Friday 3 April; Good Friday

TERM 2

Monday 8 June; Monarch's Birthday

TERM 4

Monday 2 November

Tuesday 3 November; Melbourne Cup

Friday 18 December

Foundation Award



Rotary
Bayside Geelong

Rotary Quiet Achiever Award

Term 4

EVE

Foundation Coral

This award and \$30 Dizzy Toy voucher has been donated by Rotary Bayside Geelong and recognises students who give their very best efforts every day.

Term 1 School Calendar, 2026

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	JAN 26 Australia Day Public Holiday	JAN 27 STUDENT FREE DAY	JAN 28—First Day for Students Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm Foundation Parents Morning Tea 9:00am Newsletter 2027 Foundation Enrolments Open	JAN 29 Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm	JAN 30 Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm Beginning of Year Parish Mass; 10:00am, all students
2	FEB 2 2:50pm School Assembly (Year 5/6) Student Leadership 2027 School Tour Bookings Open via school website	FEB 3	FEB 4 Foundation Students REST DAY	FEB 5	FEB 6
3	FEB 9	FEB 10	FEB 11 Foundation Students REST DAY Newsletter	FEB 12 PFA Family Picnic; 5:00 –7:00pm	FEB 13
4	FEB 16 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am PSG Meetings # 1 3:00pm School Assembly (Year 3/4Q)	FEB 17 SHROVE TUESDAY P&T Conversations; 3:30 to 6:00pm	FEB 18 ASH WEDNESDAY Foundation Students REST DAY P&T Conversations; 3:30 to 6:00pm	FEB 19 School Fees: DDR Fortnightly & Quarterly Commences	FEB 20 School Fees: DDR Monthly Commences
5	FEB 23 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am	FEB 24 Parish Mass; 10:00am Yr 5/6	FEB 25 Foundation Students REST DAY Newsletter PFA Meeting 7:00pm	FEB 26	FEB 27 WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY Foundation & New Families Parent Welcome Night
6	MAR 2 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am F-4 Swimming Week School Fees: DDR Annual processed. Annual Fees due (NB 28/2/26 falls on a w/end)	MAR 3 F-4 Swimming Week	MAR 4 F-4 Swimming Week	MAR 5 F-4 Swimming Week	MAR 6 F-4 Swimming Week World Day of Prayer (Year 5/6)
7	MAR 9 SCHOOL CLOSED Labour Day Holiday	MAR 10	MAR 11 NAPLAN Begins Newsletter	MAR 12	MAR 13 MANNIX Feast Day (students wear Red & casual clothes) PFA FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
8	MAR 16 3:00pm School Assembly (1/2 Crystal) Catholic Education Week	MAR 17 PSG Meetings # 2	MAR 18 SAC Meeting; 7:00pm	MAR 19 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am	MAR 20 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am Lunch Order Day Parish Mass; 10:00am Yr 3/4 & Foundation
9	MAR 23 School Cross Country (Yr 3-6)	MAR 24	MAR 25 Sacrament of Confirmation (Yr 6) Newsletter	MAR 26 PSG Meetings # 3	MAR 27 Parish Mass; 10:00am Yr 1/2 & Yr 5/6
10	MAR 30 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am 3:00pm School Assembly (5/6 Sapphire)	MAR 31	APR 1 2027 Foundation Enrolments Close Open Classrooms; 3:15-4:15pm	APR 2 HOLY THURSDAY End of Term 1; students dismissed 1:00pm	APR 3 GOOD FRIDAY

Italian



Jack Powell
Language
Coordinator

Ciao,

Italian Jingle Bells with Translation; *the carol is from Laurenissima on Unlock Italy.*

Buona settimana!

ITALIAN:

Din don dan! Din don dan! Din don
din don dan!
Suona allegro il campanil, è Na-
tale in ogni cuore.
Din don dan! Din don dan! Che
felicità!
Oggi è nato il Buon Gesù tra la
neve che vien giù.

La renna al Polo Nord, scampan-
ellando va,
le strenne porterà, a tutti i bimbi
buoni,
e dalle Alpi al mar, i bimbi di
quaggiù,
aspettano quei doni che regala
il buon Gesù.

Din don dan! Din don dan! Din don
din don dan!
Il Natale cambierà tutti buoni
renderà.
Din don dan! Din don dan! Che
felicità!
Oggi è nato il Buon Gesù tra la
neve che vien giù.

Vien la neve giù, la slitta è
pronta già,
sui campi noi andiam, al trotto
del caval.
Si sente tintinnar, nella notte blu,
che gioia è correr e cantar in
slitta una canzon.

ENGLISH:

Din don dan! Din don dan! Din don
din don dan!
The bell rings merrily, it's Christmas
in every heart.
Din don dan! Din don dan! What
happiness!
Good Jesus was born today in the
falling snow.

The reindeer at the North Pole,
goes ringing along
It will bring gifts to all the good chil-
dren,
and from the Alps to the sea, the
children down here,
wait for the gifts given by the good
Jesus.

Din don dan! Din don dan! Din don
din don dan!
Christmas will change everyone
and make them good.
Din don dan! Din don dan! What
happiness!
Good Jesus was born today amid
the falling snow.

The snow is falling, the sleigh is
ready to go,
Over the fields we go to the trot of
the horse.
You can hear the tinkling, in the
blue night
What joy it is to race along and
sing in a sleigh a song.



Clementine (3/4 Quartz) can be congratulated on her performance in the Stage Arts Production of the ***Wizard of Oz***. Clementine played the role of the 'Scarecrow' demonstrating her acting, singing and dancing talent. What a bright star!



On Friday, 21 November, our Mixed/Boys Volleyball Team proudly represented St Mary's School at the State Championships. The students competed with wonderful spirit and demonstrated the skills they have developed throughout the year. The team secured one win and two narrow losses in the group stage, which unfortunately brought their finals run to an end.

Congratulations to all students involved on an outstanding achievement in reaching such a high level of competition. We are very proud of your efforts and teamwork.

Keeping Learning Alive Over Summer—While Still Letting Kids Be Kids

The long summer break is a wonderful opportunity for children to rest, recharge, and enjoy unstructured time with family and friends. It's also a chance to keep important reading and learning habits ticking along so your child returns to school feeling confident and ready for a new year. The key is finding a healthy balance between gentle learning and plenty of fun.

Make Reading Part of Everyday Life

Summer is the perfect time to nurture a love of reading without pressure. Try:

- Visiting your local library or encourage family to buy books for your child for Christmas
- Letting your child choose books based on their interests—comics, magazines and audiobooks all count!
- Setting aside a relaxed 10–15 minutes for shared reading most days.

Keeping reading light and enjoyable helps maintain skills without feeling like “homework.”

Keep Skills Fresh Through Real-Life Activities

Children learn just as much through everyday experiences. Some simple ideas include:

- Helping measure ingredients while cooking or baking.
- Counting money while shopping or using real-world maths during outings.
- Writing thank-you notes, or journaling holiday adventures.
- Playing board games that build strategy, problem-solving, and language skills.

These small tasks keep school skills active in fun, meaningful ways.

Use Short, Playful Learning Opportunities

If you'd like to include some more structured learning, aim for short bursts—no more than 10–20 minutes, a few times a week. Online literacy and numeracy games, puzzles, craft projects, or STEM activities are great options that still feel playful.

Prioritise Rest, Play and Summer Experiences

Most importantly, summer is a time for children to unwind. Unstructured play, outdoor adventures, social time, and simply relaxing are essential for their wellbeing. Play is learning too—it builds resilience, creativity, and independence.

Keep It Balanced

A successful summer doesn't require a strict schedule. Think of it as blending learning into enjoyable, everyday moments. A little bit of reading, a little bit of practice, and lots of play will help your child start the new school year refreshed, confident, and ready to learn.



Bernie Hellard
Learning Diversity
Mental Health &
Wellbeing Leader



Nicholas Coots
Wellbeing
Leader, Physical
Education
Teacher

GEM Chat this week is Empathy



Think of someone who has done something kind for you recently.

What did they do, and how did it **make you feel?**

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT



ST MARY'S SCHOOL
GEOLOG

St Mary's School is committed to Child Safety.
We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

Keeping our kids safe online: A partnership with families

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have heard about upcoming government changes in the law regarding social media accounts for children under the age of 16, which will take effect on 10 December 2025.

We are committed to understanding these new changes and working with you to ensure our students have a safe and positive digital life.

Why are these changes happening?

The new rules are all about protecting our under-16s. Many social media platforms have inbuilt design features that can:

- encourage too much screen time (like non-stop notifications or content that disappears)
- expose children to upsetting, inappropriate or difficult content through their feeds.

Experts have linked these features to problems for young people, including increased stress, less sleep, and trouble concentrating.

What is the goal?

These changes give us all a chance to help our children by:

- learning about the positive aspects of being online and the things they need to be careful of
- building their digital, social, and emotional skills so they can navigate the online world confidently and safely
- knowing where to seek help if they see or experience anything that worries them.

Are you ready to partner with us?

While social media platforms have the main responsibility to enforce [the age restriction](#), we all play a part in teaching our children to be safe online.

The best strategies are:

- **Clear communication** – talking openly with your child about their online activities
- **Effective teaching** – helping them understand online safety rules
- **Positive modelling** – showing what responsible and kind online behaviour looks like
- **Mindful timing** – holding off purchasing your child a smart phone.

Quick facts about the upcoming changes



Social media age restrictions

New rules for under-16s

Popular platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X, and YouTube may soon restrict account access for students under 16.

Other platforms may be added to the list impacted by the legislation.

What's still accessible

- Public content that doesn't require login.
- Educational platforms like Google Classroom and YouTube Kids.
- YouTube videos that can be viewed without signing in.

What it means for schools

- Schools may need to explore new ways to communicate with students and families.
- Teachers can still share age-appropriate educational content to support learning.

Learn more at the [eSafety Commissioner's Social Media Age Restrictions Hub](https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub)
www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub

We will continue to update you as more guidance is provided. In the meantime, we encourage every family to subscribe to the [eSafety Commissioner alerts](#) so you can remain informed about the legislation change and ongoing digital trends.

Let's work together to help our children become safe, skilled and responsible digital citizens, who can navigate the online world with confidence and care.

Annice Lappin
Principal

PFA Secondhand Uniform Sales

Please see [here the price list](#) and contact/order details.

PFA Volunteers will be onsite, on the school atrium between 8:45 to 9:30am on Tuesday 9 December (Step Up Day) if you wish to view and purchase items. EFTPOS Sales only.

PFA News

Parents & Friends' Volunteer Register

The PFA raises funds for school resources, equipment and programs and organises social events for the school community.

Many parents have expressed they are not able to attend P&FA meetings but could be available to assist by volunteering.

Please complete this [form](#) if you are happy to be included on a register of volunteers.

PFA Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 3 December, 2025
Centra Hotel
6:30 pm

Contact Sherryn,
pfa@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au for
further information.

St Mary's School
Parents & Friends' Association
invite you to our

Colour Run & Family Picnic 2025

Thursday 4th December | 5pm - 7pm

COST: \$10 FAMILY TICKET

To be purchased via TryBooking - email will be sent out.
Funds to go towards our new playground!

**TryBooking
Link**

*Please
Note New
Venue*

VENUE:

**Geelong City Soccer Club
Howard Glover Reserve**

5 Limeburners Rd,
East Geelong 3219
(off the Portarlington Highway).

COLOUR RUN begins at 5:30pm

There will be hot chips and hot dogs
available to purchase at the canteen,
or BYO Picnic Dinner to enjoy before
and/or after the run.

Some St Mary's School staff will be in attendance, but not supervising students.
Families are responsible for the supervision of their children.



Students can wear
white t-shirts or any light
coloured old clothes



HAPPY GELATI ICE CREAM TRUCK

will be there, so bring some
money for an ice cream!



Bring mosquito repellent
as the mozzies can be bad
down near the gardens!



Parish News



St Mary Of The Angels Parish

CHRISTMAS AT THE BASILICA

December dates for 2025

Sat. December 13th:

Seniors Anointing Mass and cuppa in the Narthex – 10am.

Tues. December 16th:

2nd Rite Reconciliation Service – 7.30pm.

Wed. December 17th:

Christmas Memorial Mass – 7.30pm.

Christmas Eve Masses:

Wednesday December 24th: 6pm; 8pm; Polish Mass – 9.30pm; and Carols at 11.30pm, followed by Midnight Mass (12am).

Christmas Day Masses:

Thursday December 25th: 7.30am; 9.30am; 11am and Polish Mass @ 12.30pm.



Help Us Beautify the St Mary of the Angels' Basilica Garden

Our school community is truly blessed to have the St Mary of the Angels' Basilica as a central part of our spiritual and educational life. The basilica grounds are in need of beautification. I have been approached by a lifelong parishioner and asked if any parish school families would be in a position to assist financially with this project.

The project is to rejuvenate and beautify the Myers Street and Yarra Street gardens. We are inviting families to contribute to this parish community-led effort to refresh this special space. Your support, no matter the size, will help ensure the garden remains a welcoming and peaceful environment for students, parishioners, and visitors alike.

If you are able to assist, cash donations can be made at the St Mary's Parish Office. Please ensure contributions are clearly labelled for the Basilica Garden Project. Donations may also be sent via St Mary's School with the same label and I will ensure they are passed on.

Thank you for helping us care for a place that means so much to our school community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Annice Lappin

Community News



Spots are limited - inquire now!

Prepping for Prep

Over 6, 2-hour sessions, children work towards their own goals in a small group environment. With a focus on confidence, skill-building, independence, and social communication, your child will be ready to start school feeling prepared and proud.

Confidence on Wheels

Does your child have new wheels on their Christmas list? Our intensive programs are run over 3 fun 1.5 hour sessions. For ages 4+ our experienced physios will have your child rolling into the holidays with confidence.

Literacy Booster

Perfect for primary school aged children. Over six fun 2-hour sessions, your child will improve handwriting, boost reading confidence, spark imagination through creative play, and build teamwork with shared projects and games.

Register online www.childrenstherapyservices.com.au or call our friendly team on 03 5221 1078

The Kidz Kitchen SCHOOL HOLIDAY COOKING CLASSES

Week 1

Monday 5th January	Cheeseburger & Chips (Age 8+) 10am - 12 noon	Sausage Rolls & Muffins (Age 6+) 1pm - 3pm
Tuesday 6th January	Dumplings (Age 10+) 10am - 12 noon	Summer Donuts (Age 6+) 1pm - 3pm
Wednesday 7th January	Pizza & Choc Chip Cookie (Age 6+) 10am - 12 noon	Cake Decorating (Age 10+) 1pm - 3.00pm

Week 2

Tuesday 13th January	Sushi & Spring Rolls (Age 10+) 10am - 12 noon	Summer Donuts (Age 8+) 1pm - 3pm
Wednesday 14th January	Cheeseburgers & Chips (Age 8+) 10am - 12 noon	Beach Cupcakes (Age 8+) 1pm - 3.00pm
Thursday 15th January	Pizza & Choc Chip Cookie (Age 6+) 10am - 12 noon	Cake Decorating (Age 10+) 1pm - 3pm
Friday 16th January	Sausage Rolls & Giant Cookie (Age 6+) 10am - 12 noon	

79 HEYTESBURY STREET, HERNE HILL

hello@thekidzkitchen.com.au

0404 873 911

www.trybooking.com/DGXTI



YOU'RE INVITED TO

EASTERN HUB Christmas Market



9AM - 3PM | **SATURDAY 06 DECEMBER** | **FREE ENTRY**

EASTERN HUB
285A MCKILLOP ST, EAST GEELONG

Artwork credit: Kyra Keenahan

Eastern Hub Geelong 

Need an extra pair of hands before & after school or during the holidays?

Geelong Nannies provides reliable, experienced nannies for casual or regular bookings.

- ✓ Nannies are Interviewed face-to-face
- ✓ References thoroughly checked
- ✓ WWCC, Police Check & First Aid

Before and after school care.
Help with transport to activities, homework, dinner, and bedtime routines.
School holiday care.

Because it really does take a village — and we're here to be yours.



Book now:
☎ 0439 971 487
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✉ enquiries@geelongnannies.com.au



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEELONG

COLLEGE TOURS

9.15am
Tuesday 17 March
Friday 20 March
Tuesday 24 March
Wednesday 25 March

1.45pm
Wednesday 18 March
Wednesday 25 March





BOOK HERE

St Joseph's College Geelong invite you to join our 2026 College Tours.

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.

Bookings essential sjc.vic.edu.au

Year 7 applications for 2027 are now open until Friday 8 May 2026

<https://www.sjc.vic.edu.au/future-families/join-us/enrolments>

Community News



REGIONAL PARENTING PROGRAMS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



[Geelong Parenting Calendar, Term 1 2026](#)



WE Made.

Jessica Johns

hello@we-made.com.au

we-made.com.au

[@Wemade.au](https://www.instagram.com/Wemade.au)

DECEMBER KIDS ART@ WE Made.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Bookings Essential at we-made.com.au/school-holiday-program Suitable for ages 5-14 \$35 per class 3 class pass \$90 11 Rutland St, Newtown				
10-11:30 Sticker Making (Craft)	10-11:30 Christmas Cards (Drawing)	10-11:30 Polymer Clay Creations (Craft)	10-11:30 Freestyle Painting (Painting)	10-11:30 Junk Art Sculptures (Craft)
10-11:30 Bubble Writing (Drawing)	10-11:30 Reindeers (Drawing)	10-11:30 Scratch Art (Craft)	10-11:30 Christmas Garlands (Craft)	10-11:30 Christmas Wreaths (Craft)
10-11:30 Cardboard Gingerbread Houses (Craft)	10-11:30 Christmas Headpieces (Craft)	10-11:30 Christmas Painting (Painting)		10-11:30 Pipe Cleaner Gardens (Craft)

FUN DIVE

FUN Dive provides participants with a fun and engaging program to explore diving, and develop and improve their skills.

1.5 HOURS



PROGRAM TIME

9 YRS & OLDER



ABLE TO SWIM IN DEEP WATER

Get in touch to find out more!

Kardinia Aquatic Centre
Park Cres South Geelong

Monday 19 January - Wednesday 21 January
10am - 1130am

1 Day \$25 or 3 Days \$50
(includes pool entry & participant pack)
CONTACT: jess@divingvictoria.com.au

TO REGISTER



little fox CHILDREN'S THERAPY

Dietician – Immediate Availability!

We're delighted to announce that we have Allison Balmer, an Accredited Practising Dietitian, joining our Little Fox team!

Allison has immediate availability to support children and families in the Greater Geelong region.

Allison has a caring, friendly, family-centred and neuroaffirming approach. She is able to support families and children in the areas listed below.

Please submit referrals via our website.

Picky eating or ARFID

Allergies and intolerances

Constipation

Build positive and calm mealtime routines

Design balanced, child-friendly meals

Gently introduce new foods

Decode hunger and appetite cues

Respond calmly to picky behaviours

Master responsive feeding and boundaries



little fox CHILDREN'S THERAPY

257 Roslyn Rd, Highton

[@littlefoxchildrenstherapy](https://www.instagram.com/littlefoxchildrenstherapy)

admin@littlefoxchildrenstherapy.com

www.littlefoxchildrenstherapy.com