

Principal News



Annice Lappin
Principal

Dear Families,

What a night to remember! Our recent **P&FA Trivia Night** was a tremendous success, bringing together families, staff, and friends of our school for an evening filled with laughter, friendly competition, and community spirit. The event was not only a fantastic opportunity to have fun and connect, but it also raised an impressive amount of \$5,800 to support our school. Our trivia host kept the questions flowing and the crowd entertained. Beyond the trivia itself, the evening was a vibrant social event that reminded us of the strength and warmth of our school community. Friends reconnected, new friendships were formed and there was a real sense of togetherness in the room. The energy and enthusiasm of everyone who attended made the night truly special.

A huge thank you goes out to the dedicated team of volunteers, ably led by **Lauren Cambridge**, and supported by **Sherryn Young, Courtney and Dan Lamanna, Louise Phillips and Ange McMahon**, who made this event possible – from setting up and decorating, to organising main auction and silent auction items and keeping everything running smoothly. Your hard work behind the scenes ensured the night was enjoyable for all. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed. Your generosity and support help us continue to provide enriching resources for our students. We're already looking forward to the next one – but for now, let's celebrate a night of fun, community, and meaningful fundraising success.

We are delighted to warmly welcome our new Assistant Priest, **Fr Vinoth Santiago**, to our parish and school community. He joins us with a deep commitment to faith, service and pastoral care and we are truly blessed to have him as part of our community.

A message from Fr Vinoth:

"Dear Parishioners, My name is Father John Paul Vinoth, and I prefer to be called Fr Vinoth. Thank you for the warm welcome I've received, and it is with deep gratitude that I begin my ministry among you. I'm very delighted to be the new assistant priest here at St. Mary's Geelong.

A bit of history about me; I was born in Tamil Nadu, India. I served as a priest in India for 5 years then moved to Melbourne in 2012. I look forward to getting to know each of you, hearing your stories, and

learning about what makes this parish so special. I'm eager to start serving and getting involved. Please feel free to introduce yourselves to me, and don't hesitate to reach out. I'm looking forward to working with all of you. Please know that I am here to serve you. I ask for your patience, prayers, and support as I learn and grow in this new role. May God bless us all as we embark on this new chapter together."

Over the past week, your children may have shared with you that the construction of our Jubilee Playground is underway. We are very much looking forward to its completion and the positive impact it will have in our school. If you are in a position to make a tax deductible donation to our building fund, please contact **Jacqui K** in our school office, email: admin@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Congratulations to our Year 5/6 Volleyball team who are the Division champions! We wish them all the best as they compete in the Regional Championships later this month.

In staffing news, congratulations to **Mrs Caitlin Steven** and her husband George on the birth of their son, Aubrey. We hope they are enjoying this precious time together.

Congratulations to **Mrs Ruth McGurk**, our music teacher who played **'Donna'** in the recent Geelong Lyric Theatre Society's production of **Mamma Mia**. Ruth was brilliant and shone on stage!

2026 staff workforce planning is well underway. Congratulations to **Dianne Dolley** (5/6 Turquoise) who has accepted a classroom teacher position at St Francis Xavier, Corio beginning in 2026. I thank Dianne for her commitment and contributions to St Mary's School, over the past 8 years. With Dianne's resignation and Brodie on parental leave, I am excited to announce that two classroom teacher position appointments have been made for 2026. The names of the successful applicants will be announced shortly.

If you are yet to do so, please mark all the upcoming school dates in your diary. As the end of the year is often busy, it would be disappointing if families missed important events and activities.

Kind regards,

Annice

School Links

Staff Email

Family Handbook

School Website

Parent Portal
password:
mary175



Facebook:
[@St.MarysPrimaryGeelong](https://www.facebook.com/St.MarysPrimaryGeelong)
Instagram:
[stmarys_ps_geelong](https://www.instagram.com/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.



Different Types of assessment

Dear Families,

As we move further into Semester Two, our students will be entering an important assessment period. Assessments play a vital role in monitoring progress, guiding teaching and ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed. They allow us to identify areas of strength, support growth where it is needed and most importantly, celebrate the individual achievements and efforts of every student.

Teachers draw on two main types of assessment throughout the semester: formative and summative. **Formative assessment happens during the learning process and provides ongoing feedback for students and teachers.** Examples include strategic questioning to check for understanding, students pair-sharing to respond to higher-level questions and teachers observing student work and responses in workbooks or on whiteboards. These approaches help teachers adjust their instruction in real time to support student learning. **Summative assessment, on the other hand, takes place at the end of a unit or learning cycle and provides a measure of how well students have achieved against curriculum standards.** At this stage of the year, summative assessment is a particular focus as teachers gather the information needed to prepare end-of-year reports, which give families a clear indication of each child's progress.

The information gathered through both types of assessment is used to guide teaching, inform future learning goals and celebrate the successes of each student. Whether it is progress towards a personal goal, mastery of a new skill or persistence in a challenging task, we take pride in recognising and valuing each child's achievements. By working in partnership, teachers, families and students together, we can ensure assessments serve as a tool for growth, reflection and the celebration of learning.

Warm Regards,

Deborah Boland

Spotlight into Learning Year 5/6

This term, our **Year 5/6 students** are exploring a diverse Core Knowledge program centred on sustainability, food production and cultural awareness. In science and history, students are delving into Geelong's wool industry, studying how sheep breeds are suited to the local environment and the historical significance of wool production to the region's economy and identity. They're learning how wool is processed from shearing to fabric and investigating the technologies that have shaped the industry over time. In addition, students are discovering sustainable farming practices and understanding how composting and nutrient recycling support long-term environmental health.

Students are also developing important life skills through units on food safety, nutrition and cultural food practices. By using the **Australian Guide to Healthy Eating**, they're planning balanced meals and learning to make informed food choices. They're applying safety and hygiene practices in food preparation and storage, with a strong focus on sustainability and environmental care.

Finally, students are considering the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander food practices, reflecting on how both traditional knowledge and modern technology contribute to responsible food and fibre production today.

Cotton Farming



Questions

What does crop rotation help with?

Crop rotation helps to...

Cotton- Vocab revision



Focus Vocabulary

textile

noun

Material that can be woven or knitted to make things like clothes, blankets, and even some types of bags.

predominantly

adverb

Describe how often something happens or the amount something happens.

predominant

Adjective

The strongest or main element.

Term 4 School Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
3	OCT 20	OCT 21	OCT 22 Newsletter Yr 5/6 Languages Excursion—POSTPONED	OCT 23	OCT 24 FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY Yr 3/4 Common Ground Excursion	
4	OCT 27 3:00pm School Assembly (Year 5/6)	OCT 28 Foundation 2026 Students—Transition to School #1; 9:15- 10:30am MANGO ORDERS CLOSE	OCT 29 PFA Meeting; 7:00pm	OCT 30 Parish Mass, Year 3/4 10:00am— Date Changed to 20/11	OCT 31 World Teachers' Day	
5	NOV 3 STUDENT FREE DAY	NOV 4 SCHOOL CLOSED Melbourne Cup Day	NOV 5 Newsletter	NOV 6 PSG Meetings #1	NOV 7 McAULEY Feast Day; wear casual clothes and a touch of GOLD	
6	NOV 10 Year 5/6 Camp 3:00pm School Assembly (Year 3/4)	NOV 11 Year 5/6 Camp	NOV 12 Year 5/6 Camp	NOV 13 Year 5/6 Staff & Student Free Day	NOV 14 Parish Mass, Foundation 10:00am	
7	NOV 17 STUDENT FREE DAY	NOV 18	NOV 19 Newsletter PSG Meetings #2	NOV 20 Parish Mass, Year 3/4 10:00am	NOV 21 Healthy Food Day— Salad Sandwiches for Students Sacrament of Penance (Yr3) 12:00pm at School	
8	NOV 24 3:00pm School Assembly (Year 1/2)	NOV 25 Foundation 2026 Students—Transition to School #2; 9:15- 10:30am	NOV 26 SAC Meeting; 7:00pm Advent Prayer Service, 8:55am	NOV 27 Parish Mass, Year 5/6 10:00am	NOV 28	1st Sunday Advent
9	DEC 1 PFA Mango Fundraiser Delivery Week	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- 6:00pm Final Music Bus	DEC 5 Final Chess Club	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	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

28 January

30 January

Students Commence School
Foundation 2027 Student Enrolments Open
Beginning of Year Parish Mass; 10:00am

27 February

2-6 March
3 April

Whole School Photo Day
F-4 Swimming Program
End of Term 1

School News

Lana O (1/2 Topaz) attends Kids Art Room - Geelong, the children of Kids Art Room were invited to submit a piece Artwork that they Created in Term 3, to be displayed in the Education Pavilion at the Geelong Show. Lana chose to submit a piece she created using Chalk Pastels as the medium. **Wayne Thiebaud** was the artist whose work Lana replicated. Wayne Thiebaud was born in 1920 and died in 2021 at the age of 101. He was well known for his artworks inspired by sweets such as cakes, candies, gum ball machines and ice cream. Lana was very proud to have her artwork shown for the very first time.

Lana's Art Display at the Geelong Show



Congratulations Clementine!

A huge congratulations to **Clementine** (3/4 Garnet), who represented **St Mary's School** at the **SSV Regional Athletics Championships** this week!

Clem put in an outstanding effort, finishing **3rd in her heat** — an amazing achievement at such a high level of competition.

Well done, Clem — we're so proud of you!



Maya M (3/4 Garnet) has recently performed in CentreStage's **'The Aristocats Kids'**. Maya is pictured with **Mrs T** (1/2 Crystal teacher). Congratulations Maya.





Bernie Hellard
Learning Diversity
Mental Health
& Wellbeing
Leader



Nicholas Coots
Wellbeing
Leader, Physical
Education
Teacher



Dr Moira Whelan
Provisional
Psychologist

Helping Your Child Navigate Difficult Relationships

As parents, we want our children to experience kind, supportive friendships. However, there may be times when your child continues to play with a peer who is consistently unkind—whether through exclusion, hurtful words, or rude behaviour. If you’ve noticed this happening, you’re not alone, and there are ways to guide your child toward healthier friendships.

Why Do Kids Stay in Unhealthy Friendships?

Children may continue playing with an unkind peer for various reasons:

- **Wanting to fit in** – They may feel that staying connected gives them social belonging.
- **Hope for change** – They may believe the other child will eventually be kinder.
- **Familiarity** – Sometimes, children prefer sticking with what they know, even if it’s not always positive.

How You Can Help

As a parent, you can gently guide your child in recognising and responding to unhealthy friendships. Here are a few ways to support them:

1. Talk About Feelings

Ask your child how they feel after spending time with this peer. Do they feel happy and included, or hurt and left out? Helping them recognise their emotions can empower them to make better choices.

2. Teach Healthy Boundaries

Encourage your child to set limits on how they allow others to treat them. A simple phrase like, *“I don’t like it when you leave me out. If you keep doing that, I’ll play with someone else,”* can be a helpful tool.

3. Encourage New Friendships

Support your child in seeking out kind and inclusive peers. Arrange playdates with children who demonstrate positive behavior and discuss what makes a good friend.

4. Model and Role-Play Responses

Help your child practice how to respond when someone is being unkind. Role-playing situations can make it easier for them to stand up for themselves in real life.

5. Reinforce Self-Worth

Remind your child that they deserve respect and kindness in friendships. Encourage them to prioritise relationships where they feel valued and safe.

Final Thoughts

While we can’t control how other children behave, we can equip our kids with the confidence and tools to build positive, healthy friendships. With your guidance, they will learn to navigate friendships with wisdom and self-respect.

If you have any concerns or need further support, feel free to reach out. We’re here to help!



GEM Chat
this week is
**Emotional
Literacy**



Reflect on a time you **felt joy**.

What made you feel this way?

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

School News



Miss Meg (5/6 Emerald Teacher) and the Year 6 Environment Committee

New Hydro Bank Installation

At St Mary's School, a new **Hydro Bank** has been installed and is already a big hit with students! It's wonderful to see so many students refilling their bottles and keeping hydrated throughout the day.

This exciting addition wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and support behind the scenes. A huge thank you to our **Year 6 Environment Committee**, who successfully applied for a **\$2,500 Barwon Water Grant** to help fund the project. We also extend our gratitude to the **St Mary's School Parents and Friends' Association** for their generous contribution, and to **Auswide Plumbing & Civil** for their professional installation.

The Hydro Bank features a beautiful piece of **Indigenous artwork** titled '**Connections**', a name chosen by our students to symbolise the idea of connecting with one another at this shared space for years to come.

It's been wonderful to see students lining up after play to enjoy a drink of fresh water. We look forward to seeing the Hydro Bank continue to be a well-used and valued part of our school community.



Nicholas Coots
Wellbeing Leader & PE Teacher



Italian

QUESTION	ANSWER
QUESTION WORD + VERB	VERB + NOUN + ADJECTIVE
Come sei? (What are you like?)	Ho i capelli neri. (I have black hair.)
	Ho i capelli biondi. (I have blond hair.)
	Ho i capelli castani. (I have brown hair.)
	Ho i capelli rossi. (I have red hair.)
	Ho gli occhi azzurri. (I have blue eyes.)
	Ho gli occhi marroni. (I have brown eyes.)
	Ho gli occhi verdi. (I have green eyes.)
	Ho gli occhi neri. (I have black eyes.)



Ruth McGurk
(St Mary's
School Music
Teacher)
performing in
Mamma Mia
as 'Donna'.

Salve (greetings),

Today, the **Year 5/6 students** had planned to attend Rippleside Park to meet with their Pen Pals from Holy Spirit School. This excursion will be postponed to a later date and is an opportunity for the students to engage with their Pen Pals and use the Italian language to communicate and participate in Italian games such as soccer and Bocce. We are looking forward to this day!

Currently within the **Year 1/2 Learning Space**, students are working towards learning how to describe parts of themselves including their hair and eye colour (see image).

Buona settimana!



Jack Powell
Language
Coordinator

McAuley Feast Day Friday 7 November



Students are invited to
wear **YELLOW** with their
school uniform or
casual clothes



Closed toe footwear must be worn



Ruth and a St Mary's School student, Brayden (1/2 Crystal) pictured following one of Ruth's performances, in Geelong.

St Mary's School is committed to Child Safety.

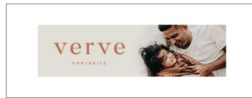
We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

ST MARY'S PARENTS & FRIENDS
2025 TRIVIA NIGHT

thank you

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

2025 TRIVIA NIGHT 2025 TRIVIA NIGHT 2025 TRIVIA NIGHT 2025 TRIVIA NIGHT 2025



PLEASE SUPPORT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES WHOSE GENEROSITY
HELPED MAKE TONIGHT A SUCCESS AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO ST MARY'S FAMILIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS!



Scan above for the St Mary's School Mango Order form!



Order your Bowen Special Mangoes today!

St Mary's School P&F Association 2025 Mango Drive

Pre-order your 7 kg tray of Bowen Special Mangoes (aka Kensington Pride) delivered fresh from the farm!

(approx. 12–23 mangoes per tray depending on fruit size)

[**ORDER HERE**](#)

Your order makes a difference - thank you for supporting our fundraiser!



Orders close:

Tuesday 28th Oct 2025

Delivery week:

Early December 2025

Price per tray:

\$29 each (same as 2024), or buy 5x trays for \$28 per tray

*Delivery dates may be changed due to logistical difficulties or seasonal changes beyond our control, your co-ordinator will be notified of any changes.

Thank You for an Amazing Trivia Night!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and made our Trivia Night such a fantastic evening! What a success, we raised over \$5800!

As always, **Simon** kept us entertained and laughing, and we hope you all had as much fun as we did.

We were thrilled to offer around 50 silent auction items, and we're so grateful for all the generous bids throughout the night. Special thanks to **Dan** for leading our Live Auction with his usual flair!

The **Wine Lottery** was a hit once again – whether you walked away with a top-shelf bottle or a cheeky Passion Pop, we hope you enjoyed the fun. Special thank you to **Meet Me at Mary's** and **The Arborist** for their generous wine donations.

We'd also like to give a heartfelt thank you to **St Mary's Sporting Club** for the use of their fantastic venue. Please continue to support the SMSC and the businesses that support our school – their generosity makes nights like these possible.

Huge thanks to:

- **Courtney**, for tirelessly collecting so many of the amazing donations
- **Louise**, for creating all the event posters
- **Dan**, our fabulous auctioneer
- **Ange**, for her help setting up on the day
- And of course, **all the generous families and local businesses who donated prizes.**

We also want to acknowledge our incredible **St Mary's School Parents and Friends' Association – Sherryn, Teonie, Simone, Ebony, Kirstie, Katie, and Louise** – for their tireless work putting this event (and so many others) together. We're a small team, and with several of us finishing up at the school soon, we'd love to see some new faces and fresh ideas join the group.

If you're interested in getting involved, our next meeting is **Wednesday 29 October** – we'd love to see you there!

Thanks again for making it such a special night.

Don't forget to order your Mangoes!

Lauren Cambridge

Trivia Night Coordinator

TRIVIA NIGHT

Fundraiser



Simon (left) and the winning team



Wine Lottery

Community News



THE MUSIC BUS

**TERM 4 2025
BOOK NOW**

- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Ukulele
- Drums
- Vocals

MORE INFO
www.themusicbus.com.au

Music Bus lessons at St Mary's School, Geelong

The Music Bus has opened their Term 4 Enrolments and are inviting new students to apply.

Classes offered are:

Keyboard (Foundation-Year 6)

Ukulele (Foundation-Year 6)

Drums (Year 1-6)

Guitar (Year 2-6)

Lessons are:

30 minute duration - once per week

held in the hi tech music classroom on wheels on our site

cost \$22 per week (\$24 drums) payable by the term on commencement

If you wish to take part please complete this expression of interest form, link below:

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



TERM 4, 2025 - REGISTER NOW @
CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU

SPECIALISED CHESS COACHING

Since 2002, we have been providing our popular Chess For Schools program in schools throughout Melbourne and Greater Geelong.




'Children love attending Phil's chess classes as he actively fosters their sense of wellbeing and motivation to learn more'.

*Rob Horwood Principal,
Stella Maris Primary, Beaumaris.*

HOW CAN CHESS BENEFIT YOUR CHILD?

Educational: Improved IQ, critical thinking, concentration, analytical skills, memory.

Social: Develop new friendships, social interaction skills, sportsmanship.

Emotional: Confidence, self esteem, resilience through winning/losing games.

CLASS STRUCTURE:

Different lessons are taught each week from a structured syllabus ranging from tactics, strategies, master openings, traps & special moves. After the lesson children are paired up in a fun tournament playoff. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 players at end of term.

BOOK HERE ➡ <https://chessforschools.com.au/>

CLASS DETAILS - ST MARY'S PRIMARY GEELONG

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DATES	COST
Fridays	1:35pm - 2:15pm	Year 1/2 Space	17 Oct to 05 Dec	\$145 per child per term

"Alex loves chess club and gets very upset if he misses a session. His chess has definitely improved and his teacher, Anita feels that it helps with his math in class in terms of concepts and thinking. Keep up the great work!" *Katrina Lambert: Hampton Primary School*

CHILDREN'S WEEK 11-26 OCTOBER 2025

Free events across
Greater Geelong



Scan the QR to view
the list of events.



CITY OF GREATER
GEELONG

McGRAARRRRR!

Trick or Treat with us



Halloween is better with community.
Drop into McGrath Geelong | Newtown on the 31st October,
we can't wait to see you.

319 Pakington Street, Newtown | 188 Moorabool Street, Geelong

McGrath



CITY OF GREATER
GEELONG

**WE'RE HERE TO HELP
— NOT TO BE HURT.**

Violence and aggression towards
our people is never ok.

Working together for a thriving community.