

Principal News

Dear Families,

Last Friday, **Deborah, Hannah** and myself had the privilege of presenting at a **MACS Staff Seminar Day at the Catholic Leadership Centre in Melbourne**. We were invited to share one aspect of our school improvement journey. While we could have chosen to present one of many aspects of our school improvement journey, we chose to present the journey to improved Spelling results; the significant spelling improvement we have strategically planned for during the past few years. We repeated the same presentation four times to different MACS staff. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and affirming that the evidence informed education we provide for our students is making a real and positive difference. Deborah has included additional information about this in her piece on page 3.

In preparing for this MACS presentation, it was both heart warming and rewarding to see how our school improvement journey has evolved, particularly over the past five years. As we have now entered the next cycle of improvement after our 2024 School Review, I am excited about what this year and the next three years will bring. We have given ourselves some ambitious goals and targets and we are all working together to see them achieved.

Our school enrolment process for 2026 is now complete. Throughout the first semester, I have enjoyed the opportunity to showcase all that is happening at St Mary's School through tours and interviews. While many have commented on our school's highly regarded, popular and positive reputation in the Geelong community, after touring the school as students have been learning, many have commented about our students' overall learning engagement and behaviour. This is in contrast to the increasing number of articles about the decline in student and family behaviour in schools, recently highlighted in the media.

I am proud to share that overall, positive and respectful conduct is consistently demonstrated by our students and their families. While national discussions focus on challenges such as classroom disruptions and the need for improved discipline, our school community exemplifies the benefits of proactive and inclusive approaches to student behaviour. We believe that setting high behavioural expectations and providing consistent support empowers our students to take responsibility for their actions and contributes to a positive school climate. When behaviour expectations are not met, we use them as teachable moments. Our commitment to school-wide high expectations for all has been instrumental in fostering a culture of safety, respect and responsibility among our students and wider school community. By clearly defining behavioural expectations and providing regular opportunities for students to practice these behaviours, we have created a supportive learning environment where positive behaviour and conduct is the norm. This approach is evident in our students' enthusiastic participation in school events,

Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

2024 Annual Report

Now Released

We're delighted to report on a year of indelible change, progress and material strides as we reinforce our MACS 2030 strategy.



Available via
our website
macs.vic.edu.au

[Click Here](#)

St Mary's School Geelong

School Closure Days

Thursday 5 June

Staff Professional Development

Friday 6 June

Staff Professional Development

Monday 9 June

King's Birthday Public Holiday

their respectful interactions with peers and staff and their dedication to creating an inclusive school community.

No-one is perfect, or expected to be perfect, child or adult. Therefore, when we do not behave at our best, support is provided, expectations reiterated, forgiveness granted and another opportunity to be better, given. As we continue to navigate the complexities of education, we remain committed to nurturing an school environment where positive behaviour is recognised, celebrated and integral to our students' success.

Thank you to our Parents and Friends' Association who work behind the scenes to 'friendraise' and 'fundraise'. If you're in a position to do so, please support them and the events and activities they have planned for our school over the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Annice



Annice Lappin
Principal

Dear Families,

During our upcoming school closure days, our teaching staff will be working collaboratively in professional learning teams to reflect on student achievement in the key curriculum areas of maths, reading, and writing. This dedicated time allows teachers to closely examine student work samples and data, identify future goals, and discuss strategies that are having a positive impact on learning. By sharing these achievements, insights and best practices, our teachers then make informed decisions about how to support students more effectively and tailor instruction to meet their needs. This collaborative approach ensures that all students benefit from a consistent and evidence-based approach to teaching across the school.

The insights gained from this collaborative day will also directly inform our upcoming school reports. **Student Progress Reports will be distributed to families, via email, on Tuesday 1 July.** Please check that your Operoo primary and secondary email addresses are up to date on your child/ren's profiles.

Parent-teacher Conversations are another opportunity to share your child's achievements this semester. These meetings will take place on Tuesday 24 June and Wednesday 25 June (3:30-6:00pm) and play a vital role in supporting student success by fostering a strong partnership between home and school. They provide an opportunity for teachers to share your child's academic progress, strengths, and areas for growth, while also giving you a chance to ask questions or share any important information with us. Open and honest communication helps ensure that everyone is working together toward the same goals, creating a consistent and supportive environment for your child. **Students do not attend these scheduled meetings with you.** Booking information has been sent to all families via Operoo and details can also be found on page 3 of the newsletter.

Other opportunities, such as sharing current learning on **SeeSaw** and **Open Classrooms**, are provided to complement written progress reports and Parent Teacher Conversations. We look forward to you interacting with these SeeSaw posts and attending this term's **Open Classrooms** on **Wednesday, 2 July from 3:15-4:15pm.**

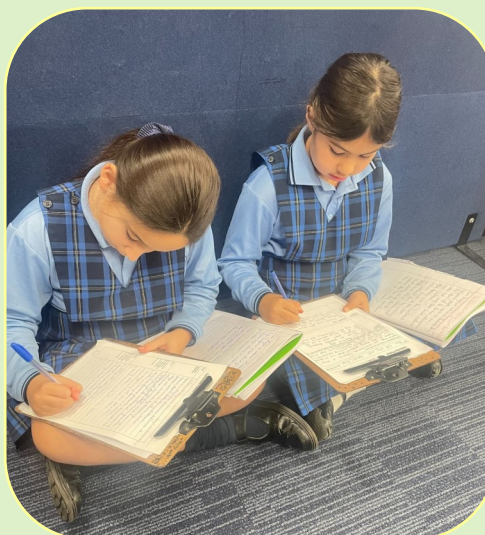
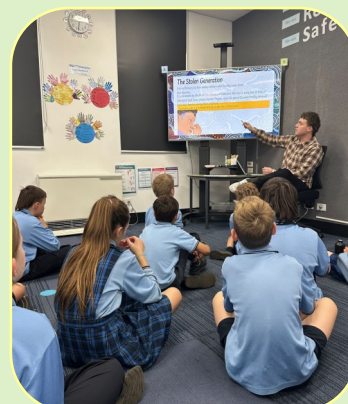
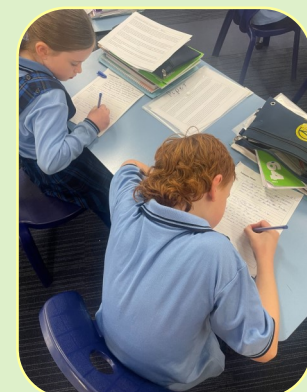
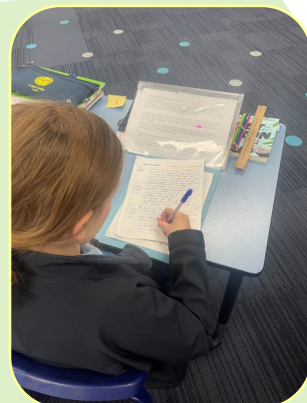
Kind regards,



Deborah Boland
Deputy Principal

During Core Knowledge, delivered in both our Reading and Writing sessions, students have been exploring **Australia's history**, specifically community, remembrance and commemoration. Students have been building knowledge each week to answer the question **'What do we remember and how do we remember it?'**

Over the last few weeks, we have delved into the history of Australia's Indigenous peoples and the importance of remembering their unique histories and commemorating their culture, traditions and contributions to our nation. We know that through Dreamtime stories, art and language, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples share their histories and allow us an understanding of their deep spiritual connection to Country. Our learning on Indigenous perspectives coincided with **National Sorry Day** and **Reconciliation Week**, further strengthening understanding of the importance of recognising Indigenous history and celebrating culture.



We are proud to share that on Friday 30 May, members of our school's leadership team; **Annice Lappin**, **Deborah Boland** and **Hannah Jackson**, were invited to present at the **Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS), Staff Seminar Day**, highlighting our journey in using evidence-based research to enhance the teaching and learning of spelling.

Since 2018, our leadership team, classroom teachers and learning support officers have gradually implemented structured, research-informed approaches to spelling instruction, focusing on explicit teaching and Direct Instruction of phonemic awareness, phoneme and grapheme correspondences, etymology and morphology. This work has not only transformed classroom practice but has also led to measurable improvements in student outcomes. Our 2024 NAPLAN results reflect this success, with outstanding achievements evident in spelling across all year levels, demonstrating St Mary's School's commitment to academic excellence and continual improvement through research informed practice and data-driven strategies.

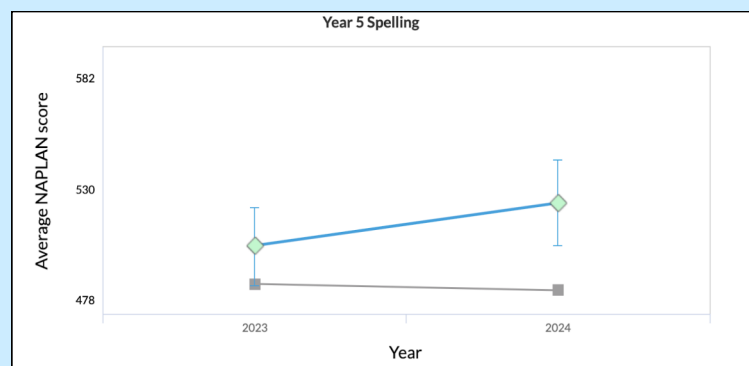
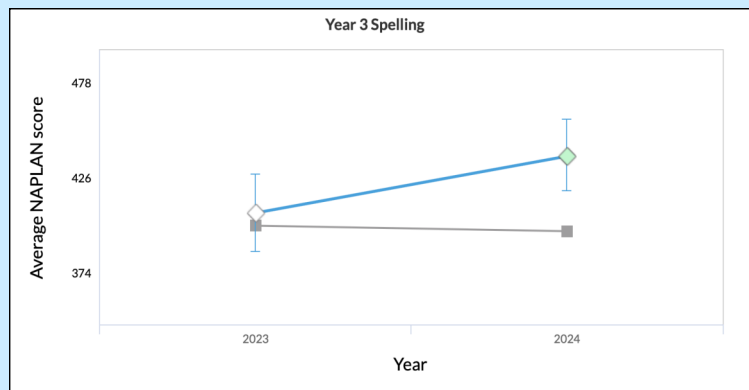
We are yet to receive the data from NAPLAN assessment for 2025, but adjacent are our 2024 results for spelling in Year 3 and Year 5. St Mary's School is represented by the blue line and all Australian school results are represented by the grey line.

We are immensely proud of the work everyone has contributed to this success!

Interpreting the graph

Selected school's average when compared to students with a similar background

- ◆ Well above
- ◆ Above
- ◇ Close to
- ◆ Below
- ◆ Well below
- ◆ No comparison available
- | 90% level of confidence



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



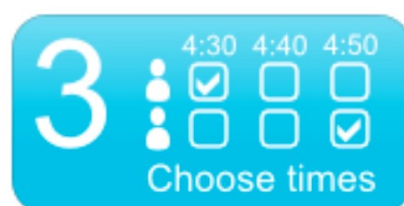
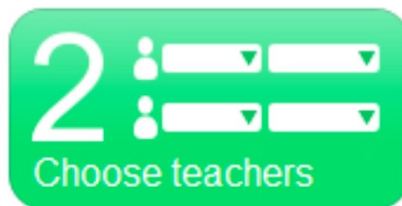
BOOKING DETAILS

Foundation to Year 6 P&T Conversations

Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 June (3:30—6:00pm)

Visit www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the event code **dekgn**

Then follow the simple steps to make your booking:



When you click **FINISH**, your timetable will be emailed to you automatically – **check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.**

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your booking time as long as there is a space available - until the bookings close **at 9:00am on Friday 20 June, 2025.**

Wellbeing

Year 6 committees, making a difference

At St Mary's School, our Year 6 committees are stepping up to make a real difference across the school!

The **Wellbeing Committee** has launched two fantastic initiatives to help students start their day with joy and connection. A **colouring competition** is underway, encouraging creativity and mindfulness across all year levels. In addition, students are invited to join the new **Skipping Club**, running on **Monday and Friday mornings**, offering a fun and energetic way to kickstart the day with friends.

Meanwhile, the **Environmental Committee** is also making a positive impact. They've introduced a **can drive** to raise funds for new sports and play equipment. This initiative not only supports recycling and sustainability, but also aims to enhance recess and lunchtime with more resources for active, inclusive play.

It's inspiring to see our Year 6 leaders promoting wellbeing, teamwork, and fun through these meaningful projects. Keep up the great work!



Bernie Hellard
Learning Diversity
Mental Health &
Wellbeing Leader



Nicholas Coots
Wellbeing Leader
Physical
Education
Teacher



Dr Moira Whelan
Provisional
Psychologist

RECYCLE FOR NEW SPORTS EQUIPMENT

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

RECYCLE

Drop your bottles & cans into the bag on the School Atrium

MUST BE COMPLETELY CLEAN
NO ALCOHOL RELATED BOTTLES
MUST BE PART OF THE 10C PROGRAM
BRING IN BOTTLES AND CANS UNTIL THE END OF TERM TO RAISE MONEY FOR NEW SPORTS EQUIPMENT

COLOURING COMPETITION

**COLOURING SHEETS TO BE COLLECTED
AND DROPPED OFF ON THE ATRIUM**

Colouring for both boys and girls.
Prizes will be awarded!

**MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE END OF
TERM.**

Gem Chat

This week
our GEM
chat
focus is
**EMOTIONAL
LITERACY**

GEM CHAT

Who are some people you can talk to about your **worries**?

RESILIENCE PROJECT

SKIPPING CLUB

Every Monday
and Friday
Morning

GET MOVING!

Meet us at
the top of
the
Basketball
court

8:30-
8:50
AM

Come jump
with us



Skipping club

Monday 8:30am - 8:50am with Thomas, Pippa H, Evie Y, Isla B, Daniel and Eloise
Friday 8:30am to 8:50am with Raff, Isla, Claudia, Joel and Mia



Term 2 School Calendar, 2025

St Mary's School Concert
Thursday 28 August

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
7	JUNE 2 Baptism Preparation Program	JUNE 3	JUNE 4 Newsletter PFA Cadbury Fundraiser Orders Open	JUNE 5 STUDENT FREE DAY Staff Professional Development	JUNE 6 STUDENT FREE DAY Staff Professional Development	
8	JUNE 9 SCHOOL CLOSED King's Birthday Public Holiday	JUNE 10	JUNE 11	JUNE 12 PSG Meetings #3 Victoria Police Incursion Yr 5/6	JUNE 13 Football (Soccer) Incursion, F-2	
9	JUNE 16 Baptism Preparation Program	JUNE 17	JUNE 18 School Advisory Council Meeting; 7:00pm Newsletter	JUNE 19 Division Netball	JUNE 20 Football (Soccer) Incursion, F-2 CADBURY ORDERS CLOSE	
10	JUNE 23 3:00pm School Assembly (Foundation) PSG Meetings #4	JUNE 24 Dance Incursion (all year levels) Parent & Teacher Conversations; 3:30-6:00pm Division AFL9s	JUNE 25 Parent & Teacher Conversations; 3:30-6:00pm	JUNE 26 Parish Mass 10:00am Year 5/6 Students	JUNE 27 T2 Lunch Order Day—PIZZA; 1:00pm Whole School Pilgrimage <i>Details to follow</i>	
11	JUNE 30 Baptism Preparation Program CADBURY ORDERS Distributed	JULY 1 Semester 1 School Reports sent to families Milo's Birthday; Foundation	JULY 2 OPEN Classrooms; 3:15-4:15pm Newsletter	JULY 3 School Choir Excursion (GPAC)	JULY 4 End of Term 2; 1:00pm Dismissal	

Term 3

1	JULY 21 Term 3 commences, gates open 8:30am	JULY 22	JULY 23 Newsletter	JULY 24 Language Leaders' Day	JULY 25 STUDENT FREE DAY Staff Professional Development	
2	JULY 28 3:00pm School Assembly (5/6 Sapphire)	JULY 29	JULY 30 <i>The Ned Show</i> Incursion (all year levels)	JULY 31	AUG 1	



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

Links

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.

St Mary's Primary School

Chocolate Drive 2025



\$60

Goody Carry Box

Includes:

- 39g Cadbury Twirl
- 44g Cadbury Cherry Ripe
- 40g Cadbury Twirl Crispy
- 46g Cadbury Picnic
- 50g Fry's Turkish Delight

40 x \$3 for 2 bars



\$60

FREDDO & Friends Carry Box

Includes:

- 12g Freddo
- 15g Caramello Koala
- 15g Freddo Strawberry
- 12g Freddo Milky Top

120 x 50c ea



\$60

Funpack Carry Box

Includes:

- 35g Cadbury Freddo
- 35g Cadbury Caramello Koala

60 x \$1 ea



\$60

The Natural Confectionery Co. Lolly Box

Includes:

- Snakes 230g
- Party Mix 220g
- Sours Squirms 220g

15 x \$4 ea

Order as many as you Like!

School families will receive an order via Operoo, payment is made via Stripe at time of ordering.

Orders and payment must be placed via Operoo by Friday 20th June by 6pm.

Please contact admin@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au for any purchasing queries.

Cadbury Boxes will be distributed to families on Monday 30th of June.

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

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

In this Jubilee Year of Hope and on the Feast of Pentecost



You are warmly welcome to
join us in prayer for our world,
our communities, and for ourselves.

Where: 'Santa Casa'
33 Flinders Street Queenscliff
Date: Sunday 7th June, 2025,
Time: 2.30pm
(followed by cuppa at 3.30pm)

Please arrive a little earlier
so we begin on time

RSVP Lizzie on 0418 194 261 or via
santacasa@ismapng.org.au

Note future gatherings in 2025:
Saturdays:
 9th August, 27th September and 13th December.



The Music Bus classes at St Mary's School for 2025

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



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



St Mary's School Term 2 Lunch Order Day, PIZZA

Friday 27 June—1:00pm

Student Pizza Slice orders can be made and paid for via
 an Operoo form, to be sent this week.