NEWSLETTER ISSUE #2
FEBRUARY 10TH 2017

PUNCTUALITY IS IMPORTANT
8:30 School gates open
8:45 Students in class
3:30 dismissal
No school for Prep on
Wednesdays in February.
PUNCTUALITY IS IMPORTANT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 13-15th Yr 5/6 Camp

Feb 21st 9:00am Passion parent helpers meeting.
6:00pm Prep Dinner
7:00pm Prep 1/2 Literacy Night

Feb 28th Parent Teacher Interviews

March 1st Ash Wednesday

March 10th School Athletics Day

March 28th Passion 2pm

March 31st End of term

EASTER 14-17 APRIL

TERM 2
Begins Tuesday 18th April

School Prayer
God, our Father, as members of the Parish Community of St Gerard’s we praise you for your love. May we grow stronger in faith and hope, and may our love for each other, become deeper in our daily lives. Grant this through your Son, and our brother, Jesus Christ.
AMEN

REFLECTION

When the Son of God became man, he could have chosen to appear as an adult. He chose instead to be born of Mary, a baby growing for 9 months, then becoming a newborn. In doing so he declared every child to be sacred, to be respected, to be cherished and to be loved. He also chose to be born into a family, because he wanted to say that every family is holy. This is not saying every family is somehow normal, let alone perfect. Much grace reigned in the Holy Family of Nazareth, but immaculate conception, fleeing across lands and birth in a stable is by no means normal. This was anything but normal, however The Holy Family was supremely holy.

Last night we gathered as families to greet in the new school year. Let us pray that God graces our families this year.

Heavenly Father, Please shine your light upon my family. Give us strength to overcome all of the difficulties that we will encounter. Grant us the wisdom and a compassionate heart to support families in distress and hardship.

O Lord, please bring us together as we are meant to be. May the love that binds us only grow stronger as we fulfill the destiny you have laid out for us.

Grant my family forgiveness for any sins we have committed. May we also forgive one another Lord, as it is sometimes difficult to do.

Bless us Lord, In your name I pray, Amen

Uniform Shop
In the Parish Hall each Monday
8.30am—10.00am
It was wonderful to see so many families last night after such a hot day, thank you for joining us. Thank you to Mrs Gab Verstrate for coordinating the event and organizing the Dandenong Brass Band to play at our event.

Thank you for your patience in the car park, the routine has been hindered by the works. Last Tuesday was particularly difficult in the morning until we got the tradesmen to stop work and open all of the car park. We could not text you to warn you because our communication wires were cut by the workers and we had no phones or internet. The works in the car park will continue next week. Please remember to use the walkways when entering the car park. If you are not sure how the walkway works please ask one of the staff on duty, there is always at least three in attendance.

We are still hopeful the new building will be completed this term and the children can move in. Then next term the classrooms above the library will be renovated.

Next week I will be on the Year 5/6 camp from Monday to Wednesday, so please see Mrs Stewart if you have any questions.

The School fees for 2017 will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Fee</td>
<td>$1,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Levy</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Requisite Levy</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Levy</td>
<td>$78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Year Computer Levy</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 5/6 Camp Fee</td>
<td>$290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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You have the whole year to pay. You can pay in instalments or all at once by the end of term 3. If you have any problems paying please see me and we can arrange an affordable plan. No family needs to leave the school because of school fee costs.

Have a great year,

Chris O’Connell

https://www.gofundme.com/helping-joe-torellis-family
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Whole School Mass:
Wednesday, 1st March: Ash Wednesday at 12:00 (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

Level Masses:
Years 1/2: Thursday, 16th Feb at 9:15
Years 3/4: Thursday, 16th March at 9:15
Prep and Years 5/6: Thursday, 23rd March at 9:15

Sacramental Dates for 2017
Confirmation: (Grade 6)
Confirmation information Night: Thursday 27th April
Confirmation: Wednesday 19th July at 7pm

Reconciliation: (Grade 3)
First Reconciliation Information Night: Tuesday 2nd May
Reconciliation: Wednesday 27th June at 10:15

First Communion: (Grade 4)
First Communion Information Night: Tuesday 27th June
First Communion: Sunday 20th August, 2pm

The Passion
During the Passion we journey with Jesus towards the cross and prepare to welcome him into our presence. Please mark this significant event into your diaries and arrange to have some time off work if needs be to see The Passion. All children will participate in an event that tells the story of Jesus Christ's arrest, trial and suffering. The story begins with Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem to the applause of the crowds and ends with Jesus dying on the cross. The Passion will take place on Tuesday 28th March at 2pm, followed by Hot Cross Buns served to parents.

The Passion: Parent helpers needed:
We are looking for a group of parent helpers that can help coordinate The Passion. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 21st February at 9am in the hall.

Palm leaves needed:
If you have some palm leaves that can be used for props for The Passion, please bring them to Mrs Stack on Monday 27th March.

Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss
Seasons is a peer support program for children and young people who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. This loss may be the result of a death, separation or divorce. This valuable program will become available in term 2.
If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Stack.

St Patrick’s Day Mass
On Friday, 17th March, 10 children from Year 6 will be attending Mass to celebrate St Patrick’s Day at St Patrick’s Cathedral in East Melbourne to represent our school. After Mass, we will walk to the Treasury Gardens to have lunch followed by a concert in the park.

Project Compassion
Caritas Australia’s annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of the Catholic congregation and caring supporters throughout Australia to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.
Project Compassion Boxes will be distributed to each class during Ash Wednesday Mass. Each class will have a target amount that they would like to raise during lent. Regular updates, by the Social Justice Leadership Team, with the amount raised so far will be announced at the school assembly.

Rosary
Each Tuesday we have a group that comes together to pray the rosary in the Church at first lunch, led by Jenny Gelderbloem from the Parish. Children are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring their own Rosary beads if they have them. Otherwise, Rosary beads will be provided.
Newsletter and Communication for New Families
At St Gerard’s School we send the weekly Newsletter via email or via the a Phone App called TIQBIZ. This is the preferred method of communication with you. If you would like more information on how to apply TIQBIZ to your phone, please come into the Office and we will help you. If you would prefer to receive the Newsletter via email, please inform the School Office as soon as possible and I will add you to the list.

CSEF—Camps, Sports, Excursions Funds
Please ensure that you return your form that was sent home as soon as possible to the office.
To be eligible you must hold a current Health Care or Concession card. A payment of $125 for primary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the school. If you have card like the sample below, please come to the school office.

Medication
Please advise the school in writing if your child requires medication during the day at school. Medication should not be in the child’s school bag. St Gerard’s Administration will take care of the Administering of Medication.

AZARETH COLLEGE
Nazareth will be having a number of OPEN Mornings, please register your attendance with the College Receptionist on 9795 8100
Thursday 9th, Wednesday 15th, Friday 24th FEBRUARY 9.00am – 10.30am
Monday 6th and Wednesday 22nd MARCH 9.00am – 10.30am
OPEN Day 11.30- 1.00pm Sunday 12th FEBRUARY