## NEWSLETTER # 1 29th January, 2016

### DIARY DATES FOR TERM 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>Mon 1st</th>
<th>Preps full day 8.45am-3.30pm</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues 2nd</td>
<td>Preps full day 8.45am-3.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 3rd</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 1st-Fri 5th</td>
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<td>Student Wellbeing Week-“Give Me Five” 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 3rd-Thur 4th</td>
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<td>Student Wellbeing “Give Me Five” Incursions</td>
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<td>Thurs 4th</td>
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<td>Give Me Five Family Night. BYO Family Picnic at 5.45pm.</td>
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<td>Fun for the whole Family begins at 6.30pm!</td>
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### PRAYER

**We are called to walk with those in our care.**

**Jesus Calls the First Disciples (Mark 1:16-20)**

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

**The Journey Begins**

As we step into this new year,

restore our spirits.

Renew our passion for sharing your wisdom

and nurture our compassion

for those in need of greater support.

Transform us as we seek to transform.

Guide us as we seek to guide.

Open our minds and hearts,

as we seek to open minds and hearts

to the Good News of justice and peace.

Help us listen more deeply

to the world and to your Word,

so we can walk with those in our care.

Attentive to the Wisdom that

calls us all to the Kingdom of God.
Dear parent,

**Welcome to 2016**

Welcome back to a new school year. It was wonderful to see the children return with smiling faces and so much enthusiasm. Each day I have walked through the classrooms and I congratulate the teachers and children on the great start they have made to the year. We also welcome back 2 staff members Mrs Rachel Lenko who will be teaching Grade 3/4 with Miss Sonno in 3/4 SL on a Wednesday, and Ms Shantelle Theodore who will be teaching with Mrs Leanne Bruno in Grade 1/2 BT. Mrs Poynton will be returning to the role of 2016 Sports teacher.

We welcome many new children and families this year and hope you all have sense of belonging very quickly. Next Thursday evening is an opportunity for us to welcome the new families and introduce ourselves—so please introduce yourself to the new families and make them feel welcome.

**A special “Thank you”**

A very special thank you to Mrs Julie Stefanovic for her very hard work in the Uniform Shop. Your tireless work is so greatly appreciated!

**Birthday celebrations at school**

A reminder that we endeavour to be a nut free school and ask that birthdays be celebrated with stickers and stationary items and not lollies or cakes. Ideally a non food treat is best to celebrate a birthday.

**Children’s Safety in the School Carpark**

Parents please use the walkway in the car park so we can best keep the children safe. We cannot take short cuts with safety. A reminder that NO CAR is to be left UNATTENDED in the drive through at ANY TIME. Cars are ONLY to start lining up in the driveway from 3.15pm. Please ensure that all available car spaces in the carpark are full BEFORE you line up.

Have a great week, Chris

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The start of each year is an exciting time for the students, teachers and families in our St. Gerard’s family. We will be celebrating the beginning of the school year with an evening of fun and activities with Fitnessworx on Thursday 4th February from 6.30pm in the School Hall. This is to build relationships between students, teachers and parents. It is an opportunity to get to know each other through fun activities in the classroom, whole school art activities and a family evening. The family night will be on **Thursday 4th February**. Parents are invited to come along with a picnic on the School Oval from 5.45pm. There will be 2 Family Activities from 6.30pm-7.30pm.

The cost of the activities will be $10.00 per child. Your child has been given a form for you to complete and return to their teacher as soon as possible. There are spare forms available from the School Office.

**Looking forward to seeing all families on the night!**

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**School Uniform**

Please be reminded that the school approved uniform is compulsory. The Uniform shop is open each Monday morning from 8.30am if you wish to purchase uniform during the year. If you are experiencing difficulty with the cost of our uniform as compared to a cheaper alternative, please feel free to come and speak to Chris.
Whole School Mass
We had our whole school year beginning of the school year celebration of the Eucharist today. Thank you to those who assisted and/or attended and we invite you to continue to pray with and for us at our Masses and Feast Days throughout the year. All are welcome. May your year be blessed by the gifts that others richly share and may we do the same for others following Jesus’ example of loving and serving one another.
Wednesday, 10th Feb: Ash Wednesday at 12:00 (without Preps)

Level Masses
Prep and Years 5/6: Thursday, 3rd March at 9:15 (with Preps)
Years 3/4: Thursday, 10th March at 9:15
Years 1/2: Thursday, 17th March at 9:15

The Passion
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 22nd 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 Monday 22nd February at 9am in the parent meeting room.

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 21st March.

Sacramental Dates for 2015
Reconciliation: (Grade 3)
Thursday 2nd June at 10:15am
First Communion: (Grade 4)
Sunday 21st August at 2pm
Confirmation: (Grade 6)
Sunday 29th May at 3pm.

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.

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.

Meditation
Thank you to everyone that has remembered that we begin each day with meditation. If you arrive late to school and the meditation bell has already gone, you need to wait in the office area until meditation time is finished.

Altar boy training
Altar boy training will resume on Thursday 11th February. After that the boys will be trained at St Gerard’s Church each Thursday from 5.30-6.30pm by Frederick Maroun and supervised by Ron Maroun. If your son is interested in becoming an altar server, please contact Mrs Stack.

Out of School Hours Care
Is now open and running for 2016! If you would like to register your child in before and after school care, please come to the School Office of collect an enrolment form.
St Gerard’s Primary School Staff for 2016

Principal: Mr Chris O’Connell  
Deputy Principal and Literacy Leader: Mrs Carol Stewart

Religious Education Leader: Mrs Dorothy Stack  
Learning and Teaching and ICT Teacher: Mrs Carrie Rodda  
Student Wellbeing and Student Services: Mrs Gabrielle Verstraete  
Numeracy Leader: Miss Melinda Sonno

Reading Recovery Teacher: Ms Christine Grant  
Sports Teacher: Mrs Kelly Poynton  
Music Teacher: Mr John Kopke  
Italian Teacher: Mrs Venerina Harris  
Prep B: Miss Louise Brown  
Prep F: Miss Nicole Fernandez  
1 / 2 A: Miss Trish Aguilera  
1 / 2 P: Mrs Judy Peres  
1/2 BT: Mrs Leanne Bruno and Miss Shantelle Theodore  
3/4 SL: Miss Melinda Sonno and Mrs Rachel Lenko  
3 / 4 C: Mrs Sabina Costello  
3/4 L: Mrs Mary Jane Lewis  
5/6 SR: Mrs Carrie Rodda and Mrs Dorothy Stack  
5/6 OV: Mrs Gwen O’Brien and Mrs Julie Verhoosel

School Bursar: Miss Rachel Thoms

School Secretary: Mrs Kelli Jacobs

Groundskeeper: Ron Jones

Newsletter and Communication for New Families
At St Gerard’s School we send the weekly Newsletter via email or via 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 my list.

Parent Information Meetings for Grades Prep-6 2016

THURSDAY 11th February, 2016 3.45pm-7.30pm

On Thursday 11th February, 2016 from 3.45-7.30pm, we will be holding Parent Information Meetings to provide an opportunity for parents to share information about their child with the classroom teacher. It is important that parents and teachers have a chance to sit down and communicate and gain understandings for the year ahead. Forms were handed out to all children yesterday, so please ensure that you return your preferred time slip back to your child’s classroom teacher as soon as possible.