DIARY DATES FOR TERM 3

AUGUST
Mon 1st        Building Works commence
Fri 12th        Gala Day 3 for Grade 5/6
Mon 15th       Feast of the Assumption Mass @ 12pm. All families welcome
Wed 17th       First Eucharist Reflection Day

PRAYER

The Blessing of Winter

In the heart of winter, let us give thanks for the many quiet blessings of this season.

We give thanks for the blessing of winter: Season to cherish the heart.
To make warmth and quiet for the heart.
To make soups and broths for the heart.
To cook for the heart and read for the heart.
To curl up softly and nestle with the heart.
To sleep deeply and gently at one with the heart.
To dream with the heart.
To spend time with the heart.
A long, long time of peace with the heart.

We give thanks for the blessing of winter: Season to cherish the heart.
Sometimes our fate resembles a fruit tree in winter.
Who would think that those branches would turn green again and blossom, but we hope it, we know it.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith.

May we be planted and grounded in love and grow in all ways into Christ.
Dear Parents,

Chris O’Connell our Principal will be on sick leave for the duration of term three, and we hope to see him back at the beginning of fourth term. While Chris is on leave I will be Acting Principal and Dorothy Stack will step in as Acting Deputy Principal. Dorothy will continue with her classroom role and her Religious Education leader role. We wish Chris all the best and hope he is feeling better soon.

I have every confidence that the Leadership Team and the staff at St. Gerard’s will continue to do the best for every student and family.

**School Building**

The construction of our new school building will begin on August 1st. The construction company Circon will arrive on site on Monday 1st August at 7 am to begin the new building. Over the first few days fencing will be established to cordon off the building site.

Due to these changes there will be different entry points into classrooms for students, families and staff. These include entry to the Prep area which will now be from the rear doors in the undercover area. All classes situated upstairs will now enter via the Prep door off the quadrangle. We ask for patience while this process is occurring.

There will be some changes to our familiar school environment, so please be patient during the construction process. The demolition of the old building will occur over the first few weeks.

*All hazardous materials will be removed during out of hours school operation and air monitoring will be implemented to ensure the safety of the school community, contractors and neighbours.*

The Administration staff have a display of the new building drawings in the foyer for you to look at.

**The building site is strictly ‘out of bounds’ to all staff, parents and students** – this for the safety of all.

If you have any concerns please contact the office and I am happy to discuss your concerns with you.

Thanking you for your cooperation. We hope to be in our new school building as quickly as possible. More information will be sent home in flyers, so keep a look out for these.

Have a great week ahead!

Mrs Carol Stewart
Acting Principal

---

**A special “Thank you” to Grade 3/4 L**

Thank grade 3/4L who remained silent (NO ONE SPOKE a SINGLE word) while a very tired class member slept on the beanbag for 25 minutes.

The children showed care, concern and thoughtfulness towards the other student.
You are invited to participate in a FREE session about creating happy parents and therefore happier children at St. Gerard’s School.
The session will be about creating awareness of our children’s inner feelings as parents/guardians. It will enable us to understand what is behind the unexpected behaviour of our children and overcome the challenges. It will also explore the negative feelings and thoughts children might have such as fear, sadness or loss of interest in activities.

**Session:** Happy parents, Happier children

**Guest Speaker:** Cecilia Lopez

**South East Co-ordinator for Foundation House**

**When:** Wednesday 3rd August 2016

**Time:** 9am - 11am and/or 6:30pm - 8:30pm depending on numbers

---

Reply Slip

I/We__________________________________ will be attending the Happy Parents, Happier Children presentation.

Child’s Name: ___________________________ Grade: __________

LANGUAGE preferred: __________________________

Child Care needed? Yes No (Please tick the box)

Number of children requiring childcare (if during the day): ________

Time preferred (Please tick preferred time)

9am - 11am

6:30pm-8:30pm

---

**Student Saving and Banking**

**School Bank Book Days for Term 3 - 2016**

4th and 18th August

1st and 15th September

Student Banking is on again! If you want your child to learn the value of saving, St Gerard’s School offer a CDF Student Banking Program.

Opening a account is as easy as picking up a form from the School Office and returning it, once processed your child will receive a welcome gift!

For those students who have a account please ensure that you have your bank books in fortnightly Thursdays, as per dates indicated.
Whole School Masses:
15th August: Feast of the Assumption at 12:00
Mary, our Mother, shares in the glory of God in heaven. We rejoice as all in heaven rejoice!

Whole School Living Rosary:
Please join us in celebrating The Living Rosary on the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thursday 8th September in the School Hall at 12:00.

Level Masses:
Prep and Years 5/6: Thursday, 4th August at 9:15
Years 1/2: Thursday, 1st September at 9:15
Years 3/4: Thursday, 8th September at 9:15

Sacramental Dates for term 3
First Communion: Year 4
First Communion Reflection Day: Wednesday 17th August
First Communion: Sunday, 21st August at 2pm (for Year 4)
First Communion Assembly: Friday 26th August at 2:30

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 is available in term 3.
If you have any questions about the program, please don’t hesitate to speak to Mrs Stack.

Other important dates:
Level Talent Quest Auditions: Wednesday, 14th September
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.

Altar boy training
The boys are trained by Frederick Maroun and supervised by Ron Maroun at St Gerard’s Church each Thursday from 5.30-6.30pm. If any other boys are interested in training please let me know.

Prep Enrolments for 2017 are now “OPEN”
If you have a child who will be turning 5 years of age on or before 30th April, 2017, they will be eligible to commence Primary School next year.

Please phone Kelli Jacobs for an application or for more information on 9791 7553 or email kjacobs@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au