First Communion Celebration 2016

Congratulations to the First Communicants who received their First Holy Communion last Sunday, 21st August. Please pray for these children and their families as they continue their spiritual journey with Christ.

Thank you to all who have helped the children prepare to receive this special Sacrament, especially our parents and teachers, Mrs Castello, Mrs Lenko, Mrs Lewis and Miss Sonno.

Thank you also to all the parent helpers who prepared lunch and refreshments for our First Communicants on our special reflection day. Your contribution to these special days is greatly appreciated as we share our faith in celebration.

Thank you to Fr Arthur for celebrating such a beautiful First Communion Mass. We are blessed to have both Fr Arthur and Fr Williams in our Parish who regularly come into the classroom for Religious Instruction, especially while children are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments.

First Communicants 2016-

Antonio Alex
Beadjowk Awacker
Brandon Chiu
Alisha Della-Salandra
Kiara Di Paolo
Mercy Diyago
Nivain Don
Lachlan Hickox
Lado Jada
Abalu Labalu
Bradley Lopez
Lii Maliko
Josh Mauriks
Europa Toomalatai
(Ahvoo Ngan Woo)
Ryan Perera
Lukas Rughoo
Daniel Wright
Xavier Zaher

May God bless them and keep them.

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
To St. Gerard’s families,

**Book Week**
What a great week we have had at St. Gerard’s! It has been wonderful to see so many happy smiling faces every morning entering the school. It has been a very busy week here. The Grade 4 students received the sacrament of Communion on Sunday celebrated by Father Arthur. We have been taking part in Book Week activities all week. The children are all busy preparing for the school production early in Term 4. Each Friday we have Sporting Schools visiting our school and running sporting activities with the Grade 1/2 and 5/6 students.

**Literacy and Book Week**
We have had so much fun and a lot of learning has occurred this week. On Thursday we all celebrated the 2016 Book Week. There were over 30 families who came along to join in our Book Week Parade! I saw fairies, pirates, clowns and so many other book character including two mums who dressed up as pirates!

The winners from each level were Levi Lopez from Prep B, Elyana Tannous from Grade 1/2P, Dixie Moore from Grade 3/4C and Mi’ Chaela Martin from Grade 5/6SR.

All classes took part in a variety of activities related to the 2016 Short Listed Books. The children had such a great time dressing up and so did the teachers and parents. Thanks to everyone for coming along dressed up as a book character or to watch the parade.

**Celebration of the Eucharist**
Our grade 4 students received the Eucharist for the first time on Sunday. Thank you to the many parents who helped prepare their child, to Father who put so much time into the preparation of the children, our choir leader Natasha Walsh the choir and of course our wonderful dedicated teachers who ensured the children were well prepared and the teachers who came along to support the children.

**Parish 60th Anniversary**
The parish will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary with a Diamond Jubilee Dinner Dance on Saturday 22nd October. If you wish to attend please contact one of the numbers attached.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of St. Gerard’s school life.

May God Bless you all and with kind regards from,

Carol Stewart
Acting Principal

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2016 Winners of the Book Week Parade!
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

School Hours
8.45am First Bell - Children to Classrooms
11.05am -11.45am - 1st Lunch break
1.50pm - 2.30pm - 2nd Lunch break
3.30pm - Dismissal
Children need to be at school at 8.45am and ready to begin class at 8.50pm

St Gerard’s Parish Diamond Dinner Dance
When: Sat 22nd October 2016
7.00pm til 11.30pm
Where: Freccia Azzurra, 784 -796 Springvale Rd, Braeside.
Dress: Ladies – Cocktail dress/gown Men – Lounge suit & tie
Tickets: $55 Per Head Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks included in ticket price.

Featuring Live Music and a Three Course Dinner.

Rachael Blackburn 0413 191 190
Angele Pacifique 0411 578 404
Andrew Vacarro 0404 390 824

Term Dates
Term 3:
Monday, 11th July-Friday, 16th September

Term 4:
Monday, 4th October-Tuesday 20th December

Our Learning Support Officers!

Our gorgeous Super hero
Isaiah! Prep F

Look out Spy Kids Mum is watching you!!!

Jack I think Jill is looking for you!

Two of our beautiful Prep mums!!
Mrs Arias and Mrs Tofa

Jill (Dominique) where is Jack???
We eat bread. We need to eat; we cannot keep alive unless we eat. Our very need to eat reveals a profound dependence at the very heart of our existence. Give us this day our daily bread. We are not the source of our own lives and the very necessity of eating is a sign of this. We must take something from outside us and take it into ourselves in order to stay alive.

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' Jn 6: 35

Jesus describes himself as the ‘bread of life’. He is inviting us to discover the radical nature of bread in our lives and to find in him a spiritual meaning that is greater than ourselves and that continues to sustain us as a community.

The human reality of bread and eating is a window to the mystery which the eye cannot see, the ear cannot hear and the hand cannot touch. God of life, through your sustaining gift of bread may we find common ground with all human beings.

Lead us beyond what we can see and hear and touch into the discovery and celebration of the mystery of the ‘bread of life’, Christ among us.

Over the past few months our school staff have been learning about the 7 new Child Safety Standards. In addition we have written four new policies outlining how we keep children safe in our school:

- Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct
- Child Safety Policy
- Child Safety Statement
- Child protection – Reporting Obligations

These policies are now on the school website as well as in the school foyer. If you would like your own copies please complete the Reply slip below or call into the Office.

Name:______________________________________________________
Grade:______________________________________________________

Please supply me with the following policies (Please circle):
- Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct
- Child Safety Policy
- Child Safety Statement
- Child protection – Reporting Obligations