Last day for all students is FRIDAY 16th December at 1pm

First day for all students Prep-Grade 6, 2017 is Tuesday, 31st January, 2017

AFL Pop Up Clinic Fun!!!
To the St. Gerard’s school community,

On Wednesday we celebrated our end of year mass with the St. Gerard’s community. It was a very spiritual and prayerful mass. It did make me reflect back over the year and think about all of the wonderful events that have occurred over this year. I do know I am extremely grateful for the wonderful support and trust the parent community have given me. I also thank the remarkable staff we have at St. Gerard’s, the care and dedication they give to the students and families at our school is exceptional! We are all happy and grateful that Chris O’Connell is back at school and feeling well.

Christmas Carols
It really felt like Christmas was nearly here, when we celebrated our annual Christmas Carols. It was such a special evening and all of the classes performed so well. The teachers sang a Wiggles Christmas song and performed well. It was lovely to sing along with the students and families and to have a special visit from Santa and Dorothy the Dinosaur! Each year I believe it is the best carols ever!

Farewell to our Grade 6 Students
We will farewell our Year 6 students with a special assembly next week on Thursday December 15th @ 2pm. In the evening there will be mass @ 7.00 p.m. After Mass, there will be a ceremony in the hall. This will be followed by supper in the Majellan Room and all are welcome to attend.

Out Of School Hours Program
As many of you will know Rob and his company will no longer be offering before and after school care at St. Gerard’s. However the school has engaged a new company to take over from the beginning of 2017 at St. Gerard’s, so there should be little disruption to the service for our families. More information will be distributed next week to all families, especially those families who use the before and after school care service. Rob will continue to work in the school as a Learning Support Officer, so the students will continue to see him around. Rob and his company have offered a wonderful service over a long time and we thank him for all of his dedication and service to the children and families of St. Gerard’s.

Father Arthur and Father Williams
I would like to thank Father Arthur and Father Williams for their continued spiritual guidance and support to our students, staff and families. The students enjoy the classroom visits and the staff enjoys it when our priests visit the staffroom to chat with the teachers.

School Fees
A final urgent reminder to all families that school fees for 2016 need to be finalised. Accounts were sent home on the 21st November. Unless separate arrangements have been made, all parents with outstanding fees should already have made their final payment for 2016. Please contact the school if you are having difficulties making your final payment.

Last Day of the Year
The last day of Term 4 is Friday December 16th and all children will be dismissed at 1.00 pm. All staff will be involved in meetings on Monday December 19th and Tuesday December 20th.

Farewell to Staff
We sadly farewell Ms Trish Aguilera who will be leaving us at the end of this year. We thank her for her generosity of spirit wish her well in her future adventures. We also farewell Mr Greg Illman our PE teacher who will also be leaving us for adventures beyond St Gerard’s.

Welcome
We warmly welcome our new PE teacher Mrs Neesha Bateson who will be joining our happy team at St Gerard’s in 2017.

I wish you all a very safe, happy and holy Christmas and I hope you all enjoy the break and look forward to seeing you all back here in 2017.

With kind regards,
Carol Stewart
Deputy Principal
**Important Dates for your diary**

**Thursday 15th Dec:** Year 6 final assembly and Graduation.

**Rosary**

Each Tuesday we have a group that comes together to pray the rosary in the Church at first lunch, led by Jenny Gelderbloom 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.

**AFL Pop Up Clinic Gallery contin…….**
Praying for our needs

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

St Paul is inviting us here to live as Jesus has asked us to live, with happiness, tolerance and love, and to pray for our needs to our Father in Heaven. He has reminded us that our Father will provide what we need, each day, and so we pray quietly for these…

Lord, there can be so many distractions for us every day. Help us to pause to make ourselves ready to celebrate Your coming at Christmas. Teach us to appreciate the gifts you bring – love, joy, happiness, freedom and peace. Give us the grace to invite you into our hearts every day.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

St Gerard’s Primary School Staff for 2017

Principal: Mr Chris O’Connell
Deputy Principal and Learning and Teaching : Mrs Carol Stewart
Deputy Principal and Religious Education Leader: Mrs Dorothy Stack

Student Wellbeing and Student Services: Mrs Gabrielle Verstraete
Numeracy Leader: Miss Melinda Sonno
Reading Recovery Teacher: Ms Christine Grant
Music Teacher: Mr John Kopke
Italian Teacher: Mrs Venerina Harris
Sports Teacher: Mrs Neesha Bateson
ICT Support: Ms Shantelle Theodore

Prep BC: Miss Louise Brown and Miss Sabina Castello
1/2F: Miss Nicole Fernandez
1/2 BT: Mrs Leanne Bruno and Miss Shantelle Theodore
2/3 P: Mrs Judy Peres
3/4 SL: Miss Melinda Sonno and Mrs Rachel Lenko
3/ 4 L: Mrs Mary Jane Lewis
5/6 VS: Mrs Julie Verhoosel and Mrs Dorothy Stack
5/6 O: Mrs Gwen O’Brien

School Bursar: Miss Rachel Thoms
School Secretary: Mrs Kelli Jacobs
Groundskeeper: Mr Ron Jones

Learning Support Officers to be advised at a later date.