



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

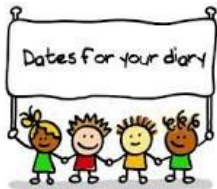


Term 1 Week 10

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

1 April 2021



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated a birthday this week.

- Nithin - Prep B
- Enki - Prep B

TERM 2 COMMENCES
Monday, 19 April



Happy Easter

Wishing you a holiday celebration filled with family, friends, love, and laughter!



Children reflect on the Last Supper through our prayer spaces.

Little did the disciples know that the Passover meal would be Jesus' last meal on earth. What an experience to sit with our Savior and witness the breaking of bread and pouring of wine, symbolizing Christ's sacrifice for us. In this season leading up to Easter, be encouraged and reminded of Christ's incredible love for you and ask yourself how you are being called to sacrifice yourself for others.



Wishing you all the JOY of the Risen Christ this Easter

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

A big congratulations to our students, families and staff for a wonderful first term of 2021.

We certainly finished Term 1 on a high with our **Holy Week Prayer Spaces** in the PAC. Each class prepared an aspect of Holy Week which provided visitors with the opportunity to spend time reflecting, responding and praying. In addition to classes visiting the PAC,

St Gerard's families and parishioners experienced these spaces after the **9.15am Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday**. This was a wonderful way to share our faith at this significant time in the Church Year and I would like to acknowledge the leadership and coordination of Mrs Stack in making this opportunity possible. It was great to see that **our children were involved in the planning, preparation and setting up of their space**.

When reflecting back on the term it was wonderful that we were able to **return to a more 'normal' school life**. Some of these 'normal' aspects included:

Give Me 5 Week, 3 Way Conversations, celebrating our Beginning of the School Year Mass, Whole School Athletics Day, after school Auskick clinics, Harmony Day, World of Maths Incursion, National Ride to School Day, National Day Against Bullying and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. By being able to engage in these activities, we as a school were able to offer a well rounded educational setting for our children. Let us pray that we will be able to continue in this manner for the remainder of the year.

A reminder that **Enrolments for Prep in 2022 are open**. If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the School Office. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments**, however we are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we enrol our existing families as soon as possible.

Lastly, I hope everyone has a safe holiday and a happy and holy Easter. We look forward to seeing you in **Term 2 which starts on Monday 19 April**.

Thank you for your continued support.
God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principal



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacrament Dates, 2021

Planning for all Sacraments is underway. More information will be forthcoming once details are confirmed. **Please note that arrangements may change based on Federal and State Government health advice.**

First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)

First Communion: Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June at Parish Mass times (TBC)

Other Import Dates for Religion:

Friday, 2nd April	Good Friday
Saturday, 3rd April	Holy Saturday
Sunday, 4th April	Easter Sunday

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 your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.

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 has finished.

Altar Boy Training

Altar boy training has recommenced. If your son would like to train as an altar boy please contact Ron Maroun on 0412 212 287.



As we enter Holy Week, we continue to reflect on the lives of people vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice and how we can respond through supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion appeal.

THANK
YOU



Let us take time to remember the life and teachings of Saint Oscar Romero. His many lessons include: live a simple life, commit to bringing peace to the world, speak the truth and of course aspire not to have more, but to be more. Some words from what has become known as the Oscar Romero prayer; "We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest."

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Campaign. Your generosity will work for the freedom of those living in poverty, challenge unjust structures, and empower people to work for a sustainable way of life.

Anzac Day

Our Social Justice leaders will be selling Anzac Day badges for a gold coin donation on our return to school in Term 2.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D



Holy Week Prayer Spaces



WELLBEING NEWS



On Monday 29th March we will held our fourth **Garden Market Stall** for 2021.

The Environmental leaders sold fresh, zucchinis, lemons, parsley seeds, plants and eggs straight from the garden. We sold delicious homemade plum jam as well as tomato chutney which was generously donated by one of our beautiful mums and staff members! Thank you to all of the parents who supported our market stall!!!



What's resilience?

Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help [build resilience in children](#).



A child or young person who is resilient might:

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it
- feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to know more about the following community events, please see our noticeboard inside the school gates.

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|---|---|
| • South East United - Go Girls Football | • Key Z Park (Calisthenics) |
| • Dandenong Education Program (conducted by St Vincent de Paul) | • Endeavour Hills Eagles (AFL) |
| • North Dandenong F.C Auskick (AFL) | • St Mary's D's (Netball) |
| • North Dandenong Neighbourhood House | • Rowville Hawks (AFL) |
| • Rowville Hawks (AFL) | • Little and Trivial Events (Entertainment) |
| | • Noble Park Bulls (AFL) |

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

What sort of help does the school give students?

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

How will the NCCD be different this year?

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

Where can I find out more?

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).