

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 2 - WEEK 1

19 April, 2024



Guiding hearts in prayer: Students lead the way in Easter Prayer Spaces for our Parishioners

Heavenly Father,

In this Easter season, we come together in gratitude for the prayerful reflection led by our Year 5/6 students in our Easter Prayer Spaces. Their dedication and guidance have inspired our path with hope and faith, even beyond Easter Sunday.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Father Shanthaiah for his support, and to our parishioners for their participation and prayers. May the spirit of Easter continue to inspire and uplift us all as we journey together in faith.

Amen.



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<https://www.facebook.com/stgerardsps>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

Welcome back!

I hope that you all had a Happy and Holy Easter and that the holidays were a chance to refresh and recharge.

This week has seen us get straight back into our routines and provide meaningful learning experiences for our children.

We had a large number of families and parishioners visit our Prayer Spaces in the Year 5/6 area depicting Easter Sunday and the Resurrection of Jesus. I would like to thank our Year 5/6 children and their teachers for presenting these vital aspects of our faith in such meaningful and interactive formats and for the families that came and visited them.

Our before school reading in the Library re-commenced on Wednesday morning from 8.30am. This is always a great way to start the day by reading as a family, with friends or individually. There is a standing invitation for all families to join us each Wednesday,

On Thursday evening we had two Sacramental meetings, our First Communion Family Workshop (Year 4) and our Confirmation Family Workshop (Year 6). These workshops indicate the formal preparation period for these two Sacraments of Initiation. These gatherings are always inspiring as it allows for families to come together to share and explore their faith and as a school we are privileged to be part of this.

Today (Friday) our Year 5/6 children participated in their first Gala Day of the year, which saw them compete in Basketball and Netball events against local schools. It was wonderful to see our children so engaged and enthusiastic and as always they represented our school positively. I would like to thank Mrs Wilson for her leadership and coordination of this opportunity and Mrs Te, Mrs Smith, Ms O'Brien, Mrs Zelic and Andrew (parent volunteer) for encouraging and supporting our children.

Early this week, families were sent information about participating in an Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Survey. This survey provides our school with important information to help us understand our current Catholic identity and where the school community might like to see itself in the future. In addition to families (parents), our staff and Year 5/6 students participate in the surveys. I am therefore asking for parents to complete the survey as the information helps us plan for the future. The survey window is open until next Friday 26 April. I thank you in advance for your involvement.

I would like to remind you that we have 2 School Closure Days planned for next week which allows for Professional Development and dispenses Time in Lieu that our staff have accrued. Due to the availability of Professional Development activities, advice from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and public holidays, we will be having school closure days next Wednesday 24 April and Friday 26 April with the ANZAC Day public holiday on Thursday 25 April. Therefore there will be 3 consecutive days when the school is closed.

On a final note, the recent events in Sydney are a timely reminder to all of us of the fragility of life. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families involved and indeed to anyone who has been impacted. It may also be an opportunity for us to pray for peace in our world and to appreciate the people that we are close to.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education

Sacrament Dates, 2024

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Family Workshop:

Thursday 18th April, 6:30pm

First Communion Reflection Day:

Thursday 30th May (children may wear casual clothes)

First Communion:

Sunday 2nd June, 10:30am

First Communion Assembly:

Friday 7th June, 2:50pm

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Family Workshop:

Thursday 18th April, 7:30pm

Confirmation Reflection Day:

Monday 27th May (children may wear casual clothes)

Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland Visit:

Tuesday 28th May, 2:00pm

Confirmation:

Saturday 1st June, 5:30pm (conferred by Bishop Ireland)

Confirmation Assembly:

Friday 7th June, 2:50pm

Whole School Masses:

Monday 24th May

Our Lady Help of Christians at 9:15

Friday 7th June

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

Level Mass:

1/2 Level:

2nd May, 9:15am

Prep/5/6 Level:

9th May, 9:15am

3/4 Level:

16th May, 9:15am

Reconciliation:

Year 3:

Thursday 9th May, 10:00am

Year 5:

Thursday 16th May, 10:00am

Year 6:

Thursday 23rd May, 10:00am

Year 4:

Thursday 30th May, 10:00am

Other Important Dates:

Mother's Day Paralyturgy/Activities:

Friday 10th May

Sorry Day Paralyturgy:

Friday 24th May, 2:50 pm

Refugee Week:

16th to 22nd June

Refugee Week Paralyturgy:

Friday 21st June, 2:50

Vinnie's



WINTER APPEAL

'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.' Mathew 25

St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

We aim to pack our food cart to capacity once again for the St. Vincent De Paul Winter appeal. Beginning in week two, our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will collect food items until the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that contributes the most items will enjoy a casual dress day as a reward.

Religious Education

Altar Servers

Altar service practice will take place every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm in St. Gerard's Church. To be eligible for service, individuals must have completed their First Communion. This provides a wonderful opportunity for young members of the Church to participate in the liturgy and take on the responsibilities associated with altar service. For any inquiries regarding altar service practice or eligibility, please feel free to contact the parish office at 97924422.

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

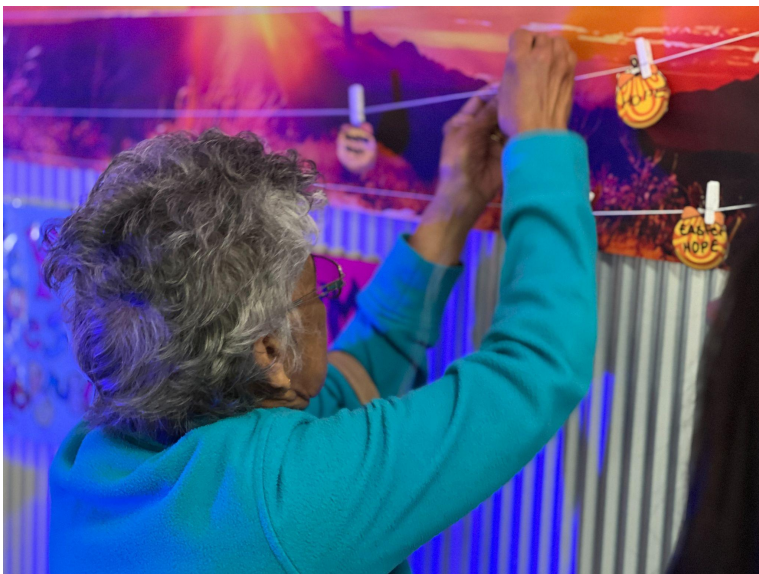
We extend an invitation to families to bring the Our Lady statue into their homes for a week, enhancing their family prayer experience. A brochure containing instructions for engaging in rosary prayer, along with sets of rosary beads, will be provided. If you are interested in taking the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs. Stack know.



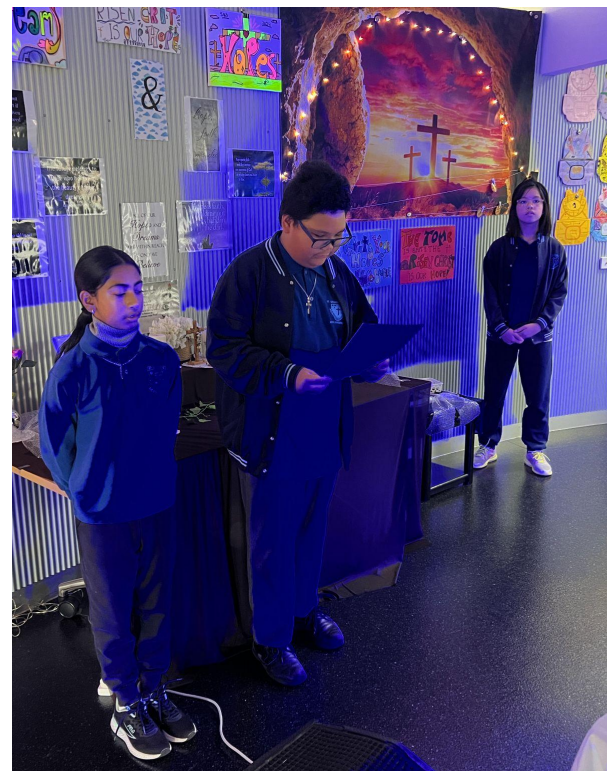
Yr 5/6 Gala Day



Easter Prayer Space



Easter Prayer Space



Please note the following changes in relation to uniform purchases for St Gerard's Primary School:

Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

Option 1 - Online Order

Access to our Online Ordering System

1. www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
2. Go to **SHOP ONLINE NOW** (red box)
3. Select your school
4. Uniform listing with images will appear.

Select items you are wishing to purchase:

Style
Size
Colour
Quantity
Add items to bag

5. Once all items are added to bag, proceed to checkout.
6. Select delivery options
 - a. Pick up from school (free) in comments section please enter your child's name and class
 - b. Pick up from A Plus Schoolwear (free)
 - c. Postal address (delivery charges will apply)
7. Either checkout as guest, returning customer or create a new account.

Orders placed by Sunday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

Option 2 - Fill out the order form and leave it at the school office.

Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

RETURNS

Can be given to the school office and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus School wear.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact A Plus Schoolwear

9354 8345 or email angie@agsprints.com.au

IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES



ENROL IN KEYBOARD LESSONS IN TERM 2

Excel Music is currently accepting new enrolments for their keyboard lessons commencing in Term Two 2024. These lessons are held during school time at a cost of \$15.00.

To enroll your child, please obtain an enrolment form from the school office or email music@excelmusic.com.au.

Please note that if your child is already enrolled in our music lessons, you do not need to complete another form. To cancel lessons, please contact Excel Music via the above.

Enrol now!

SAVE
the
DATE

2024

LITERACY WORKSHOP

WHEN:

16TH MAY

FROM 6.00 PM TO 7.00 PM



IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES

March

- 24th School Closure Day - Religious Education Staff Professional Learning
- 25th ANZAC DAY Public Holiday
- 26th School Closure Day
- 29th Foundation and Year 1/2 Myuna Farm Excursion

May

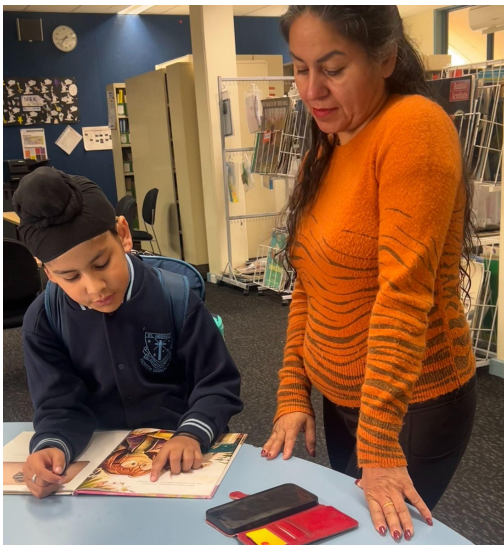
- 1st Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 1st School Photos
- 1st First of May, 'Hats Off Day'
- 1st Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) Family session 9.00am - 10.00am
- 2nd Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) Family session 2.30pm - 3.30pm
- 6th St John's Regional College Soccer Gala Day (Paul Wade Cup)
- 7th Open Day
- 8th Rosary in the Church at 11:05am
- 8th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 9th Ride/Walk to School Day
- 10th Mother's Day Activities
- 15th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 16th Whole School Family Literacy Evening 6.00pm - 7.00pm
- 22nd Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 23rd Open Day
- 24th Our Lady Help of Christians Whole School attends Parish Mass at 9.15am
- 27th Confirmation Reflection Day
- 28th Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation at 9:30am
- 29th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 29th - 31st - Year 5/6 Camp at CYC ADANAC Lodge, Yarra Junction
- 30th First Communion Reflection Day

June

- 1st Confirmation at 5:30pm
- 2nd First Communion at 10:30am
- 5th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 5th Rosary in the Church at 11:05am
- 6th Italian Day
- 6th Ride/ Walk to School Day
- 7th Confirmation and First Communion Assembly in the PAC
- **10th King's Birthday Public Holiday**
- 12th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 19th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 26th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 27th Subway Lunch
- **28th End of Term 2 - school finishes at 3.30pm**

Reading before School

Every Wednesday from 8:30am



IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

Just a reminder to parents to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications please supply ventolin, spacer and medications on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labelled bags in the school office.

Pick-up From After-School

Parents are asked to please be prompt when picking up your child/ren after-school. If a ride is not here when school concludes, the student may be sent to aftercare instead of the office. Please remember school aftercare does have a cost involved and time will begin accruing at the end of the school day. If a student's ride has run into an unexpected delay, please call the main office to let them know.

St Gerard's YLVOSHC

Program Information

Service Phone Number: 0402 192 685



OPERATING TIMES

Before School Care

Hours:

6:45am - 8:45am

After School Care

Hours:

3:30pm - 6:30pm

Pupil Free Days:

7:00am - 6:00pm

Vacation Care:

7:00am - 6:00pm

Prices

Before School Care

(Permanent) \$15.00

(Casual) \$20.00

After Max CCS: \$2.89

After School Care

(Permanent) \$20.00

(Casual) \$25.00

After Max CCS: \$3.16

Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care

(Permanent) \$65.00

(Casual): \$72.50

After Max CCS: \$6.50

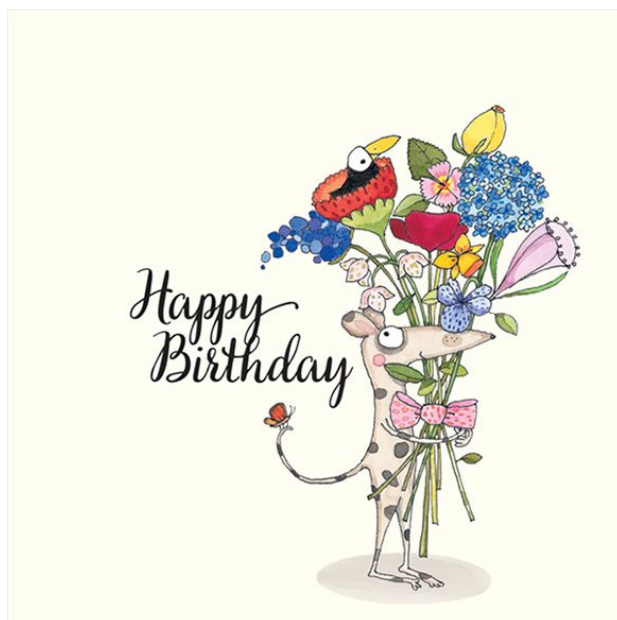


* MAX CCS REBATE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED AS APPROXIMATES AND MAY VARY

YLV.COM.AU

A reminder to families that arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark. Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly near the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues. Another aspect of this is to be mindful of our procedures at the end of the school day. There are designated pick up areas for our students and pedestrian pathways. It can be busy at the end of the day, especially when it is cold and raining, however we need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Important Information

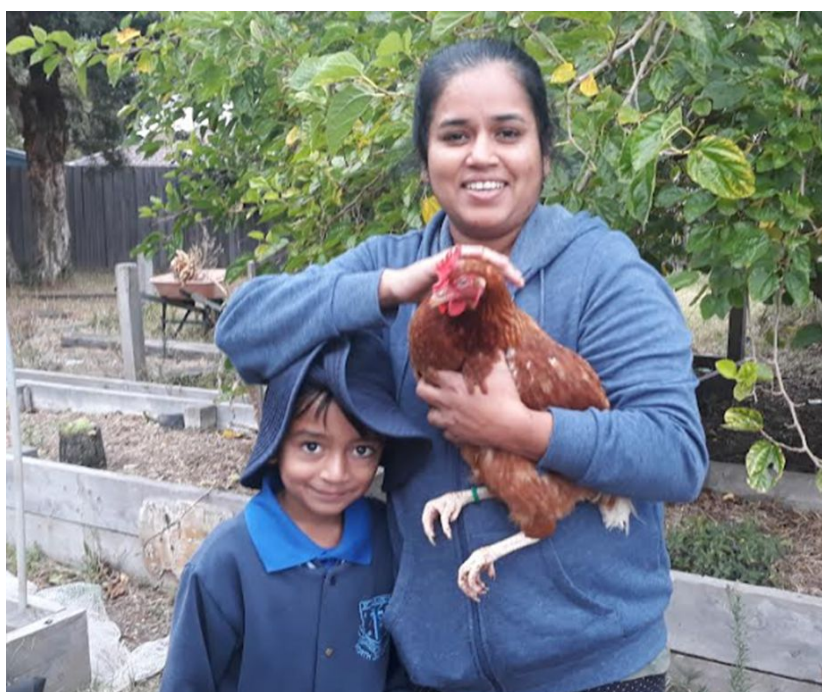


Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week.

- Leo Yr 2
- Anjali Yr 4



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer



Chicken Eggs For Sale

- St Gerard's would like to offer families the opportunity to purchase delicious organic eggs laid by our resident flock of chickens.
- You can purchase these eggs from the school office at a cost of **\$7** per dozen.
- All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.
- Please message [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.