

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 - WEEK 6

10th MARCH, 2023



Both the Transfiguration of Jesus and this week's Give Me 5 Focus: Be Your Best in the Playground are connected through the theme of transformation.

Dear God,

As we reflect on Jesus' transfiguration, transform us too.

Help our children to be their best in the playground. Give them the strength to face challenges, wisdom to learn from them, and to be a positive influence.

Thank you for your love and blessings. Help us grow in faith and be a light to others.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that we are more than half way through Term 1. We have had another week with numerous learning opportunities for our children outside the regular classroom experiences.

On **Wednesday we had our final Auskick clinic** for the year. The children have developed their AFL and social skills and this will hopefully lead to them becoming involved in the local Auskick Centre. This program was again really well attended by students at every year level. I would like to acknowledge and thank the coaches from AFL Victoria, our staff and parents that came and supported/ assisted each week.

After school on Wednesday we also saw our latest **Garden Market Stall** take place. This has proved to be very successful and a great experience for our children to plan, organise, engage with our families and sell the produce from our school garden. Congratulations to our children that were involved and to Ms Fernandez for her leadership and coordination of this activity.

Today (Friday) our **Year 3 - 6 children** were involved in the next session in a series of **basketball clinics** conducted by Dandenong Basketball Association. Basketball is a great team sport and one that is becoming more popular at lunchtimes. There has definitely been an improvement in skills and knowledge over the past few weeks.

We are taking **enrolments for 2024** and have **3 Open Days** planned for this term. They are on **Thursday 16 March, Wednesday 22 March and Tuesday 28 March**. These days are to allow families to see all the things we offer here at St Gerard's. If you know of families who are looking for a school for 2024 they are more than welcome to come on these days at a time that suits them or they can contact the Office or email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

Next week our **Year 3 and 5 children will participate in the annual NAPLAN assessments**. These tasks are conducted online apart from the Year 3 Writing task and all Year 3 and 5 students across Australia are part of this program. We view these assessment tasks as an opportunity to gather further information about the learning of our children in conjunction with our other ongoing assessments.

Lastly, a reminder that **next Monday 13 March is the Labour Day Public Holiday and the school is closed**. I hope you all enjoy the long weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone next Tuesday.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Important RE Dates for Term One

Event

Date

St Patrick's Feast Day
Student wear full School Uniform
Green

Thurs 17th March with a touch of

The Passion

Wed 5th April

Wear a Touch of Green for St Patrick's Day

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, we want to invite everyone to celebrate this special day by wearing a touch of green to school on Friday, March 17th. We remind all students to wear their school uniform as usual, but to add a little touch of green to their attire.

Whether it's a green shirt, hat, ribbon, or even a small accessory, we encourage you to get creative and show your appreciation for Irish culture and heritage. It's a great way to bring some fun and festive spirit to the school environment while still maintaining our dress code standards.

Let's all join together in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day and make it a memorable one!



Sacrament Dates, 2023

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Family Workshop Night:
Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland Visit:
Confirmation:

Thursday 30th March, 7:00pm
Tuesday 2nd May, 9:30am
Saturday 13th May, 5:30pm

First Reconciliation: (Grade 3)

First Reconciliation Reflection Day:
First Reconciliation:
First Reconciliation Assembly:

Tuesday 21st March
Thursday 23rd March, 7pm
Friday 24th March, 2:50pm

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Family Workshop:
First Communion:

Thursday 27th April, 7pm
Sunday 11th June, 10:30am

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Passion Presentation



You are cordially invited to
a re-enactment of The Way of Jesus

Performed by
The Children of St. Gerard's Primary School

Wednesday 5th April, 2023 - 2:00pm
St Gerard's Primary School Hall

The Passion

We would like to invite you to join us in commemorating a significant event in our school's calendar - The Passion. This powerful performance takes place during Holy Week and allows us to journey with Jesus as we remember his last days and moments.

During Holy Week, we experience a range of emotions, from jubilation to anxiety, suffering, humiliation, and abandonment, culminating in Jesus' death on the cross. Through The Passion, we journey with Jesus towards the cross and prepare to welcome him into our presence.

We encourage you to mark your calendars for Wednesday 5th April at 2pm when The Passion will take place in the hall. We understand that some may need to take time off work, but we hope you can arrange to attend this momentous event.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at The Passion.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Passion Costume Ideas

for children

Grade Prep – 4

Grade 5/6 children wear all **BLACK**



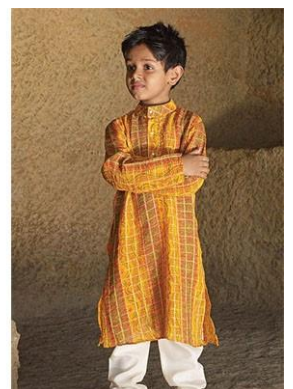
To reflect on the events of Holy Week, we are having a special school event on **Wednesday, 5th April at 2.00pm**. All children will be involved by either being a part of the crowd or re-enacting the events of Holy Week and singing.

We ask that children in Grade Prep – 4 **come to school dressed 'in the times of Jesus'**. Children are required to bring a pair of thongs or sandals as footwear to change into before the event to help make the washing of the feet run more smoothly. All grade 5/6 children wear all black.

We ask that all children bring a gold coin donation on this day to go towards Project Compassion.

Costume Ideas:

- Traditional Indian/Sri Lankan/Arabic clothing would be fantastic if you already have some at home that could look like they come from the time of Jesus
- Tea towels on heads with a headband or scarf holding it on
- Cut up old sheets with a rope or belt around the waist
- Scarf around the head



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Palm leaves needed

If you need to prune any palm trees, please wait until the weekend before The Passion and bring any palm leaves that can be used as props for The Passion to Mrs. Stack on Monday, April 3rd.

Costume for The Passion

We ask that children in Grade Prep – 4 **come to school dressed 'in the times of Jesus'**. Children are required to bring a pair of thongs or sandals as footwear to change into before the event to help make the washing of the feet run more smoothly. All grade 5/6 children wear all black.

We ask that all children bring a gold coin donation on this day to go towards Project Compassion.



The season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, which also marked the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia to work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

The theme of Project Compassion 2023 is 'For All Future Generations' and reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. It invites us to make the world a better place by working together now and finding long-term solutions to global issues. We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion.

A compassion box is assigned to every class, and the class that collects the highest amount of money will be rewarded with a casual dress day.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss

The Seasons program provides peer support for children facing grief and loss, such as death, separation, or divorce. This useful resource will be accessible in Term 3. If you have any inquiries, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or Mrs. Stack.



Altar Servers

Altar serving practice takes place every Thursday evening at 5:30pm - 6:30pm in St Gerard's Church. To be eligible to serve, servers must have made their First Communion. This is a great opportunity for young members of the Church to get involved in the liturgy and learn the responsibilities of serving at the altar. If anyone has any questions regarding altar serving practice or eligibility, they can contact the parish office at 97924422.



WELLBEING



Give Me 5 News

Students who display the expectations present on the school Matrix are rewarded with a raffle ticket from their classroom teacher. Once a month the raffle tickets from each class are collected and drawn during the Friday assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn today and the lucky winners will be announced in next week's newsletter.

St. Gerard's Give Me 5 Whole School Matrix



Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
Be Respectful	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property Take turns Whole body listening Greet people by name	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the area neat and tidy 	Speak appropriately and use manners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give other users their privacy Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place rubbish in the bin Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden Include others Respect everyone's views and space
Be Co-operative	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the right hand side to enter 	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept rules Take turns Share and use equipment safely Accept rules
Be Your Best	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Ask for help	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Only enter the area with permission	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Report problems to a teacher	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Try to solve your problems
Be Positive	Never give up			Encourage others
Be Spirit filled	Treat others as you would like to be treated. Pray daily and during meditation	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say sorry and forgive others Be kind

WELLBEING



Give me five!

A big congratulation to the following students who have displayed the Give Me 5 Principles in the classroom and playground. These students received the Principal's Award for their behaviour.

- ❑ Foundation B- Grace
- ❑ 1/2FW- Reyon
- ❑ 1/2L- Ezekiel
- ❑ 3/4S- Nevyn
- ❑ 3/4A- Edwin
- ❑ 5/6O- Marcus
- ❑ 5/6T- Aditey



WELLBEING



The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of a group of students who want to help other students by presenting ideas which are of benefit to all students. The SRC also informs its peers of any important information which affects the student body.

On Thursday 9th March the SRC reps of St Gerard's attended their second meeting. They presented their classes ideas for our biodiversity project and what activities they would like to participate in on Harmony Day.

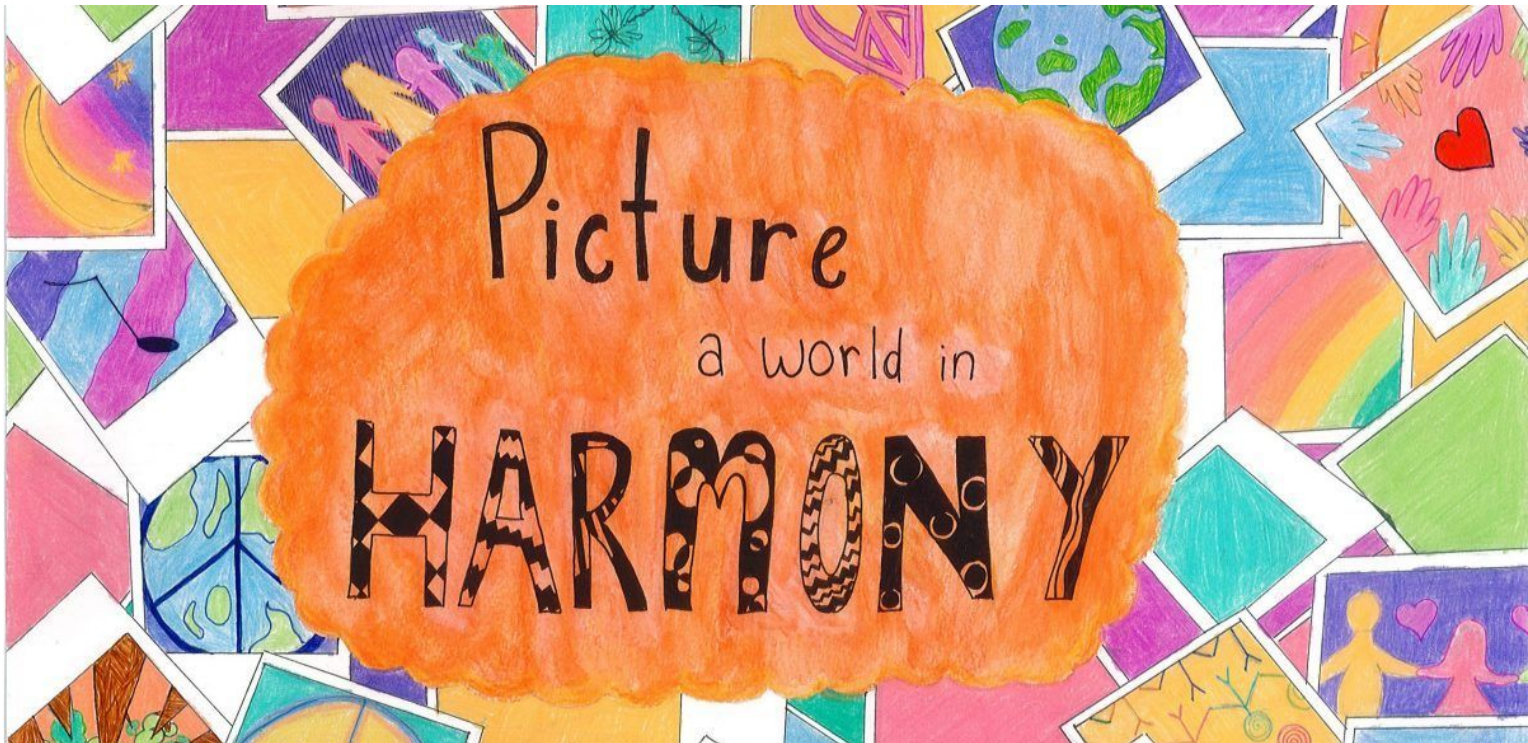
The next SRC meeting will be held next Thursday 16th of March where the students will share their ideas on what outdoor furniture their class would like to purchase for the outdoor learning space.



Aditey and Luke from 5/6T presenting their proposal for the garden.

WELLBEING

HARMONY DAY



What is Harmony Week?

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it. The message of Harmony Week is everyone belongs. It is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Our school will be celebrating Harmony Day on **Friday 24th March 2023**. Students are encouraged to **wear clothing related to their cultural background or orange clothing**.

Did you know?

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- We identify with over 300 ancestries.
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia.
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia.
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi.
- More than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

WELLBEING



be
you

Facts from the Be You website

▪ Why is SEL important for learning?

Research shows that children and young people's learning is influenced by a range of social and emotional factors.

Children and young people with social and emotional learning skills have better academic outcomes, as well as improved physical health and a better quality of life. How well individuals do in their learning community is affected by things such as how:

- confident they feel about their abilities
- effectively they're able to manage their own behaviour
- well they can concentrate and organise themselves
- effectively they can solve problems
- positively they can get on with educators and their peers
- effectively they consider others' needs
- well they can understand and accept responsibilities.

Therefore, SEL and success within the learning community go hand in hand.



Dear Students and Families ,

Reading Before School is back by great demand.

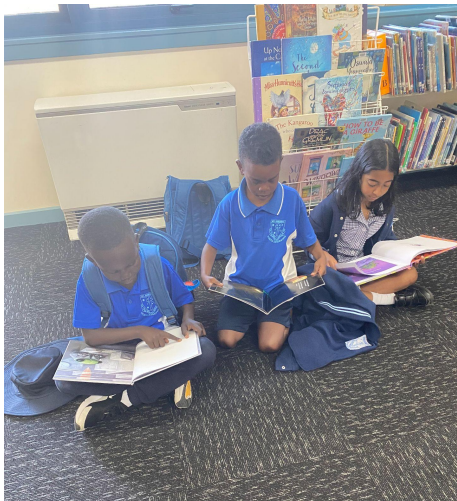
Who? Students and parents

When? Wednesdays 8:15am - 8:30am

Where? St Gerard's Library

Come meet us there!!!

Bring a book or borrow one, come along let's have some fun!



GARDENING

Garden Market

On Wednesday 8th March we held our first garden market stall in the church car park.

Our eggs, tomatoes, fennel, seedlings and rosemary were sold in minutes!

A big thank you to our beautiful students who work in the garden on a daily basis!

The next market date will be advertised through the newsletter and on Seesaw.



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

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>



FINANCE



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/carer details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb State Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

- - - OR

☐ Foster parent under a temporary care order* OR ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card

Is this an application for special consideration (no CRN needed)? Yes ☐ No ☐

Student details

Student's surname	Student's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DFFH will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant Date / /



FINANCE



CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – General eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or carer of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one
 - on the first day of Term two
- a) be a holder of one or more of the eligible financially-means tested cards OR be a temporary foster parent, and;
- b) submit an application to the school by the due date.

For the list of eligible financially-means tested cards refer to the CSEF Policy:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/policy>

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with the above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Special Consideration

A special consideration category exists for

- Families on a bridging visa, temporary protection visa, in community detention or are asylum seeker families
- Students in temporary out of home care arrangements, including statutory kinship care

For more information, see <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/guidance/eligibility>

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer concession card being validated successfully with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (30 January 2023) or term two (24 April 2023).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see:

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents/carers so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/CARER DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

If you are claiming as a temporary Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

If you are seeking special consideration, mark this in the form and provide a copy of the relevant documentation.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2023 closes on the 23 June 2023.

FINANCE



If you hold a valid means-tested concession card you may be eligible for Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF). The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you are in receipt of an Health Care Card as above you may be eligible to apply for a discount in the school fees, so if you hold one of these, please bring it into the office ASAP.

IMPORTANT DATES

March

13th March:	Labour Day Public Holiday
21st March:	First Reconciliation Reflection Day
16th March:	5/6O Class Mass, 10:15
17th March:	St Patrick's Day
23rd March:	First Reconciliation 7pm
24th March:	National Ride to School Day
24th March:	Harmony Day Whole School Celebration
15-27 March:	NAPLAN Testing period - Year 3 and Year 5
24th March:	First Reconciliation Assembly
30th March:	Confirmation Family Workshop
30th March:	5/6O Reconciliation

April:

2nd April:	Daylight Savings Ends
5th April:	Subway Lunch
5th April:	The Passion
6th April:	Last day of Term 1, 3.30pm finish

Happy
BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to all who had celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays this week

- Tianna Yr 5
- Sophia F Yr 3



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Nazareth College Open Evening
- Endeavour Hills Eagles Junior Football Club (AFL)
- Springvale Indoor Sports
- St John's College Open Evening
- Mazonod Secondary College Open Day
- Noble Park Junior football Club (AFL)
- Netball Dandenong
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Swimland Swim Club

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 \$6 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.

