

# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 2 - WEEK 4

10 May, 2024



Happy Mother's Day to all the incredible Mums!  
Your love, guidance, and endless sacrifices light up our lives. 💕



*This week we celebrate God's treasured gifts to us; our mums, grandmothers and the special women in our lives that care for us and love us.*

*We ask God to pour out his blessing upon them. They show us God's unconditional, tender love. We also remember Mary, mother of Jesus and our mother too. We pray for her intercession to keep our families wrapped in the love of her son.*



@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,

As we come to the end of our fourth week of the term we started with a sporting event and finished on a great high by celebrating our Mother's and mother figures in our school community.

On **Monday** we had two Year 5/6 teams participate in the **Paul Wade Cup** which is an annual **soccer tournament conducted by St John's Secondary College**. This once again proved to be a fantastic day and wonderful experience for our children who competed well, had some wins and represented St Gerard's with distinction. I would like to thank Mrs Wilson for her organisation of our teams and Mrs Smith, Miss D and our Work Experience student Verity for supporting our children throughout the day. I also wish to thank St John's for their invitation for us to compete.

On **Wednesday** we had a number of children join the **parish Legion of Mary** to pray the **Rosary in our church**. This is a chance to not only gather to pray this cornerstone of our faith but to do it with parishioners makes it even more meaningful. This occurs a few times each term and is completely voluntary.

On **Thursday** Mrs Lewis ran the second of her **Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS) parent sessions**. It was wonderful to have families come and hear about this new role and how our school and families can work together in this very important area. We also had **Ride/ Walk to School Day** and there was an increase in bikes, scooters and feet being the way to get to school.

The **2024 St Gerard's Cross Country team** attended the **Dandenong District Cross Country** this morning. We had 18 children compete in their respective age groups and while it was damp underfoot our children competed hard and displayed great sportsmanship (as our children always do!). We now wait on results to see who will progress to the next level of competition. Our **Year 3 - 6 children were involved in the second in a series of Netball clinics that are conducted by Netball Victoria**. Netball is a wonderful team sport that has a very high participation rate in Australia and we have a number of children already involved in local competitions. This may be an option for your child to join a local team now that they have had an introduction to the basic skills and game.

**Enrolments for 2025 are open** and new families are invited to come and see all the things we offer here at St Gerard's. Our **first Open Day for Term 2 was on Tuesday, followed by 2 more on Wednesday 15 May (next week) and Thursday 23 May**. If you know families who are looking for a school in 2025 they are more than welcome to come on one of those days from 9.30am - 5.00pm at a time that suits them or they can contact the School Office on 9791 7553 or email: [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

Last but not least, **Today (Friday)** we had our **Mother's Day celebration in the PAC**. It was wonderful to see so many of our Mother's and Mother figures of our children. Our guests were provided with afternoon tea and our school then gathered to recognise, thank and celebrate these very significant people. **Regardless of your age, mothers and significant females hold a very unique place in all our hearts**. I hope and pray that all mothers and significant females are made to feel very special on Sunday (and every other day!).

God bless and Happy Mother's Day for Sunday!

Paul Cowan  
PRINCIPAL



# Religious Education

## Sacrament Dates, 2024

### **First Communion: (Grade 4)**

First Communion Reflection Day:

First Communion:

First Communion Assembly:

Thursday 30th May (children may wear casual clothes)

Sunday 2nd June, 10:30am

Friday 7th June, 2:50pm

### **Confirmation: (Grade 6)**

Confirmation Reflection Day:

Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland Visit:

Confirmation:

Confirmation Assembly:

Monday 27th May (children may wear casual clothes)

Tuesday 28th May, 2:00pm

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

Friday 7th June, 2:50pm

## Whole School Masses:

Monday 24th May

Friday 7th June

Our Lady Help of Christians at 9:15

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

## Level Mass:

Prep/5/6 Level:

3/4 Level:

9th May, 9:15am

16th May, 9:15am

## Reconciliation:

Year 5:

Year 6:

Year 4:

Thursday 16th May, 10:00am

Thursday 23rd May, 10:00am

Thursday 30th May, 10:00am

## Other Important Dates:

Mother's Day Paraliturgy/Activities:

Sorry Day Paraliturgy:

Refugee Week:

Refugee Week Paraliturgy:

Friday 10th May

Friday 24th May, 2:50 pm

16th to 22nd June

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

## Project Compassion Thank You

We're excited to share the success of our fundraising campaign for Project Compassion! Together, we've raised a remarkable total of \$757.25. A big shout-out to Yr 3/4 SG for leading the way and raising the highest amount. As a token of our gratitude, they've earned a casual dress day.

Thank you for your support and participation in Project Compassion. Let's keep making a difference together!

## 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.





# Wellbeing



## Look after yourself

Make time to look after yourself so you're in a better position to support those around you. Children and young people's emotions can be affected by how adults are feeling.

Try to maintain your routines, know your limits, debrief with trusted family or friends and try to do things you enjoy to manage your stress levels.

The Be You website provides information on [wellbeing tools](#) and how to practise [mindfulness](#), which can help with stress management.



# Wellbeing

## Ride to School Day

A big thank you to all of the families who participated in Ride to School Day on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Congratulations to 5/6T who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

### Well done to:

1<sup>st</sup> place- 5/6T with 62% riding, scooting or walking

2<sup>nd</sup> place- 3/4LG with 61% riding, scooting or walking

3<sup>rd</sup> place- 1/2S with 53% riding, scooting or walking





# Wellbeing



On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May St Gerard's students participated in Walk Safely to School Day. This day aims to improve the environment and our daily exercise routines.

Walking to school is the perfect way to start the day by getting some exercise and fresh air, ready to start school with a clear mind. Here are some of the benefits you can enjoy when you choose to walk to school:

- Walking offers a great opportunity to remind children about safe pedestrian behaviour and recap the rules of the road.
- Being outside in the fresh air creates a space in your day for mindful exercise. Walking and taking in the scenery around you creates a sense of calm that will set you up for the rest of your day.
- Walking to school will help reduce the air pollution in your area or near your school.
- By using your feet instead of a car, you can also help reduce traffic congestion.



## Student Representative Council



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.

The SRC reps attended their first meeting for Term Two on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

The students brainstormed ways to address the issue of rubbish in the school grounds. The students also shared their ideas of how to make St Gerard an even better school.



# Paul Wade Cup





# Paul Wade Cup





# Cross Country 10 05 2024





# 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](mailto: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

## *May*

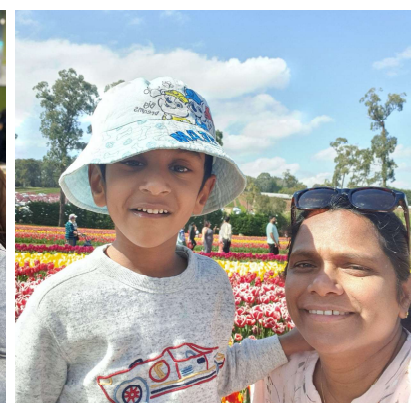
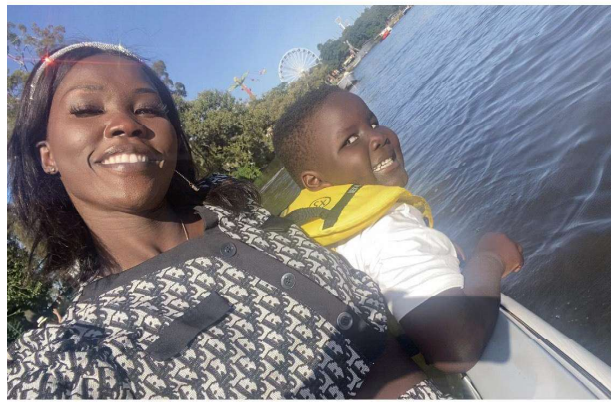
- 15th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 16th Whole School Family Literacy Evening 6.00pm -7.00pm
- 22nd Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 23rd Open Day
- 24th Our Lady Help of Christians Whole School attends Parish Mass at 9.15am
- 27th Confirmation Reflection Day
- 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**



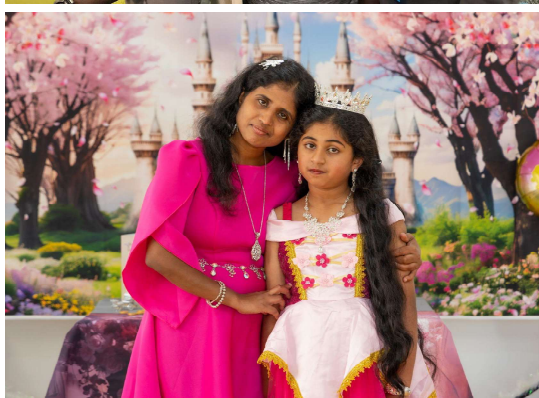
# Celebrating Mothers Day



*St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.*



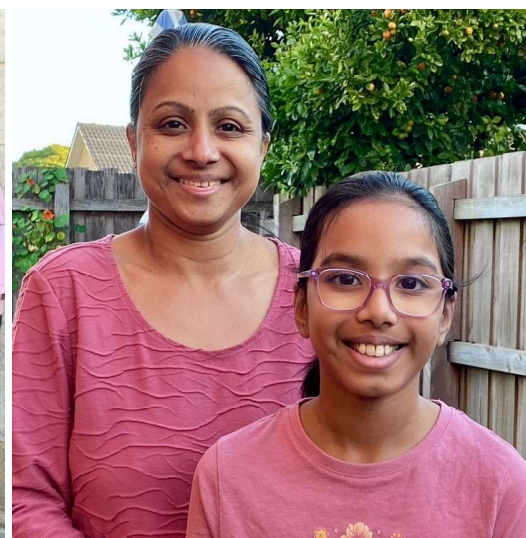
# Celebrating Mothers Day



*St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.*



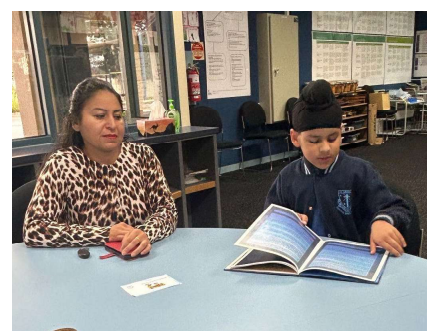
# Celebrating Mothers Day





# Reading before School

Every Wednesday from 8:30am





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](http://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 AFTER contacting AGS 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](mailto:angie@agsprints.com.au)



# 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.

- Tut Yr 1



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer
- Auskick (AFL)
- North Dandenong Masala Junior Football Club (AFL)



16th May 2024



## 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.