

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 3 - WEEK 5

11th August, 2023



Embracing Saint Mary MacKillop's spirit on her feast day. 🙏🕊️ #FeastDayInspiration

PP Do All
You Can
with the means
at Your Disposal
and



Calmly Leave the
Rest to God⁹⁹
St Mary MacKillop

Heavenly Father,

On the occasion of Saint Mary MacKillop's Feast Day, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and reverence. We thank you for the gift of this remarkable woman who dedicated her life to serving you and caring for those in need. Like her, may we find inspiration in selflessness and tireless devotion to others.

As we gather in her spirit, we ask for the strength to embody her teachings of love, compassion, and unwavering faith. May our actions reflect the values she held dear, and may we strive to make a positive impact on our community and the world around us.

Bless our school, our staff, our students, and all those who continue to be influenced by the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop. Grant us the wisdom to follow her example and the grace to extend a helping hand to those who are less fortunate.

May her intercession guide us and may her life continue to inspire generations to come. We offer this prayer in her honour and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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,

We have come to the midpoint of the term and the end of another week which saw our children provided with opportunities to learn, develop skills and celebrate our faith.

We joined with our parish on **Tuesday** to celebrate the **Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop)**. Being Australia's first saint obviously makes this feast day significant but also her contribution to education endears her to schools. Together with Fr Julian Tenison Woods, she **founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and established a number of schools and welfare institutions throughout Australasia**, with an emphasis on education for the poor, particularly in country areas. She is truly a great role model for all Australians.

Our **second Open Day for Term 3 was held on Wednesday**. If you know families who are looking for a school in 2024 they are more than welcome to come from 9.15am - 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 to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself at a time that suits them.

Today (Friday) was the last of our **Year 3 - 6 Gymnastics sessions**. This program has once again proved to be very successful and enjoyable. Our children have been able to develop their skills and confidence while having fun. I wish to acknowledge and thank **Launchpad Gymnastics** for conducting these sessions.

As a school we will be attending the **9.15am parish mass next Tuesday 15 August to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption**. Families are more than welcome to come with us as we join with our St Gerard's parishioners for this very special event in the Church year.

We are looking forward to our '**Mathematics through Games**' Family Workshop from **6.00pm - 7.00 pm next Thursday (17 August)**. This promises to be a wonderful night and provide families with insights into how Mathematics is currently taught and give families some ideas on how they can support their children in this vital area of the curriculum. **There will be a 'goodie bag' for all families that attend!**

The following day (**Friday 18 August**) is a **Pupil Free Day** when our staff will be involved in Professional Learning. These days are important as they allow our staff to increase their understanding and skills to provide better learning opportunities for our children. Information is contained in this newsletter regarding OSHC for the day. If there is enough interest a full day program will be offered.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Class Mass

This term, both students and staff are encouraged to participate in designing a Class Mass, and families will have the opportunity to attend. It would be wonderful to have a large turnout of families joining us for this special occasion.

Year 5/6O:

Thursday 31st August, 10:00am

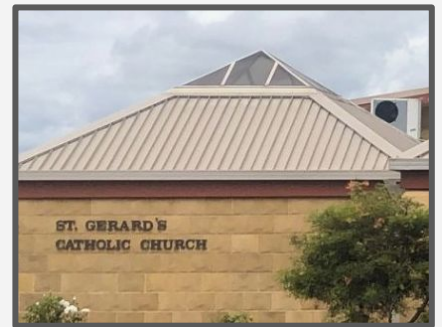
Parish Mass

Year 5/6T & Prep:

Thursday 7th September, 9:15am

Year 1/2 Level:

Wednesday 13th September, 9:15am



Reconciliation

Year 3/4A

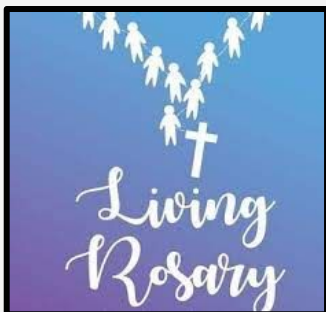
Thursday, 17th August at 10:15am

Year 3/4S

Thursday, 24th August at 10:15am

Whole School Mass

We invite all families to join us for a parish Mass at 9:15 am on Tuesday, August 15th, as we come together to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption.



Whole School Living Rosary

In celebration of the feast day of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the 8th September, the entire school will come together for the Living Rosary. This beautiful gathering will take place at 10am, and we extend an invitation to all families to join us in prayer.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Living Rosary Invitation

THE FEAST DAY OF THE
NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY
8TH SEPTEMBER, 2023
10:00AM
ST GERARD'S SCHOOL,
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

Early next term, as part of our celebrations for our Feast Day and raising awareness for Mission Month, we will be holding our annual Talent Quest. Children will need to audition for this event in the last week of term if they wish to participate.

PARISH NEWS



The Junior Legion of Mary Meetings are held every Monday at St Gerard's school term from 4:15pm – 5:15 pm in The Library Room (brown building in the car park of St. Gerard's Primary School).

Legion of Mary Contact: Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175 and Jacqueline Savanah on 0437 668 352.

Application forms are available to collect from the foyer of the Church.

Altar Servers

Altar Server training will resume for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass.

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information contact St Gerard's Parish Office 9792 4422 or Mrs Stack 9791 7553

PARISH NEWS

Junior Legion of Mary

Dear Parents,

The Legion of Mary runs a Junior Legion of Mary praesidium (branch) at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong once a week after school during school term. Meetings last for one hour per week. All possible care will be taken while your child is with us.

Children are taught to:

- Pray the Rosary
- Be helpful at home
- Do works of service such as a Book Barrow

They are trained to be good Catholics by reaching out to others. One way they do this is by visiting a local nursing home during the school holidays, where they interact with the residents. Children are also guided to take part in parish events such as the Public Square Rosary in October.



This group will enable your child to grow spiritually and also learn to be an active apostolic worker in the Parish. All activities will be supervised by adult legionaries who hold Working with Children permits.

If you would like your child/children to join this group, please complete the application form below and return it to Kereena or Cecilia. For more information please phone a contact below.

Meeting Day:	Every MONDAY of St Gerard's school term	
Time:	4:15 PM TO 5:15 PM STARTING JULY 10 TH	
Place:	LIBRARY ROOM of St. Gerard's	
Legion of Mary Contact:	Kereena Lopez	0435 554 175
Legion of Mary Contact:	Cecilia Donald	0402 716 101



Parent or guardian to complete: (All information provided is confidential.)

Child's Name:		Grade:	
Address:			
Any health issues?		Date of Birth:	

I (Parent/guardian) give permission for my child
(name)
to attend the Junior Legion of Mary at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong (in the Church foyer).

Signature..... Date.....

Name of First Contact Person			
Address			
Phone No.			
Second Contact for child	Name:	Phone No:	

WELLBEING



Growing a mentally healthy generation



How are nutrition and mental health linked?

Healthy eating helps children and young people cope more effectively with stress, better manage their emotions and get a good sleep – all of which assist learning.

Most research about nutrition and mental health has focused on adults. We know that good nutrition is associated with better mental health outcomes, whereas a poor diet is associated with a greater risk of depression and anxiety. However, emerging research that focuses on children and young people has also found a relationship between unhealthy diets and poorer mental health outcomes.

Poor nutrition has been associated with:

- externalising behaviour (such as hyperactivity, aggression, disobedience)
- symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- poor concentration and tiredness, which interfere with learning
- immune system function, which is also linked to mental health
- delayed brain development – high-fat, high-sugar diets can affect proteins in the body that are important for brain development
- iron deficiency, which has been linked to cognitive function impairments associated with learning and memory
- nutrient deficiencies, which have been associated with mental health conditions including depression and anxiety (we know that fruits and vegetables, grains, fish, lean red meats and olive oils are rich in important nutrients such as folate, magnesium, vitamins and zinc which all impact on body and brain functions, including mood regulation).

Dietary habits aren't always a choice

'Food insecurity' – where people don't have enough food due to because of things such as unemployment and poverty – is also a problem for many families in Australia. Food insecurity can result in poorer academic performance, time off from school, stress, depression, anxiety, aggression, and difficulty getting along with others. Food insecurity can result in:

- psychological stress – high levels of ongoing stress have been related to depression and delayed brain development
- poorer academic performance
- time off from school
- anxiety
- aggression
- difficulty getting along with others.

The good news is that improving what you eat can lead to improvements in your mental health, so it's never too late to encourage healthier eating patterns.

WELLBEING

**National Day
of Action** against
Bullying and Violence



We are growing connections at St Gerard's
Primary School for the National Day of Action
against Bullying and Violence.

Thursday 17th August

BULLYING. NO WAY!
bullyingnoway.gov.au

We will participate in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Thursday 17th August 2023. This year, the NDA is Growing connections with each other, with our schools and our communities to create positive action for Australia's key bullying prevention initiative.

We encourage all students to wear a touch of orange. This will help us to raise awareness about the NDA and bullying prevention.

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 Fridays assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn on Friday 4th August during the assembly and the lucky winners are:

- ★ Denay
- ★ Sandra
- ★ Bethany
- ★ Evelyn
- ★ Maleah
- ★ Dhanvin



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- Devanshi
- ★ 1/2FW- Joy
- ★ 1/2L- Aryan
- ★ 3/4S- Azaria
- ★ 3/4A- Alfie
- ★ 5/6O- Krystn
- ★ 5/6T- Jake



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 24th August the Term 3/4 SRC reps will attend their first meeting.

The SRC reps will be voted in by their class and announced during this week's assembly and next week's newsletter.

WELLBEING

St Gerard's Primary School

Thursday 24th August

Sushi Day!

Order fresh and healthy sushi handrolls and rice paper rolls for lunch and help raise funds for our school!

\$7.50 TWIN PACKS

(2 rolls of the same type)

Avocado Handroll V GF DF EF

Crispy Chicken Handroll DF

Tuna Handroll GF DF

Spicy Prawn Handroll GF DF

Chicken Rice Paper Roll GF DF EF

- SOY SAUCE INCLUDED WITH SUSHI HANDROLLS -

Order online: www.sushi.net.au

Orders must be placed by 10am Wednesday 23rd August.

Sorry no late orders accepted.

PayPal transaction fees/charges apply. NB: You do **not** require a PayPal account, most credit/debit cards accepted. Detailed instructions for ordering, and detailed ingredients list available from your school.



sushi@school

www.sushi.net.au

WELLBEING



HOW TO MAKE YOUR SUSHI ORDER

Order online: www.sushi.net.au

Scroll to: 'Order Now – Find Your School'

Start typing your school's name in the search box and select your school

Click: 'Go'

On your school's page, scroll down to Step 1 and complete your child's details. Enter your child's full name and find their class in the dropdown menu. In Step 2 make your selections and click 'Add selected items to cart'

*****TO ADD ADDITIONAL CHILDREN CLICK 'ADD ANOTHER CHILD' BEFORE PROCEEDING TO CHECKOUT*****

In the checkout Cart: check your order carefully. Don't forget to 'Update Cart' if you make changes and before you select 'Proceed to checkout'.

Complete your billing details and double check your order one last time.

Payments are made via the Paypal portal – they give the option to pay via your PayPal account if you have one, or 'pay with a card'. The latter takes you to 'Check out as a guest' and asks for all the relevant and standard details required when paying by credit/debit for online purchases.

Please note: A small handling/transaction fee is applied by PayPal at the time of payment; orders cannot be changed once payment is made, only cancelled and resubmitted; we are unable to accept orders manually or after the cut off time.



BOOK WEEK



Dear Families,

This year Book Week at St Gerard's is being celebrated from 21st – 25th August.

The theme for Book Week 2023 is '**Read Grow Inspire**'.

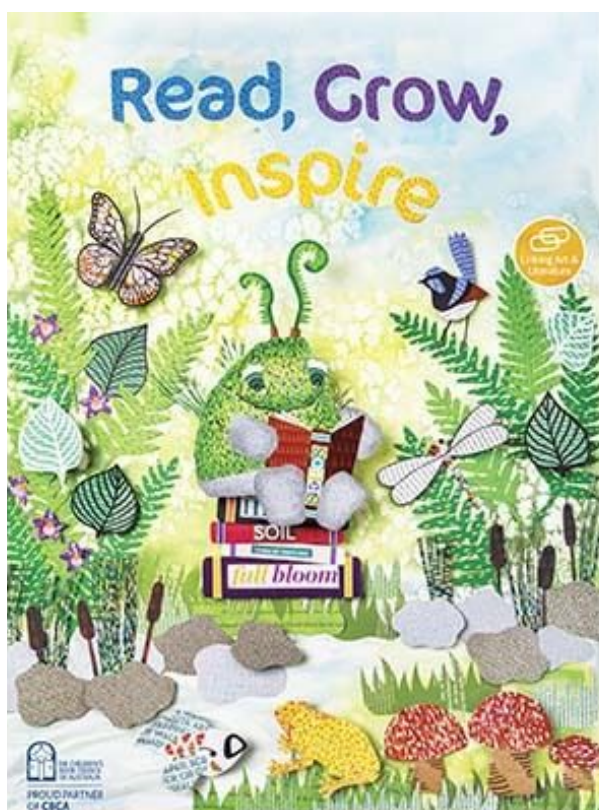
We have a very exciting Book Week planned this year!



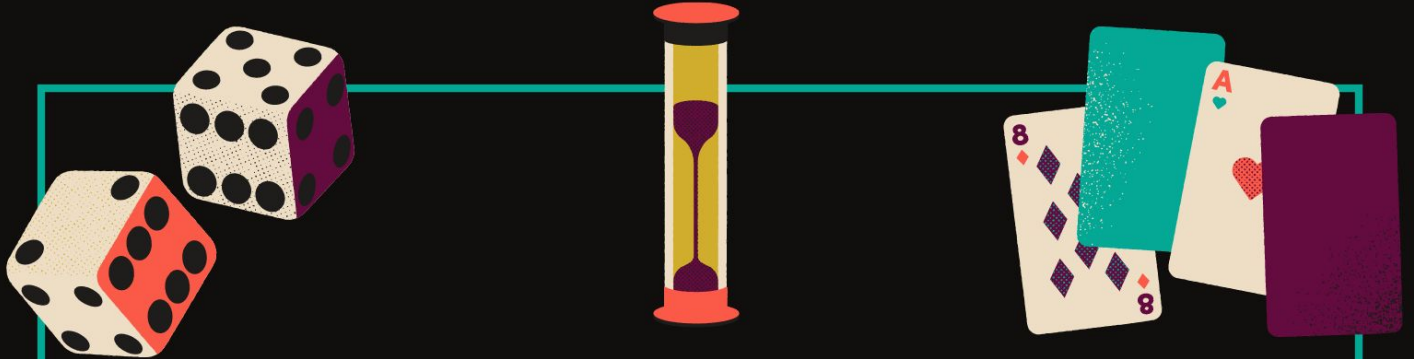
Some of the activities during the week include:

- **Monday 21st to Friday 25th August - Reading with a parent**
All students are encouraged to come in from 8.15 to 8.30 to read a book in our school library.
- **Friday 25th August - Book Week Dress up and Activity day**
 - Whole School Assembly at 9.15 am which includes the whole school parade
 - Students are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character
- **Friday 25th August - Book Read by guest reader over the school's PA system.**
- **Lamont Book Fair 29th Aug - 5th Sept Lamont Book Fair:** The trolleys will be set up in the Library and parents and students will be able to purchase books between 8.45 and 9.15 am and also from 3.15 pm - 3.45 pm.

Book Week is the annual celebration of books for young people and the joy of reading and writing. We encourage you to come along and be part of your child's learning journey.



MATHEMATICS



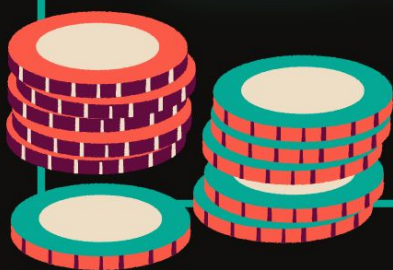
Come & enjoy a night of fun,
games and Mathematics

Thursday, August 17th

from 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Meet outside Yr1/2 classes and then
move to classrooms to explore Mathematics

GOODY BAGS FOR ALL ATTENDEES



FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#).

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to *What is a reasonable adjustment?* below to learn about adjustments.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.

WHAT MUST SCHOOLS DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students have the right to a quality learning experience at school.

Students with disability must be able to take part in education without discrimination and on the same basis as other students. To ensure this, schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed for students with disability. Educators, students, parents, guardians, carers and others (eg health professionals) must work together to ensure that students with disability can take part in education.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* describe schools' responsibilities.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NCCD?

The definition of disability for the NCCD is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The following students are examples of those who may be included in the NCCD if they need monitoring and adjustments:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes).

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NCCD?

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability.

Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including:

- their year of schooling
- the level of adjustment received
- the broad type of disability.

For students who have more than one disability, the school uses professional judgement to choose one category of disability. They choose the category that most affects the student's access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the [Public information notice](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

There is also a free [e-learning resource](#) about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Disability Standards for Education 2005*.

This document must be attributed as *Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers*.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Regretfully, due to low numbers, YLV will no longer hold the Pupil Free Program on Friday 18th, August when St Gerard's has School Closure.

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) \$20.00

(Casual) \$25.00

After Max CCS: \$3.16

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

IMPORTANT DATES



St John's
REGIONAL COLLEGE

ACADEMIC

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2025



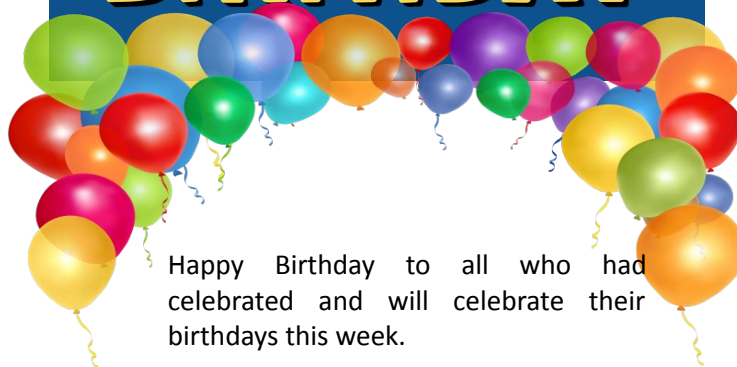
**20 scholarships now available
for the 2025 academic year.**

Register for a College Tour



5-11 Caroline St, Dandenong VIC 3175, (03)8793 2000, www.sjrc.vic.edu.au

Happy BIRTHDAY



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

- Kai Yr 1



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

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Diamond Dancers - Recreation and Competitive Dancing
- Springvale Indoor Sports - School Holiday Program
- Ukraine Support Fund

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.

