



St Gerard's Primary School NEWSLETTER



TERM 3 WEEK 5

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 9791 7553

12 AUGUST 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to those students and staff who have and who will celebrate their birthday this week!

❖ Kai Prep
❖ Anita N Yr 6



"Never see a need without doing something about it."

Last Monday we celebrated the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the first Australian saint by having a paraliturgy in her honour. Mary was a person of great faith and hope.

Mary believed that God would look after her and provide her with the things she needed to help others. Mary didn't worry because she was a person of hope and courage.

Mary shows us how to be trusting and patient and to know that God loves us and will look after us.

Prayer

God of compassion, God of all people,
we praise you for your servant,
Mary MacKillop, who gave her life
to serve you in the poor and oppressed.

As she is honoured in our world,
may we continue to learn to share her vision.

Help us to recognise, as she did,
that the poor of our time will hear the gospel
in the way we serve them.

Be with us as we strive to follow her
and carry out our mission of service and care.

Amen



@st.gerards3175



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

Principal's Message



Dear families,

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through Term 3. As the old saying goes, *'time flies when you're having fun (and learning)!'*

On **Monday** we celebrated the **Feast of Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop)** with a whole school paraliturgy that was led by our Year 6 captains. 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.

We had the **first of our 3 Open Days** for this term on Wednesday which allowed 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 2023 they are more than welcome to come 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. **Our next Open Day is next Tuesday 16 August**, with the third being on Thursday 1 September.

On **Thursday** we had the **first of our class masses with Year 1/2FW** celebrating with their families in their classroom. I would like to **thank Fr Shanthaiah** for coming into our school to celebrate mass and to the children for their enthusiastic participation. It was wonderful to have so many families come and be part of this sharing of our faith. I would like to also acknowledge **the work of Ms Fernandez, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Lan (student teacher)** for creating this prayerful opportunity for our children.

A reminder to families in cars to reduce the traffic congestion in McNab Court. **Families that arrive before 3.25pm are asked to park in the carpark. Joining the drop off/ pick up line creates a backlog of cars which causes issues and does not allow families wishing to park access to the carpark.**

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

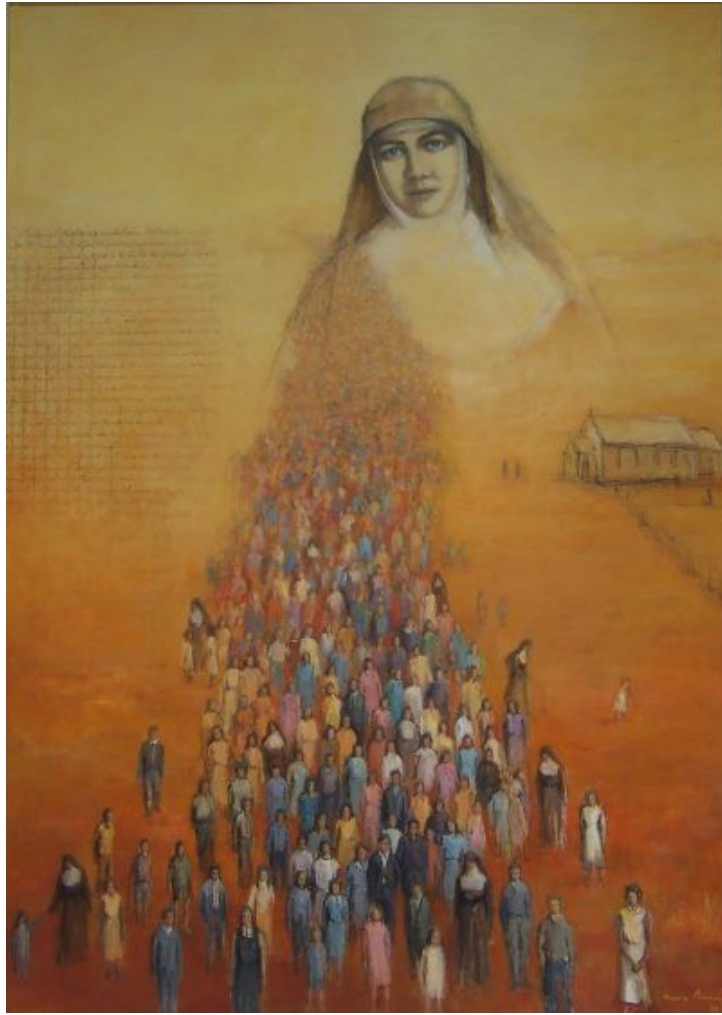
Lastly, **Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT's) are available** for all students and can be collected from the School Office.

Please continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Participants at our Celebration of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop



Sacrament Dates, 2022

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Reflection Day:
First Communion:

Tuesday, 23rd August (children may wear casual clothes)
Saturday, 27th August, 5:30 pm &
Sunday, 28th August, 10:30 am
Friday, 2nd September, 2:50 pm

First Communion Assembly:

Whole School Mass

Feast of the Assumption at 9:15 (Parish Mass)

Monday, 15th August:

Other Important Dates:

Talent Quest Auditions:

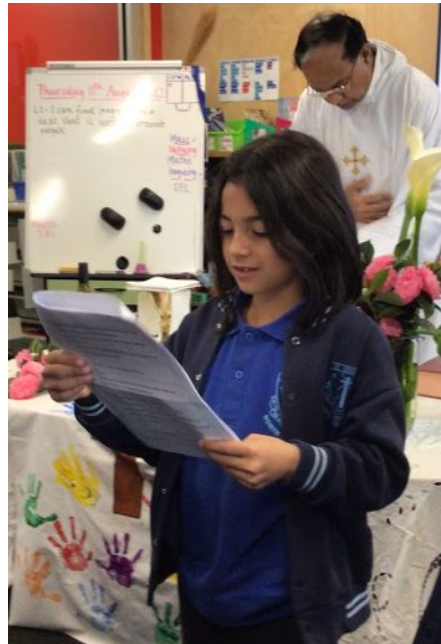
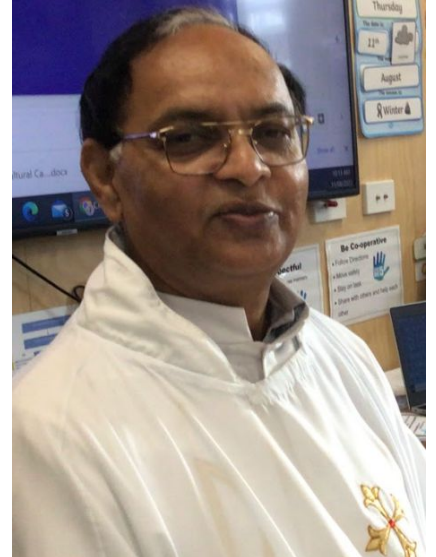
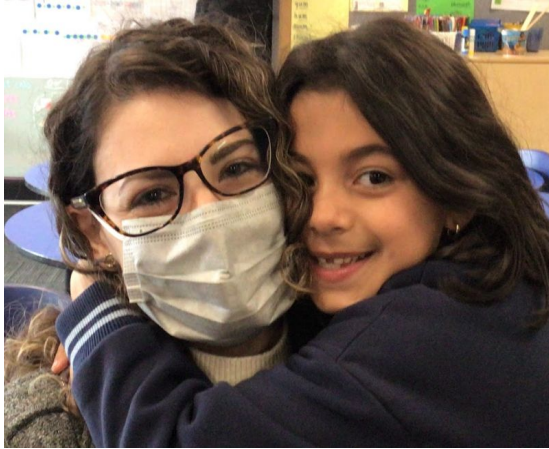
Week 10

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

First of our class masses with Year 1/2FW celebrating with their families in their classroom.



WELLBEING NEWS



Give Me 5 News

This week our whole school focused on being Cooperative in the Learning Areas.

To **be cooperative** in the learning areas we need to:

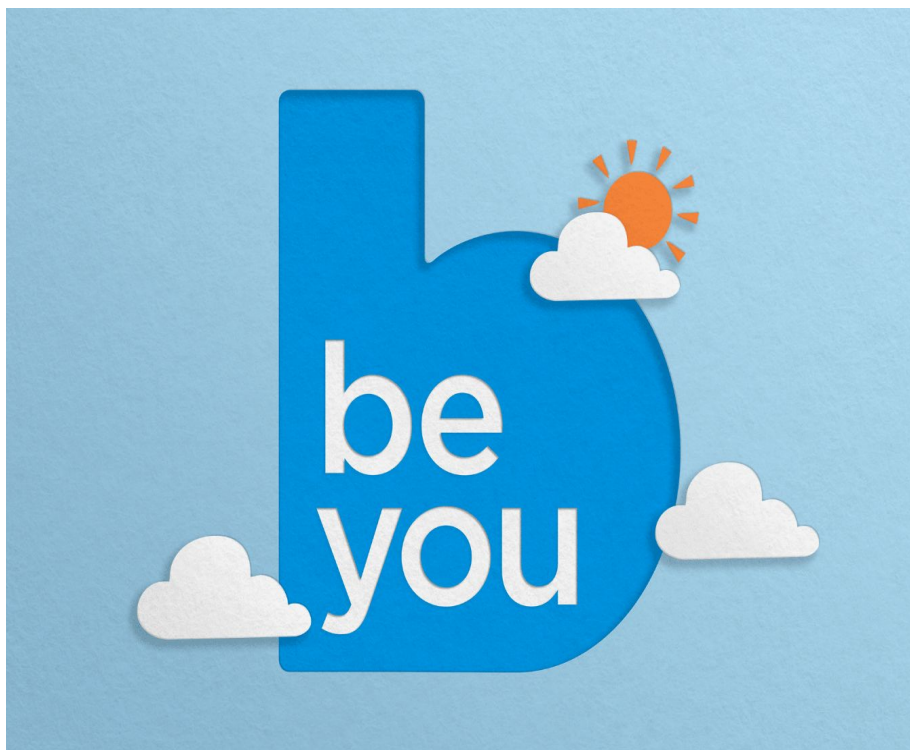
- Follow directions
- Move Safely
- Stay on task
- Share with others and help each other

Next week the students will be participating in a lesson where they will discuss if certain scenarios are showing examples of cooperative or not.

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
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



What do we mean by digital mental health?

Digital mental health refers to services delivered via digital platforms online, mobile or via the phone.

It also encompasses the use of social media and online support communities, which allows people to connect with others who are going through similar experiences or who share their interests.

Digital mental health services can be accessed in a confidential way – allowing children and young people to reach out for support when they may not be able to access support in the learning environment or broader community.

Online support services have been shown to support children and young people's learning, development, social networks, mental health and wellbeing. It can also provide access to opportunities to connect with others, and gain support, through the development of new skill sets to complement and build on their existing social and emotional competencies.

There are a range of online sites, services and supports available specifically for young people. The Be You [Wellbeing Tools for Students](#) is your essential guide to the online tools and other resources that will best support children and young people in taking care of their own mental health.

WELLBEING NEWS



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 10th August the Semester Two SRC reps attended their first meeting.

The students discussed their role as an SRC member and began discussing ways to make St Gerard's an even better place.

A big congratulation to the following students who were voted in by their class members to be an SRC rep for Semester Two 2022.

Prep B-	Rihan and Layla
1/2FW-	Shaun and Roy
1/2L-	Bhanuri and Rafael
3S-	Gabriel and Sofiya
4/5T-	Luke and Elana
5/6O-	Steve and Ella



WELLBEING NEWS



Feedback/ Ideas:

SRC's are given a formal 'voice' within the school. They have had an opportunity to share their say in why they want to be a SRC leader.

Elana: I want to be an SRC leader because i have never been a leader before.

Luke: I want to be an SRC leader because I want to address the issue of rubbish in the school.

Rafael: I want to be an SRC leader because I like to learn from others during meetings.

Bhanuri: I want to be an SRC leader because I want to make a change to the school so that it is a better place.

Gabriel: I want to be an SRC leader because I like to discuss important issues with my class.

Rihan: I want to be an SRC leader because I like helping people.

Layla: I want to be an SRC leader because I like helping people.

Roy: I want to be an SRC leader because I can learn some things that I have not learned before.

Shaun: I want to be an SRC leader because I can add new features to the school to make it a better place.

Ella: I want to be an SRC leader because an SRC leader is not only to make an impact to the school but to the teachers and students.

MARKET STALL

Our second garden market stall for Term 3 will be held next Thursday 18th August at 3:20pm in the church car park.

We will be selling eggs, lettuce, oranges, lemons, parsley, mandarins, olives, plants and rosemary.

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

Get in quick to pick up a bargain!



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 email Nicole Fernandez if you would like to purchase some eggs.



BOOK WEEK 2022

Dear Families,

From Monday 22nd August to Friday 26th August, St. Gerards will be celebrating Book Week 2022!

The theme for this year's Book Week is '*Dreaming with eyes open...*'

Each morning during this week families are invited to read a book with their child / ren from 8:15am to 8.30am, in the Library.

We have an exciting Book Week planned.

This year's activities include:

- *Dress Up Day*
Dress up day will be held on **Thursday the 25th of August**. Students are invited to dress up as their **favorite book character**! There will be **prizes** for the best costume.
- *Surprise Reader*
Another fun activity planned is our surprise reader, who will read a book to the school through the PA system.
- *Class Competitions*
Thanks to our Classroom teachers who are planning exciting class competitions and fun activities throughout the day.
- *A visit from Lamont Book Fair*
From Monday 29th August to Friday 2nd September Lamont Book Fair will be visiting our school. The trolleys will be set up in the **Library**. Parents and students will be able to purchase books between **8.45 to 9.15 am** and also from **3.15 to 3.45 pm**.



Costume ideas:





Catholic Schools Child Safe Schools

CECV Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

A safe, nurturing and empowering culture for all children and young people in Catholic schools.

This statement has been updated in light of the revised Child Safe Standards coming into effect from 1 July 2022 and the supporting Ministerial Order No. 1359.

Every person, created in the image and likeness of God, is unique and has an intrinsic and inalienable dignity (Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization 2020, n. 379).

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of Catholic education. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.

This statement is intended to reaffirm the central focus on child safety across Catholic education in Victoria, built around a unified understanding of the moral imperative and overarching commitments that underpin our drive for continual improvement, and embedding a culture of 'no tolerance' for child abuse in our schools and organisations.

The characteristic element of the Catholic school, in addition to pursuing 'cultural goals and the human formation of youth', consists in creating 'for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity'. To this end, the Catholic school aims ... 'to order the whole of human culture to the news of salvation so that the knowledge the students gradually acquire of the world, life and [humanity] is illumined by faith'. In this way, the Catholic school prepares pupils to exercise their freedom responsibly, forming an attitude of openness and solidarity (Congregation for Catholic Education 2022, n. 16).

The CECV has a universal expectation for the protection of children. It is resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in Catholic education in Victoria promote the inherent dignity of children and young people, and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe school environment.

Catholic schools have a moral, legal and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing school environments, where all children and young people are respected and have agency, their voices are heard, and they are safe and feel safe. The CECV recognises that some children and young people are more vulnerable than others, and commits to providing the care and services required to support them and their families, and to ensure their safety within all Catholic schools.

Catholic schools will take prompt action to have any allegations of abuse concerning children and young people appropriately referred and investigated when raised. While the context and reality at each Catholic school will differ, the fundamental issues of understanding effective practices in child safety, and identifying and responding to child harm remain the same. All schools must strive for continual improvement that is responsive to emerging thinking, evidence and practice, so as to eliminate the potential for abuse to occur.

Creating child-safe school environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by school governing authorities, schools, families and their communities. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures, curriculum and practices.

Every person involved in Catholic education has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.





Catholic Schools Child Safe Schools

The CECV commits to providing a **safe, nurturing and empowering culture** for all children and young people in Victorian Catholic schools through:

Upholding the primacy of the safety and wellbeing of children and young people

At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of children and young people will be the primary focus of care and decision-making. In addition to the universal focus on safety and wellbeing, schools need to pay attention and attend to the needs of their students who are most vulnerable.

To create and maintain a safe and nurturing culture, schools will actively and continually develop and review all policies, processes and practices, informed by their governing authority, emerging thinking and evidence.

Empowering families, children, young people and staff to have a voice and raise concerns

Schools, in partnership with families, will ensure children and young people are informed of their rights, and are engaged and active participants in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on their safety.

This means that the views of children, young people and families are taken seriously, and their concerns are addressed in a just and timely manner. Children and young people are also taught to raise concerns, gaining the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing, and the safety and wellbeing of their peers, through educational approaches and programs.

Implementing rigorous risk management and employment practices

Schools will systematically and continually identify and assess risks to child safety, and will eliminate (where possible) or reduce all potential sources of harm in both physical and online environments. Effective risk management is embedded in school life through effective, transparent and well-understood policies, procedures and practices.

Schools will employ highly competent and professional staff who are formed and challenged to maintain the safety of all students. The high quality of staff appointments will be upheld through rigorous employment and review processes and practices, which include a demonstrated knowledge of child safety.

Catholic education will stay abreast of legislation, and will meet the legislative duties to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in its care, including meeting the minimum requirements for compliance with the Child Safe Standards for schools and school boarding premises as set out in Ministerial Order No. 1359. This is in addition to ongoing work to support child safety, including mandatory reporting, reportable conduct, information sharing and complaints management.

References

Congregation for Catholic Education 2022, *The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue*, The Holy See, accessed 30 May 2022 https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_20220125_istruzione-identita-scuola-cattolica_en.html.
Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization 2020, *Directory for Catechesis*, St Pauls Publications, New South Wales.

UNIFORM SHOP ONLINE ORDERS



AGS PRINTS Pty Ltd
Wholesalers of Quality Schoolwear & Uniforms
In House Design & Printing
www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
BOR NO: 2010 / 2532

ADDRESS: 133 BAKERS ROAD
NORTH COBURG
VIC, 3058
PHONE: 03 9354 8345
FAX: 03 9354 5777
E-MAIL: info@agsprints.com.au

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



We have requests from a number of community groups to promote their activities and services. Flyers are placed on our *Community Notice Boards* located in the courtyard and a current list is contained in this newsletter.

- ❖ Ukraine Support Fund
- ❖ Dandenong Basketball - New Information
- ❖ Lyndale United Football Club (Soccer)
- ❖ Lysterfield Basketball Club
- ❖ Swimland Swim Club
- ❖ Springvale Indoor Sports

ST GERARD'S OHSC

If you would like to enrol your child, please do so by contacting Marina.

Contact

Marina Walallawita 0402192685

Nominated Supervisor/Educational
Leader OSHC

School Pick up Arrangements from Term 3, 2022

