



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

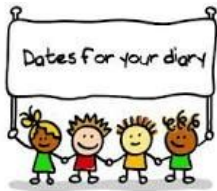


Term 2 Week 9

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

12 June 2020



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

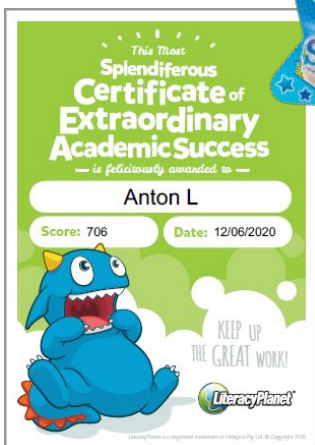
Wishing the following students a happy birthday for this week:

- Junior Mavondo 3/4 L
- Nam Nguyen 5/6 VT
- Mackenzie Perumal 5/6 VT
- Caitlin De Kauwe 5/6 VT

We hope you have a great day!!!



The uniform shop will reopen next Monday, 15 June between 8:30 – 10:00 am. Access will only be available through the OSHC building. There is more information regarding this in the Message from the Principal in this newsletter



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

The St Gerard's Family back together again



This Sunday is the Feast of Corpus Christi. If it wasn't for this current pandemic, it would have been the day our Year 4 children would have made their First Communion. The COVID-19 has impeded access to our church here at St Gerard's giving us a sense of wandering in the wilderness. For some of us, we find ourselves hungry and thirsty, for food and water.

We pray that God will sustain us in all that has been given to us to do in this moment. Especially we pray for all our staff at St Gerard's as we seek to continue our important work in these difficult times. We also pray that God will keep our staff, students and families safe, and help us to care for each other.

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
Parish Priest - Father Dean Mathieson
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

What an exciting week we have had with all our students back at school!

It was wonderful to see everyone back on Tuesday morning with smiles on their faces. I would like to **congratulate our Year 3 - 6 children for the positive return to school** that they have made. Also, a big thank you to our families for your **cooperation with our before and after school arrangements**. This has been very smooth and is keeping us all safe. I am asking for families to **use the Pedestrian Crossing and the path along the side of the Church when walking children to their cars**. This will help to keep a safe distance between pedestrians and cars.

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our first priority at St Gerard's. Parents of children who have **cold or flu-like symptoms, a cough, sore throat or fever are encouraged to seek medical advice**. With this in mind it is vital that **if your child is unwell they must stay at home**. **If you have any questions or concerns please contact myself via email: pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au phone 9791 7553 or send me a message via SeeSaw.**

Our **Uniform Shop will be open next Monday 15 June from 8.30am - 10.00am**. With current physical distancing procedures in place, families are asked to **access the Uniform Shop through the OSHC room** which has an entrance next to the parish hall. We are asking families to wait in the OSHC room as we can only have **one person at a time in the shop**. There will be signs and staff available to assist families.

A reminder that **Prep enrolments for 2021 are open**. If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the office or myself. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments**, however we are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we know how many places are required for current families.

A reminder that if your **family is experiencing challenges** with regard to **school fees** please contact the School Office or myself pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au **so we can work through this together**. If you have a **current Health Care Card you are entitled to a reduction**. Our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children and in the current economic climate **we all need to support each other**.

As I mentioned last week, we are working on our **Semester One reports** which will be sent home in the last week of term. While these reports **will look different to previous ones, due to Remote Learning**, they will still give information on what has been taught and student achievements. Families will be given the opportunity to discuss the report and their child's learning early in Term 3.

The Feast of ***The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*** is this coming Sunday. This feast celebrates and commemorates the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. St Paul states that partaking of the bread and the cup not only joins us with Christ, but actually makes us participants in the body and blood of Christ. The Eucharist is a sign of unity in another way. Joined to the body and blood of Christ, we are joined to each other. We are one body and that body is Christ. The Eucharist is truly a celebration of thanksgiving: thanksgiving for our transformation and thanksgiving for our unity. Something for us all to remember and cherish when we have the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist.

God Bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacraments

All sacraments have been postponed due to COVID 19 until further notice.

Important Dates:

Refugee Week:

Refugee Week 14th to 20th June 2020

Sacred Heart of Jesus Assembly:

Friday 19th June @ 2:30 (led remotely by Liturgy Captains)

Support those impacted by COVID-19

Once again we'll aim to have our food cart to be filled to the brim for the St Vincent de Paul Society who are collecting food in these tough times, compacted by the effects of COVID-19. Your donation will help reduce hunger and minimize a major stress for families. Our social justice leaders will coordinate a food collection from week nine and the collection will finish at the end of the term. The class that brings in the most items will win a casual dress day. Please donate to this worthwhile appeal.

Seasons

The Seasons program, which offers children a safe space to come together and share their experiences of change and loss will be postponed until further notice.

Stay Connected: Mass Online

During the COVID 19 pandemic, Mass online is available from our new parish website:

<https://www.saintgerardparish.com>.

Booking for Mass

From Monday 1st June we will have an increased limit of **20 people** to attend Mass.

The booking period is for Monday 8th to Sunday 14th June. Please be mindful that some people still haven't had the opportunity to attend Mass in the last few weeks. Even with the additional Masses we are still only able to accommodate less than a quarter of our parishioners each week. It is important that for each person a separate booking is made as we are required to collect the details of all attending.

You can book a place for an upcoming Mass [HERE](#)

Mass Times

Tuesday - 9:15am, 6pm
Wednesday - 9:15am, 10:45am
Thursday - 9:15am, 6pm
Friday - 9:15am, 10:45am
Saturday - 9:15am, 5:30pm
Sunday - 10:30am, 5:30pm



How a child's brain develops

The early years are critical for brain development because of the rapid growth of neural connections at this stage. It's estimated that during the first few years of life, more than one million neural connections form every second.

These connections correspond with various skills

For example, when a child is learning to ride a bike, the skills required to ride, such as balancing, pushing pedals and watching ahead need to be stored in memory. This happens with repeated opportunities to practise these skills, so that when they ride on another day, they can do so without much thought thanks to the existing connections. If the child doesn't ride again for an extended period, they may need to make these connections all over again.

Experiences during the early years have the greatest impact on brain development – more than any other stage of life. The brain is most sensitive to stimulation during this period, so early experiences shape children's brain development and have a lasting effect on their mental health and wellbeing. Positive relationships and rich learning environments promote children's development while early adverse experiences may alter a child's progress.

Relationships and interactions

Most experiences occur through a child's relationship with their family and other significant adults, including early childhood educators. Positive interactions are described as 'serve and return': when adults respond appropriately to an infant or young child's needs (communicated through cries, smiles, babbling). In this way, the neural pathways responsible for communication and social skills are formed. If an adult is consistently warm and responsive to the child, the brain architecture develops in an optimal way. However, if they're inconsistent, absent, unreliable or inappropriate in their responses, this can have a negative impact on the child's brain architecture, affecting future learning and behaviour. Experiences in the early years affect the way children respond and react to the world they live in for the rest of their lives



This week in our SEL lesson the students discussed what it means to be a Child Safe school.

We all have a right to be safe and feel safe at all times and to be protected from feeling unsafe or afraid.

This means:

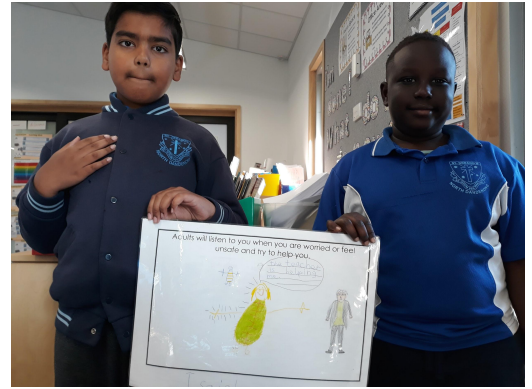
- All adults work with or supervise students in areas where someone can see them and students DO NOT stay in learning spaces or Offices with adults alone unless others can see them.
- All visitors to St. Gerard's sign in and out at the Office and wear a lanyard. If you see an adult without a lanyard let a teacher know.
- Adults will listen to you when you are worried or feel unsafe and try to help you
- All students move around the school in pairs during learning time and play times and in public spaces
- We all have a responsibility to keep ourselves safe and our friends safe - if your friend tells you something that makes you feel worried or unsafe then you need to tell a teacher.

The students created posters and displayed them around their classroom to remind themselves and others of what we do at St Gerard's to keep the children safe at all times.

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



CHILD SAFE SCHOOL POSTERS



Year 5/6 Reflect on Remote Learning

Remote learning

Play times were boring

Learning tasks were loads of fun

But I like school more

Home learning was great.

But I like school more.

The tasks were fun.

But play time was a bore.

Reading was a favourite.

Maths came in close.

But art took the lead.

Up the leaderboard it rose.

I learnt some new skills.

Yes that is true.

I learnt how to dance and do yoga.

And cooking too!

At first it was confusing.

I didn't know what to do.

But gradually after time.

My certainty grew.

Abigail Appelman

Remote learning.

Wasn't boring,

During that period of time my brain was soaring,

I doubt that anytime through it I was snoring,

I never got tired of storing,

All that knowledge that kept pouring,

I am glad it is done.

I am happy to be prancing in the winter sun,
Now it's time for the real fun.

By Eli % O

Can you please include these poems from the following children in the newsletter.

For 8 weeks we had school at home
I thought it was lame

So I borrowed a chrome-
Others in the class did the same.

I had fun we did lots of Kahoots
There were more pros than cons I just
had to say

But when it was over it was time to put
on my boots

I arrived at school today

To learn from the best teacher

And I have to end it here because I am
soon going out to play.

Jefferson Zaher