

St Gerard's Newsletter

Term 2, Week 8

12 June 2026



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Give Me 5 Focus this week: Be Spirit Filled in the Playground

Prayer to the Sacred Heart

Dear Loving God,

Thank You for Your great love for us.

Watch over all children and keep them safe each day.
Help us to be kind, honest, and caring in all that we do.

Fill our hearts with Your peace, joy, and love.
Guide us to make good choices and to follow Your example.

Bless our families, teachers, and friends, and help us to share Your
love with others.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place our trust in You.

Heart of Jesus, help me.

Amen.



Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - June 12



@st.gerards3175

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71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

I hope you enjoyed the long weekend and that it gave you the opportunity to rest or focus on things that bring you joy. After some very eventful weeks, this shorter week was more 'normal'. That being said, there were still some highlights.

Our **Year 4 children** completed the final aspects in their preparation to receive their **First Communion this Sunday** at the 10.30am Parish Mass. Their genuine excitement and enthusiasm was wonderful to witness and was a reminder that as a school we are privileged to be part of the faith journey of our children. **Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers.** As a school we will congratulate them at our Assembly next Friday.

Another aspect of our faith that we celebrated this week was **our children joining the Parish Legion of Mary to pray the Rosary on Thursday**. This occurs twice each term and is a great opportunity for the school and parish to come together. This is a voluntary event and it is pleasing to see the number of children across our school that are involved. I would also like to thank Ms Adrien and Mrs J for accompanying our children as this takes place during our Lunchtime break.

Thursday was also our latest Ride/ Walk to School Day and as always this was a popular event. While there is an increase on these days of children riding or walking to school, there is a general upturn in children coming to school by bike or foot regularly. Starting the day (even when the weather is cooler) helps to prepare us for a productive day.

A reminder **that our school gates are opened at 8.40am each morning. If children arrive or are dropped at school before this time there is a genuine safety concern as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds**. Also when it is raining there is no shelter. Therefore I am asking families to drop their children off after 8.40am or wait with them until the gates are opened.

Lastly, our **2025 Annual Report to the School Community** has been ratified by MACS. This report has been published on our website and there are copies in the foyer for any families who would like a printed copy. If you would like a digital copy please email myself or contact me via Seesaw.

God bless

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Key Dates

Sacraments 2026

First Communion: (Grade 4)

- Sunday, 14th June, 2026, First Communion, 10:30am
- Friday, 19th June, 2026, First Communion Assembly in the PAC

Whole School Masses:

- Friday 12th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

Other Important Dates for Religion

Refugee Week Assembly: 19th June, 2:50

Term 2, 2026 Dates

June

- 14th First Communion 10.30am
- 22nd - 24th Year 5/6 Camp
- 25th SUBWAY Lunch
- **26th End of Term 2 at 3.30pm**



Pope Leo XIV Tells
Young People in
Barcelona this week.

***'We Are Made for the
Infinite'***

Religious News

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

We invite families to take the Our Lady statue into their home for a week as a special way to deepen family prayer time. Each family will receive a brochure with simple instructions for praying the Rosary, as well as a set of rosary beads. If you would like to take the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.



Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is teaming up with the school to lead Rosary prayer sessions during lunch breaks. These will take place during the first lunch on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

Altar Servers

Altar Server practice resumed on Thursday 29 January and will continue every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm at St Gerard's Church. To be eligible to serve, children must have received their First Communion.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young members of our parish to take part in the liturgy and learn the responsibilities of altar service.

For further information about practice times or eligibility, please contact the parish office on **9792 4422**.

St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

We're once again setting our sights on a full food cart for the St. Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal! Our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will begin gathering donated food items, with collections continuing through to the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As always, there is a little friendly competition involved. The class that contributes the most items will enjoy a well earned casual dress day.

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

Wellbeing News



What's resilience?

Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help [build resilience in children](#).

A child or young person who is resilient might:

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning



Celebrating Positive Behaviour with Raffle Tickets

At our school, we are committed to fostering a positive and respectful learning environment. To encourage and celebrate the demonstration of our core values—*Be Co-operative, Be Spirit-Filled, Be Respectful, Be Best, and Be Positive*—students are awarded raffle tickets when they exemplify these behaviours.

These raffle tickets serve as a tangible acknowledgment of students' efforts to uphold our school's expectations. By consistently displaying these values, students not only contribute to a harmonious school culture but also have the opportunity to participate in our monthly raffle draw.

The raffle will be drawn during the whole school assembly next Friday, and the winners will be announced in the following newsletter. We encourage all students to continue demonstrating our core values and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

Ride, Walk or Roll..



A big thank you to all of the families who participated in Ride to School Day on Thursday 11th June. Congratulations to 5/6O and 1/2S who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

Well done to:

1st place- 5/6O and 1/2S with 70% riding, scooting or walking

2nd place- 3/4ST with 69% riding, scooting or walking

3rd place- 5/6T with 43% riding, scooting or walking

Take a look at what some of our junior students had to say about their Ride to School Day experience!

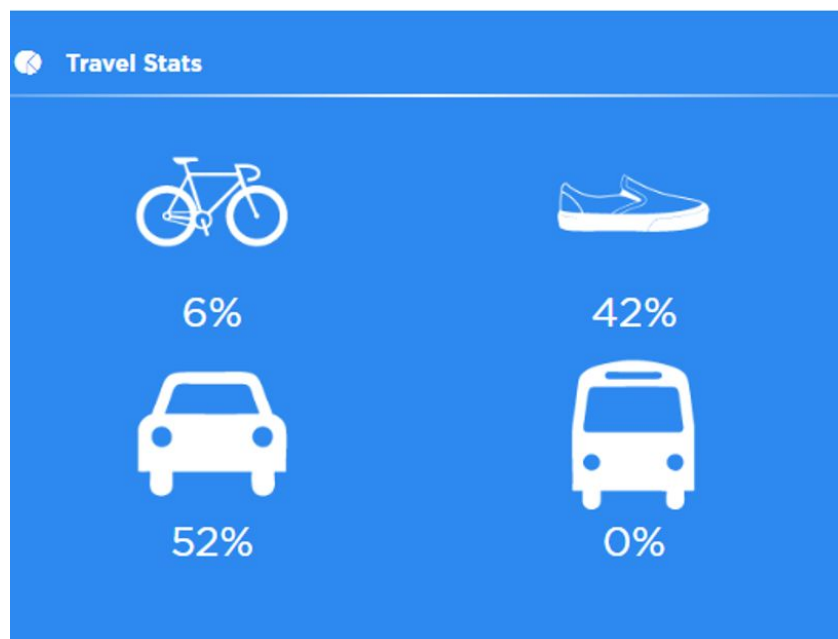
Why do we have Ride to School Day?

"We have Ride to School Day because it's good exercise. You get fresh oxygen, it's good for the environment, and it's good for your body so you can stay healthy. It also helps you focus on your studies, and you get to see nature!"

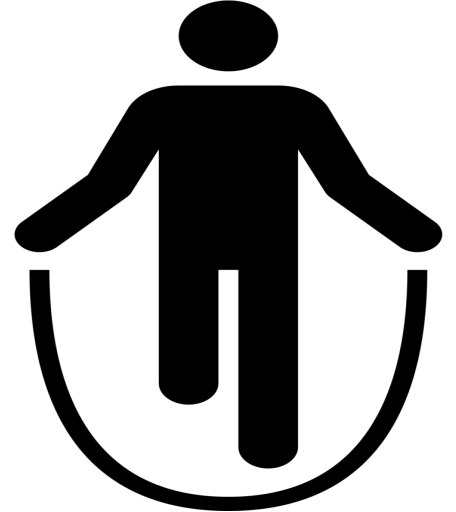
– Harper, 1/2FB

"We have Ride to School Day because it makes your body feel fresh before school. If you live far away, you can park your car at Woolworths and ride or walk the rest of the way!"

– Vailill, 1/2FB



MHiPS - Skipping



Reading before School



READ WITH ME!



Just 10~15 Minutes a Day Makes a Lifelong Difference



Why Reading Together Matters



Builds Strong Brains

- Improves concentration and memory
- Develops imagination and creativity
- Strengthens thinking skills



Grows Literacy Skills

- Expands vocabulary
- Improves spelling and writing
- Builds fluency and comprehension
- Increases confidence



Strengthens Relationships

- Creates special one-on-one time
- Encourages meaningful conversations
- Helps children feel supported and valued



Broadens Understanding

- Develops empathy
- Introduces new ideas and cultures
- Helps children understand the world



How You Can Help at Home

- ✓ Set a regular reading time each day
- ✓ Take turns reading aloud
- ✓ Ask questions about the story
- ✓ Praise effort, not just accuracy
- ✓ Make reading enjoyable
- ✓ Let your child see you reading too



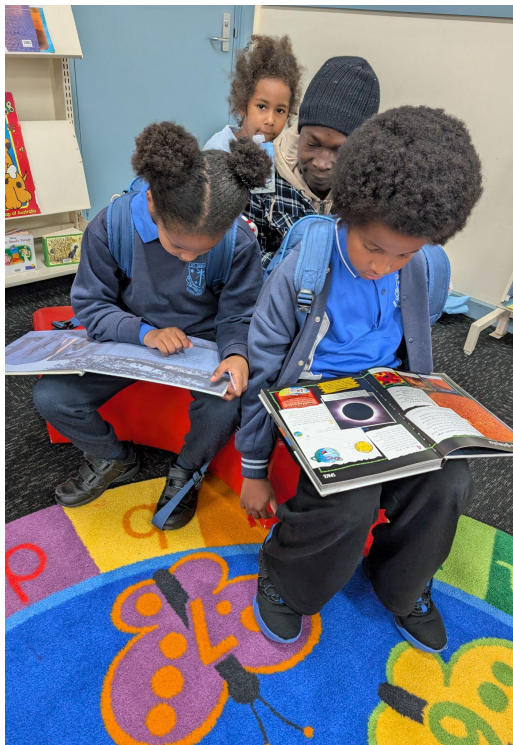
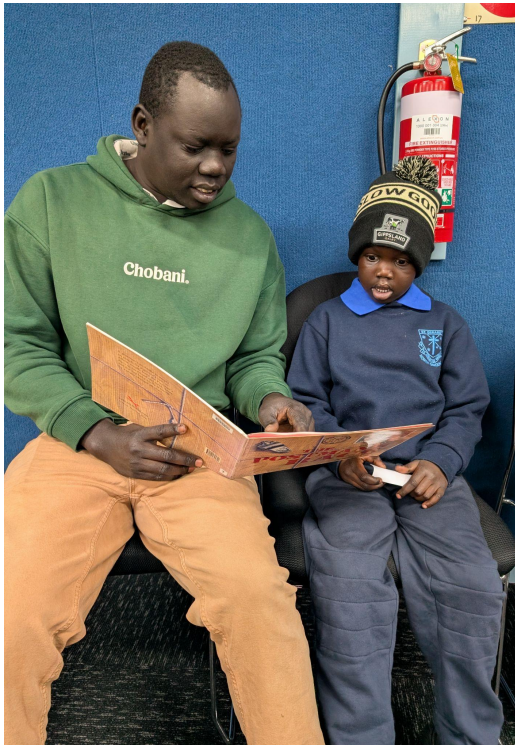
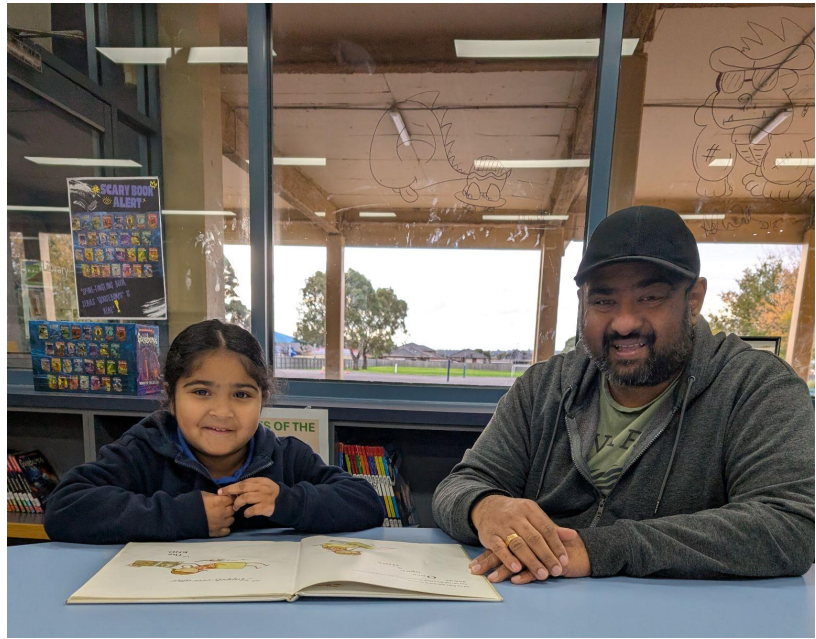
Remember

- You don't need to be a teacher to make a difference.
- Your time, encouragement and interest matter most.

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."



Reading before School



Library News



LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Week 8, June 2026

Exploring New Worlds at the Library, Together!

Come join us at the library, where there's more than just reading books! Engage in our library club and explore a world of knowledge, creativity, and community. Whether it's through interactive sessions, engaging discussions, or collaborative projects, there's something for everyone to enjoy and learn.

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATES

This week at Library Club, students participated in another exciting Puzzle Race Competition in mixed teams. It was wonderful to see students working together, showing teamwork, determination, and persistence as they raced to complete their puzzles.

Congratulations to our winning team: Nyadut, Grace, Sophia and Azalea. Well done on your fantastic effort!

A big congratulations also goes to all students, as every team successfully completed their puzzle. Everyone showed great determination to finish what they started and worked together positively throughout the activity.

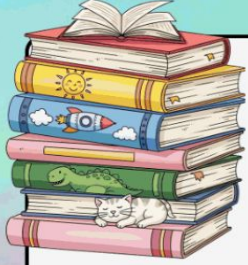
Students should continue to borrow and return books regularly. Miss Adrien will be checking for any overdue books this week, as it is the final week to borrow before the end of term. Students are reminded to bring a separate library bag (book bag) on their allocated library day when borrowing books. This helps protect library materials, encourages responsibility, and ensures all students can continue to enjoy our library resources.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Miss Stephanie Adrien



Library News



LIBRARY CLUB



Week 8, June 2026



Miss Stephanie Adrien



Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

Any families who hold a current Health Care Card are asked to please provide a copy to the school office.

This will ensure you receive the MACS Concession on your school fees.

Please note, this must be a valid Centrelink Health Care Card. Private health insurance cards or Medicare cards are not eligible.



**ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SERVICE CONTACT:
0402 192 685 (Marina) | sg@ylv.com.au

SERVICE HOURS	COST
Before School Care 6:45AM – 8:45AM	\$30/\$35 PERMANENT/CASUAL
After School Care 3:30PM – 6:30PM	\$35/\$40 PERMANENT/CASUAL
Pupil-Free Day 7:00AM – 6:00PM	\$83

fees effective 02 Mar 2026

ylv.com.au



COMMUNITY NOTICE

- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer

Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week including this weekend and January.

- Grace Yr 3
- Lakshmi Yr 2

