



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

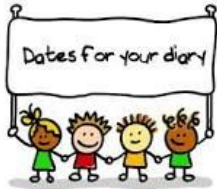


Term 1 Week 7

[www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)

03 97917553

12 March 2021



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated a birthday this week.

- Aswin - 5/6VT



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to know more about the following community events, please see our noticeboard inside the school gates.

- North Dandenong F.C Auskick (AFL)
- North Dandenong Neighbourhood House
- Rowville Hawks (AFL)
- Key Z Park (Calisthenics)
- Endeavour Hills Eagles (AFL)
- St Mary's D's (Netball)
- Rowville Hawks (AFL)
- Little and Trivial Events (Entertainment)
- Noble Park Bulls (AFL)



## CHRIST BE WITH ME CHRIST WITHIN ME

CHRIST BEHIND ME, CHRIST BEFORE ME  
CHRIST BESIDE ME, CHRIST TO WIN ME  
CHRIST TO COMFORT AND RESTORE ME  
CHRIST BENEATH ME, CHRIST ABOVE ME  
CHRIST IN QUIET, CHRIST IN DANGER  
CHRIST IN HEARTS  
OF ALL THAT LOVE ME  
CHRIST IN MOUTH  
OF FRIEND AND STRANGER

*St Patrick's Breastplate Prayer*

**Just a reminder that Wednesday 17th March is St Patrick's Day, students wear full school uniforms with a touch of green.**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

The weeks seem to be moving at a rapid pace and it is hard to believe that we are at the end of the seventh week of the school year. This leaves us with 3 weeks until the end of Term 1 and plenty of opportunities to look forward to.

Next **Monday** (15 March) we have **Harmony Day**. This is always a wonderful occasion when we acknowledge and celebrate all the cultures which contribute to making St Gerard's the special place that it is. There are a range of activities planned throughout the day and students are encouraged to come **dressed in their cultural attire or in orange**, as this is the colour of Harmony Day.

On **Tuesday** we have our **Reconciliation Reflection Day** for those students in Years 3 and 4 who will be celebrating this Sacrament of Healing for the first time. This is a very significant event in our students faith journey as we all need to re-build relationships with others and our God. The children will make their **first Reconciliation on Thursday 18 March at 7.00pm in the church**. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

Also, on **Thursday** we have a '**World of Maths**' incursion for all year levels. This will provide our students with opportunities to investigate and develop their understanding of Mathematics through a wide variety of activities.

On **Friday** we will be recognising two significant initiatives, **National Ride to School Day** and **National Day Against Bullying**. A common thread with these initiatives is the promotion of both physical and mental wellbeing. It is great to see some of our students regularly riding to school and bullying requires vigilance from everyone at school and in the wider community.

Sunday's Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, '**so that through him the world might be saved**'. This is a timely reminder as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

In our endeavours to refine our communication with families, we will be implementing the online platform **Operoo** at the start of Term 2. One of the benefits of using this is that permission notes for excursions can be accessed and signed digitally, therefore reducing paper and the need for notes to travel back and forth between school and home.

Our school has many requests from local community groups to promote their activities. We have our **Community Notice Board** in the courtyard where this information is displayed. Please take the time to take a look as there are a variety of groups currently offering great opportunities for children and families. There is a list in this newsletter of the current information being displayed.

Lastly, a reminder to families that the **Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Survey needs to be completed by today (Friday 12 March)**. Once again I thank the families that have completed it.

God bless.

Paul Cowan  
Principal

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Sacrament Dates, 2021

Planning for all Sacraments is underway. More information will be forthcoming once details are confirmed.  
**Please note that arrangements may change based on Federal and State Government health advice.**

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

Confirmation: Thursday, 29th July at 7 pm

### **Reconciliation: (Grade 3 and 4)**

Reconciliation Reflection Day: Tuesday, 16th March (Year 3/4 students may wear casual clothes)  
Reconciliation: Thursday, 18th March at 7 pm (TBC)

### **First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)**

First Communion: Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June at Parish Mass times (TBC)

## Level Mass Mass

Thursday, 11th March 3/4 Level Mass at 9:15 in the Church, all welcome  
Thursday, 18th March 1/2 Level Mass in Church 9:15, all welcome

## Other Import Dates for Religion:

Wednesday, 17th March	St Patrick's Day, students wear full school uniform with a touch of green
Monday, 22nd March - Thursday, 1st April	The Passion Prayer Spaces for student participation
Monday, 29th March - Thursday, 1st April	Families and/or parishioners invited to The Passion Prayer Spaces (pending COVID-19 density restrictions)
Tuesday, 20th March	Fr Shanthaiah's birthday
Thursday, 1st April	Holy Thursday
Friday, 2nd April	Good Friday Day of Fast and Abstinence
Saturday, 3rd April	Holy Saturday
Sunday, 4th April	Easter Sunday

## The Passion Prayer Spaces

Students taking an active role in The Passion has long been a tradition at St Gerard's. Due to COVID related restrictions, this year, The Passion will be presented through Prayer Spaces. This will be an opportunity for our children to explore The Stations of the Cross and link these to life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Taking a

Catholic perspective as a starting point, The Passion Prayer Spaces will give our children an opportunity to develop skills of personal reflection and to explore prayer in an open, inclusive and safe environment.

The hall will be transformed for a week with a range of creative activities that encourage personal reflection on issues such as forgiveness, injustice, thankfulness, big questions, identity and stillness that relates to The Way. During week 9 and 10, teachers will bring their students for reflection in The Passion Prayer Space.

The opportunity for families and/or parishioners to be invited to The Passion Prayer Spaces, pending COVID-19 density restrictions will be confirmed at a later date.

## Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss

Seasons is a peer support program for children and young people who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. This loss may be the result of a death, separation or divorce.

This valuable program will become available in term 2. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D



We are now in the third week of Lent with the Project Compassion story of Oliva, a 22-year-old woman from Tanzania. She did not have the opportunity to go to school and was embarrassed that she was unable to read, write or count. As an adult, her business was losing money because she couldn't add up her money and give the right change to customers.

Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia's literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours, for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes. Oliva has now graduated, attendance at her classes are growing, her kiosk is thriving and she is helping her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election - to help her community to 'Be More.'

- Approximately 260 million children don't have the chance to go to school ([un.org](http://un.org))
- Watch a short film about Oliva's story [here](#).



"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion: [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)

## Meditation

Thank you to everyone that has remembered that we begin each day with meditation. If you arrive late to school and the meditation bell has already gone, you need to wait in the office area until meditation time has finished.

## Altar Boy Training

Altar boy training has recommenced. If your son would like to train as an altar boy please contact Ron Maroun on 0412 212 287.

# WELLBEING NEWS



## MONDAY, 15TH MARCH

St Gerard's will be celebrating Harmony Day. Students are encouraged **pack a lunch and wear clothing related to their cultural background or something orange**. The students will begin their day with a Para liturgy followed by exciting activities from around the world which will teach them about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.





# WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

**On Friday 19 March 2021 is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA). Our school will stand united to say #BullyingNoWay #NDA2021**



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

Official

**BULLYING.  
NO WAY!**

school

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March we will hold our third **Garden Market Stall** for 2021.

The Environmental leaders will be selling fresh rosemary, zucchinis, tomatoes, parsley seeds and eggs straight from the garden. We will also be selling delicious homemade tomato chutney and apricot jam which has been generously donated by one of our beautiful mums and Rob! The market will open from 3:15 pm.



# GIVE ME FIVE

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 the Friday assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February and the following lucky winners had a special picnic with Mr Cowan on Friday:

1. Elijah (1/2L)
2. Victoria (1/2L)
3. Azalea (1/2FP)
4. Dahlia (3/4S)
5. John (3/4S)
6. Amy V (3/4S)



# Our Garden

This week 3/4S enjoyed their Garden lesson. The students harvested some zucchinis and tomatoes and learnt about harvesting seeds and the life cycle of a seed. The students were also introduced to our new chickens.



# WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

## How much exercise do children and young people need?

The [Australian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines](#) outline the following

recommendations for children and young people:

- **Infants** (birth to one year): 30 minutes of supervised interactive floor-based play including tummy time, reaching and grasping, pushing and pulling and crawling.
- **Toddlers** (1-2 years): at least 180 minutes a day, including energetic play such as running and jumping.
- **Pre-schoolers** (3-5 years): at least 180 minutes a day of which 60 minutes is energetic play such as running, jumping and kicking and throwing.
- **Children** (5-12 years) and young people (13-17 years): at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity every day.



The percentage of children meeting current guidelines is:

- 61% of two to five-year-olds
- 26% of five to 12-year-olds
- 7.9% of 13 to 17-year-olds.

## NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

Friday 19 March 2021



### St Gerard's P.S

**are excited to be celebrating National Ride2School Day  
on Friday 19 March 2021.**

National Ride2School Day is the perfect opportunity to kick-start new healthy habits and promote the many benefits of active travel.

We encourage all students and their families to leave the car at home and give riding, walking, scooting or skating to school a go.

It's sure to be a fantastic day and we look forward to seeing you there!

