

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 2 - WEEK 3

11th MAY, 2023



A Mother's Love: Celebrating the Heartwarming Bond that Knows No Bounds.

Happy Mother's Day to all the extraordinary Mums out there, shaping the future with love, patience, and endless devotion.



Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed are thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

We have definitely had a taste of Winter this week with plenty of rain and colder weather. Despite the weather we still managed to have a productive learning week.

On Monday we had 2 teams represent our school at the **St John's Secondary College Paul Wade Cup**. This annual event sees local Catholic Primary Schools come together and compete in a soccer tournament. These Year 5/6 children represented us all exceptionally well both on and off the field. While I congratulate both of our teams, I would like to recognise one of our teams who were Runners Up. This team's passage to the final involved 2 penalty shootouts in the quarter and semi-finals. History has shown that the Runners Up go on to win the tournament the following year! **I would like to thank Mrs Wilson and Mrs Cowled** for their involvement in the day.

Our **Wednesday morning 'Before School Reading' in the Library from 8.15am** is gaining momentum. This allows our students and their families to come and read together and is a positive way to start the day especially as the weather gets colder. There is a standing invitation to all our children and their families to come along.

Today (Friday) we had our **Mother's Day celebration in the PAC**. It was wonderful to see so many of our Mother's and Mother figures of our children. Our guests were provided with afternoon tea and our school then gathered to recognise, thank and celebrate these very significant people. **Regardless of your age, mothers and significant females hold a very unique place in all our hearts.** I hope and pray that all mothers and significant females are made to feel very special on Sunday (and every other day!).

Enrolments for 2024 are open and new families are invited to come and see all the things we offer here at St Gerard's. Our **first Open Day for Term 2 is next Tuesday 16 May, followed by 2 more on Wednesday 31 May and Thursday 15 June**. If you know families who are looking for a school in 2024 they are more than welcome to come on one of those days 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.

This **Saturday at 5.30pm Bishop Tony Ireland will confirm our Year 6 children in St Gerard's church**. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they receive their Third Sacrament of Initiation and take another significant step in their faith journey.

Lastly, **when it is raining at the end of the day we are going to allow parents to come and collect their children from their classrooms from 3.25pm**. This will hopefully lead to less congestion in the Office area and enable everyone to get home safely. All our other wet day dismissal procedures will remain the same.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers and God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Confirmation, Saturday 13th May, 5:30

We are thrilled to congratulate our Confirmation Candidates who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Saturday, May 13th, at 5:30 PM. Their commitment and dedication to our faith have been truly inspiring. May this special day be filled with blessings as they embrace the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate with them and offer our support as they continue to grow in faith, love, and service. Congratulations!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs Te, Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Govic who prepared the Confirmation candidates. Their dedication and commitment have played an important role in guiding our students on their spiritual journey.

Our sincere appreciation to Bishop Tony for conferring the sacrament of Confirmation and enriching our Parish community. Special thanks to Fr. Shanthaiah for his unwavering dedication and selfless service. His leadership and devotion are deeply valued.

Thank you to the Parish Choir, especially Moses for leading the singing at the Confirmation Mass and to the altar servers for their assistance. Your contributions made the ceremony truly special.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sacrament Dates, 2023

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Reflection Day:	Thursday 8th June (children may wear casual clothes)
First Communion:	Sunday 11th June, 10:30am
First Communion Assembly:	Friday 16th June, 2:50pm

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation:	Saturday 13th May, 5:30pm (conferred by Bishop Ireland)
Confirmation Assembly:	Friday 19th May, 2:50pm

Whole School Mass:

Wednesday	24 th May	Our Lady Help of Christians at 9:15 (Parish Mass)
Friday	24 th June	Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15 (Parish Mass, Adoration available throughout the day)

Class Mass:

5/6O:	Thursday 18th May, 10:15am
3/4S:	Friday 19th May, 10:15am

St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

Our goal is to fill our food cart to the brim once more for the St Vincent De Paul Winter appeal. Starting from week two, the Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will gather food items, and the collection will end on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that donates the most items will earn a casual dress day.



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

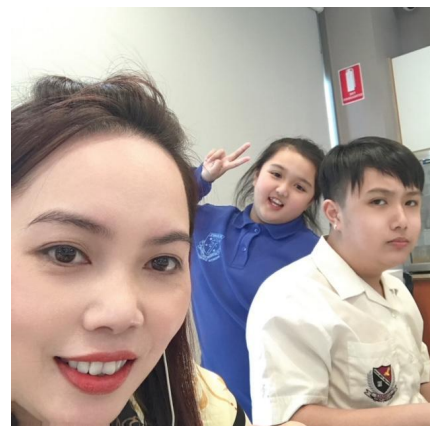
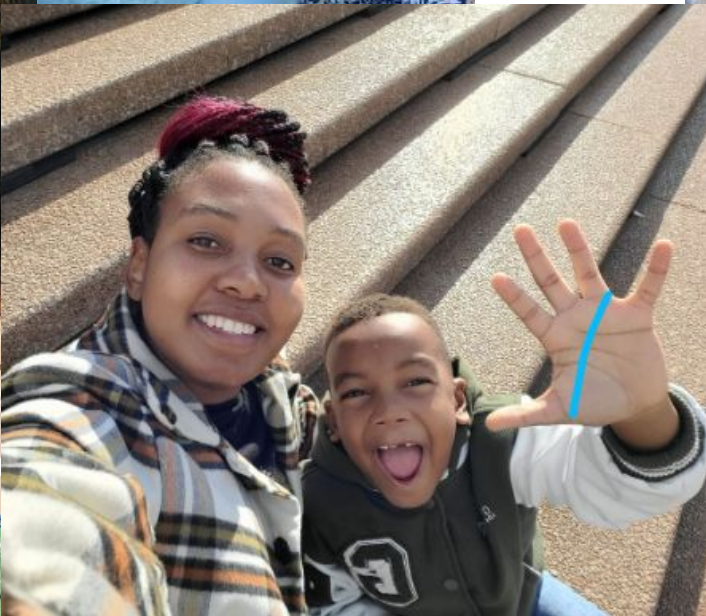
MOTHER'S DAY



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St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

WELLBEING



Growing a mentally healthy generation



What is play?

Play can be pretending, learning a new skill, dressing up, being active or being quiet.

Play can involve other children or be alone. Adults can join in if they're invited – in fact, young children often love to play with close adults. Children decide what to play and how to play. Play is their time to be free and enjoy. It's their language, their work and their relaxation.

It's for all children, of all ages from birth on, and of all abilities.

Unstructured, free play is the best type for young children

This is play that just happens, depending on what takes the child's interest at the time. It isn't planned and lets children use their imagination and move at their own pace. Examples of unstructured play might be:

- creative play alone or with others, including artistic or musical games
- imaginary games (for example, making cubby houses with boxes or blankets, dressing up, playing make-believe)
- exploring new or favourite play spaces like cupboards, backyards, parks, playgrounds and so on.

You can be part of a child's unstructured play – or not

Sometimes all you'll need to do is point them in the right direction – say, towards the jumble of dress-ups and toys on the floor, or to the table with crayons and paper.

Sometimes you might need to be a bit more active – for example, “How about we play dress-ups? What do you want to be today?”

Structured play is different.

It's more organised and happens at a fixed time or in a set space, and is often led by a grown-up. Examples of structured play include:

- swimming lessons – you might see these as important lessons for your child, but they might just think they're fun
- storytelling groups for toddlers and preschoolers at the local library
- dance, music or drama classes for children of all ages
- family board or card games
- organised team sports for older children, like basketball, netball and football.

WELLBEING

Give Me 5 News

This week the Give Me Five focus was to 'Be Spirit- Filled' in the Learning Areas.



The teachers were looking for students who were being Spirit Filled in the classroom in the classroom by treating others as they would like to be treated. These students were rewards with a raffle ticket in the classroom.

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 • Keep the area neat and tidy	Speak appropriately and use manners • Give other users their privacy Care for property • Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property • 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 • Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the left hand side to enter	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly • 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. • Say sorry and forgive others Be kind



Student Representative Council

SRC

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 11th May the SRC reps of St Gerard's attended their last meeting.

During this meeting the students had the opportunity to voice their opinions on what Italian Day could look like.

A big thank you to all of the Term One SRC Reps for you hard work and commitment!

The Term 2 SRC reps will be voted in by their class and announced in next week's newsletter.

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

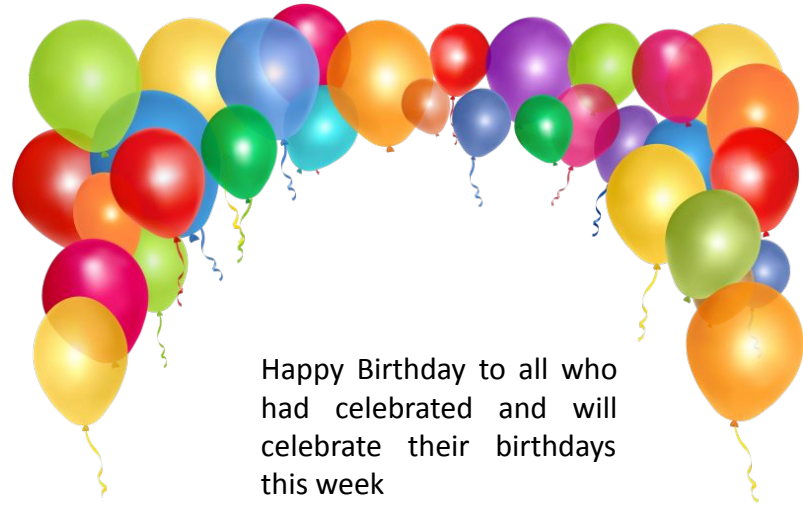
RETURNS

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

IMPORTANT DATES



- Kevan Yr 6
- Tut FDN



25th May, 2023

Family Literacy
Workshops

*Save the Date: 18th May
From: 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm*

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Springvale Indoor Sports - School Holiday Program
- Syndal Softball Club
- Noble Park Junior football Club (AFL)
- Netball Dandenong
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Swimland Swim Club
- Noble Park Auskick Centre (AFL)



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.