



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

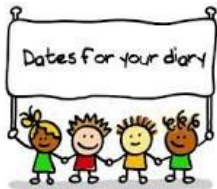


Term 4, Week 10

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

13 December 2019



Monday, 16 December

Health Harold Incursion

Tuesday, 17 December

- Year 6 Final Assembly
- Graduation Mass & last day for Year 6
- Healthy Harold Incursion

Wednesday, 18 December

- LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
- Healthy Harold Incursion
- FINISH 1:00 PM



**Wednesday,
18 December 2019
1:00 pm finish time**



**Year 1 - 6 Students
return,
Wednesday
29 January 2020
PREP students return
Thursday, 30 January
2020**



A PRAYER FOR THE Third Sunday of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
Let the anticipation of your birth
fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation
Be a sign to the world
That you are always near.
Amen

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

This is the end of the last full week for the year. While we will have a shorter version next week this will be our final 'full' newsletter for the year.

On Monday at assembly our school was presented with donations from **Dandenong Plaza Woolworths** and **Ride 2 School**. Kelly the Manager of Woolworths presented our school with a \$200 voucher to support our *Garden to Kitchen* program. Sam from **Ride 2 School** acknowledged the school's support and promotion of the program and gave us a cheque for \$5000. This money will be used to purchase bikes, equipment and training for us to run a **Bike Education Program next year**. I would like to thank both of these organisations for their support of our school and the learning opportunities they will provide for our children.

The final **Running Club** for the year involved our regular athletes sharing a healthy breakfast, receiving a certificate and completing a '*Lap of Champions*'. I would like to commend Mrs Wilson for her co-ordination of this weekly event. Our **Christmas Carols night** on Tuesday was a wonderful event with our children again sharing their gifts and talents. It was great to see so many families in attendance to support the children. As I said on the night, Christmas is a time to celebrate our faith with family and friends and I feel this night certainly assisted us to do just that. A big thank you to our children and staff for making this night so special. Thank you also to Rachel Perumal and Shamala Fernando who helped organise our Christmas Raffle.

Wednesday saw our **Year 6 children** go on their **end of year excursion**. This was their last outing at primary school and is another part of their Year 6 Graduation celebrations. Our **choir** visited Pine Lodge Rehabilitation Centre, Outlook Gardens Christian Retirement Village and Belvedere Aged Care on Thursday to spread some Christmas cheer to the residents. From all reports their efforts were greatly appreciated. Thank you to Mrs Stack and Mr Paulis for helping the children to prepare for this service to the local community.

Today we celebrated our **End of Year Mass** as a school community. This provided us with the opportunity to come together to reflect and give thanks for the year. It was also the last whole school Mass celebrated by Father Arthur. As mentioned last week, **Father Arthur will be leaving** the parish at the end of the year. I know that the staff and students will miss his input into our classrooms and presence in our staffroom. Father Arthur will be attending our **final Assembly on Tuesday 17 December at 2.00pm** when we will farewell him as a school community. I extend an invitation to all families to come and be part of this significant event in the life of our school.

Semester Two Reports were sent home today. Learning is a lifelong endeavour where each child learns at their own rate and has specific strengths and challenges. **I encourage families to discuss and celebrate the achievements of their children**. Included with the report is their **class and teacher(s) for 2020**. Considerable time is spent in preparing class lists **with numerous factors needing to be considered**. **Our aim as a school is to provide the best learning opportunities for all our students**. A **Requisite List for 2020** is also included.

Information regarding the **staffing structure for 2020** is in this newsletter. A couple of items to highlight are that **Mr Luay Paulis will be finishing his tenure at St Gerard's at the end of this year**. Luay has been our Music Teacher and worked with our school choir. I would like to thank him for the contribution he has made to our school through the sharing of his musical talents. We wish him every success for the future. **Mrs Carol Stewart** will be **continuing with her role** as part of our **Learning and Teaching Team** and will take on a new role as a teacher of **The Arts**. I would like to publicly thank Carol for her commitment to our school in fulfilling roles as both Acting Principal and Deputy Principal over the last few years.

Next week all classes will be involved in a **Life Education** session. This is another way to enhance the work we do in the area of healthy living. In addition to the classes being involved there is a **session for parents on Tuesday from 10.30 – 11.00am**. Information about this went home earlier this week. It would be great to see you there. Also, we have **Year 6 Graduation next Tuesday 17 December** starting with **Mass at 7.00pm** followed by a ceremony in the PAC. As mentioned above our **final Assembly is also on Tuesday starting at 2.00pm**. In addition to farewelling Fr Arthur, we will also be sending off our Year 6 students. Families are more than welcome to come and gather with us.

We are now in the **third week of Advent**, the message from this Sunday's Gospel is, '**Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?**' In this passage we again experience John the Baptist preparing the way Jesus by asking this question of Our Lord.

God Bless.
Paul Cowan

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Important Dates for Term 4

Tuesday, 17 December:

Year 6 final assembly, 2pm and Graduation, 7pm

Altar Boy Training -

Altar boy training will recommence on Thursday 6 February 2020. If you would like your son commence Altar Boy training please contact Mr Ron Maroun on 0412 212 287 or see Mrs Dorothy Stack.

Parent Volunteer Opportunity for St Vincent de Paul Soup Van

The St Gerard's Soup Van will begin operation on 17th December, 2019 and will visit locations in the Dandenong area on an ongoing basis every Tuesday with the view of expanding in the future.

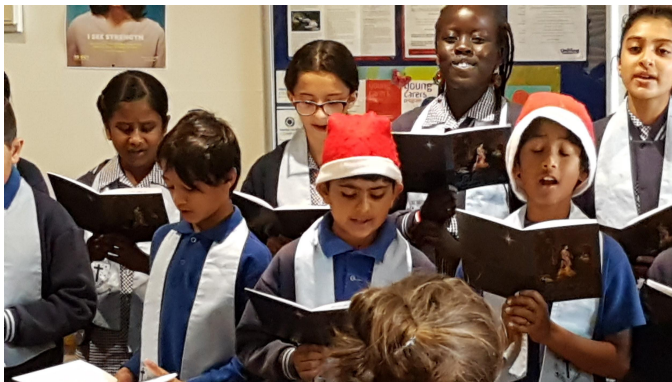
This soup van will offer food, social connection, and referral pathways out of homelessness and poverty, to people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness and disadvantage.

Based in our parish kitchen in the St Gerard's hall, this Soup Van Operation will provide support at boarding/rooming houses and public street stops.

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering, please send an expression of interest to James Tudehope (St Gerard's Parish SVDP President Dandenong North Conference) at tadeu@bigpond.net.au.



St Gerard's Choir Visit to local aged care homes



On Thursday, our school choir had the privilege of visiting and singing to some of the residents at the local aged care homes. This is always a lovely experience both for our students and residents who look forward to our visit each year to bring Christmas joy to them through carolling.

GREAT NEWS

**We've just received a
Woolworths Junior
Landcare Grant!**



We've been successful with our application for a Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant for our project, 'Garden to Kitchen- Compost and Critters!'

This project will enhance the current Kitchen Garden Program. It will extend learning focussed on our Kitchen Garden program to include recycling and composting to reduce waste and improve the garden soil. The students will be engaged in researching the establishment of recycling and composting, collecting waste from classrooms and learning about how to compost materials to improve the garden.

St Gerard's is one of 617 primary schools and early learning centres throughout Australia receiving a Woolworths Junior Landcare grant to help grow our next generation of environmental champions.

The children and teachers are looking forward to working and learning from this project and we'll keep you updated on the results.

Thank you!

Woolworths 
The fresh food people

A big thank you to **Woolworths** in **Dandenong Plaza** who gifted our school \$200 to use towards our Garden to Kitchen Program. Kelly, the store manager attended our assembly on Monday and was amazed at all of the great learning that is happening in our Garden to Kitchen Program.



RIDE TO SCHOOL GRANT!



Congratulations are in order! **Ride2School** has awarded a grant of **\$5,000** to our school to use towards a Bike Fleet. This is very exciting news!

On Monday morning Sam from **Ride2School** attended our assembly and presented us with a \$5,000 cheque. We are in the process of purchasing a class set of bicycles. These bicycles will be used to teach the 3/4 students Bike Ed next year.



Ride to School Results



A big thank you to all of the families who participated in our last Ride to School day for 2019. Our current data shows that we did not achieve our active travel goal for this month. I hope we have better luck next year. Thank you to Alessia and Antonia who helped out on the day.

Well done to:

1st place- 3/4L- (58%)

2nd place- 5/6O (50%)

3rd place- Prep C (47%)



As part of our health education this term we are having the **Life Education** mobile learning centre visit our school from Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th December 2019,



Life Education delivers health education through a unique mobile learning centre environment which provides students to develop strategies and practice the skills required to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Lessons are age appropriate and the children will be covering a wide range of health related topics, ranging from, healthy eating and nutrition, medicines, bullying, resilience and social skills.

Healthy Harold, the much loved Life Education giraffe mascot is always a much anticipated element of the visit. The sessions are always fun, interactive and really extend and develop the children's understanding of the topics covered.

As part of this visit a complimentary **Parent Information Session** is offered. The duration of the session is approximately 30 minutes and is held in the Mobile Learning Centre (MLC). This gives parents an opportunity to gain an understanding of what the students will experience during the session.

SEE TIMETABLE ON LAST PAGE

SAVE THE DATE
St Gerard's GIVE ME 5 Night!

Thursday February 6th 2020

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					




New program coming to St Gerard Catholic Primary School for 2020

Sewing Classes

Thursdays 9am-11am

inquire at Front Office

PLEASE ENROL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED



OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENING





St Gerard's Running Club end of year celebration!



Playgroup will recommence week 3 2020,
12 February 2020.

We wish all our families a very Merry
Christmas and safe, healthy and happy
2020.

Classroom Teachers for 2020



Prep C – Mrs Sabina Castello

Year 1/2B – Mrs Leanne Bruno

Year 1/2FP – Mrs Nicole Fernandez and Mrs Judy Peres

Year 3/4L – Mrs Mary-Jane Lewis

Year 3/4S – Ms Melinda Sonno

Year 5/6O – Mrs Gwen O'Brien

Year 5/6VT – Mrs Shantelle Theodore and Mrs Julie Verhoosel



Congratulations to **Eli in Year 5/6O** on receiving a **Community Spirit and Leadership Award** from the Federal Member for Bruce Mr Julian Hill. This award was presented to him last Tuesday night at a special ceremony held at the Greater Dandenong City Council Civic Centre. Eli was part of a group of primary and secondary students who were recognised for their contributions to their school and local communities. Well done Eli, we are all very proud of you!



- OSHC Program will be operating from 1.00 pm to 6.30 pm on the Wednesday, 18 December. If you require care for your child please contact Marina as soon as possible as places will fill fast.
- The program will be closed on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 December 2019. If you need care for these two days please call Shereen, coordinator of St Mary's OSHC program on 0422803717 or St Elizabeth OSHC program Coordinator Elarine on 0422803709.
- Children from OSHC who will not be returning to St Gerard's Primary School in 2020 please advise Marina of your last day as accounts will need to be finalised before 16 December 2019.
- All current families, both permanent and casual, wishing to continue your booking in 2020 please ensure you contact Marina to secure your child's place.
- For new families needing to use OSHC in 2020 please complete an enrolment form prior to the end of term. Enrolments are completed through the YLV website at <https://ylv.com.au/vacation-care/>
- Marina would like to thank those using the OSHC Care and looks forward to seeing you all in 2020.

THE HOLIDAY PROGRAMS FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS CAN BE ACCESSED VIA THE FOLLOWING LINK ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

<https://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au/page/220/Out-of-Hours-Care>



**ST MARY'S OSHC: PRE-CHRISTMAS
VACATION CARE PROGRAM DECEMBER 2019**

Please provide your child with a Healthy packed Lunch, Snacks for Morning/Afternoon Tea, & a refillable water bottle.
For More information please contact SHEREEN on: 0422 803 717 OPENING HOURS: 7am - 6pm

THURSDAY 19 th DECEMBER	FRIDAY 20 th DECEMBER	MONDAY 23 rd DECEMBER
EXCURSION DAY  READING CINEMA We will be Watching:  THE ADDAMS FAMILY Includes a small Popcorn & Drink Make: * Friendly Elves & Rudolph Ice Cream Cones Cost: \$17.50	CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS Get Crafty with: * Stain Glass Pictures * Pencil Holders * Christmas Posters  Participate in these Fun Activities: * The Snowball Challenge * Bingo * Ball Games * Nintendo Wii Movie: Home Alone	CHRISTMAS PARTY Christmas comes but once a year. Let's get together for some Christmas Cheer !! There will be lots of Party Games, Musical Fun & of course PARTY FOOD * Christmas Cards * Beaded Candy Canes Sing Some Carols Movie: Shrek the Halls

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

**WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER
1:00 PM FINISH**

Please make alternative arrangements if you are unable to collect your child at this time.

HEALTHY HAROLD TIMETABLE

Time	Mon 16 th December 2019	Tues 17 th December 2019	Wed 18 th December 2019
8:55	All Grade 6 students 8:55- 10:25 (90min)	3/4L 8:55-10:25 (90min)	1/2B- 8:55- 9:55am (60min)
10:00	18 students	Parent Session 10:30-11:00am (30min)	1/2FP- 10:00- 11:00am (60min)
12:00	Recess	Recess	Recess
	All Grade 5 students 12:00-1:30pm 25 students	3/4S 12:00-1:30pm (90min)	
1:00	Recess	Recess	Recess
	Prep C 2:30- 3:30pm (60min)	Grade 6 Assembly	