



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

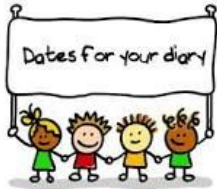


**Term 1, Week 7**

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

03 97917553

**13 March 2020**



**Tuesday, 17 March**

- After school cricket/afl clinic

**Wednesday, 18 March**

- Garden Stall - 3:20 pm
- Homework club - 4 pm to 5 pm

**Friday, 20 March**

- Raffle tickets drawn



## UNIFORM SHOP

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE UNIFORM SHOP WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, 23 MARCH! IT WILL BE OPEN NEXT MONDAY, 16 MARCH IF YOU REQUIRE WINTER UNIFORM OR YOU CAN PICK UP AN ORDER FORM FROM THE OFFICE.



Today St Gerard's celebrated Harmony Day which is a national celebration of inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

**You created all people in your image.**

**We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in Australia and in our community.**

**Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us.**

**Grant that we may always promote the justice and acceptance that ensures lasting peace and racial harmony.**

**Grant that we may show equal respect to all persons of different cultures that we may come across.**

**And help us to remember and appreciate that we are one country, with many stories.**

**Amen.**

St Mary of the Cross, pray for us

St Gerard, pray for us

Live Jesus in our Hearts, forever.

embracing diversity is at the core of what it means to be at St Gerard's.

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

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

I trust that everyone had an enjoyable long weekend. Although we had a four day week we still managed to provide plenty of opportunities for our students.

This week our school received a **Certificate of Appreciation** from the **St Vincent de Paul Soup Van** President for our donations of fresh vegetables to the Dandenong Soup Van. **These vegetables were grown in our school garden** and have gone to a very worthy cause. The Dandenong Soup Van is run out of our parish and is making a real impact in the local community. Our school has made various contributions and we will continue to do so. Some of our staff have volunteered their time both in the kitchen preparing food while others have served it to people in the local area. If you would like any further information about the Soup Van please contact myself or the School Office.

Rehearsals have started for **The Passion** which will be presented on **Tuesday 24 March at 2.00pm in the Hall**. This not only provides an opportunity for our students to share their gifts and talents but for us as a school community to come together and celebrate our faith. I extend a warm invitation to all members of our community to join us.

Today (Friday) we celebrated **Harmony Day**. This is a day when we **recognise, honour and appreciate the cultures** we have in our school. It was wonderful to see children proudly wearing clothes from their culture and sharing family traditions. We also had a range of activities in mixed age groups to highlight our diversity. **Thank you to Mrs Fernandez** for her organisation and coordination of the day.

A reminder that we have a **whole school assembly each Friday afternoon at 2.45pm in the PAC**. This time allows us to reflect, recognise achievements, celebrate birthdays and set the scene for the coming week. Our Year 6 Leaders play key roles in this event and are doing a wonderful job. **Families are more than welcome to come and be part of these gatherings.**

From a parish perspective it was announced last weekend that **Fr Denton has been appointed Administrator of St Patrick's, Lilydale and St Brigid's, Healesville from the start of April**. He has contributed greatly to our school over the past two years through his visiting of classrooms, celebrating Masses and supporting our children in their preparation and reception of the Sacraments. As a school we will formally farewell Father towards the end of the term. Please keep an eye out for details in the coming week.

As mentioned last week, the parish is running a **Lenten Reflection Group on Wednesday evenings at 6.00pm in the Majellan Room**. They will be following the 'Grace Lenten Program' and part of this will involve **Fr Dean leading a Gospel reflection** for the coming Sunday. Families are more than welcome to be involved.

A letter went home to all families **yesterday regarding the Coronavirus**. Our **first priority** at St Gerard's is the **health and safety of our school community**. We are being provided the **latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd** to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak. This is an evolving situation, but we will keep you updated as things change. **A copy of the letter is contained in this newsletter.**

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to **contact myself through the School Office should you have any concerns.**

God bless.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Other Important Dates for Term 1

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March:

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March:

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March:

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March:

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April:

St Patrick's Feast Day

Students wear full school uniform with a touch of green for St Patrick's Day

St Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral for a delegate of School Leaders representing our school

The Passion at 2pm followed by Hot Cross Buns for parents afterwards

Easter Assembly at 2:45pm

## Sacrament Dates, 2020

### Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Information Night:

Confirmation:

TBA

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm (Confirmed by Fr Brendan Hayes)

### Reconciliation: (Grade 3)

First Reconciliation Information Night:

Reconciliation:

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm

### First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Information Night:

First Communion:

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 8:30am & 10:30am

## The Passion

Please mark this significant event into your diaries and it's well worth taking time off work if needs be to witness The Passion.

Our faith journey with Jesus in Holy Week sees us remembering his last days and moments. It is a journey of jubilation, of anxiety and suffering, of humiliation and abandonment, of dying on a cross.

During the Passion we journey with Jesus towards the cross and prepare to welcome him into our presence.

The Passion will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm, followed by Hot Cross Buns being served to parents.



## You are cordially invited to The Passion Presentation

*A re-enactment of The Way of Jesus*

*Followed by Hot Cross Buns*

*Performed by*

**The Children of St Gerard's Primary School**

**Tuesday, 24 March 2020, 2:00 pm**

**St Gerard's Primary School Hall**

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

## Palm leaves needed:

If you have some palm leaves that can be used for props for The Passion, please bring them to Mrs Stack on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

## 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.

## Project Compassion

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Project Compassion Boxes will be distributed to each class during Ash Wednesday Mass. Each class will have a target amount that they would like to raise during lent. Regular updates, by the Social Justice Leadership Team, with the amount raised so far will be announced at the school assembly.

## Rosary

Each Tuesday we have a group that comes together to pray the rosary in the Church at first lunch, led by the Legion of Mary from the Parish. Children are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring their own Rosary beads if they have them, otherwise, Rosary beads will be provided.

## 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 sessions will resume on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. After that the boys will be trained at **St Gerard's Church** each Thursday from **5.00-6.30pm** by Frederick Maroun, a senior Altar Server. If your son is in Year 4 or above and is interested in becoming an altar server or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Stack at the school office.

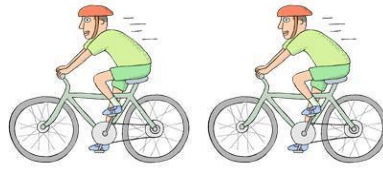
# WELLBEING NEWS





# RIDE TO SCHOOL!

A big thank you to all of the families who participated in the Ride to School day on Friday 13th March. Congratulations to 1/2FP who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!



Well done to:

1st place- 1/2FP

2nd place- Prep C

3rd place- 3/4S



## What do we mean by digital mental health?



Digital mental health refers to services delivered via digital platforms online, mobile or via the phone.

It also encompasses the use of social media and online support communities, which allows people to connect with others who are going through similar experiences or who share their interests.

Digital mental health services can be accessed in a confidential way – allowing children and young people to reach out for support when they may not be able to access support in the learning environment or broader community.

Online support services have been shown to support children and young people's learning, development, social networks, mental health and wellbeing. It can also provide access to opportunities to connect with others, and gain support, through the development of new skill sets to complement and build on their existing social and emotional competencies.

There are a range of online sites, services and supports available specifically for young people. The Be You [Wellbeing Tools for Students](#) is your essential guide to the online tools and other resources that will best support children and young people in taking care of their own mental health.

## Kitchen Garden

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class</u>
20 March	1/2B - 11:45 to 1:40
27 March	1/2FP - 11:45 to 1:40

Parents we would love for you to be involved in the Garden to Kitchen Program. Please see your child's class teacher, Mrs Munro or Mrs Fernandez if you would like to participate.



## St Gerard's Garden Stall



Next week we will hold our third Garden Market Stall for 2020.

The Environmental leaders will be selling rosemary, zucchini and eggs straight from the garden.

Parents get in early to snap up a bargain.

The garden market stall will be held on Wednesday the 18th of March 2020 at 3:20pm.

# OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

## ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

71 Gladstone Road,  
Dandenong North Vic 3175  
Phone: 9791 7553  
Fax: 9793 7633



Dear Families

To reflect on the events of Holy Week, we are having a special school event on **Tuesday, 24th March at 2.00pm**. All children will be involved by either being a part of the crowd or re-enacting the events of Holy Week and singing.

We ask that children in Year Prep – 4 **come to school dressed 'in the times of Jesus'**. Children are required to bring a pair of thongs or sandals as footwear to change into before the event to help make the washing of the feet run more smoothly. All year 5/6 children are to wear all black.

**We ask that all children bring a gold coin donation on this day to go towards Project Compassion.**

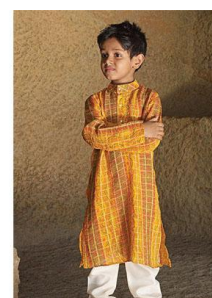
### Costume Ideas:

- Traditional Indian/Sri Lankan/Arabic clothing would be fantastic if you already have some at home that could look like they come from the time of Jesus.
- Tea towels on heads with a headband or scarf holding it on.
- Cut up old sheets with a rope or belt around the waist
- Scarf around the head



Kind Regards

Dorothy Stack Deputy Principal Faith Formation



## ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

71 Gladstone Road,  
Dandenong North Vic 3175

Phone: 9791 7553

Fax: 9793 7633



Thursday 12 March, 2020

### COVID-19 (coronavirus)

Dear Families,

Our first priority at St Gerard's is the health and safety of our school community.

I want to reassure you that the school is well-prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak.

Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with our Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan. We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus).

You can also find information about Catholic education's response at <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>.

This is an evolving situation, but we will keep you updated as things change.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact myself through the school office should you have any concerns.

Thank you for your support as we work to keep our students safe.

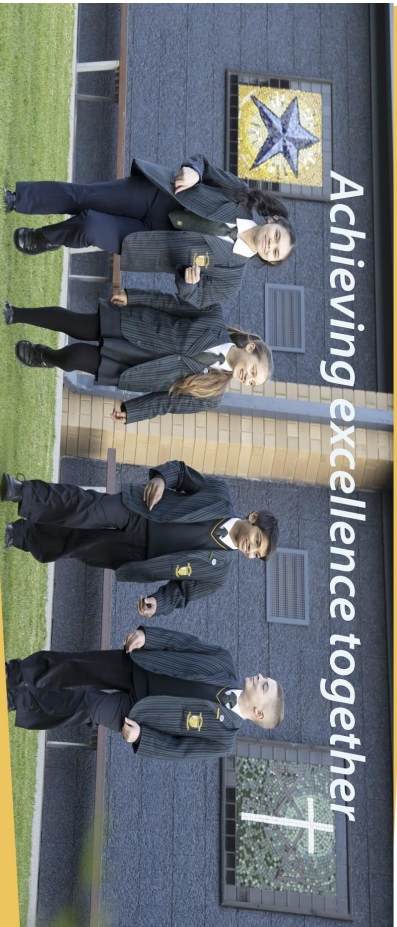
Paul Cowan - Principal



## OTHER NEWS



*Achieving excellence together*



### Open Morning 2020

Open tours running from 9.15am until 10.30am  
take part in student- led tours, see the college in action and view  
our 2020 Masterplan of new facilities including a Sports Precinct!

Thursday 19 March 9.15am

Thursday 14 May 9.15am

Thursday 25 June 6pm

visit [www.trybooking.com/BALBU](http://www.trybooking.com/BALBU) to book tickets

*Transforming students from learners to leaders*

Located at 5-11 Caroline Street, Dandenong  
for further information please visit [www.sjrc.vic.edu.au](http://www.sjrc.vic.edu.au) or call 8793 2000

ST ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL

# Market Night



**FRIDAY 27TH MARCH, 2020 5-9PM**  
**111 BAKERS ROAD DANDENONG NORTH**

MARKET STALLS - AMUSEMENTS - FOOD TRUCKS  
LIVE MUSIC - FREE ACTIVITY STATION - RAFFLE PRIZES

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