

St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

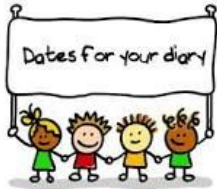


Term 4 Week 6

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

13 November 2020



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to those who celebrated their birthdays during the week-

- Trevor - 3/4S
- Naysa - 5/6 O

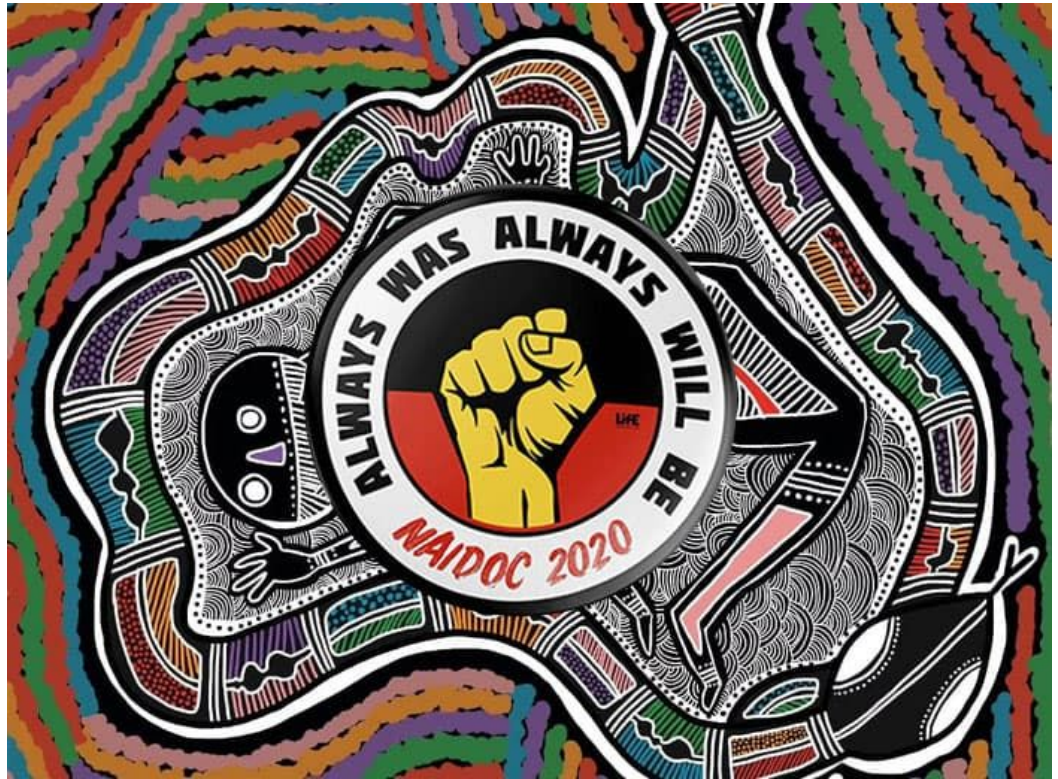
Is Your Child Returning in 2021?

Preparations are underway for 2021 classes. If your child(ren) **IS NOT** returning to St Gerards, please notify the office. This does not include those transitioning to Year 7.



Please take some time to have a look at our updated website. Some new additions are:

- **What's Behind the Wall?** - a video showing our wonderful school.
- **Absences** can now be entered via the link on our website
- New school policies have also been uploaded.



Creator God, whose spirit has hovered over Australia since the dawn of time, bless our First Nations Peoples with hope for the future. Help our nation to address examples of injustice and inequality so to "close the gaps" that still linger. May an authentic spirit of reconciliation fill the hearts of all Australians. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN



We listened to Dahlia's rendition of I Am Australian during our NAIDOC week Assembly today

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and good. The weather this week has certainly given us a taste of Summer and the opportunity to get outdoors.

It was great that we were able to have our school photos taken on Wednesday and have our Book Fair this week even though they were modified. Where we are able to, we will offer our usual activities and events and adjust them to comply with Government requirements and Catholic Education Commision Victoria guidelines. This may create some shorter than usual time frames however we will endeavour to give as much notice as possible. I thank you for your understanding as we continue to provide learning opportunities for all our students. One such event is **Italian Day** which we are planning to have on **Tuesday 1 December**. Please be on the lookout for more information.

Planning for 2021 is well underway. Considerable time is spent in preparing class lists with numerous factors needing to be considered. **If families have a specific request for their child this needs to be put in writing and addressed to myself or emailed to principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au** . Requests need to be based on **educational grounds** and will be treated confidentially. **Please note that all requests will be considered but I cannot guarantee that all requests will be granted.** Our aim as a school is to provide the best opportunities for all our students to learn. **Requests need to be received by Friday 20 November.**

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our first priority at St Gerard's. Therefore, I am reminding parents of children who have **cold or flu-like symptoms, a cough, sore throat or fever are to seek medical advice**. With this in mind it is vital that **if your child is unwell they must stay at home.**

Our families continued **cooperation with our before and after school arrangements is greatly appreciated** and is keeping us all safe. I am asking for families to **use the Pedestrian Crossing and the path along the side of the Church when walking children to their cars.** This will help to keep a safe distance between pedestrians and cars.

Our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children and in the current challenging economic climate **we all need to support each other**. If your **family is experiencing challenges** with regard to **school fees** please contact the School Office or myself pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au **so we can work through this together**. If you have a **current Health Care Card you are entitled to a reduction**.

As I mentioned last week, the Sunday Gospel readings at this time of the Liturgical year have a theme of living life in response to Jesus' message and preparing for the end of time. This Sunday we will hear the parable of the servants and the talents. This can be a message for us on **how we use (or not use) our talents**, being either gifts from God or the historical definition of talent as a large sum of money. Something for all of us to keep in mind.

Lastly, we received information on Wednesday that the **Sacrament of Confirmation** can now be celebrated. This is wonderful news and the families of Confirmation Candidates have been contacted.

God bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Mission Walk Around Australia

Students and staff are to be congratulated on their efforts and enthusiasm in participating in our Mission Walk Around Australia. Next week we will be beginning our fundraiser to raise money for the Missions.

Students are asked, if they can, to raise money by collecting donations for walking every day for 15 minutes on our walking track.

Each class will be allocated a box to collect money for Catholic Missions. The class that raises the most money by Nov 20th will win a casual dress day.

All money raised will go to Catholic Mission to help empower children and young adults with disability at the Arrupe Centre in Cambodia. We saw a video of this community during an assembly recently. The money we raise will help provide vital care for those who would otherwise have limited opportunities or support to lead a fulfilling life.

Carols Evening

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Carols Event will be held remotely this year. We hope to distribute a Vimeo link to our Christmas event for families on Friday 11th December. More information will be available soon.

Important Dates for Term 4

Year 6 Reflection Day
Advent Assembly at 2:30
First Sunday of Advent
Christmas Event (remote)

Thursday, 19th November
Friday, 27th November
Sunday 29th November
Friday, 11th December



Walk Around Australia

In term 4 students are challenged to get fit by using a map of Australia to track the distance they have covered when they walk around the walking track.

Classes are timetabled to walk around the track for 15 minutes per day.

We have currently walked 14,049 laps of the oval which converts to 3512km. Our whole school has now walked from Melbourne to Borrooloola which is a remote fishing community located on the eastern coast of Northern Territory.

We are currently 972 km away from Darwin.



This week 1/2B enjoyed their Gardening lesson. The students learned about the following concepts in the garden this week:

- composting
- worm farming
- planting seedlings
- harvesting (how to carefully harvest mulberries)
- weeding
- how to look after chickens
- ways to fix broody chickens

Have a look at some of the fun we had in the garden today!



STUDENT REFLECTION ON THEIR GARDENING LESSON

Jaskirat Vvalia and Anamika Rajesh, 5/60 - 13 November 2020

ST.GERARD'S - In week 5 last Friday, 5/60 were rostered on for a gardening lesson. There were 3 groups of 7 students : worm farm/planting seedlings with Mrs.Fernandez, chicken coop with Rob, and mulberry picking/weeding with Mrs.O'Brien.

Mrs. Fernandez led the worm farm/seedlings group. They learnt about worm farms and we also got to touch and hold them! About the three layers in every worm farm, the bottom layer is for collecting the liquid from the worms, the other two layers are where the worms live. The top layer is also where the worms eat. After that, their group had to plant tomato seedlings and water them.

Mrs.O'Brien's group had to pick mulberries from the garden's glorious mulberry trees in order to freeze and cook them for next year. Then, they also did weeding to remove the unwanted plants and clean the garden.

Rob's group first learned how to make compost for the garden and it's plants and also what to put and not put in a compost. Then they had to collect eggs from the chicken coop and feed the chickens.

5/60 had fun in the garden and the experience was intriguing as we got to expand our knowledge on gardening.



WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D



St Gerard's would like to offer parents 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 \$5 per dozen.

All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.

Please email Nicole Fernandez if you would like to purchase some eggs.



Give Me 5 News!

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 6th of November and the following lucky winners had a special picnic with Mr Cowan on Friday 13th November:

1. Antonia (1/2FP)
2. Ariana (1/2B)
3. Shaun (Prep C)
4. Hope (3/4S)
5. Amy. V (3/4L)
6. Joshlyn (3/4L)



Please click [here](#) to access the video by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg which shares helpful information about transitioning back to school.

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg
SchoolTV - Child and Adolescent Psychologist

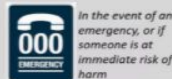


CORONAVIRUS THE TRANSITION BACK

Special Report

Further Supports

If you or someone you know needs support:



In the event of an emergency, or if someone is at immediate risk of harm



1800 319 355



Men's Referral Service - 1300 766 491



NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE



1800 55 1800



1800 015 188



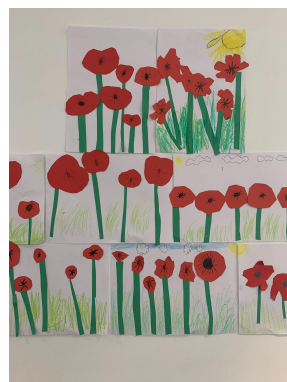
9413 6500



<https://www.thelookout.org.au>

Covid has been a trying time for most families. Here are the contact details of some organisations that may offer assistance if you or someone you know requires

ART NEWS



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Left We Forget