

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 - WEEK 2

13th October, 2023

ST GERARD'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



We welcome you all to join our Parish and School in
celebrating the feast day of our patron,
Saint Gerard Majella.

Solemnised by his Most Rev. Anthony Ireland,
Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne.

Date: Sunday 15th of October, 2023

Time: 10:30am

Location - St Gerard's Catholic Church 71
Gladstone Road, Dandenong North



There will be a special blessing after Mass for all the people and expectant mothers,
with the relic of St. Gerard Majella.

All are invited to participate in the Trivia Luncheon in the parish hall.

For lunch ticket enquires, please contact Alizarin: 0457 778 889

Kindly RSVP by 10th October 2023

No evening Mass today



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

We have had another week of various learning opportunities and various weather conditions!

As we come towards the end of Week 2 our focus is on **St Gerard's Feast Day celebrations** that are occurring on Sunday and Monday. As part of these **celebrations Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland (Auxiliary Bishop in the Southern Region) will be celebrating Mass at 10.30am this Sunday 15 October**. All families are invited to come and be part of this Mass and the Trivia Luncheon that is occurring afterwards. I look forward to seeing you there.

Some other aspects of these celebrations is that we will be **attending the Parish Mass on Monday at 9.15am** and our **St Gerard's School Talent Quest** which will take place on **Monday from 11.50am in the Parish Hall**. This is a wonderful tradition of our school where our children get to share their gifts and talents with our school community.

Families are more than welcome to come and join us.

It is important as a faith community to **reflect on and be inspired by the life of our patron**. He faced many challenges in his life but always maintained his faith and trust in God. A quote from St Gerard which particularly resonates with me is **'I see in my neighbour the person of Jesus Christ'**. This is certainly something I see present in our school on a daily basis through the interactions of our community.

A further reminder that there is a **slight change to our morning procedures**. This is due to a new Enterprise Agreement. **From the start of Term 4, the school building and classrooms will be open from 8.40am**. Our **gates will continue to be opened at 8.30am** with children being supervised from that time on the playground (or the Library if it is raining). **At 8.40am the doors to the school building will be opened** to allow children and families to enter classrooms to get ready for the day.

Thank you to our families that have registered to the **online platform called Operoo (formerly CareMonkey)**. This is an online service to send permission notes to families which will stop the need for paper notes to be sent home and returned to school. We have begun using Operoo with our Swimming Lessons information uploaded last week. **I encourage all families to take up this service.** If you require any assistance please contact our School Office.

Families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan** are reminded that if there are changes to any aspect of the plan you need to **contact the School Office**. It is vital that the information we have here at school is current and accurate.

Finally, a reminder that **next Friday 20 October is a School Closure Day**. Our staff will be involved in Professional Learning and Development in the area of Religious Education. This will not only enhance their own faith journeys but have a positive impact in our school and classrooms.

Take care and God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education

Important RE Dates

Sunday, 15th October:	St Gerard's Feast Day Mass, 10:30am celebrated by our Auxiliary Bishop, Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland
Monday, 16th October:	Whole School Talent Quest to celebrate our Feast Day, 12:00
Friday 20th October:	Liturgy for Primary Teachers, School Closure Day
Friday 27th October:	Mission Month White Elephant Stall (led by the Social Justice team)
Wednesday, 1st November:	All Saints Day, Parish Mass 9:15 am
Thursday, 2nd November:	All Souls Day, Parish Mass 9:15 am
Saturday, 11th November:	Remembrance Day, one minute silence
TBA:	Year 6 Reflection Day
Tuesday 5th December:	Christmas Carols Evening
Thursday 7th December:	Christmas Activities Rotations
Friday, 8th December:	End of Year Mass, 12:00
Monday 11th December:	Christmas Carols Tour of the Nursing Homes Excursion
Thursday, 14th December:	Graduation Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm

Whole School Masses

St Gerard Majella Feast Day Parish Mass:	Monday, 16th October, 9:15am
All Saints' Day, Parish Mass:	Wednesday 1 st November, 9:15
All Souls' Day, Parish Mass:	Thursday 2 nd November, 9:15
End of Year Mass	Friday 8 th December at 12:00

Class/Parish Mass Timetable

Classes that couldn't proceed with their Class Mass previously have been newly assigned one, while all other classes will attend the parish Mass.

- ★ 3/4S: 26th October, 10:15, Class Mass
- ★ Prep: 9th November, 10:15, Class Mass
- ★ 1/2 Level: 16th November, 9:15, Parish Mass
- ★ 3/4A: 23rd November, 9:15, Parish Mass

Religious Education

World Mission Month 2023

Mission Month is upon us, and it's time to ignite our 'Hearts on Fire' for a cause that truly matters. Throughout the month of October, we're embarking on a meaningful journey to make a positive impact.

Our focus this year is on East Timor, a place filled with resilience and hope, but also facing various challenges. We'll have a series of exciting events and activities that will not only inspire but also provide an opportunity for all of us to contribute.

From fundraising initiatives to heartwarming stories of mission work, we'll be sharing the spirit of compassion and solidarity that defines our school community. So, get ready to get involved, make a difference, and join us in supporting Catholic missions in East Timor. Together, we can spread love, hope, and kindness far and wide!

White Elephant Stall Fundraising for Mission Month

Exciting news! Our 'White Elephant Stall' is making a comeback this Mission Month. It's your chance to declutter and make a difference. Simply donate gently used toys you no longer need, and every class will set up their own stall to sell them. Plus, you get the opportunity to purchase some fantastic toys while supporting Catholic Missions in East Timor. Let's come together with 'Hearts on Fire' and show the world the power of generosity!

School Closure for Professional Learning in Religious Education

St Gerard's School will be closed on Friday, October 20th, to allow our teachers to participate in a course focused on Liturgy.

This comprehensive course is tailored specifically for teachers to equip them with the knowledge and skills required to confidently and competently make informed choices when preparing liturgies in a Catholic school.

Lunchtime Rosary

Lunchtime Rosary: The Legion of Mary Group is collaborating with the school to reinstate the practice of praying the Rosary during lunch breaks. These sessions will be available during the first lunch in weeks 4 and 8 in each term.

The Poppy Appeal

The Social Justice Team will be selling Poppy Badges **from \$1.00** up until Remembrance Day, 11th November.

The Poppy Appeal contributes significantly to the fundraising work of the RSL. The largest fundraising activity is the sale of poppies beginning in late October each year. All money raised is used to assist both current and former serving members of the Australian and Allied defence forces and their dependents in times of need.



Religious Education

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home



An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

St Gerard's school has been gifted with a beautiful statue of Our Lady, a generous gift from the Legion of Mary group. The statue comes with a handcrafted carrier bag, designed for its respectful storage when not in use. Families are invited to bring the statue home for a week to use it to enhance family prayer. A brochure offering guidance on how to engage in rosary prayer will be included, accompanied by some sets of rosary beads. If you would like to bring this statue home, please contact Mrs Stack.



FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#).

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to [What is a reasonable adjustment?](#) below to learn about adjustments.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.

WHAT MUST SCHOOLS DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students have the right to a quality learning experience at school.

Students with disability must be able to take part in education without discrimination and on the same basis as other students. To ensure this, schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed for students with disability. Educators, students, parents, guardians, carers and others (eg health professionals) must work together to ensure that students with disability can take part in education.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* describe schools' responsibilities.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NCCD?

The definition of disability for the NCCD is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The following students are examples of those who may be included in the NCCD if they need monitoring and adjustments:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes).

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NCCD?

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability.

Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including:

- their year of schooling
- the level of adjustment received
- the broad type of disability.

For students who have more than one disability, the school uses professional judgement to choose one category of disability. They choose the category that most affects the student's access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the [Public information notice](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

There is also a free [e-learning resource](#) about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

This document must be attributed as *Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers*.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

Early next term, as part of our celebrations for our Feast Day and raising awareness for Mission Month, we will be holding our annual Talent Quest. Children will need to audition for this event in the last week of term if they wish to participate.



Parish News



The Junior Legion of Mary Meetings are held every Monday at St Gerard's school term from 4:15pm – 5:15 pm in The Library Room (brown building in the car park of St. Gerard's Primary School).

Legion of Mary Contact: Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175 and Jacqueline Savanah on 0437 668 352.

Application forms are available to collect from the foyer of the Church.

Junior Legion of Mary

Dear Parents,

The Legion of Mary runs a Junior Legion of Mary praesidium (branch) at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong once a week after school during school term. Meetings last for one hour per week. All possible care will be taken while your child is with us.

Children are taught to:

- Pray the Rosary
- Be helpful at home
- Do works of service such as a Book Barrow

They are trained to be good Catholics by reaching out to others. One way they do this is by visiting a local nursing home during the school holidays, where they interact with the residents. Children are also guided to take part in parish events such as the Public Square Rosary in October.

This group will enable your child to grow spiritually and also learn to be an active apostolic worker in the Parish. All activities will be supervised by adult legionaries who hold Working with Children permits.

If you would like your child/children to join this group, please complete the application form below and return it to Kereena or Cecilia. For more information please phone a contact below.



Meeting Day:	Every MONDAY of St Gerard's school term
Time:	4:15 PM TO 5:15 PM STARTING JULY 10 TH
Place:	LIBRARY ROOM of St. Gerard's
Legion of Mary Contact:	Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175
Legion of Mary Contact:	Cecilia Donald 0402 716 101



✕

Parent or guardian to complete: (All information provided is confidential.)

Child's Name:		Grade:	
Address:			
Any health issues?		Date of Birth:	

I (Parent/guardian) give permission for my child (name) to attend the Junior Legion of Mary at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong (in the Church foyer).

Signature..... Date.....

Name of First Contact Person			
Address			
Phone No.			
Second Contact for child	Name:	Phone No:	

Altar Servers

Altar Server training will resume for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass.

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information contact St Gerard's Parish Office 9792 4422 or Mrs Stack 9791 7553

WELLBEING



DID YOU KNOW?

What is resilience?

Resilience enables people to shift back along the [mental health continuum](#) towards good mental health. It's not static but is something that can change over time due to experiences and circumstance.

Resilience is particularly important for children and young people

A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things, particularly their relative balance of risk and protective factors. Depending upon their situation, a child or young person's resilience may vary. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not.

The transition from being a child to an adolescent to a young adult occurs over a relatively short period of time. Rapid changes in physical, psychological and social development can present numerous challenges. Children and young people who are more resilient are better able to stay on track with the biological, psychological and social demands of growing up and moving through early childhood into adolescence and beyond.

Being resilient is associated with better academic performance and school behaviour and, over the longer term, fewer mental health issues and greater life opportunities (including employment and relationships). Individual resilience (as well as family and community resilience) is something that can be fostered and developed over

From the Be You website



St Gerard's Primary School

Thursday 19th October

Sushi Day!

Order fresh and healthy sushi handrolls and rice paper rolls for lunch and help raise funds for our school!

\$7.50 TWIN PACKS

(2 rolls of the same type)

Avocado Handroll V GF DF EF

Crispy Chicken Handroll DF

Teriyaki Chicken Handroll GF DF EF

Tuna Handroll GF DF

Spicy Prawn Handroll GF DF

Chicken Rice Paper Roll GF DF EF

- SOY SAUCE INCLUDED WITH SUSHI HANDROLLS -

Order online: www.sushi.net.au

Orders must be placed by 10am Wednesday 18th October.

Sorry no late orders accepted.

PayPal transaction fees/charges apply. NB: You do **not** require a PayPal account, most credit/debit cards accepted.
Detailed instructions for ordering, and detailed ingredients list available from your school.



sushi@school

www.sushi.net.au

WELLBEING



This week in our SEL lesson we revised the "Being Cooperative in the learning areas" expectations from our Give Me 5 matrix.

The Prep to 6's discussed the importance of being Cooperative in the learning areas by following directions, moving safely, staying on task, sharing with others and helping each other.

The students worked collaboratively to determine if a scenario demonstrated students being cooperative or not. The student's role played different scenarios of how they could be cooperative in the learning areas.

Next week our whole school will be focusing on **being our best in the learning areas**.

A big congratulation to the following students who have displayed the Give Me 5 Principles in the classroom and playground. These students received the **Principal's Award** for their outstanding behaviour.

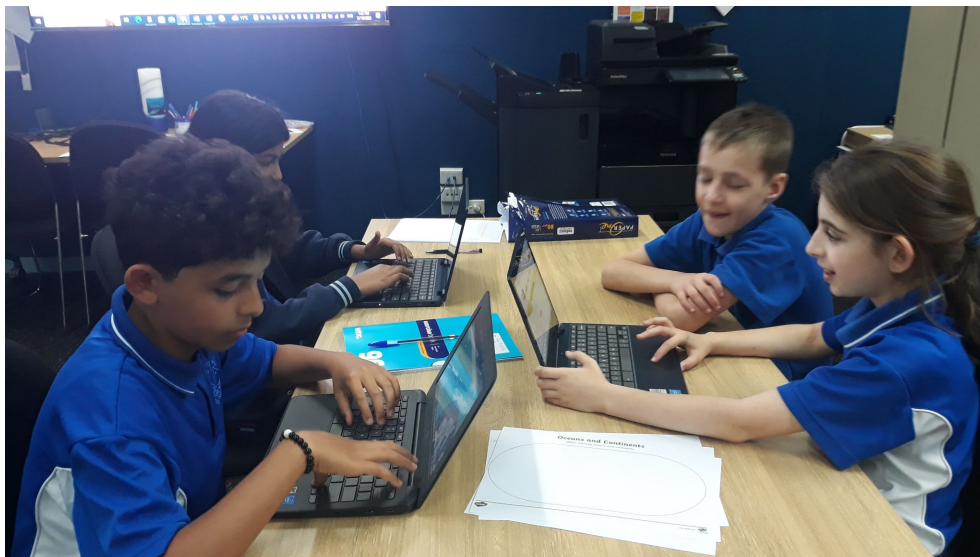
- ★ Foundation B- Sanaya
- ★ 1/2FW- Leo
- ★ 1/2L - Joram
- ★ 3/4S - Chelsea
- ★ 3/4A - Bethany
- ★ 5/6O - Kavya
- ★ 5/6T - Ashton





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 12th October the SRC reps of St Gerard's attended their first meeting for Term 4. They discussed upcoming events, student led lunchtime activities and began brainstorming ideas for Give Me 5 week 2024.



Lunchtime Club

Lunchtime Sports Club

Hi, this is Ariana, Antonia, Azalea and Sophia

Last Tuesday we held a running sports club during our lunch break. This week the focus was on tennis. Quite a few people came and everyone enjoyed it. We hope to see all of the children there next week. We have attached our sports clinic timetable below.

Timetable

<i>Weeks & dates :</i>	<i>Sports :</i>
<i>Week 2 10th of October</i>	<i>Tennis (passed) (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 3 17th of October</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 4 24th of October</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 5 31st of October</i>	<i>Running (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 6 7th of November</i>	<i>Public holiday</i>
<i>Week 7 14th of November</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 8 21st of November</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 9 28th of November</i>	<i>Tennis (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 10 5th of December</i>	<i>Fun day (PAC & basketball courts)</i>



Lunchtime Club



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

October:

- 15th Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland (Auxiliary Bishop in the Southern Region) for the Feast of St Gerard at 10.30am
- 16th St Gerard's Feast Day - Whole School attending Parish Mass at 9:15am, 11:50am Talent Quest in the Hall
- 18th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 19th Sushi Day
- **20th School Closure Day**
- 25th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 26th Walk/Ride to School Day
- 27th Teachers' Day in Australia
- 30th Bike Ed Program Years 4-6

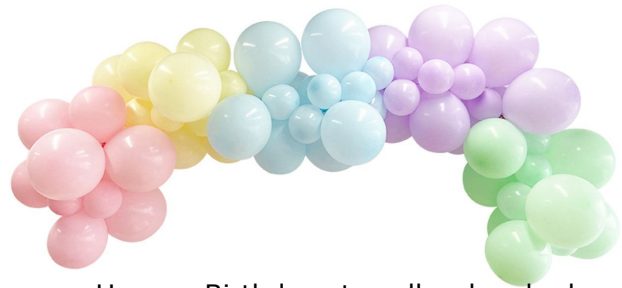
November:

- 1st - 3rd Bike Ed Program Years 4-6
- 1st Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 1st All Saints Day, Whole School attending Parish Mass at 9:15am
- 2nd All Souls Day, Whole School attending Parish Mass at 9.15am
- 2nd Subway Lunch
- **6th Student Free Day**
- **7th Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday**
- 8th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 8th and 10th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 10th Remembrance Day Assembly at 2:50 pm
- 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 15th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 16th Sushi Day
- 20th, 21st, 22nd & 24th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 22nd Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 23rd Walk/Ride to School Day
- 29th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 29th Art Show Opens
- 30th Subway Lunch

December:

- 1st First Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:50pm
- 5th Christmas Carols evening 7.00pm
- 6th Final Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 6th Art Show Closes
- 8th End of the School Year Mass at 12.00 noon
- 8th Second Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:50 pm
- 14th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony at 7.00pm
- 15th Last day of school - 3:10pm Guard of honour for Year 6 students

Important Information



Happy Birthday to all who had celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week.

- Ainsley Yr 5
- Dahlia Yr 6
- Azaria Yr 3

NOTICE COMMUNITY BOARD



- St Gerard's Feast Day Parish Celebrations
- Catholic Bible Study Course through St Gerard's Parish
- Dandenong Saints Basketball Club - new players wanted
- Diamond Dancers - Recreation and Competitive Dancing
- Springvale Indoor Sports (Term 4)
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Dandenong Scouts
- Cricket Blast - North Dandenong Cricket Club
- Cricket Blast - Noble Park Cricket Club
- Australian Girls Choir Open Days (11 & 19 November)



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.