

St Gerard's Newsletter

Term 3, Week 5

14 August 2026

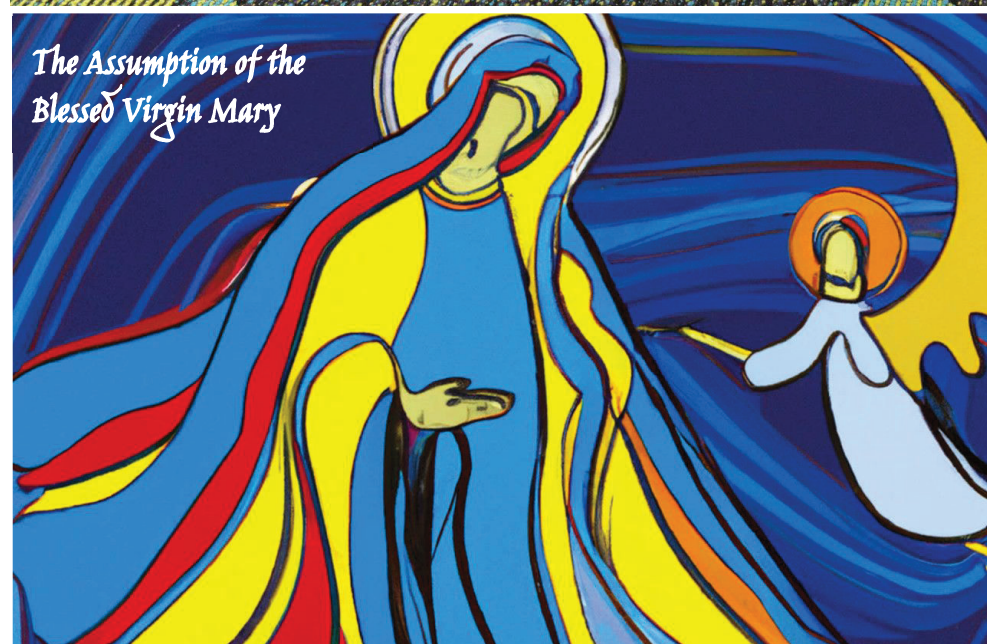


Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



True Collaboration in Action

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Prayer for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Loving God,

Tomorrow we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and we thank you for the wonderful example of faith, love and trust that Mary gives us.

Mary said "yes" to God and followed His plan with courage and humility. Help us to follow her example by being kind, caring and faithful to one another.

May Mary, our loving Mother, watch over our school community, guide our children, families and staff and help us always to bring God's love and peace to those around us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Here we are at the halfway point of the term, which seems hard to believe.

This week was more 'regular' with regard to learning opportunities and extra-curricular activities with one exception, **SUBWAY Lunch** on Thursday! This is always a highly anticipated event among our children which is a reminder that sometimes the 'simple things in life' should be cherished.

The second of 3 **OPEN DAYS** for the Term was held on Tuesday with the final one being **next Wednesday 19 August**. If you know of any families that are looking for a school in 2027, I would appreciate it if you could please let them know. Also, **existing families that have a child starting school next year**, please contact the School Office so that we know that you require a place. There has been a high level of interest for Prep next year and we would not want you to miss out on a place.

A further reminder that **when it is raining at the end of the day parents can 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.

With the **Feast of the Assumption occurring tomorrow (Saturday 15 August)**, we had a specific focus on this significant celebration today (Friday) at Assembly. This Feast Day invites us to reflect on Mary's courage, her unwavering faith, her lifelong service, and her profound humility. In accepting her call to be the mother of Jesus, Mary stepped into a future marked by uncertainty and challenge. Yet she responded with conviction, grace, and strength. Mary's qualities are certainly inspiring to us all and a true model of faith.

Yesterday afternoon families would have received **letters from myself and MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools) via email and nForma** regarding me finishing my time as principal here at St Gerard's at the end of this year. Being the principal of St Gerard's, Dandenong North has been an honour and privilege and the highlight of my 35 years in Catholic Education. The process to appoint the next principal is outlined in the letter from MACS and will start in due course.

Lastly, our annual **Book Week dress up day is fast approaching**. We will be celebrating Book Week as a school on **Friday 28 August** and will start with Assembly in the PAC at 9.00am. As always, families are more than welcome to join us (and dress up). As part of this day, children will be provided with donuts, which is a theme in one of the books this year. As this is a food item we require parental permission. Information has been sent through nForma with a closing date of Thursday 27 August (the day before).

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Key Dates

Term 3, 2026 Dates

August

- 17th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 19th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 19th OPEN Day
- 20th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 21st 2.50pm Assembly
- 24th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 26th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 27th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 28th Book Week Dress up Day and Assembly
- 31st 8.55am Monday Meditation

September

- **1st School Hats must be worn when outside**
- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 3rd 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 3rd St John's Taster Day (Year 5 children)
- 3rd Walk/ Ride to School Day
- **4th Father's Day Breakfast from 8.00am**
- 7th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 9th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 10th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- **10th School Production 7.00pm**
- 11th 2.50pm Assembly
- 14th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 16th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 17th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 18th Footy Day
- **18th End of Term 3 - school finishes at 3.30pm**



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

Book Week Assembly at St Gerard's

2026 Theme is Symphony of Stories

Families and students you are
invited to dress up as your
favourite character.

W H E N ?

FRIDAY 28th

AUGUST

at

9.00 am

Where?
Performing Arts Centre
(PAC)

Religious News

Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is teaming up with the school to lead Rosary prayer sessions during lunch breaks. These will take place during the first lunch on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

We invite families to take the Our Lady statue into their home for a week as a special way to deepen family prayer time. Each family will receive a brochure with simple instructions for praying the Rosary, as well as a set of rosary beads. If you would like to take the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs O'Brien know.



Altar Servers

Altar Server practice will resume on Thursday 23 July and will continue every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm at St Gerard's Church. To be eligible to serve, children must have received their First Communion. This is a wonderful opportunity for young members of our parish to take part in the liturgy and learn the responsibilities of altar service. For further information about practice times or eligibility, please contact the parish office on **9792 4422**.



TUESDAY LUNCHTIME

at St Gerard's ART CLUB

has been a hive of creativity this term! 🎨 ✨



Each Tuesday, students are invited to spend their lunchtime getting creative in the Art Room.

Some students use this extra time to finish artworks from their Visual Arts lessons, while others enjoy exploring their own creative ideas.



Gem art has been an absolute favourite, along with making colourful playdough creations, colouring, drawing, water colour painting and designing original artworks using a range of materials.



It has been wonderful to see students from across the school choosing to spend their lunchtime creating, experimenting and enjoying art together.



Creativity makes every day a little brighter! ❤️

Ms Theodore
(Visual Arts)



Wellbeing

BULLYING NO WAY

**Be Bold.
Be Kind.
Speak Up.**

**BULLYING NO WAY WEEK
11TH - 15TH AUGUST 2025**



**Be Bold. Be Kind.
Speak Up.**

**BULLYING NO WAY WEEK
11TH - 15TH AUGUST**

Be Bold: You
have the
power to help

Be Kind: Small
actions make a
big impact

Speak up
against
bullying

Think before
you post or
speak



Proudly supporting Bullying No Way: National week of action

This year St Gerard's will be participating in the Bullying No Way: National week of action, 17 to 21 August 2026.

Bullying No Way Week is a commitment being made by thousands of schools and supporters across the country. It provides an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to bullying prevention. It gives us an opportunity to connect with students, staff and school communities to implement workable solutions to prevent bullying.

The theme for this year's campaign is **Small Acts, Big Impact**.

It takes a community to address bullying behaviours, within and beyond the school gate.

Students can make a big impact through small acts of kindness and support for others being bullied. Trusted adults are there to guide children and young people as they learn how small, thoughtful actions can create a positive difference and encourage reporting of bullying.

This Bullying No Way Week, we're encouraging you to embrace the theme Small Acts, Big Impact. Show kindness, support others and take meaningful steps to stand up against bullying.

For more information about Bullying No Way Week and bullying prevention, [visit the Bullying No Way website](#)

Wellbeing



What is bullying?

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships. It occurs through repeated verbal, physical, online and/or social behaviour that intends to cause harm. Bullying can be carried out by an individual or group towards one or more people and is a complex social problem.

What bullying isn't

Behaviours that aren't considered bullying include:

- mutual arguments and disagreements (where there's no power imbalance)
- not liking someone or a single act of social rejection
- one-off acts of meanness or nastiness
- isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

To effectively respond to bullying at a whole learning community level, it's important that staff have an agreed definition that's understood and applied consistently.

Types of bullying behaviour

There are several different types of bullying behaviours:

Face-to-face (verbal/physical)

Face-to-face (or direct) bullying may include damaging a person's belongings, kicking, hitting and punching, or verbal actions such as making threats, name-calling and insults. Face-to-face bullying is usually more easily witnessed and can take place in social environments.

Social

Social bullying involves behaviours that aim to harm someone's reputation or relationships. It can include excluding someone from a group, spreading rumours, sharing private information, or encouraging others to reject or ignore a person. Social bullying can occur face-to-face or online and is often harder to identify, especially when it's subtle or disguised as jokes or peer group dynamics.

Covert

Covert bullying is more subtle – it's typically non-physical and occurs out of sight of others. Covert bullying can include hand gestures, threatening looks, whispering, excluding, blackmailing, spreading rumours, threatening and/or trying to socially isolate someone. Other covert bullying behaviours may include trying to damage social relationships, playing nasty practical jokes, telling others' private information, criticising clothes and personalities, sending mocking or abusive notes, or intentional ignoring.

Wellbeing

Cyberbullying

[Cyberbullying](#), or online bullying, occurs via technologies such as email, social media, text messages, or instant messaging. Cyberbullying differs from offline bullying in that the perpetrators can more easily remain anonymous, the nasty content can reach a larger audience, and material can be difficult to remove.

As it's online, cyberbullying can also be harder to avoid—it can happen anytime, making it more persistent than face-to-face bullying. These different types of bullying can occur in combination and cause children and young people to feel they have no safe space.

Bystanders

A bystander is someone who knows about or witnesses bullying. Their actions—whether they ignore it, support it, or challenge it—can be part of the bullying issue, or part of the solution to stop it. However, a bystander's response to the situation can be complex, influenced by factors such as their confidence, social standing, safety, and concern for the other person.

Bullying can have serious consequences

There can be serious short-term and long-term psychological and social consequences of bullying for the children and young people being bullied as well as those who bully them and those that witness this.

- These consequences can include:
- feeling unsafe in the learning community
- decreased self-esteem
- lower levels of academic achievement
- negative attitudes towards the learning community
- high levels of absenteeism
- poor mental health in adulthood.

Those who witness bullying of their peers might experience similar emotional effects to the person being bullied. Children and young people may feel distressed because they feel powerless to stop what's happening to someone else as well as fearing that they too may be unsafe or targeted.

Bullying is common

While anyone can be bullied, it's more commonly experienced by those who:

- are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- have a disability.

Why do people bully?

There's no simple explanation for bullying. It can emerge from a complex interaction of social, personal and psychological circumstances. Sometimes people who bully have been bullied themselves or have experienced trauma or violence. They may struggle with managing their emotions or building positive relationships.

Children and young people who engage in bullying behaviour may have difficulty understanding the consequences of their behaviour, feel strong and in control when bullying others, and/or believe that bullying others will help make them popular. Bullying behaviour can also occur because of distrust, fear, misunderstandings and lack of knowledge or jealousy.

Understanding what bullying is - and isn't - helps educators respond effectively. Recognising different types of bullying, the role of bystanders and the possible serious impacts involved can help inform whole-school approaches that prioritise wellbeing.

Wellbeing



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 Friday's assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn last Friday during whole school assembly and the lucky winners are:

1. Gion
2. Ezekiel
3. Katalina
4. Arisse
5. Harper
6. Nila

These students will be rewarded with a special surprise.



Wellbeing

Garden Club

This week in Garden Club, our students worked in the Wurundjeri Way Garden. The students topped up the bird baths with fresh water and spent their time carefully weeding the pathways and garden beds.

It was wonderful to hear students commenting on how much our plants have grown! Can you believe it has been a whole year since we created Wurundjeri Way? We are so proud to celebrate its first birthday and reflect on how much our garden has grown and flourished over the past year.

A big thank you to all our wonderful students for being great stewards of God's land and creation that we have been blessed with. Your care, enthusiasm and hard work help keep our garden beautiful, welcoming and thriving for everyone.

Looking ahead: Next week, our students will be moving into the vegetable garden, where they will begin planting herbs and vegetables that will grow and flourish as we move towards spring. More excitingly, we will also begin researching what type of chickens would be best suited to make their new home at St Gerard's. We can't wait to learn more about the perfect feathery friends who will be joining us in spring!

We look forward to watching our garden continue to grow and welcoming some new little friends along the way!



Wellbeing



Reading before School

Reading Before School has started full steam ahead.

We had a very good turn out with parents and students reading to each other this week. Children receive a raffle ticket and go into a draw to win a prize. Students are encouraged to attend and read a book by themselves, to each other or with their families.





LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Week 5, August 2026

Exploring New Worlds at the Library, Together!

Come join us at the library, where there's more than just reading books! Engage in our library club and explore a world of knowledge, creativity, and community. Whether it's through interactive sessions, engaging discussions, or collaborative projects, there's something for everyone to enjoy and learn.

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATES

This week at Library Club, students participated in our first Puzzle Race Competition! Students worked in two large teams and raced to complete two puzzles. It was wonderful to see students demonstrating excellent teamwork, communication, problem-solving skills and perseverance throughout the challenge.

Congratulations to our winning team, who successfully completed both puzzles first:

- 1st Place: Dekota, Naman, Sanaya, Grace, Ephrata, Willow, Nyadut and Rutesh.

A big well done to the other team for their incredible perseverance and determination. Everyone worked hard, encouraged one another and showed fantastic teamwork throughout the competition.

A reminder that students need to be regularly returning their library books so that they can continue borrowing and enjoying new books. Please encourage your child to check at home for any library books that may be ready to be returned. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping students develop responsible borrowing habits and care for our library resources.



Miss Stephanie Adrien





LIBRARY CLUB



Week 5, August 2026



Miss Stephanie Adrien



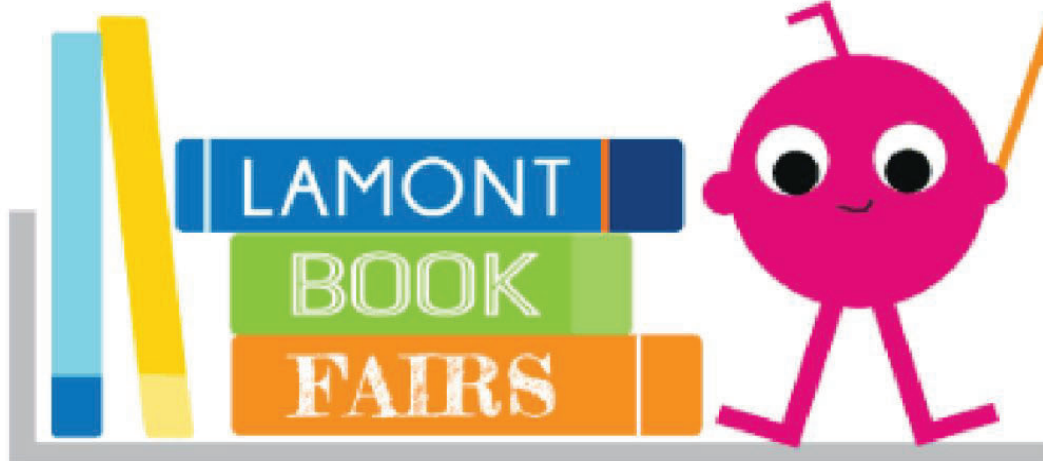
LAMONT BOOK FAIR

Coming soon,
Don't miss it! 1st
September - 9th
September

Every purchase

supports our school!

BOOKS FOR EVERYONE



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Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

Any families who hold a current Health Care Card are asked to please provide a copy to the school office.

This will ensure you receive the MACS Concession on your school fees.

Please note, this must be a valid Centrelink Health Care Card. Private health insurance cards or Medicare cards are not eligible.

Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week including this weekend.

- ❖ VAILILL YR 1
- ❖ KAI YR 4
- ❖ DANIEL FOUNDATION



SERVICE HOURS

COST

Before School Care
6:45AM – 8:45AM

\$30/\$35
PERMANENT/CASUAL

After School Care
3:30PM – 6:30PM

\$35/\$40
PERMANENT/CASUAL

Pupil-Free Day
7:00AM – 6:00PM

\$83

fees effective 02 Mar 2026

ylv.com.au



**ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SERVICE CONTACT:
0402 192 685 (Marina) | sg@ylv.com.au