

# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 3 - WEEK 1

14th July, 2023



*Nurturing Young Hearts, Cultivating a Bountiful Harvest of Love and Goodness*

## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

In this week's edition of Be Cooperative in the Learning Areas, we feature our budding gardeners passionately tending to the earth, reminding us of the importance of sowing seeds of faith and love within ourselves.

Just as a farmer prepares and cares for the soil, we must tend to our hearts, ensuring that they are receptive to God's word.

Through daily prayer, respect for others, kind acts, and thoughtfulness, we cultivate good habits that enrich our souls. Talk with your children about the transformative power of these habits, empowering them to yield a great harvest of love and good works in their lives.



@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,

Welcome to Term 3 and what promises to be another term full of learning opportunities for our children. I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and that it provided you with the chance to refresh and recharge.

It was wonderful to be able to welcome everyone back to school this week as we jumped straight back into our routines. I would like to congratulate our children and staff for the positive start to Semester 2.

In addition to our usual week, today (Friday) we had our **Year 5/6 Gala Day** where we had teams represent us in **Soccer** and **Volleystars**. These days are always great as our children get to experience team sports and play against local primary schools. When I visited each of the teams it was wonderful to see them working so well together, competing and displaying sportsmanship. I would like to **acknowledge and thank Mrs Wilson, Mrs Te, Mrs Govic, Mrs Munro and Ms Busscher** for ensuring our children had a great day.

Information about our upcoming **3 Way Conversations** was sent out earlier this week. These meetings allow for our **families, students and teachers to come together to celebrate the successes** identified in our Semester 1 Reports and **set learning goals** for the second half of the year. These 3 Way Conversations will be conducted **next Tuesday 18 July from 2.30pm - 6.30pm**.

We will be recognising and celebrating our **Grandparents and Special Friends on Wednesday 26 July**, which is the **Feast of St Anne and Joachim**. People who are '*grandparent figures*' in the lives of our children are invited to join us at school from **9.00am - 10.30 am**. We will all gather in the PAC and then there will be time to visit classrooms and look at all that St Gerard's has to offer. We look forward to welcoming, acknowledging and thanking these very special people.

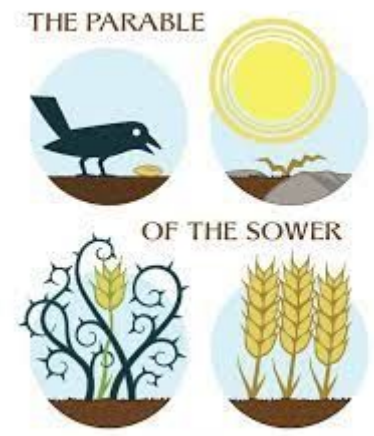
Some other important dates for your diaries are our '**Mathematics through Games**' Family Workshop from **6.00pm - 7.00 pm on Thursday 17 August** and our **Pupil Free Day on Friday 18 August** when our staff will be involved in Professional Learning.

Our **2022 Annual Report to the School Community (ARSC)** has been uploaded to our website and a copy is housed in the foyer. If any families would like a copy of this report please contact the School Office.

Lastly, a reminder to those families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan**. If there are changes to any aspect of the plan, please **contact the School Office**. It is vital that the **information we have at school is current**.

God bless.

Paul COWAN  
PRINCIPAL



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

---

## Class Mass

This term, both students and staff are encouraged to participate in designing a Class Mass, and families will have the opportunity to attend. It would be wonderful to have a large turnout of families joining us for this special occasion.

Year 3S:	Thursday 20th July, 10:00am
Year 3/4A:	Thursday 27th July, 10:00am
Year 5/6O:	Thursday 31st August, 10:00am

## Parish Mass

Year 5/6T & Prep:	Thursday 7th September, 9:15am
1/2 Level:	Thursday 14th September, 9:15am

## Reconciliation

Year 5/6O	Thursday, 3rd August at 10:15am
Year 5/6T	Thursday, 10th August at 10:15am
Year 3/4A	Thursday, 17th August at 10:15am
Year 3/4S	Thursday, 24th August at 10:15am

## Whole School Mass

Families are invited to join us at the following Parish Masses:

Tuesday, 8th August: Mary of the Cross at 9:15am
Tuesday, 15th August: Feast of the Assumption at 9:15am

We look forward to having you celebrate with us for these special Feast Days.

## Whole School Living Rosary

In celebration of the feast day of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the 8th September, the entire school will come together for the Living Rosary. This beautiful gathering will take place at 10am, and we extend an invitation to all families to join us in prayer.



# 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.

## 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.*

## Altar Servers

Altar Server training will resume from the 20th July for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass.

Time: 5:30p - 6:30pm

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

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## *Grandparents'/Special Persons' Day*

On the Feast of Sts Anne and Joachim, July 26th, we have a special program scheduled from 9:00 to 10:30 to celebrate Grandparents/Special Person's Day. The event will commence with a Paraliturg, followed by opportunities for Grandparents/Special Person to visit classrooms. We extend a warm welcome to Grandparents and Special Persons to join us for this occasion.



# WELLBEING



## Growing a mentally healthy generation



### DID YOU KNOW?

### Facts from the Be You website

#### How do decision-making skills develop?

Children and young people's decision-making is strongly influenced by the expectations and values they learn from those around them.

This occurs when they:

- observe others (particularly those close to them)
- hear about and discuss values
- have opportunities to make choices and experience their consequences.

Young children regularly choose how they'll behave, which toys or games they'd like to play with, which books they would like to read, or which television shows they want to watch. As they get older, children make bigger decisions that often involve their family, friends and schoolwork. The kinds of choices children and young people make affect their wellbeing, relationships and success.

Young children have some skills for making decisions, but they don't yet have the experience to understand complex adult situations. As their brain grows, a child is more able to hold things in their mind and remember what they've learned. They also improve the way they manage their thinking and feelings, control impulsive behaviour, think about time and plan ahead, and evaluate long-term versus short-term goals. All these skills help children become better at taking action and keeping things on track.



This week the Give Me Five focus was to 'Be Cooperative in the Learning Areas'.

The teachers were looking for students who were being positive in the classroom by following directions, moving safely, staying on task, sharing with others and helping others. These students were rewarded with a raffle ticket.



## 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

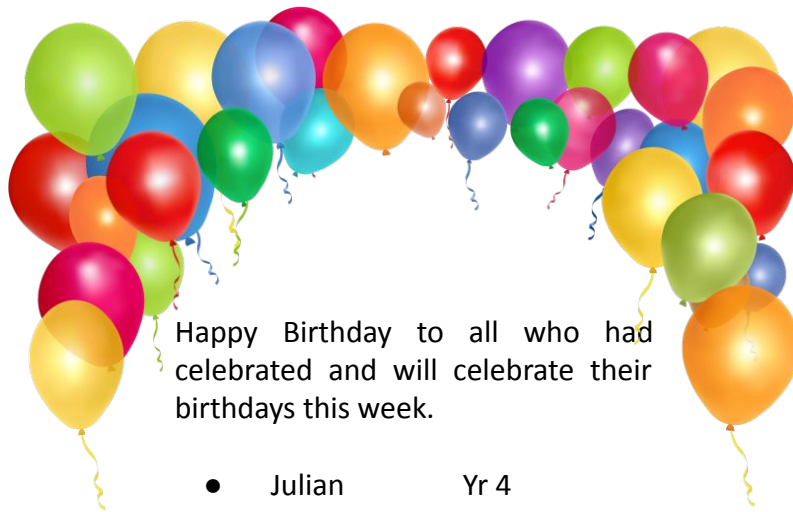
Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

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*.

# IMPORTANT DATES

---



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](http://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](mailto:angie@agsprints.com.au)



# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

---

- Springvale Indoor Sports - School Holiday Program
- Springvale Snow Fest
- Greater Dandenong School Students Photo Competition
- Ukraine Support Fund



## 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.