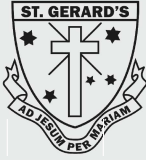


ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Term 2, Week 9

14 June, 2024



A small thing like a smile can bring joy and friendship.

Our Give Me 5 focus next week is to Be Positive in the Learning Areas. From little things, big things grow.

The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.

Heavenly Father,

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus taught us that the kingdom of God is like a tiny mustard seed, which grows into a large and sheltering tree.

Just as this small seed blossoms into something great, we ask You to help us see the power of small, kind actions. A simple smile can lift someone's spirit and spread joy. Guide us to plant seeds of kindness and love each day, so Your kingdom may flourish in our hearts and in the world. May our little deeds, like the mustard seed, grow into a bountiful harvest of friendship and faith.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

Despite being a four day week it has certainly been a 'usual' week of learning opportunities for our children. It is hard to believe that there are only 2 more weeks until the end of Term 2 and indeed Semester 1 (the first half of the year!).

On Wednesday **Rachel from Year 6** competed in the **Regional Cross Country** at Hastings Foreshore. This is a wonderful achievement as this event is the step before the State Championships. Rachel ran very well and conducted herself with distinction. While she will not be going to the State Championships we are all very proud of her and congratulate her on getting to the stage that she did.

Today (Friday) our **Year 3 - 6** children participated in the last of their **Netball clinics**. This has been a successful series of clinics which has seen our children develop their understanding and skills of this wonderful team sport. Hopefully these clinics will be the start of some of our children joining some of the local Netball clubs.

As mentioned last week, **St Gerard's Parish is currently conducting a Census**. It is important for our parish to have accurate information as it will assist with planning for the future. **Please see the information contained in this Newsletter. Census cards are also available from the School Office.** If you have any questions about the Parish Census please feel free to contact me.

We are continuing to have a **steady flow of enquiries for 2025 enrolments**. A reminder to our existing families that if you have a child who will be starting school next year to please inform the Office. Our existing families are our first priority and we want to ensure we have a place for all siblings.

A further reminder to families that **arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark**. Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly near the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues. Another aspect of this is to be mindful of our procedures at the end of the school day. There are **designated pick up areas for our students and pedestrian pathways**. It can be busy at the end of the day, especially when it is cold and raining, however we need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways. The safety of our students and their families is always our first priority and we want to make the end of the day as safe as possible.

Lastly, when it is raining at the end of the day we are going to allow parents to 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.

God bless

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education

Other Important Dates:

Refugee Week:

16th to 22nd June

Refugee Week Paralyturgy:

Friday 21st June, 2:50PM



Vinnies WINTER APPEAL



'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.' Mathew 25

St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

We aim to pack our food cart to capacity once again for the St. Vincent De Paul Winter appeal. Beginning in week two, our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will collect food items until the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that contributes the most items will enjoy a casual dress day as a reward.

Religious Education



Altar service practice will take place every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm in St. Gerard's Church. To be eligible for service, individuals must have completed their First Communion. This provides a wonderful opportunity for young members of the Church to participate in the liturgy and take on the responsibilities associated with altar service. For any inquiries regarding altar service practice or eligibility, please feel free to contact the parish office at 97924422.

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

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

We extend an invitation to families to bring the Our Lady statue into their homes for a week, enhancing their family prayer experience. A brochure containing instructions for engaging in rosary prayer, along with sets of rosary beads, will be provided. If you are interested in taking the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs. Stack know.



Parish News

ST. GERARD'S PARISH CENSUS

We invite each member of our parish and school to participate in our census. The census form will be made available from this weekend at all Masses, or can be completed electronically by using the QR code. By participating in this census, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also enable the parish to strategically plan for important events, ministries, and other future endeavours. Your privacy is essential, and all information is collected securely and treated with confidentiality.



If you require a hard copy of this census, as per below, we can provide one at our office for you to pick up.

Parish Census 2024

To support our pastoral leadership teams, in their role of acknowledging, guiding and empowering our parish community

Please complete one form per household.

STREET ADDRESS

SUBURB

POSTCODE

FULL NAME (ADULT 1)

MR

MRS

MS

MISS

DOB

MARITAL STATUS

BAPTISM

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFIRMATION

OCCUPATION

ETHNIC ORIGIN

EMAIL

PHONE

FULL NAME (ADULT 2)

MR

MRS

MS

MISS

DOB

MARITAL STATUS

BAPTISM

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFIRMATION

OCCUPATION

ETHNIC ORIGIN

EMAIL

PHONE

Children currently living at this household

CHILD 1

MALE

FEMALE

DOB

AGE

YEARS

BAPTISM

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFIRMATION

CHILD 2

MALE

FEMALE

DOB

AGE

YEARS

BAPTISM

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFIRMATION

CHILD 3

MALE

FEMALE

DOB

AGE

YEARS

BAPTISM

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFIRMATION

CHILD 4

MALE

FEMALE

DOB

AGE

YEARS

BAPTISM

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFIRMATION

Others living at this household

NAME

MR

MRS

MS

MISS

DOB

MARITAL STATUS

BAPTISM

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFIRMATION

OCCUPATION

ETHNIC ORIGIN

If there are more people in your household, please fill in their details on another census card and return all cards together.

By filling in this form, I agree that this information can be used for pastoral and administrative purposes within this parish. The information provided through this form is for the sole use of this parish and will not be shared.

Please return this form to the parish office

St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

Wellbeing



Facts from the Be You website

How does exercise affect mental health and wellbeing?

Physical activity promotes many aspects of child and adolescent development, including social and emotional skills, as well as physical development of motor skills.

- It also supports mental wellbeing. We know that high levels of inactivity can lead to a greater risk of both physical and mental health problems.
- Physical activity:
 - can increase levels of serotonin and endorphins; the neurotransmitters involved in regulating and improving mood
 - promotes sleep – which also helps regulate moods, increase energy levels and improve memory and learning
 - increases the connections between the brain neurons, which improves memory and learning capacity
 - pumps blood to the brain to boost mood, concentration and alertness
 - promotes relaxation by reducing skeletal muscle tension
 - provides children and young people with an outlet for excess energy and frustration, which relieves tension
 - provides an opportunity for children and young to socialise and meet new people, reducing loneliness and isolation
 - improves motor and cognitive skills, which boosts self-esteem
 - distracts children and young people from negative thoughts.
- These benefits also serve to improve classroom behaviour and promote a more positive learning environment.

Cont'd

Wellbeing



Facts from the Be You website

How much exercise do children and young people need?

The Australian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines outline the following recommendations for children and young people:

- o **Infants** (birth to one year): 30 minutes of supervised interactive floor-based play including tummy time, reaching and grasping, pushing and pulling and crawling.
- o **Toddlers** (1-2 years): at least 180 minutes a day, including energetic play such as running and jumping.
- o **Preschoolers** (3-5 years): at least 180 minutes a day of which 60 minutes is energetic play such as running, jumping and kicking and throwing.
- o **Children** (5-12 years) and young people (13-17 years): at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity every day.

The percentage of children meeting current guidelines is:

- o 61% of two to five-year-olds
- o 26% of five to 12-year-olds
- o 7.9% of 13 to 17-year-olds.

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 Fridays assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn on the 7th June 2024 and the lucky winners are:

1. Michael
2. Aryan
3. Ameya
4. Grace
5. Joanne
6. Dia
7. Matej
8. Dakota



IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES



ENROL IN KEYBOARD LESSONS IN TERM 2

Excel Music is currently accepting new enrolments for their keyboard lessons commencing in Term Two 2024. These lessons are held during school time at a cost of \$15.00.

To enroll your child, please obtain an enrolment form from the school office or email music@excelmusic.com.au.

Please note that if your child is already enrolled in our music lessons, you do not need to complete another form. To cancel lessons, please contact Excel Music via the above.

Enrol now!

June

- 19th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 26th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 27th Subway Lunch
- 28th End of Term 2 - school finishes at 3.30pm

Reading before School

Every Wednesday morning 8:30am



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 **AFTER** contacting AGS 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



A reminder to families that arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark.

Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly near the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues. Another aspect of this is to be mindful of our procedures at the end of the school day. There are designated pick up areas for our students and pedestrian pathways. It can be busy at the end of the day, especially when it is cold and raining, however we need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

Just a reminder to parents to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications please supply ventolin, spacer and medications on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labelled bags in the school office.

Pick-up From After-School

Parents are asked to please be prompt when picking up your child/ren after-school. If a ride is not here when school concludes, the student may be sent to aftercare instead of the office. Please remember school aftercare does have a cost involved and time will begin accruing at the end of the school day. If a student's ride has run into an unexpected delay, please call the main office to let them know.

St Gerard's YLVOSHC

Program Information

Service Phone Number: 0402 192 685



OPERATING TIMES

Before School Care

Hours:

6:45am – 8:45am

After School Care

Hours:

3:30pm – 6:30pm

Pupil Free Days:

7:00am – 6:00pm

Vacation Care:

7:00am – 6:00pm

Prices

Before School Care

(Permanent) \$15.00

(Casual) \$20.00

After Max CCS: \$2.89

After School Care

(Permanent) \$20.00

(Casual) \$25.00

After Max CCS: \$3.16

Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care

(Permanent) \$65.00

(Casual): \$72.50

After Max CCS: \$6.50

* MAX CCS REBATE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED AS APPROXIMATES AND MAY VARY

YLV.COM.AU

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

OSHC

We kindly request that if you have booked your child for after school care and they are unable to attend due to illness or any other reason, please notify us immediately. Your timely notification allows us to effectively manage and allocate our staff to ensure all children receive the best care possible.

24 Hr notice is required to avoid charges.

Please do not text on weekends. This is not monitored regularly over the weekend.

Please do not bring sick children to before and after school care so we can respect and keep other children safe.

Additionally, for safety reasons, please do not arrive or drop your children off before 6:45 am. Our staff will not be available to supervise children before this time.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Marina from YLV

Important Information



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

- Edwin Yr 5



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer



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 **\$7** 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.