



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 2 Week 4

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

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14 May 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated their birthday this week.

- Luke - 3/4C
- Amy L - 5/6VT

SUBWAY

Thursday, 20th May

Please return orders by 9am

Tuesday, 18th

Please note there has been a small increase in price.

School Prayer

**God, our Father, as
members of the Parish**

Community of

**St Gerard's we praise you
for your love.**

**May we grow stronger in
faith and hope, and may
our love for each other,
become deeper in our
daily lives.**

**Grant this through your
Son, and our brother, Jesus
Christ,
Amen**

Confirmation Family Workshop



What a happy coincidence that last night we had our Confirmation Family Workshop as this Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. Prior to his ascension into heaven, Jesus told his apostles that he would send them the Holy Spirit to be their advocate and guide, and on the Feast of Pentecost, the promised gift of the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles and the Virgin Mary as they prayed in the Upper Room, empowering them to be witnesses of Jesus in the world.

"The Sacrament of Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us to bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds." (CCC 1316)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

I trust that this newsletter finds you all well and good.

I hope that all our mothers had a wonderful day last Sunday and that they gained some appreciation of how special they are in the lives of their families. Our **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea and Assembly** which was held last Friday was very well attended and it was wonderful to be able to welcome everyone back to a school event. The atmosphere in the PAC was one of joy, which was enhanced by the presentations of our children.

This week our **Year 3 and 5 students** have taken part in **NAPLAN assessments** with the majority of these tasks being completed online. I would like to commend the children on the way they have applied themselves and thank the teachers for the support they have given their students in the lead up and during the tasks.

On Thursday night we had our **Confirmation Family Workshop for our Year 6 children** and their families. These nights provide an opportunity for families to explore, share and celebrate their faith and are a part of the children's preparation for this final Sacrament of Initiation. I ask you to keep these children and their families in your prayers as they undertake this important and significant step in their faith journey.

Today (Friday) we had **Safely Walk to School Day**. It is a timely reminder of the need for all of us to be safe when walking and in particular when crossing roads. It was great to see our **Year 1/2** classes focussing on this throughout the week and using the zebra crossing at the front of our school. When we are busy it can be these safety precautions that get missed.

This Sunday is **The Ascension of the Lord** and in Mark's Gospel before he is taken up into Heaven we hear Jesus tell the apostles to **'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.'** This is a message we are asked to hear and act upon today.

It is also **World Learning Support Officer (LSO) Day** on Sunday. On behalf of our school community I would like to acknowledge and thank **our wonderful LSO's Mrs Munro (Anna), Mrs Jolly (Colleen), Mrs Cowled (Ann), Mrs Joseph (Allyson) and Mrs Zelic (Zorica)** for the contribution they make to our students and school.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the **13 children** who will **represent St Gerard's** at the **Dandenong District Cross Country** next Friday. These children not only performed well at our school Cross Country but their times enabled them to qualify for this event. We wish Christianpaul, Joe, Arielle, Duane, Minh-Dang, Trevor, Pieta, Ashton, Nelson, Kanwer, Alessia, Joshlyn and Catherine all the very best. I know they will do us all proud.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacrament Dates, 2021

Planning for all Sacraments is underway. More information will be forthcoming once details are confirmed.

Please note that arrangements may change based on Federal and State Government health advice.

First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)

First Communion Reflection Day:

Tuesday, 1st June

First Communion:

Saturday 5th at 5:30pm & Sunday 6th June at 10:30am
(Parish Mass Times)

First Communion Assembly:

Monday, 7th June, 2:50 pm, parents invited

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Reflection Day:

Wednesday, 28th July

Confirmation:

Friday 30th July at 7pm (previously announced, Thursday 29th July)

Confirmation Assembly:

Friday 6th August, 2:40, parents invited

Confirmation News:

Fr Shanthaiah has recently been given delegation to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation by Fr Brendan Hayes, Episcopal Vicar of the Southern Region of the Archdiocese. This indicates that Fr Shanthaiah will be able to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation instead of Fr Hayes allowing us to celebrate Confirmation within the Mass, which would previously have not been the case.

Confirmation will now be celebrated on Friday 30th July 2021 at 7pm (instead of Thursday 29th July as previously announced).

Whole School Masses:

Monday 24th May

Friday 11th June

Our Lady Help of Christians at 9:15 am

Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15 (Adoration available throughout the day)

Level Masses:

Years 5/6:

Thursday 10th June (while on camp)

Other Important Dates:

National Sorry Day:

Wednesday, 26th May

National Sorry Day Assembly:

Friday, 28th May at 2:50 pm (lead by Social Justice Team)

Refugee Week:

Refugee Week 20th to 26th June 2020

Refugee Week Assembly:

Friday, 25th June at 2:30 pm (lead by Social Justice Team)

Project Compassion Thank You

Thank you for your generous donations to Project Compassion allowing Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

The winning class that raised the most money for Project Compassion is 5/6O who will be able to wear casual dress on a date TBA.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

This Winter Vinnies Appeal will provide emergency relief to people at risk and experiencing homelessness. Your donation will help our Vinnies volunteers to rebuild lives. Once again we'll aim to have our food cart to be filled to the brim for the St Vincent De Paul Winter appeal. The social justice leaders collect food from week two and the collection will finish on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The class that brings in the most items will win a casual dress day. Please donate to this worthwhile appeal.

Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss

Seasons is a peer support program for children and young people who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. This loss may be the result of a death, separation or divorce.

This valuable program will become available this term. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.

WELLBEING NEWS

Walk Safely to School Day

A big thank you to all of the families who participated in National Walk to School Safely day on Friday 14th May.

It is important that all students below the age of 10 holds an adults hand to cross the road. Congratulations to 1/2L who had the most students walking to school!!



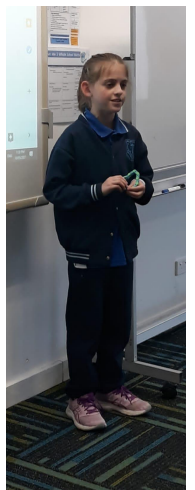
Well done to:

- 1st place- 1/2L with 75% walking
- 2nd place- 5/6VT with 61% walking
- 3rd place- 1/2FP with 50% walking



School Council

This week the SRC members gathered for their fortnightly meeting. The students had the opportunity to share feedback on the Mother's Day assembly and reflect and evaluate on the effectiveness of their lunch time activity groups. Thank you Devaan in 3/4S for agreeing to take minutes during the meeting. Through these meetings the students have the opportunity to voice their opinion, make a difference and ultimately make St Gerard's an even better place.



WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

GIVE ME FIVE

This week the Give Me Five focus was 'Be Your Best in the Playground'. The teachers were looking for students who were keeping their hands, feet and object to themselves and who tried to work out small problems in the playground. Next week the students will be participating in a lesson where they will discuss examples and non-examples of how to be their best in the playground.



Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
Be Respectful	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property Take turns Whole body listening Greet people by name	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the area neat and tidy 	Speak appropriately and use manners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give other users their privacy Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place rubbish in the bin Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden Include others Respect everyone's views and space
Be Co-operative	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the right hand side to enter 	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept rules Take turns Share and use equipment safely
Be Your Best	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Ask for help	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Only enter the area with permission	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Report problems to a teacher	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Try to solve your problems
Be Positive Be Spirit filled	Never give up Treat others as you would like to be treated. Pray daily and during meditation	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Encourage others Treat others as you would like to be treated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say sorry and forgive others Be kind

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 time.

From the Be You website

WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Mother's Day Assembly last Friday.

We would like to thank the following companies in our local community for generously donating gifts for our Mother's Day Raffle.



Coles- Waverley Gardens



Priceline- Waverley Gardens



Heart to Heart Florist- Noble Park



BIG W-
Waverley
Gardens



PROTEC Denture Clinic- Burwood



Thank you to all of the parents who sent through feedback regarding the Mother's Day Assembly. We truly appreciate your feedback and time. We will be using the feedback to make next year's Mother's Day event even better.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to know more about the following community events, please see our noticeboard inside the school gates.

- South East United - Go Girls Football
- Dandenong Education Program (conducted by St Vincent de Paul)
- North Dandenong F.C Auskick (AFL)
- North Dandenong Neighbourhood House
- Rowville Hawks (AFL)
- Key Z Park (Calisthenics)
- Endeavour Hills Eagles (AFL)
- St Mary's D's (Netball)
- Rowville Hawks (AFL)
- Little and Trivial Events (Entertainment)
- Noble Park Bulls (AFL)