



# ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

71 Gladstone Rd, North Dandenong 3175  
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## NEWSLETTER

15 February 2019



**Wednesday, 20 February**  
**NO PREPS**

### Parent Teacher Conversations

Reminder that parent  
teacher conversations  
will be held on

**Tuesday, 26 February**  
&

**Thursday, 28 February**  
**NOTES HAVE BEEN**  
**SENT HOME WITH**  
**YOUR CHILD**

### Student Absences

Please ensure you contact  
the school if your child is  
going to be absent. An SMS  
will be sent if the school has  
not been notified.

### Asthma & Allergies

**If your child suffers from  
Asthma or Allergies and is  
on an Action Plan it is  
important that the school is  
notified and supplied with  
up-to-date medication and  
documentation. Please  
supply the office with this  
information ASAP if it is  
relevant to your child. Your  
child's health and safety is  
paramount to us here at St  
Gerard's Primary School**



Open our hearts,  
O Lord,  
to listen to the  
words of your Son.

ACTS 16:14

 daily prayer

In today's readings we hear how Jesus often surprised people – healing Gentiles, dining with tax collectors, forgiving prostitutes. He can surprise us too by calling us to himself and using us to advance his kingdom on earth. Why are we often 'astonished beyond measure' at the work of the Lord? Perhaps we have heard of the conversion of a hardened criminal or a miraculous healing from cancer. Perhaps we have seen a family member who was far from God return to him.

These manifestations of God's power are wonderful, and we rejoice in them. They remind us of a truth we should already know: 'nothing is impossible to God' (Luke 1:37). Lord Jesus, help me to recall the wonders you have accomplished in my life, knowing that best is yet to come!

# ACTING PRINCIPAL NEWS

This week our Grade 5/6 students had the opportunity to go to camp. It was so very good to hear how much enjoyment the students had and how they were very well behaved, considerate and co-operative. They took part in many worthwhile experiences at Cave Hill with many of our teachers ensuring the safety of all children. I'm sure these memories will last with them for many years.

We are thrilled to say St Gerard's Playgroup will begin in Week 4. I would like to invite any families who have babies or toddlers to join us every morning at 9.00 from on Wednesdays from 20th February. Our PE teacher Tessa Wilson and Allyson Joseph, one of our staff, will be running the playgroup. So come along and have a cup of tea or coffee and the children can have lots of fun playing.

Our kitchen garden is up and running and classes began today with Grade 5/6VT gardening, harvesting and cooking. If you would like to join in and assist in the garden or with the cooking we would love to see you.

Forms have been sent home for beginning of the year Parent - Teacher Conversations. Please return your child's form as soon as possible.

On Tuesday 5th March we will be having a special event at St. Mary's about Cyber Safety. We will join with families from St. Mary's and St. Anthony's. This is to inform all of us of the ways we can ensure our children are safe and educated when online. The evening begins at 6.30 pm and will finish at 8:00 pm. Grade 5/6 students will take part in this during the day.

School fees will be sent out in the next week. It is very important for the school that fees are paid. The students are loving the school and are using the new building and the many new resources such as the computers. There are many ways fees can be paid including direct debit, cash and via electronic means at the office. Please contact me if you have any difficulties paying the school fees.

Kind Regards,  
Carol Stewart

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### **Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass**

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March: Ash Wednesday at 12:00 (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

### **Level Masses:**

Years 1/2	Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb at 9:15
Years 3/4	Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March at 9:15
Prep and Years 5/6	Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March at 9:15

### **Other Important Dates for Term 1**

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March:	Shrove Tuesday
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral for School Leaders (wear full school uniform)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Students wear full school uniform with a touch of green, for example, green socks, green jumper, green ribbon for St Patrick's Feast Day which is on Sunday
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Feast Day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	The Passion at 2pm followed by Hot Cross Buns for parents afterwards

### **Sacrament Dates, 2019**

#### **First Reconciliation: (Grade 3)**

First Reconciliation Thursday 13th June at 10:15

#### **Confirmation: (Grade 6)**

Confirmation Information Night: 21<sup>st</sup> March  
Confirmation Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm

#### **First Communion: (Grade 4)**

First Communion Sunday 8th September at 2pm

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

## **The Passion**

Please mark this significant event into your diaries and arrange to have some time off work if needs be to see The Passion.

The Passion is in Holy Week. Our faith journey with Jesus in Holy Week sees us remembering his last days and moments. It is a journey of jubilation, of anxiety and suffering, of humiliation and abandonment, of dying on a cross.

During the Passion we journey with Jesus towards the cross and prepare to welcome him into our presence.

The Passion will take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2pm, followed by Hot Cross Buns served to parents.

## **Palm leaves needed:**

If you have some palm leaves that can be used for props for The Passion, please bring them to Mrs Stack on Monday 1st April.

## **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 in term 2.

If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Stack.

## **St Patrick's Day Mass**

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 10 children from Year 6 will represent our school by attending Mass to celebrate St Patrick's Day at St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne. After Mass, we will walk to the Treasury Gardens to have lunch followed by a concert in the park. Children attending the Mass must wear full school uniform.

## **A Touch of Green to Celebrate St Patrick's Day**

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, students not attending the excursion to the Cathedral are invited to wear a touch of green to Celebrate St Patrick's Day.

## **Project Compassion**

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Project Compassion Boxes will be distributed to each class during Ash Wednesday Mass. Each class will have a target amount that they would like to raise during lent. Regular updates, by the Social Justice Leadership Team, with the amount raised so far will be announced at the school assembly.

## **Rosary**

Each Tuesday we have a group that comes together to pray the rosary in the Church at first lunch, led by Jenny Gelderbloem from the Parish. Children are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring their own Rosary beads if they have them. Otherwise, Rosary beads will be provided.

## **Meditation**

Thank you to everyone that has remembered that we begin each day with meditation. If you arrive late to school and the meditation bell has already gone, you need to wait in the office area until meditation time has finished.

## **Altar boy training**

Altar boy training is in the Church at 5pm to 6:30pm every Thursday evening. If your son is interested in becoming an altar server, please contact Mrs Stack.



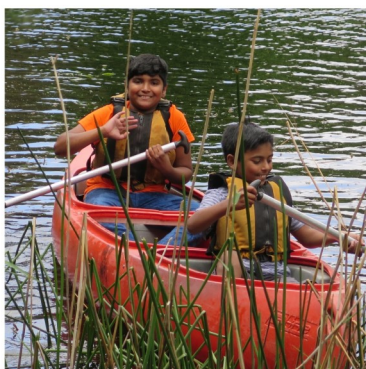
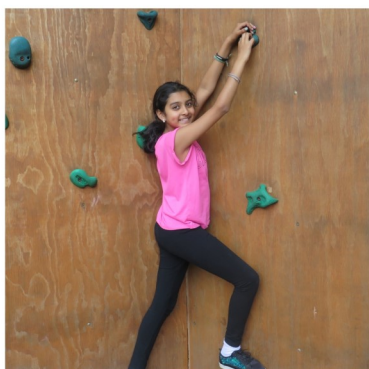
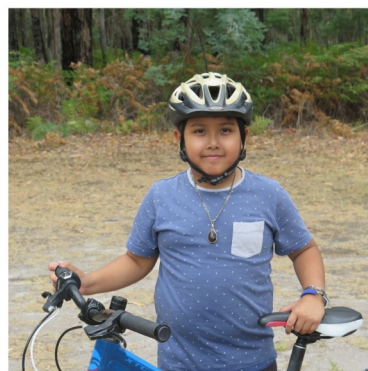
# 5/6 Grade



# Cave Hill Camp 2019



# Grade 5/6



# Cave Hill Camp 2019



Our Prep C class  
waving off our Grade  
5/6 Campers



## Society of St Vincent de Paul 60th Anniversary

The Conference of St. Gerard's is pleased to announce it's 60 years of existence in the Parish, serving the needy and under-privileged. To commemorate this milestone, a celebratory event will be held on Sunday, 24th February 2019 at the Parish Hall commencing at 12noon. The program will consist of music, trivia, raffle, silent auction, and a sumptuous buffet lunch.

**Cost: Adults \$25 & Children (up to 12 years) \$10.**

Due to limited seats, kindly book early to avoid disappointment.

To book, please contact

Alizarin 04555 7778

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE GREAT WORK OF  
OUR ST VINCENT DE PAUL MEN AND  
WOMEN**

## St Gerard's Kitchen Garden Donations



Donations of kitchen & cooking utensils are required for our new Kitchen Garden program. The front office has a list of items required and we would appreciate any small donation being made to assist us with this wonderful initiative.



## CSEF Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund

If you have a current Health Care Card like the one pictured below or Concession Card you may be eligible for CSEF.

**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**

An application form is available at the front office or feel free to speak with Helen.

More information can be found in the following pages of this newsletter





# Kitchen Garden

Our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen garden lessons started today with the 5/6VT making beautiful Vietnamese rice paper rolls and a garden salad medley. Thank you to the parents who came in and assisted the students and Ms Munro for her wonderful organization.





## St Gerard's Primary School

Come along and enjoy a cuppa while the children play

# PLAYGROUP

Meet new and old friends.

# Starting

## Wednesday, 20 February

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Located in the OSHC room





# Open Day



TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 2019 4.00 PM TO 8.00 PM

The last tour commences at 7.00 pm

Additional College Tours will be conducted 9.30 am, 10.00 am and 10.30 am on Tuesday 21st May 2019, Tuesday 23rd July 2019 and Tuesday 15th October 2019. Applications for 2021 close Friday 23rd August 2019.



# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

71 Gladstone Road, North Dandenong Vic 3175

PHONE: 97917553 FAX: 97937633



## TERM 1

### Parent Calendar as at 15 February 2019

WK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	28/1 <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>	29/1 NO STUDENTS	30/1 1 – 6 Students Start NO PREPS	31/1 Prep Students Commence early dismissal, 1:00 pm Human Race Incursion Yr P-4	1/2 Prep Students Early Dismissal, 1:00 pm Whole School Mass – 12:00 pm
2	4/2	5/2	6/2 NO PREPS Values for Life Yr 5 & 6 Incursion	7/2 Give Me 5 Twilight Evening 6 – 8 pm Excel Music classroom visit	8/2 Give Me 5 Assembly 2:45 pm
3	11/2 <b>YEAR 5/6 CAMP</b>	12/2 <b>YEAR 5/6 CAMP</b>	13/2 <b>YEAR 5/6 CAMP</b> NO PREPS	14/2 Excel Music lessons commence	15/2 Gardening/cooking 5/6VT
4	18/2	19/2	20/2 NO PREPS	21/2	22/2 Sporting Schools—students wear sports uniform Gardening/Cooking 5/60
5	25/2	26/2 <b>PARENT TEACHER CONVERSATIONS</b> Ride to School	27/2	28/2 <b>PARENT TEACHER CONVERSATIONS</b> Excursion Nazareth Taster Day—Yr 5	1/3 Sporting Schools—students wear sports uniform Gardening/cooking 3/4L Yr 6 Excursion—"Pelican" catamaran (weather permitting)
6	4/3	5/3 Shrove Tuesday Subway Lunch Yr 5/6 Cyber Safety Excursion—St Mary's Primary School 11:30—1:00 Cyber Safety Staff & Parent info night	6/3	7/3	8/3 Excursion—St Gerard's Athletics Day at Knox Athletics Track
7	11/3 <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> Catholic Education Week: growing strong in Christ	12/3 Prep & Yr 1/2 Literacy Evening – 7pm	13/3 HOMEWORK CLUB COMMENCES	14/3	15/3 National Day of Action against Bullying & Violence Garden/cooking—3/4 S St Patrick's Day Mass at Cathedral Children to wear a touch of green Sporting Schools— students to wear sports uniform 17/3 <b>St Patrick's Feast Day</b>
8	18/3	19/3	20/3 Open Day at St Gerard's Primary School	21/3 Harmony Day Confirmation information night	22/3 Sporting Schools—students to wear sports uniform Gardening/Cooking—1/2 FP
9	25/3	26/3 Ride to School	27/3	28/3	29/3
10	1/4	2/4 The Passion Hot Cross Buns & afternoon tea for parents	3/4	4/4 Subway Lunch	5/6 LAST DAY OF TERM 1 Finish – 2:30 pm

Thursday, 18 April – Holy Thursday  
Friday, 19 April – Good Friday of Fast & Abstinence

Saturday, 20 April – Holy Saturday  
Sunday, 21 April – Easter Sunday