



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



Term 4 Week 2

[www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)

03 97917553

15 October 2021

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to those students and staff who have celebrated their birthday this past week:!

- Ainsley - 3/4S
- Ella T - 5/6O
- Dahlia - 3/4S
- Azaria - 1/2FP



### 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

*Joy in prep celebrates our Feast Day by performing a Samoan Dance in our Talent Quest*



O God, who willed to draw blessed Gerard to yourself from his earliest years and to mould him to the image of your crucified Son; grant, we ask that by following his example we may be transformed into the same image. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

### St Gerard's Feast Day Mass Live Streamed

We invite you to join us for Mass to celebrate St Gerard's Feast Day on

Saturday, 16th October at 11am,

<https://fb.me/e/2C8HMSRiQ>

... St Gerard Majella, Pray for Us ...

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

Welcome to the end of another week that provided opportunities not only for learning but for sharing our gifts and talents with our community.

Congratulations and thank you to all those students who contributed to our **2021 St Gerard's Talent Quest**. The video link to this event was sent out to all families today (Friday) and if you haven't done so already, I encourage you to watch it as a family. A special word of thanks to Mrs Stack and our student leaders Joe, Vivaan, Abby and Jaskirat for their contributions to this event. While we acknowledge the winners, it is also important to recognise the courage of everyone for sending in their performances. It was wonderful to see such a variety of acts.

Traditionally the talent quest is part of our **St Gerard's Feast Day** celebrations. This year our patron's feast day falls on a **Saturday (tomorrow)**. The parish will be **live streaming mass at 11.00am**. Please see the link for this mass which appears in this newsletter. Another aspect of these celebrations is the announcement of the **St Gerard Majella Awards**. These are in recognition of the contributions of students to our school.

As I mentioned last week, we now have a **plan for our students transitioning to Onsite Learning**. This 2 week transition phase starts next Monday 18 October with our **Prep students returning Monday to Wednesday** and our **Year 1/2 students on Thursday and Friday**. Our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students have one more week of Remote Learning before they start to return the following week. Information was sent out via Seesaw last week with the schedule for each year level. A copy of all year level schedules is also contained in this newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me via Seesaw, email: [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) or phone 9791 7553.

Our school is participating in **Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)**. MACSSIS is an annual process whereby schools listen to the thoughts and feelings students, families and staff have about how their school can improve. These surveys help inform the ongoing improvement of schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. **An email was sent yesterday with your family's code for the parent survey**. Students will complete their survey when they return to Onsite Learning. I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in anticipation.

Lastly, a reminder that the **School Closure Day on Thursday 21 October has been cancelled** as this is the first Onsite Learning day for our Year 1/2 students. For all other year levels this will be a day of Remote Learning.

We are all looking forward to welcoming back our Prep, Year 1 and Year 2's next week.

God bless.

Paul Cowan  
Principal

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## ST GERARD MAJELLA AWARD

The St Gerard Majella Award is the most eminent award that is bestowed to our students. Students who receive this award in honour of St Gerard demonstrate a constancy of emulating the virtues of St Gerard. The recipients of this award goes to:

**PREP - GRACE**



**1/2FP - CHELSEA**



**1/2L - FRANCIS**



**3/4C - ASHTON**



**3/4S - CATHERINE V**



**5/6O - ARIELLE**



**5/6VT - ANTONETTE**



## WINNERS OF THE ST GERARD MAJELLA TALENT QUEST

Congratulations to all the contestants who took part in our spectacular Talent Quest which was again held remotely. The talent that our students produce never fails to amaze.

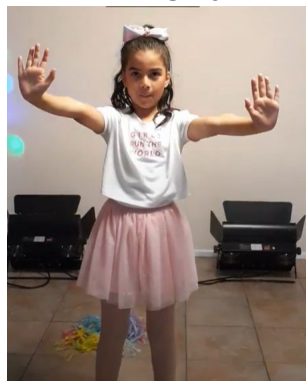
Hosting our remote talent show was a fantastic way to give our students a chance to show off their special skills, bring our St Gerard's community together for an afternoon of fun and entertainment; and to celebrate our feast day.

Congratulations to the following winners:

**Prep category: Joy**



**Year 1/2 category: Sophia**



**Year 3/4 category: Indiana**



**Year 5/6 category: Trevor**



The overall winner is...

**JOY**

from Prep B!!!



Here is the link to our wonderful Talent Quest:  
<https://vimeo.com/631914290/e4543c4d78>



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

## Celebration of First Communion and Confirmation

First Communion and Confirmation Mass times have been tentatively rescheduled as follows:

- Confirmation Mass: Friday 5th November, 7pm
- First Communion: Saturday 6th November, 11:30am and 2:30pm

More details regarding how many guests each candidate can bring will emerge closer to the date, subject to government restrictions and regulations. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

## Important Dates for Term 4

<b>Friday, 15th October</b>	Whole School Talent Quest to celebrate our Feast Day, sent via Vimeo link
<b>Saturday, 16th October</b>	St Gerard's Feast Day
<b>Friday 29th October</b>	Mission Month Assembly (led by the Social Justice team)
<b>Monday, 1st November</b>	All Saints Day
<b>Tuesday, 2nd November</b>	All Souls Day
<b>Thursday, 11th November</b>	Remembrance Day, one minute silence
<b>Thursday, 18th November</b>	Year 6 Reflection Day
<b>Friday, 26th November</b>	Advent Assembly at 2:30 pm
<b>Friday, 10th December</b>	Special Christmas Carols Evening sent via Vimeo
<b>Friday, 10th December</b>	End of Year Mass - TBC
<b>Tuesday, 14th December</b>	Year 6 Final Assembly, 2 pm and Graduation, 7 pm

## Mission Walk Around Thailand

Socktober for Mission Month encourages students across Australia to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Thailand and around the world. During term 4 we are encouraging students to learn what life is like for children from Thailand, specifically those from slum areas in Bangkok.

Students are challenged to get fit and raise funds for Catholic Missions by using a map of Thailand to track the distance they have covered when they walk (run, hop, skip, walk backwards, whatever) around the walking track on the oval. Students will be timetabled to walk around the track, 15 minutes a day for the whole term. The Mission Walk Around Thailand will become our main fundraising event for Mission Month.



## Carols Evening

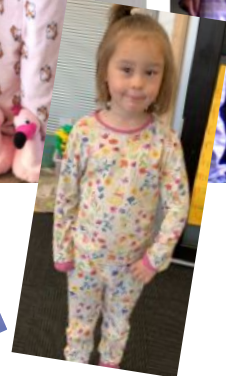
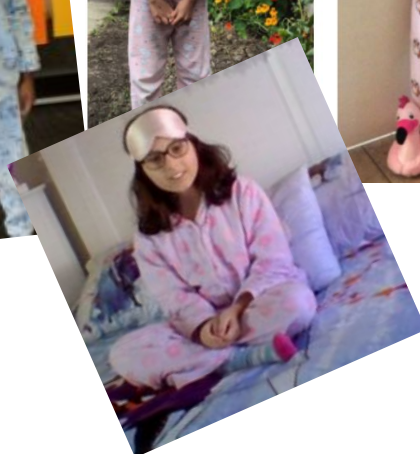
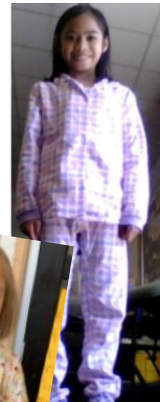
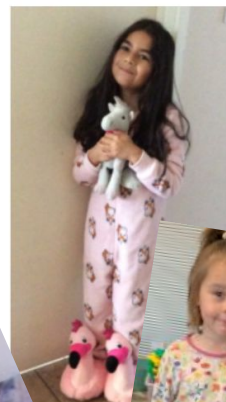
Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Carols Event will again be held remotely this year. We hope to distribute a Vimeo link to our Christmas event for families on Friday, 10th December.

# WELLBEING NEWS



## Whole School Pyjama Day!

Tuesday, was whole school pyjama day. Here are some photos of the students having fun in their pyjamas.



**Fancy Family**  
Dinner

*Next week the whole school will be celebrating a special family dinner. Students are encouraged to create a menu, set the table and welcome their family members to their special restaurant.*



## FAMILY COOKING

Cook a meal with your family, write a short description of what you made and send photos of yourself and your family cooking together.

Or take a photo of your garden to show our community what is growing in your backyard at the moment.

Email your photos to Mrs Fernandez at [nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au).



### Student Representative Council Meeting

The next SRC meeting will be held on Monday 18th October at 1pm. This meeting will be conducted online.





# WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

## What's mindfulness?

### Mindfulness involves training our attention and attitude.

Being mindful means awareness of your own moment-to-moment internal and external experiences, with gentleness and acceptance and without judgment. It's a state of being that encourages us to slow down, focus on the present, accept things as they are, and act with discernment. When we do this, we're less distracted by thoughts of the future and the past, which can often make us worry and stop us from enjoying the present moment.



### Mindfulness takes practice

Mindfulness is about learning to make a conscious and discerning choice where our attention lies, rather than allowing it to be dominated by concerns which take us away from experiencing the present moment. It allows us to stay open, curious and flexible about the moment that we're in.

## What are the benefits?

### Mindfulness is a proven technique to support your mental health and wellbeing.

Research has found that mindfulness can help you feel calmer, bring clarity and enhance your creativity and awareness.

Other benefits, include:

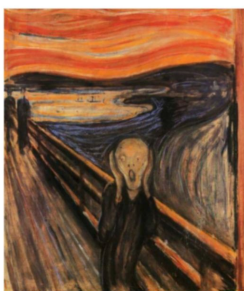
- o reduced rumination (continuously thinking about upsetting situations and things)
- o reduced stress, including occupational stress, anxiety and depression
- o improved focus and working memory (being able to recall and use relevant information)
- o improved health through better immune function (resistance to disease) and slower ageing
- o increased self-awareness, social awareness and self-confidence
- o greater emotional intelligence, compassion (to self and others) and prosocial behaviours
- o better and more flexible problem-solving abilities
- o stimulating new connections and cell growth in the brain
- o better resilience and coping with pain and life challenges.

# VISUAL ARTS NEWS

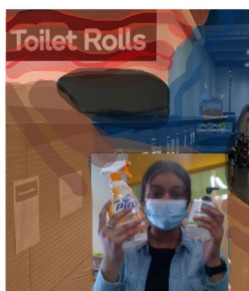
This week the Year 3-6 students were asked to recreate one of the world famous masterpieces. Here are some of their excellent work.

**Jaskirat**

I recreated The Scream, but the twist is that I am in lockdown and Covid has taken over!!



What I tried to recreate...

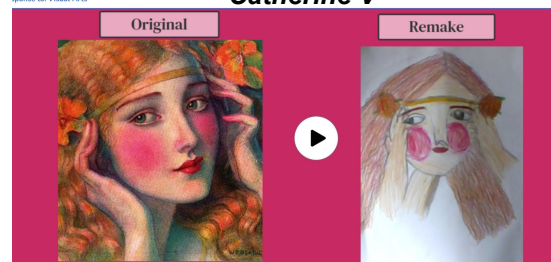


What I created...

I am screaming and holding cleaning things. I am in the toilet rolls section and they are finished!!!

**Catherine V**

inspired by: Visual Arts



**Pieta**



I redrew the wave digitally and made it black.

**Joshlyn**



**Sherhom**



# Transition to onsite learning

## Prep

Day and Date	Onsite Learning	Remote Learning
Monday 18 October	😊	
Tuesday 19 October	😊	
Wednesday 20 October	😊	
Thursday 21 October		😊
Friday 22 October		😊
Monday 25 October	😊	
Tuesday 26 October	😊	
Wednesday 27 October	😊	
Thursday 28 October		😊
Friday 29 October		😊
Monday 1 November	School Closure Day	
Tuesday 2 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Wednesday 3 November	😊	
Thursday 4 November		😊
Friday 5 November	😊 Onsite Learning every day from this date 😊	

## Year 1/2

Day and Date	Onsite Learning	Remote Learning
Monday 18 October		😊
Tuesday 19 October		😊
Wednesday 20 October		😊
Thursday 21 October	😊	
Friday 22 October	😊	
Monday 25 October		😊
Tuesday 26 October		😊
Wednesday 27 October		😊
Thursday 28 October	😊	
Friday 29 October	😊	
Monday 1 November	School Closure Day	
Tuesday 2 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Wednesday 3 November		😊
Thursday 4 November	😊	
Friday 5 November	😊 Onsite Learning every day from this date 😊	

## Year 3/4

Day and Date	Onsite Learning	Remote Learning
Monday 25 October		😊
Tuesday 26 October	😊	
Wednesday 27 October	😊	
Thursday 28 October		😊
Friday 29 October		😊
Monday 1 November	School Closure Day	
Tuesday 2 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Wednesday 3 November	😊	
Thursday 4 November		😊
Friday 5 November	😊 Onsite Learning every day from this date 😊	

## Year 5/6

Day and Date	Onsite Learning	Remote Learning
Monday 25 October		😊
Tuesday 26 October		😊
Wednesday 27 October		😊
Thursday 28 October	😊	
Friday 29 October	😊	
Monday 1 November	School Closure Day	
Tuesday 2 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Wednesday 3 November		😊
Thursday 4 November	😊	
Friday 5 November	😊 Onsite Learning every day from this date 😊	