



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 4 Week 11

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

15 December 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

- Chelsea - 1/2FΦ
- Krystn - 3/4S
- Steve = 3/4C

STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL 2022
Monday,
31 January 2022

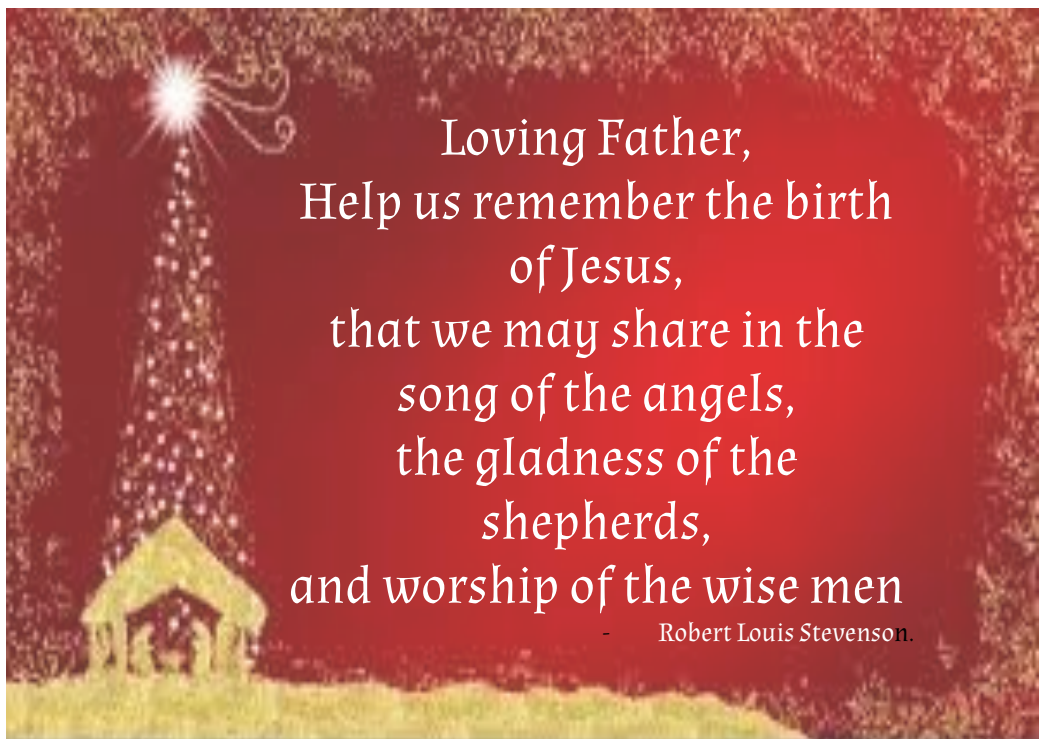


UNIFORM SHOP
OPEN
FRIDAY,
28 JANUARY 2022
11:00 PM - 12:00 PM

and suddenly there was with
an angel
a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God
and saying
Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth
peace, goodwill towards
men
Luke 2
13-14



Isbel from Prep wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!



Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth
of Jesus,
that we may share in the
song of the angels,
the gladness of the
shepherds,
and worship of the wise men

Robert Louis Stevenson.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

As we arrive at the last day of school for 2021 it is hard not to have mixed emotions about this year.

While all aspects of our lives have again been challenged, there have definitely been positives and learnings. Reflecting back on our periods of Remote Learning I cannot help but feel that the connection between our school, students and families was strengthened as we continued to support our students, which I feel we did extremely well. On returning to school it was inspiring to see the enthusiasm and spirit that our students brought to bring our school back to life. **I would like to again thank our families for their unwavering support and understanding as we continued to provide learning opportunities for our children while keeping their health and safety as our key focus.**

I trust that families will watch our **Christmas Carols event**. Please feel free to watch it as we enter into this wonderful celebration of the coming of Our Lord. The link is attached here for your convenience or via Seesaw. [St Gerard's Christmas Carols](#)

Yesterday (Tuesday) we said **farewell and good luck to our Year 6 students**. When speaking to them at their Graduation Ceremony, I mentioned that people who have had a positive impact on society had graduated from Year 6 but that they had not completed their final 2 years of primary school during a global pandemic. I highlighted to them that they certainly have the skills and resilience to contribute to our world in the years to come. Thank you to the families that supported our '**guard of honour**' yesterday afternoon. It was a lovely way for our school community to say goodbye.

In addition to our Year 6 students, we are also saying goodbye and thank you to some staff members.

Mrs Carol Stewart is retiring having been part of the St Gerard's School Community for 32 years. Her contribution cannot be understated. Throughout her time here she has been a classroom teacher, held numerous leadership roles including Learning and Teaching, Deputy Principal and Acting Principal and has had a positive impact on generations of children who have passed through our gates. While it is with sadness that we will farewell Carol, we also thank her and wish her all the very best for the next stage of her life.

Mrs Sabina Castello will be finishing at St Gerard's after 27 years of service. Over this period of time Sabina has taught hundreds of children from Prep to Year Four and been involved in preparing them to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion as well as being a member of our Wellbeing Team. Sabina will initially spend more time with her family before embarking on the next chapter in her working life.

Mrs Julie Verhoosel will be finishing her 24 year association with our school, 11 years as an emergency teacher and 13 as a classroom teacher. Julie has been a Year 5/6 teacher supporting students to make the transition from Primary to Secondary School and has been the coordinator of numerous School Camps and Year 6 Graduations which are significant events in a child's primary school experience.

Mrs Judy Peres will be leaving St Gerard's initially to spend more time with her family before taking up a position at St Joseph's in Springvale. In the 12 years Judy has been at our school she has taught various year levels and has held a number of leadership positions including Literacy Leader and Learning Diversity Leader. Her work in these 2 leadership roles has seen her have an impact on our students learning across the whole school.

Mrs Helen Cox will be leaving St Gerard's and returning home to Brisbane to be closer to her family. Helen has been a friendly and welcoming face in our School Office over the past 5 years and her contribution to our school has been significant. While we will miss Helen, we understand that family comes first.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our school community a very happy and holy Christmas and a safe holiday. We look forward to seeing you all back with us in 2022.

Until then continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Thank You - Mission Walk Around Thailand

During Term 4, St Gerard's raised \$423.75 to send to Catholic Missions who are currently focusing on making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Thailand. Congratulations to Year 3/4C who raised \$158.60 to go towards this worthy cause. Year 3/4C were able to wear casual clothes today as a reward for their fantastic effort.

St Gerard's Parish **Christmas Mass Timetable**

Confession Evening - Wednesday, 22 December

6:00 pm and 7:30pm..

Christmas Mass Timetable

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

9:15 am - Mass

5:30 pm - Family Christmas Mass

7:00pm - Maronite Mass,

9:30pm - Mass for 'unknown status'

11:30 pm - Carols

12:00 am Midnight - Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:30 am - Christmas Mass for 'unknown status'

10:30 am - Christmas Mass

(No evening Mass)

Sunday, December 26 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass held at - 8:30 am, 10:30am and 5:30pm

