

# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 - WEEK 5



3RD MARCH, 2023



Let's come together and embrace the "Be Cooperative" value of Give Me 5 this Lenten season, and support one another. Have a look at this picture taken during the athletics carnival, where students are seen congratulating each other with a well-deserved high-five.

## ***In the words of Pope Francis***

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.  
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.  
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.  
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.  
Fast from worries and trust in God.  
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.  
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.  
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.  
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.  
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.  
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*



@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

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Dear families,

We are at the end of a week which has provided active and physical opportunities.

On **Wednesday we had the second of our 3 Auskick clinics** which occur straight after school. The final session will be next **Wednesday 8 March**. The children have developed some AFL and social skills and this will hopefully lead to them becoming part of the local Auskick Program.

Yesterday (Thursday) our **Ride/ Walk to School Day** saw 40% of our children arrive by foot or wheel. This healthy start to the day enhances learning and promotes physical health and wellbeing. It was also great to see so many of our parents and families getting involved.

Today (Friday) we held our annual **Athletics Carnival** at Knox Athletics track. This was a wonderful day with our students displaying their sporting skills as well as school spirit. It was great to see our children cheer on and support each other. Congratulations to those children that will now represent our school later in the year at inter-school events. **A huge thank you to Mrs Wilson for her leadership and coordination of the day, our staff and to the parents who helped the day run smoothly.**

A reminder that on **Wednesday mornings** we have **'Before School Reading' in the Library** which allows our students and their families to come **from 8.15am** and read together. There is a standing invitation to all our children and their families to come along.

Lastly, I am asking for families 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 raining, however we **need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways**. We have recently had families walking in front of the traffic. I am also asking families in cars to reduce traffic congestion in McNab Court. **Families that arrive before 3.25pm are asked to park in the carpark. Joining the drop off/ pick up line creates a backlog of cars which causes issues.** I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan  
PRINCIPAL

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Class Masses

This year, our classes will be hosting Class Masses. This is a unique chance for all members of our St. Gerard's community to come together and actively participate in the planning and organisation of our prayers. Classes will send invitations closer to the date. All families are cordially invited to join us.

## Class Mass Timetable for Semester One:

5/6O:	Thursday 16th March, 10:15am
3/4S:	To be announced
3/4A:	To be announced
5/6T:	TBA for Term 2
Prep B:	TBA for Term 2
1/2FW:	TBA for Term 2
1/2L:	TBA for Term 2

## Other Important RE Dates for Term One

Event	Date
St Patrick's Feast Day, students wear full school uniform with a touch of green.	Thurs 17th March
St Patrick's Feast Day, students wear full school uniform with a touch of green.	Thurs 17th March
The Passion	Wednesday 5th April,

## Sacrament Dates, 2023

### Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Family Workshop Night:  
Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland Visit:  
Confirmation:

Thursday 30th March, 7:00pm  
Tuesday 2nd May, 9:30am  
Saturday 13th May, 5:30pm

### First Reconciliation: (Grade 3)

First Reconciliation Reflection Day:  
First Reconciliation:  
First Reconciliation Assembly:

Tuesday 21st March  
Thursday 23rd March, 7pm  
Friday 24th March, 2:50pm

### First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Family Workshop:  
First Communion:

Thursday 27th April, 7pm  
Sunday 11th June, 10:30am



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## *The Passion Presentation*

You are cordially invited to  
a re-enactment of The Way of Jesus  
Performed by  
The Children of St. Gerard's Primary School

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 - 2:00pm  
St Gerard's Primary School Hall

## The Passion

We would like to invite you to join us in commemorating a significant event in our school's calendar - The Passion. This powerful performance takes place during Holy Week and allows us to journey with Jesus as we remember his last days and moments.

During Holy Week, we experience a range of emotions, from jubilation to anxiety, suffering, humiliation, and abandonment, culminating in Jesus' death on the cross. Through The Passion, we journey with Jesus towards the cross and prepare to welcome him into our presence.

We encourage you to mark your calendars for Wednesday 5th April at 2pm when The Passion will take place in the hall. We understand that some may need to take time off work, but we hope you can arrange to attend this momentous event.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at The Passion.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Palm leaves needed

If you need to prune any palm trees, please wait until the weekend before The Passion and bring any palm leaves that can be used as props for The Passion to Mrs. Stack on Monday, April 3rd.

## Costume for The Passion

We ask that children in Grade Prep – 4 **come to school dressed 'in the times of Jesus'**. Children are required to bring a pair of thongs or sandals as footwear to change into before the event to help make the washing of the feet run more smoothly. All grade 5/6 children wear all black.

**We ask that all children bring a gold coin donation on this day to go towards Project Compassion.**



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## The Passion Costume Ideas for children

Grade Prep – 4

Grade 5/6 children wear all **BLACK**



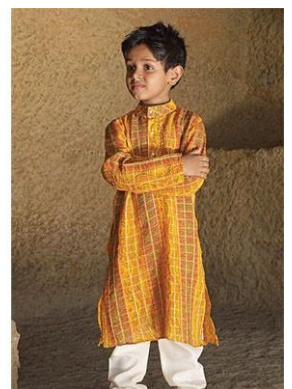
To reflect on the events of Holy Week, we are having a special school event on **Wednesday, 5th April at 2.00pm**. All children will be involved by either being a part of the crowd or re-enacting the events of Holy Week and singing.

We ask that children in Grade Prep – 4 **come to school dressed 'in the times of Jesus'**. Children are required to bring a pair of thongs or sandals as footwear to change into before the event to help make the washing of the feet run more smoothly. All grade 5/6 children wear all black.

**We ask that all children bring a gold coin donation on this day to go towards Project Compassion.**

### Costume Ideas:

- Traditional Indian/Sri Lankan/Arabic clothing would be fantastic if you already have some at home that could look like they come from the time of Jesus
- Tea towels on heads with a headband or scarf holding it on
- Cut up old sheets with a rope or belt around the waist
- Scarf around the head



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss

The Seasons program provides peer support for children facing grief and loss, such as death, separation, or divorce. This useful resource will be accessible in Term 3. If you have any inquiries, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or Mrs. Stack.

## Project Compassion

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten appeal brings together millions of Australians to combat poverty, advocate for justice, and defend dignity worldwide. During Ash Wednesday Mass, Project Compassion Boxes will be distributed to each class with a designated fundraising goal for Lent. The class that raises the most will be rewarded with a free dress day! The Social Justice Leadership Team will provide regular updates on the progress of each class's fundraising efforts during school assemblies.

## Altar Servers

Altar serving practice takes place every Thursday evening at 5:30pm - 6:30pm in St Gerard's Church. To be eligible to serve, servers must have made their First Communion. This is a great opportunity for young members of the Church to get involved in the liturgy and learn the responsibilities of serving at the altar. If anyone has any questions regarding altar serving practice or eligibility, they can contact the parish office at 97924422.





# WELLBEING

## St. Gerard's Give Me 5 Whole School Matrix



Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
<b>Be Respectful</b>	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 • Keep the area neat and tidy	Speak appropriately and use manners • Give other users their privacy Care for property • Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property • Place rubbish in the bin • Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden Include others Respect everyone's views and space
<b>Be Co-operative</b>	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely • 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 • Accept rules • Take turns Share and use equipment safely Accept rules
<b>Be Your Best</b>	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
<b>Be Positive</b>	Never give up			Encourage others
<b>Be Spirit filled</b>	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.	Treat others as you would like to be treated. • Say sorry and forgive others <b>Be kind</b>

### 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 the Friday assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn last week on the 24th of February and **the lucky winners are:**

**Tut, Grace and Dhanvin**



**Sajin, Denay and Chudier**



# WELLBEING



The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of a group of students who want to help other students by presenting ideas which are of benefit to all students.

The SRC also informs its peers of any important information which affects the student body.

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March the SRC reps of St Gerard's attended their first meeting. They discussed the role of an SRC member, upcoming events and began brainstorming ideas for our biodiversity project. The next SRC meeting will be held next Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of March.

A big congratulation to the following students who were voted in by their class members to be the SRC reps for Term One 2023.

## **Foundation B- Grace and Bommy**

**1/2L- Elaine and Ekene**

**1/2FW- Joy and Isbel**

**3/4S- Chelsea and Lemilo**

**3/4A- Rafael and Ariana**

**5/6T- Luke and Aditey**

**5/6O- Marcus and Sandra**





# WELLBEING



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



# WELLBEING



## be you

*Facts from the Be You website*

## What's resilience?

**Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.**

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help [build resilience in children](#).

**A child or young person who is resilient might:**

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it
- feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning.



Dear Students and Families ,

Reading Before School is back by great demand.

**Who? Students and parents**

**When? Wednesdays 8:15am - 8:30am**

**Where? St Gerard's Library**

Come meet us there!!!

Bring a book or borrow one, come along  
let's have some fun!



# WELLBEING



A big thank you to all of the families who participated in Ride to School day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Congratulations to 1/2FW who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

## **Well done to:**

1<sup>st</sup> place- 1/2FW with 57% riding, scooting or walking

2<sup>nd</sup> place- 3/4A with 47% riding, scooting or walking

3<sup>rd</sup> place- 3/4S with 45% riding, scooting or walking





## MULTICULTURAL FOOTY 4 FUN



Experience Australia's most loved sport through AFL Victoria's FREE Footy 4 Fun events delivered across Victoria! A footy experience full of fun activities, modified games & memorable moments to take home with you!

*Footy 4 Fun Multicultural is an offering for kids aged 5-12 years from diverse backgrounds that focuses on providing a safe and inclusive introduction to football. While the kids are learning all about the basic skills of the game, the parent will be provided an opportunity to understand the game of Australia Rules Football.*

### WHERE:

St Gerard's Primary School

### WHEN:

February 22nd - March 8th  
Wednesdays, 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm



**REGISTER HERE!**



# ATHLETICS DAY 2023





# ATHLETICS DAY 2023





# ATHLETICS DAY 2023





# ATHLETICS DAY 2023





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](http://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 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](mailto:angie@agsprints.com.au)



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>



# FINANCE



## CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

### Parent/carer details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb  State  Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

-  -  -  OR

☐ Foster parent under a temporary care order\* OR ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)\*\*

\*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

\*\*Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card

Is this an application for special consideration (no CRN needed)? Yes ☐ No ☐

### Student details

Student's surname	Student's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DFFH will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant  Date  /  /







## CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

### Criteria 1 – General eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or carer of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one
  - on the first day of Term two
- a) be a holder of one or more of the eligible financially-means tested cards OR be a temporary foster parent, and;
- b) submit an application to the school by the due date.

For the list of eligible financially-means tested cards refer to the CSEF Policy:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/policy>

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with the above.

### Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

### Special Consideration

A special consideration category exists for

- Families on a bridging visa, temporary protection visa, in community detention or are asylum seeker families
- Students in temporary out of home care arrangements, including statutory kinship care

For more information, see <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/guidance/eligibility>

### Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer concession card being validated successfully with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (30 January 2023) or term two (24 April 2023).

## PAYMENT AMOUNTS

### CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx)

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents/carers so please register your interest at the school.

## HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

### NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/CARER DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

If you are claiming as a temporary Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

If you are seeking special consideration, mark this in the form and provide a copy of the relevant documentation.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2023 closes on the 23 June 2023.

# IMPORTANT DATES

## March

9th March:	3/4A Class Mass, 10:15
13th March:	Labour Day Public Holiday
21st March:	First Reconciliation Reflection Day
16th March:	5/6O Class Mass, 10:15
17th March:	St Patrick's Day
23rd March:	First Reconciliation 7pm
24th March:	National Ride to School Day
24th March:	Harmony Day Whole School Celebration
15-27 March:	NAPLAN Testing period - Year 3 and Year 5
24th March:	First Reconciliation Assembly
30th March:	Confirmation Family Workshop
30th March:	5/6O Reconciliation

## April:

2nd April:	Daylight Savings Ends
5th April:	Subway Lunch
5th April:	The Passion
6th April:	Last day of Term 1, 3.30pm finish

# Happy BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to all who had celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays this week

- Abel Yr 5
- Sanaya Yr 5



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Nazareth College Open Evening
- Endeavour Hills Eagles Junior Football Club (AFL)
- Springvale Indoor Sports
- St John's College Open Evening
- Mazenod Secondary College Open Day
- Noble Park Junior football Club (AFL)
- Netball Dandenong
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Swimland Swim Club

### Garden Stall

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March we will hold our first **Garden Market Stall** for 2023.

The students will be selling fresh rosemary, tomatoes, parsley seeds and eggs straight from the garden.

Parents get in early to snap up a bargain.

