

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 - WEEK 8

24 November, 2023



Aid to the Church in Need has contacted us, requesting the distribution of these prayer cards throughout the school to connect with our families. Each child has been given one of these cards. Please use these prayer cards to join in family prayer for the evolving situation in Palestine and Israel.

PRAYER FOR Peace in the Middle East

Lord Jesus Christ,

The Holy Land is once again struck by violence, hatred, and death. Lord, look with mercy upon the land that was your earthly home.

Receive the deceased into your presence. Comfort those who mourn, are wounded, or forced to flee. Be close to all who are full of fear and despair.

You are our peace and the light of the nations, put an end to the spiral of terror and suffering in the Holy Land and in the whole Middle East.

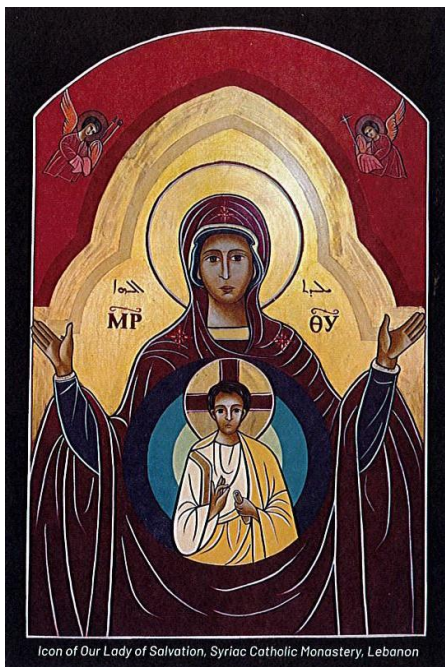
Let peace and justice flourish at the holy sites. You are our refuge. Let the people be safe in your Love.

Have mercy on us and on our time. **Amen.**

Aid to the Church in Need is the only international Catholic foundation dedicated to the spiritual and pastoral support of suffering and persecuted Christians.



www.aidtochurch.org



Icon of Our Lady of Salvation, Syriac Catholic Monastery, Lebanon



@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

Dear families,

I hope you have all had a great week and with some improved weather I think we are all getting a sense that the end of the year is coming.

Our whole school **2023 Swimming Program** at Dandenong Oasis was completed this week and it has been wonderful to see the improvement in skills and an increase in water confidence. With Summer quickly approaching, water confidence, awareness, safety and skills are very important. The program concluded today (Friday) with a 'fun day' which you will no doubt hear all about.

Our latest **Ride/Walk to School** day was on Thursday and as usual, it was well supported. It has been wonderful to see more and more students walking, riding or scooting to school on a regular basis.

As mentioned last week, we have some exciting events occurring in the coming weeks.

The first being our **Art Show which is opening next Wednesday 29 November at 3.15pm**. The Art Show will be **open every day from 8.30am - 5.00pm in the PAC and close on Tuesday 5 December after our Christmas Carols evening**. Families are therefore welcome to come at a time that suits them to have a look at the wonderful work of our talented children. Having had a 'sneak preview' I am impressed by the creativity, skills and variety that is being presented. A big **thank you** to **Mrs Shantelle Theodore** for her coordination of this event and her Visual Arts program.

Rehearsals for our **Christmas Carols evening on Tuesday 5 December at 7.00pm** are in full swing. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity for our school community to gather together at this significant time of the year in our faith.

I look forward to seeing you all at both of these events.

Finally, a reminder that our next **Subway Lunch** day is next Thursday 30 November with **orders needing to be in by next Monday 27 November**.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education

Important RE Dates

Tuesday 5th December:	Christmas Carols Evening
Thursday 7th December:	Christmas Activities Rotations
Friday, 8th December:	End of Year Mass, 12:00
Thursday, 14th December:	Graduation Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm



"Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining..." Join us for a delightful evening of Christmas Caroling, featuring performances of your favourite carols by the students of St. Gerard's School in the quadrangle on Tuesday, December 5th, at 7 pm. Children are requested to be seated with their class by 6:45 pm.

What to wear:

Children have been asked to dress in a theme for the Christmas Carols.

Foundation	Christmas coloured t-shirt and shorts or dress, Christmas headband or hat. (Foundation staff will supply any additional costumes).
Year 1/2	Wear a Christmas-coloured t-shirt paired with black shorts, a dress, or a skirt. Tinsel can be worn around your wrists, forehead, and neck, either as a necklace or with additional Christmas accessories.
Year 3/4	Christmas coloured t-shirt (with or without Christmas design) and black leggings, trousers or shorts, Tinsel and Christmas hats optional.
Year 5/6	All black long or short sleeve tops and long pants with different coloured tinsel around wrists and forehead. Santa hats if you have one.

Religious Education

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL



ST. GERARDS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROLS

TUESDAY

5

DEC

7:00 PM

IN THE QUADRANGLE
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS
ALONG TO JOIN IN THE CHRISTMAS
FESTIVITIES

Religious Education

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home



An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

St Gerard's school has been gifted with a beautiful statue of Our Lady, a generous gift from the Legion of Mary group. The statue comes with a handcrafted carrier bag, designed for its respectful storage when not in use. Families are invited to bring the statue home for a week to use it to enhance family prayer. A brochure offering guidance on how to engage in rosary prayer will be included, accompanied by some sets of rosary beads. If you would like to bring this statue home, please contact Mrs Stack.



FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#).

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to *What is a reasonable adjustment?* below to learn about adjustments.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.

WHAT MUST SCHOOLS DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students have the right to a quality learning experience at school.

Students with disability must be able to take part in education without discrimination and on the same basis as other students. To ensure this, schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed for students with disability. Educators, students, parents, guardians, carers and others (eg health professionals) must work together to ensure that students with disability can take part in education.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* describe schools' responsibilities.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NCCD?

The definition of disability for the NCCD is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The following students are examples of those who may be included in the NCCD if they need monitoring and adjustments:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes).

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NCCD?

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability.

Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including:

- their year of schooling
- the level of adjustment received
- the broad type of disability.

For students who have more than one disability, the school uses professional judgement to choose one category of disability. They choose the category that most affects the student's access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the [Public information notice](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

There is also a free [e-learning resource](#) about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

This document must be attributed as *Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers*.

Parish News



The Junior Legion of Mary Meetings are held every Monday at St Gerard's school term from 4:15pm – 5:15 pm in The Library Room (brown building in the car park of St. Gerard's Primary School).

Legion of Mary Contact: Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175 and Jacqueline Savanah on 0437 668 352.

Application forms are available to collect from the foyer of the Church.

Junior Legion of Mary

Dear Parents,

The Legion of Mary runs a Junior Legion of Mary praesidium (branch) at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong once a week after school during school term. Meetings last for one hour per week. All possible care will be taken while your child is with us.

Children are taught to:

- Pray the Rosary
- Be helpful at home
- Do works of service such as a Book Barrow

They are trained to be good Catholics by reaching out to others. One way they do this is by visiting a local nursing home during the school holidays, where they interact with the residents. Children are also guided to take part in parish events such as the Public Square Rosary in October.

This group will enable your child to grow spiritually and also learn to be an active apostolic worker in the Parish. All activities will be supervised by adult legionaries who hold Working with Children permits.

If you would like your child/children to join this group, please complete the application form below and return it to Kereena or Cecilia. For more information please phone a contact below.



Meeting Day:	Every MONDAY of St Gerard's school term
Time:	4:15 PM TO 5:15 PM STARTING JULY 10 TH
Place:	LIBRARY ROOM of St. Gerard's
Legion of Mary Contact:	Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175
Legion of Mary Contact:	Cecilia Donald 0402 716 101



✕ -----

Parent or guardian to complete: (All information provided is confidential.)

Child's Name:		Grade:	
Address:			
Any health issues?		Date of Birth:	

I (Parent/guardian) give permission for my child (name) to attend the Junior Legion of Mary at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong (in the Church foyer).

Signature..... Date.....

Name of First Contact Person			
Address			
Phone No.			
Second Contact for child	Name:		Phone No:

Altar Servers

Altar Server training will resume for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass.

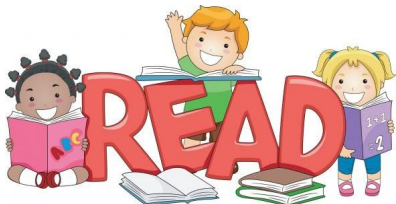
Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information contact St Gerard's Parish Office 9792 4422 or Mrs Stack 9791 7553

Literacy-Before School Reading



My name is Ryan.
I like Reading Before
School because I like
reading books about
Slappy!!



I like Reading Before
School because I can
stay with my friends and
we can read and my mind
is calm before school!

WELLBEING



Growing a mentally healthy generation



Self-care

Self-care is a good way to manage stress

You need to practice self-care in a way that works for you.

Having said that, there are some common practices that most people find useful, including maintaining a healthy lifestyle by eating well, getting enough sleep and exercise, and cutting back on alcohol and drugs.

Some other strategies which you might find helpful in managing stress include:

- Monitor your stress- recognise your own signs of stress and identify situations you find difficult, so you can be proactive about managing stress during these times.
- Learn how to manage your stress in positive ways- such as through exercise, relaxation, breathing, yoga, positive self-talk.
- Be aware of your thinking habits- challenge negative or unhelpful thoughts.
- Schedule 'time out' for yourself- pursue your hobbies or interests.
- Connect- foster and maintain your personal relationships. A sense of belonging and connection is important for your wellbeing.
- Relax- learn and use breathing techniques, progressive relaxation, visualisations or meditation to consciously relax your mind and body. Practice mindfulness by focusing your awareness on the present moment.
- Be mindful and self-aware- focus on how you are feeling and how you act, and the impact that can have on your colleagues and your students. Be supportive of others without passing judgement.
- Consider making specific times or days of the week for activities which support your wellbeing, so they become routine and are less likely to drop off at times of increased work demands or other competing priorities.
- Reflect- find a mentor through your workplace or professional networks to help you grow professionally. Take time to engage in reflective practices about your work and professional development.

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 23rd November the SRC reps discussed upcoming events, continued planning for the 2024 Give Me 5 week and created short videos displaying the Give Me 5 expectations.



RIDE or WALK to school



Ride to School Day.

A big thank you to all of the families who participated in Ride to School Day on Thursday 23rd November. Congratulations to 1/2L and 5/6O who had the most students walking, riding and scooting to school!!

Well done to:

- ❖ 1st place- 1/2L and 5/6O with 50% walking, riding and scooting to school.
- ❖ 2nd place- 3/4A with 33% walking, riding and scooting to school.
- ❖ 3rd place- 1/2FW with 30% walking, riding and scooting to school.

Lunchtime Club

Lunchtime Sports Club

Hi, this is Ariana, Antonia, Azalea and Sophia

Last Tuesday we held a running sports club during our lunch break. This week the focus was on tennis. Quite a few people came and everyone enjoyed it. We hope to see all of the children there next week. We have attached our sports clinic timetable below.

Timetable

<i>Weeks & dates :</i>	<i>Sports :</i>
<i>Week 2 10th of October</i>	<i>Tennis (passed) (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 3 17th of October</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 4 24th of October</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 5 31st of October</i>	<i>Running (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 6 7th of November</i>	<i>Public holiday</i>
<i>Week 7 14th of November</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 8 21st of November</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 9 28th of November</i>	<i>Tennis (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 10 5th of December</i>	<i>Fun day (PAC & basketball courts)</i>



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
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

IMPORTANT DATES

November:

- 29th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 29th Art Show Opens
- 30th Subway Lunch



Thursday, 30 November

Return Order by:

9:00 am Monday, 27 November

NO LATE ORDERS

CAN BE ACCEPTED

Please ensure correct money
enclosed and envelope sealed

December:

- 1st First Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:50pm
- 5th Christmas Carols evening 7:00pm
- 5th Art Show Closes
- 6th Final Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 8th End of the School Year Mass at 12:00 noon
- 8th Second Sunday of Advent Assembly at 12:00 noon
- 14th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony at 7.00pm
- 15th Last day of school - 3:10pm Guard of honour for Year 6 students

St Gerard's YLVOSHC

Program Information

Service Phone Number: 0402 192 685



Prices

Before School Care

(Permanent) \$15.00

(Casual) \$20.00

After Max CCS: \$2.89

After School Care

(Permanent) \$20.00

(Casual) \$25.00

After Max CCS: \$3.16

Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care

(Permanent) \$65.00

(Casual): \$72.50

After Max CCS: \$6.50



OPERATING TIMES

Before School Care

Hours:

6:45am – 8:45am

After School Care

Hours:

3:30pm – 6:30pm

Pupil Free Days:

7:00am – 6:00pm

Vacation Care:

7:00am – 6:00pm

* MAX CCS REBATE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED AS APPROXIMATES AND MAY VARY

YLV.COM.AU

Important Information



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

- Grace Yr 2



- Catholic Bible Study Course through St Gerard's Parish
- Dandenong Saints Basketball Club - new players wanted
- Diamond Dancers - Recreation and Competitive Dancing
- Springvale Indoor Sports (Term 4)
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Dandenong Scouts
- Cricket Blast - North Dandenong Cricket Club
- Cricket Blast - Noble Park Cricket Club
- Australian Girls Choir Open Days 19 November



Chicken Eggs For Sale

- St Gerard's would like to offer families the opportunity to purchase delicious organic eggs laid by our resident flock of chickens.
- You can purchase these eggs from the school office at a cost of \$6 per dozen.
- All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.
- Please message [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.