



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 2

07 February 2025



**Lighting the Way: Year 6
Leaders Begin Their
Mission at the Opening
Mass today**

This week in the Gospel, the children learned about the Presentation of the Lord, which celebrates Jesus as the Light of the World - a light that shines in the darkness. Our focus was to inspire everyone to be a light for others, brighten someone's day, and share the love of Jesus with those around us. We linked this message to our *Give Me 5* principle, *Be Your Best*, encouraging students to use these values in their everyday lives.

Dear Jesus,

Teach us to follow you
always,
For you are the light of the
world.

Help us to brighten
someone's
Day today!

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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<https://www.facebook.com/stgerardsps>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

Here we are at the end of our first full week of school for the year. This week saw all our 'regular' programs such as Italian, P.E., Visual Art and Performing Arts commence. We also had our first Before School Reading on Wednesday morning. A reminder that families are more than welcome to come from 8.30am on Wednesdays and start the day by reading together.

In addition to these 'regular' programs we had some very significant events.

Last night (Thursday) we had our **Give Me 5 Family Night** which was a fantastic way to start the year and bring our whole community together. Congratulations and thank you to all our 'teams' for your efforts. Our Give Me 5 principles of *Be Spirit Filled, Be Cooperative, Be Respectful, Be Positive and Be Your Best* were certainly on display. I would like to thank **Ms Nicole Fernandez for her leadership, organisation and coordination** and all our staff for their support.

Today we celebrated our **Beginning of School Year Mass in the church** and it was wonderful to see families come and join us. This Mass fills us with optimism for the year ahead and is the first time we celebrate our faith together as a whole school in 2025. As part of this whole school celebration, **our Year 6 Student Leaders were blessed and received their leadership badges**. We know that they will have a positive impact on St Gerard's throughout 2025 as they share their gifts, talents and enthusiasm while developing their leadership skills. Congratulations to all our Student Leaders, we are all very proud of you!

Now that we are all getting back into routines, a reminder **that our school gates are opened at 8.40am each morning. If children arrive or are dropped at school before this time there is a genuine safety concern as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds**. Also when it is raining there is no shelter. Therefore I am asking families to drop their children off after 8.40am or wait with them until the gates are opened.

At the end of the day I am requesting families in cars to reduce the 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, particularly just before the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars down the laneway and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues and frustration.** The current building works in McNab Court also adds to this challenge. **This situation will be monitored closely to see if there is a need for a change in procedures and processes. Please note that the pedestrian gate from McNab Court will be opened every afternoon to assist with our end of day dismissal.** I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

A further reminder to those families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan** that if there are changes to any aspect of the plan you need to **contact the School Office. It is vital that the information we have here at school is current and accurate and that the plan is not out of date.**

Lastly, information was sent out this week about our **St Gerard's AUSKICK (AFL) program**. This information is also contained in this newsletter. The coordinator of this program will be available after school next Friday to answer any questions.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Key Dates

Whole School Mass

Ash Wednesday: 5th March, 9:15 (Parish Mass)

Class/Level Mass

5/6O: Thursday 13th February, Parish Mass at 9:15am
5/6T: Thursday 20th February Parish Mass at 9:15am
3/4S: Thursday 27th February, Class Mass at 10:00am
3/4W: Thursday 20th March, Class Mass at 10:00am
1/2FB: Thursday, 20th February Parish Mass
1/2S: Thursday, 20th February Parish Mass

Reconciliation

Year 4S & 4WL: Thursday, 13th March at 10:15
Years 5/6O & 5/6T: Thursday, 27th March at 10:15am

Other Important Dates for Religion

4th March: Shrove Tuesday and Subway (optional)
17th March: Wear a **Touch of Green** with school uniform for St Patrick's Day
TBA: Delegation of Yr 6 leaders attend St. Patrick's Day Mass at Cathedral
31st March onwards: *The Passion Gallery Walk* for student and family participation
4th April: Parishioners and Family invited to attend *The Passion Gallery Walk* after Mass
17th April: Holy Thursday
18th April: Good Friday Day of Fast and Abstinence
19th April: Holy Saturday
20th April: Easter Sunday

Religious News



Project Compassion

Caritas Australia's yearly Lenten campaign unites countless Australians in the global fight against poverty, championing justice, and upholding dignity. On Ash Wednesday, Project Compassion Boxes will be handed out to every class, each assigned a specific fundraising target for the Lenten season.

The class that achieves the highest fundraising amount will enjoy a well-deserved free dress day as a reward! Stay informed about each class's progress in fundraising efforts through regular updates provided by the Social Justice Leadership Team during school assemblies.

Altar Servers

Altar service practice will resume on Thursday, February 13th, and will take place every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm in St. Gerard's Church. To be eligible for service, individuals must have completed their First Communion. This provides a wonderful opportunity for young members of the Church to participate in the liturgy and take on the responsibilities associated with altar service. For any inquiries regarding altar service practice or eligibility, please feel free to contact the parish office at 97924422.



Religious News

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

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

We extend an invitation to families to bring the Our Lady statue into their homes for a week, enhancing their family prayer experience. A brochure containing instructions for engaging in rosary prayer, along with sets of rosary beads, will be provided. If you are interested in taking the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs. O'Brien know.



Religious News

Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is teaming up with the school to lead Rosary prayer sessions during lunch breaks. These will take place during the first lunch on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.



The Passion Gallery Walk

We're excited to invite families to experience *The Passion Gallery Walk* starting March 31st. Each class will contribute two artworks inspired by their assigned Stations of the Cross, reflecting on The Passion.

Details:

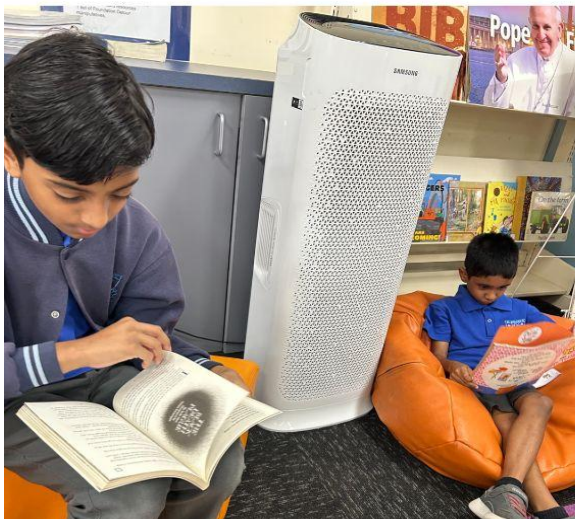
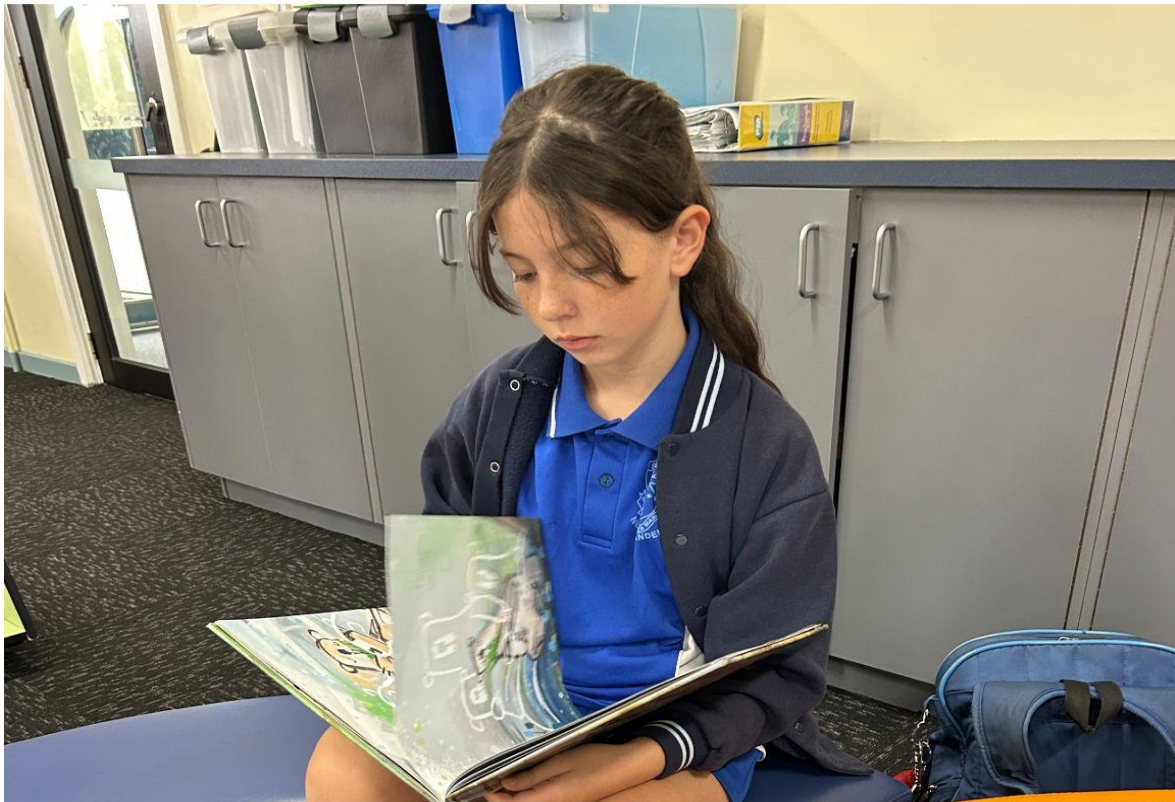
When: From March 31st
Where: PAC - The Passion Gallery Walk

Join us for this reflective journey as we share this meaningful time together. Stay tuned for more details!

Easter Gallery Walk

Families are invited to follow up on *The Passion Gallery Walk* by viewing the Resurrection artwork, which will be displayed after Easter.

READING BEFORE SCHOOL



READING BEFORE SCHOOL



Wellbeing



What's self-regulation?

Self-regulation is learning about your own feelings and emotions, understanding how and why they happen, recognising them (and those of others), and developing effective ways of managing them.

When children and young people learn to self-manage their emotions, they feel more confident, capable and in control. They have stronger relationships, are more able to pay attention, learn new things and can cope better with the normal stresses and disappointments of daily life.

- **How can you help?**

Children and young people need repeated experiences of having their needs met by a caring adult.

Warm, trusting and responsive care helps children to respond with appropriate emotions, internalise a positive view of themselves and others, and learn appropriate behaviour. Children and young people also develop self-management skills by watching and experiencing how other people manage their emotions. Here are some tips about how you can support the development of self-management in children and young people

Explicitly teach skills

- Talk about ways of managing upsetting situations.
- Help them to develop strategies to use when they're feeling out of control.
- Help them express their emotions in productive ways (for example, by drawing or acting out their feelings).
- Practise mindful breathing with older children and young people.
- Explore the immediate and long-term consequences of actions.
- Promote empathy by talking about emotions and understanding how people will have different reactions to events depending on their circumstances.
- Teach problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Wellbeing

Talk about emotions

- Acknowledge and respond to emotional communication.
- Role-model how you manage your own feelings.
- Talk about strategies to manage strong or uncomfortable emotions.

Promote a calm environment

Environment contributes to children and young people's self-management. Promote a calm, welcoming and encouraging environment by:

- providing structure and predictability
- establishing age-appropriate routines and limits
- avoiding competitive experiences for young children
- including relaxation breaks in the day
- encouraging ways to release tension they might be holding in their body
- demonstrating calmness and staying in control of your own feelings and behaviours – self-awareness allows you to maximise your positive interactions with children and young people and better manage situations where they 'push your buttons'.



And the Winner Is...

A huge thank you to all the families who attended our "Give Me 5 Night"! What an amazing evening it turned out to be. It was wonderful to see so many families come together and showcase their impressive cooking skills. The dishes presented were truly outstanding, making it a difficult decision for our judges.

After much deliberation, the judges have chosen **5/6T** as the overall winners of the 2025 Give Me 5 Night! Congratulations to 5/6T for their incredible effort and creativity in the kitchen. Well done to everyone who participated, and we look forward to next year's event!

Wellbeing



Thank You!!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to **Woolworths Dandenong Junction** for their generous donation of fresh produce and other grocery items for our Give Me 5 cooking competition. Your support played a significant role in making our Give Me 5 evening such a success. We truly appreciate your contribution and commitment to our school community!



Wellbeing

Give Me 5 News

Next week our Give Me 5 whole school focus is to be Respectful in all learning areas. You can do this by speaking appropriately and using manners, caring for property, taking turns, showing whole body listening and greeting people by their name. Students who are being Respectful in the learning areas will be rewarded with a raffle ticket.



St. Gerard's Give Me 5 Whole School Matrix

Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
Be Respectful	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the area neat and tidy 	Speak appropriately and use manners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give other users their privacy Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place rubbish in the bin Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden Include others Respect everyone's views and space
Be Co-operative	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the left hand side to enter 	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept rules Take turns Share and use equipment safely
Be Your Best	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
Be Positive	Never give up			Encourage others
Be Spirit filled	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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say sorry and forgive others Be kind



Give me 5 2025



Give me 5 Week



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

AUSKICK

St Gerard's AUSKICK 2025

St Gerard's is once again offering an exclusive AUSKICK (AFL) program for all students after school on Thursday afternoons from 3.30pm – 4.30pm on our school grounds.

This has proved to be a very popular program in the past and I am sure it will be again.

This will be a 5-week program starting on Thursday 20 February and continuing each Thursday until Thursday 20 March.

An online registration form is below and will need to be completed prior to the first session.

School staff will supervise the children from 3.30pm and children that attend OSHC will be escorted back to the room after the sessions.

If you have any questions, please contact myself via Seesaw or email

principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

This is a wonderful opportunity to develop some AFL and social skills and will hopefully lead to our children becoming part of the local AUSKICK Program.



come find your awesome

ST GERARDS PS AUSKICK CENTRE

5 weeks for only \$25!

Use 30E4BB37 to redeem the discounted price!

Begins 3:30pm, Thursday 20th of February 2025
at St Gerards Primary School - Oval

Scan the QR code to register!



Important Dates

February

- 12th Foundation Rest Day 2 of 4
- 12th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 13th Year 5/6 O Class Mass at 9:15am in the Church (Parish Mass)
- 19th Foundation Rest Day 3 of 4
- 19th Reading before school in the library commences at 8:30am
- 19th Rosary in the Church at 11.05am
- 20th Year 5/6 T Class Mass at 9:15am in the Church (Parish Mass)
- 20th AUSKICK (AFL) Week 1, 3:30pm - 4:30 pm
- 25th Year 3 Reconciliation Family Night 7.00pm
- 26th Foundation Rest Day - 4 of 4 Final
- 26th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 27th Year 3/4 S Class Mass
- 27th AUSKICK (AFL) Week 2, 3:30pm - 4:30 pm
- 28th St Gerard's Whole School Athletics Day at Mentone Athletics Track

March

- 4th SUBWAY Lunch
- 4th Shrove Tuesday
- 5th Ash Wednesday
- 5th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 6th AUSKICK (AFL) Week 3, 3:30pm - 4:30 pm
- **10th Labour Day Public Holiday**
- 13th Year 3 Reconciliation Reflection Day
- 12th - 24th NAPLAN Testing (Years 3 and 5)
- 12th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 13th Year 4 Reconciliation
- 13th AUSKICK (AFL) Week 4, 3:30pm - 4:30 pm
- 19th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 19th Rosary in the Church at 11.05am
- 20th Year 3/4 W Class Mass
- 20th Year 3 Reconciliation Celebration 6.30pm
- 21st Reconciliation Assembly 2.50pm
- 20th AUSKICK (AFL) Week 5 (FINAL), 3:30pm - 4:30 pm
- 21st National Ride to School Day
- 26th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 27th Year 5/6 Reconciliation
- 31st *The Passion Gallery* Walk starts

April

- 1st Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 2nd - 4th Year 5/6 Camp - CYC The Island
- 4th *The Passion Gallery* Walk finishes
- **4th End of Term 1, school finishes at 3.30pm**

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 **AFTER** contacting AGS 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



A reminder to families that arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark.

Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly near the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues. Another aspect of this is 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 cold and raining, however we need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Important Notes



Experience the
Mazenod advantage.

mazenod.vic.edu.au

Book a tour →



Bookings essential

2025 Open Day: Wednesday 5th March

2025 Tours: 1st May / 24th Jul / 5th Aug / 16th Oct

Year 7/2027 Applications Close Friday 15th August 2025

Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.


Pick-up From After-School

Parents are asked to please be prompt when picking up your child/ren after-school. If a ride is not here when school concludes, the student may be sent to aftercare instead of the office. Please remember school aftercare does have a cost involved and time will begin accruing at the end of the school day. If a student's ride has run into an unexpected delay, please call the main office to let them know.

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

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

YLV.COM.AU

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

Important Information



Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week including this weekend and January.

- SAJIN Yr 5
- SHAWN Yr 1



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- AFL Auskick - St Gerard's 5 Week Program
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer
- AFL Auskick - St Gerard's 5 Week Program



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 **\$8** 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.