



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 9

20 June 2025



Prayer for Our First Communicants

Loving God,

We thank You for the precious gift of the Eucharist and for the children in our school community who have received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion.

May their hearts be filled with joy, wonder, and peace. Help them to always feel close to You and to know that they are deeply loved.

Guide them as they grow in faith, and may their lives reflect the light and love of Jesus.

Bless their families, teachers, and all who walk with them on this sacred journey.

Amen.



@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,

Here we are at the end of Week 9 of Term 2 which leaves us with two weeks until the end of Semester One. Where has the time gone?! This week saw the start of some Lunchtime Clubs and the culmination of our First Communion preparation.

We had **two Lunchtime Clubs commence this week** with our children having the option to attend **Art Club** on Tuesday and **Library Club** on Wednesday. These clubs have been suggested by our Student Representative Council (SRC) and both were really well attended by children across all levels of the school. These 2 clubs will continue for the remainder of this term and we will then look to either offer some different clubs or continue with these two.

Our **First Communion Reflection Day** was held on Thursday, which saw our Year 4 children engaged in activities to further enhance their understanding of this **very special Sacrament of Initiation**. This is the final part of their preparation and we look forward to celebrating with them and their families and the St Gerard's Parish **this Sunday at the 10.30am Parish Mass**. As a school we will celebrate and congratulate these children at our Friday Assembly, which, as always, families are welcome to attend. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they undertake this important step in their faith journeys.

Our **Year 3 - 6 children had the next installment in a series of Hockey Clinics today (Friday)**. It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and skill development over the past few weeks and this may lead to some of our children taking up this game with a local club.

Current families are reminded that if you have a child who will be **starting school next year** to please come to the Office for an Enrolment Pack. Also, if you know families who are looking for a school in 2026 they are more than welcome to contact the School Office on 9791 7553 or email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

Finally, at Assembly today we recognised another one of our **'high flyers'**. Maya, who had her mid-year dancing presentation where she did very well in her ballet, jazz and tap performances. This involved a lot of rehearsing and working with her group. 'High flyers' is to recognise our children that have achieved something outside of our school. It could be in the sporting or performing arts fields or involvement in a community based program or initiative. High Flyers will be a part of our Assembly each week so if you would like your child(ren) recognised, please email myself principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au or send a message through Seesaw by Thursday 5.00pm. Please provide a brief description which will be read out. It is wonderful sharing with our school community the great things our children are doing.

Take care and God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Sacrament Dates, 2025

First Communion: (Grade 4)

Sunday, 22nd June First Communion, 10:30am 2025
Friday, 27th June First Communion Assembly in the PAC

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Tuesday, 24th June Confirmation Reflection Day (Yr 6 wear casual)
Thursday 26 June Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation at 10.00am
Saturday, 28th June Confirmation 5:30pm
Friday, 4th July 1:15pm Confirmation and end of Term Assembly in the PAC

Whole School Masses:

Friday 27th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

Reconciliation:

Years 5 & 6: Wednesday 25th June, 10:00am

Other Important Dates:

15th to 21st June Refugee Week
16th June, 2:50 Refugee Week Assembly

Altar Servers

Altar service practice takes 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: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

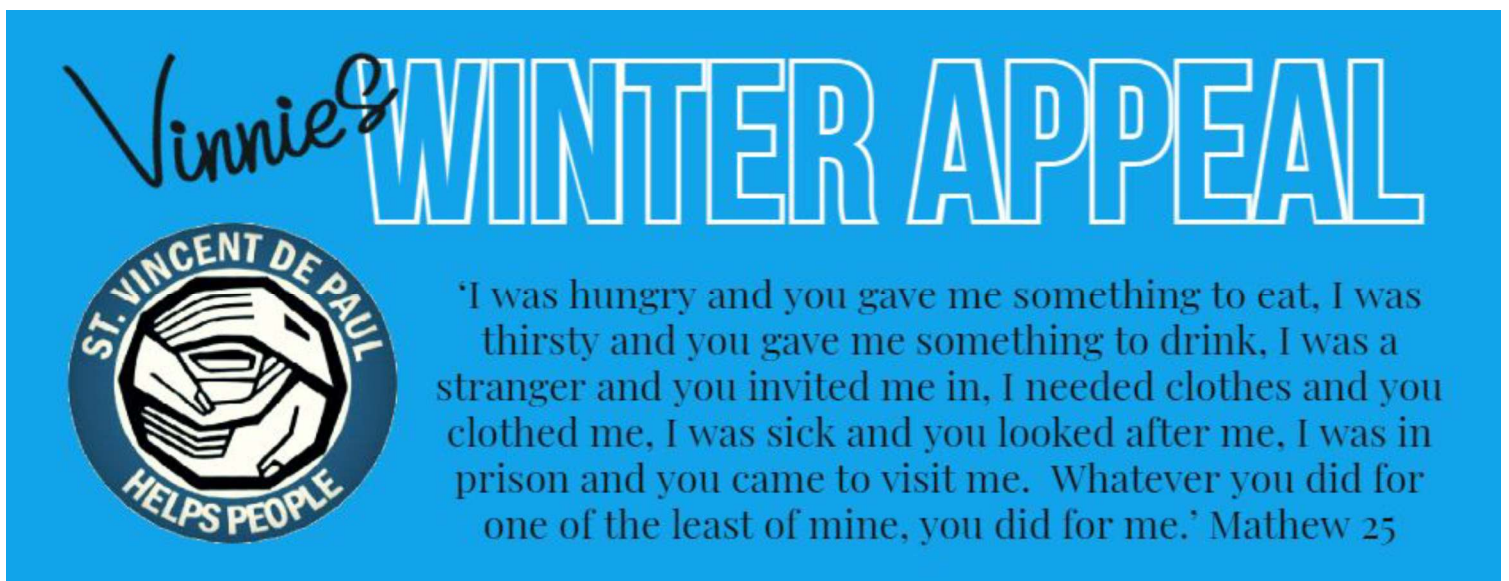
Families are welcome to take home the Our Lady statue for a week to support and enrich prayer time at home. It comes with a brochure on how to pray the rosary and some rosary beads. If families would like to take the statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.

Lunchtime Rosary

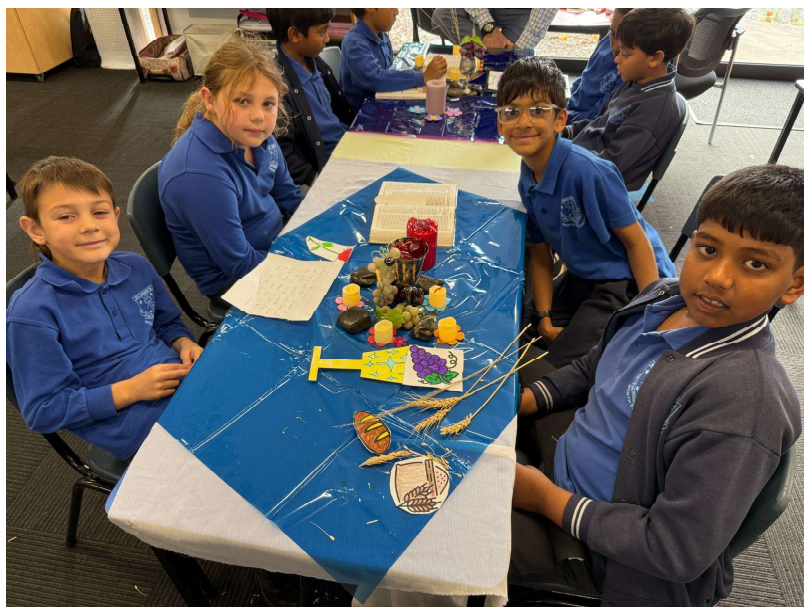
The Legion of Mary Group is working with the school to lead the Rosary during lunch breaks. These Rosary sessions will take place during the first lunch break on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

We're aiming to fill our food cart to the brim once again for the St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal! Starting in Week Two, our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will be collecting food donations right up until the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that brings in the most items will be rewarded with a casual dress day.



First Communion Reflection



Wellbeing



What do we mean by digital mental health?

Digital mental health refers to services delivered via digital platforms online, mobile or via the phone.

- It also encompasses the use of social media and online support communities, which allows people to connect with others who are going through similar experiences or who share their interests.
- Digital mental health services can be accessed in a confidential way – allowing children and young people to reach out for support when they may not be able to access support in the learning environment or broader community.
- Online support services have been shown to support children and young people's learning, development, social networks, mental health and wellbeing. It can also provide access to opportunities to connect with others, and gain support, through the development of new skill sets to complement and build on their existing social and emotional competencies.
- There are a range of online sites, services and supports available specifically for young people. The Be You [Wellbeing Tools for Students](#) is your essential guide to the online tools and other resources that will best support children and young people in taking care of their own mental health.

Wellbeing

Give Me 5 News



Give Me 5 News: Be Your Best in the Learning Areas

Next week, our school community will focus on one of our Give Me 5 values: *Be Your Best in the Learning Areas*. This initiative encourages students to maintain personal space, ask for help when needed, and keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves during learning activities.

What Does It Mean to Be Your Best in the Learning Areas?

Being Your Best means engaging fully in your learning, respecting personal space, and seeking assistance when necessary. These principles are essential for creating a positive and supportive learning environment for everyone.

Recognising Positive Behaviour

To celebrate and encourage these values, students who demonstrate being their best in the learning areas will be awarded a raffle ticket.

Let's work together to make our learning spaces a place where everyone can thrive.

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 Fridays assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn on the 13th June 2025 and the lucky winners are:

1. Jacob.A
2. Abel
3. Anthony
4. Gi'on
5. Anointed
6. Akash



Wellbeing



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.

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Wellbeing



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.

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Wellbeing



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*.

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EATING HEALTHILY TO MANAGE FEELINGS.

This term, the whole school focus is DIET.

The healthier you eat, the better you will cope with life's **big worries**.

The BEST FOODS to eat are fruit and vegetables AND Legumes.

Do you know that

Packed with antioxidants and vitamin K, **broccoli** helps protect brain cells and supports learning and memory. It's a true brain food!



Joke: Where do beans go on holiday?



The Carib-bean



RECIPES!!!!!!

With so many healthy fruits and vegetables, this recipe combines legumes and broccolini.

Cacio e pepe broccolini with crispy white beans.



Ingredients:

- 2 bunches broccolini, trimmed, halved lengthways
- 1/4 cup (60ml) extra virgin olive oil, plus extra to serve
- 2 x 400g cans cannellini beans, drained, rinsed
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- Handful chopped flat-leaf parsley leaves, plus extra leaves to serve
- 40g pecorino, finely grated, plus extra to serve (pecorino cheese can be substituted with parmesan cheese, if unavailable)
- Lemon wedges, to serve

Method:

1. Heat a large frypan over medium-high heat (or use a barbecue).
2. Rub broccolini in 1 tbs oil and cook for 3 minutes each side or until lightly charred. Transfer to a plate and scatter with a pinch of salt flakes.
3. Heat remaining 2 tbs oil in the frypan over high heat.
4. Add beans and cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 minutes or until beans start to catch on the pan.
5. Add garlic and 1/2 tsp salt flakes, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 8 minutes or until beans are crispy. (If the beans become dry during cooking add more oil, 1 tsp at a time.) Transfer bean mixture to a bowl, add broccolini and chopped parsley, toss to combine and divide among serving plates.
6. Scatter with pecorino and 1/2 tsp freshly ground black pepper.
7. Drizzle with extra oil, scatter with extra parsley and pecorino, and serve with lemon wedges.



PHOTOS

I hope you enjoyed cooking the Sri Lankan Vegetable Roti. This is my first ever attempt at cooking roti. **Verdict from my family: 'It tasted good!'**



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SHARE PHOTOS OF YOUR COOKING.

If you have a delicious recipe about **our next star vegetable - orange potato (kumara)** paired with a non vegetable hero - **salmon**, please send them to: mlewis@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

MiHIPS



PHOTOS

Look at how Miss Brown's family loved making the **Banana Weetbix Slice** recipe from last week. Her family's comments were,

'It tastes yummy.' and *'It tastes like a banana muffin.'*



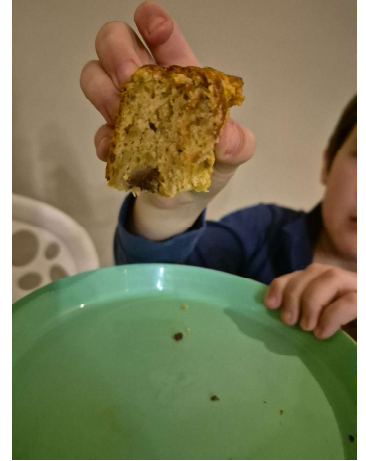
**crushing
Weetbix**



**mashing
bananas**



**out of the
oven**



**Verdict:
tasty!**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN THE NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE SHARE PHOTOS OF YOUR COOKING.**

If you have a delicious recipe about **our next star vegetable - broccoli**, please send them to: mlewis@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

3/4WL Project

A few snaps of our open afternoon which we invited parents in to see our working rollercoasters.



Reading Before School

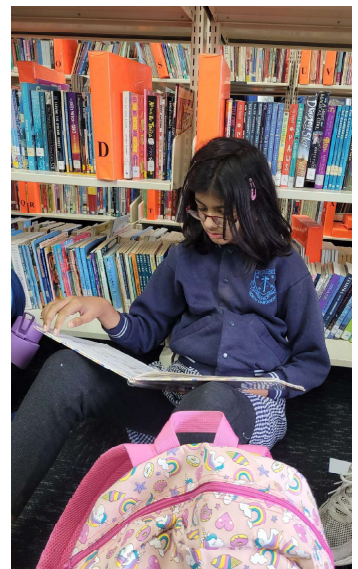
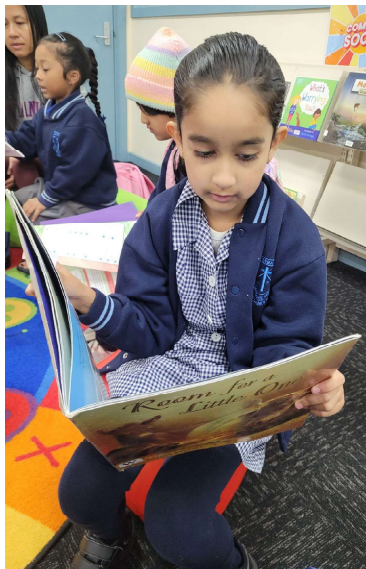
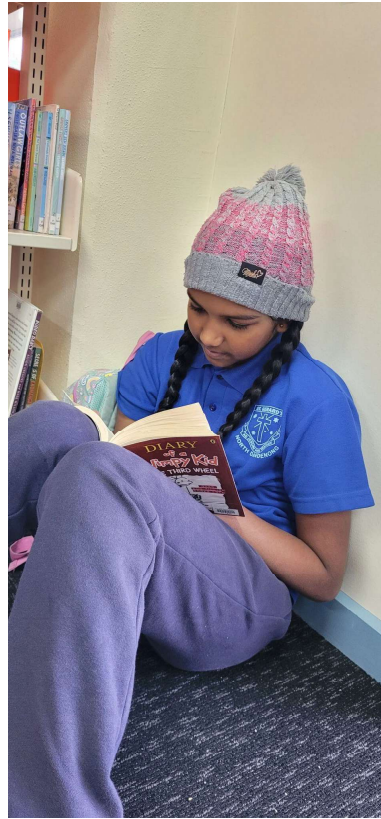
ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

READING BEFORE
SCHOOL

EVERY
WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM

Join Mrs O'Brien in the
library for some quiet
reading time with a good
book and receive a
Reading Before School
raffle ticket.



LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS



LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week in Library Club, students took part in a fun scavenger hunt exploring different types of books around the library. Congratulations to Ariana, Mila and Sophia for winning Part 1, and to Lemilo and Ariana for tying as winners in Part 2!

LIBRARY SKILLS AND GOLD PASS ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to all pupils who have earned their Gold Pass by completing either a refresher session or three library training sessions. You should be extremely proud of your efforts and dedication.

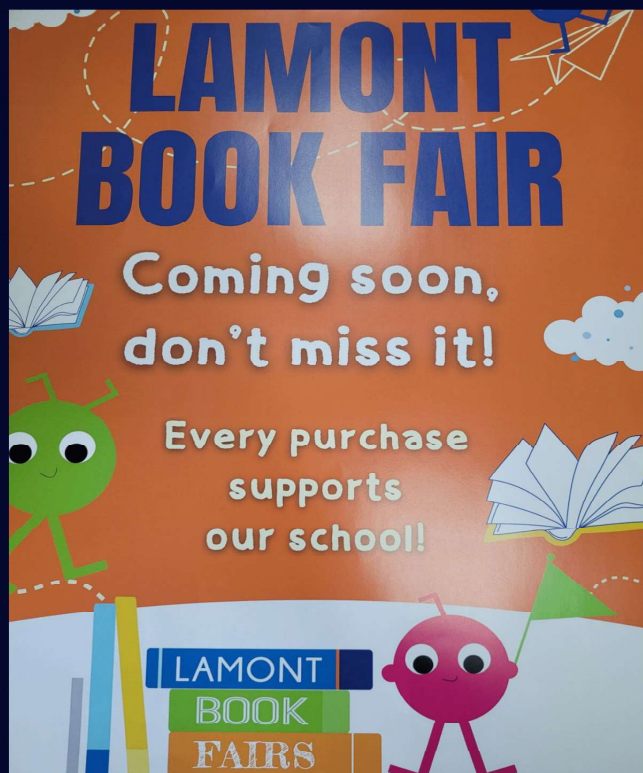
Below is a list of our Gold Pass recipients - well done! 3/4's: Naomi. Evolet, Maleah. Roy, Layla, Rex, Dhanvin, Gurnishaan, Laura, Dia, Joy, Evelyn, Ethan, Kai, Gi'on. 5/6's: Victoria, Chudier, Katalina, Anjali, Osha, Sajin, Lemilo, Kahlia, Nevyn, Chelsea, Anjanna, Jehan, Gabriel, Akash, Sophia, Julian, Jerome, Azaria, Elijah, Riona, Alfie, Azalea, Dekota, Mila, Joanne, Vara, Ariana and Alleah.

REMINDER

Please support your child in returning library books on time by ensuring they use a library or book bag. Last week of borrowing.



Book Fair



**AUGUST 26th to
SEPTEMBER 2nd**

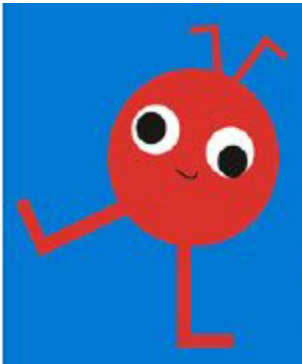
To complement St Gerard's Primary School's reading and writing focus, we are again hosting a Lamont Book Fair.

Lamont Book Company is a local book supplier, which gets its books from a variety of publishers. This means that there will be a large range of quality books to choose from.

The Book Fair is arriving on 26th August to 2nd September

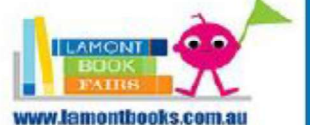


Please support our school



We hope that everyone will help to make this a very successful Lamont Book Fair.

**GREAT BOOKS AT
GREAT PRICES**



Important Dates / Info

June

- 22nd First Communion at 10:30am (Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ)
- 24th Confirmation Reflection Day
- 25th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 26th Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation
- 28th Sacrament of Confirmation 5:30pm

July

- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- **3rd Subway Lunch**
- **4th End of Term 2 - School finishes at 3.30pm**

Paying School Fees

St Gerard's understands the financial commitment associated with providing a quality education for your child. Recognising the diverse needs of our families, the school has a convenient and flexible solution for paying school fees through our payment schedules accessible via the office.

If you are having trouble paying or require assistance in setting up your payment schedule, please contact the office who will be more than happy to assist you in setting up a suitable payment arrangement.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in providing the best possible education for your child at St Gerard's School.

Updating Payment Details

Parents are reminded to contact the school office if there are any changes to your payment details. This includes expired credit cards or updated bank account information. Keeping these details current helps ensure your payments are processed smoothly.

Outstanding School Fees

If you have not yet made any payments toward school fees, we kindly ask that you begin doing so as soon as possible to avoid falling behind.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please don't hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Principal Paul Cowan. We are here to support you and work together on a solution.

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.**

The Subway logo, featuring the word "SUBWAY" in a bold, sans-serif font. The "S" is yellow and the "UBWAY" is white, all on a green background.

3rd July, 2025

3-Way
Conversations
will be held on
29th July.
Invitations will
be sent out
shortly.

A promotional poster for Mazenod College. It features two male students in school uniforms (dark blazers, white shirts, and blue ties) standing against a dark background. The student on the left is holding a violin. In the top right corner, there are logos for "Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools" and "MAZENOD COLLEGE". The main text reads "Experience the Mazenod advantage." in a large, elegant serif font. Below this is the website "mazenod.vic.edu.au" in a smaller, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there is a QR code with the text "Book a tour ->" above it and "Bookings essential" below it. At the bottom right, there is a list of dates: "2025 Open Day: Wednesday 5th March", "2025 Tours: 1st May / 24th Jul / 5th Aug / 16th Oct", and "Year 7/2027 Applications Close Friday 15th August 2025".

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

Notice Board



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

- Lemilo Yr 6



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Nazareth Secondary College School Tour Dates and 2027 Year 7 Application Dates
- North Dandenong MASALA Junior Football club (AFL)
- Mazenod College Open Day & School Tours Info
- Goodstart Early Learning - Princes Highway



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.