



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Term 3, Week 07

ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

5 September 2025

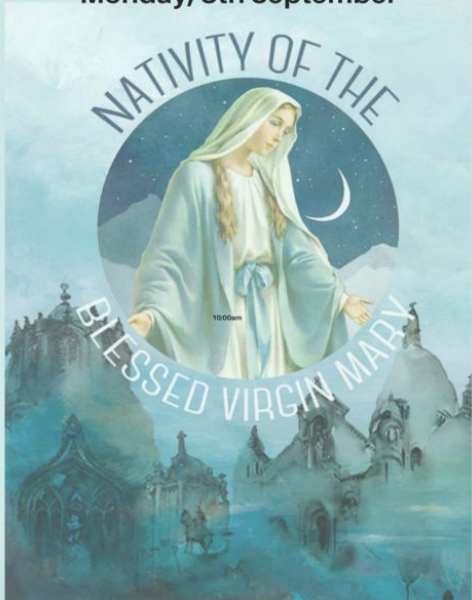


Honouring our fathers with love and laughter at
Father's Day Breakfast

The Nativity of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

10:00am

Monday, 8th September



Whole School Living Rosary after Mass in the PAC

Father's Day Prayer

Loving God,

We give thanks for the gift of fathers and father figures
in our lives.

Bless them with patience, wisdom, and strength as they
guide and care for their families.

May they be examples of kindness and love, reflecting
Your care for us.

We remember too, those fathers who are no longer
with us, and we hold them in our hearts with gratitude.

Bless all families with joy, unity, and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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,

This week saw some of our children represent our school, others celebrate mass with our parish and we acknowledged and thanked some significant people in the lives of our children.

On Tuesday we had **29 children represent our school at the Dandenong District Athletics Carnival** at Ross Reserve in Noble Park. These athletes were selected based on their performances at our school Athletics Carnival which was held earlier in the year. I congratulate all of them on this success and based on their performances, we have 4 children that progress to the next level of competition which is early in Term 4.

On Thursday our Year 1/2 classes attended the 9.15am Parish Mass. This is an important part for our children's faith development as they get a greater sense of parish and that celebrating mass doesn't only occur on Sunday. It is also wonderful to see the joy on the faces of our parishioners when our children take part.

Today (**Friday**) we had our **Father's/ Father Figures Breakfast** to acknowledge and thank the important and significant role these people play in the lives of our children. It was wonderful to see so many fathers (and some grandfathers) enjoying each other's company and playing with their children. I would like to wish all our fathers and father figures a happy **Father's Day** for this coming Sunday. The love, support and guidance of a father is lifelong and the positive impact they can have should never be underestimated. It is truly a blessing to be a father. **Thank you also to our staff for their early start to the day to organise and serve breakfast.**

As mentioned last week, our school is participating in the **2025 Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)**. MACSSIS is an annual process whereby schools listen to the thoughts and feelings that students, families and staff have about how their school is performing and where it can improve. These surveys also help inform the ongoing improvement of schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. **An email has been sent to all families with a link to the survey and your family's PIN code for the parent survey.** Students in Years 4 - 6 will complete their survey at school in the coming weeks. **I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in advance.**

With the arrival of Spring and the **weather starting to change** it is a time when we do see **an increase in the number of children away through illness**. I appreciate that it can be challenging to balance work and other commitments with caring for children when they are unwell, however **if your child is unwell please refrain from sending them to school**. It is hard for them to learn and exposes other children and staff to illness. I thank you for your support in this area.

Looking to next week, our **Family Maths Night is next Thursday 11 September from 6.00pm - 7.15pm**. This is always a wonderful night which helps families, children and staff share and experience Maths activities which can be used at home to support learning in this vital area of the curriculum. I look forward to seeing you all there. We also have our **Whole School Living Rosary next Monday 8 September to celebrate the feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. **Families and parishioners are welcome to come and join us in the PAC at 10.00am**. This is a powerful way for us to celebrate our faith together.

A further reminder that as part of our SunSmart Policy, children are required to wear a school hat when outside from 1 September - 30 April. **Therefore, children have to wear a school hat when outside for any school activity**. School hats can be purchased from our Uniform Supplier LOWES at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre.

Lastly, in sad news, I ask that you please keep Fr Shanthaiah and his family in your prayers. Father has travelled to India due to the death of his brother, Balaraju Sylvester MARNENI. The Funeral was held on Wednesday in Hyderabad. I was able to contact Fr Shanthaiah and send our condolences, thoughts and prayers which he greatly appreciated. We will make sure as a school that we support Fr Shanthaiah on his return.

Happy Father's Day to all our dads on Sunday.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Level Mass

Yrs 3/4S & 3/4W

Thursday 11th September, 9:15am

Reconciliation

Yrs 5/6O and 5/6T:

Thursday, 11th Sept at 10:15am

St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

Next term, as part of our Feast Day celebrations and Mission Month activities, we'll be holding our much-loved Talent Quest! If any students would like to be involved, auditions will take place in the final week of this term.



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

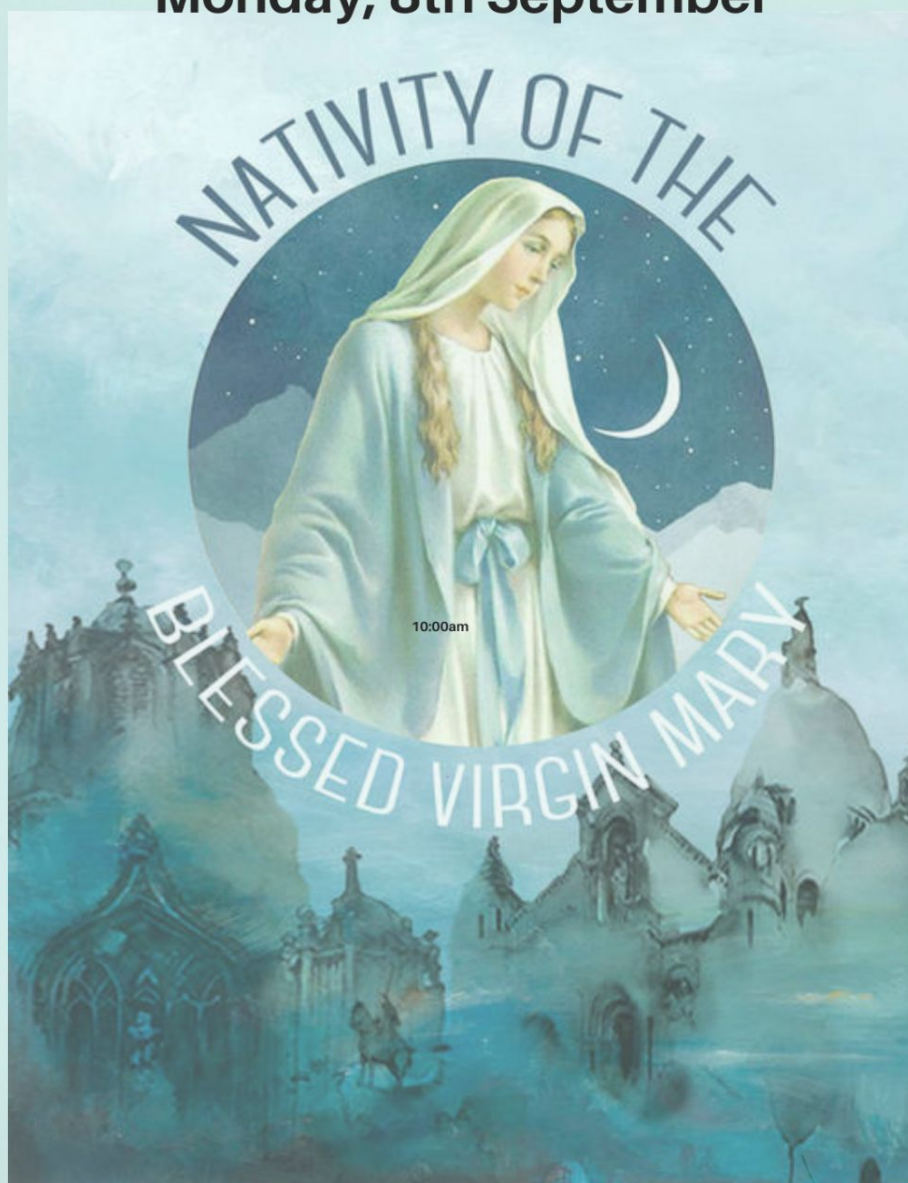
The Legion of Mary Group is working with the school to lead the Rosary during lunch breaks. These Rosary sessions will take place during the first lunch break on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

Religion

The Nativity of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

10:00am

Monday, 8th September



Whole School Living Rosary after Mass in the PAC

Wellbeing



How does exercise affect mental health and wellbeing?

Physical activity promotes many aspects of child and adolescent development, including social and emotional skills, as well as physical development of motor skills.

It also supports mental wellbeing. We know that high levels of inactivity can lead to a greater risk of both physical and mental health problems.

Physical activity:

- can increase levels of serotonin and endorphins; the neurotransmitters involved in regulating and improving mood
- promotes sleep – which also helps regulate moods, increase energy levels and improve memory and learning
- increases the connections between the brain neurons, which improves memory and learning capacity
- pumps blood to the brain to boost mood, concentration and alertness
- promotes relaxation by reducing skeletal muscle tension
- provides children and young people with an outlet for excess energy and frustration, which relieves tension
- provides an opportunity for children and young to socialise and meet new people, reducing loneliness and isolation
- improves motor and cognitive skills, which boosts self-esteem
- distracts children and young people from negative thoughts.

These benefits also serve to improve classroom behaviour and promote a more positive learning environment.

Wellbeing



Give Me 5 News

Next week our Give Me 5 whole school focus is to Be Cooperative in the playground. You can do this by following directions, moving safely, playing fairly and sharing and using equipment safely. Students who are being cooperative in the playground will be rewarded with a silver band.

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

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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Garden Club

A Productive Week in the Patch!

This week in Garden Club, our enthusiastic young gardeners were lucky to get outside just before the rain set in and what perfect timing it was! The rainfall was a welcome gift for our growing plants and a great way to finish off a busy session in the garden.

The students worked together to continue tying up our snow plants, giving them the extra support they need to thrive. We also planted capsicums, and to help retain moisture in the soil (especially with the warmer days ahead), we added a layer of mulch around the new plantings.

Looking ahead, next week we'll be planting tube stock along the side of the classroom as part of our *Wurrunderji Way Landcare Grant* project. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the school's sustainability efforts and learn more about caring for our local environment.

As always, we had a lovely time in the garden, full of fun, teamwork, and lots of learning.

Happy gardening!



Literacy F - Yr 1 & 2

Indigenous Literacy Day – Learning Through Story with Foundation, Grade 1 and 2

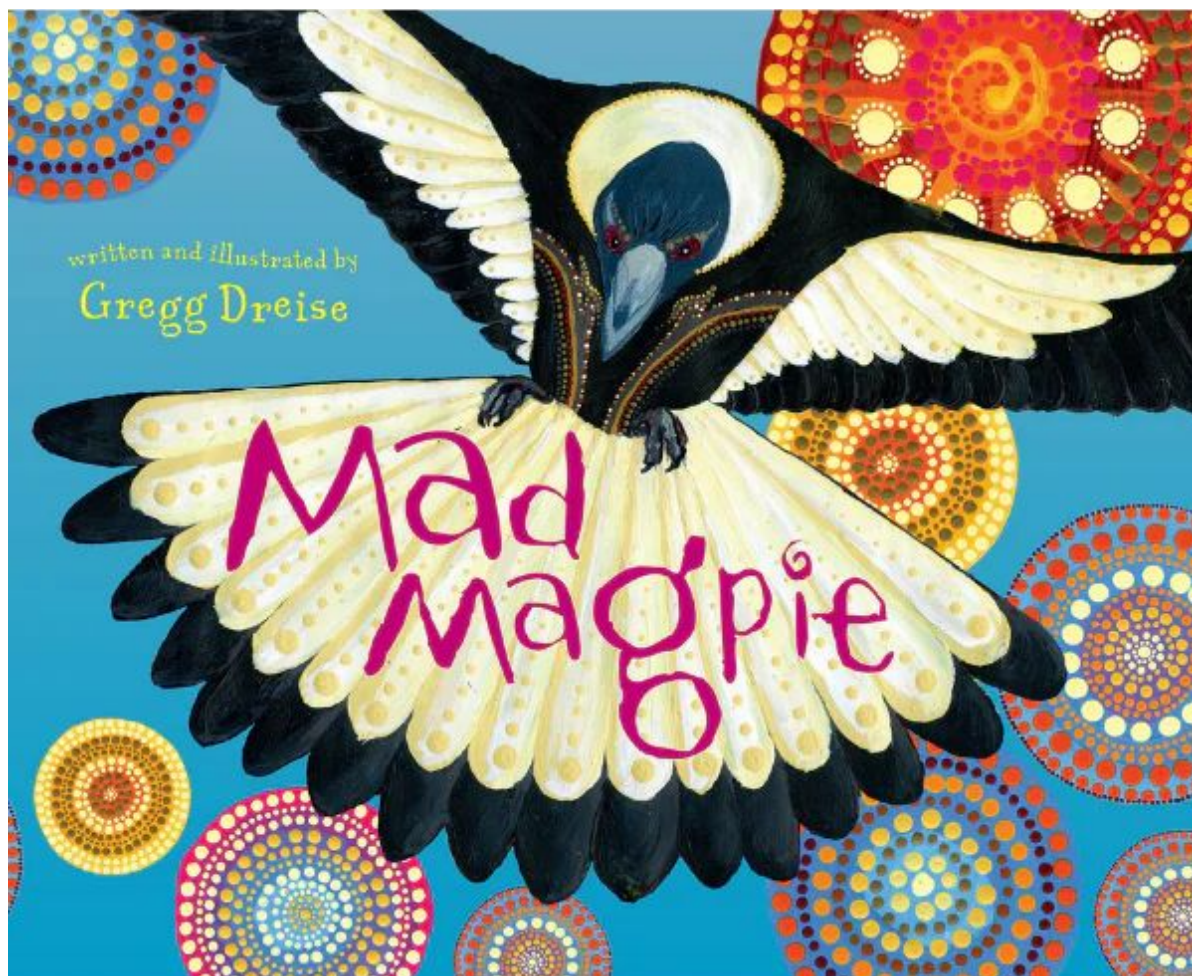
To celebrate Indigenous Literacy Day, our Foundation, Grade 1 and 2 students read *Mad Magpie* by award-winning author and illustrator Gregg Dreise. This engaging and beautifully illustrated story is the third in a series of morality tales inspired by the wisdom of the author's Elders.

Mad Magpie tells the story of Guluu, an angry magpie who is teased by a group of butcher birds. As Guluu's anger grows, he seeks advice from his Elders, who encourage him to stay calm like the river, ignore the teasing, and find strength within. Guluu's journey teaches an important message about managing emotions and responding to unkind behaviour with inner strength.

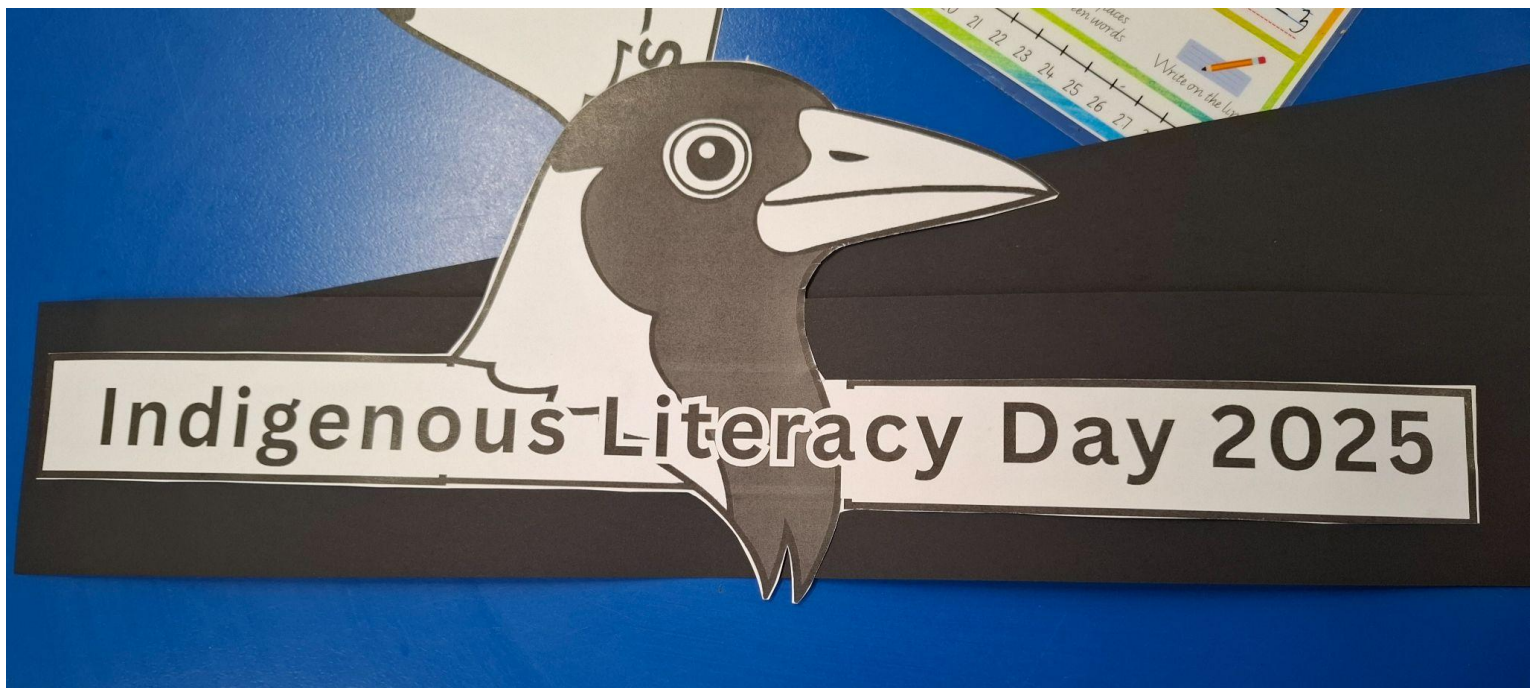
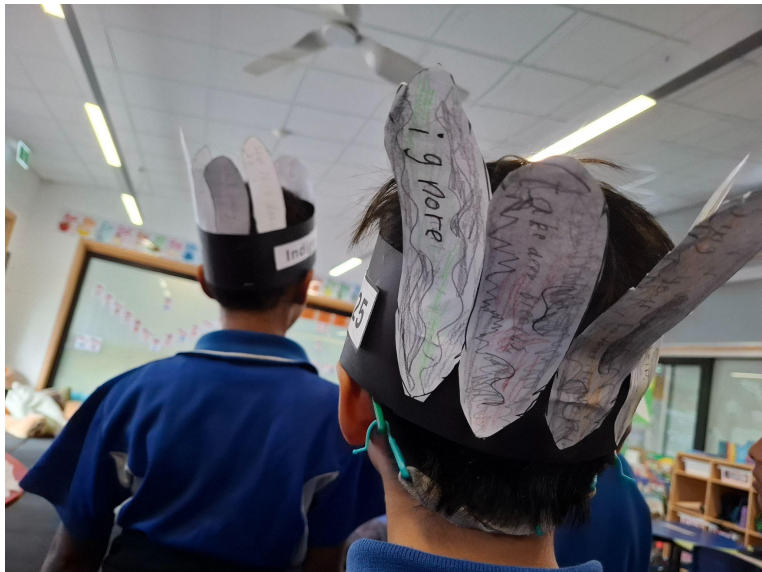
After reading the story, students reflected on how they could stay calm in challenging situations. They discussed strategies such as walking away to a calm area, taking deep breaths, and counting slowly.

To finish the activity, students created their own magpie headbands, each decorated with four feathers. On each feather, they wrote a calming strategy they can use whenever they're feeling upset or frustrated.

This thoughtful and creative activity helped students connect to the story's message while learning valuable emotional regulation strategies, all while recognising the importance of Indigenous voices and storytelling.



Literacy F - Yr 1 & 2



Family Maths Night

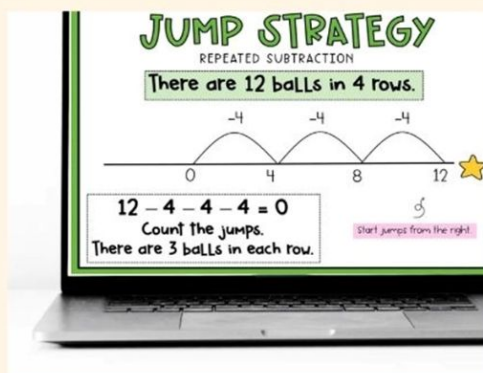
FAMILY MATHS NIGHT 2025

Come and explore the written strategies with your children and their teachers.

**THURSDAY 11
SEPTEMBER**

6:00 - 7:15 pm

Meet at St Gerard's Library



Father's Day

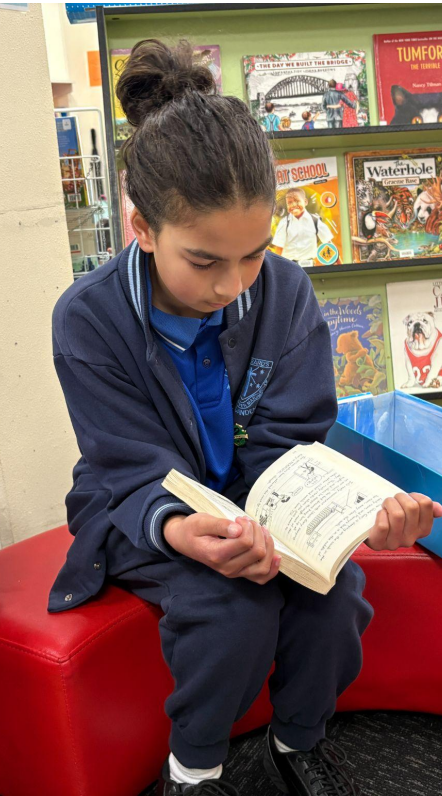


St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

Father's Day



Reading Before School



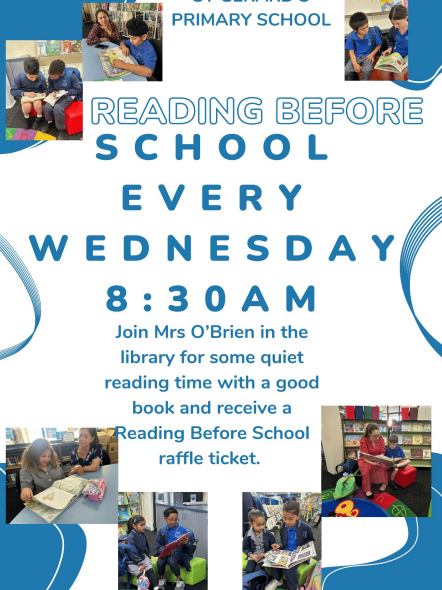
ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**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 Part I of a 3-Part Challenge to help the aliens of Xertz become good library citizens, as well as a Bookmark Decorating activity.

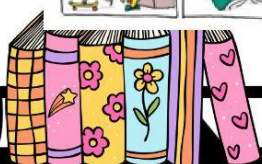
Congratulations to Mila, Ryan, Joanne and Riona, who completed the challenge in record time!

It was wonderful to hear their ideas about what it means to be a good library citizen. Each student worked independently to solve the library door code, showing great perseverance and problem-solving skills, especially when matching up the tricky sentences with their corresponding picture.

REMINDER

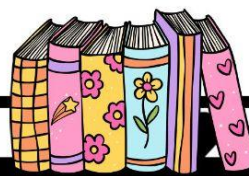
Please support your child in returning library books on time by ensuring they use a library or book bag.

THE LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO BOOK ETIQUETTE



LIBRARY

LIBRARY CLUB



LIBRARY

LAMONT BOOK FAIR

HAS OFFICIALLY
CLOSED!!!

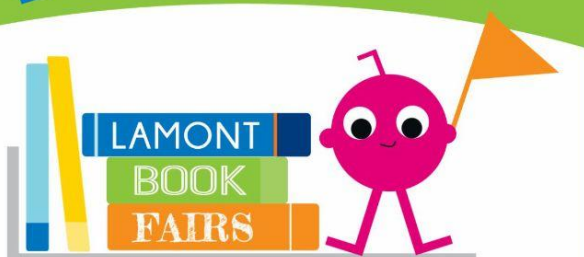
THANK YOU ALL SO
MUCH!!!

BOOKS FOR EVERYONE

Every purchase

supported our school!

UNTIL NEXT YEAR! :)_



Important Dates / Info

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 Dates / Info

WELCOME!
TO
LOWES

We're thrilled to welcome
**ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
as the newest
member of the Lowes family!

We look forward to supporting your school,
families, and community with all your
uniform needs.

INSTORE AT LOWES FOUNTAIN GATE

WESTFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE
SHOP 2012/352 PRINCES HIGHWAY,
NARRE WARREN, 3805,

LOWES
SCHOOLWEAR

FROM **MONDAY**
14TH JULY

WELCOME!
TO
LOWES

EARN 5%
REWARD POINTS
THAT NEVER EXPIRE

ZERO INTEREST
ON ALL PRODUCTS

5% INSTANT
SAVINGS

FIVE 20% OFF
SALES EVENTS
PER YEAR

GET EVERYTHING
YOU NEED NOW

With your Lowes Zero Card you will receive 5% discount on every purchase. Receive 5% in reward points to redeem, plus great features and benefits. For more information please contact EZY-Way on 1300 156 937 or zero@lowes.com.au

WEAR NOW, PAY LATER.



YLV are always happy to hear from families, carers, and members of the local school community. If you would like to make an enquiry about our services, including After School Care, Before School Care, Pupil-Free Day and Vacation Care, please call Marina 0402 192 685

ylv.com.au to register

Important Dates / Info

2025 Term 3 Dates

September

- 8th The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Whole School Living Rosary
- 9th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 10th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 11th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 11th 11:05 Rosary in the Church
- 11th Ride to School Day
- 11th maths Family Night 6:00 - 7:15
- 12th Whole School Assembly at 2.50pm in the PAC
- 16th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 17th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 18th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 18th Subway Lunch
- 18th Footy Day, Parade at start of the day followed by longest kick
- **18th End of Term 3 for children at 3.30pm**
- **19th School Closure Day**



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.**

Notice Board



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

- Nyadut Yr 1
- Andrea Yr 3
- Mia Yr 1
- Dia Yr 4



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- St John's Regional College Term 3 OPEN Days
- Nazareth Secondary College School Tour Dates and 2027 Year 7 Application Dates
- Mazenod College Open Day & School Tours Info
- Goodstart Early Learning - Princes Highway
- Springvale Indoor sports
- Lyndale & Surrounds AUSKICK Centre



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.