



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

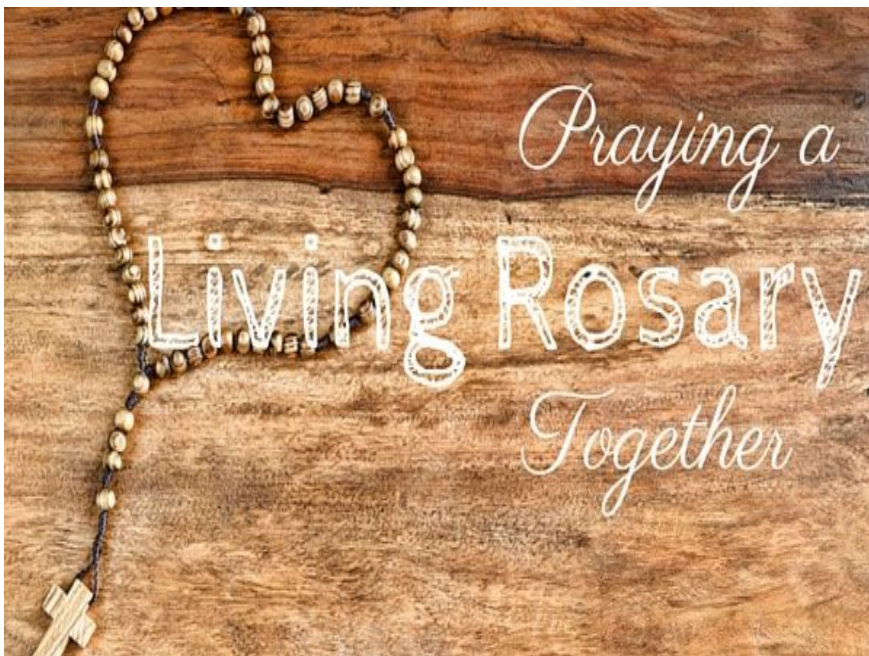


Term 3, Week 08

ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

12 September 2025

A Living Rosary of Love for Our Lady's Birthday



Prayer for the Nativity of Our Lady

Dear Mary,
As we joined together in our Living Rosary, we celebrated the wonder of your birth and the light you bring into our lives.
Your life shows us how to walk with love, faith, and humility, and to share God's joy with others.
Bless our families, our school, and all who turn to you in hope and prayer.
May the beauty of this day inspire us to live with kindness, courage, and a heart open to God's love, following your example always.

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 with one week to go before the end of Term 3, which is hard to believe!

In addition to our 'regular' activities, we have had a week where we have celebrated our faith as a whole school and come together as a school community to look at Mathematics.

On **Monday**, to celebrate the Feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we had our **Living Rosary**. This is when we gather as a whole school and pray the Rosary together. I would like to thank our Year 3 - 6 children for leading us and the prayerful way that our school engaged in this special aspect of our faith. I would also like to thank Mrs Stack for her leadership and coordination to ensure this was such a meaningful time.

On Thursday our **Year 3/4 classes attended the 9.15am Parish Mass**. This is an important part for our children's faith development as they have celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation and some have made their First Communion. By attending weekday mass they are provided with the opportunity to be more involved in parish life.

On Thursday evening we had our annual **Family Maths Night**. This again proved to be 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 would like to thank Ms Sonno and our classroom teachers for making this such a successful evening for our children and families.

A further reminder that 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 next week. **I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in advance.**

Looking to next week, we have our annual **Footy Day next Thursday** where we encourage everyone to wear their AFL footy colours to school. We will have a **parade at 9.00am in the PAC** followed by a longest kick competition. Families are more than welcome to come along and be part of this occasion.

Lastly, a reminder that **Term 3 finishes for students next Thursday 18 September at 3.30pm** as we have a school Closure Day on Friday.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

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.



Years 3/4 gathered at the altar yesterday, praying the Our Father together during Mass

Wellbeing



How do decision-making skills develop?

Children and young people's decision-making is strongly influenced by the expectations and values they learn from those around them.

This occurs when they:

- observe others (particularly those close to them)
- hear about and discuss values
- have opportunities to make choices and experience their consequences.

Young children regularly choose how they'll behave, which toys or games they'd like to play with, which books they would like to read, or which television shows they want to watch. As they get older, children make bigger decisions that often involve their family, friends and schoolwork. The kinds of choices children and young people make affect their wellbeing, relationships and success.

Young children have some skills for making decisions, but they don't yet have the experience to understand complex adult situations. As their brain grows, a child is more able to hold things in their mind and remember what they've learned. They also improve the way they manage their thinking and feelings, control impulsive behaviour, think about time and plan ahead, and evaluate long-term versus short-term goals. All these skills help children become better at taking action and keeping things on track.

Ride to School Day

A big thank you to all of the families who participated in Ride to School Day on Thursday 11th September. Congratulations to **3/4W** who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

Well done to:

- 1st place- 3/4W with 71% riding, scooting or walking
2nd place- 5/6O and 1/2FB with 57% riding, scooting or walking
3rd place- 5/6Tw with 50% riding, scooting or walking



Living Rosary



Wellbeing _ R U OK

National R U OK? Day – Thursday, 11th September

On Thursday, 11th September, our school participated in **R U OK? Day**, a national day of action dedicated to reminding everyone that every day is the right day to ask, “Are you OK?” and to support those who might be struggling.

Each year level engaged in meaningful discussions and activities to build awareness around mental health, friendship, and the importance of looking out for one another.

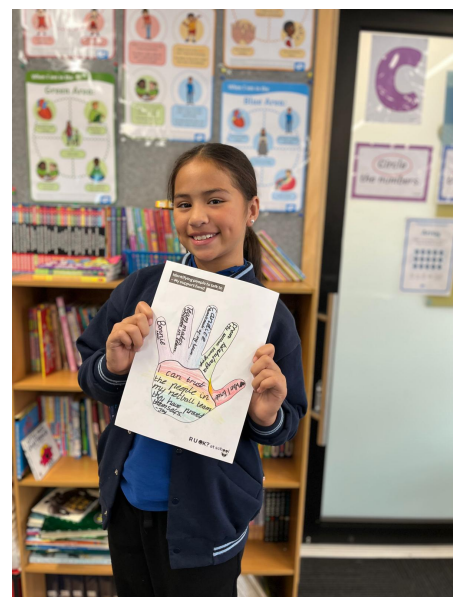
Our Junior students explored what it means to be a good friend. Through stories and group activities, they learned how to recognise when a friend might need support, how to listen with care, and how to confidently ask, “Are you OK?” They practised using kind words and active listening skills to build stronger friendships.

The Year 3/4 students focused on identifying safe and trusted people they can turn to when they’re not feeling OK. They created a “Helping Hand” by writing the names of five people they trust and can talk to when they need support. This simple but powerful visual reminder encourages students to seek help and know they’re never alone.

Our senior 5/6 students dove deeper into emotional awareness and genuine communication. They explored how to ask someone how they’re feeling in an authentic way, how to recognise when a friend might be upset, and the importance of being a good listener. The students also discussed the difference between **empathy and sympathy**—learning how to truly put themselves in someone else’s shoes and respond with understanding and care.

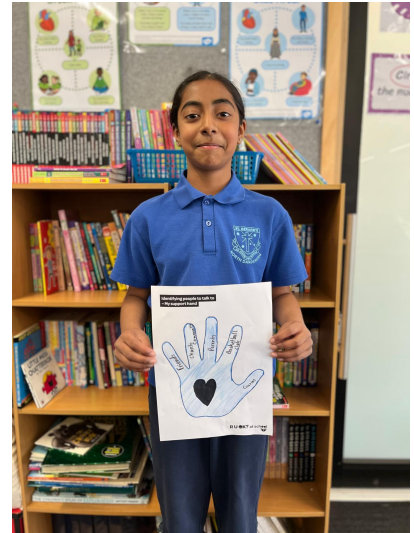
R U OK? Day is more than just a one-day event—it’s a reminder to keep checking in with one another, listen without judgement, and offer support when it’s needed.

Let’s keep the conversation going.

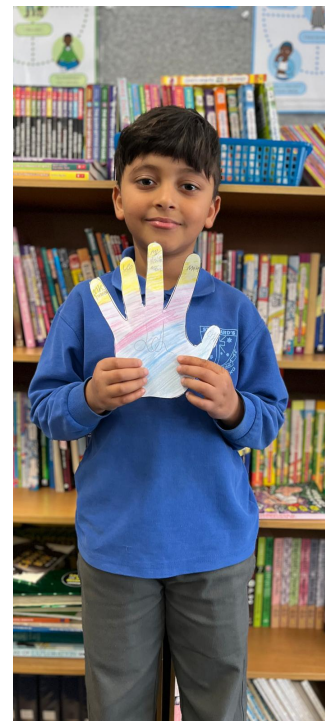
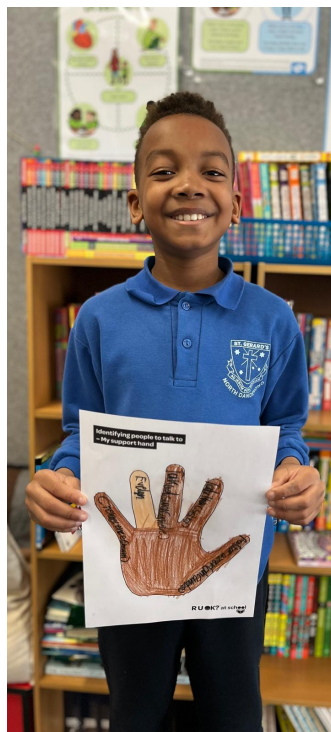
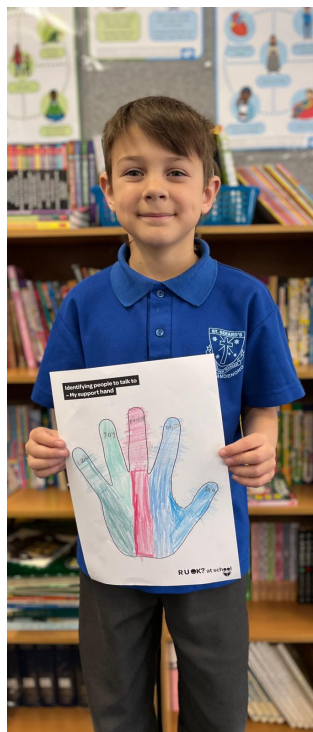
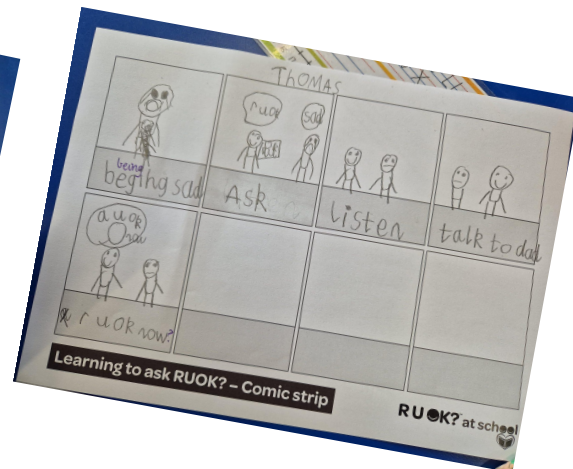


Wellbeing _ R U OK

When our friends are sad, frustrated, angry, or just not themselves, its important that we try to help them, and ask, 'are you OK?'.



RUOK?
A conversation could change a life.



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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Landcare

Wurundjeri Way Landcare Grant – Garden Update

This week, our entire school community came together to get their hands dirty for a great cause – continuing the development of our Wurundjeri Way Garden, supported by the Landcare Grant.

With sleeves rolled up and smiles all around, students from Foundation to Grade 6 helped to plant 96 native tube stock plants, bringing even more life and colour to our growing garden space.

Our senior students led the way, working tirelessly to prepare the soil for planting. Then, students from Foundation to Grade 4 each had the opportunity to plant native species outside their own classrooms, taking pride in creating a space they'll see grow every day.

A special shoutout goes to our Lunchtime Garden Club, who continued to work throughout their lunch breaks to make sure each and every plant was happy and settled in its new home.

But we're not done yet! The next exciting steps for Wurundjeri Way include:

- Spreading mulch to protect and nourish the new plants
- Laying a new path using pebbles
- Installing nesting boxes, beautifully handcrafted by our Grandparents and Special Friends
- Adding bird baths to provide a refreshing stop for local wildlife

A huge thank you to Mr Cooke and Mrs Tanya for their incredible support and hard work on the day. We are so grateful for the passion and care they bring to our garden project.

We can't wait to see what wildlife our thriving native garden will attract as we continue to create a sustainable, vibrant space for both our school and the local environment.

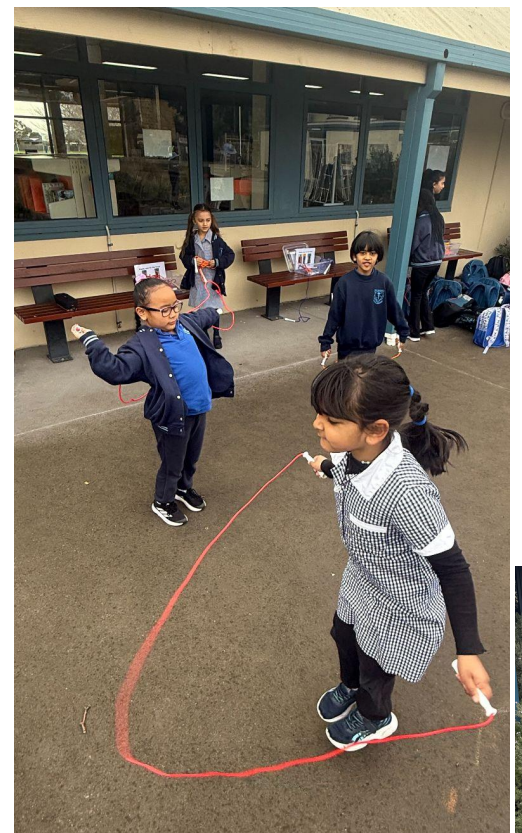
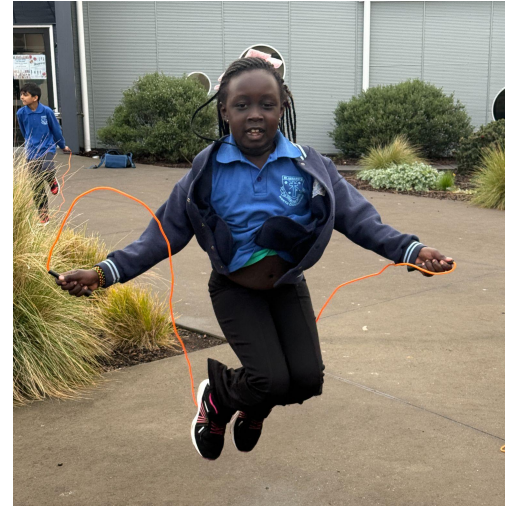
Watch this space – Wurundjeri Way is blooming beautifully!



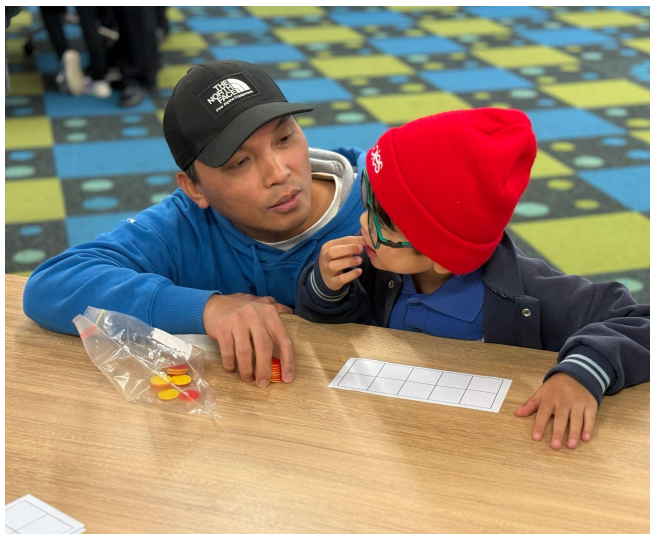
Landcare



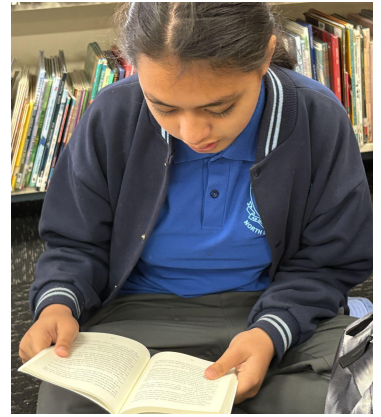
MHiPS - Skipping



Maths Night



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 2 of a 3-Part Challenge to help the aliens of Xertz become good library citizens, as well as listing ways to Care for our Library.

Congratulations to Sophia, Mila and Grace who completed the challenge in record time!

Each student worked independently to solve the library door code, showing great perseverance and problem-solving skills, especially when working out if the library book statements were fiction or non-fiction. It was wonderful to hear their ideas and the collaboration amongst the students on the ways others can care for our library space.

REMINDER

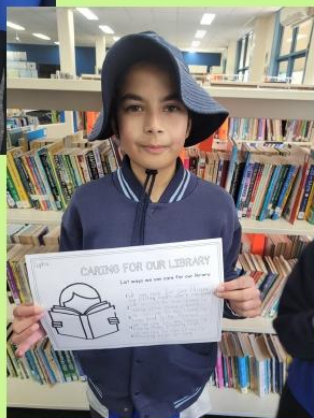
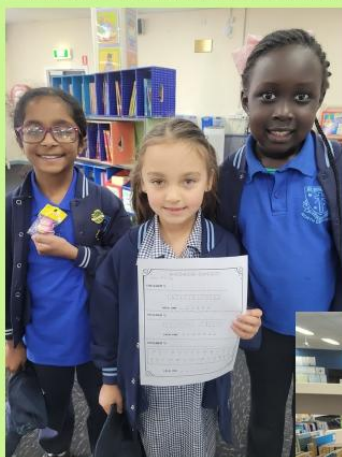
Please support your child in returning library books on time by ensuring they use a library or book bag.

THE LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO BOOK ETIQUETTE



LIBRARY

LIBRARY CLUB



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

- 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.

- Ariana Yr 6
- Rosana Yr 1
- Naman Yr 3



- *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.