



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Term 4, Week 02

ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

17 October 2025



*Celebrating St Gerard's Feast Day with Talent and Joy!
2025 Winners of the Talent Quest*



Loving God,

Yesterday we celebrated the life of St Gerard Majella, and we give thanks for the joy, faith, and kindness he shared with the world.

Thank you for our school community, for the gift of learning, friendship, and guidance.

May the example of St Gerard continue to inspire us every day to be caring, courageous, and full of hope.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

This week has seen us focus more closely than usual on our Patron.

What a wonderful day we had as a school community yesterday (Thursday) as we **celebrated the Feast of St Gerard**. We started the day by **gathering with the Parish for mass** followed by our **Annual St Gerard's Talent Quest**. This is always a fantastic event with our **children sharing their many and various gifts and talents**. It was great to see so many families come and support our children. I would like to **thank and congratulate all our participants as it takes courage to perform in front of the whole school and families**. A big **thank you to our Year 6 Leaders** who **hosted, organised backstage and controlled the music**. I would also like to **acknowledge Mrs Stack** for her coordination of the day. I have already had children tell me what they are planning for next year!

Another important aspect of our celebrations is the announcing of our **St Gerard Majella Awards**. Each class has a recipient which is for a person who shows the virtues of St Gerard.

It is important as a faith community to **reflect on and be inspired by the life of our patron**. He faced many challenges in his life but always maintained his faith and trust in God. A quote from St Gerard which particularly resonates with me is **'I see in my neighbour the person of Jesus Christ'**. This is certainly something I see present in our school on a daily basis through the interactions of our community.

In addition, **this Sunday 19 October, the Parish extends an invitation to our school community to join them to celebrate our Patron**. This invitation includes **Mass at 10.30am followed by Lunch in the Parish Hall from 12.00 noon**. Please see the Information contained in this Newsletter.

A reminder to those families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan**. If there are changes to any aspect of the plan, please **contact the School Office**. It is vital that the **information we have at school is current**. With Spring now upon us, there is often a need to check and re-assess certain medical conditions.

Information and permission for our upcoming **Swimming Program** was sent out to all families this week through **Operoo**. Please make sure you respond to this information. If you are encountering any difficulties with Operoo please come in or contact the School Office it is important that all families can access this platform.

Lastly, please see the Important Dates section in this newsletter for events in Term 4.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL



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.

Celebrating the Month of the Rosary

Throughout October, we honour Our Lady during the Month of the Rosary. Each week, Our Lady's statue will visit different year levels, giving students the opportunity to pray the Rosary together and reflect on the life of Jesus with Mary.

Class Schedule:

- Week 1: Years 1 & 2
- Week 2: Years 3 & 4
- Week 3: Years 5 & 6
- Week 4: Foundation



Religious News

[World Mission Month 2025](#)



Help plant seeds of change in Zambia

Join Sr Jane this World Mission Month, empowering women in Zambia with seeds, tools and training to overcome hunger and create hope-filled futures.



[Pope Leo XIV Opens Jubilee Celebrations for Missionaries of Hope](#)

October is World Mission Month, a time to celebrate and support those who bring hope, faith and compassion to communities around the world. This year's theme, *"Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples,"* reminds us to live with faith and share God's love in our daily lives. Let us pray for and support missionaries everywhere who bring light and hope to others.

Religious News



[Mission Month Assembly and White Elephant Stall](#)

Our Mission Assembly will be held on **Friday, 17th October**. During this assembly, our Social Justice Leaders will introduce the **White Elephant Stall**, which will be our major fundraiser for Mission Month. The stall will take place on **Friday, 31st October**. In the lead-up, we invite families to donate any unwanted toys in good condition for the stall. Please support this initiative by helping your child bring in donations and save some money to spend on the day.



[Remembrance Day Poppy Badges](#)



The Social Justice Team will be selling Poppy Badges for **\$1** in the lead-up to **Remembrance Day on 11 November**. All proceeds will be donated to the **RSL**, supporting Australian veterans and their families. Each badge purchased helps provide essential care and assistance to those who have served our country.

St Gerard's Feast Day



St Gerard's Feast Day



Religious News

Feast Day of Saint Gerard Majella – Parish and School Mass

We warmly invite all families to join our Parish and School community in celebrating the Feast Day of our patron, **Saint Gerard Majella**. **Bishop Thinh Nguyen** will lead the Mass on **Sunday, October 19th, at 10:30 am**. We look forward to celebrating this special occasion together as a community of faith.

Embracing and
enjoying our
Catholic
Community!



ST GERARD'S PARISH FEAST DAY



Sunday

19 October 2025

Holy Mass 10:30 am

Lunch 12 pm – 3 pm

St Gerard's Parish Hall
71 Gladstone Road,
Dandenong North

Holy Mass at 10:30 am celebrated by Aux Bishop Thien

Sit down lunch by Wendland Events Catering

Music, games and entertainment, including
children's magician, musical balloon
bios, Parish trivia



\$20 Adults

\$15 Children

\$65 Family

Tickets: 97924422

Religious News

Whole School Masses

End of Year Mass

Friday 12th December at 12:00

Level Mass

Yrs: Foundation, 5/6O & 5/6T

Yrs 3/4S & 3/4W

Yrs 1/2FB & 1/2S

Wednesday 3rd December, 9:15am

Thursday 4th December, 9:15am

Reconciliation

Yrs 3/4W & 3/4S:

Yrs 5/6O and 5/6T:

Thursday, 27th November at 10:15am

Thursday, 4th December at 10:15am

Important Dates for Term 4

Sunday, 19th October:	10:30am St Gerard's Feast Day Parish Mass
Thursday 30th October:	11:05 Lunchtime Rosary in the Church
Friday 31st October:	White Elephant Stall
Saturday, 1st November:	All Saints Day (Saturday this year)
Sunday, 2nd November:	All Souls Day (Sunday this year)
Tuesday, 11th November:	Remembrance Day, one minute silence
Thursday, 26th November:	Year 6 Reflection Day
Wednesday 5th November:	Graduation Mass Planning (8:55-9:55) TBC
Thursday 27th November:	11:05 Lunchtime Rosary in the Church
Friday, 28th November:	First Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:30
Tuesday 9th December:	Christmas Carols Evening
Wednesday 10th December:	Christmas Activities Rotations
Wednesday 10th December:	Christmas Carols Tour of the Nursing Homes Excursion TBC
Friday, 12th December:	End of Year Mass, 12:00
Monday, 15th December:	Graduation Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm

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.

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*.

Wellbeing



Wellbeing is about balance in all aspects in life.

It encompasses the health of the whole person – physical, mental, social and emotional. A person's wellbeing can change moment to moment, day to day, month to month and year to year. It can be influenced by what's happening in a specific moment and the actions that people take.

As with positive mental health, wellbeing is most likely to flourish in a supportive and inclusive environment – a safe place where diversity is acknowledged, respected and seen as adding to the vibrancy and strength of the entire community.

Your engagement influences that of children and young people.

While you're putting your energy into creating a positive mental health environment for children and young people, it's also important to focus on the wellbeing of yourself and your family.

Give Me 5 News

This week the Give Me Five focus was to 'Be Cooperative' in the learning areas.

The teachers were looking for students who were being cooperative while learning. These students were rewarded with a raffle ticket in the classroom.

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 Keep the area neat and tidy	Speak appropriately and use manners - Give other users their privacy Care for property - Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property - 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 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 - 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. Say sorry and forgive others Be kind

Garden Market Stall

St Gerard's Garden Market Stall Next Thursday!

Don't miss our Garden Market Stall happening *next Thursday* **3:15 pm** in front of the school church! Come along and support our students as they sell a fresh selection of organically grown produce including lettuce, carrots, silver beet, and eggs from our very own chickens.

All items have been grown and cared for by the students with dedication and without the use of chemicals or pesticides, just good old fashioned hard work and nature!

Be sure to get in early so you don't miss out, stock is limited and always popular! Please bring cash as EFTPOS will not be available.

All funds raised will go directly towards maintaining our chickens and the school vegetable garden.

Thank you for your support!



Wurundjeri Landcare

This week, our school community made fantastic progress on our Wurundjeri Way garden, thanks to the support of the Landcare Grant. Students and teachers came together with great enthusiasm and teamwork to continue transforming this special space.

Armed with shovels and smiles, our students began the week by carefully spreading mulch around our native plants. This important step helps protect the roots and retain moisture, ensuring our plants thrive for years to come. Following this, students got hands on building a brand new path through the garden, creating easier access and making the area even more inviting.

To finish the week, we added two beautiful birdbaths. These not only enhance the peaceful feel of the garden but also provide a much-needed water source for local birds and wildlife a perfect way to give back to nature.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Mr Cooke for his incredible support, guidance, and dedication. His help has been instrumental in bringing our garden project to life.

We look forward to watching our Wurundjeri Way garden grow and become a thriving, sustainable space for learning and connection with the natural world. Stay tuned for more updates!



Reading Before School

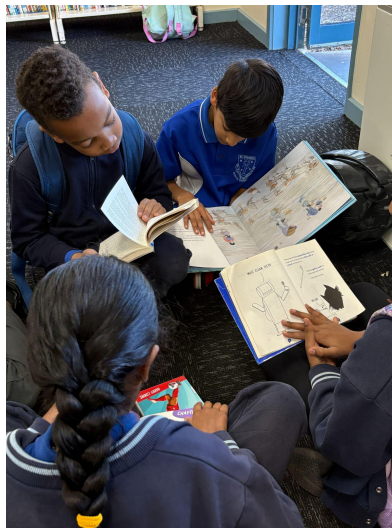
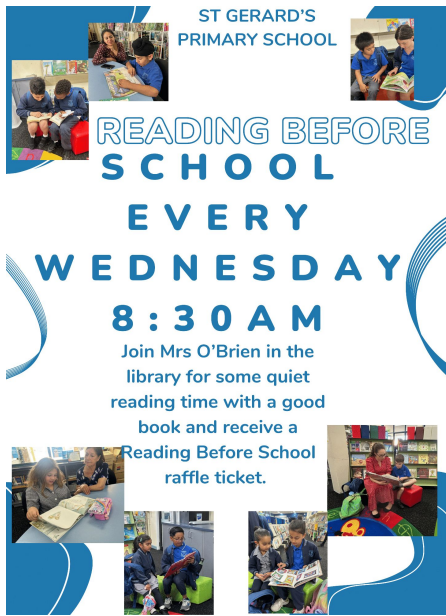
ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 at Library Club, students took part in a Colouring Competition activity.

Congratulations to Drishika, Grace and Michael for achieving 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the Junior category, as well as Sophia, Alleah and Hailey for achieving 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the Senior category.

Well done to everyone who came along and participated in the competition! Please note that borrowing books has now started. It's important to remember to both borrow and return books to the library. There are lots of new titles on display, and it would be fantastic to see regular borrowing from all students!

REMINDER

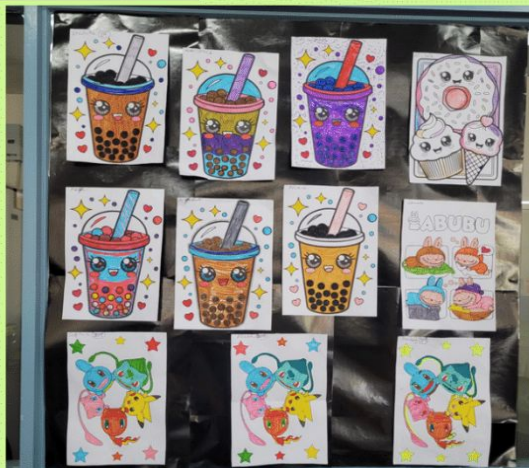
Please support your child in returning library books on time by ensuring they use a library or book bag.

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



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.

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REWARDS
POINTS**

**SHOP NOW
PAY LATER**

Important Dates / Info

October

- 19th World Mission Sunday
- 19th Parish Mass celebrating St Gerard's Feast Day
- 20th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 22nd 8:30am Reading before school in the library
- 23rd 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 24th 2:50pm Assembly in the PAC
- 27th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 29th 8:30am Reading before school in the library
- 30th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 30th Ride/ Walk to School Day
- 30th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 31st World Teachers' Day
- 31st 2:50pm Assembly in the PAC

November

- **3rd School Closure Day - Time in Lieu Acquittal**
- **4th Melbourne Cup Public Holiday**
- 5th 8:30 am Reading before school in the library
- 5th Year 6 Graduation Mass Planning 8:55-9:55am
- 6th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 6th Subway Lunch
- 7th 2:50pm Assembly in the PAC
- 10th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 1)
- 10th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 11th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 2)
- 11th Remembrance Day
- 12th 8.30am Reading before school in the library
- 13th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 3)
- 14th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 4)
- 17th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 17th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 5)

Important Dates / Info

November

- 18th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 6)
- 19th 8:30 am Reading before school in the library
- 20th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 7)
- 20th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 21st Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 8)
- **24th School Closure Day - Mathematics**
- 26th 8:30am Reading before school in the library
- 26th Year 6 Reflection Day
- 27th Level Mass - Foundation, Years 5/6O and 5/6T
- 27th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 27th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 27th Reconciliation Years 3/4W and 3/4S
- 27th Ride/ Walk to School Day
- 28th 2:50pm Assembly in the PAC

December

- 1st 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 2nd Art Show Opens
- 3rd 8:30am Reading before school in the library
- 3rd Level Mass: Years 3/4S and 3/4W
- 4th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 4th Level Mass: Years 1/2FB and 1/2S
- 4th Reconciliation Years 5/6O and 5/6T
- 8th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 9th Christmas Carols evening at 7.00pm
- 9th Art Show Closes
- 10th 8:30am Reading before school in the library
- 11th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 11th Subway Lunch
- 12th End of School Year Mass at 12.00 noon
- 15th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 15th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm in the PAC
- **16th Students last day of school** 3:10pm Guard of honour for Year 6 students

2026

January

- 28th Prep(Foundation) -Year 6 commence Term 1, 2026

Important Dates / Info

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.**

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.



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

Notice Board



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

- Azaria Yr 5



6th NOVEMBER



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- North Dandenong Cricket Club
- St Gerard's Parish Feast Day
- Nazareth Secondary College School Tour Dates and 2027 Year 7 Application Dates
- 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.