



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Term 3, Week 09

ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

19 September 2025



Footy Fever Hits St. Gerard's!

Happy School Holidays



End of Term 3 Prayer

Loving God,
We thank You for guiding us through this busy term.
For the learning, the laughter, and the challenges that helped
us grow, We are grateful.

Bless our teachers, friends, and families who have supported
us each day.

As we prepare for the holidays, keep us safe,
refresh our hearts and minds,
and help us return ready for a new term.

May this time of rest remind us of Your presence in all we do.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

As we come to the end of Term 3, I would like to acknowledge events from this week and also reflect on what has been another fantastic term.

Yesterday (Thursday) we had our annual **Footy Day** where we encouraged everyone to wear their AFL footy team colours. We had a parade at 9.00am in the PAC followed by our longest kick competition with children, staff and families displaying their kicking skills! It was wonderful to have families come along and be part of this occasion.

Reflecting on Term 3, there were numerous opportunities for learning, participating, celebrating and improvement.

From a **Faith perspective**, our Year 3-6 children celebrated the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, the **Parish Legion of Mary joined with our children to pray the Rosary together**, we conducted our annual **Living Rosary**, celebrated the **Feast of Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop)** and the **Feast of The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary** with the parish community and **attended parish 9.15am masses in our year levels**.

Learning in Term 3 started with our **3 Way Conversations** to celebrate the success of Semester One and set goals for the second half of the year. Our **Prep children** celebrated their **first 100 days of school** and we continued our **before school reading on Wednesday mornings**. Our **Mathematics Family Workshop** was well attended and provided our families with strategies to support their children's learning. **Book Week** was once again a celebration of reading along with our **Book Fair** and a number of our children taking part in the **Premier's Reading Challenge**. We also had our children participate in the **First Aid in Schools Program** conducted by St John's Ambulance. Our students, staff and families were involved in the **Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)** which provides important feedback on what we are doing well and where we can improve. **This survey is open until next Monday so please check your emails for the link and PIN to complete the fParent Survey.**

With regard to **Sporting endeavours**, our Year 5/6 children took part in their second **Gala Day**. We had a number of **Walk/Ride to School Days** and we started before school Skipping on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Children represented our school at the **Dandenong District Athletics event** with 4 children qualifying for the next level of competition which will be held early next term. **Our Year 3 - 6 children** were also involved in a number of **Netball clinics** to enhance their sporting and social skills when working in a team.

We also continued our weekly Art, Library and Garden Clubs at lunchtimes which provided our children with the opportunity to explore their interests in these areas of our broader curriculum.

Our **School Community gathered** to acknowledge and thank our **Grandparents/ Grandfriends**. We also had a number of **Open Days** to show prospective families all that we do here at St Gerard's. Our **Father's/ Father Figure's Day Breakfast** was well attended by these significant adults in our children's lives and it has been lovely to see more **families coming to our Monday Meditation and Friday Assemblies**.

Some important dates for Term 4 to take note of are:

- [Monday 3 November - School Closure Day - Time in Lieu Acquittal](#)
- [Tuesday 4 November - Melbourne Cup Public Holiday](#)
- [Monday 24 November - School Closure Day \(Mathematics\)](#)
- [Tuesday 16 December - Last Day of School for Students](#)

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for a great Term 3 and your ongoing support of our school. A reminder that **Term 4 starts on Monday 6 October**.

Have a wonderful break and if you are traveling anywhere please stay safe.

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.

Wellbeing

What's resilience?



Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help [build resilience in children](#).

A child or young person who is resilient might:

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it
- feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning.

Give Me 5 News

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 Friday's assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn last Friday during whole school assembly and the lucky winners are:



1. Joy
2. Chudier
3. Akash
4. Tianna
5. Thomas
6. Ryan

These students will be rewarded with a special surprise.



Biodiversity

Grade 3 Students Join Forces with Greater Dandenong Council to Support Biodiversity

This week, our Grade 3 students were thrilled to welcome members of the Greater Dandenong Council for a special visit focused on the importance of biodiversity and caring for our local wildlife.

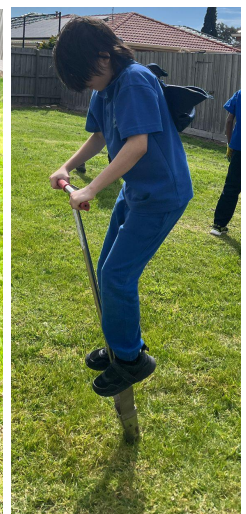
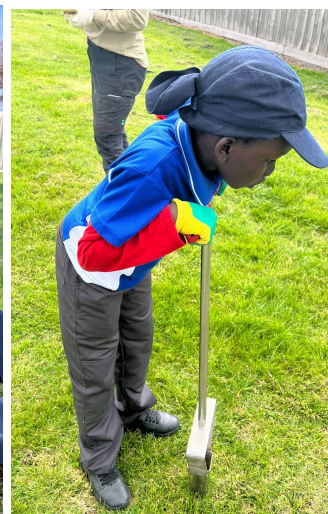
The council members provided an engaging and informative session, teaching students about the need to create safe, secure habitats that offer food and shelter for native animals. Their message highlighted how even small actions can make a big difference in supporting the environment.

In a generous gesture, the Council donated 100 tube stock plants—including tea tree, banksia, and acacia species. Our enthusiastic Grade 3 students worked tirelessly throughout the morning to plant these on our school oval, creating new green spaces that will support biodiversity for years to come.

Council representatives also demonstrated proper planting techniques and gave valuable tips on how to care for the new plants. They were especially impressed by how knowledgeable and passionate our students were, praising their understanding of biodiversity and environmental stewardship.

St Gerard's extends a heartfelt thank you to the Greater Dandenong Council for their generosity and for providing such a meaningful, hands-on learning experience for our students.

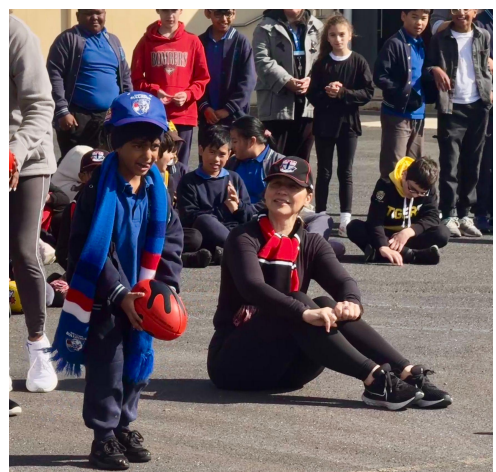
Together, we're growing a greener future!



Footy Fever



Footy Fever



Literacy

Dear Families,

The Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge has now come to an end. Thank you for your support over this period of time.

A huge thank you to ALL the students who participated in it and congratulations to those who completed the challenge.

The winners are as follows:

From Year One:

Mia V
Maya
Abhir

Year Five:

Hudson
Michael

Year Two:

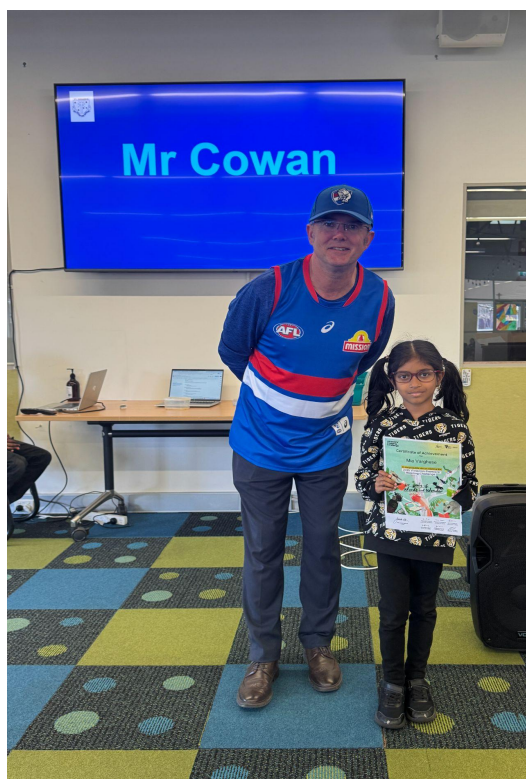
Ameya
Michael

Year Six:

Jacob
Anjanna
Gabriel
Dhanya

Congratulations to these students and I look forward to more student participation next year.

Please make sure you continue to read and write and expand your brain and increase your knowledge.



Literacy - Foundation

Literacy in Foundation

The Foundation teacher Ms Bruno supports her student in Reading during the Literacy Block.



Reading Before School



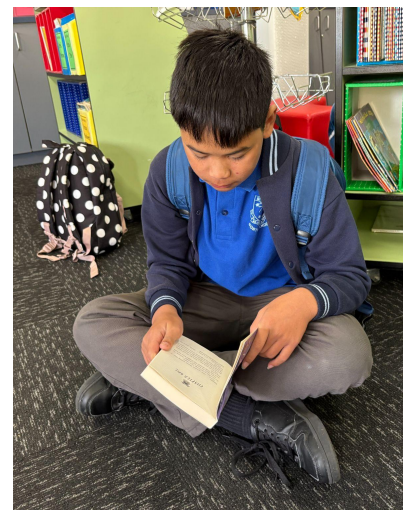
ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.



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

Reading Before School



LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week in Library Club, students took part in the final part of the 3-Part Challenge to help the aliens of Xertz become good library citizens, as well as an iSpy Library Activity.

Congratulations to Mila, Alleah and Joanne, who completed the challenge in record time for the Grade 3 to 6 group! Congratulations to Ryan, Sanaya and Grace, who completed the challenge in record time for the Prep to 2 group!

Well done to everyone who completed all three challenges and became fantastic Library Citizen Trainers.

Each student worked independently to solve the library door code, showing great perseverance and problem-solving skills, especially when deciding whether the library statements were true or false. It was also wonderful to see collaboration as students worked together to find and count all the different library items.

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

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.

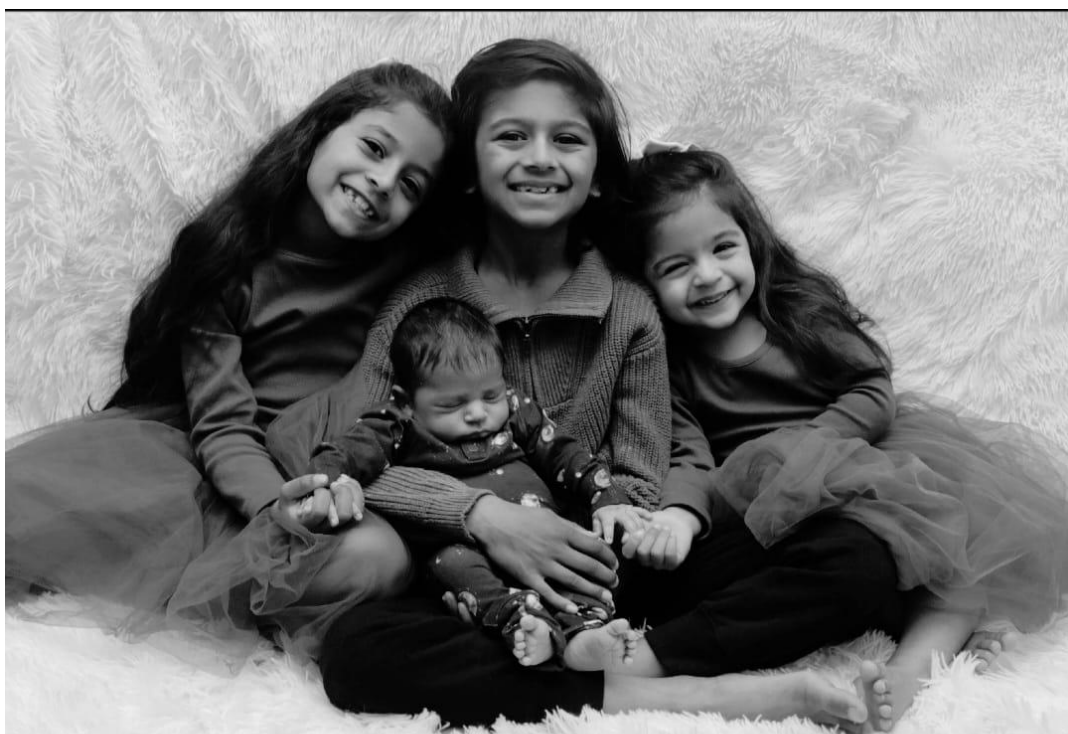


Congratulations on Your New Arrival!



We are delighted to share the joyful news of the arrival of **baby Dheerav**, a precious sibling to **Dhanvin, Drishika, and Divishas** on 9th July 2025

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to the family on this wonderful blessing. May little Dheerav bring endless love, happiness, and cherished memories to your lives. 



Notice Board



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

- Ryan Yr 2
- Drishika Yr 1
- Anointed Yr 6
- Hudson Yr 5



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- North Dandenong Cricket Club
- 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.