

St Gerard's Newsletter

Term 2, Week 7 — 05 June 2026



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Comfy clothes, happy hearts,
and healthy minds.
Celebrating Pyjama Day with
enthusiasm and school
spirit!



Loving God,

Thank You for the fun of Pyjama Day.
We thank You for the gift of sleep,
which helps our bodies grow, our
minds learn and our hearts stay
healthy.

Help us to make good choices that
care for our wellbeing and to support
one another with kindness and
understanding.

May our school be a place where
everyone feels rested, safe, valued
and loved.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Here we are at the end of another 'learning opportunity filled' week, that was also very wet and cold!

On Monday our **Year 5 children attended Nazareth Secondary College for a 'Taster Day'** which provided them with an insight and experience of Secondary School. We have a strong relationship with Nazareth and this is a very meaningful way that our partnership with them works. From all reports the children had a great day and saw first hand, some of the differences between Primary and Secondary school.

Today (Friday) we had our **Pyjama Day to highlight our 'Sleep for Wellbeing' focus**. This was a great day where classes shared what they have been learning about with regard to sleep and wellbeing, which leads to being ready for a full day of learning. After a special Assembly in the morning, children participated in activities that identified ways to prepare for a good night's sleep. **I would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Lewis for her coordination of the day and our staff for their support.** Our hope is that the children can use some of the aspects learnt to enhance their own sleep and wellbeing.

While we had our final official **OPEN Day for the term** on Tuesday, we have the mindset that **'every day is OPEN Day at St Gerard's'**, so if you do know families who will be looking for a school in 2027, we would appreciate you letting them know. They can arrange a time to visit our school by calling the School Office on 9791 7553 or emailing myself principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au. A reminder to **current families** that if you have a child who will be starting school next year to please come to the Office for an Enrolment Pack.

With us now officially in Winter, we see an increase in coughs, colds and other illnesses. **While it can be challenging for families, for the health of students and staff, please do not send your child to school if they are unwell.** I thank you in advance for your support.

As I mentioned last week, the Entrance to the School/Parish Car Park is via McNab Court. There have been several concerns raised regarding **families and parishioners using the Double Exit on Gladstone Road as an entrance.** This poses a genuine safety concern to drivers and pedestrians. **Regardless of the time of day, families are asked not to enter the Carpark from Gladstone Road.**

Our **2025 Annual Report to the School Community** has been ratified by MACS. This report has been published on our website and there are copies in the foyer for any families who would like a printed copy. If you would like a digital copy please email myself or contact me via Seesaw.

Lastly, a reminder that next Monday is the King's Birthday Public Holiday, so we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday.

Have a wonderful long weekend.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Key Dates

Sacraments 2026

First Communion: (Grade 4)

- Thursday, 11th June, 2026, First Communion Reflection Day
- Sunday, 14th June, 2026, First Communion, 10:30am
- Friday, 19th June, 2026, First Communion Assembly in the PAC

Whole School Masses:

- Friday 12th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

Other Important Dates for Religion

Refugee Week Assembly: 19th June, 2:50

Term 2, 2026 Dates

June

- **8th King's Birthday Public Holiday**
- 11th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 11th First Communion Reflection Day
- 14th First Communion 10.30am
- 22nd - 24th Year 5/6 Camp
- 25th SUBWAY Lunch
- **26th End of Term 2 at 3.30pm**

Religious News

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

We invite families to take the Our Lady statue into their home for a week as a special way to deepen family prayer time. Each family will receive a brochure with simple instructions for praying the Rosary, as well as a set of rosary beads. If you would like to take the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.



Lunchtime Rosary

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

Altar Servers

Altar Server practice resumed on Thursday 29 January and will continue every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm at St Gerard's Church. To be eligible to serve, children must have received their First Communion.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young members of our parish to take part in the liturgy and learn the responsibilities of altar service.

For further information about practice times or eligibility, please contact the parish office on **9792 4422**.

St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

We're once again setting our sights on a full food cart for the St. Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal! Our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will begin gathering donated food items, with collections continuing through to the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As always, there is a little friendly competition involved. The class that contributes the most items will enjoy a well earned casual dress day.

Vinnie's **WINTER APPEAL**



'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.' Mathew 25

Wellbeing News



What do we mean by digital mental health?

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

It also encompasses the use of social media and online support communities, which allows people to connect with others who are going through similar experiences or who share their interests.

Digital mental health services can be accessed in a confidential way – allowing children and young people to reach out for support when they may not be able to access support in the learning environment or broader community.

Online support services have been shown to support children and young people's learning, development, social networks, mental health and wellbeing. It can also provide access to opportunities to connect with others, and gain support, through the development of new skill sets to complement and build on their existing social and emotional competencies.

There are a range of online sites, services and supports available specifically for young people. The Be You [Wellbeing Tools for Students](#) is your essential guide to the online tools and other resources that will best support children and young people in taking care of their own mental health.



Celebrating Positive Behaviour with Raffle Tickets

At our school, we are committed to fostering a positive and respectful learning environment. To encourage and celebrate the demonstration of our core values—*Be Co-operative, Be Spirit-Filled, Be Respectful, Be Best, and Be Positive*—students are awarded raffle tickets when they exemplify these behaviours.

These raffle tickets serve as a tangible acknowledgment of students' efforts to uphold our school's expectations. By consistently displaying these values, students not only contribute to a harmonious school culture but also have the opportunity to participate in our monthly raffle draw.

The raffle will be drawn during the whole school assembly next Friday, and the winners will be announced in the following newsletter. We encourage all students to continue demonstrating our core values and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

Ride, Walk or Roll..



Walk or Ride To School Thursday, 11th June 2026

Thursday, 11th June is a Ride to School Day. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school from home or from a nearby drop off point. If your child doesn't normally walk to school, you could do this together.

Students who ride are given a sticker and the class who has the most students riding or walking get to keep our Ride to School trophy in their classroom for that month.

Students can ride bikes, skateboards or scooters.

They must wear a helmet at all times.

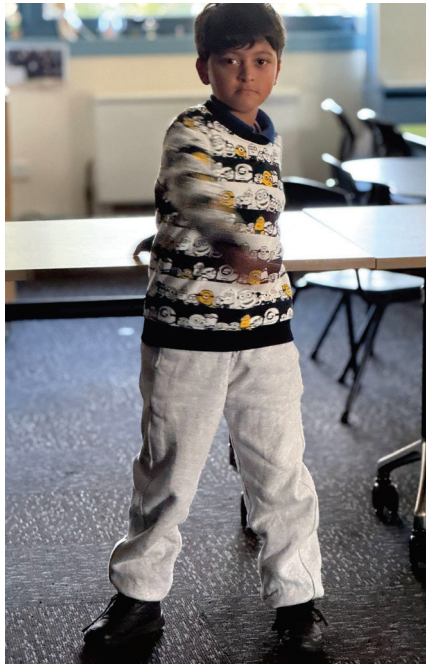
Upon arrival at school, students must hop off their bike or scooter and lock up their bike or scooter in our bike parking area (in front of the Performing Arts Centre).



Pyjama Day

Today St Gerard's School students proudly participated in Pyjama Day to support Mental Health in Primary School. Dressed in their favourite pyjamas, the children enjoyed a range of fun and engaging activities throughout the day, including games, creative activities and opportunities to connect with their classmates.

The day provided a wonderful opportunity to promote the importance of sleep for mental health and wellbeing. It was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm and participation of all students, (and staff) making the day both meaningful and enjoyable for everyone involved. **Thank you for making this happen Mrs Lewis!**



Pyjama Day



Why Pyjama Day is Important

Pyjama Day reminds us of the importance of a good night's sleep. Sleep helps children learn, concentrate, grow and feel their best each day. It also supports good mental health, helping us manage our emotions and build positive relationships with others. By celebrating Pyjama Day, we learn that caring for our wellbeing starts with healthy habits, including getting enough rest.



Congratulations to all of our Pyjama Day winners! It was wonderful to see so many students embracing the spirit of the day with their creative, colourful, and cosy pyjamas.

Well done to everyone who participated and made Pyjama Day such a fun and memorable event!

CONGRATULATIONS
RAFFLE
WINNERS

Reading before School



READ WITH ME!



Just 10~15 Minutes a Day Makes a Lifelong Difference



Why Reading Together Matters



Builds Strong Brains

- Improves concentration and memory
- Develops imagination and creativity
- Strengthens thinking skills



Grows Literacy Skills

- Expands vocabulary
- Improves spelling and writing
- Builds fluency and comprehension
- Increases confidence



Strengthens Relationships

- Creates special one-on-one time
- Encourages meaningful conversations
- Helps children feel supported and valued



Broadens Understanding

- Develops empathy
- Introduces new ideas and cultures
- Helps children understand the world



How You Can Help at Home

- ✓ Set a regular reading time each day
- ✓ Take turns reading aloud
- ✓ Ask questions about the story
- ✓ Praise effort, not just accuracy
- ✓ Make reading enjoyable
- ✓ Let your child see you reading too



Remember

- You don't need to be a teacher to make a difference.
- Your time, encouragement and interest matter most.

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

Reading before School



Literacy Night



Literacy Expo

Dear Families, Students and Staff,

Thank you for your wonderful enthusiasm and support during our Literacy Expo. It was fantastic to see our community come together to celebrate the many joys of literacy and learning.

We are excited to announce the winners of the class attendance competition. This year, we had an incredibly close result, with two classes finishing neck and neck!

Congratulations to 1/2 S and 1/2 FW, who have both won a Free Dress Day for their outstanding attendance and participation.

Thank you once again for helping make the event such a success. Let's continue to foster a love of literacy in all its varied and exciting forms.

Kind regards,
Gwen O'Brien



Library News



LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Week 7, May 2026

Exploring New Worlds at the Library, Together!

Come join us at the library, where there's more than just reading books! Engage in our library club and explore a world of knowledge, creativity, and community. Whether it's through interactive sessions, engaging discussions, or collaborative projects, there's something for everyone to enjoy and learn.

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATES

This week at Library Club, students participated in an exciting Scavenger Hunt activity. Students were split into teams and worked together to find library books that matched a series of clues. It was wonderful to see students demonstrating excellent teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills as they searched throughout the library.

Congratulations to our winning team: Riona, Dekota and Nyadut, who scored the highest number of points in the scavenger hunt. Well done on your fantastic effort!

Students should continue to borrow and return books regularly. Miss Adrien will be checking for any overdue books next week which is the Final Week of borrowing. The students are reminded to bring a separate library bag (book bag) on their allocated library day when borrowing books. This helps protect library materials, encourages responsibility, and ensures all students can continue to enjoy our library resources.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Miss Stephanie Adrien



Library News



LIBRARY CLUB



Week 7, May 2026



Miss Stephanie Adrien



Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

Any families who hold a current Health Care Card are asked to please provide a copy to the school office.

This will ensure you receive the MACS Concession on your school fees.

Please note, this must be a valid Centrelink Health Care Card. Private health insurance cards or Medicare cards are not eligible.



**ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SERVICE CONTACT:
0402 192 685 (Marina) | sg@ylv.com.au

SERVICE HOURS	COST
Before School Care 6:45AM – 8:45AM	\$30/\$35 PERMANENT/CASUAL
After School Care 3:30PM – 6:30PM	\$35/\$40 PERMANENT/CASUAL
Pupil-Free Day 7:00AM – 6:00PM	\$83

fees effective 02 Mar 2026

ylv.com.au



COMMUNITY NOTICE

- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer

Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week including this weekend and January.

- Alleah Yr 6

