

St Gerard's Newsletter

Term 3, Week 1

17 July 2026



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Be Your Best

*In this week's Gospel, Jesus called twelve apostles and sent them out on a mission. Our students were on a mission this week to **Be Your Best**, especially in the playground.*

Prayer for the Beginning of the School Term

Heavenly Father,

As we start this new school term, we thank You for the gift of learning. Bless our students with enthusiasm and diligence. Guide our teachers with wisdom and patience. Unite St Gerard's school community in respect and kindness.

Protect us and keep us healthy. Help us to support one another and grow together in knowledge and faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Weeds)

Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus proposed a Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Weeds) to the crowds.
"The Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...
He said, 'If you pull up the tares you might uproot the wheat along with them.
Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters,
"First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning;
but gather the wheat into my barn."



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Welcome back to what promises to be a wonderful second half of the year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable break and that you had the opportunity to do things that bring you joy.

Our children returned full of enthusiasm and smiles which were only matched by the smiles on some of their parents faces!

We have had a great first week with all our usual programs up and running. We had **Art Club on Tuesday, Library Club on Wednesday and Gardening Club on Thursday**. We also started back with **Before School Reading on Wednesday and Before School Skipping on Thursday from 8.30am**. As always, families are more than welcome to come and join us.

Today (Friday) our **Year 5/6 children had their second Dandenong District Gala Day**. This saw St Gerard's field 2 Soccer teams (1 Mixed and 1 Girls) and 2 Tag Rugby Teams (both Mixed) to compete against local primary schools. I would like to congratulate our children for their participation and the manner in which they represented our school. I would also like to **acknowledge and thank Miss Boyle for the children's skill development and knowledge of the games during P.E. lessons** and along with **Mrs Te, Mrs Zelic and Mrs Jolly** who supported our children on the day.

We have 3 **OPEN DAYS** planned for prospective families to see all that we offer here at St Gerard's **on Thursday 6 August, Tuesday 11 August and Wednesday 19 August**. So if you know families that are looking for a school in 2027, I would appreciate it if you could please let them know.

Semester One Reports were sent home late last term. I encourage families to take the time to discuss and celebrate the successes and achievements and set some goals for Terms Three and Four. We will be conducting **3 Way Conversations** where these reports can be discussed with families, children and teachers **next Tuesday 28 July from 2.30pm – 6.30pm**. **Information on how to book in for a face-to-face or online meeting was sent out via email with the title 3 Way Conversations**.

Two reminders to families at the start of this term. Firstly, if **any of your contact details have changed**, eg: address, phone numbers, email address, etc. please contact the School Office. Secondly, those families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan** that if there are changes to any aspect of the plan you need to **contact the School Office**. **It is vital that the information we have here at school is current and accurate and that Medical Plans is not out of date**.

After-school Pick up / Car park Arrangements

We are asking families that **arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark**. **Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly just before the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars down the laneway and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues and frustration**. A reminder that **the driveway from Gladstone Road is an EXIT only**. We are asking that families **enter the car park via McNab Court and the speed limit in the laneway and carpark is 5 km/h**.

Last, but certainly not least, we have our **annual Grandparents Day planned for Friday 31 July**. Please see the **Invitation** contained in **this Newsletter** and sent out through **Seesaw** and **nForma**. We look forward to welcoming all those people that play this significant role in our children's lives

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Key Dates

Term 3, 2026 Dates

July

- 20th 8:55 am Monday Meditation
- 21st 3 Way Conversations 2.30 - 6.30pm
- 22nd 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 23rd 8:30 - 8:40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 24th 'One Tree per Child' Year 3/4 Excursion
- **24th 'Grandparents Day' 9.00 - 10.30am**
- 27th 8:55 am Monday Meditation
- 29th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 30th 8.30 - 8:40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 31st 2:50 pm Assembly

August

- 3rd 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 5th 8:30 - 8:40am Reading before school in the library
- 6th 8:30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 6th Ride/Walk to School Day
- 6th OPEN Day
- 7th 2:50 pm Assembly
- 10th 8:55 am Monday Meditation
- 11th OPEN Day
- 12th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 13th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 13th SUBWAY Lunch
- 14th Living Rosary to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption
- 17th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 19th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 19th OPEN Day
- 20th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 21st 2.50pm Assembly
- 24th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 26th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 27th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 28th Book Week Dress up Day and Assembly
- 31st 8.55am Monday Meditation

September

- **1st School Hats must be worn when outside**
- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 3rd 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 3rd St John's Taster Day (Year 5 children)
- 3rd Walk/ Ride to School Day
- **4th Father's Day Breakfast from 8.00am**
- 7th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 9th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 10th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- **10th School Production 7.00pm**
- 11th 2.50pm Assembly
- 14th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 16th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 17th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 18th Footy Day
- **18th End of Term 3 - school finishes at 3.30pm**

Religious News

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.

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 O'Brien know.



Altar Servers

Altar Server practice will resume on Thursday 23 July 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**.





Please join us On
the Feast of Sts
Anne & Joachim
we have a special
program scheduled
for

GRAND PARENTS/FRIENDS DAY

Celebration

July 31

FRIDAY

TIME:

09:00am - 10:30am

The event will commence with a
Paraliturgy IN THE PAC, followed
by opportunities for Grandparents
/ Grandfriends to visit classrooms
concluding with coffee & tea for
guests in the PAC building

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PAC



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Wellbeing

What's self-regulation?

Self-regulation is learning about your own feelings and emotions, understanding how and why they happen, recognising them (and those of others), and developing effective ways of managing them.

When children and young people learn to self-manage their emotions, they feel more confident, capable and in control. They have stronger relationships, are more able to pay attention, learn new things and can cope better with the normal stresses and disappointments of daily life.

- **How can you help?**

Children and young people need repeated experiences of having their needs met by a caring adult.

Warm, trusting and responsive care helps children to respond with appropriate emotions, internalise a positive view of themselves and others, and learn appropriate behaviour. Children and young people also develop self-management skills by watching and experiencing how other people manage their emotions. Here are some tips about how you can support the development of self-management in children and young people

Explicitly teach skills

- Talk about ways of managing upsetting situations.
- Help them to develop strategies to use when they're feeling out of control.
- Help them express their emotions in productive ways (for example, by drawing or acting out their feelings).
- Practise mindful breathing with older children and young people.
- Explore the immediate and long-term consequences of actions.
- Promote empathy by talking about emotions and understanding how people will have different reactions to events depending on their circumstances.
- Teach problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Talk about emotions

- Acknowledge and respond to emotional communication.
- Role-model how you manage your own feelings.
- Talk about strategies to manage strong or uncomfortable emotions.



Promote a calm environment

Environment contributes to children and young people's self-management. Promote a calm, welcoming and encouraging environment by:

- providing structure and predictability
- establishing age-appropriate routines and limits
- avoiding competitive experiences for young children
- including relaxation breaks in the day
- encouraging ways to release tension they might be holding in their body
- demonstrating calmness and staying in control of your own feelings and behaviours – self-awareness allows you to maximise your positive interactions with children and young people and better manage situations where they 'push your buttons'.

Gala Day



Garden Club



Garden Club Update

This week, our Garden Club students worked hard caring for our Wurundjeri Way garden. With the arrival of autumn and winter, fallen leaves had covered many of the pathways, so students enthusiastically rolled up their sleeves to weed the paths, collect the leaves, and top up our bird baths for the local wildlife.

As they worked, students observed the seasonal changes in our native garden. They noticed how many of the plants had flourished over the school break, particularly our vibrant kangaroo paws. They also helped guide our native creeper along the fence, where it is beginning to transform the wooden fence into a beautiful display of spectacular purple flowers.

A big thank you to all of our Garden Club students for their enthusiasm and dedication. By caring for our garden, they are being wonderful stewards of God's creation and helping to look after the beautiful world we have been given.



Reading before School

Reading Before School has started full steam ahead.

We had a very good turn out with parents and students reading to each other this week. Children receive a raffle ticket and go into a draw to win a prize. Students are encouraged to attend and read a book by themselves, to each other or with their families.



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.

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



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