



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



Term 2 Week 9

[www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)

03 97917553

18 June 2021

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated their birthday this week.

- Edwin - 1/2L

## LAST DAY OF TERM 2

Next Friday  
25th June  
3:30 pm finish

### School Prayer

God, our Father, as members of the Parish Community of St Gerard's we praise you for your love.

May we grow stronger in faith and hope, and may our love for each other, become deeper in our daily lives. Grant this through your Son, and our brother, Jesus Christ, Amen

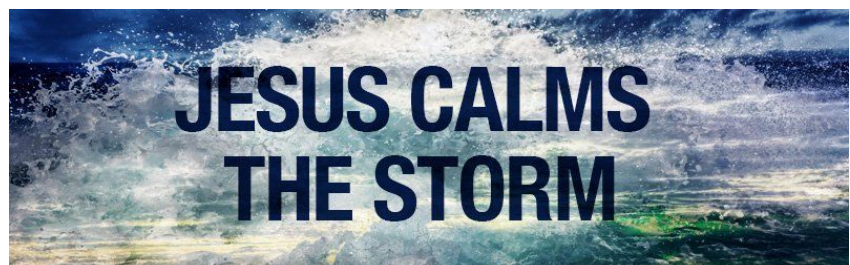


Sajin and Akash rug up and exercise during a wintery lunch break

Sunday's Gospel reading is a stark reminder of the severe weather that battered Victoria last week with thousands of people still without power, and many yet to return to their homes. We will hear about Jesus after a long, hard day. He is very tired. He asks his disciples to join him in the boat and he falls asleep. A storm began and the disciples were scared and woke Jesus. Jesus stopped the storm and questioned the disciples, asking them about their faith.

The action of the calming of the sea is a miracle. How powerful and loving our God is. But, let's look beyond the miracle. Let's look toward Jesus who has divine authority over everything. He is always with us to help us through the storms in our lives.

**O God, your words made the ocean calm. Use that same power to calm our fears and help us to increase our faith. We ask this in Jesus' name.**



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

It is wonderful having everyone back onsite and the children have settled quickly into the routines of school. While it was a shorter week we still provided many learning opportunities for our students.

It is hard to believe that there is only one more week until the end of Term 2. Where has the first half of the year gone? As we draw to the end of Semester 1, written reports will be sent home to families next week. They will provide families with information on what has been taught and student achievements. Please take the time to **read and discuss them with your child(ren) making sure to celebrate the successes and set goals** for Semester 2.

I would like to congratulate all our children for their hard work throughout the first half of the year. We will provide the opportunity for you to **discuss the report and your child's learning early in Term 3**.

With the easing of COVID restrictions in the community we are able to welcome families back onsite. We continue to operate in a COVID Safe manner and record any visitors to our school. I am therefore requesting that **if you come onsite that you sanitise your hands, check in using our school QR Code and wear a face mask when inside our school buildings**. Our first priority is to ensure the safety of our students, staff and families and I thank you for your ongoing cooperation.

In this Sunday's Gospel we hear Our Lord say, **"Quiet, be still"**, to the wind and waves while he and the disciples are in a boat. There are times when we all face 'winds and waves' in our lives and these words may help and guide us when we feel unsure and worried.

A reminder that **Enrolments for Prep in 2022 are now open**. If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the School Office. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments**, however we are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we enrol our existing families as soon as possible.

Finally, a reminder of our **wet day dismissal procedures**. When this is required, **the children will remain in their classrooms**. Parents can **either collect their children from their classroom or if using the pick up zone, staff will organise for the children to come to the Office area and assist them to enter their cars safely**. This system works efficiently and I thank families for your patience and cooperation.

God bless.

Paul Cowan  
Principal

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Sacrament Dates, 2021

Planning for all Sacraments is underway. More information will be forthcoming once details are confirmed.

**Please note that arrangements may change based on Federal and State Government health advice.**

### **First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)**

First Communion Reflection Day:

Monday, 9th August

First Communion:

Saturday 14th August at 5:30pm &

Sunday 15th August at 10:30am

(Parish Mass Times)

First Communion Assembly:

Friday, 20th August at 2:50 pm, parents invited

### **Confirmation: (Grade 6)**

Confirmation Reflection Day:

Wednesday, 28th July

Confirmation:

Friday 30th July at 7pm

(previously announced, Thursday 29th July)

Confirmation Assembly:

Friday 6th August, 2:40, parents invited

## First Communion Mass Postponed

A letter was sent out recently to the Years 3-6 families to announce the postponement of this year's First Communion due to the uncertainty caused by the announcement on Thursday 27 May 2021, by the Victorian Government to help reduce community movement and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The tentative rescheduled date for First Communion is the weekend of, 14th and 15th August, The Feast of the Assumption. Mass times that were originally allocated to First Communicants will be transferred to the 14th and 15th August.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Mrs Stack.

## Other Important Dates:

Refugee Week:

Refugee Week 20th to 26th June 2020

Refugee Week Assembly:

Friday, 25th June at 2:30 pm (lead by Social Justice Team)

## Thank You For Your Participation In The St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal – We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

St Gerard's School is proud to be partnering with the St Vincent de Paul for its Winter Appeal once again this year. Our cage is now overflowing with food.

Today, on this Feast of the Sacred Heart, we are pleased to announce that 5/6O were the winning class who brought in the most food. They win a casual dress day.

Congratulations and thank you to all of our wonderful families for donating to this very worthwhile cause.

## Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss

Seasons is a peer support program for children and young people who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. This loss may be the result of a death, separation or divorce.

This valuable program will become available this term. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.



# WELLBEING NEWS



On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June we will hold our fifth **Garden Market Stall** for 2021.

The Environmental leaders will be selling fresh rosemary, parsley seeds, plants and eggs straight from the garden. We will also be selling delicious homemade tomato chutney and passata (tomato puree) which has been generously donated by one of our beautiful mums and Rob! The market will be open from 3:15pm.



Have a look at some of the fun we had during our Garden Club this week. The chickens were very excited to have all of the students back this week! 😊

## What is social development?



### **Children are born social**

Social development occurs throughout life and explains how we recognise, interpret and respond to social situations. Healthy social development is a known protective factor for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Daily contact and interactions with family members, educators and friends teaches children and young people about the social world and the rules, practices and values that support it. Social development is also influenced by wider networks including extended family, as well as participation in the community and culture around them.

Through their relationships and connections with others, children build a sense of who they are and where they fit in the social world. By actively participating in these relationships, children also affect the ways that adults and their peers relate to them.

Learn about how you can [support social development](#) in children and young people.

### **Social development as children and young people grow**

**To achieve healthy social development, children and young people need to form social bonds with others who can model and encourage positive social values and behaviours.**

To create these bonds, children and young people need:

- opportunities for social interaction
- active participation and meaningful engagement with others including family members, educators and peers
- to learn social skills through guidance and modelling in daily informal interactions and incidental opportunities, as well as planned teaching which might include participation in social skills programs
- recognition and reinforcement when positive social interaction occurs.

Opportunities, skill development and recognition need to be appropriately matched to children and young people's age and stage, as well as individual characteristics.

Children's understandings and behaviours are closely interwoven with emotions and temperament and the values and attitudes of those around them. Through ongoing interactions with the important people in their lives (such as family members and educators), children refine social skills such as turn-taking, listening, cooperation and respect to help them build positive relationships and friendships.

Prior to the school years, families have the greatest influence on social development. As children and young people grow older, they become increasingly influenced by peer group values and the behaviours of community role models such as sporting heroes or media personalities.

### **When adults are fair, caring and respectful, children and young people feel a greater sense of trust and belonging.**

Children and young people are more likely to cooperate with adult guidance when they feel valued and respected. By contrast, when they feel they've been treated unfairly, they're less likely to listen and more likely to avoid or resist discipline.