

# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

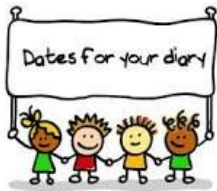


Term 4 Week 10

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

03 97917553

18 September 2020



Link for this week's  
assembly: [18 September](#)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing those students  
who celebrated birthdays  
this week.

- Mrs Bruno



**Back to School**

### Monday, 5th October

- Welcome back to Term 4
- Remote Learning commences as per Term 3

### Monday, 12th October

- Prep - Year 2 return to on-site learning
- Year 3-6 continue with Remote Learning as per Term 3



We welcome Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni MSFS to the community of St. Gerard's. He is a member of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales also known as the 'Fransalians.' St. Francis de Sales is known for his spirit of optimism, hope and confidence in God's love. This inspired him to please God by doing everything **big** or **small** enthusiastically and well. As a person who knew the conflict and turmoil of the French Revolution, St. Francis de Sales' nature was marked by his patience and gentleness and was sometimes known as the 'gentleman saint.' What a wonderful reminder that whatever our current or future difficulties; that this virtue has two benefits. We value and encourage everyone to be polite in big and small things and equally importantly to promote being a peacemaker or gentle person.

Perhaps during the current pandemic, such patience will help our inner life to provide healing for all. It's often noted we have one mouth and two ears and we could listen more and talk less. Jesus often asked us to listen if we have ears to hear. St. Francis de Sales is the patron Saint of hearing loss and deafness.

I invite all to make sure Fr. Shanthaiah hears you welcome him or you say G'day as you see him in our community. These **small** beginnings can make such a **big** impact in all our lives.

*"Have patience with all things but first with yourself.  
Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being.  
You are a perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile  
person simply because you exist.  
And no amount of triumphs or tribulations can ever change that."  
— Saint Francis de Sales*

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan

[principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)  
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Welcome to the end of Term 3. While this may not have been the term we thought it would be, it has certainly been eventful and full of learning opportunities. I would like to once again **thank our families, students and staff for all their hard work, cooperation, teamwork and support to continue the learning of our students.** I am constantly inspired by what we can achieve together. It is now time to refresh ourselves and enjoy other aspects of life, with hopefully some warmer weather.

Our **Give Me 5 focus** for this week was **Be Spirit Filled**. This should be something we strive for at all times, not just when it is a focus. To be living our faith has a positive impact on others and ourselves and strengthens our relationship with God. Yesterday our **new Parish Priest Fr Shanthaiah visited our school**. I had the opportunity to speak with him and show him around our school. He is looking forward to meeting our school community. Father also features in our Friday Assembly. I am sure you will welcome him when you have the chance.

As I mentioned last week, the **arrangements for Term 4** at the moment are:

- **Week 1** (Monday 5 October - Friday 9 October) - Remote Learning for all students as per Term 3.
- **Week 2** (Monday 12 October) - **Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 return to on-site learning**, Year 3 - 6 continue with Remote Learning as per Term 3.
- **Year 3 - 6 do not have a return to on-site learning at this point in time.**

While I have not received any further information or updates from the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV), please be assured that when I do, I will share it with families via email, Seesaw and text messages.

**Student (and family) Wellbeing** are always a priority at St Gerard's. Please find in this newsletter information which may be of use to parents and families. The resources may help parents monitor the wellbeing of their children and indeed their own. There is a link to a **video and the contact details of organisations** that can offer support. **I strongly encourage families to use these resources if they have concerns about any member of their family.**

**Enrolments for Prep in 2021 are filling fast.** If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the office or myself. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments**, however we are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we know how many places are required.

If your **family is experiencing challenges** with regard to **school fees** please contact the School Office or myself [pcowan@sgdandenongninth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pcowan@sgdandenongninth.catholic.edu.au) **so we can work through this together.** If you have a **current Health Care Card you are entitled to a reduction.** Our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children and in the current economic climate **we all need to support each other.**

I am sad to inform you that **Mrs Veronica Stephenson (Learning Support Officer)** has resigned for family reasons. Veronica has been at our school since Term 3, 2019 and has made a significant and positive impact on the learning of many of our students. While you never want to lose good people, I support Veronica's decision and wish Veronica and her family all the very best for the future. When we are able to, we will farewell her in an appropriate and fitting manner.

Stay safe and God bless.  
Paul Cowan - Principal



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Sacraments, 2020

All Sacraments for 2020 will be rescheduled due to COVID-19 to a date to be advised.

## Digital Talent Quest Auditions, 2020

One of the ways we traditionally celebrate St Gerard's Feast Day, 16<sup>th</sup> October, is by hosting a talent quest. This year, due to restrictions, our talent quest will be held remotely.

We are very proud to announce that we will be offering a new division accommodating family acts.

The divisions will be as follows:

- Prep
- Junior School
- Middle School
- Senior School
- Family Acts

Challenge: film yourself doing one of your special talents; singing, acting/storytelling, dancing (cultural dance is a favourite), gymnastics, magic, slam poetry or stand up comedy. Acts should be 1-3 minutes long. Bonus points when you involve other St Gerard's students, include costumes/props or interesting backdrop. Respond by uploading your video onto the Talent Quest Activity on Seesaw. Items that pass the auditions will automatically be entered into our Digital Talent Quest to be viewed at 2:30 on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October.



## Important Dates to Remember for Term 4

### October 2020

- 5<sup>th</sup> ..... Welcome Back to Term 4  
16<sup>th</sup> ..... Mission Week Talent Quest – performed remotely  
16<sup>th</sup> ..... St Gerard's Majella Feast Day Winners of St Gerard Majella Awards Announced  
23<sup>rd</sup> ..... AFL Grand Final Public Holiday

### November 2020

- 2<sup>nd</sup> ..... Student Free Day (TBC)  
3<sup>rd</sup> ..... Melbourne Cup Public Holiday  
11<sup>th</sup> ..... Remembrance Day  
29<sup>th</sup> ..... First Sunday of Advent

### December 2020

- 16<sup>th</sup> ..... Last Day of Term 4 for students





## 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.

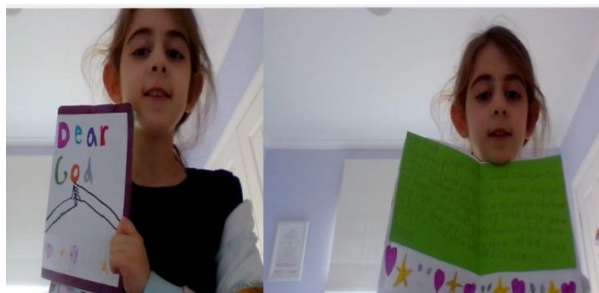
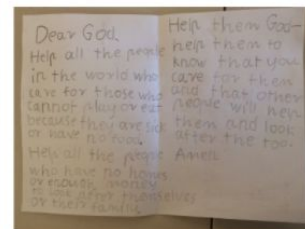
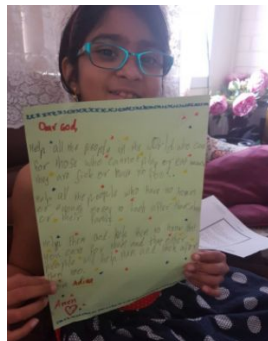
Digital mental health services can be accessed in a confidential way – allowing children and young people to reach out for support when they may not be able to access support in the learning environment or broader community.

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.

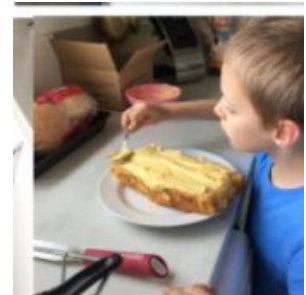
There are a range of online sites, services and supports available specifically for young people. The Be You [Wellbeing Tools for Students](#) is your essential guide to the online tools and other resources that will best support children and young people in taking care of their own mental health.



This week the whole School focus was 'Be Spirit Filled'. The Prep to 2 students created beautiful cards with a prayer in it for the vulnerable people of our community.



**Have a look at some of our little master chefs at work!**



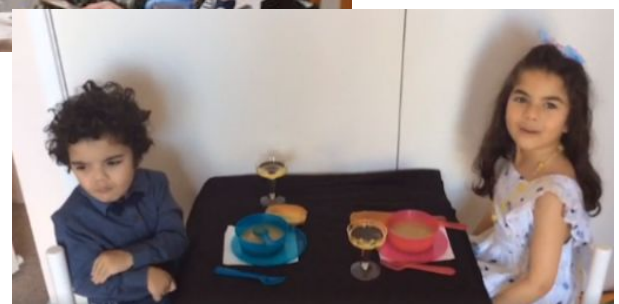
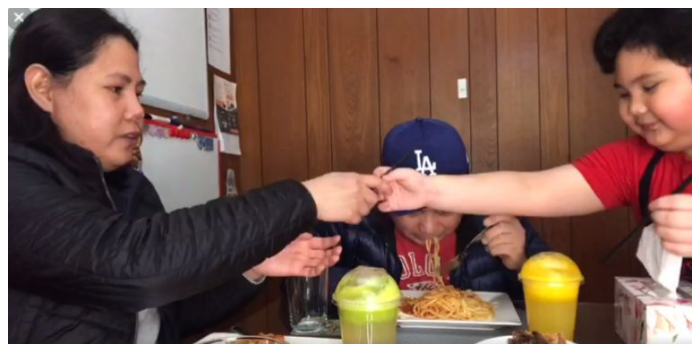




## Fancy Dinner



This week the whole school celebrated the end of term by organising a special dinner for their family. The students decided on what they will be serving for dinner and wrote a menu for their family. Student set the table and welcomed their family members to their restaurant. Have a look at some of our students and their families enjoying a scrumptious dinner at their pop-up restaurant!





# WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D



A big thank you to all of the parents who attended the Student Wellbeing meeting this Thursday.

During this meeting we addressed the **wellbeing of our children** during the pandemic.

Please click [here](#) to access the video by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg which was presented during this meeting.

Please click [here](#) to access the Student Wellbeing Checklist.

*Covid has been a trying time for most families. Here are the contact details of some organisations that may offer assistance if you or someone you know requires support.*

## Further Supports

If you or someone you know needs support:



In the event of an emergency, or if someone is at immediate risk of harm



# ART NEWS

It is the season of Spring so our students from Prep - Year 6 were asked to create some art about Springtime. Many created beautiful spring trees using a variety of materials to make the gorgeous colourful blossoms. Here are some of their creations.



## Spring Blossoms



# ART NEWS CONT'D



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**BE KNOWN AT NAZARETH**  
CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATION

**35th ANNIVERSARY NAZARETH COLLEGE**

**VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOURS**

Explore the difference a Nazareth education provides

Join us virtually via zoom video conferencing to experience Nazareth College. You will hear from our Principal, Mr Sam Cosentino, as well as have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss important aspects of the College with key members of our staff.

<b>8 SEPTEMBER</b> Tuesday 5pm	<b>9 SEPTEMBER</b> Wednesday 2pm	<b>10 SEPTEMBER</b> Thursday 10am
<b>5 OCTOBER</b> Monday 12pm	<b>6 OCTOBER</b> Tuesday 7pm	<b>7 OCTOBER</b> Wednesday 5pm

Register at <http://www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/enrolments/virtual-school-tours/>  
Applications for Year 7 2022 Close 9th of October 2020

