



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

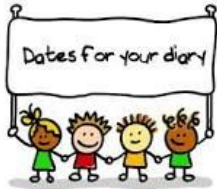


Term 1 Week 4

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

19 February 2021



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated a birthday this week.

- Jsaiah - 5/6VT

**CSEF
APPLICATIONS
NOW OPEN**
**Please see the
office for an
application form**



Congratulations to Dhanya who has been blessed with a new baby sister, Diora on 14 February.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent Begins

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Repent, and believe in the Gospel!



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church's season of Lent. The marking of the ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is an expression of our faith and a sign that we are asking God for forgiveness.

It is a time of prayer, fasting and giving to others. When we pray, we come closer to God so that we are better able to realise our baptismal promise to live justly as Jesus teaches us. Fasting helps us remember the needs of the poor, who often have no choice but to go without basic needs such as food, water and shelter. Giving to the poor, or 'almsgiving', is a sign of our commitment to justice. It reminds us of our blessings and allows us to give thanks for all that God has given us. We think especially of all those around the world who have been affected by the COVID 19 virus. During this time, think about what you are going to pray for, what you are going to give or give up and how you can make a difference to others, or the environment, this Lent.

As we prepare for Easter, the most important time in the Church's calendar, let us remember Jesus' messages of love and mercy, and ask God to bless us so that we can 'Be More' in our own lives and in the lives of others.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

The events of this week is yet another reminder that we need to continue to look after each other. I would like to **congratulate and thank our students, families and staff for the way we rose to the challenge last Friday afternoon** and Monday to Wednesday this week. With the cooperation and support of everyone we were able to send our children home with resources to be able to continue to provide learning opportunities. It was wonderful to then be able to welcome everyone back yesterday.

While we were in Remote Learning mode, we still conducted our **3 Way Conversations**. Even though they were scheduled to be online, there was an added layer on families and teachers when lockdown was announced. Thank you to those families that were able to meet. If you were not able to talk with your child(rens) teacher(s), please contact them to arrange a time. **The collaboration between the student, their family and the school is a vital aspect of learning.**

We are now in the Liturgical Season of **Lent** when we focus on **fasting, prayer and almsgiving**. While our Ash Wednesday mass could not be celebrated, we will continue to focus on these aspects over the coming weeks. In this Sunday's Gospel we have Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known, to reflect on his life so far and the next vital stage that he is about to enter. Lent can be this time of reflection for all of us.

Our families continued cooperation with our before and after school arrangements and when coming onsite is greatly appreciated. **Please note that our school gates are opened at 8.30am each morning. We are starting to see children dropped at school before this time which poses a safety threat as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds.** I am therefore asking that families refrain from leaving their children unattended before 8.30am for their safety. Thank you in anticipation.

Finally, **School Fee Accounts** were sent home yesterday (Thursday). Our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children and in the current economic climate **we all need to support each other**. If your **family is experiencing challenges** please phone the School Office on 9791 7553 or email myself principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au **so we can work through this together.**

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.

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation: Thursday, 29th July at 7 pm

Reconciliation: (Grade 3 and 4)

Reconciliation: Thursday, 8th March at 7 pm (TBC)

First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)

First Communion: Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June at Parish Mass times (TBC)

Level Mass Mass

Thursday, 4th March

Thursday, 11th March

Thursday, 18th March

Prep/5/6 Level Mass in Church 9:15, all welcome
3/4 Level Mass at 9:15 in the Church, all welcome
1/2 Level Mass in Church 9:15, all welcome

Other Import Dates for Religion:

Wednesday, 17th March

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Monday, 22nd March - Thursday, 1st April

Monday, 29th March - Thursday, 1st April

Tuesday, 20th March

Thursday, 1st April

Friday, 2nd April

Saturday, 3rd April

Sunday, 4th April

St Patrick's Day, students wear full school uniform with a touch of green

Delegation of Yr 6 leaders attend St. Patrick's Day Mass at Cathedral

The Passion Prayer Spaces for student participation

Families and/or parishioners invited to The Passion Prayer Spaces (pending COVID-19 density restrictions)

Fr Shanthaiah's birthday

Holy Thursday

Good Friday Day of Fast and Abstinence

Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday

The Passion Prayer Spaces

Students taking an active role in The Passion has long been a tradition at St Gerard's. Due to COVID related restrictions, this year, The Passion will be presented through Prayer Spaces. This will be an opportunity for our children to explore The Stations of the Cross and link these to life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Taking a Catholic perspective as a starting point, The Passion Prayer Spaces will give our children an opportunity to develop skills of personal reflection and to explore prayer in an open, inclusive and safe environment.

The hall will be transformed for a week with a range of creative activities that encourage personal reflection on issues such as forgiveness, injustice, thankfulness, big questions, identity and stillness that relates to The Way. During week 9 and 10, teachers will bring their students for reflection in The Passion Prayer Space.

The opportunity for families and/or parishioners to be invited to The Passion Prayer Spaces, pending COVID-19 density restrictions will be confirmed at a later date.

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 in term 2. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D



Ash Wednesday, 17th February 2021

This week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion. Each family will receive a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes for their donations or you can donate online via the Caritas Australia website at: lent.caritas.org.au

Saint Oscar Romero is our inspiration for Project Compassion 2021, so in his words let's "aspire not to have more, but to be more."



Meditation

Thank you to everyone that has remembered that we begin each day with meditation. If you arrive late to school and the meditation bell has already gone, you need to wait in the office area until meditation time has finished.

Altar Boy Training

Please note due to the recent snap lockdown Altar Boy training was postponed. It will resume on 11th March, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Please contact Mr Ron Maroun on 0412 212 287.

WELLBEING NEWS

Ride to School Day

A big thankyou to all of the families who participated in the Ride to School day on Friday 19th February. Congratulations to 1/2FP who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

Well done to:

1st place— 1/2FP (78%)

2nd place— 3/4C (76%)

3rd place— 5/6VT (71%)

Our next Ride to School Day will be held on Friday the 19th of March.



Whole School Classroom Reward System

Students who display the expectations present on the school Matrix will be rewarded with a raffle ticket from their classroom teacher. Every month the raffle tickets from each classroom will be collected and drawn during the Friday assembly.

The raffle tickets will be drawn during next Friday during the whole school assembly.



WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D



This week 5/6VT enjoyed their Garden lesson. The students harvested some zucchinis and tomatoes and learnt about harvesting seeds and the life cycle of a seed. They were also introduced to our new chickens. We will be selling some of our parsley seeds during our next **Garden Market Stall** which will be on **Monday 22nd February**.

Today in the garden 5/6 VT met the new chickens who are very friendly and calm. There were a few jobs we could choose to do. spinning the compost bins, tickling the parsley seeds, collecting the eggs in the chicken coop, plucking the zucchinis, pulling the weeds and making sure the moisture was in the worm farm.

Isabella - I tickled the parsley seeds and helped pluck the weeds.

Joe - I plucked the zucchinis and spun the compost bin.

Eann - I met the new chickens and tickled the parsley seeds.

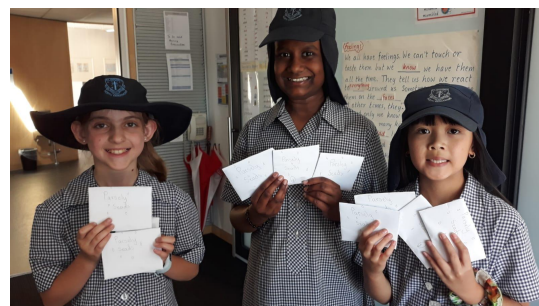
Elyana - I was in the chicken coop collecting eggs and carrying the chickens.

Amy - I planted the seeds in the garden.

Isaiah - I fed the chickens.

Garden Dates- Term One 2021

Week	Class
Friday 26 th Feb @ 12:45-1:40	3/4C
Friday 5 th Mar @ 12:45-1:40	No Lesson
Friday 12 th Mar @ 12:45-1:40	3/4S
Friday 19 th Mar @ 12:45-1:40	1/2L
Friday 26 th Mar @ 12:45-1:40	Prep B



The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of a group of students who want to help other students by presenting ideas which are of benefit to all students. The SRC also informs its peers of any important information which affects the student body.

On Monday 22nd February the SRC reps of St Gerard's will attend their first meeting.

A big congratulations to the following students who were voted in by their class members to be the SRC reps for Semester One 2021.

Prep B- Grace and Elaine

1/2FP- Jacob and Ariana

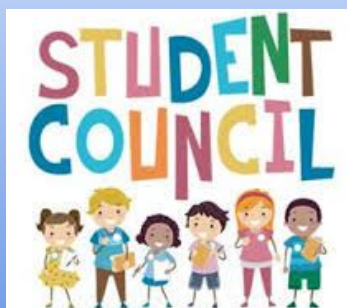
1/2L- Francis and Dhanya

3/4C- Jacob and Lachlan

3/4S- Devaan and Kevaan

5/6VT- Alessia and Trevor

5/6O- Martin and Dominique



WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

What's resilience?

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

ART NEWS



This week during lockdown the Prep students were asked create a colour wheel with objects found around their house (such as toys). The following creations were created by Dhanvin.

