



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

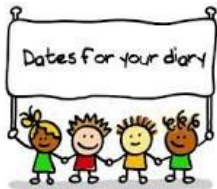


Term 2 Week 10

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

19 June 2020



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students a happy birthday for this week:

- Edwin Kurian - 1/2B

We hope you have a great day!!!

LAST DAY OF TERM 2
Friday, 26 June
3:30 pm finish

TERM 3 COMMENCES
Monday, 13 July

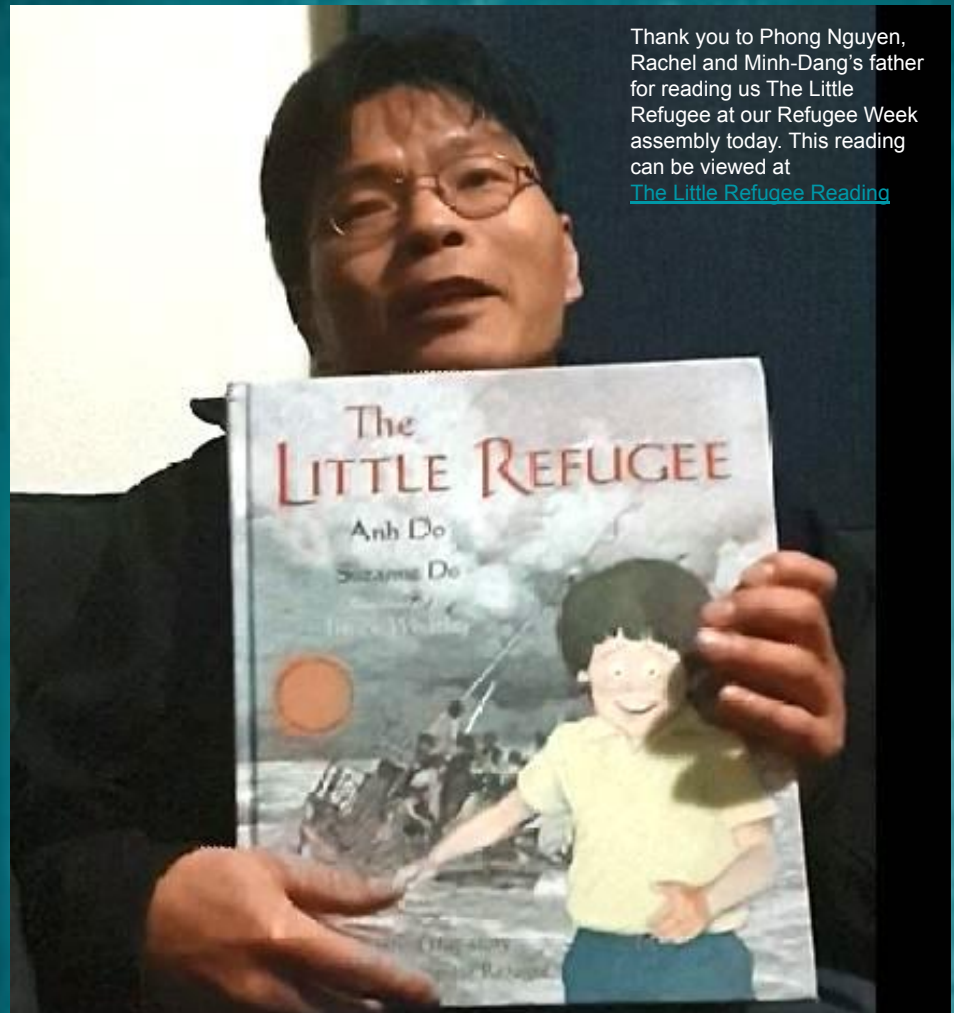
School Prayer

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



Thank you to Phong Nguyen, Rachel and Minh-Dang's father for reading us The Little Refugee at our Refugee Week assembly today. This reading can be viewed at

[The Little Refugee Reading](#)

A Prayer For Asylum Seekers

Lord,

No one is a stranger to you
and no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness watch over refugees and
asylum seekers,
those separated from their loved ones, those
who are lost,
and those who have been exiled from their
homes.

Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,
and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in
need.

Adapted from the Opening Prayer of the Mass for Refugees and Exiles

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

It has been another week full of learning opportunities here at St Gerard's and it certainly feels like we are back into school life.

Thank you to our families for your **cooperation with our before and after school arrangements**. This appears to be working well and is keeping us all safe. A reminder to families to **use the Pedestrian Crossing and the path along the side of the Church when walking children to their cars**. This will help to keep a safe distance between pedestrians and cars.

Our **Uniform Shop** opened for the first time since students returned to school last Monday. From all reports, **the new arrangements in line with current physical distancing advice** were effective. Families are asked to **access the Uniform Shop through the OSHC room** which has an entrance next to the parish hall. We are asking families to wait in the OSHC room as we can only have **one person at a time in the shop**. The shop will be open again **next Monday 22 June from 8.30am - 10.00am**. There will be direction signs and staff available to assist families.

Prep enrolments for 2021 are open. 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 for current families.

School Fee Statements were sent out this week. If your **family is experiencing challenges** with regard to **school fees** please contact the School Office or myself pcowan@sgdandenongnth.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**.

Semester One reports will be sent home next week. While these reports **will look different to previous ones due to Remote Learning**, they will still give information on what has been taught and student achievements. As we can not currently have families on site, we will provide the opportunity for you to discuss the report and your child's learning early in Term 3 as there may be more options available to us by then.

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our first priority at St Gerard's. Parents of children who have **cold or flu-like symptoms, a cough, sore throat or fever are encouraged to seek medical advice**. With this in mind it is vital that **if your child is unwell they must stay at home**. **If you have any questions or concerns please contact myself via email:** pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au phone 9791 7553 or send me a message via Seesaw. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Today (Friday) we celebrate the Feast of **The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**. In the Gospel for today Jesus says: ***'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.'*** This is a timely reminder that we all need assistance from time to time in a variety of ways. While we currently are unable to celebrate as a school community, we have been able to use this feast day to support those people in need through our St Vincent de Paul donations.

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity.

Finally, families have been sent information about an **optional Remote Learning Survey** which has been **organised by Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM)** and Dr Simon Breakspear from *Agile Schools*. It is hoped that the survey will assist with further developments in education at both a system and school level. I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in advance for doing so. Staff and students will also complete surveys to gain input from all the partners involved in student learning.

God Bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacraments

All sacraments have been postponed due to COVID 19 until further notice.

Support those impacted by COVID-19

Once again we'll aim to have our food cart to be filled to the brim for the St Vincent de Paul Society who are collecting food in these tough times, compounded by the effects of COVID-19. Your donation will help reduce hunger and minimize a major stress for families. Our social justice leaders will coordinate a food collection from week nine and the collection will finish at the end of the term. The class that brings in the most items will win a casual dress day. Please donate to this worthwhile appeal.



Seasons

The Seasons program, which offers children a safe space to come together and share their experiences of change and loss will be postponed until further notice.

Booking for Mass

We continue to have limited numbers for Mass, and continue to use the same booking system. The booking period Tuesday 16th to Sunday 21st June.

If you have attended a Sunday Mass in the last few months, I would ask that you give others an opportunity until the restrictions are eased.

Again, please ensure that bookings for all Masses are made with the details of the person who will be attending (ie. not multiple bookings under one name).

If you will be attending Mass, please ensure that you arrive five to ten minutes before the start time (as the doors of the church will be closed during the Mass).

You can book a place for an upcoming Mass [HERE](#)

St Gerard's
Catholic Parish
Dandenong North

Mass Times

Tuesday - 9:15am, 6pm
Wednesday - 9:15am, 10:45am
Thursday - 9:15am, 6pm
Friday - 9:15am, 10:45am
Saturday - 9:15am, 5:30pm
Sunday - 10:30am, 5:30pm

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

Prep C took part in an oral language experience blowing bubbles. It was lots of fun!



OSHC NEWS



OSHC would like to advise that St Mary's Primary School will be running a holiday program if families require it. Please contact Sue on 0402192685 for information.



Did You Know? What is resilience?

Resilience enables people to shift back along the [mental health continuum](#) towards good mental health. It's not static but is something that can change over time due to experiences and circumstance.

Resilience is particularly important for children and young people

A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things, particularly their relative balance of risk and protective factors. Depending upon their situation, a child or young person's resilience may vary. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not.

The transition from being a child to an adolescent to a young adult occurs over a relatively short period of time. Rapid changes in physical, psychological and social development can present numerous challenges. Children and young people who are more resilient are better able to stay on track with the biological, psychological and social demands of growing up and moving through early childhood into adolescence and beyond.

Being resilient is associated with better academic performance and school behaviour and, over the longer term, fewer mental health issues and greater life opportunities (including employment and relationships). Individual resilience (as well as family and community resilience) is something that can be fostered and developed over time.

From the Be You website



This week in our Social and Emotional lesson we focused on what it means to 'Be Our Best' in all learning areas. Some of the students created posters showing what 'Being Your Best' looks like in all learning areas at St Gerard's. To 'Be Our Best' in the learning areas we need to, 'Keep our hands, feet and objects to ourselves and ask for help when needed.' We also had a focus on **Being Our Best** in every subject lesson we participated in on Thursday.

Next week the whole school will be focusing on **Being Respectful** in the learning areas. Teachers will be handing out raffle tickets to the students who are **Being Respectful** in the learning areas.

Whole School Classroom Reward System

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

The raffle tickets were drawn on the 19th of June and the lucky winners will be published in next week's newsletter.



Wristband Rewards!!

A big congratulations to the following students for achieving their first golden wristband.

Malakai Njane (Prep C)

Nevyn Thearath (Prep C)

Ainsley Bonnyvensura (1/2B)

Julian Gerges (1/2B)

Lachlan Hanson (1/2FP)

Well-done to 3/4L for achieving 50 wristbands!! They will be negotiating a class reward with Mrs Lewis.

