



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

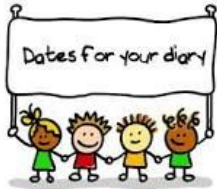


Term 1 Week 8

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

03 97917553

19 March 2021



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated a birthday this week.

- Aswin - 5/6VT
- Eann - 5/6O
- Elyanna - 5/6O
- Alessia - 5/6VT
- Dominique - 5/6O
- Sophie - 1/2L



## Subway Lunch

We will be having Subway lunch on the last day of Term 1. Order forms have been sent home with your child and need to be returned by Friday, 26 March 3:30 pm



Congratulations to the following students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the week.

**Devaan**  
**Ariyatillake**  
**John Audy**  
**Indiana D'Costa**  
**Filomena Mae**  
**Doroon**  
**Kevan Fernando**  
**Philip Flor**  
**Sherhom Gamas**  
**Lachlan Hanson**  
**Isaiah Hayat**  
**Tiffany Huynh**

**Emmanuel Jaison**  
**Ella Jaoude**  
**Zion Logai**  
**Dahlia Maliko**  
**Rachel Nguyen**  
**Ashton**  
**Nisanthan**  
**Steve Robin**  
**Krystn Santosh**  
**Amy Varghese**  
**Catherine Vinod**

Gentle Father, You sent your Son to show us the way of peace and love. Empower us, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to live a life of love and peace with others whom we encounter. Let us be an example to our children of how to be your instrument of peace here on earth. We ask this in your name, Amen.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

We have certainly had an action packed week full of opportunities for our students.

On **Monday** we celebrated **Harmony Day**. This was again a wonderful occasion when we acknowledged and celebrated all the cultures which contribute to making St Gerard's the special place that it is. There was a wide range of activities that the children took part in and I would like to thank the children and staff who came dressed in their cultural attire or in orange. **Our background and culture make us who we are. Through recognising and honouring these aspects we develop as individuals and as a school community.**

**Tuesday** saw our Year 3 and 4 children take part in their **Reconciliation Reflection Day**. This was one of the final parts of their preparation and last night (Thursday) they **celebrated this Sacrament of Healing at 7.00pm in the church with their families**. I would like to thank Mrs Stack for her leadership and coordination of this program and Mrs Castello and Ms Sono for the work they did with the children in class. Families are the first educators of their children and this is particularly evident when it comes to our faith. I would like to acknowledge the efforts and support of the families to make this a wonderful celebration.

Also on **Thursday** we had a '**World of Maths**' incursion for all year levels. It was great to see our children so engaged in the challenging activities which required mathematical skills and thinking. A thank you to Ms Sonno for coordinating this event.

**Today (Friday)** we recognised two significant initiatives, **National Ride to School Day** and **National Day Against Bullying**. A common thread with these initiatives is the promotion of both physical and mental wellbeing. It was great to see so many of our students riding, walking and scooting to school. Bullying requires vigilance from everyone at school and in the wider community and our students took part in activities to help prevent and address this issue. I encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about what they did today and to continue to have regular conversations.

A reminder to families at after school pick up to **use the pedestrian crossing and designated walking areas** when walking home or to your cars. This is a busy time and our children's safety is our number 1 priority. To assist with this the **Pedestrian Crossing needs to be kept free of cars**. I thank you in advance for your understanding, patience and cooperation.

Lastly, as mentioned last week, in our endeavours to refine our communication with families, we will be implementing the online platform **Operoo** from the start of Term 2. Please see the information contained in this newsletter.

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

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

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

## Other Import Dates for Religion:

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

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.

## 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

Altar boy training has recommenced. If your son would like to train as an altar boy please contact Ron Maroun on 0412 212 287.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D



Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet in his house, so always had to walk into the forest to the open defecation area. His family was often sick and open defecation caused many neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner agency, Laz Harfa, Arsad took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He then funded the building of a toilet in his house and helped other community members to save money to construct their own toilet.

Now, Arsad's family is healthier, their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. Arsad inspired his community to 'Be More.'

Around 17 percent of Indonesia's rural population, or 45 million people, practice open defecation – going to the toilet outdoors in fields, forests and other open spaces. ([World Bank](#))

Watch a short film about Arsad's story [here](#).

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion: [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)

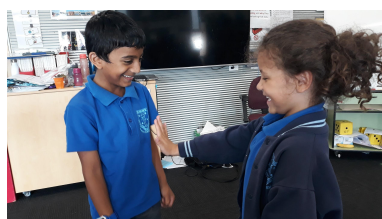


## WELLBEING NEWS

St Gerard's celebrated **Harmony Day** on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. Students were encouraged pack a lunch and wear clothing related to their cultural background or something orange. The students began their day with a Para Liturgy followed by exciting activities from around the world which taught them about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Have a look at some of the fun we had!



Today we celebrated National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA). It is an important day in our school calendar where we join with other schools across Australia to say 'Bullying. No Way!' Each class partook in a lesson which focused on standing up to bullying and violence.





## WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D



On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March we will held our third **Garden Market Stall** for 2021.

The Environmental leaders sold fresh curry leaves, potatoes, zucchinis, tomatoes, lemons, parsley seeds and eggs straight from the garden. We sold delicious homemade apricot and plum jam as well as tomato chutney which was generously donated by one of our beautiful mums and staff members! Thank you to all of the parents who supported our market stall!!!



This week 1/2L enjoyed their Garden lesson. The students harvested some tomatoes and learned about harvesting seeds and the life cycle of a seed. They also learned about the importance of weeding and maintaining a vegetable garden. If you would like to purchase fresh eggs please email [Nicole Fernandez](mailto:Nicole.Fernandez@stgerards.school.nz).



A big thank you to all of the families who participated in National Ride to School day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Congratulations to 3/4C who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!! Thanks to Woolworths in Waverly Gardens for generously donating healthy delicious apples for the students to enjoy!

**Well done to:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place- 3/4 C with 88% riding, scooting or walking
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place- 1/2FP with 81% riding, scooting or walking
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place- 5/6VT with 78% riding, scooting or walking





# WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

## What do we mean by digital mental health?

Digital mental health refers to services delivered via digital means, 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 have had 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.



## OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



The whole attended a Maths incursion named 'World of Maths' this Thursday. The 5/6s in particular had engaging activities to suit their level of thinking. My group was racing through activities with various combinations and strategies flowing through our minds. Many of my classmates were stuck in the Zone of Confusion and we were too. Adjusting and rapidly thinking managed us to get inches close to succeeding in this one particular activity. We couldn't wrap our heads around it at the start, but we used strategies like going back to the text to find clues and modifying constantly.

Arielle Punsalan

### Recount on The Maths Incursion

Today we had a maths incursion at St. Gerards called the World of Maths. The 5/6s went to the incursion in the PAC. We all split ourselves into groups of three and I was with Arielle and Jaskirat. At the start it was pretty easy and we completed three activities, but then we got to one activity which we found pretty difficult. Our task was to fill in the empty space with the pieces which were given to us. We tried different ways but one piece was always wrong. The task eventually became too hard for us that our brains started to spin faster than a fan. We decided to move on to another activity and come back to it and eventually made our way out of it. We completed more activities using angles, addition, higher order thinking, multiplication, fractions and many more types of ways to solve the maths problem. At the end of the day we were happy that we accomplished all the activities using our problem solving skills. We went back to the classroom happy to be able to step in and out of our comfort zone.

Pieta Jada

On Thursday, the 5/6 level went to a Maths incursion in the PAC. Some of the activities we did were 'Build a bridge', 'Space shapes and Cows', but my favourite activity was Pack up, where we had to put an array of different blocks in a specific order to get them all to fit in a cube shaped box. All these activities required us to deeply use 2 of the 4 proficiencies, Reasoning and Problem solving. Some of the skills we used under these categories were planning ahead, re-reading and the process of elimination. Overall it was a great experience and I would love to be able to do it again.

Abby Appleman



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to know more about the following community events, please see our noticeboard inside the school gates.

- Dandenong Education Program (conducted by St Vincent de Paul)
- North Dandenong F.C Auskick (AFL)
- North Dandenong Neighbourhood House
- Rowville Hawks (AFL)
- Key Z Park (Calisthenics)
- Endeavour Hills Eagles (AFL)
- St Mary's D's (Netball)
- Rowville Hawks (AFL)
- Little and Trivial Events (Entertainment)
- Noble Park Bulls (AFL)

## OSHC NEWS



**YLV**  
Youth Leadership Victoria Inc.  
**OSHC**

Please be advised that the school holiday program for the upcoming school holidays, will be run by St Mary's and St Elizabeth schools. To register your child please go to the YLV website:

<https://ylv.com.au/vacation-care/>

The OSHC students created this lovely poster for Harmony Day.