



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 6

30 May 2025



Year's 1/2 Artwork

Prayer for National Sorry Day

Loving God,

We pause to remember the pain and sorrow of the past.

We hold in our hearts the children of the Stolen Generations, their families, and communities who continue to suffer.

Help us to listen with open hearts, to learn from the truth of history, and to walk together in a spirit of reconciliation.

May we be people of compassion, working for justice and healing in our land. Guide us to live with respect for all cultures, especially the First Nations peoples of Australia. We make this prayer with hope and humility.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



<https://www.facebook.com/stgerardsps>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Winter certainly seems to be coming (if indeed it hasn't already arrived) with our mornings being quite cold. Despite the weather, we have had another week full of learning.

On Monday we gathered for a special **'Sorry Day' Assembly** to acknowledge this significant event in Australia's history. Awareness of this day is vital for our country and our students as we move towards reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Our **Year 4 and 5 children visited St John's Regional College, Dandenong on Wednesday for a 'Taster Day'**. This day is designed to give them an insight into Secondary School and in particular St John's. From all reports it was a great day and I would like to thank St John's for the opportunity.

Our **final Open Day for Term 2 was on Thursday**. If you know families who are looking for a school in 2026 they are more than welcome to contact the School Office on 9791 7553 or email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself. A reminder to **current families** that if you have a child who will be starting school next year to please come to the Office for an Enrolment Pack.

Today (**Friday**) we had our annual **Italian Day** which was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the learning of our children and the culture of Italy. Our school was awash with red, white and green and a variety of prominent Italian characters and icons. I would like to thank our children and families for getting into the spirit of the day. I would also like to **acknowledge and thank Signor Fabio** for his organisation and coordination of this event. It was definitely **a molto bene day!**

Also today, we had 3 children represent our school at the **Divisional Cross Country** event. It is a wonderful achievement to qualify for this event and all of our athletes competed admirably. We now have one athlete who has qualified for the Regional event which will be held in mid June.

Our **2024 Annual Report to the School Community** has been ratified by MACS. This report has been published on our website and there are copies in the foyer for any families who would like a printed copy. If you would like a digital copy please email myself or contact me via Seesaw.

Finally, a reminder that we have a **School Closure Day next Friday 6 June** for our staff to be involved in Religious Education Professional Learning and **Monday 9 June is the King's Birthday Public Holiday**.

Take care and God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Sacrament Dates, 2025

First Communion: (Grade 4)

Thursday, 19th June First Communion Reflection Day
Sunday, 22nd June First Communion, 10:30am 2025
Friday, 27th June First Communion Assembly in the PAC

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Tuesday, 24th June Confirmation Reflection Day (Yr 6 wear casual)
Thursday 26 June Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation at 10.00am (confirmed)
11:50 practice in the Church with Catechetics and School Candidates
Saturday, 28th June Confirmation 5:30pm (Vigil)
Friday, 4th July 1:15pm Confirmation and end of Term Assembly in the PAC

Whole School Masses:

Friday 27th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

Level Mass:

Prep/5/6 Level: 5th June, 9:15am
3/4 Level: 12th June, 9:15am

Reconciliation:

Years 3 & 4: Thursday 19th June, 10:00am
Years 5 & 6: Wednesday 25th June, 10:00am

Other Important Dates:

6th June Mary Glowrey Faith Formation Day for Staff, School Closure
15th to 21st June Refugee Week
16th June, 2:50 Refugee Week Assembly

Altar Servers

Altar service practice will resume on Thursday, February 13th, and will take place every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm in St. Gerard's Church. To be eligible for service, individuals must have completed their First Communion. This provides a wonderful opportunity for young members of the Church to participate in the liturgy and take on the responsibilities associated with altar service. For any inquiries regarding altar service practice or eligibility, please feel free to contact the parish office at 97924422.



Religious News



An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

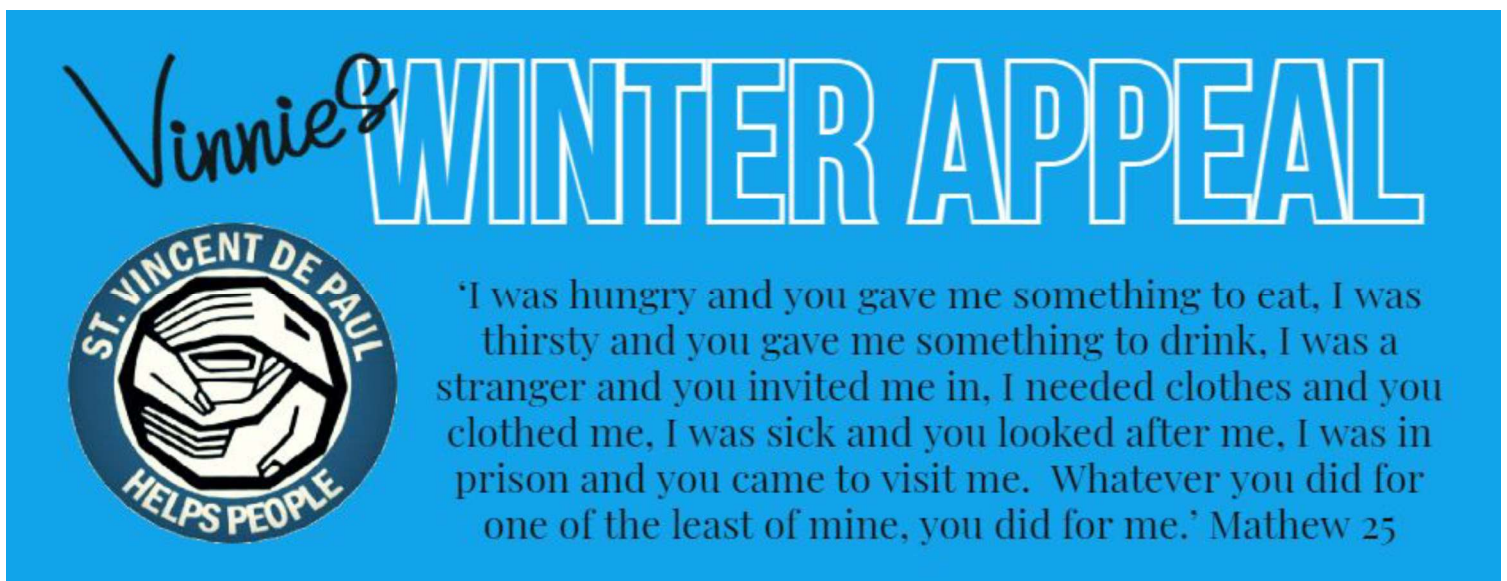
Families are welcome to take home the Our Lady statue for a week to support and enrich prayer time at home. It comes with a brochure on how to pray the rosary and some rosary beads. If families would like to take the statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.

Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is working with the school to lead the Rosary during lunch breaks. These Rosary sessions will take place during the first lunch break on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

We're aiming to fill our food cart to the brim once again for the St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal! Starting in Week Two, our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will be collecting food donations right up until the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that brings in the most items will be rewarded with a casual dress day.



Vinnie's WINTER APPEAL

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELPS PEOPLE

'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.' Mathew 25

Wellbeing



Give Me 5 News

Be Spirit-Filled in the Playground

Next week, our school community will come together to focus on one of our Give Me 5 values: *Be Spirit-Filled in the Playground*. This initiative encourages students to embody kindness, respect, and empathy in their interactions with peers.

What Does It Mean to Be Spirit-Filled?

Being Spirit-Filled means treating others as you would like to be treated, saying sorry and forgiving others, and showing kindness in all your actions. These principles are at the heart of our school culture and are essential for creating a positive and supportive environment for everyone.

Recognising Positive Behaviour

To celebrate and encourage these values, students who demonstrate kindness and respect in the playground will be awarded a silver band.



How does confidence develop?

Babies are born curious

They want to touch, see, hear and taste everything within their reach. Toddlers and preschoolers demonstrate their need to understand their world by asking many 'why' questions. From their repeated experiences of seeing their actions affect their world and the people in it, young children begin to see themselves as capable and having control. This helps them to feel good about themselves and builds their self-confidence.

When they begin school, children typically start out with high expectations

But when they see how they do things compared to others, their view of their own abilities often changes. They learn that they're good at some things and not so good at others. They also see how other children and educators respond to what they do. These things influence children's confidence in their abilities. They also influence how willing they are to have a go in situations where they feel unsure.

Your response

The way adults respond to children as they explore their place in the world is their template for solving many challenging and difficult problems later on. For young children, it helps strengthen their sense of self when significant adults nurture their natural curiosity and demonstrate patience and interest. In primary school years, children who are suddenly less sure of themselves may need extra support and encouragement to build a functional sense of confidence they can take with them into adolescence.

Wellbeing



FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#).

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to *What is a reasonable adjustment?* below to learn about adjustments.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.

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WHAT MUST SCHOOLS DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students have the right to a quality learning experience at school.

Students with disability must be able to take part in education without discrimination and on the same basis as other students. To ensure this, schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed for students with disability. Educators, students, parents, guardians, carers and others (eg health professionals) must work together to ensure that students with disability can take part in education.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* describe schools' responsibilities.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The Disability Standards for Education 2005 define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NCCD?

The definition of disability for the NCCD is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The following students are examples of those who may be included in the NCCD if they need monitoring and adjustments:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes).

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NCCD?

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability.

Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including:

- their year of schooling
- the level of adjustment received
- the broad type of disability.

For students who have more than one disability, the school uses professional judgement to choose one category of disability. They choose the category that most affects the student's access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

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HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the [Public information notice](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

There is also a free [e-learning resource](#) about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

This document must be attributed as *Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers*.

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EATING HEALTHILY TO MANAGE FEELINGS.

This term, the whole school focus is **DIET**.

The healthier you eat, the better you will cope with life's big worries.

The **BEST FOODS** to eat are **fruit** and **vegetables** **AND** **Legumes**.

ORANGES are **AWESOME**

Do you know that

Oranges are loaded with vitamin C, which helps lower cortisol (the stress hormone) and strengthens the immune system, keeping stress in check.



If you have a delicious recipe about **oranges**, please send them to: mlewis@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au


Joke: Why do oranges wear sunblock?
Because they peel.





Banana Weet-bix slice

Yield: 12 squares
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20–30 minutes
Ready in: 30–40 minutes



Ingredients

- 3 ripe bananas
- 5 Weet-bix
- ¼ cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp pure vanilla extract
- 80g butter or coconut oil
- 1½ cups self-raising flour
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- ½ cup milk chocolate chips or sultanas

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Grease a 18 x 18cm square baking tin.
2. In a medium bowl, mash the banana, crush in the Weet-bix and pour over the

milk. Set aside to soak for 5 minutes.

3. In a large bowl, beat together the eggs, vanilla essence and butter or coconut oil. Fold in the banana mixture.
4. Add the sifted flour, sugar and sultanas or chocolate chips. Stir until just combined.
5. Press mixture into the square baking tin until evenly distributed. Bake for 20–30 minutes or until golden and a skewer inserted comes out clean.
6. Allow to cool before cutting into squares.

Storage: Wrap each square individually in freezer proof plastic wrap and then foil. Store in a freezer proof bag. Place a square in the lunchbox and it should be thawed by recess.

122 www.onehandedcooks.com.au

Last week, we learned about bananas and how they improve our mood.

Here is a healthy recipe from a staff member featuring **bananas.**

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

We'd love to receive and share photos of your family making and consuming this recipe.

Reading Before School

ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL



READING BEFORE SCHOOL

EVERY

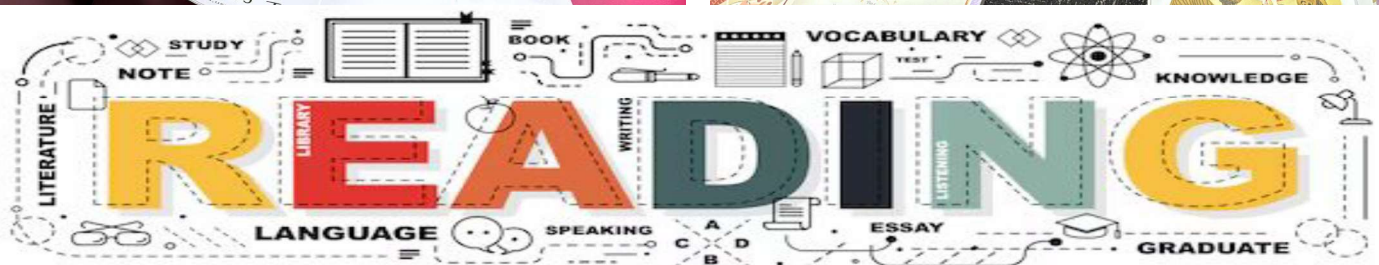
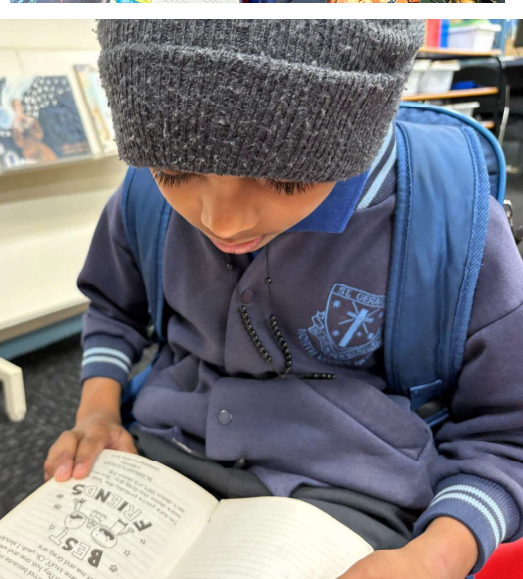
WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM

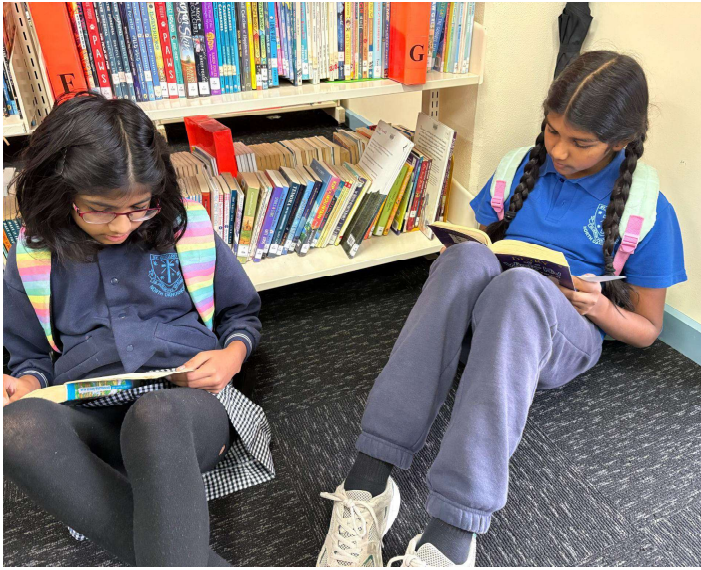
Join Mrs O'Brien in the
library for some quiet
reading time with a good
book and receive a
Reading Before School
raffle ticket.



Reading Before School



Reading Before School

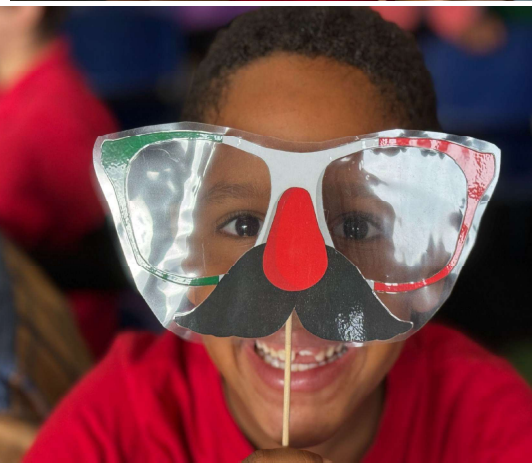


Reading Before School Winners

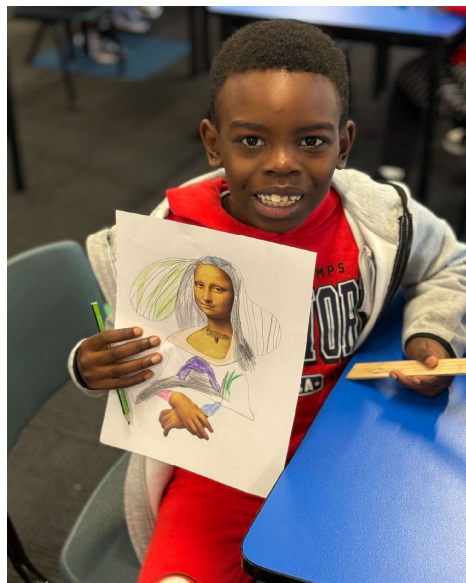


WINNERS

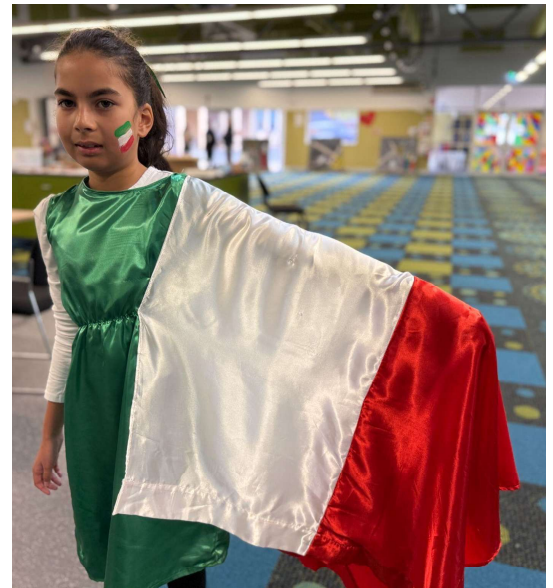
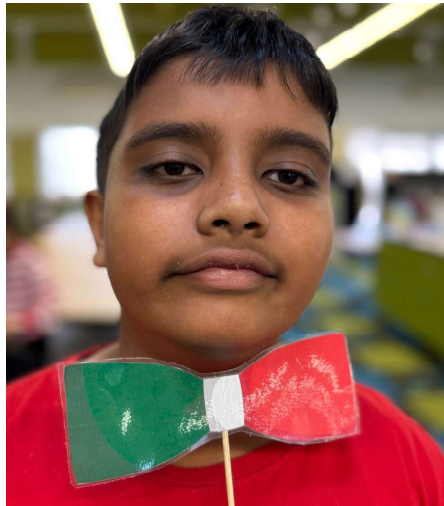
Italian Day



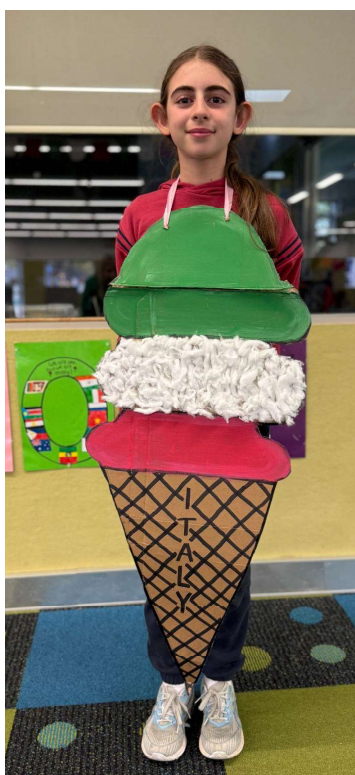
Italian Day



Italian Day



Italian Day



Important Dates / Info

June

- 4th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- **6th School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning - Religious Education**
- 8th Pentecost Sunday
- **9th King's Birthday Public Holiday**
- 11th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 12th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 12th Ride to School Day
- 18th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 19th First Communion Reflection Day
- 22nd First Communion at 10:30am (Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ)
- 24th Confirmation Reflection Day
- 25th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 26th Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation
- 28th Sacrament of Confirmation 5:30pm

July

- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 3rd Subway Lunch
- **4th End of Term 2 - School finishes at 3.30pm**

Important Notice:

School Fee Payments

Updating Payment Details

Parents are reminded to contact the school office if there are any changes to your payment details. This includes expired credit cards or updated bank account information. Keeping these details current helps ensure your payments are processed smoothly.

Outstanding School Fees

If you have not yet made any payments toward school fees, we kindly ask that you begin doing so as soon as possible to avoid falling behind.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please don't hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Principal Paul Cowan. We are here to support you and work together on a solution.

Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

Pick-up From After-School

Parents are asked to please be prompt when picking up your child/ren after-school. If a ride is not here when school concludes, the student may be sent to aftercare instead of the office. Please remember school aftercare does have a cost involved and time will begin accruing at the end of the school day. If a student's ride has run into an unexpected delay, **please call the main office to let them know.**



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mazenod.vic.edu.au

Book a tour →

Bookings essential

2025 Open Day: Wednesday 5th March
2025 Tours: 1st May / 24th Jul / 5th Aug / 16th Oct
Year 7/2027 Applications Close Friday 15th August 2025

Please note the following changes in relation to uniform purchases for St Gerard's Primary School:

Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

Option 1 - Online Order

Access to our Online Ordering System

1. www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
2. Go to **SHOP ONLINE NOW** (red box)
3. Select your school
4. Uniform listing with images will appear.

Select items you are wishing to purchase:

- Style
- Size
- Colour
- Quantity
- Add items to bag
- 5. Once all items are added to bag, proceed to checkout.
- 6. Select delivery options
 - a. Pick up from school (free) in comments section please enter your child's name and class
 - b. Pick up from A Plus Schoolwear (free)
 - c. Postal address (delivery charges will apply)
- 7. Either checkout as guest, returning customer or create a new account.

Orders placed by Sunday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

Option 2 - Fill out the order form and leave it at the school office.

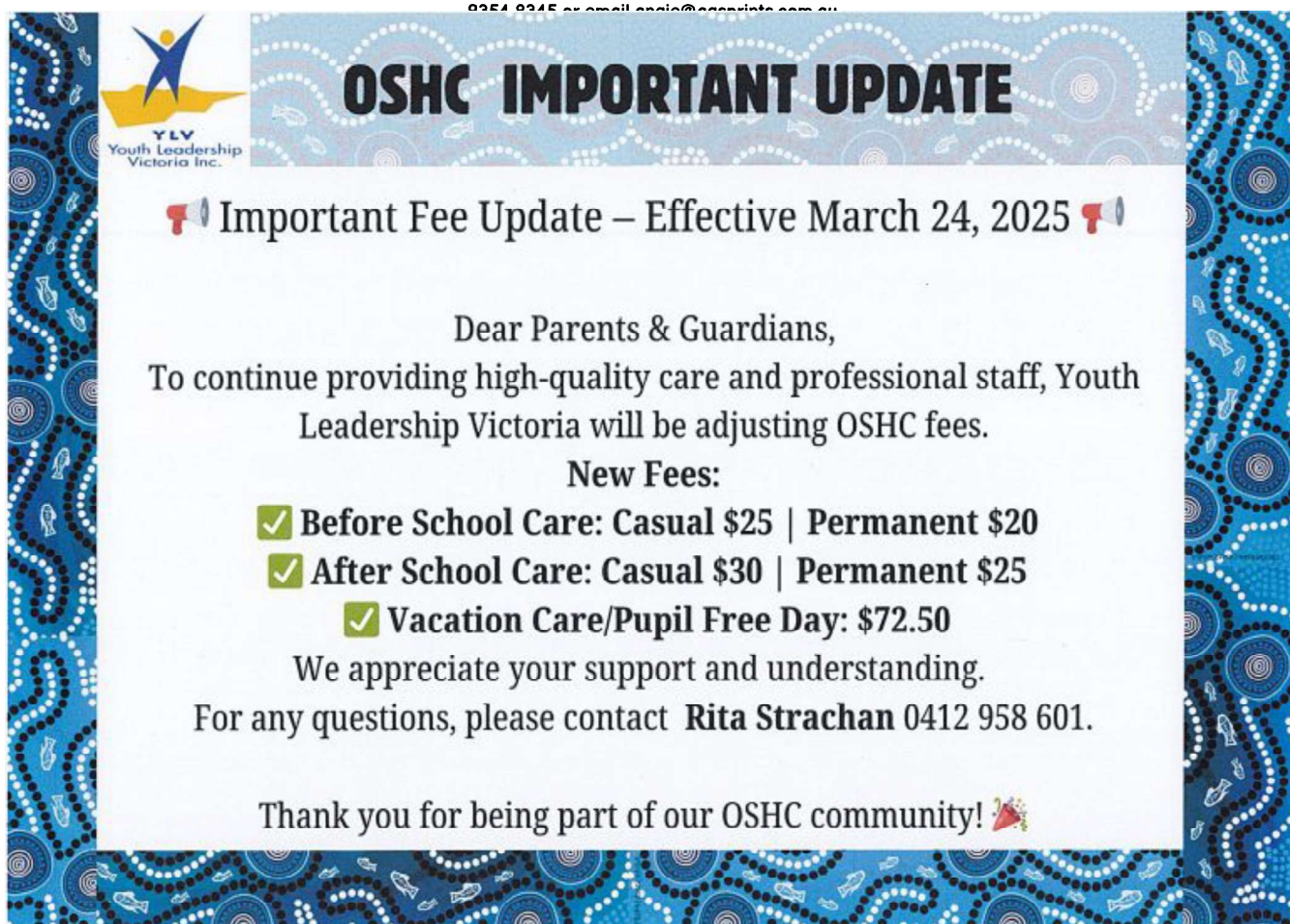
Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

RETURNS

Can be given to the school office **AFTER** contacting AGS and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus School wear.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact A Plus Schoolwear

0354 9345 or email info@agsprints.com.au



OSHC IMPORTANT UPDATE

Important Fee Update – Effective March 24, 2025

Dear Parents & Guardians,

To continue providing high-quality care and professional staff, Youth Leadership Victoria will be adjusting OSHC fees.

New Fees:

- ✓ Before School Care: Casual \$25 | Permanent \$20
- ✓ After School Care: Casual \$30 | Permanent \$25
- ✓ Vacation Care/Pupil Free Day: \$72.50

We appreciate your support and understanding.

For any questions, please contact **Rita Strachan** 0412 958 601.

Thank you for being part of our OSHC community! 🎉

Notice Board



Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays.

- Gi'on Yr 4
- Anastasia Yr 5
- Blessed Yr 3
- Nevyn Yr 5



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Nazareth Secondary College School Tour Dates and 2027 Year 7 Application Dates
- Nazareth Secondary College Production 'High School Musical'
- North Dandenong MASALA Junior Football club [AFL]
- Mazenod College Open Day & School Tours Info
- Goodstart Early Learning - Princes Highway



Chicken Eggs For Sale

- St Gerard's would like to offer families the opportunity to purchase delicious organic eggs laid by our resident flock of chickens.
- You can purchase these eggs from the school office at a cost of **\$8** per dozen.
- All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.
- Please message [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.