

# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 - WEEK 10

08 December, 2023



Our Children Illuminate the Night with Festive Carols! 🎵🌟 #CarolsOfJoy

## Second week of Advent

The lighting of the second advent candle holds significance as it represents the theme of preparation and anticipation during the Advent season.

Traditionally, the second candle, often known as the "Bethlehem Candle" or "Peace Candle," symbolises the peace brought by Jesus Christ, drawing attention to the biblical journey toward the birth of the Savior.

When we lit this candle at today's assembly, we reflected on the peace that Christ brings into our lives and the world, fostering a sense of hope and spiritual readiness for the celebration of his birth.



@st.gerards3175

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71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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Dear families,

Here we are one week from the end of the school year. The old saying '*time flies when you're having fun (learning)*' must be true!

This week saw us gather as a whole school community to share our gifts and talents, enjoy the company of each other and give thanks for all the year has given us.

Our **Art Show** closed on Tuesday after a week in which students and families visited the PAC to see the creative and wonderful pieces produced by our children. Thank you to the many families who provided us with such positive feedback about this event. Once again, I would like to **acknowledge and thank Mrs Michelle Benson and Mrs Shantelle Theodore** for their hard work and efforts and thank **Mrs Theodore for her coordination of this event and of course the children for providing the exhibits.**

Our **Christmas Carols Event** on Tuesday night in the courtyard was a wonderful way to spread some Christmas cheer and remember the true meaning of Christmas. **Looking out at our school community gathered together and the enthusiasm and joy of our children was truly heartwarming.** I would like to acknowledge the time and effort of our staff, our 2 surprise guests Dorothy the Dinosaur and Santa and of course our children who made the evening so magical.

Today (Friday) we had our **End of Year Mass** to give thanks for all the blessings we have been given this school year. I would like to thank the children who were involved in making this such a special and spiritual celebration.

Every year our school gets to nominate a Year 6 student to receive a **Community Spirit and Leadership Award**. This award is presented by Julian Hill (MP) Federal Member for Bruce. **I would like to congratulate Mezin who is our 2023 recipient!** Mezin is one of our student Technology Leaders who has helped students and teachers address their technology issues with a sense of duty and diligence. He has used his knowledge and skills to enable our Whole School Assemblies to be engaging and run efficiently which has impacted positively on our school community. He always follows our Give Me Five principles and his humble and persistent character along with his sense of humour makes him a most deserving recipient of this award. **Congratulations Mezin!**

Looking to next week, our Year 6 children have their **Graduation Mass and Ceremony next Thursday 14 December at 7.00pm in the PAC**. We will have a **Guard of Honour next Friday afternoon at 3.15pm** as they leave Primary School for the final time. Families are more than welcome to come and be part of this farewell.

cont'd

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

In staffing news, I mentioned last week that **Mr Jon Bode (Performing Arts)** will be **finishing at St Gerard's at the end of this year** as he has secured a teaching position closer to his home. I am pleased to announce that **Ms Stephanie Adrien will be our Performing Arts teacher in 2024**. Stephanie will be combining this role with some study she will be undertaking next year.

Also, one of our current Learning Support Officers, **Mrs Malki Thilakarathna** has completed her teaching qualifications and we are thrilled to announce that she will be continuing at St Gerard's next year but in a teaching role. This is exciting for Malki (who will go by the name Mrs S to avoid confusion with Mrs Nadia Te) and our school.

As I mentioned last week, **from the start of next year, the school gates will be open at 8.40am**. This change is due to the new Enterprise Agreement covering our school employees with regard to their working hours. This change will also mean that when the gates are open students and families will be able to access the building and classrooms. I wanted to inform families so that they have time to adjust their morning schedules if need be and I thank you for your understanding.

Finally, **a reminder that school finishes next Friday 15 December at 3.30pm**.

God bless.

Paul COWAN  
PRINCIPAL



# Religious Education

## **An Invitation to Bring Mary Home**



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

St Gerard's school has been gifted with a beautiful statue of Our Lady, a generous gift from the Legion of Mary group. The statue comes with a handcrafted carrier bag, designed for its respectful storage when not in use. Families are invited to bring the statue home for a week to use it to enhance family prayer. A brochure offering guidance on how to engage in rosary prayer will be included, accompanied by some sets of rosary beads. If you would like to bring this statue home, please contact Mrs Stack.





# 2023 CAROLS





# 2023 CAROLS





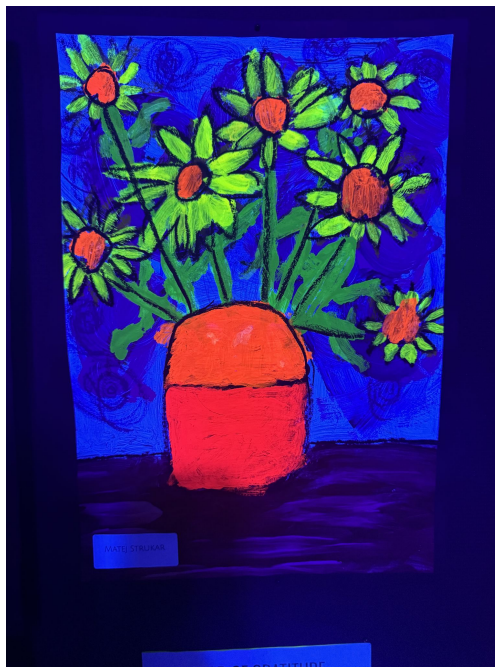
# 2023 ART SHOW



*St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.*

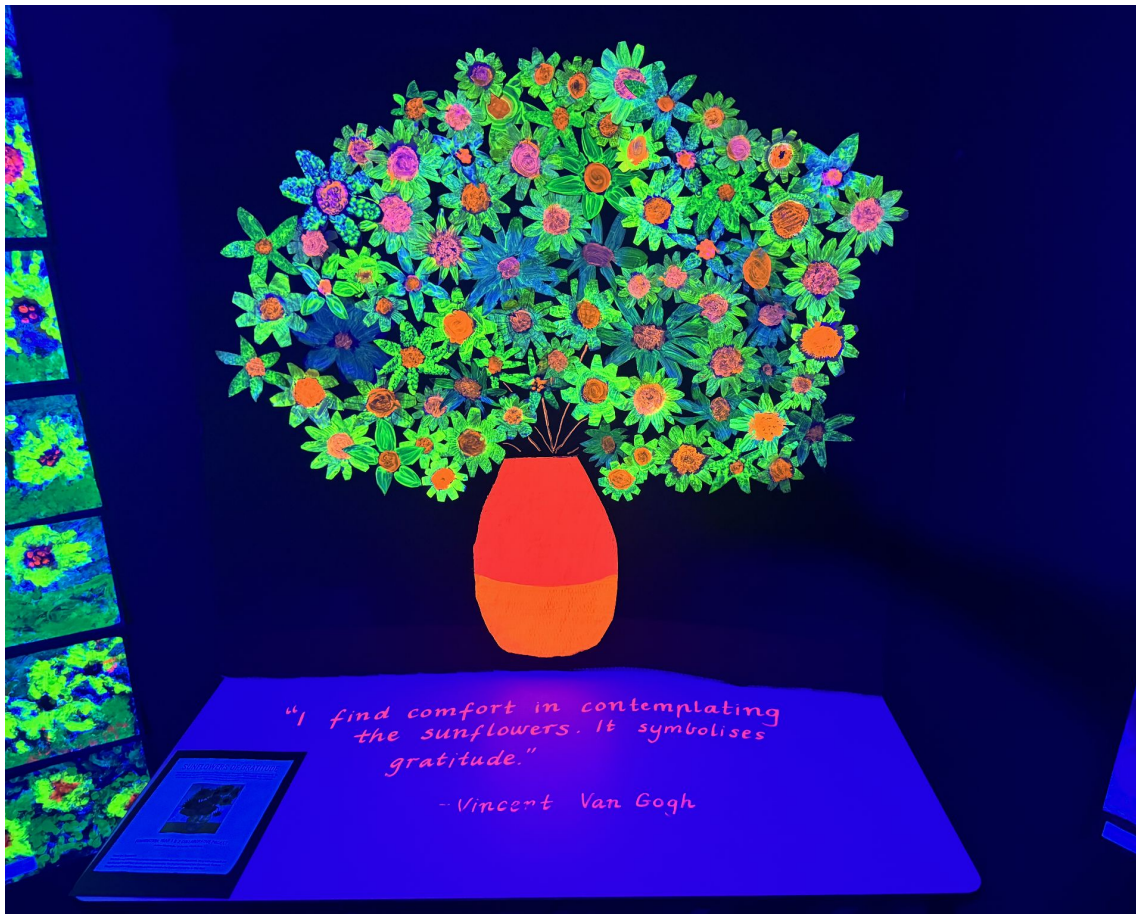


# 2023 ART SHOW





# 2023 ART SHOW



# WELLBEING



Growing a mentally  
healthy generation



## Why is SEL important for learning?

**Research shows that children and young people's learning is influenced by a range of social and emotional factors.**

Children and young people with social and emotional learning skills have better academic outcomes, as well as improved physical health and a better quality of life. How well individuals do in their learning community is affected by things such as how:

- confident they feel about their abilities
- effectively they're able to manage their own behaviour
- well they can concentrate and organise themselves
- effectively they can solve problems
- positively they can get on with educators and their peers
- effectively they consider others' needs
- well they can understand and accept responsibilities.

Therefore, SEL and success within the learning community go hand in hand.





# WELLBEING



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.

The SRC leaders along with the Wellbeing leaders created and presented a short video during this week's assembly demonstrating how students can be their best in all areas of the school.

## **Be Your Best in the learning areas**

- \* Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself**
- \* Ask for help**

## **Be Your Best in the corridor**

- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself**
- Only enter the corridor with permission**



# WELLBEING

## Be Your Best in the toilets

- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
- Report problems to a teacher



## Be Your Best in the playground and sandpit

- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
- Try to solve your problems





# WELLBEING



## Give Me 5 News

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 the Friday assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of December and the following lucky winners will enjoy a special treat with Mr Cowan:

1. Chris R
2. Antonia
3. Gabriel
4. Gift
5. Abel
6. Ansel



A big congratulation to the following students who have displayed the Give Me 5 Principles in the classroom and playground. These students received the **Principal's Award** for their outstanding behaviour.

- ❖ Foundation B- Andrew
- ❖ 1/2FW- Gurnishaan
- ❖ 1/2L- Jerome
- ❖ 3/4S- Akash
- ❖ 3/4A- Oscar
- ❖ 5/6O- Isaiah
- ❖ 5/6T- John



# WELLBEING

## St. Gerard's Give Me 5 Whole School Matrix



Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
<b>Be Respectful</b>	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property Take turns Whole body listening Greet people by name	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep the area neat and tidy</li> </ul>	Speak appropriately and use manners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give other users their privacy</li> </ul> Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep toilets tidy and flush</li> </ul> Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place rubbish in the bin</li> <li>Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden</li> </ul> Include others Respect everyone's views and space
<b>Be Co-operative</b>	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the right hand side to enter</li> </ul>	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accept rules</li> <li>Take turns</li> </ul> Share and use equipment safely Accept rules
<b>Be Your Best</b>	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Ask for help	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Only enter the area with permission	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Report problems to a teacher	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Try to solve your problems
<b>Be Positive</b>	Never give up			Encourage others
<b>Be Spirit filled</b>	Treat others as you would like to be treated. Pray daily and during meditation	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Say sorry and forgive others</li> </ul> Be kind

## PRINCIPAL AWARDS





# Parish News



**The Junior Legion of Mary Meetings are held every Monday at St Gerard's school term from 4:15pm – 5:15 pm in The Library Room (brown building in the car park of St. Gerard's Primary School).**

Legion of Mary Contact: Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175 and Jacqueline Savanah on 0437 668 352.

Application forms are available to collect from the foyer of the Church.

## Junior Legion of Mary

Dear Parents,

The Legion of Mary runs a Junior Legion of Mary praesidium (branch) at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong once a week after school during school term. Meetings last for one hour per week. All possible care will be taken while your child is with us.

Children are taught to:

- Pray the Rosary
- Be helpful at home
- Do works of service such as a Book Barrow

They are trained to be good Catholics by reaching out to others. One way they do this is by visiting a local nursing home during the school holidays, where they interact with the residents. Children are also guided to take part in parish events such as the Public Square Rosary in October.

This group will enable your child to grow spiritually and also learn to be an active apostolic worker in the Parish. All activities will be supervised by adult legionaries who hold Working with Children permits.

If you would like your child/children to join this group, please complete the application form below and return it to Kereena or Cecilia. For more information please phone a contact below.



Meeting Day:	Every MONDAY of St Gerard's school term
Time:	4:15 PM TO 5:15 PM STARTING JULY 10 <sup>TH</sup>
Place:	LIBRARY ROOM of St. Gerard's
Legion of Mary Contact:	Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175
Legion of Mary Contact:	Cecilia Donald 0402 716 101



✕ -----

Parent or guardian to complete: (All information provided is confidential.)

Child's Name:		Grade:	
Address:			
Any health issues?		Date of Birth:	

I ..... (Parent/guardian) give permission for my child (name) ..... to attend the Junior Legion of Mary at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong (in the Church foyer).

Signature..... Date.....

Name of First Contact Person			
Address			
Phone No.			
Second Contact for child	Name:	Phone No:	

## Altar Servers

Altar Server training will resume for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass.

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information contact St Gerard's Parish Office 9792 4422 or Mrs Stack 9791 7553



# Parish News



## St Gerard's Parish Christmas Carols

**Sunday 10th December  
from 11.30am(after the  
10:30am Mass)**

St Gerard's Parish Hall  
71 Gladstone Road  
Dandenong North, VIC 3175

**BBQ Lunch & Soft drinks are  
available for purchase.  
All are welcome**

**BOOKINGS BY 8TH DECEMBER ARE ESSENTIAL  
FOR CATERING PURPOSES**

Call the parish office on 97924422  
or Register by email  
[dandenongnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:dandenongnorth@cam.org.au)  
or Contact

Jeff 0477 188 883 / Alizarin 0457 778 889



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](http://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 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

9354 8345 or email [angie@agsprints.com.au](mailto:angie@agsprints.com.au)



# IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES


## December:

- **14th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony at 7.00pm**
- **15th Last day of school - 3:10pm Guard of honour for Year 6 students**

## St Gerard's YLVOSHC

### Program Information

Service Phone Number: 0402 192 685



### Prices

Before School Care
(Permanent) \$15.00
(Casual) \$20.00
After Max CCS: \$2.89

After School Care
(Permanent) \$20.00
(Casual) \$25.00
After Max CCS: \$3.16

Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care
(Permanent) \$65.00
(Casual): \$72.50
After Max CCS: \$6.50

\* MAX CCS REBATE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED AS APPROXIMATES AND MAY VARY

YLV.COM.AU


### OPERATING TIMES

**Before School Care**  
**Hours:**  
**6:45am - 8:45am**

**After School Care**  
**Hours:**  
**3:30pm - 6:30pm**

**Pupil Free Days:**  
**7:00am - 6:00pm**

**Vacation Care:**  
**7:00am - 6:00pm**





# SCHOOL FEES

The details of the next year's school fees have been sent to all parents via EMAIL and OPEROO. If you have not yet received the correspondence, please check your email inbox or spam folder. Additionally, we have displayed the fee information in our school newsletter below for your convenience.

We thank families for continuing to pay fees and levies throughout 2023. If you have fees outstanding from 2023, we urge you to settle these outstanding balances as soon as possible. As you will be aware, funding that is provided to Catholic schools is done so on the basis of a calculation that is based on the 'local capacity to contribute' model. As such, St Gerard's school like all other Catholic schools, is reliant on families to meet the set fees and levies referred to below.

## 2024 School Fees

The school in conjunction with our MACS Business Partner are always conscious of ensuring that Catholic Education is affordable for all families and any fee increases are minimal.

The School Fees for the 2024 year are:

### FEES PER FAMILY - \$1875

· Family Fee	\$ 1,235
· Capital Levy	\$ 554
· Maintenance Levy	\$ 86

### LEVIES per student - \$ 445

· Student Levy	\$ 254
· Excursion Levy	\$ 63
· Swimming Levy	\$ 74
· Computer Levy	\$ 54

FULL Payment can be made no later than 15<sup>th</sup> March, or calculated for equal monthly, fortnightly, termly or semester payments spread over the 10 months.

**To show our appreciation, if payment in full is made by the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024, then you will receive a 5% discount off the total fee (not applicable to those eligible for the concessional fee policy).**

## Payment Options

The School continues to offer the following options to paying your schools fees:

- Direct Debit — form attached — payment deducted as selected from February to November 2024
- Manual EFT or Credit Card — **Strictly By Term** — unless Principal approved



# SCHOOL FEES

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## Bank Details

### St Gerard's School Account

- BSB - 083 – 347
- AC# - 648 965 067

### Concessional School Fee Policy — 2023 - (Excluding any camp charges)

- One child family \$780 per annum
- Two child family \$1,196 per annum
- Three plus child family \$1,560 per annum

The following families are encouraged to apply for concessional school fees as outlined in the newly introduced MACS Concessional School Fee Policy:

- Any family holding a Health Care Card and eligible for Camps, Sports and Excursions (CSEF)
- Any family of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage
- Any family experiencing severe financial hardship
- Any family holding a DVA Gold Card
- Any family identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard

Families who meet one of the above criteria are required to return the below documentation to the office:

- Concessional Fee Application Form (attached)
- A completed direct debit request service agreement (attached)
- A copy of the government concession card (if applicable)
- A completed Camps, Sports and Excursions (CSEF) application form (attached - if applicable)

We encourage parents who are experiencing financial hardship and/or have recently become eligible to a Health Care/Concession Card to advise the school and a confidential meeting can be arranged with me to discuss your circumstances.

Please contact the School Office for any questions or concerns you may have and look forward to an exciting year ahead at St Gerard's Primary School, Dandenong North

Thank you for your continued valued support.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Cowan

**School Principal**



# Important Information



Happy Birthday to all who had celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week.

- Israel Foundation



- Dandenong Saints Basketball Club - new players wanted
- Diamond Dancers - Recreation and Competitive Dancing
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Dandenong Scouts
- Cricket Blast - North Dandenong Cricket Club
- Cricket Blast - Noble Park Cricket Club



## 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 \$6 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.