

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 - WEEK 9

01 December, 2023



Illuminating the Path of Hope: Our children come together to light the Advent candle, symbolising the warmth of love and the promise of a brighter journey ahead. In this sacred moment, we unite in prayer and anticipation during our Advent Paraliturg.

🕯️ ✨ #AdventJourney #LightingHope



On the First Sunday in Advent
The "Hope" candle is lit

Heavenly Father,

In this first week of Advent, we gather as a school community, seeking Your grace and guidance.

As we light the first candle, may its flame symbolise the warmth of Your love and the promise of a brighter future.

Bless our school, teachers, students, and families. May this season deepen our faith and unity, making us beacons of kindness and compassion.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Today marks the first day of Summer and sees us with 2 weeks left of the school year. Where has the time gone?

Our **Art Show opened on Wednesday** and it is a wonderful showcase of the gifts and talents of our children which have been encouraged, developed and nurtured by our Visual Arts program. I am particularly impressed by the creativity and variety that is being presented. This program was delivered by **Mrs Michelle Benson** early in the year and then continued by **Mrs Shantelle Theodore**. I would like to **acknowledge and thank both of these teachers** for their hard work and efforts and thank **Mrs Theodore for her coordination of this event**. The Art Show will be **open every day from 8.30am - 5.00pm in the PAC and close on Tuesday 5 December after our Christmas Carols evening**. Families are welcome to come at a time that suits them to have a look at the fantastic work of our talented children.

Our Year 6 children are entering into their final weeks of Primary School and as part of this they had their **Year 6 Fun Day** yesterday (Thursday). This saw them go bowling and participate in laser tag before returning to school for a disco and a chance to be together as a group. There are a number of events for this group with Secondary School transition days, our Graduation Mass and Ceremony and our whole school guard of honour on the last day of school. This is an exciting and at times challenging part of a students journey and we look forward to celebrating their time with us at St Gerard's.

In staffing news, I wish to inform you that **Mrs Ann Cowled (Learning Support Officer)** will be **retiring at the end of the year after 21 years of service at St Gerard's**. Throughout her time at our school Ann has worked with and supported our children with compassion, calmness, empathy and positivity. This has been a decision that she has wrestled with for quite a while but the lure of more time away with her husband in warmer parts of Australia and her increasing number of grandchildren have helped her make this choice. While our school community will miss Ann, I am sure you join with me in wishing her all the very best for the future.

Also, **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. Jon has shared his many talents and enthusiasm with our students and school over the past 2 years with our 2022 School Production still very much a highlight in the hearts and minds of our school community. He has made a big and positive impact on Performing Arts at our school and while we are sorry to see him go we wish him all the very best for the future.

Rehearsals for our **Christmas Carols evening next Tuesday 5 December at 7.00pm** are in full swing. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity for our school community to gather together at this significant time of the year in our faith. Carols will be held in the Courtyard Area (weather permitting) and I look forward to seeing you all at this final whole school event for the year

Finally, **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.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education

Important RE Dates

Tuesday 5th December:	Christmas Carols Evening
Thursday 7th December:	Christmas Activities Rotations
Friday, 8th December:	End of Year Mass, 12:00
Thursday, 14th December:	Graduation Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm



"Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining..." Join us for a delightful evening of Christmas Caroling, featuring performances of your favourite carols by the students of St. Gerard's School in the quadrangle on Tuesday, December 5th, at 7 pm. Children are requested to be seated with their class by 6:45 pm.

What to wear:

Children have been asked to dress in a theme for the Christmas Carols.

Foundation	Christmas coloured t-shirt and shorts or dress, Christmas headband or hat. (Foundation staff will supply any additional costumes).
Year 1/2	Wear a Christmas-coloured t-shirt paired with black shorts, a dress, or a skirt. Tinsel can be worn around your wrists, forehead, and neck, either as a necklace or with additional Christmas accessories.
Year 3/4	Christmas coloured t-shirt (with or without Christmas design) and black leggings, trousers or shorts, Tinsel and Christmas hats optional.
Year 5/6	All black long or short sleeve tops and long pants with different coloured tinsel around wrists and forehead. Santa hats if you have one.

Religious Education

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL



ST. GERARDS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROLS

TUESDAY

5

DEC

7:00 PM

IN THE QUADRANGLE
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS
ALONG TO JOIN IN THE CHRISTMAS
FESTIVITIES

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.



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 TH
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



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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

YEAR 6 EXCURSION



WELLBEING



Growing a mentally healthy generation



What is play?

Play can be pretending, learning a new skill, dressing up, being active or being quiet.

Play can involve other children or be alone. Adults can join in if they're invited – in fact, young children often love to play with close adults. Children decide what to play and how to play. Play is their time to be free and enjoy. It's their language, their work and their relaxation.

It's for all children, of all ages from birth on, and of all abilities.

Unstructured, free play is the best type for young children

This is play that just happens, depending on what takes the child's interest at the time. It isn't planned and lets children use their imagination and move at their own pace. Examples of unstructured play might be:

- creative play alone or with others, including artistic or musical games
- imaginary games (for example, making cubby houses with boxes or blankets, dressing up, playing make-believe)
- exploring new or favourite play spaces like cupboards, backyards, parks, playgrounds and so on.

You can be part of a child's unstructured play – or not

Sometimes all you'll need to do is point them in the right direction – say, towards the jumble of dress-ups and toys on the floor, or to the table with crayons and paper.

Sometimes you might need to be a bit more active – for example, “How about we play dress-ups? What do you want to be today?”

Structured play is different.

It's more organised and happens at a fixed time or in a set space, and is often led by a grown-up. Examples of structured play include:

- swimming lessons – you might see these as important lessons for your child, but they might just think they're fun
- storytelling groups for toddlers and preschoolers at the local library
- dance, music or drama classes for children of all ages
- family board or card games
- organised team sports for older children, like basketball, netball and football.

WELLBEING - GIVE ME 5 & SRC



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 today and the lucky winners will be announced in next week's newsletter.

St. Gerard's Give Me 5 Whole School Matrix



Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
Be Respectful	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"> Keep the area neat and tidy 	Speak appropriately and use manners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give other users their privacy Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place rubbish in the bin Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden Include others Respect everyone's views and space
Be Co-operative	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the right hand side to enter 	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept rules Take turns Share and use equipment safely Accept rules
Be Your Best	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
Be Positive	Never give up			Encourage others
Be Spirit filled	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"> Say sorry and forgive others Be kind



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 spirit filled in the playground.

Be Spirit Filled in the Playground/Sandpit

*** Treat others as you would like to be treated**

*** Say sorry and forgive others**

*** Be kind**

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
or Contact

Jeff 0477 188 883 / Alizarin 0457 778 889

Lunchtime Club

Lunchtime Sports Club

Hi, this is Ariana, Antonia, Azalea and Sophia

Last Tuesday we held a running sports club during our lunch break. This week the focus was on tennis. Quite a few people came and everyone enjoyed it. We hope to see all of the children there next week. We have attached our sports clinic timetable below.

Timetable

<i>Weeks & dates :</i>	<i>Sports :</i>
<i>Week 2 10th of October</i>	<i>Tennis (passed) (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 3 17th of October</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 4 24th of October</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 5 31st of October</i>	<i>Running (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 6 7th of November</i>	<i>Public holiday</i>
<i>Week 7 14th of November</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 8 21st of November</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 9 28th of November</i>	<i>Tennis (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 10 5th of December</i>	<i>Fun day (PAC & basketball courts)</i>



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 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

IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES


December:

- 5th Christmas Carols evening 7:00pm
- Christmas Carols evening 7:00pm
- 5th Art Show Closes
- 6th Final Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 8th End of the School Year Mass at 12:00 noon
- 8th Second Sunday of Advent Assembly at 12:00 noon
- 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



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


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

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 15th 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 15th 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

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.

- Emmanuel Yr 5
- Bhanuri Yr 3



- St Gerard's Parish Christmas Carols
- 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.