



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

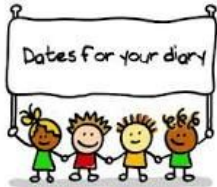


Term 4 Week 7

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

20 November 2020



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to those who celebrated their birthdays during the week-

- Beyonca - 5/60
- Mrs Jolly

Is Your Child Returning in 2021?

Preparations are underway for 2021 classes. If your child(ren) **IS NOT** returning to St Gerards, please notify the office. This does not include those transitioning to Year 7.



Please take some time to have a look at our updated website. Some new additions are:

- **What's Behind the Wall?** - a video showing our wonderful school.
- **Absences** can now be entered via the link on our website
- New school policies have also been uploaded.



Feast of Christ the King

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King, a wonderful opportunity to think about what a special gift God gave us when he sent his Son Jesus to us. Jesus is the light of the world showing us how to live happy and peaceful lives. If we listen to his words and follow his example, we can live in harmony with others.

Loving Jesus, you are our helper and friend who brings peace to our hearts.

**You are our king, we celebrate your kingship.
We thank you for the light you shine on us that shows us the way to you.**

**We pray that we listen to you and follow your ways.
Amen.**

Blessing on him, who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

As I mentioned last week, we are endeavouring to provide the events and activities that we have every year with the adjustments we need to make given our current situation. With this in mind, **Italian Day** will occur on **Tuesday 1 December** with our children participating in activities and dressing up to celebrate, share and enhance their learning. On the Friday of that same week (**4 December**) the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will be celebrated in our church at 7.00pm. This is certainly wonderful news particularly for our Year 6 students and their families. I ask you to keep these children in your thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks. Planning is also well underway to **celebrate Christmas as a school community**. This traditionally would have been with our Christmas Carols night and while that is not possible, we will be providing the opportunity for our families to share in the joy of Christmas.

Planning for 2021 is well underway. Considerable time is spent in preparing class lists with numerous factors needing to be considered. **If families have a specific request for their child this needs to be put in writing and addressed to myself or emailed to principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au**. Requests need to be based on **educational grounds** and will be treated confidentially. **Please note that all requests will be considered but I cannot guarantee that all requests will be granted.** Our aim as a school is to provide the best opportunities for all our students to learn. **Requests need to be received by Friday 20 November.**

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our first priority at St Gerard's. Therefore, I am reminding parents of children who have **cold or flu-like symptoms, a cough, sore throat or fever are to seek medical advice**. With this in mind it is vital that **if your child is unwell they must stay at home.**

Our families continued cooperation with our before and after school arrangements is greatly appreciated. **Please note that our school gates are opened at 8.30am each morning. We are starting to see children dropped at school before this time which poses a safety threat as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds.** I am therefore asking that families refrain from leaving their children unattended before 8.30am for their safety. Thank you in anticipation.

Our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children and in the current challenging economic climate **we all need to support each other**. If your **family is experiencing challenges** with regard to **school fees** please contact the School Office or myself **so we can work through this together**. If you have a **current Health Care Card you are entitled to a reduction**.

This Sunday is the **Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe** and signals the end of the liturgical year. We hear in the Gospel that the kingdom of God is inclusive through the words ***"I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."*** While this is always pertinent, it is a particularly important reminder as we enter into the season of Advent.

God bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Confirmation

We are excited to announce that the Sacrament of Confirmation is permitted for our Year 6 students on **Friday, 4th December**. Under the strict guidelines, attendees will be by invitation only and will need to be registered. All families of eligible candidates have been contacted. Should you require any further clarification of any matters regarding Confirmation please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Stack at the school.

Confirmation and End of Year Reflection Day

Yesterday our Year 6 students took part in a Reflection Day as part of their preparation for Confirmation and transition into secondary school. It was an opportunity to reflect on our school, life and faith journey. It was a time of sharing their thoughts and feelings with others in a different way. It was a chance to celebrate through different forms of prayer and to give thanks for the gift of self and others. They were given the opportunity to deepen their sense of the St Gerard's Community and belonging. We all had a lot of fun.



Mission Walk Around Australia

Students and staff are to be congratulated on their efforts and enthusiasm in participating in our Mission Walk Around Australia. Next week we will be beginning our fundraiser to raise money for the Missions.

Students are asked, if they can, to raise money by collecting donations for walking every day for 15 minutes on our walking track.

Each class will be allocated a box to collect money for Catholic Missions. The class that raises the most money will win a casual dress day. The due date for donations has been extended to Monday 23rd November.

All money raised will go to Catholic Mission to help empower children and young adults with disability at the Arrupe Centre in Cambodia. We saw a video of this community during an assembly recently. The money we raise will help provide vital care for those who would otherwise have limited opportunities or support to lead a fulfilling life.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

Carols Evening

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Carols Event will be held remotely this year. We hope to distribute a Vimeo link to our Christmas event for families on Friday 11th December. More information will be available soon.

Important Dates for Term 4

Advent Assembly at 2:30
First Sunday of Advent
Confirmation
Shanthaiah Marneni MSFS.
Christmas Event (remote)

Friday, 27th November
Sunday 29th November
4th December, 7pm officiated by Fr.
Friday, 11th December



WELLBEING NEWS



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.



St Gerard's would like to offer parents 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 \$5 per dozen.

All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.

Please email Nicole Fernandez if you would like to purchase some eggs.



WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

Gardening Lesson

This week 3/4L enjoyed their Gardening lesson. The students learned about the following concepts in the garden this week:

- composting
- worm farming
- planting seedlings
- harvesting (how to carefully harvest mulberries)
- weeding
- how to look after chickens
- ways to fix broody chickens



This week in our SEL lesson we revised the "Whole School Behaviour Flowchart."

The Prep to 6's discussed that all teachers at St Gerard's will follow the Behaviour Flowchart when students do not follow the expectations present on the Whole School Matrix.

The Prep to 2's role played a few scenarios and the class determined if the behaviour was a 'minor' or 'major' behaviour and how the teacher would respond.

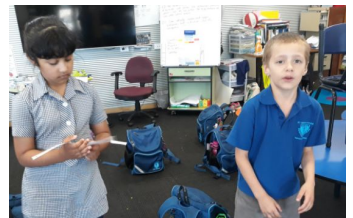
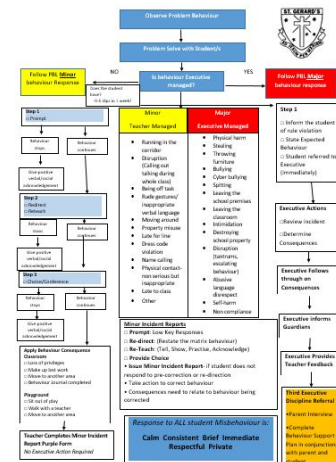
Walk Around Australia

In term 4 students are challenged to get fit by using a map of Australia to track the distance they have covered when they walk around the walking track.

Classes are timetabled to walk around the track for 15 minutes per day.

We have currently walked 15,388 laps of the oval which converts to 3847 km. Our whole school has now walked from Melbourne to Darwin.

Have a look at the red sticker dots below to see how far we have walked so far!!



OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



Unboring Exploring is a collection of adventure-themed stories created by young authors through Early Harvest publishing program. Four of the works published were written by some of our wonderfully talented Year 6 students with other Year 6 students helping edit the stories.



Authors

Gayansa Biya
Nadine Sandhriya



Editors

Naysa Anamika
Jaskirat Caitlyn
Aparanji

Walk or Ride To School **Friday, 27th November 2020**



Friday, 27th November is a Ride to School Day. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school from home or from a nearby drop off point. If your child doesn't normally walk to school, you could do this together.

Students who ride are given a sticker and the class who has the most students riding or walking get to keep our Ride to School trophy in their classroom for that month.

Students can ride bikes, skateboards or scooters.

They must wear a helmet at all times.

Upon arrival at school, students must hop off their bike or scooter and lock up their bike or scooter in our bike parking area (behind the 1/2 gathering space).