

# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 - WEEK 3

20th October, 2023



**Prep Girls Shine Bright, Embracing Saint Gerard's Light at our Talent Quest!**



*Heavenly Father,*

*On this feast day of St. Gerard Majella, we seek your blessings. We thank you for the gift of education and the opportunity to grow in knowledge and faith.*

*Inspired by St. Gerard's example of humility and service, help us to support and care for one another. Bless our teachers with wisdom, our students with open hearts, and our community with unity and purpose.*

*We also pray for expectant mothers, fathers, and families, asking for your protection and guidance. May our school be a place of love, compassion, and hope, shining a light in the world.*

*In Jesus' name, we offer this prayer.*

*Amen.*



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan  
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71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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Dear families,

This week we engaged in **St Gerard's Feast Day celebrations** that occurred on Sunday and Monday. As part of this, **Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland (Auxiliary Bishop in the Southern Region) celebrated Mass at 10.30am last Sunday**. I would like to thank our **Year 6 Leaders and staff for their participation** in this significant parish event.

We then continued to celebrate our patron on Monday by **attending the Parish Mass** and then conducting our annual **St Gerard's Talent Quest in the Parish Hall**. This is a wonderful tradition and our children got to share their gifts and talents with our school community. It was wonderful to see so many families come and support our children and they witnessed a variety of acts from all grade levels that were all very entertaining. I would like to congratulate our Year 6 Leaders that hosted and organised the music so that this event could run so smoothly. I would also like to thank Mrs Stack for her coordination.

Our **Wednesday morning before school reading in the Library** has continued to be well attended by children and their families. A reminder that there is a **standing invitation to all our children and families to come and read together from 8.15am**.

Yesterday (Thursday) we had our second **Sushi Day** which again proved to be very popular. I would like to thank Ms Fernandez for her organisation of these days.

Today (Friday) was a School Closure Day which saw our staff involved in **Professional Learning and Development in the area of Religious Education**. This will not only enhance their own faith journeys but have a positive impact in our school and classrooms.

We have nearly all our families registered to the **online platform called Operoo (formerly CareMonkey)**. This is an online service to send permission notes to families which will stop the need for paper notes to be sent home and returned to school as well as other communication. Our Swimming Lessons information has been uploaded which requires a response from all families. If you need any assistance to set up your profile please contact our School Office.

Finally, families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan** are reminded that if there are changes to any aspect of the plan you need to **contact the School Office**. It is vital that the information we have here at school is current and accurate.

God bless.

Paul COWAN  
PRINCIPAL

# Religious Education

## Important RE Dates

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Friday 27th October:</b>                | Mission Month White Elephant Stall (led by the Social Justice team) |
| <b>Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November:</b> | All Saints Day, Parish Mass 9:15 am                                 |
| <b>Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November:</b>  | All Souls Day, Parish Mass 9:15 am                                  |
| <b>Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November:</b> | Remembrance Day, one minute silence                                 |
| <b>TBA:</b>                                | Year 6 Reflection Day   |
| <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December:</b>    | Christmas Carols Evening  |
| <b>Thursday 7th December:</b>              | Christmas Activities Rotations                                      |
| <b>Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December:</b>    | End of Year Mass, 12:00   |
| <b>Monday 11th December:</b>               | Christmas Carols Tour of the Nursing Homes Excursion                |
| <b>Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December:</b> | Graduation <b>Mass and Ceremony</b> 7.00pm                          |

## Whole School Masses

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| All Saints' Day, Parish Mass: | Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November, 9:15 |
| All Souls' Day, Parish Mass:  | Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November, 9:15  |
| End of Year Mass              | Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December at 12:00 |

## Class/Parish Mass Timetable

Classes that couldn't proceed with their Class Mass previously have been newly assigned one, while all other classes will attend the parish Mass.

|   |            |                                  |
|---|------------|----------------------------------|
| ★ | 3/4S:      | 26th October, 10:15, Class Mass  |
| ★ | Prep:      | 9th November, 10:15, Class Mass  |
| ★ | 1/2 Level: | 16th November, 9:15, Parish Mass |
| ★ | 3/4A:      | 23rd November, 9:15, Parish Mass |



# Religious Education

## **World Mission Month 2023**

Mission Month is upon us, and it's time to ignite our 'Hearts on Fire' for a cause that truly matters. Throughout the month of October, we're embarking on a meaningful journey to make a positive impact.

Our focus this year is on East Timor, a place filled with resilience and hope, but also facing various challenges. We'll have a series of exciting events and activities that will not only inspire but also provide an opportunity for all of us to contribute.

From fundraising initiatives to heartwarming stories of mission work, we'll be sharing the spirit of compassion and solidarity that defines our school community. So, get ready to get involved, make a difference, and join us in supporting Catholic missions in East Timor. Together, we can spread love, hope, and kindness far and wide!

## **White Elephant Stall Fundraising for Mission Month**

Exciting news! Our 'White Elephant Stall' is making a comeback this Mission Month. It's your chance to declutter and make a difference. Simply donate gently used toys you no longer need, and every class will set up their own stall to sell them. Plus, you get the opportunity to purchase some fantastic toys while supporting Catholic Missions in East Timor. Let's come together with 'Hearts on Fire' and show the world the power of generosity!

## **Lunchtime Rosary**

Lunchtime Rosary: The Legion of Mary Group is collaborating with the school to reinstate the practice of praying the Rosary during lunch breaks. These sessions will be available during the first lunch in weeks 4 and 8 in each term.

## **The Poppy Appeal**

The Social Justice Team will be selling Poppy Badges **from \$1.00** up until Remembrance Day, 11th November.

The Poppy Appeal contributes significantly to the fundraising work of the RSL. The largest fundraising activity is the sale of poppies beginning in late October each year. All money raised is used to assist both current and former serving members of the Australian and Allied defence forces and their dependents in times of need.





# 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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*.



# Talent Quest

ST GERARD'S SCHOOL PRESENTS

## TALENT QUEST

THE ST GERARD MAJELLA FEAST DAY



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



# Talent Quest





# 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



# Reading Before School



# 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



This week the Give Me Five focus was to 'Be Cooperative' in the learning areas.

The teachers were looking for students who were being cooperative in the classroom and playground. These students were rewarded with a raffle ticket in the classroom and silver wristband in the playground.



## 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<br>Care for property<br>Take turns<br>Whole body listening<br>Greet people by name | Speak appropriately and use manners<br>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<br>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<br>Respect everyone's views and space |
| <b>Be Co-operative</b>  | Follow Directions<br>Move safely<br>Stay on task<br>Share with others and help each other                              | Follow Directions<br>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<br>Move safely<br>Wait for your partner   | Follow Directions<br>Move safely<br>Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accept rules</li> <li>Take turns</li> </ul> Share and use equipment safely<br>Accept rules   |
| <b>Be Your Best</b>     | Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself<br>Ask for help   | Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself<br>Only enter the area with permission  | Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself<br>Report problems to a teacher  | Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself<br>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.<br>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  |

# WELLBEING



## **Walk or Ride To School** **Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 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 (in front of the Performing Arts Centre).



# 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 &amp; 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 &amp; basketball courts)</i> |





# Lunchtime Club



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

## October:

- 25th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 26th Walk/Ride to School Day
- 27th Teachers' Day in Australia
- 30th Bike Ed Program Years 4-6

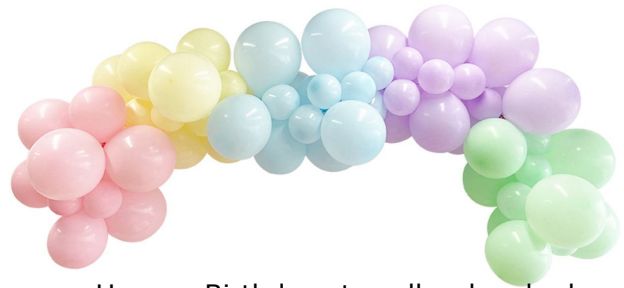
## November:

- 1st - 3rd Bike Ed Program Years 4-6
- 1st Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 1st All Saints Day, Whole School attending Parish Mass at 9:15am
- 2nd All Souls Day, Whole School attending Parish Mass at 9.15am
- 2nd Subway Lunch
- **6th Student Free Day**
- **7th Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday**
- 8th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 8th and 10th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 10th Remembrance Day Assembly at 2:50 pm
- 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 15th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 16th Sushi Day
- 20th, 21st, 22nd & 24th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 22nd Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 23rd Walk/Ride to School Day
- 29th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 29th Art Show Opens
- 30th Subway Lunch

## December:

- 1st First Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:50pm
- 5th Christmas Carols evening 7.00pm
- 6th Final Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 6th Art Show Closes
- 8th End of the School Year Mass at 12.00 noon
- 8th Second Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:50 pm
- 14th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony at 7.00pm
- 15th Last day of school - 3:10pm Guard of honour for Year 6 students

# Important Information



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

- Marcus Yr 5
- Jerome Yr 1

## NOTICE COMMUNITY BOARD



- Catholic Bible Study Course through St Gerard's Parish
- Dandenong Saints Basketball Club - new players wanted
- Diamond Dancers - Recreation and Competitive Dancing
- Springvale Indoor Sports (Term 4)
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Dandenong Scouts
- Cricket Blast - North Dandenong Cricket Club
- Cricket Blast - Noble Park Cricket Club
- Australian Girls Choir Open Days (11 & 19 November)



### 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.