



# ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

71 Gladstone Rd, North Dandenong 3175  
Ph: 9791 7553 [www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)



## NEWSLETTER

22 February 2019



### Tuesday, 26, February

- Parent Teacher Conversations
- Ride to School Day

### Wednesday, 27 February

- Playgroup, 9—10:30 am

### Thursday, 28 February

- Parent Teacher Conversations
- Yr 5 Excursion—Nazareth College Taster Day

## Student Absences

Please ensure you contact the school if your child is going to be absent. An SMS will be sent if the school has not been notified.

## School F E E S

School Fee Statements have been sent home today with the eldest child. Enclosed with this statement are the following:

- **Fee Payment Agreement**
- **CSEF Application**
- **Family Verification Report**

If you have previously applied for CSEF and you **do not** have a new student enrolled or your family circumstances **have not** changed you do not need to reapply.

**Family Verification Report** ensures we have correct and up to date information regarding your child. Please ensure you check this blue form, make any necessary changes and return to the front office.

I GIVE YOU A NEW  
COMMANDMENT;  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER  
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

JOHN 13:34

 daily prayer

In this Sunday's Gospel we hear about loving our enemies and doing good to them.

*'I have never yet met an enemy whom I did not try to turn into a friend' (Nelson Mandela). This mentality transforms our world. We choose not to participate in the demonising of others. We decide to welcome strangers as possible friends. We grow in a certain other-centeredness that gives oneself to another's benefit. We possess a love of neighbour which extends beyond love of kin and love of those who love us. Our love extends to love of the poor and outcast, the dispossessed and forsaken. To use the language of Greg Boyle SJ, we seek to expand the circle of compassion until such time as we stop throwing people away.*

# ACTING PRINCIPAL NEWS

We have had a wonderful week at St. Gerard's this week. It has been so good to see so many families taking part in activities our school activities. These parent school partnerships are related to improved student outcomes, attendance and behaviour. This is why it is important for families and schools to work together. This week families have helped in the kitchen garden, assisted in classrooms and taken part in our playgroup

## **St. Gerard's Playgroup**

It was our first playgroup this week with 10 families and children attending. Toddlers and babies played while the adults talked and shared stories. Playgroup will happen each Wednesday at 9.00 at school and everyone is welcome to attend.

## **Parent Teacher Conversations**

Next week we have our parent teacher conversations on Tuesday and Thursday evening. This will give teachers and parents an opportunity to meet and work together and support your child. If you have not returned your forms please do so and teachers will organise a meeting time.

## **Cyber safety**

Once again we are holding a Cyber safety day and evening for our Grade 5/6 students and all St. Gerard's families. This day and evening is to inform and empower parents and students. The students will travel to St. Mary's during the day and parents can meet at St. Mary's Dandenong at 7 pm. This will include a 90 minute information session where parents can ask questions and get to take home resources. Mark the date March 5<sup>th</sup> in your diary and we look forward to seeing you at St. Mary's.

## **School Fees**

School fees have been sent home today. Enclosed with the fees will be information about how you can pay through direct debit, a CSEF Application form for those eligible for the Government rebate as well as a Verification Report. This report is to ensure we have the correct and up to date information relating to you child. Please check this carefully, sign and return to the front office as soon as possible. Now is a good time to organise paying by direct debit. This will make it easier to budget to pay the school fees. Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter and I wish you all the best for the week ahead, May God Bless You,

Carol Stewart  
Acting Principal

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## **Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass**

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March: Ash Wednesday at 12:00 (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

## **Level Masses:**

Years 1/2	Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb at 9:15
Years 3/4	Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March at 9:15
Prep and Years 5/6	Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March at 9:15

## **Other Important Dates for Term 1**

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March:	Shrove Tuesday
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral for School Leaders (wear full school uniform)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Students wear full school uniform with a touch of green, for example, green socks, green jumper, green ribbon for St Patrick's Feast Day which is on Sunday
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Feast Day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	The Passion at 2pm followed by Hot Cross Buns for parents afterwards

## **Sacrament Dates, 2019**

<b>First Reconciliation:</b>	<b>(Grade 3)</b>
First Reconciliation	Thursday 13th June at 10:15

<b>Confirmation:</b>	<b>(Grade 6)</b>
Confirmation Information Night:	21 <sup>st</sup> March
Confirmation	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July at 3pm

<b>First Communion:</b>	<b>(Grade 4)</b>
First Communion	Sunday 8th September at 2pm

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

## **The Passion**

Please mark this significant event into your diaries and arrange to have some time off work if needs be to see The Passion.

The Passion is in Holy Week. Our faith journey with Jesus in Holy Week sees us remembering his last days and moments. It is a journey of jubilation, of anxiety and suffering, of humiliation and abandonment, of dying on a cross.

During the Passion we journey with Jesus towards the cross and prepare to welcome him into our presence.

The Passion will take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2pm, followed by Hot Cross Buns served to parents.

## **Palm leaves needed:**

If you have some palm leaves that can be used for props for The Passion, please bring them to Mrs Stack on Monday 1st April.

## **Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss**

Seasons is a peer support program for children and young people who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. This loss may be the result of a death, separation or divorce.

This valuable program will become available in term 2.

If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Stack.

## **St Patrick's Day Mass**

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 10 children from Year 6 will represent our school by attending Mass to celebrate St Patrick's Day at St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne. After Mass, we will walk to the Treasury Gardens to have lunch followed by a concert in the park. Children attending the Mass must wear full school uniform.

## **A Touch of Green to Celebrate St Patrick's Day**

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, students not attending the excursion to the Cathedral are invited to wear a touch of green to Celebrate St Patrick's Day.

## **Project Compassion**

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Project Compassion Boxes will be distributed to each class during Ash Wednesday Mass. Each class will have a target amount that they would like to raise during lent. Regular updates, by the Social Justice Leadership Team, with the amount raised so far will be announced at the school assembly.

## **Rosary**

Each Tuesday we have a group that comes together to pray the rosary in the Church at first lunch, led by Jenny Gelderbloem from the Parish. Children are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring their own Rosary beads if they have them. Otherwise, Rosary beads will be provided.

## **Meditation**

Thank you to everyone that has remembered that we begin each day with meditation. If you arrive late to school and the meditation bell has already gone, you need to wait in the office area until meditation time has finished.

## **Altar boy training**

Altar boy training is in the Church at 5pm to 6:30pm every Thursday evening. If your son is interested in becoming an altar server, please contact Mrs Stack.



# Walk or Ride To School

## Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019



**Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 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, scooter or skateboard and leave their bike or scooter in the area behind 1/2 B's classroom.



Wednesday we started our St Gerard's Primary School Playgroup and it was wonderful to see so many families attend. If you know of anyone who would like to come and join us please let them know. It will be held every Wednesday morning, 9 am—10:30 am in the OSHC building.





# Buddies

The Grade 5/6 classes met with their Buddies in Prep C this week to help them with some craft activities.



## CSEF Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund

If you have a current Health Care Card like the one pictured below or Concession Card you may be eligible for CSEF.

**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**

An application form will be sent home with your fee statement or are available at the front office.





# Be Known at Nazareth



## OPEN DAY

**SUNDAY 24 MARCH**  
11am - 2pm

Register to attend via our College website.  
[nazareth.vic.edu.au](http://nazareth.vic.edu.au)

**CONTACT**  
(03) 9795 8100 | [enquiry@nazareth.vic.edu.au](mailto:enquiry@nazareth.vic.edu.au)  
Manning Drive, Noble Park North VIC 3174

**Closing date for enrolment for Year 7—2021 (grade 5  
2019) is Friday, 23 August 2019**



## Open Day



**MAZENOD  
COLLEGE**

**TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 2019 4.00 PM TO 8.00 PM**

The last tour commences at 7.00 pm

Additional College Tours will be conducted 9.30 am, 10.00 am and 10.30 am  
on Tuesday 21st May 2019, Tuesday 23rd July 2019 and Tuesday 15th October 2019.  
Applications for 2021 close Friday 23rd August 2019.

Kernot Avenue, Mulgrave, VIC 3170 COLLEGE (03) 9560 0911 FAX (03) 9562 2442 [mazenod.vic.edu.au](http://mazenod.vic.edu.au)

# Kitchen Garden



This week 5/6 O were in our Kitchen Garden preparing and making Vietnamese rice paper rolls. Thank you to Layale Jaoude, Afet Tofa and Pamela Arias for their assistance and to the parents who have kindly donated kitchen utensils and cooking items.



*"On the 22nd of February, my class and I went gardening and cooking. I'm only going to share my cooking experience. I was on group "Bee" and my group and I were making our Vietnamese rolls (which I had never eaten although I am Vietnamese). Then I started practising cutting. Jessica, Ruach Kuoth, Abiran and Doki were really brave with the knife. The rolls were really sticky. We were talking about how much we liked it on the table. The whole class loved it. It was a great experience!"* **Matthew Dinh—5/6 O**



# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## TERM 1

### Parent Calendar as at 15 February 2019

WK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	28/1 <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>	29/1 NO STUDENT	30/1 1 – 6 Students Start NO PREPS	31/1 Prep Students commence early dismissal 1:00 pm Human Face Incursion Yr P-4	1/2 Prep Students Early Dismissal, 1:00 pm Whole School Mass – 12:00 pm
2	4/2	5/2	6/2 NO PREPS Values Incursion Yr 5 & 6 Incursion	7/2 Give Me 5 Twilight Evening 6 – 8 pm Excel Music classroom visit	8/2 Give Me 5 Assembly 2:45 pm
3	11/2 <b>YEAR 5 CAMP</b>	12/2 <b>YEAR 5 CAMP</b>	13/2 <b>YEAR 5 CAMP</b> NO PREPS	14/2 Excel Music lessons commence	15/2 Gardening, Cooking 5/6VT
4	18/2	19/2	20/2 NO PREPS	21/2	22/2 Sporting Schools—students wear sports uniform Gardening/Cooking 3/4L
5	25/2	26/2 <b>PARENT TEACHER CONVERSATIONS</b> Ride to School	27/2 Playgroup 9 am-10:30 am	28/2 <b>PARENT TEACHER CONVERSATIONS</b> Excursion Nazareth Taster Day—Yr 5	1/3 Sporting Schools—students wear sports uniform Gardening/cooking 3/4L Yr 6 Excursion—"Pelican" catamaran (weather permitting)
6	4/3	5/3 Shrove Tuesday Subway Lunch Yr 5/6 Cyber Safety Excursion—St Mary's Primary School 11:30—1:00 Cyber Safety Staff & Parent info night	6/3 Playgroup 9 am-10:30 am	7/3	8/3 Excursion—St Gerard's Athletics Day at Knox Athletics Track
7	11/3 <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> Catholic Education Week: growing strong in Christ	12/3 Prep & Yr 1/2 Literacy Evening – 7pm	13/3 <b>HOMEWORK CLUB COMMENCES</b> Playgroup 9 am-10:30 am	14/3	15/3 National Day of Action against Bullying & Violence Garden/cooking—3/4 S St Patrick's Day Mass at Cathedral Children to wear a touch of green Sporting Schools— students to wear sports uniform
8	18/3	19/3	20/3 Playgroup 9 am-10:30 am Open Day at St Gerard's Primary School	21/3 Harmony Day Confirmation information night	22/3 Sporting Schools—students to wear sports uniform Gardening/Cooking—1/2 FP
9	25/3	26/3 Ride to School	27/3 Playgroup 9 am-10:30 am	28/3	29/3
10	1/4	2/4 The Passion Hot Cross Buns & afternoon tea for parents	3/4 Playgroup 9 am-10:30 am	4/4 Subway Lunch	5/6 LAST DAY OF TERM 1 Finish – 2:30 pm

Thursday, 18 April – Holy Thursday  
Friday, 19 April – Good Friday of Fast & Abstinence

Saturday, 20 April – Holy Saturday  
Sunday, 21 April – Easter Sunday