



ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

22 March 2019



Tuesday, 26 March

Ride to School

Wednesday, 27 March

• Playgroup—9:00 – 10:30 am

Friday, 29 March

• Gala Day 1

Subway Lunch

On 4 April, second last day of term 1 we will be having another Subway lunch. Order forms will go home with your child on Wednesday, 27 March and need to be returned by Tuesday, 2 April.



UNIFORM SHOP

Monday, 25 March will be the last morning the uniform shop will be open for Term 1. Normal Monday morning hours will resume Term 2.

LAST DAY OF TERM 1

The last day of Term 1 is Friday, 5 April and it is an early finish. Pick up time is 2:30 pm. Please arrange OSHC for your child if unable to pick up at this time.



To experience God as Moses did when he saw the burning bush is to become imbued with the mind of God, to see the world and the meaning of reality through God's eyes. 'I am who am' – God's naming of himself – is an affirmation of life, of goodness and of holiness.

Moses' moment of revelation and adoration is immediately succeeded by a call to service: 'I have heard my people cry.' Any misgivings Moses might have had are countered by God's promise: 'I will be with you.' This God of steadfast love, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, will stand by Moses. But it is Moses who must take action.

It can be wonderful to bask in the presence of God and contemplate the wonders of his loving kindness, but when we are called to action on his behalf in our broken and unjust world, is our response to close our eyes, or do we say, 'Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will'?

ACTING PRINCIPAL NEWS

Dear Parents

On Tuesday, 2 April will be holding our Passion presentation at 2:00pm in the school hall followed by hot cross buns. It's a wonderfully prayerful gathering and we would love to see as many families as possible attend.

Last week we celebrated St Patrick's Day and it was lovely to see children wearing a touch of green for this occasion. We celebrate this day in Melbourne as our Church in Melbourne was began by priests, nuns and laity from Ireland, where St Patrick is the patron saint. As a result our Cathedral in Melbourne is named St Patrick's Cathedral. Saint Patrick's Cathedral is a place of God, an oasis of peace and beauty, built by a small immigrant community with courage, vision and love. It is a lasting reminder of God's constant presence among the people of Melbourne. If you haven't visited our beautiful cathedral, the school holidays are coming up and what a lovely opportunity to have a family day and visit it followed by a picnic lunch in the Fitzroy Gardens across the road.

We are still experiencing some congestion in our drop off and pick up zones both during the morning and afternoon. Please be mindful of this and use the allocated parking bays especially when walking your child into school. Please also use the zebra crossing to ensure children are safe.

Wednesday we held an Open Morning for prospective families to visit St Gerard's and have the opportunity to see first hand our lovely school community at work. We will be having more of these Open Mornings throughout the year so if you have friends or families looking for future schools for their children please let them know there will be other opportunities coming up and we will have the dates and times available when confirmed. Alternatively, we welcome them to call the office and organise a suitable time to visit us.

Wishing you all a lovely and safe weekend.

God Bless

Carol Stewart
Acting Principal



You are cordially invited to **The Passion Presentation**

A re-enactment of The Way of Jesus

Followed by Hot Cross Buns

Performed by

The Children of St Gerard's Primary School

Tuesday, 2 April, 2:00 pm

St Gerard's Primary School Hall

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Other Important Dates for Term 1

Tuesday 2nd April The Passion at 2pm followed by Hot Cross Buns for parents afterwards

Sacrament Dates, 2019

First Reconciliation: (Grade 3)
First Reconciliation Thursday 13th June at 10:15

Confirmation: (Grade 6)
Confirmation Information **The date for this event has been postponed and we will advise when a new date has been confirmed**
Night: Sunday 28th July at 3pm
Confirmation

First Communion: (Grade 4)
First Communion Sunday 8th September at 2pm

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 2nd 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.

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.



Ride to School Day

Tuesday, 26 March



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.

Kitchen Garden



This week 1/2 FP were in our Kitchen Garden preparing and making beautiful, healthy vegetarian wraps.



CECV Students with Disabilities (SWD) Program

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) Students with Disabilities (SWD) Program aimed to improve the learning outcomes of educationally disadvantaged students, especially in reading and writing ability and numeracy. Each year, schools could submit SWD applications in either Round 1 (October) or Round 2 (February). Eligibility for the program was then decided by the CECV SWD Committee.

There were seven disability categories: physical disability, chronic health impairment, severe language disorder (including severe developmental verbal dyspraxia), intellectual disability (including global developmental delay), hearing impairment, vision impairment and social-emotional disorders (including autism spectrum disorder). Each disability category had criteria and documentation requirements that had to be met.

Disability funding for Victorian Catholic schools from Federal and State government sources was based on eligible SWD students flagged on the census.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

The *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* is a process that all schools must do every year. It counts the number of students who receive extra adjustments or 'help' at school because of a disability, as defined by the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA).

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word 'disability' comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student's learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

There are four disability categories: physical, cognitive, sensory and social-emotional. There are four levels of adjustments: quality differentiated teaching practice (QDTP), supplementary, substantial and extensive adjustments.

Changes to Funding

Both Federal and State governments have indicated that the NCCD will now be used to inform funding. From 2019 onwards, schools will receive funding based on students counted in the NCCD at supplementary, substantial and extensive adjustments levels. **Therefore, the CECV SWD Program will transition to the NCCD for the 2019 program year.**

What does this mean for students currently on the CECV SWD Program?

NCCD Eligibility

Specialist documentation (e.g. paediatrician, speech pathology, psychology, GP) that was used for the CECV SWD Program can be used as 'evidence' for NCCD. The NCCD **does not currently** have specific documentation requirements (e.g. documentation from specific specialists or date requirements). Where available, information and advice from specialists combined with school-based evidence will continue to provide rich information to inform educational programming (i.e. adjustments).

Evidence of the help given can be seen in documents such as teacher work plans, monitoring sheets, specialist support timetables, Program Support Group (PSG) minutes and Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs). It is highly likely that students on the CECV SWD Program have already been, and will continue to be counted in the school's NCCD.

Review Assessments

NCCD **does not currently** have specific documentation requirements. Where students may have needed updated review assessments for the CECV SWD Program, they are now not necessary for NCCD. Where available, information and advice from specialists combined with school-based evidence will continue to provide rich information to inform educational programming (i.e. adjustments).

NCCD Submissions

Schools must submit their NCCD in August every year and cannot change their NCCD after the due date. The Australian Government will apply post enumeration processes (census audit) to a random sample of the school's NCCD submission.

Parental Consent

Changes were made to the law ([Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#)). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

Where can I access more information?

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD. You may also find these links helpful:

- [CECV NCCD Information Sheet for Parents, Carers and Guardians](#)
- [NCCD national website](#)
- [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Education and Training–NCCD.](#)



YOUTH LEADERSHIP VICTORIA OSHC

ST. GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

On **Thursday 28th March**, YLV After School Care will be having
a special guest visit!

Who: CFA Dandenong Fire station

When: Thursday 28th March

4:00PM-4:45PM

Where: St. Gerard's YLV OSHC Room

Cost: Standard booking fees will apply

BOOKING TYPE	FULL FEE	AFTER MAX CCS APPLIED
ASC PERMANENT	\$20.00	\$3.75
ASC CASUAL	\$25.00	\$4.15



We are very lucky and appreciative to have our local Firemen from CFA Dandenong Fire Station come to St. Gerard's After School Care to educate everyone on common fire safety and give us a grand tour of a REAL Fire Truck!

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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TERM 1

Parent Calendar as at 15 March 2019

WK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	28/1 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	29/1 NO STUDENTS	30/1 1 – 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 for Life Yr 5 & 6 Incursion	7/2 Give Me 5 1st Night Evening 6 – 8 pm Excel Music classroom visit	8/2 Give Me 5 Assembly 2:45 pm
3	11/2 YEAR 5/6 CAMP	12/2 YEAR 5/6 CAMP	13/2 YEAR 5/6 CAMP 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 5/60
5	25/2	26/2 PARENT TEACHER CONVERSATIONS Ride to School	27/2 Playgroup 9 am-10:30 am	28/2 PARENT TEACHER CONVERSATIONS 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 Ash Wednesday Mass—12:00 pm	7/3	8/3 Excursion—St Gerard's Athletics Day at Knox Athletics Track
7	11/3 PUBLIC HOLIDAY Catholic Education Week: growing strong in Christ	12/3 Prep & Yr 1/2 Literacy Evening – 7pm	13/3 Homework Club 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 17/3 St Patrick's Feast Day
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	22/3 Sporting Schools—students to wear sports uniform Gardening/Cooking—1/2 FP National Ride to School Day
9	25/3	26/3 Ride to School	27/3 Playgroup 9 am-10:30 am	28/3 Reading before school	29/3 Gala Day 1 Gr 5/6
10	1/4 Uniform Shop NOT open	2/4 The Passion Hot Cross Buns & afternoon tea for parents	3/4 Playgroup 9 am-10:30 am	4/4 Subway Lunch Reading before school	5/4 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