



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

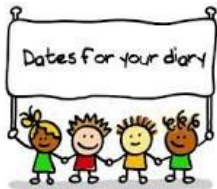


Term 2 Week 6

[www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)

03 97917553

22 May 2020



## School Assembly Link

Link to our assembly for this week:

[22 May Assembly](#)

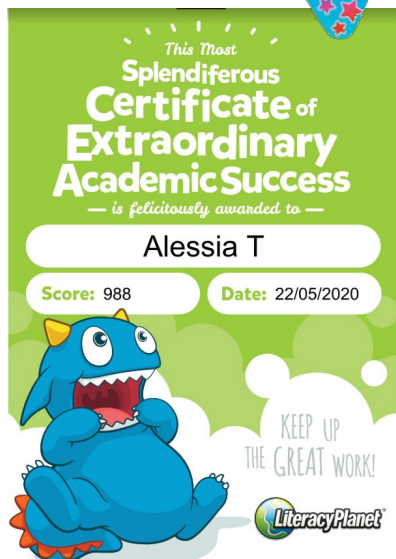
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students a happy birthday for this week:

- Ms Thoms
- Signora Harris
- Amy Labour
- Luke Jian
- Christianpaul

We hope you have a great day!!!

CONGRATULATIONS  
ALESSIA



## PRAYER FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Lord, we pray for those who run to danger to keep us safe  
and those who serve the common good. Embrace them with  
your mantle of protection and comfort the fears of their  
families. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

# Thank You!

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan  
Parish Priest - Father Dean Mathieson  
[principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)  
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Welcome to the end of Week 6 and for our **Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 children the last week of Remote Learning**. Our staff are very excited and looking forward to seeing our **Prep - Year 2's next Tuesday 26 May**. **The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our first priority** at St Gerard's and with this in mind we will **implement a number of procedures and processes to keep us all safe**. Please find included in this Newsletter information that was sent out to our Prep - Year 2 families about returning to school. **If you do have any questions or concerns please contact myself via email: [pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) , phone 9791 7553 or send me a message via SeeSaw.**

We have not forgotten our **Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students who will continue with Remote Learning until Tuesday 9 June**. The procedures we currently have in place will continue and I want to thank these students and their families for their efforts in continuing the learning of their children.

**Please note that next Monday 25 May is a school closure day and no learning tasks will be assigned. We will send a Meditation out on Tuesday for families to use at their leisure.**

The focus this week from our **Give Me 5** principles was **Be Respectful**. This is a **key principle** not only **of our school but also our faith**. God created all people, and created them differently for reasons and purposes we may not understand. Regardless of how we perceive other people to be, they are God's creations, and it is God's will for us to show respect to everyone. With our current situation I feel there has been many opportunities for us to do this in our families and those in the wider community we encounter.

Our other focus for this week, which I feel links well with *Be Respectful*, has been to acknowledge the **fantastic work being done by our essential service workers**. We have many members of our school community that are in these professions. These people are involved in **the service of others**, often when there is high vulnerability and a need for support. On behalf of the St Gerard's school community I would like to thank **our** essential workers.

Thank you to the families that have contacted us about **Prep enrolments for 2021**. If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the office or myself. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments**. We are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we know how many places are required for current families.

As I have said each week of this term (and at the end of Term 1), our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children. In the current 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 [pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) **so we can work through this together**. A reminder that if you have a **current Health Care Card** you are entitled to a reduction.

Finally, a reminder that **to attend Mass at St Gerard's it is essential that you register your name through this link <https://calendly.com/saintgerardparish/mass-at-st-gerard-s> or by speaking to the volunteer who is collecting details at the entrance of the Church**. Please only book once per individual for the week ahead.

Stay safe and God Bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## **Meditation and Assemblies during Remote Learning:**

An attempt to replicate meditation that we normally have on a Monday Morning and Assembly we normally have on a Friday afternoon will happen through remote learning. Please look out for the Seesaw messages as they come through.

## **Sacraments**

All sacraments have been postponed due to COVID 19 until further notice.

## **Important Dates:**

Our Lady Help of Christians:	Monday 25th May
National Sorry Day:	Tuesday 26th May
National Sorry Day Assembly:	Friday 29th May @ 2:30 (led remotely by Social Justice Team remotely)
Refugee Week Assembly:	Friday 12th June @ 2:30 (Lead remotely by Social Justice team)
Refugee Week:	Refugee Week 14th to 20th June 2020
Sacred Heart of Jesus Assembly:	Friday 19th June @ 2:30 (led remotely by Liturgy Captains)

## **Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Winter Appeal**

I have spoken to James Tudehope, from St Vincent de Paul, St. Gerard's Parish who has informed me that they have replaced the soup van for making hampers to give away due to COVID 19. Several local St Vincent de Paul groups have merged and are working out of our hall to make up these hampers.

James sounded concerned for the vulnerable populations during this pandemic. He said that our families can still help the needy by donating non perishable items. These items can be dropped into our school foyer during school hours throughout term 2.

## **Seasons**

The Seasons program, which offers children a safe space to come together and share their experiences of change and loss will be postponed until further notice.

## **Stay Connected: Mass Online**

During the COVID 19 pandemic, Mass online is available from our new parish website:

<https://www.saintgerardparish.com>.

## **Church Re-opening**

The Church is open from 11.30am until 5.30pm with a limit of 10 people at a time.

Fr Dean is putting on extra Masses for the next little while.

The current Mass times are as follows:

Monday – 9.15 am & 10.45am
Tuesday – 9.15am & 6.00pm
Wednesday - 9.15 am & 10.45am
Thursday - 9.15am & 6.00pm
Friday - 9.15 am & 10.45am
Saturday – 9.15am & 5.30pm
Sunday – 10.30am & 5.30pm

To attend Mass it is essential that you register your name through the link provided below or by speaking to the volunteer who is collecting details at the entrance of the Church.

<https://calendly.com/saintgerardparish/mass-at-st-gerard-s>

Please only book once per individual for the week ahead.





## What do we mean by digital mental health?

Digital mental health refers to services delivered via digital platforms online, mobile or via the phone.

It also encompasses the use of social media and online support communities, which allows people to connect with others who are going through similar experiences or who share their interests. Digital mental health services can be accessed in a confidential way – allowing children and young people to reach out for support when they may not be able to access support in the learning environment or broader community.

Online support services have been shown to support children and young people's learning, development, social networks, mental health and wellbeing. It can also provide access to opportunities to connect with others, and gain support, through the development of new skill sets to complement and build on their existing social and emotional competencies.

There are a range of online sites, services and supports available specifically for young people. The Be You [Wellbeing Tools for Students](#) is your essential guide to the online tools and other resources that will best support children and young people in taking care of their own mental health



# Give Me 5 News!



This week the whole school focus of four Give Me 5 principles was **Be Respectful**.

I am being respectful at home by not disturbing others when they are working.

Francis Vinod 1/2B



Indiana 1/2B



Lachlan is showing respect to his Nanny by washing the dishes and putting them away.



Jacob 1/2B is being respectful by putting his things away.



Antonia shows respect to her dad by looking and listening to him when he speaks.

Next week will be focusing on our Give Me 5 principle '**Be Spirit filled**'. Please discuss with your child what **being spirit filled** looks like at home. If you have examples of your child being spirit filled at home please take a photo and it will be shared in next week's newsletter. Please forward your photos to Mrs Fernandez at [nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au).

## OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



Our students have submitted some wonderful rainbow artwork thanking our first responders and essential workers!





# IMPORTANT RETURNING TO SCHOOL NEWS

ST GERARD'S SCHOOL  
71 Gladstone Road,  
Dandenong North Vic 3175  
Phone: 9791 7553  
Fax: 9793 7633



22 May, 2020

## Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 Return to School Procedures and Processes

Dear Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 Families,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy. Our staff are very excited and looking forward to seeing our Prep - Year 2's next **Tuesday 26 May**. The **health and safety** of our students, staff and families is our first priority at St Gerard's and with this in mind we will implement a number of procedures and processes to keep us all safe.

These procedures and processes are based upon the Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) '*Return to School – School Operations Guide Term 2, 2020*' and '*Health and Safety Advice for Returning to Onsite Learning in the Context of COVID-19*'.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools.

Please read the information below carefully.

### Parent Access to the school

- Due to physical distancing continuing for adults, parents will be unable to access the school site.
- If parents need to contact a staff member please use SeeSaw, email or phone the school (9791 7553). I thank you in advance for your cooperation.
- Families are asked to **not congregate in groups** near the front of the school, in the carpark or the Office foyer due to physical distancing advice.

### Start of the day

- Both the entry gates will be open at 8.30am.
- A staff member will be positioned at the front of the school to assist with car flow/pedestrian traffic and remind adults that they are not to be onsite.
- A staff member will be positioned at the gates to welcome students and remind adults that they are not to be onsite.

### Recess and Lunch breaks

- Due to the size of our playground space, staggered recess and lunch breaks will not be required.

### End of the day

- Both the entry gates will be open at 3.25pm.
- A staff member will be positioned at the gates to farewell students and remind adults that they are not to be onsite.
- A staff member will be positioned at the front of the school to assist with car flow/pedestrian traffic and remind adults that they are not to be onsite.
- Classes will be brought around to the front of the school by their classroom teacher.
- Prep's will wait in the usual pick up place (**underneath the St Gerard's Sign**).
- Year 1's will wait on the other side of the Office entrance (**left hand side as you look at the front of the school**).



- Year 2's will wait near the cross that is in front of the new building (near the pedestrian crossing).
- Families with children across Prep, 1 and 2 will wait together as a family near the steps of the Church.
- Additional staff will be present to supervise these 4 areas to assist with students getting into cars and walking home.
- Please make sure that people collecting children are familiar with these procedures.



#### Other health and safety measures

- Students will be reminded by teachers and staff to wash their hands regularly throughout the day and regular times for handwashing will be organised by the classroom teacher.
- Each class will have designated taps for handwashing with soap.
- **Students are to bring their own drink bottle of water as the drinking taps cannot be used.**
- Each class will have a designated tap for re-filling their drink bottle if required throughout the day.
- Each student will be provided with their own grey pencils, coloured pencils, sharpener and glue stick which has been individually labelled. These will be stored in an individually labelled bag.
- Students will have their own designated seat and work space with as much space as possible between students.
- Italian lessons will be conducted in classrooms as will most Arts lessons.
- P.E. lessons will be as 'equipment free' as possible and equipment that has been used will be sanitised.

#### Cleaning throughout the School Day

- **Significant additional cleaning will be conducted throughout every school day by our cleaning company** this will include items such as **high touch areas** (eg: door handles, entry and exit points, handrails, playground equipment, sports equipment), **sinks and taps** being used for handwashing and water bottle filling, **toilets and emptying bins**.

#### Reminders

- Students will need to be in full school uniform.
- Any devices (iPad or Chromebook) borrowed from the school need to be returned.
- Library books, take home readers need to be returned.

I understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

**If you do have any questions or concerns please contact myself via email:**

**[pcowan@sgdandenongnsth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pcowan@sgdandenongnsth.catholic.edu.au) , phone 9791 7553 or send me a message via SeeSaw.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Paul Cowan  
Principal