



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

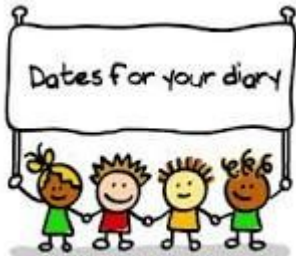


**Term 3, Week 6**

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

03 97917553

**23 August 2019**



**Tuesday, 27 August**

- Running Club at 8:15 am

**Wednesday, 28 August**

- Homework Club

**Thursday, 29 August**

- Biennial Art Show - 7 pm

**Friday, 30 August**

- Sporting Schools
- 5/6 O garden to kitchen



**Artwork by 3/4 S 2015**

**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**



As of **Monday, 2 September** students will be required to wear their school hat when playing outside. The uniform shop will be open Monday morning 8:30 - 10:30 if you need to purchase one.

Sunday's readings call us out of our spiritual lethargy. They remind us that to follow Jesus means more than being a Christian in name only. We are warned against complacency.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that God will come to gather all peoples. We do not have any prior claim just because we say we belong to Christ's church. Belonging calls for commitment to Jesus and involvement in his mission. However, before we can go out to preach the Good News we must have received it into our own hearts. Mere listening to the message is not enough: our hearts need to be touched and our lives affected.

Lord, help us to be responsive to this call. Open our ears to receive the Good News that you offer us afresh each day, and open our eyes to your presence. Give me an attentive heart.

**I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH,  
AND THE LIFE, SAYS THE LORD:  
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER,  
EXCEPT THROUGH ME.**

**John 14:6**

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

The theme this year for Book Week is *Reading is my Secret Power!* We had a number of events as part of our **celebrations for Book Week** to enhance our secret power. Reading before school every morning from 8.15am in the space outside the Year 3/4 classrooms was a great success with many families coming and spending time together. On **Wednesday** we had our **Book Week Dress up and Activity Day**. The assembly at 9.00am allowed us to gather together to recognise the joy and value of books. It was wonderful to see our students enter into the spirit of the day and come dressed as a book character and for our staff to show their true colours – pardon the pun! Thank you to the families who helped create costumes for their children. I do appreciate the time and effort that goes into supporting these days.



We had our next official **Ride to School Day** today. It was again great to see children take up this initiative and continue to use this mode of transport to get to and from school. If your child is going to ride to school, please ensure that they have a **helmet** and that they are **wearing it while riding**.

Our next whole school event is our **Art Show** which is next **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm** in the **PAC**. Having already seen some of the creations from various classes, this promises to be a wonderful display of our students' artistic talents. In addition to visual arts, our school choir will be performing and some students from Nazareth College will provide some background music throughout the event. We have also received some family pieces which are wonderful and will be displayed on the night. I would like to extend a warm invitation to our school community to come and be part of this night.

We have been given some glimpses of warmer weather over the last few weeks which has been welcomed by everyone. Our Sunsmart Policy states that from 1<sup>st</sup> September until 30<sup>th</sup> April students **must wear a hat when outside**. Therefore, from **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** students will need to wear a school hat when outside. I am asking that families support this policy as it is for the long term health of our children.

A final reminder to our Year Five families that **Applications for Year 7 enrolments in Catholic Secondary Colleges for 2021 close today Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2019.**

God Bless.

Paul Cowan

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Level Mass:

Prep and Years 5/6:

Thursday, 5 September at 9:15

## Sacramental Dates for term 3

First Communion: Year 4

*First Communion Reflection Day:*

*First Communion:*

Wednesday, 5 September

Sunday, 8 September at 2pm

(for Year 4)

Friday 13 September at 2:30

## Altar boy training

Altar boy training is in the Church from 5pm to 6:30 pm every Thursday evening. Please contact Mrs Stack if you are interested in joining our dedicated team of Altar Servers.

## St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions:

Early next term, as part of our celebrations for our Feast Day we will be holding our annual Talent Quest. Children will need to audition for this event in the last week of term.



# WELLBEING NEWS



## Give Me 5 News!



A big congratulations to the following students received their first golden band this week

### **Prep C**

Well done to Jerome & Lemilo

### **1/2 FP**

Great work Krystn & Catherine

The following Year 2 students have received 20 wristbands and received a precious gemstone on Monday. Well done **Kanwer and Kevaan** from 1/2 BT!!!

Well done to 3/4 L and 5/6 O for achieving 50 wristbands! They will be negotiating a class reward with their teacher.

**Keep up the amazing work!!**



## **Walk or Ride To School**

A big thank you to all of the families who participated in the Ride to School day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Congratulations to 1/2FP who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school.

### **Well done to:**

1<sup>st</sup> place- 1/2FP, 2<sup>nd</sup> place- 3/4S, 3<sup>rd</sup> place- Prep C

Our next Ride to School day will be

**Friday, 13 September**



## **Kitchen Garden Dates**

There are only two more Kitchen Garden lessons for this term (see below). We welcome any parents who would like to come and assist with these lessons.

Week	Class
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August@ 11:45- 1:40	5/6O
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September@ 11:45- 1:40	Prep C



# WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

## THE UPCYCLED GARDEN

Turning Trash into Art

**ART SHOW - Thursday, 29 August**

Dear Families,

Our annual Art Show is soon approaching and we are inviting all families to create a piece of artwork for display.

Your art piece will be exhibited on the night and then be moved to the school garden for permanent display.

Your family art piece needs to:

- withstand the weather
- be an upcycled item (recycled item eg. Old gumboot/ old watering cans/ old cooking pots etc.)



Your piece can be as big or as little as you would like.

Please send your upcycled garden art piece to school with your child by Wednesday 28th August.

Good Luck... We look forward to seeing your creations!

Please contact Nicole Fernandez or Shantelle Theodore if you have any questions.

## BOOK WEEK





## OTHER NEWS



THURSDAY,  
29 AUGUST 2019

St Gerard's  
Primary School

Art  
Show

7:00 pm

Made with PosterMyWall.com



In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school **per year**. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6**.



# EVERY DAY COUNTS

## Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

### Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

### Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

### What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

**"Day off"** – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

**For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:**

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)

Department of Education and Training



Education and Training



# *St Gerard's*

## *Dinner Dance*

- WHEN:** Saturday, 12 October
- TIME:** 7:00 pm
- WHERE:** St Gerard's Church Hall  
71 Gladstone Road  
Dandenong North
- TICKETS:** \$40 for adults  
\$20 for children 4 - 12 years  
Includes buffet dinner, tea & coffee.  
BYO drinks
- DRESS CODE:** Smart Casual

**Live Music By**  
*Midnight Mist*

**Catering By**  
*Silver Platter*



**Contact:** Jeff Zaher 0477 188 883  
Agnelo Miranda 0470 130 041  
Angele Pacifique 0411 578 404