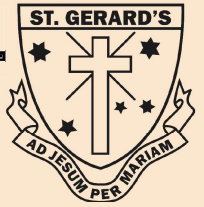


ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 - WEEK 8

23 March, 2024



Embracing Diversity, Celebrating Harmony: Together We Thrive!



Welcome to our Harmony Day Paraliturgy!

Today, we come together to celebrate diversity, inclusivity, and the richness of cultures that unite us as a community.

Through prayer, reflection, and shared experiences, we honour the beauty of our differences and the strength found in our unity.

Let us join in harmony, embracing the values of respect, understanding, and acceptance as we embark on this meaningful journey together.



@st.gerards3175

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



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

We find ourselves at the end of the last full week of Term 1. It is a week where we have recognised and celebrated our diversity which is a defining and significant aspect of our school community. We also continued to provide numerous, regular opportunities for our children to learn, develop and enhance their faith.

On Wednesday we had our regular Before School Reading in the Library which continues to be well attended. We also had a number of children join members of the Parish Legion of Mary in the church at lunchtime to pray the Rosary. This is a wonderful way to connect with our parish and participate in this significant aspect of our faith. Our after school AUSKICK program continued with one more session planned for next Wednesday (to make up for the session that was postponed).

On Thursday our Year 4 children celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our school. As we are coming towards the end of Lent, this sacrament can highlight our failings and the need to change as we prepare to celebrate Easter. Thursday also saw us have our latest Ride/ Walk to School Day which had a large number of our children start the day in a healthy way. I would like to acknowledge and thank Woolworths Dandenong Junction for donating fruit for our rides and walkers.

Today (Friday) we celebrated Harmony Day. This is always a fantastic celebration of all the cultures we have at our school and allows us to learn from each other through the sharing of our backgrounds, traditions and stories. I would like to thank Ms Fernandez for leadership and coordination of this event and for the staff and children for entering into the spirit of the occasion. It was also great to have families come and be part of the day and assist with some of the activities. Appreciating and valuing the cultures at our school is something we do every day, however specific days can really enhance our understanding and awareness of all that we have here at St Gerard's.

As mentioned last week, we are always looking for ways to have families involved in the learning opportunities we provide for our children. If there are any adults that would like to help us either in the classroom, for specific events (such as excursions or cooking) or whole school activities, you are always most welcome. Please note that as part of our Child Safety Policies and Procedures all helpers require a Working With Children Check and need to have come to a Volunteer Induction Session. Please contact me via principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au, Seesaw or in person so we can arrange a time.

Looking to next week, families are invited to come and visit our Prayer Spaces which have been set up in and near the PAC. These spaces have been designed by our children and depict the significant events of Holy Week, which are foundation aspects of our faith. I look forward to seeing families visiting throughout the week.

As was mentioned last week, I would like to draw to your attention some important dates for Term 2. We have 2 School Closure Days planned which allows for Professional Development and dispenses Time in Lieu that our staff have accrued. Due to the availability of Professional Development activities, advice from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and public holidays, we will be having school closure days on Wednesday 24 April and Friday 26 April with the ANZAC Day public holiday on Thursday 25 April. Therefore there will be 3 consecutive days when the school is closed. I appreciate that School Closure days can be challenging for families. OSHC will run a full day program if they have sufficient numbers which may be an option.

Lastly, a reminder that Term 1 finishes next Thursday 28 March at 3.30pm.

Thank you for your continued support and God bless.

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education

Sacrament Dates, 2024

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Family Workshop:

Thursday 18th April, 6:30pm

First Communion:

Sunday 2nd June, 10:30am

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Family Workshop Night:

Thursday 18th April, 7:30pm

Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland Visits Yr 6:

Friday 31st May, 9:30am

Confirmation:

Saturday 1st June, 5:30pm

Other Important Dates for Religion:

25th March onwards:

The Passion Prayer Spaces

28th March:

Holy Thursday

29th March:

Good Friday Day of Fast and Abstinence

30th March:

Holy Saturday

31st March:

Easter Sunday



Fifth Week of Lent

(Week beginning Monday 18 March)



Partnership in action

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes, online by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright / Caritas Australia



Religious Education

Project Compassion

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten campaign started on Ash Wednesday. A Project Compassion Box was handed out to every class, each assigned a specific fundraising target for the Lenten season.

The class that raises the most will enjoy a well-deserved free dress day as a reward! Stay informed about each class's progress in fundraising efforts through regular updates provided by the Social Justice Leadership Team during school assemblies.

Altar Servers

Altar service practice will take place every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm in St. Gerard's Church. To be eligible for service, individuals must have completed their First Communion. This provides a wonderful opportunity for young members of the Church to participate in the liturgy and take on the responsibilities associated with altar service. For any inquiries regarding altar service practice or eligibility, please feel free to contact the parish office at 97924422.

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

We extend an invitation to families to bring the Our Lady statue into their homes for a week, enhancing their family prayer experience. A brochure containing instructions for engaging in rosary prayer, along with sets of rosary beads, will be provided. If you are interested in taking the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs. Stack know.



Religious Education

Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is collaborating with the school to lead the praying of the Rosary during lunch breaks. These sessions will be available during the first lunch on a Wednesday in weeks 4 and 8 in each term.

Easter Prayer Spaces

Stay tuned for more information on the specific date and location of our Easter Prayer Spaces.



You are cordially invited to

The Passion Prayer Spaces

An engagement in activities of The Way of Jesus

Presented by
The Children of St Gerard's Primary School

Families: Tuesday, 26th March, 2024
8:30am-10:00am & 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Wednesday, 27th March, 2024
8:30am-10:00am & 2:30pm to 4:30pm

St Gerard's Performing Arts Centre (PAC)

Harmony Day



St Gerard's celebrated Harmony Day on Friday 22nd of March. Students were encouraged to pack a lunch and wear clothing related to their cultural background or something orange.

The students began their day with a Para Liturgy and cultural parade followed by exciting activities from around the world which taught them about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Have a look at some of the fun we had!



Harmony Day



Harmony Day



WELLBEING



What's resilience?

Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help build resilience in children.

A child or young person who is resilient might:

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it
- feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning.

WELLBEING



A big thank you to all of the families who participated in National Ride to School Day on Thursday 21st March. Congratulations to 3/4LG who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!! Thank you to Woolworths in Dandenong Junction for generously donating fresh bananas and apples to help us to celebrate this special event.

Well done to:

1st place- 3/4LG with 61% riding, scooting or walking

2nd place- 1/2FW with 60% riding, scooting or walking

3rd place- 5/6T with 55% riding, scooting or walking



Kitchen Garden



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
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

IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES

March

- 25th Holy Week/Easter Presentations start
- 27th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- SUBWAY
- 28th Holy Week/Easter Presentations conclude
- 28th End of Term 1 school finishes at 3.30pm

SAVE

the

DATE

2024

LITERACY WORKSHOP

WHEN:

16TH MAY

FROM 6.00 PM TO 7.00 PM



Reading before School

Every Wednesday from 8:30am



IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

Just a reminder to parents to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications please supply ventolin, spacer and medications on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labelled bags in the school office.

Pick-up From After-School

Parents are asked to please be prompt when picking up your child/ren after-school. If a ride is not here when school concludes, the student may be sent to aftercare instead of the office. Please remember school aftercare does have a cost involved and time will begin accruing at the end of the school day. If a student's ride has run into an unexpected delay, please call the main office to let them know.

St Gerard's YLVOSHC

Program Information

Service Phone Number: 0402 192 685



OPERATING TIMES

Before School Care

Hours:

6:45am – 8:45am

After School Care

Hours:

3:30pm – 6:30pm

Pupil Free Days:

7:00am – 6:00pm

Vacation Care:

7:00am – 6:00pm

Prices

Before School Care

(Permanent) \$15.00

(Casual) \$20.00

After Max CCS: \$2.89

After School Care

(Permanent) \$20.00

(Casual) \$25.00

After Max CCS: \$3.16

Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care

(Permanent) \$65.00

(Casual): \$72.50

After Max CCS: \$6.50



* MAX CCS REBATE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED AS APPROXIMATES AND MAY VARY

YLV.COM.AU

A reminder to families that arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark. Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly near the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues. Another aspect of this is to be mindful of our procedures at the end of the school day. There are designated pick up areas for our students and pedestrian pathways. It can be busy at the end of the day, especially when it is cold and raining, however we need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

St Gerard's OSHC Curriculum Day (Youth Leadership Vic)

Dear OSHC Families

We have two curriculum days on Wed 24th April 2024 / Fri 26th April 2024 Could you please let me know if you interested as their will be no school on this days

To run the program we need more than 10 children if we are not open we will inform the families by Friday 19/4/24

Cost for the Day: - \$65.00 (permanent) \$72.50 (casual) - before rebates

Important Information



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

- Maleah Yr 3



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Keysborough's Big Picnic-Greater Dandenong event
- Noble Park Community Fun Day
- Ukraine Support Fund
- AFL Auskick
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer



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 **\$7** 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.