

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



TERM 2 - WEEK 6

24 May, 2024



Our Social Justice Leaders honouring the Stolen Generations and promoting reconciliation in our school community at our Sorry Day Assembly

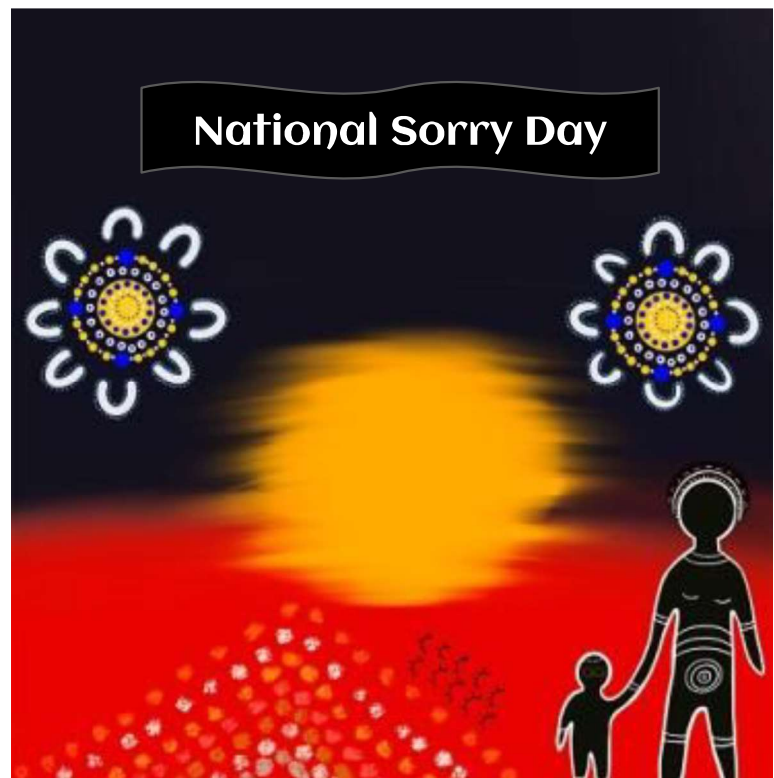
Dear Heavenly Father,

In acknowledgement of Sorry Day, we come before You with humble hearts, seeking Your grace and forgiveness. We remember the pain and suffering of the Stolen Generations and acknowledge the wrongs of the past. Help us to listen with compassion, learn with open hearts, and walk together in unity and respect.

Grant us the wisdom and strength to be instruments of healing and reconciliation in our school and community. May we honour the stories of those who have been hurt and commit ourselves to creating a future filled with understanding, justice, and peace.

In Your name, we pray.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of this week it is important to note that we are more than halfway through the term! Where has the time gone?

Our **Year 5 students** went to **Nazareth Secondary College** on Thursday for a **Taster Day** to get an insight into what it is like at Secondary School. This is a wonderful program which the children enjoyed and helps to take away some of the 'mystery' of Year 7 and beyond.

Today (Friday) as a school we attended the 9.15am parish mass to celebrate the **Feast of Mary Help of Christians**. It was once again lovely to be able to come together with our parish family to share our faith. This is a significant feast day for Australia as Mary is the Patroness of our country. In addition, our school emblem contains the Latin phrase '**AD JESUM PER MARIAM**' which translates as '**To Jesus Through Mary**'. Mary's unwavering faith in God can be a source of inspiration and comfort for us as we travel through life.

Sunday is **National Sorry Day** and as a school we marked this significant event in our country's history with a special **Assembly today**. Awareness of this day is vital for our country and our students as we move towards reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Our **Year 6 children** are in the final preparations for **Confirmation** which they will celebrate on **Saturday 1 June**. Our **Year 4** children will receive their **First Communion** the following day on **Sunday 2 June**. Both of these Year Levels will take part in Reflection Days next week. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they undertake these important steps in their faith journeys. It is always a privilege to be part of these celebrations.

As mentioned over the last few weeks, **Enrolments for 2025 are open** and we have had plenty of interest from new families. We had our third and final official **Open Day** for the term on **Thursday**. Here at St Gerard's we believe '*every day is open day*' so families can arrange to come and see all that we have to offer at a time that suits them. If you know families who are looking for a school in 2025 please encourage them to contact the School Office on 9791 7553 or email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our **3 students who competed in the Divisional Cross Country event today**. It is an achievement to get to this stage of competition and all 3 competed admirably. We will have 1 student progress to the Regional Level in a few weeks time.

Thank you for your ongoing support and God bless

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL



Religious Education

Sacrament Dates, 2024

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Reflection Day:

First Communion:

First Communion Assembly:

Thursday 30th May (children may wear casual clothes)

Sunday 2nd June, 10:30am

Friday 7th June, 2:50pm

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Reflection Day:

Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland Visit:

Confirmation:

Confirmation Assembly:

Monday 27th May (children may wear casual clothes)

Tuesday 28th May, 2:00pm

Saturday 1st June, 5:30pm (conferred by Bishop Ireland)

Friday 7th June, 2:50pm

Whole School Masses:

Friday 7th June

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

Reconciliation:

Year 4:

Thursday 30th May, 10:00am

Other Important Dates:

Refugee Week:

Refugee Week Paraliturgy:

16th to 22nd June

Friday 21st June, 2:50



Vinnie's WINTER APPEAL



'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.' Mathew 25

St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

We aim to pack our food cart to capacity once again for the St. Vincent De Paul Winter appeal. Beginning in week two, our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will collect food items until the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that contributes the most items will enjoy a casual dress day as a reward.

Religious Education



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.



Wellbeing



Facts from the Be You website

Self-care

Self-care is a good way to manage stress
You need to practice self-care in a way that works for you.

Having said that, there are some common practices that most people find useful, including maintaining a healthy lifestyle by eating well, getting enough sleep and exercise, and cutting back on alcohol and drugs.

Some other strategies which you might find helpful in managing stress include:

- Monitor your stress- recognise your own signs of stress and identify situations you find difficult, so you can be proactive about managing stress during these times.
- Learn how to manage your stress in positive ways- such as through exercise, relaxation, breathing, yoga, positive self-talk.
- Be aware of your thinking habits- challenge negative or unhelpful thoughts.
- Schedule 'time out' for yourself- pursue your hobbies or interests.
- Connect- foster and maintain your personal relationships. A sense of belonging and connection is important for your wellbeing.
- Relax- learn and use breathing techniques, progressive relaxation, visualisations or meditation to consciously relax your mind and body. Practice mindfulness by focusing your awareness on the present moment.
- Be mindful and self-aware- focus on how you are feeling and how you act, and the impact that can have on your colleagues and your students. Be supportive of others without passing judgement.
- Consider making specific times or days of the week for activities which support your wellbeing, so they become routine and are less likely to drop off at times of increased work demands or other competing priorities.
- Reflect- find a mentor through your workplace or professional networks to help you grow professionally. Take time to engage in reflective practices about your work and professional development.

Wellbeing



GIVE ME FIVE NEWS

Students who display the expectations present on the school Matrix are rewarded with a raffle ticket from their classroom teacher. Once a month the raffle tickets from each class are collected and drawn during Friday's assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn on the 24th May 2024 and the lucky winners will be announced in next week's newsletter.



Student Representative Council

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of a group of students who want to help other students by presenting ideas which are of benefit to all students. The SRC also informs its peers of any important information which affects the student body.

On Thursday 23rd May the SRC leaders met to discuss issues in the playground and ways to make St Gerard's an even better school.

Principal Awards

A big congratulations to the following students who have displayed the Give Me 5 Principles in the classroom and playground. These students received the Principal's Award for their behaviour.

Foundation B- Rosana

1/2FW- Ameya 3/4LG- Izabella

1/2S- Grace

5/6O- Chelsea

3/4SG- Matej

5/6T- Iona



IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES



ENROL IN KEYBOARD LESSONS IN TERM 2

Excel Music is currently accepting new enrolments for their keyboard lessons commencing in Term Two 2024. These lessons are held during school time at a cost of \$15.00.

To enroll your child, please obtain an enrolment form from the school office or email music@excelmusic.com.au.

Please note that if your child is already enrolled in our music lessons, you do not need to complete another form. To cancel lessons, please contact Excel Music via the above.

Enrol now!

May

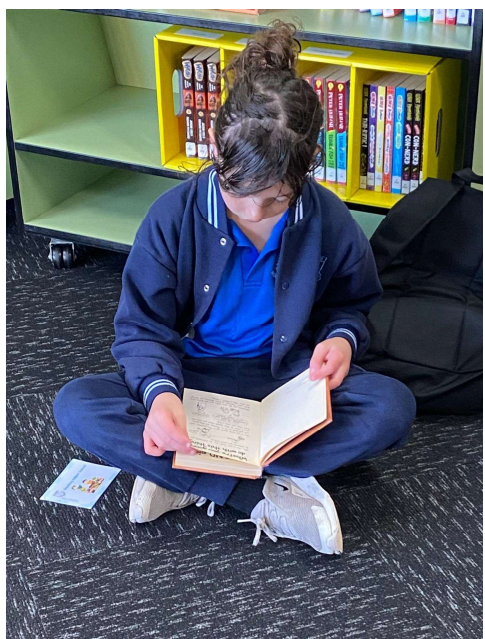
- 27th Confirmation Reflection Day
- 28th Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation at 9:30am
- 29th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 29th - 31st - Year 5/6 Camp at CYC ADANAC Lodge, Yarra Junction
- 30th First Communion Reflection Day

June

- 1st Confirmation at 5:30pm
- 2nd First Communion at 10:30am
- 5th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 5th Rosary in the Church at 11:05am
- 6th Italian Day
- 6th Ride/ Walk to School Day
- 7th Confirmation and First Communion Assembly in the PAC
- **10th King's Birthday Public Holiday**
- 12th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 19th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 26th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 27th Subway Lunch
- **28th End of Term 2 - school finishes at 3.30pm**

Reading before School

Every Wednesday morning 8:30am



Nazareth Taster Day

On Thursday, 23 May students from Year 5 visited Nazareth College for a 'Taster Day' of what Secondary School is like. They were involved in three rotational activities: STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics), Woodwork and Dance. They had fun while engaging in the learning activities and conducted themselves with diligence and respect for all.

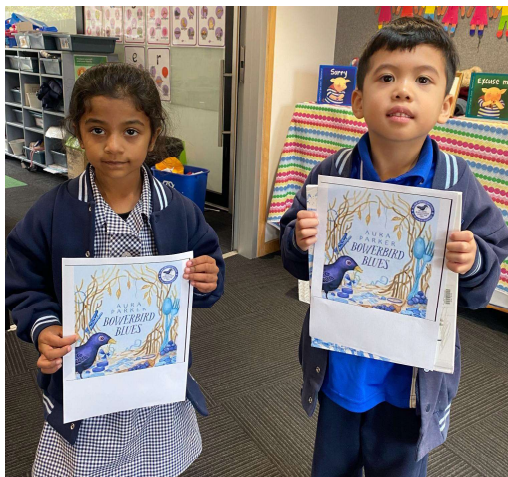
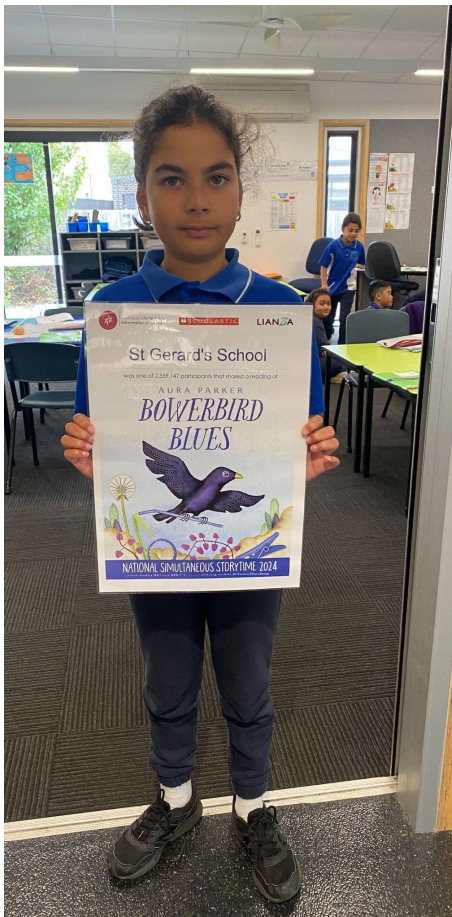
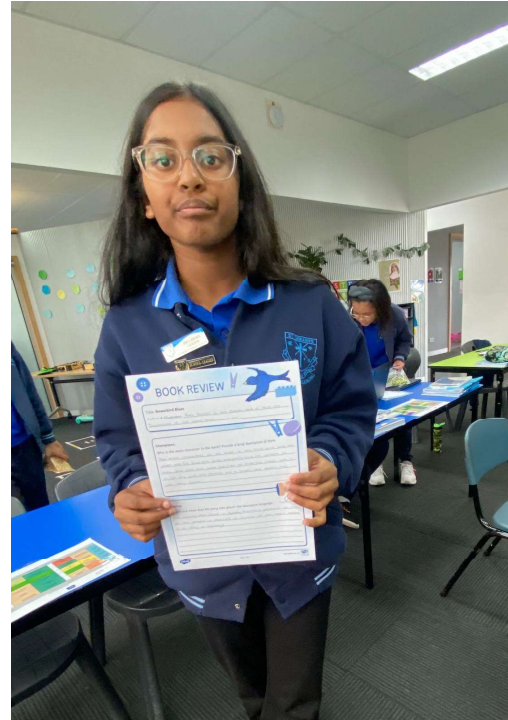
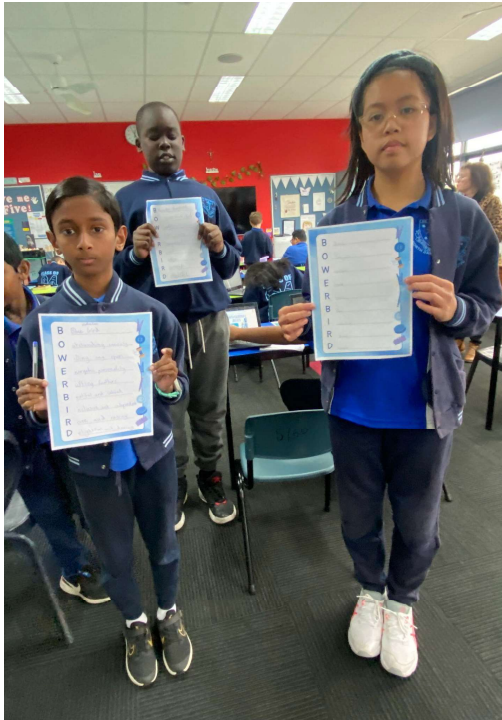


Nazareth Taster Day



National Simultaneous Storytime

This year our school participated in the National Simultaneous Storytime. Students from Foundation to Year 6 read the book *Bowerbird Blues* written by an Australian writer Aura Parker. During the week students were involved in different learning activities in their classrooms. The event was held Nationally on Wednesday, 22nd May at 12pm and is organised annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Thank you to the teachers for promoting this event.



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 **AFTER** contacting AGS 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



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.

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

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

OSHC

We kindly request that if you have booked your child for after school care and they are unable to attend due to illness or any other reason, please notify us immediately. Your timely notification allows us to effectively manage and allocate our staff to ensure all children receive the best care possible.

Please do not bring sick children to before and after school care so we can respect and keep other children safe.

Additionally, for safety reasons, please do not arrive or drop your children off before 6:45 am. Our staff will not be available to supervise children before this time.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Marina from YLV

Important Information



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

- Riona Yr 4
- Andrew Yr 1
- Pahul Yr 1



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer
- Auskick (AFL)
- North Dandenong Masala Junior Football Club (AFL)



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.