



St Gerard's Primary School NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 WEEK 8

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
03 9791 7553

25 NOVEMBER 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to those students and staff who have and who will celebrate their birthday this week!

❖ Grace V Yr 1

peace
love
hope
joy
faith



Today at Assembly we celebrated the beginning of the season of Advent which is the season before Christmas. When we think of Christmas, presents and gifts always come to mind. But can we start giving gifts before that, during the season of Advent? Can we give the gift of understanding, compassion, joy or peace? Can we be generous in our deeds and kind in our thoughts? Can we share these gifts with each other before Christmas thus making this time a time to live out Jesus' message?



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



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

This week began with our whole school involved in our **'Living Rosary'**. This was another event which has had to be modified over the past 2 years so it was wonderful to be able to gather and pray together this significant aspect of our Catholic faith. We were also fortunate to have the parish **Legion of Mary** join us. We are looking to work more closely with this group next year as we continue to reconnect with our parish. **I would like to thank the children who led us and Mrs Stack for her leadership and coordination.**

We continued to **welcome our 2023 Preps and their families to our school community with our final 2 Prep Orientation Sessions.** We have a mixture of existing families, new families and returning families in Prep next year and it is always heartwarming to see the excitement and enthusiasm on the faces of the children (and their families) when they come to school. Starting school is a milestone event in a person's life which has an impact not only on them but their family and friends. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to our **'St Gerard's Family'**. **I would like to thank our Year Six Captains and Vice - Captains for welcoming our new Preps and their families when they arrived at school.**

While talking about the **2023 school year**, I am asking families to **contact the school office** if your child(ren) **will not be returning to St Gerard's next year.** Having accurate information helps us to be able to plan 2023 with a level of certainty.

Also, considerable time is spent in preparing class lists with numerous factors needing to be considered. **If families have a specific request for their child this needs to be put in writing and addressed to myself or emailed to principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au.** Requests need to be based on **educational grounds** and will be treated confidentially. **Please note that all requests will be considered but I cannot guarantee that all requests will be granted.** Our aim as a school is to provide the best opportunities for all our students to learn.
Requests need to be received by today (Friday 25 November).

We had our latest **Ride/ Scoot/ Walk to School Day** on Thursday and as always this was well supported by our students and families. While the recent weather has been challenging for these types of activities, hopefully this could become a habit. Afterall, Summer starts next week!

Today (Friday) our **Year 3 - 6 classes** had their next **Cricket session** conducted by Cricket Victoria. There is a 'Test Match' currently occurring on the playground with some future cricketers developing and displaying their skills!

Finally, in staffing news, I would like to inform you that **Ms Christine Grant will be retiring at the end of this year.** Throughout her time at St Gerard's, Christine has worked with a large number of our children to develop their reading and comprehension skills through specific Reading programs. As we are all aware, reading is the key to learning, so to assist children to read is a gift they have for their whole lives. A gift that Christine has given to so many of our children. I am sure you join with me in wishing Christine all the very best for the future as she enters a new stage in her life. We will of course make sure we have a fitting farewell at the end of the year.

Continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..." Come join us for an evening of joyous Christmas Caroling where the students of St Gerard's School will perform your favorite Christmas carols in the quadrangle on **Tuesday 6th December at 7pm**. Children will be called to sit with their class at 6:45pm.

What to wear:

Children have been asked to dress in a theme for the Christmas Carols.

Prep	Christmas t-shirt or dress, Christmas headband or hat. (Prep teachers will supply any additional costumes).
Year 1/2	All black with tinsel around wrists, forehead and neck (as a necklace).
Year 3	Christmas coloured t-shirt (with or without Christmas design) and black leggings, trousers or shorts, Tinsel and Christmas hats optional.
Year 4/5/6	All black long or short sleeve tops and long pants with different coloured tinsel around wrists and forehead. Santa hats if you have one.



Important Dates for Term 4

Tuesday, 6th December:

Christmas Carols Evening

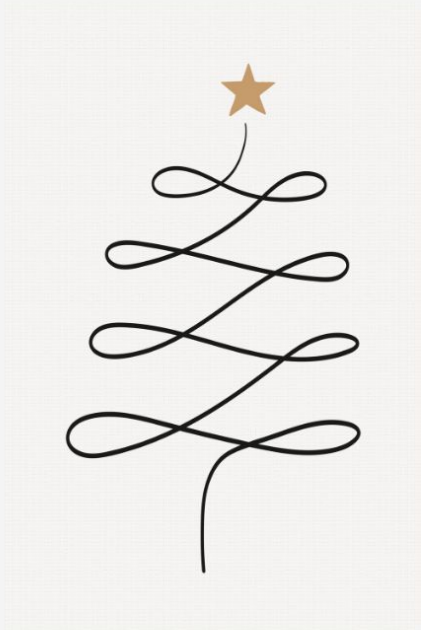
Friday, 9th December:

End of year Mass, 12:00

Friday, 16th December:

Graduation Mass, 7pm

St Gerard's Primary School



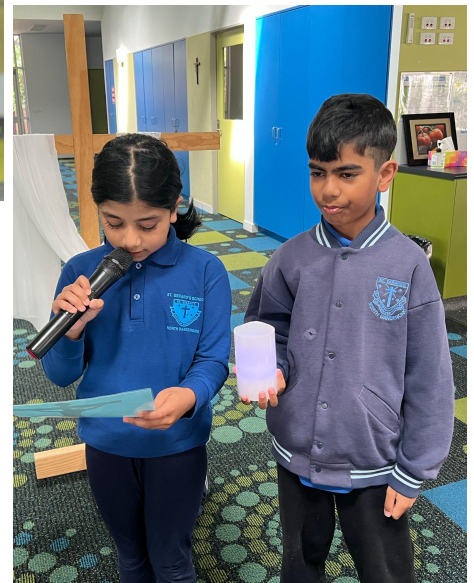
Community
Christmas
Carols

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US
FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
CAROL

**TUESDAY, 6TH
DECEMBER,
7:00 PM**

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS
AND FAMILY ALONG TO
JOIN IN THE
CHRISTMAS
FESTIVITIES

LIVING ROSARY





Facts from the Be You website

What is play?

Play can be pretending, learning a new skill, dressing up, being active or being quiet.

Play can involve other children or be alone. Adults can join in if they're invited – in fact, young children often love to play with close adults. Children decide what to play and how to play. Play is their time to be free and enjoy. It's their language, their work and their relaxation.

It's for all children, of all ages from birth on, and of all abilities.

Unstructured, free play is the best type for young children

This is play that just happens, depending on what takes the child's interest at the time. It isn't planned and lets children use their imagination and move at their own pace. Examples of unstructured play might be:

- creative play alone or with others, including artistic or musical games
- imaginary games (for example, making cubby houses with boxes or blankets, dressing up, playing make-believe)
- exploring new or favourite play spaces like cupboards, backyards, parks, playgrounds and so on.

You can be part of a child's unstructured play – or not

Sometimes all you'll need to do is point them in the right direction – say, towards the jumble of dress-ups and toys on the floor, or to the table with crayons and paper.

Sometimes you might need to be a bit more active – for example, “How about we play dress-ups? What do you want to be today?”

Structured play is different.

It's more organised and happens at a fixed time or in a set space, and is often led by a grown-up. Examples of structured play include:

- swimming lessons – you might see these as important lessons for your child, but they might just think they're fun
- storytelling groups for toddlers and preschoolers at the local library
- dance, music or drama classes for children of all ages
- family board or card games
- organised team sports for older children, like basketball, netball and football.

GIVE ME FIVE NEWS

A big congratulations to the following students who received their first golden band and gemstone this week.

Prep B

Tiana, Layla and Natalie received 20 silver bands and were awarded with a gemstone.



1/2FW

Mia received 10 silver bands and was awarded with a golden wristband.



GIVE ME FIVE NEWS

1/2L

Evelyn received 20 silver bands and was awarded with a gemstone.

Maleah received 10 silver bands and was awarded with a golden wristband.



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



Ride to School Day

A big thank you to all of the families who participated in Ride to School day on Thursday 3rd November. Congratulations to 1/2L who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

Well done to:

1st place- 1/2L with 61% riding, scooting or walking

2nd place- 3S with 57% riding, scooting or walking

3rd place- 4/5T with 50% riding, scooting or walking



SPECIAL NOTE

Dear Students and Families ,

Reading Before School is back by great demand.

Who? Students and parents

When? Wednesdays in Term 4

Time: 8:15 am - 8:30 am

Where? St Gerard's Library

Come meet us there!!!

Bring a book or borrow one, come along let's have some fun!



Exciting news!

We've just received a
2022 Victorian Junior Landcare
and Biodiversity Grant!



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

GARDEN MARKET STALL

On **Thursday 1st December** we will hold our next garden market stall in the church carpark at **3:15pm**.

We will be selling broad beans, mulberries, succulents, rosemary, eggs and flower bouquets.

Arrive early to avoid disappointment!

A big thank you to our beautiful students who work in the garden on a daily basis!



GARDEN MARKET STALL

Well done **4/5T** who enjoyed gardening today . A variety of interesting activities the children were involved in.



UNIFORM SHOP - ONLINE ORDERS



AGS PRINTS Pty Ltd
Wholesalers of Quality Schoolwear & Uniforms
In House Design & Printing
www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
BOR NO: 2010 / 2532

ADDRESS: 133 BAKERS ROAD
NORTH COBURG
VIC, 3058
PHONE: 03 9354 8345
FAX: 03 9354 5777
E-MAIL: info@agsprints.com.au

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



Community Info Share

We have requests from a number of community groups to promote their activities and services. Flyers are placed on our **Community Notice Boards** located in the courtyard and a current list is contained in this newsletter.

- ❖ Lysterfield Basketball Club
- ❖ Swimland Swim Club
- ❖ Springvale Indoor Sports
- ❖ Noble Park Cricket Club
- ❖ COG Theatre Group
- ❖ Ukraine Support Fund
- ❖ Dandenong Basketball
- ❖ Lyndale United Football Club (Soccer)
- ❖ Syndal Softball Club
- ❖ Springvale Little Athletics

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 \$6 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.

