

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 2 - WEEK 2

26 April, 2024



Honouring the brave souls of ANZAC through our heartfelt tribute – a display crafted with reverence and remembrance.



“Make peace, create
peace, be the example
of peace. We need
peace in the world.”

- Pope Francis

This week, as we mark ANZAC Day, we're reminded to be thankful for the peace and freedom we have in Australia and New Zealand. It's a time to honour those who fought to protect our countries. Let's also take a moment to pray for peace:

- Peace in the world,
- Peace among people in our own country,
- Peace in our families,
- And peace in our hearts.

We know war brings sadness and pain. Today, we pray especially for those affected by conflict, like the people in Ukraine and Gaza. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers.



@st.gerards3175

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

While this week was short, it highlighted some significant events and aspects of our country's make-up.

On Wednesday our staff participated in a Professional Development Day at the Mary MacKillop Centre in East Melbourne. The day gave us all the opportunity to gain a further understanding of the impact St Mary of the Cross had not only on our country but more particularly on Catholic Education in Australia and New Zealand. The fortitude, passion and vision she had is an inspiration to our staff and is very relevant to today.

I was joined by our Year 6 School Captains and Vice Captain at the Dandenong RSL ANZAC Day service on Thursday. This service is always very moving and a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in this blessed country. I would like to thank our Year 6 Leaders for their attendance and the reverence and respect they showed when laying a wreath on our school's behalf as part of the service.

I would also like to thank the families that participated in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Survey. This survey provides our school with important information to help us understand our current Catholic identity and where the school community might like to see itself in the future. Your input and opinions are always welcomed and valued.

We have a save the date for all our Mother's and those women who play a mother role in the lives of our children for Friday 10 May from 2.20pm - 3.30pm. Please be on the lookout for more information.

On a final note, our School Photos will be taken next Wednesday 1 May. Information has been sent out regarding this. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL



School Photographs



ST GERARD'S PS PHOTO DAY IS COMING

The official School Photos will be taken by Elite School Photography on Wednesday 1st May 2024

All online orders are to be completed online, via the Elite School Photography website, prior to the day

You can order your photos by going to our website www.eliteschoolphotography.com.au
and use the password ESP202515 to order.

Please ensure all relevant student details (including class), are filled out correctly.

Family Discount - If you have more than two children attending this School, please list all their First Names and their Classes and select 2 as the quantity, for the Deluxe and Standard packs. Your third and subsequent Child will receive their packs free of charge, but you must list all your children's names & classes. This family discount will only apply to the Deluxe & Standard Packs.

If you have any queries regarding School Photos, please contact our friendly team at ESP directly on (03) 9570 9311

SIMPLE, SMART & SENSIBLY PRICED



Wellbeing



What is resilience?

Resilience enables people to shift back along the [mental health continuum](#) towards good mental health. It's not static but is something that can change over time due to experiences and circumstance.

Resilience is particularly important for children and young people

A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things, particularly their relative balance of risk and protective factors. Depending upon their situation, a child or young person's resilience may vary. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not.

The transition from being a child to an adolescent to a young adult occurs over a relatively short period of time. Rapid changes in physical, psychological and social development can present numerous challenges. Children and young people who are more resilient are better able to stay on track with the biological, psychological and social demands of growing up and moving through early childhood into adolescence and beyond.

Being resilient is associated with better academic performance and school behaviour and, over the longer term, fewer mental health issues and greater life opportunities (including employment and relationships). Individual resilience (as well as family and community resilience) is something that can be fostered and developed over time.

From the Be You website

Gardening



On Monday, the 1/2s dove into gardening, tackling weeds, giving the plants a good watering, and tidying up the garden beds, sprucing up their outdoor space with care and diligence.

Gardening



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:

Monday 24th May

Friday 7th June

Our Lady Help of Christians at 9:15

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

Level Mass:

1/2 Level:

Prep/5/6 Level:

3/4 Level:

2nd May, 9:15am

9th May, 9:15am

16th May, 9:15am

Reconciliation:

Year 3:

Year 5:

Year 6:

Year 4:

Thursday 9th May, 10:00am

Thursday 16th May, 10:00am

Thursday 23rd May, 10:00am

Thursday 30th May, 10:00am

Other Important Dates:

Mother's Day Paraliturg/Activities:

Sorry Day Paraliturg:

Refugee Week:

Refugee Week Paraliturg:

Friday 10th May

Friday 24th May, 2:50 pm

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.

ANZAC Poems 5/60

SAYING GOODBYE WAS REALLY HARD AS I WASH AWAY MY TEARS.
KNOWING MY LIFE IS IN DANGER WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?
I AM SCARED OF BOMBS AS THEY FALL ONE BY ONE, PEOPLE'S LIVES
WERE AT STAKE. WHEN I STAND THERE LOOKING WHAT'S
HAPPENING. AS I HEAR VOICES FADE, ALL THERE WAS LEFT WAS
SMOKE AND DESTRUCTION WE ALL HIDE AND WAIT AS TIME PASSES
ALL I CAN HEAR WERE LIVES BEING TAKEN. GUNS SNARLING, PEOPLE
RUNNING WHAT WERE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? NOW THE WAR IS
OVER, NOW WE ARE FULL OF GLEE RETURNING HOME AT LAST
CELEBRATING WITH FAMILY. FREE FROM DANGER...

OH HOW GLAD ARE WE!!



BY 5/60 NOW THE WAR IS OVER

SAYING GOODBYE WAS REALLY
HARD,
IT FILLED ME WITH GRIEF.
MY LIFE WAS IN DANGER AND AS
FRAGILE AS A LEAF.

HIDING AND WAITING
SHIVERING AND SHRIEKING
CAMOUFLAGED BEHIND A TREE.
THE BONE-CHILLING SCREAMS
MADE ME WANT TO FLEE.

NOW THE WAR IS OVER, I AM
COMING HOME.
RETURNING FROM CAPTIVITY.
NO LONGER ALONE

Leaving my home was really hard,
It filled my body with fear,
I was traumatised head to foot, when I heard the war was near.
We hid in the midst of the trees, trying to stay unknown,
We went in our small tents as the bombing planes were flown.
We woke up in the morning just to find no food, our stomachs were
rumbling it clearly wrecked our mood. Determined and dedicated looking
for some food, we ventured from place to place, without a glimmering
trace. I couldn't stop thinking about home. Waiting to hear their familiar
voices on the phone. Troops, guns & bodies everywhere, not a single
person in sight to spare.

Edwin Kurian and Elana Sunny 5 /60

Religious Education

[Project Compassion Thank You](#)

We're excited to share the success of our fundraising campaign for Project Compassion! Together, we've raised a remarkable total of \$757.25. A big shout-out to **Yr 3/4 SG** for leading the way and raising the highest amount. As a token of our gratitude, they've earned a casual dress day.

Thank you for your support and participation in Project Compassion. Let's keep making a difference together!

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.



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

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!

SAVE
the
DATE

2024

LITERACY WORKSHOP

WHEN:

16TH MAY

FROM 6.00 PM TO 7.00 PM



IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES

April

- 29th Foundation and Year 1/2 Myuna Farm Excursion

May

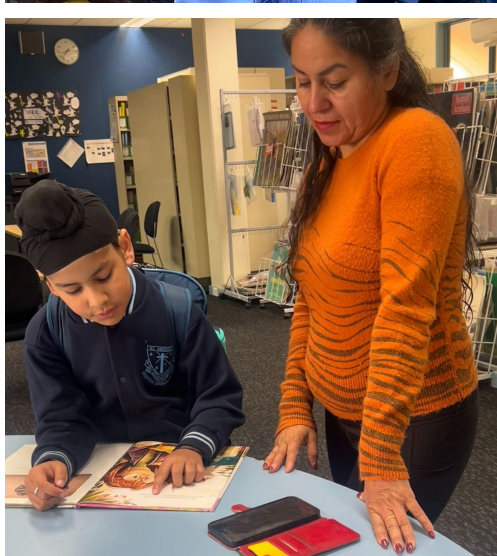
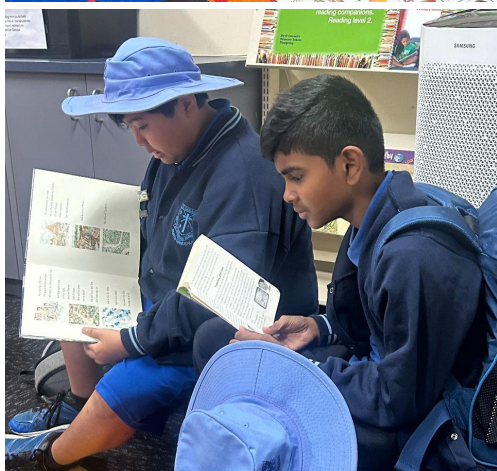
- 1st Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 1st School Photos
- 1st First of May, 'Hats Off Day'
- 1st Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) Family session 9.00am - 10.00am
- 2nd Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) Family session 2.30pm - 3.30pm
- 6th St John's Regional College Soccer Gala Day (Paul Wade Cup)
- 7th Open Day
- 8th Rosary in the Church at 11:05am
- 8th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 9th Ride/Walk to School Day
- 10th Mother's Day Activities
- 15th Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 16th Whole School Family Literacy Evening 6.00pm -7.00pm
- 22nd Before School Reading in the library from 8.30am
- 23rd Open Day
- 24th Our Lady Help of Christians Whole School attends Parish Mass at 9.15am
- 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 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.

Important Information



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

- Thomas Yr 1
- Matej Yr 4
- Sofiya Yr 5



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer

SUBWAY
16th May 2024



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.