



Our 5/6's making memories, gaining new life skills and bonding on camp!



Prayer for Students Returning from Camp

Loving God,

We thank You for keeping our children safe during their time on camp. Thank You for the friendships they built, the challenges they overcame, the joy they shared and the memories they made.

May they bring home the confidence, kindness and resilience they discovered and continue to care for one another and appreciate the gifts of Your creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that the first half of the School Year is over!

This week we also had our **Year 5/6 Camp** from Monday to Wednesday at CYC Adanac (Yarra Junction). This Camp allowed our children to have experiences outside the 'normal' school offerings and was a great way to develop new skills and build relationships. There were plenty of highlights and stories that are being shared and I would like to **thank Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Te, Mrs Munro, Mrs Zelic and Mr (Rob) Milne** who gave up their time to ensure that our children had a wonderful experience. Their care and support of our children over the 3 days was wonderful to witness first hand and they have helped create positive memories that I am confident will last.

As we come to the end of the term (and the end of Semester One) it is a good time to reflect on all of the **learning opportunities our children have been provided with over the past 10 weeks**. Learning happens in many ways and forms and in addition to the day-to-day classroom experiences our school is always looking for ways to develop our children in all aspects of life.

Below are some of the activities St Gerard's provided throughout Term 2.

Celebrating our faith is a key aspect of our school with some of our children joining the **Parish Legion of Mary to pray the Rosary together** on several occasions. Fr Shanthaiah celebrated **Reconciliation with our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children over the course of the term**. Our classes were regular attendees at the 9.15am Parish Masses which saw us join with parishioners to celebrate the Eucharist together. Our **Year 6 children were confirmed by Fr Andrew Madry** and our **Year 4 children made their First Communion**. As a school we supported **St Vincent de Paul** with our **Winter Appeal** which saw us fill our large donation basket to capacity.

As a school community we had a great **Mother's Day** celebration where we recognised the huge, lifelong impact mothers and those in motherhood roles have on us all. Our **Literacy Family Workshop** was well attended and provided an insight to our families on how Literacy is taught and how they can support their children in this crucial area of learning. **Italian Day**, as always, was molto bene and our **SUBWAY Lunch** days were as popular as ever!

From a wider community perspective, some of our **Year 6 Leaders** represented us at the **Dandenong RSL ANZAC Day ceremony** and as a school we recognised and highlighted **National Sorry Day and Refugee Week**. These are all significant aspects for our country and ones that our children need to have an understanding of.

Looking at outdoor and sporting opportunities we had our **Year 5/6** students represented our school at the **St John's College Paul Wade Cup Soccer tournament**. Students from Year 3 - 6 participated in our school **Cross Country event with some going on to the Dandenong District and Divisional levels**. Our **Year 5/6** children had their **first Gala Day** for the year with **St Gerard's fielding teams in Netball and Basketball**. As a whole school we continued with **Walk/ Ride to School Days** to promote health and wellbeing.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our **Prep, Year 1 and 2 students** had an **excursion to Myuna Farm** and our **Year 3/4 children** had an **incursion called 'States of Matter'** which enhanced their **R.E / Inquiry topic** for the term. Our **Year 4 and 5** children were involved in a **Taster Day at Nazareth College** to gain an insight into Secondary School.

Our **Lunchtime Clubs** continued to be very well attended. **Art Club** has been running on Tuesdays, **Library Club** on Wednesdays and **Gardening Club** on Thursdays.

We had 3 **OPEN DAYS** for prospective families to see all that we offer here at St Gerard's with more planned for **Term 3 on Thursday 7 August, Tuesday 12 August and Wednesday 27 August.**

Semester One Reports were sent home yesterday (Thursday). I encourage families to take the time to discuss and celebrate the successes and achievements and set some goals for Terms Three and Four. Early next term we will be conducting 3 Way Conversations where these reports can be discussed with families, children and teachers.

Finally, a reminder that **Term 3 starts on Monday 13 July.**

Have a wonderful break, if you are travelling, please take care. We look forward to seeing you all rested and ready for a wonderful Term 3.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL



Key Dates

Term 3, 2026 Dates

July

- **13th Term 3 starts for all students**
- 15th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 16th 8.30 - 8:40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 17th Year 5/6 Gala Day 2
- 20th 8:55 am Monday Meditation
- 21st 3 Way Conversations 2.30 - 6.30pm
- 22nd 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 23rd 8:30 - 8:40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 24th 'One Tree per Child' Year 3/4 Excursion
- **24th 'Grandparents Day' 9.00 - 10.30am**
- 27th 8:55am Monday Meditation
- 29th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 30th 8.30 - 8:40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 31st 2:50 pm Assembly

August

- 3rd 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 5th 8:30 - 8:40am Reading before school in the library
- 6th 8:30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 6th Ride/Walk to School Day
- 6th OPEN Day
- 7th 2:50 pm Assembly
- 10th 8:55 am Monday Meditation
- 11th OPEN Day
- 12th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 13th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 13th SUWAY Lunch
- 14th Living Rosary to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption
- 17th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 19th 8:30 - 8:40am Reading before school in the library
- 19th OPEN Day
- 20th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 21st 2.50pm Assembly
- 24th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 26th 8:30 - 8:40am Reading before school in the library
- 27th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 28th Book Week Dress up Day and Assembly
- 31st 8.55am Monday Meditation

September

- **1st School Hats must be worn when outside**
- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 3rd 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard

Religious News

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

We invite families to take the Our Lady statue into their home for a week as a special way to deepen family prayer time. Each family will receive a brochure with simple instructions for praying the Rosary, as well as a set of rosary beads. If you would like to take the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.



Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is teaming up with the school to lead Rosary prayer sessions during lunch breaks. These will take place during the first lunch on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.



A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful school families for your generous donations to our St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Your kindness and compassion will make a real difference to those in our community who are experiencing hardship.

By giving so generously, you have shown our children the true spirit of faith in action—caring for others with love, dignity and hope. Together, we are making a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Wellbeing News



Healthy eating helps children and young people cope more effectively with stress, better manage their emotions and get a good sleep – all of which assist learning.

Most research about nutrition and mental health has focused on adults. We know that good nutrition is associated with better mental health outcomes, whereas a poor diet is associated with a greater risk of depression and anxiety. However, emerging research that focuses on children and young people has also found a relationship between unhealthy diets and poorer mental health outcomes.

Poor nutrition has been associated with:

- externalising behaviour (such as hyperactivity, aggression, disobedience)
- symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- poor concentration and tiredness, which interfere with learning
- immune system function, which is also linked to mental health
- delayed brain development – high-fat, high-sugar diets can affect proteins in the body that are important for brain development
- iron deficiency, which has been linked to cognitive function impairments associated with learning and memory
- nutrient deficiencies, which have been associated with mental health conditions including depression and anxiety (we know that fruits and vegetables, grains, fish, lean red meats and olive oils are rich in important nutrients such as folate, magnesium, vitamins and zinc which all impact on body and brain functions, including mood regulation)

Wellbeing News



Parent/Carer Newsletter



5



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

**Working
together for
Child Safety**

Child Safe Standard 5

"Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice."

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the human flourishing, wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of children and young people is grounded in the Gospel message and related principles of justice, inclusion, and respect. This ensures the diverse needs of every child are recognized and treated with both dignity and care. Our Catholic communities strive to create faith filled, welcoming and inclusive environments where the dignity of every child and young person is promoted, equity is embedded, and the unique needs of every child are respected.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what schools governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Overview of Child Safe Standard 5:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- Families participate in decisions affecting their child
- The organisation engages and openly communicates with families and the community about its child safe approach and relevant information is accessible.
- Families and communities have a say in the development and review of the organisation's policies
- Families, carers and the community are informed about the organisation's operations and governance.



The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organisations create safe environments for children and young people.

They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to, and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies, and a culture that puts children first.

As a parent or carer, you can expect organisations to involve families, empower children, train staff properly, and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.



"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

(Galatians 3:28)

Working together for Child Safety



Reviewed: May 2026

St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

How do our schools ensure every child is treated fairly and their unique needs are respected?

- In our schools, we believe that every child has the right to be treated fairly, included, and supported according to their diverse needs and background. These three principles are part of **Child Safe Standard 5**, which focuses on equity and diversity.
- **Equity** is about ensuring justice, recognising that children may need different levels of support to participate fully in learning, activities, and school life.
- **Inclusion** means creating environments where all children, regardless of culture, ability, language, or background, can flourish and are treated justly and are valued, respected, and welcomed.
- **Respect for diversity** is about honouring and celebrating the unique identity of every child, ensuring that differences are recognised as strengths and that everyone's rights and dignity are upheld.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Child Safe Standard 5 is about making sure schools, families, carers and the wider community work together to keep children safe. Here are some simple ways families can help:

- **Talk about inclusion and fairness:** Discuss diversity, equity, and respect with your child, and encourage them to appreciate differences in others.
- **Share insights about your child:** Let staff know if your child has specific needs or cultural practices that should be considered in school activities.
- **Participate in school programs and events:** Support initiatives that celebrate diversity and inclusion, such as cultural festivals, learning programs, or wellbeing initiatives.
- **Provide feedback:** Take part in surveys or discussions about school policies and practices, ensuring the school considers diverse perspectives.
- **Model respect and inclusion:** Demonstrate equitable, respectful, and inclusive behaviour at home and in community activities, children learn these values through example.



Working together for Child Safety



Reviewed: May 2026

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).

Translated Child Safe Standards resources can be found at [CCYP | Translated resources about the Child Safe Standards](#)

Check out these additional resources :

National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) Resource Centre: [Explore NCEC Resource Centre \(inclusive education & wellbeing\)](#)

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA): [Visit Catholic School Parents Australia \(family support & engagement\)](#)

Parents & Families - Catholic School Parents: [Family Resources for Supporting Diverse Learning \(Catholic School Parents ACT/NSW\)](#)

Australian Catholics Magazine & Education Hub: [Read Australian Catholics \(family & faith resources\)](#)

Inclusive School Communities Toolkit (Australian education resource): [Access Inclusive School Communities Toolkit \(parent & school collaboration\)](#)

5/6 School Camp



5/6 School Camp



Library News



LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Week 10, June 2026

Exploring New Worlds at the Library, Together!

Come join us at the library, where there's more than just reading books! Engage in our library club and explore a world of knowledge, creativity, and community. Whether it's through interactive sessions, engaging discussions, or collaborative projects, there's something for everyone to enjoy and learn.

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATES

This week at Library Club, students worked in teams to participate in a student-friendly YouTube General Knowledge Quiz. It was wonderful to see students collaborating, sharing ideas, and using their knowledge to answer a variety of questions.

Congratulations to our equal winning teams, who both achieved the same high score:

- Ameya, Mia, Drishika and Rosana
- Ephrata, Harper and Jasmine

A mighty well done also goes to Sanaya, Nyadut, Willow and Lakshmi for their fantastic effort and teamwork throughout the activity.

Thank you to all students for their enthusiasm and positive attitude.

As we begin next term, please remember to bring library bags on your allocated library day and return any outstanding library books. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Miss Stephanie Adrien



Library News



LIBRARY CLUB



Week 10, June 2026



Miss Stephanie Adrien

Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

Any families who hold a current Health Care Card are asked to please provide a copy to the school office.

This will ensure you receive the MACS Concession on your school fees.

Please note, this must be a valid Centrelink Health Care Card. Private health insurance cards or Medicare cards are not eligible.

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

- Ameya Yr 3
- Jasmine Yr 4
- Azalea Yr 6
- Jacob A Yr 2
- Bommy Yr 3
- Anthony Yr 3
- Rafael Yr 6
- Johnny Yr 1
- Laura Yr 4



ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

SERVICE CONTACT:
0402 192 685 (Marina) | sg@ylv.com.au

SERVICE HOURS

Before School Care
6:45AM – 8:45AM

After School Care
3:30PM – 6:30PM

Pupil-Free Day
7:00AM – 6:00PM

COST

\$30/\$35
PERMANENT/CASUAL

\$35/\$40
PERMANENT/CASUAL

\$83

fees effective 02 Mar 2026

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