



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 4 Week 8

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

26 November 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to those students and staff who have celebrated their birthday this past week:!

- Grace - Prep C

Uniform Shop Closed

Please be advised that next Monday, 29 November the uniform shop will not be opening. Apologies for any inconvenience.

School Prayer

God, our Father, as members of the Parish Community of St Gerard's we praise you for your love.

May we grow stronger in faith and hope, and may our love for each other, become deeper in our daily lives.

Grant this through your Son, and our brother, Jesus Christ,

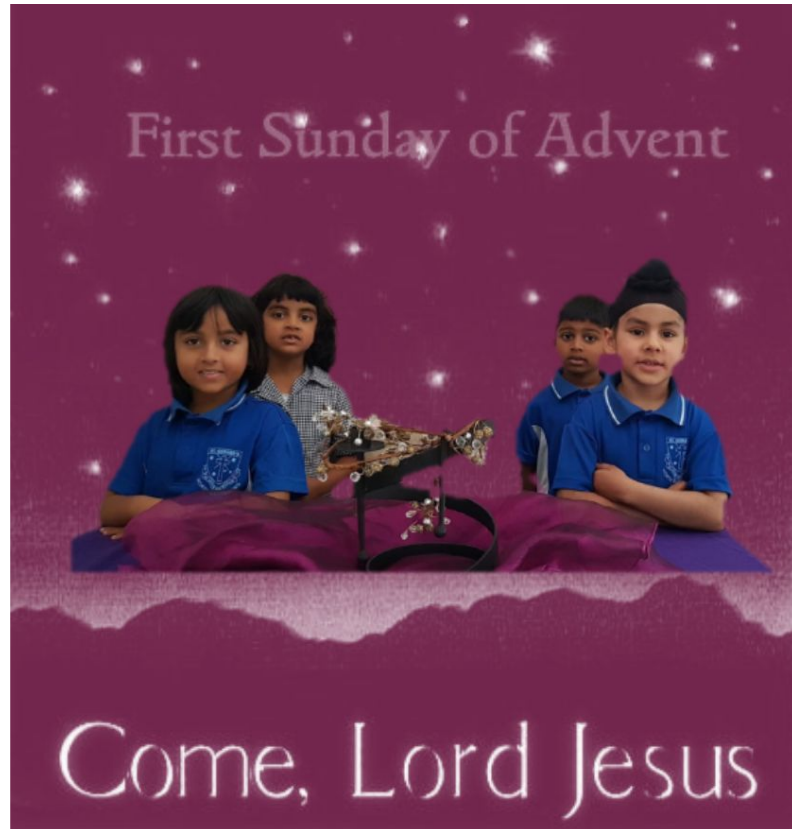
Amen



@st.gerards3175



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



On Sunday we begin the important and happy season of Advent. During these weeks we turn our thoughts to the coming of Jesus, who is the saviour of the world. Jesus is the Son of God, present among the people God loves. That is good news. During Advent we think about the many ways God comes to be with us. We try to make ourselves more ready to receive God in our day-to-day lives. When Jesus comes again, we will see his work completed, and the rule of God will be made clear.

This Sunday, Luke reminds us to be ready for the coming of Jesus. That is what the season of Advent is about.

Prayer:

Father, help us to love you
and one another as we wait
for Jesus who is Lord for
ever and ever. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

This week our students have had the opportunity to explore our **Book Fair**. This is usually part of our Book Week celebrations but could not occur as we were Remote Learning at that time. I would like to thank Mrs Colleen Jolly for her coordination of this popular and much anticipated yearly event. The Book Fair has proved to be very popular this year so we have decided to **extend it until next Wednesday 1 December**.

Students also had time to visit our **2021 Art Show**. An important aspect of Visual Art is to have an experience of displaying pieces and being able to appreciate the creations of others. It was wonderful to see our students acknowledging the gifts and talents displayed by other year levels. A video link was sent out via Seesaw today (Friday) and a booklet was sent home with students so that our families can also have this experience. I hope you enjoy it.

I would like to advise our school community of some other staff movements for 2022.

Mrs Judy Peres will be leaving St Gerard's initially to spend more time with her family before taking up a position at St Joseph's in Springvale. In the 12 years Judy has been at our school she has taught various year levels and has held a number of leadership positions including Literacy Leader and Learning Diversity Leader. Her work in these 2 leadership roles has seen her have an impact on our students learning across the whole school.

Mrs Julie Verhoosel will be finishing her 24 year association with our school, 11 years as an emergency teacher and 13 as a classroom teacher. Julie has been a Year 5/6 teacher supporting students to make the transition from Primary to Secondary School and has been the coordinator of numerous School Camps and Year 6 Graduations which are significant events in a child's primary school experience.

Mrs Sabina Castello will be finishing at St Gerard's after 27 years of service. Over this period of time Sabina has taught hundreds of children from Prep to Year Four and been involved in preparing them to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion as well as being a member of our Wellbeing Team. Sabina will initially spend more time with her family before embarking on the next chapter in her working life.

I would also like to announce that **Mrs Ashleigh Chiverton** will be joining St Gerard's in 2022. Asheigh comes to our school having had teaching experience overseas and here in Melbourne. We are planning for Ashleigh to come and meet our students and staff prior to the end of this year. I am sure she will be made to feel most welcome by our whole school community.

A reminder that if your child is **displaying COVID-19 symptoms, please do not send them to school**. While some restrictions have been eased, as a school we need to remain vigilant to keep us all safe. I thank you for your continued understanding and support.

COVID-19 symptoms include:

- loss or change in sense of smell or taste
- fever
- chills or sweats
- a cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- a runny nose

Lastly, families were sent information via Seesaw about the establishment of a **School Advisory Council** for 2022. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me by phone 9791 7553 or email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

Continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Important Dates for Term 4

Friday, 3rd December	Advent Assembly at 2:50 pm
Wednesday, 8th December	Year 6 Reflection Day
Date TBC	Christmas Carols Event
Tuesday, 14th December	End of Year and Graduation Mass. Time TBC
Tuesday, 14th December	Year 6 Graduation, 7 pm

Mission Walk Around Thailand

Socktober for Mission Month encourages students across Australia to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Thailand and around the world. During term 4 we are encouraging students to learn what life is like for children from Thailand, specifically those from slum areas in Bangkok.

Students are challenged to get fit and raise funds for Catholic Missions by using a map of Thailand to track the distance they have covered when they walk (run, hop, skip, walk backwards, whatever) around the walking track on the oval. Students will be timetabled to walk around the track, 15 minutes a day for the whole term. The Mission Walk Around Thailand will become our main fundraising event for Mission Month.



WELLBEING NEWS



This week 3/4S enjoyed their Garden lesson. The students harvested some juicy mulberries, weeded the garden beds, planted zucchini seedlings and a lime tree (generously donated by Mrs Lewis) and collected the eggs. Have a look at some of the fun they had.



Chicken Eggs For Sale

St Gerard's would like to offer parents 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 \$5 per dozen.

All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.

Please email [Nicole Fernandez](#) if you would like to purchase some eggs.



WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D



Walk or Ride To School



A big thank you to all of the families who participated in the Ride to School day on Friday 26th November Congratulations to 1/2L, 3/4C and Prep B who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

Well done to:

1st place- 1/2L, 3/4C and Prep B with 50% riding, walking and scooting.

2nd place- 5/6O with 46% riding, walking and scooting.

3rd place- 5/6VT with 45% riding, walking and scooting.



OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



Dante Alighieri Poster Competition

During remote learning the students from years 3 to 6 worked on Superhero posters for the Dante Alighieri poster competition, which is held statewide. The students at St Gerards performed extremely well, scoring a second and a third place as well distinctions and honours. Congratulations to the following students.

Jake	3/4 C	Third Prize
Aditey	3/4 S	High Distinction
Joshlyn	3/4 C	High Distinction
Jacob	3/4 C	Honourable Mention
Filomena Mae	3/4 C	Certificate of Merit
Steve	3/4 C	Certificate of Merit
Amy	3/4 S	Certificate of Merit
Katherine	3/4 S	Certificate of Merit
Mary	3/4 C	Certificate of Merit
Hswin	5/6 VT	High Distinction
Alessia	5/6 VT	High Distinction
Abigail	5/6 O	Honourable Mention
Jaskirat	5/6 O	Second Prize

Italian Day - 6 December



First Sunday of Advent

Prepare for Christ's Coming - Be Watchful!!



How can early learning services and schools build resilience?

Early learning services and schools are places where children and young people spend a great deal of their time. Learning communities play a key role in developing resilience through formal and informal learning opportunities.

[Resilience](#) is key for developing positive mental health and wellbeing.



Caring and supportive relationships

Strong relationships within the family can help at times of stress or adversity. This support and security is a protective factor for children and young people's mental health. You support healthy relationships by:

- promoting family-centred practice and reach out to families
- providing information to families on how they can support their child or young person develop resilience
- encouraging families to draw on the resources available in their community in times of need.

Research also indicates a positive relationship with at least one caring, competent adult outside of the child or young person's immediate family is related to greater mental health and resilience. As an educator, you might develop connections with children in your learning community which are based on warmth, empathy, and respect.

Connection to diverse groups of friends is also valuable. Even very young children develop a sense of self and self-confidence through their peer relationships. You can encourage healthy relationships by:

- promoting a welcoming, friendly and safe environment
- role modelling perspective-taking and compassion
- celebrating diversity
- teaching the skills to work together effectively (for example, communication skills)
- requiring cooperation (for example, structuring tasks that require working in small groups)
- empowering children and young people to ask for support.

Setting high-but-achievable expectations of children and young people

Research has shown that high expectations give students the sense that educators care about them. You can assist by:

- exposing children and young people to manageable stress (for example, when you respond in a warm and sensitive manner, children and young people learn they are safe, that their needs will be taken care of and they'll be supported with their coping skills)
- making sure that goals are achievable by breaking down large tasks or responsibilities into small steps
- asking them questions to help them solve problems and promote further learning
- scaffolding their learning and help when necessary, without taking over.

Provide opportunities for children and young people to participate

You can:

- view children and young people as capable contributors to their world (for example, by providing tasks that require a meaningful contribution, letting them make decisions and experience consequences)
- give them meaningful choices
- express your belief in their capacity to learn and contribute
- help them learn from mistakes
- teach values
- support them to express their views and listen to their views.