



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



Term 3 Week 7

[www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated their birthday this week a very happy birthday!

- Emmanuel - 1/2FP
- Francis - 1/2L
- Mrs Cox

**Stay at home,  
be safe,  
be healthy.**

**Current restrictions  
see the students  
back at school on  
Thursday,  
2 September**



Even the chickens got into the spirit of Book Week with one dressing up as Little Red Riding Hood!!

## A Message to Parents

During school closures, if you're having difficulty and feeling stressed about the added pressure of now being teacher to your child/children, please remember:

You don't need to replicate the school experience. Don't try to be your child's classroom teacher. Just keep being the teacher you ALREADY are. We trained for years to teach the way we do, just as you trained for years to teach the way you do! We couldn't take over your job overnight, you won't be able to do ours.

Read with your child.

Cook with your child.

Garden with your child.

Enjoy nature with your child.

Make and create things with your child.

Sing and dance with your child.

PLAY with your child.

And above all, keep being the kind, calm role model your child needs through this challenging time.

This is how you teach.

Keep doing you.

Your child is learning from you every single day!

## A Prayer of Self-Care for Parents

Jesus, you made us with spirits and souls and bodies. During this busy time of caring for our families, we pray that you would help parents to find time to receive refreshment from you. You have such compassion for weary, hungry people. Lead parents beside still waters; restore their souls. (1 Kings 19:7, Mark 15:32, Psalm 23:3).

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

I hope and pray that you are all doing well, are all healthy and are staying safe.

As we come to the end of Week 7, I continue to be inspired by the efforts of our students, their families and school staff. Our **Remote Learning** arrangements are **enabling our students to continue their learning and stay connected to their classmates, teachers and school**. This takes time and effort to achieve and while it can be challenging it is certainly worth it.

Our **Give Me 5 focus** for this week was to **Be Positive**. While this might be difficult for people at the moment, a source of inspiration might be the message in **this Sunday's Gospel**. Jesus emphasises the purity that is in our hearts and the purity reflected by our actions - the positivity within us. This then transfers to our actions and words and the impact they can have on others.

This week was **Book Week** and we recognised this in a variety of ways. One of the highlights of this celebration of reading and literature was our **dress-up day on Tuesday**. It was wonderful to see a variety of book characters at our *Google Meets* and through photos on *Seesaw*. A thank you also to the staff members that recorded themselves reading some of this year's books. I encourage families to use these recordings to experience the joy of reading together. Book Week also features prominently in our Friday Assembly. A special mention to **Mrs Peres** for her leadership and coordination of this special event in our school year.

There have been reports in the media this week about how Victorian students have performed in this year's **NAPLAN assessments**. For us here at St Gerard's that directly relates to our Year 3 and 5 students and their families and then to the school and the wider school community. **Our school's results should be delivered next week** and when they arrive I will contact families to arrange for them to be passed on as soon as possible.

As I am writing this, our current lockdown is due to finish next Thursday evening which would have us return to school next Friday 3 September. This of course will not be confirmed until next week. **When announcements are made and we have guidance from the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria I will inform all families via Seesaw and email.**

**Finally, I encourage families to contact the school via Seesaw, email or phone if we can help in any way. Please stay connected with us.** I appreciate that this can be a challenging time in many ways for families and my thoughts and prayers are with our school community.

Please stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan  
Principal



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## First Communion and Confirmation Dates Rescheduled

Due to the extension to the current lockdown, we have rescheduled the dates for First Communion and Confirmation. The new date for Confirmation will now be **Friday 3rd September, 7pm**. The two First Communion Masses will be on **Saturday 4th September at 11:30am and 2pm**.

Again, this is dependent on the current restrictions being lifted. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Stack.

## St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

We traditionally celebrate our Feast Day by hosting a talent quest. This year, due to possible restrictions, our talent quest will be held remotely a second year in a row.

The divisions will be as follows:

- Prep
- Junior School
- Middle School
- Senior School
- Family Acts

**Challenge:** film yourself doing one of your special talents; singing, acting/storytelling, dancing (cultural dance is a favourite), gymnastics, magic, slam poetry or stand up comedy. Acts should be 1-3 minutes long. Bonus points when you involve other St Gerard's students, include costumes/props or interesting backdrops. Respond by uploading your video onto the Talent Quest Activity on Seesaw.

Items that pass the auditions will automatically be entered into our Digital Talent Quest to be viewed at 2:30 on Friday 15th October (Saturday 16th is our actual Feast Day)





## PLAY HELPS CHILDREN DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS

Play is important for learning the social skills (including language and communication) that develop over time and will be the foundation for future relationships.

Through play, children learn about:

- the give and take of relationships with friends (negotiating)
- how their behaviour can affect others and to develop empathy
- how to lead and follow
- repairing relationships.

### ***Play helps children develop emotional skills***

Through play, children can express their feelings, even before they have the words to say how they feel. Play also fosters imagination and becomes the basis for creativity in art or music or other ways of self-expression. These ways of personal expression can help people cope with feelings all their lives.

Play can also help children learn impulse control. They learn to think about what they want to do, to plan and to be patient. If they're building a castle and get frustrated and knock it down, they have lost their castle. In these ways, children gradually learn they need to control their impulses to achieve what they want.

### ***Play is a way that children can work through and resolve problems***

For example, a child whose family has separated may feel very anxious about what's going to happen to them. These feelings and possibilities can be explored through play. The child can practise having two homes set up with two houses and different dolls. There's no need for you to take part, but being near while the child plays shows support and acceptance.

### ***Play helps children develop physical skills***

Children like games that test their physical abilities (motor skills) – running, climbing, jumping and exploring. These games bring children happiness and build their confidence.



### **Student Representative Council Meeting**

The next SRC meeting will be  
held on  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 1pm.  
This meeting will be  
conducted online.

# Pet Day!

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August we will be having 'Pet Day!' Take a photo of yourself with your pet or favourite toy and send it to your teacher on Seesaw.

We can't wait to meet your pet or special toy!



## Kitchen to Garden



# FAMILY COOKING

Cook a meal with your family, write a short description of what you made and send photos of yourself and your family cooking together. Email your photos to Mrs Fernandez at

[nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au).



Sophia in 1/2 L helped her mum to make banana muffins during the week. They look delicious Sophia!

## GIVE ME FIVE WEEK

Next week we will be focusing on **'Being Cooperative at Home and School'**. Please take a photo of your family being their best at home and email your photo to Mrs Fernandez at [nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au).

We will also be drawing the Give Me 5 raffle tickets when we return to school next Friday!

## Ride or Walk to School Day Friday, 3 September

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September is a Ride to School Day. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school from home or from a nearby drop off point. If your child doesn't normally walk to school, you could do this together.

Students who ride are given a sticker and the class who has the most students riding or walking get to keep our Ride to School trophy in their classroom for that month.

Students can ride bikes, skateboards or scooters.

**They must wear a helmet at all times.**

Upon arrival at school, students must hop off their bike or scooter and lock up their bike or scooter in our bike parking area (behind the 1/2 gathering space).





# Book Week



Book Week Character Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This year for Book Week, I dressed up as **I have dressed up as Stuart.**

from **Despicable Me**

