



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

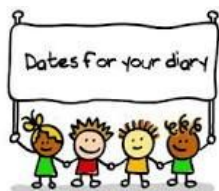


Term 4 Week 8

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

27 November 2020



**LAST
DAY OF
SCHOOL**

**Wednesday,
16 December
3:30 finish**

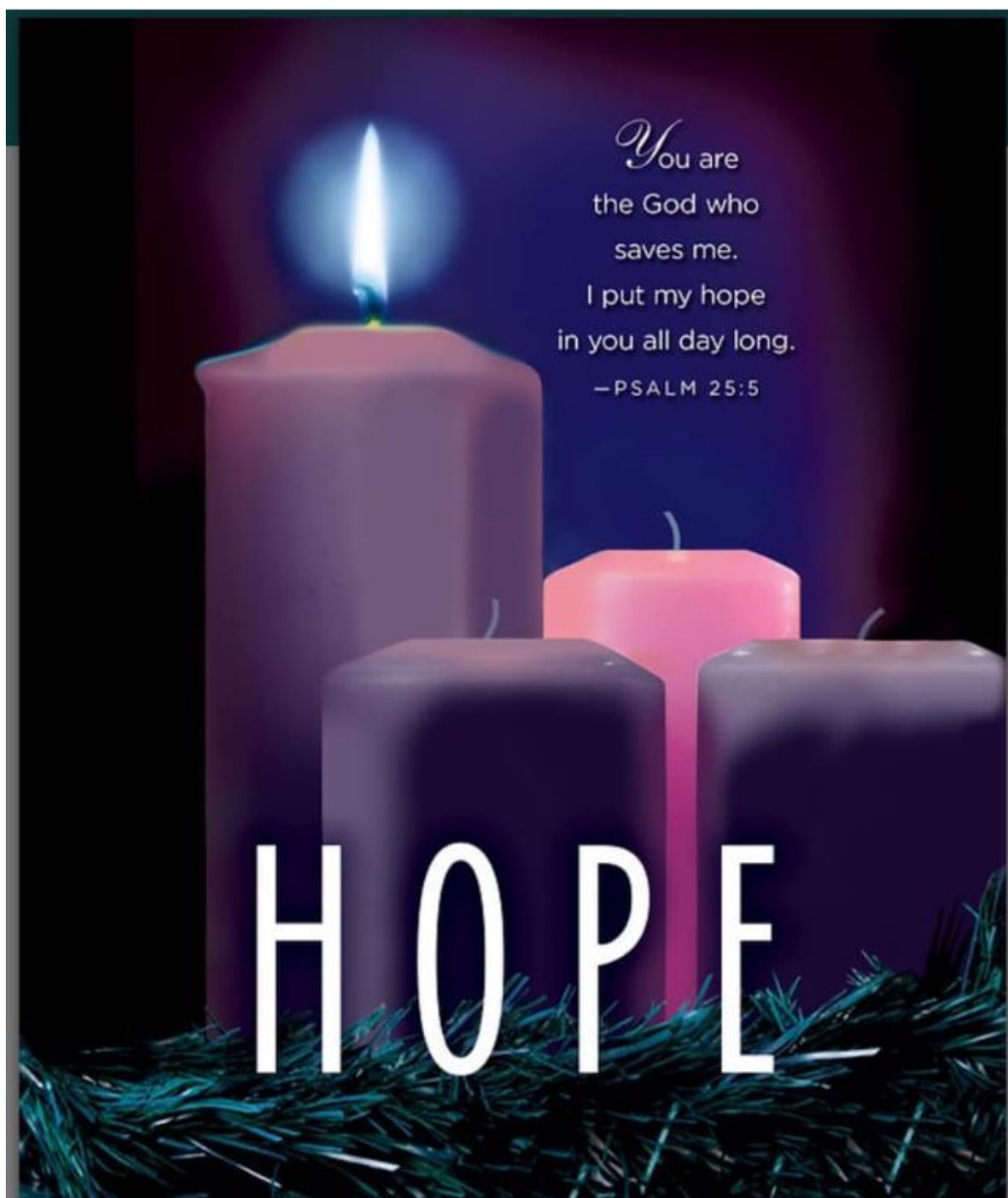


By God's Grace, we are happy to introduce new member of our family, Ameya, little sister of Adina - 1/2FP

Please find attached the photo of Adina with her little sister.



Ponder and enjoy! Grace and Peace!



We came together at assembly today to celebrate the first Sunday of Advent which will be this Sunday. In the Gospel we are told to prepare for the coming of the Lord and to be ready because we do not know when that will be. While we are waiting we must continue to do God's work and bring the message of God's faithfulness to all we meet. We must stay alert and focus on what is important.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of Week 8 of Term 4. With the year challenging us all in so many ways, that sense of Summer and Christmas that is in the air is certainly welcomed.

A reminder that **Italian Day** is occurring next **Tuesday 1 December**. We are encouraging our children to come dressed as famous Italian characters, something typically Italian or the colours of the Italian flag. This promises to be a fun, activity based day so be on the lookout for wonderful creations and plenty of red, white and green!

Next **Friday 4 December** the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will be celebrated in our church at 7.00pm. I ask you to keep our Year 6 children and those children from our parish in your thoughts and prayers as they take this significant step in their faith journey.

Our families continued cooperation with our before and after school arrangements is greatly appreciated. **Please note that our school gates are opened at 8.30am each morning. We are starting to see children dropped at school before this time which poses a safety threat as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds.** I am therefore asking that families refrain from leaving their children unattended before 8.30am for their safety. Thank you in anticipation.

Our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children and in the current economic climate **we all need to support each other**. If your **family is experiencing challenges** with regard to **school fees** please contact the School Office or myself **so we can work through this together**. If you have a **current Health Care Card you are entitled to a reduction**.

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent and the message from Mark's Gospel is '**Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.**' With these words, Jesus reminds his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert for the return of the Lord. This would appear to be a fitting way to begin the season of Advent.

Finally, a revised Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) School Operations Guide was released on Wednesday night. With the easing of restrictions in the community, we will look at these guidelines and make the adjustments we can. There has already been considerable planning for events between now and the end of the year and further adjustments may not be practical given the timeframes. Please be assured that any changes will be communicated to you and that **the health and safety of our students, staff and families will be the underlying factor in any changes to protocols and procedures that may occur**. I thank you again for your continued support.

God bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Confirmation

We are excited to announce that the Sacrament of Confirmation is permitted for our Year 6 students on **Friday, 4th December**. Under the strict guidelines, attendees will be by invitation only and will need to be registered. All families of eligible candidates have been contacted. Should you require any further clarification of any matters regarding Confirmation please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Stack at the school.

Thank You Mission Walk Around Australia

Thank you everyone for your great generosity in your fundraising efforts during our Mission Walk Around Australia. Our school raised **\$453.70**. Your support helps to empower children and young adults with disability at the Arrupe Centre in Cambodia which our students learnt about in class and during assembly.

The class who raised the most money was 5/6O. They win a casual dress day. Coming in second was 3/4L and 1/2B came in third. Your support is invaluable and is greatly appreciated, thank you again!

Carols Evening

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Carols Event will be held remotely this year. We hope to distribute a Vimeo link to our Christmas event for families on Friday 11th December. More information will be available soon.

Important Dates for Term 4

First Sunday of Advent	Sunday 29 th November
Confirmation	4 th December, 7pm officiated by Fr.
Shanthaiah Marneni MSFS.	
Christmas Event (remote)	Friday, 11 th December



WELLBEING NEWS



A big congratulations to the following students who received their first golden band for 2020 this week.



Prep C - Shaun, Oscar



1/2B - Ainsley, Julian, Jeremiah



1/2FP - Emmanuel, Rachel, Zion, Lachlan

A big congratulations to the following students who have displayed the Give Me 5 Principles in the classroom and playground. These students received the Principal's Award for their behaviour.



Prep C - Nevyn, Alakai, Anastasia, Shaun and Oscar



1/2FP - Luke, Alina, Jerome, Akash and Dhanya



1/2B -Elijah, Edwin, Chelsea, Benita and Ainsley.



How does confidence develop?

Babies are born curious

They want to touch, see, hear and taste everything within their reach.

Toddlers and preschoolers demonstrate their need to understand their world by asking many 'why' questions. From their repeated experiences of seeing their actions affect their world and the people in it, young children begin to see themselves as capable and having control. This helps them to feel good about themselves and builds their self-confidence.

When they begin school, children typically start out with high expectations

But when they see how they do things compared to others, their view of their own abilities often changes. They learn that they're good at some things and not so good at others. They also see how other children and educators respond to what they do. These things influence children's confidence in their abilities. They also influence how willing they are to have a go in situations where they feel unsure.

Your response

The way adults respond to children as they explore their place in the world is their template for solving many challenging and difficult problems later on. For young children, it helps strengthen their sense of self when significant adults nurture their natural curiosity and demonstrate patience and interest. In primary school years, children who are suddenly less sure of themselves may need extra support and encouragement to build a functional sense of confidence they can take with them into adolescence.



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.



Gardening Lesson

This week Prep C enjoyed their Gardening lesson. The students learned about the following concepts in the garden this week:

- composting
- worm farming
- planting seedlings
- harvesting (how to carefully harvest mulberries)
- weeding
- how to look after chickens
- ways to fix broody chickens

Have a look at some of the fun we had in the garden today!



LAST WEEK'S 3/4L
WORKING IN THE
GARDEN

WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

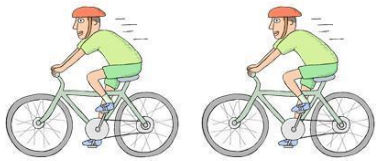


Walk Around Australia

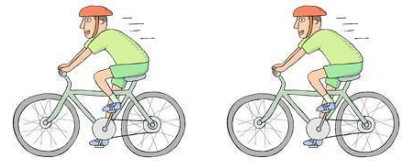
In term 4 students are challenged to get fit by using a map of Australia to track the distance they have covered when they walk around the walking track.

Classes are timetabled to walk around the track for 15 minutes per day.

We have currently walked 18,356 laps of the oval which converts to 4591km. Our whole school has now walked from Melbourne to Oombulgurri which is northwest of Wyndham in Western Australia. Have a look at the red sticker dots below to see how far we have walked so far!!



Ride to School Day



A big thank you to all of the families who participated the Ride to School day on Friday 27th November. Thank you to Mary and Jaskirat who helped out on the day.



Well done to:

1st place- Prep C (80%)

2nd place- 3/4:L (59%)

3rd place- 1/2B (58%)

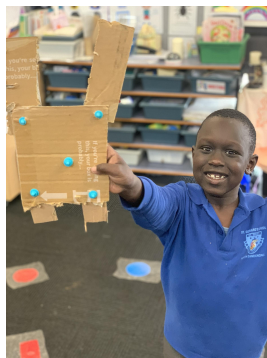
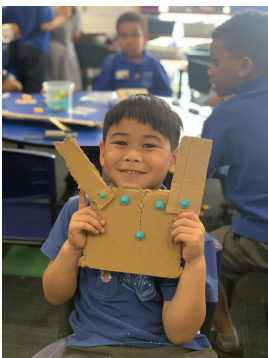


OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

STEM IN ST GERARD'S



This week our students in PrepC and 1/2FP had fun using Makedo tools and learning how to be safe when using them. Students used flexible plastic cardboard saws, screwdrivers, screws and connectors and learnt how each tool works. Students are excited to use their STEM skills in planning and designing their next creation. Well done students for demonstrating how cooperative you are in the classroom.



Nazareth College LITSTEM Expo

Wednesday 25 November 2020

We are so excited to bring to you our LITSTEM Expo – a partnership between Nazareth College and St Justins, St Simons, St Marks, St Elizabeths and St Gerards. This year has presented a unique set of challenges and opportunities. Click the button below to interact with the videos and see how each School adapted to complete LITSTEM projects during remote learning. Enjoy!

[Click This Link](https://www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/litstem/)

Click Here

OR

<https://www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/litstem/>

