

# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 - WEEK 4

27th October, 2023



**Little Hands, Big Hearts: Mission Month Champions at our White Elephant Stall!**



Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the chance to make a positive impact on the world throughout Mission Month, to extend a helping hand, and to spread love and hope.

Bless the missions we support, and guide us to be instruments of your peace and love. Grant us the strength to give generously, the wisdom to understand the needs of others, and the humility to serve.

May this month be a time of transformation as we learn the true meaning of giving and the joy of selflessness. Inspire us to make a difference in the lives of others.  
In your name, we pray.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan  
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au  
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

On top of the 'usual' events that occur during a school week, we also worked on our physical education, physical wellbeing, celebrated our faith, supported those in need and acknowledged our wonderful 'teachers'.

This week saw the start of our **Bike Ed. Program** for 2023 with our **Year 4 - 6 students** participating. This is the third year of this program and it is amazing to see the increased confidence and skills of our children. Riding a bike is a life skill as well as being a great way to engage in some physical activity.

While on the theme of physical activity, we had our first **Walk/ Ride to School Day** for the term on Thursday. Despite the weather being on the cooler and wetter side, we still had a large number of students walk, ride or scoot to school.

Our **Year 3/4S class Mass** on Thursday was a wonderful celebration and I would like to thank the families that came as well as Fr Shanthaiah. It was clear that the children were involved in the planning and preparation of this Mass and I would like to acknowledge their participation and the work of Ms Sonno.

Today (Friday) we had our **White Elephant Stall** as part of our support for **Mission Month**. This proved to be very successful with plenty of donations and eager shoppers. I would like to thank our school community for supporting this initiative with the money raised supporting the Missions in East Timor.

Also today, **all our classes** were involved in a **First Aid session conducted by St John Ambulance Australia**. To be able to assist someone when they are in need is a skill that can never be underestimated.

Today we celebrated **World Teachers' Day**. I believe that all our staff contribute to the learning and education of our students. **Therefore they are all teachers.** Our school recognised all the time, energy, effort and emotion that our wonderful staff invest to provide a wide range of learning opportunities for our children. It was also lovely to see children and families thank these very special people.

Finally, as **planning for 2024** starts to increase, I am asking families to contact me if their **children are not returning to St Gerard's in 2024**. Also, considerable time is spent in preparing class lists with numerous factors needing to be considered. **If families have a specific request for their child this needs to be put in writing and addressed to myself or emailed to [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)**. Requests need to be based on **educational grounds** and will be treated confidentially. **Please note that all requests will be considered but I cannot guarantee that all requests will be granted.** Our aim as a school is to provide the best opportunities for all our students to learn.

**Requests need to be received by Friday 10 November.**

God bless.

Paul COWAN  
PRINCIPAL



# Religious Education

## Important RE Dates

<b>Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November:</b>	All Saints Day, Parish Mass 9:15 am
<b>Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November:</b>	All Souls Day, Parish Mass 9:15 am
<b>Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November:</b>	Remembrance Day, one minute silence
<b>TBA:</b>	Year 6 Reflection Day
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	Christmas Carols Evening
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	Christmas Activities Rotations
<b>Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	End of Year Mass, 12:00
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	Christmas Carols Tour of the Nursing Homes Excursion
<b>Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	Graduation <b>Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm</b>

## Whole School Masses

All Saints' Day, Parish Mass:	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November, 9:15
All Souls' Day, Parish Mass:	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November, 9:15
End of Year Mass	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December at 12:00

## Class/Parish Mass Timetable

Classes that couldn't proceed with their Class Mass previously have been newly assigned one, while all other classes will attend the parish Mass.

- ★ Prep: 9th November, 10:15, Class Mass
- ★ 1/2 Level: 16th November, 9:15, Parish Mass
- ★ 3/4A: 23rd November, 9:15, Parish Mass



# Religious Education

## **World Mission Month 2023**

Mission Month is upon us, and it's time to ignite our 'Hearts on Fire' for a cause that truly matters. Throughout the month of October, we're embarking on a meaningful journey to make a positive impact.

Our focus this year is on East Timor, a place filled with resilience and hope, but also facing various challenges. We'll have a series of exciting events and activities that will not only inspire but also provide an opportunity for all of us to contribute.

From fundraising initiatives to heartwarming stories of mission work, we'll be sharing the spirit of compassion and solidarity that defines our school community. So, get ready to get involved, make a difference, and join us in supporting Catholic missions in East Timor. Together, we can spread love, hope, and kindness far and wide!

## **White Elephant Stall Fundraising for Mission Month**

Exciting news! Our 'White Elephant Stall' is making a comeback this Mission Month. It's your chance to declutter and make a difference. Simply donate gently used toys you no longer need, and every class will set up their own stall to sell them. Plus, you get the opportunity to purchase some fantastic toys while supporting Catholic Missions in East Timor. Let's come together with 'Hearts on Fire' and show the world the power of generosity!

## **Lunchtime Rosary**

Lunchtime Rosary: The Legion of Mary Group is collaborating with the school to reinstate the practice of praying the Rosary during lunch breaks. These sessions will be available during the first lunch in weeks 4 and 8 in each term.

## **The Poppy Appeal**

The Social Justice Team will be selling Poppy Badges **\$1.00 or \$2.00**, up until Remembrance Day, 11th November.

The Poppy Appeal contributes significantly to the fundraising work of the RSL. The largest fundraising activity is the sale of poppies beginning in late October each year. All money raised is used to assist both current and former serving members of the Australian and Allied defence forces and their dependents in times of need.



# Religious Education

## **An Invitation to Bring Mary Home**



### ***An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection***

St Gerard's school has been gifted with a beautiful statue of Our Lady, a generous gift from the Legion of Mary group. The statue comes with a handcrafted carrier bag, designed for its respectful storage when not in use. Families are invited to bring the statue home for a week to use it to enhance family prayer. A brochure offering guidance on how to engage in rosary prayer will be included, accompanied by some sets of rosary beads. If you would like to bring this statue home, please contact Mrs Stack.





## FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

### WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#).

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to *What is a reasonable adjustment?* below to learn about adjustments.

### WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

### Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.



## WHAT MUST SCHOOLS DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students have the right to a quality learning experience at school.

Students with disability must be able to take part in education without discrimination and on the same basis as other students. To ensure this, schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed for students with disability. Educators, students, parents, guardians, carers and others (eg health professionals) must work together to ensure that students with disability can take part in education.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* describe schools' responsibilities.

## WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

## WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NCCD?

The definition of disability for the NCCD is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The following students are examples of those who may be included in the NCCD if they need monitoring and adjustments:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes).

## WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NCCD?

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

## WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability.

Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including:

- their year of schooling
- the level of adjustment received
- the broad type of disability.

For students who have more than one disability, the school uses professional judgement to choose one category of disability. They choose the category that most affects the student's access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

## HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

## WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

## IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

## HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the [Public information notice](#).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

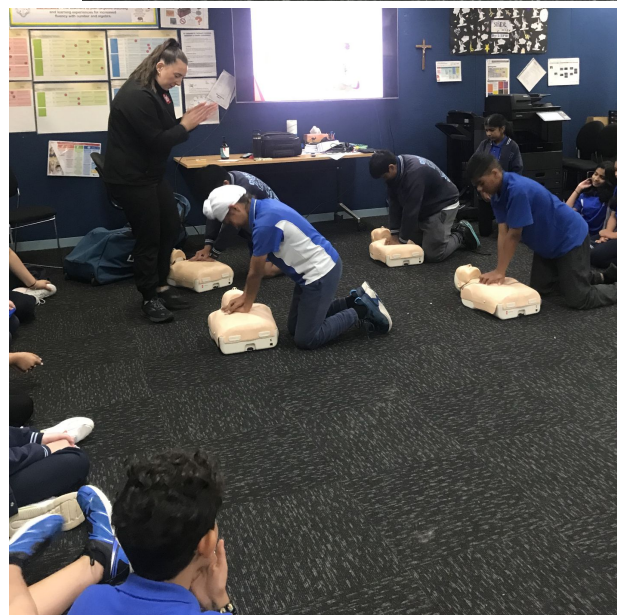
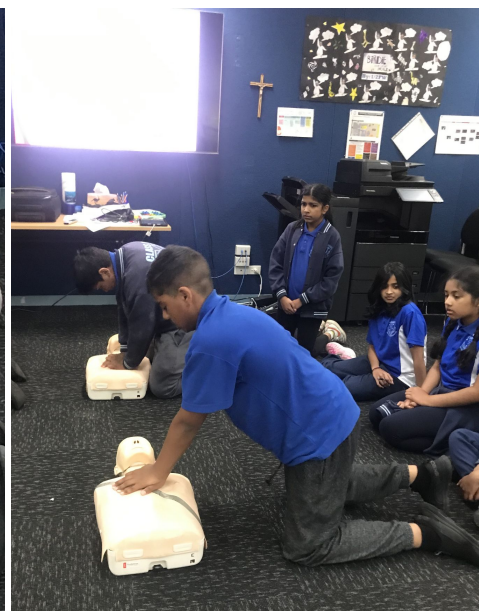
Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

There is also a free [e-learning resource](#) about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

This document must be attributed as *Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers*.



# First Aid Incursion





# Parish News



**The Junior Legion of Mary Meetings are held every Monday at St Gerard's school term from 4:15pm – 5:15 pm in The Library Room (brown building in the car park of St. Gerard's Primary School).**

Legion of Mary Contact: Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175 and Jacqueline Savanah on 0437 668 352.

Application forms are available to collect from the foyer of the Church.

## Junior Legion of Mary

Dear Parents,

The Legion of Mary runs a Junior Legion of Mary praesidium (branch) at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong once a week after school during school term. Meetings last for one hour per week. All possible care will be taken while your child is with us.

Children are taught to:

- Pray the Rosary
- Be helpful at home
- Do works of service such as a Book Barrow

They are trained to be good Catholics by reaching out to others. One way they do this is by visiting a local nursing home during the school holidays, where they interact with the residents. Children are also guided to take part in parish events such as the Public Square Rosary in October.

This group will enable your child to grow spiritually and also learn to be an active apostolic worker in the Parish. All activities will be supervised by adult legionaries who hold Working with Children permits.

If you would like your child/children to join this group, please complete the application form below and return it to Kereena or Cecilia. For more information please phone a contact below.



Meeting Day:	Every MONDAY of St Gerard's school term
Time:	4:15 PM TO 5:15 PM STARTING JULY 10 <sup>TH</sup>
Place:	LIBRARY ROOM of St. Gerard's
Legion of Mary Contact:	Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175
Legion of Mary Contact:	Cecilia Donald 0402 716 101



✕

Parent or guardian to complete: (All information provided is confidential.)

Child's Name:		Grade:	
Address:			
Any health issues?		Date of Birth:	

I ..... (Parent/guardian) give permission for my child (name) ..... to attend the Junior Legion of Mary at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong (in the Church foyer).

Signature..... Date.....

Name of First Contact Person			
Address			
Phone No.			
Second Contact for child	Name:	Phone No:	

## Altar Servers

Altar Server training will resume for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass.

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information contact St Gerard's Parish Office 9792 4422 or Mrs Stack 9791 7553



# Literacy





# WELLBEING



This week the Give Me Five focus was to 'Be Your Best' in the learning areas.

The teachers were looking for students who were being their best in the classroom. These students were rewarded with a raffle ticket.

Next week the whole school will be focusing on 'Being Respectful' in the playground.



## St. Gerard's Give Me 5 Whole School Matrix



Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
<b>Be Respectful</b>	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property Take turns Whole body listening Greet people by name	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep the area neat and tidy</li> </ul>	Speak appropriately and use manners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give other users their privacy</li> </ul> Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep toilets tidy and flush</li> </ul> Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place rubbish in the bin</li> <li>Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden</li> </ul> Include others Respect everyone's views and space
<b>Be Co-operative</b>	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the right hand side to enter</li> </ul>	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accept rules</li> <li>Take turns</li> </ul> Share and use equipment safely Accept rules
<b>Be Your Best</b>	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Ask for help	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Only enter the area with permission	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Report problems to a teacher	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Try to solve your problems
<b>Be Positive</b>	Never give up			Encourage others
<b>Be Spirit filled</b>	Treat others as you would like to be treated. Pray daily and during meditation	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Say sorry and forgive others</li> </ul> Be kind



# WELLBEING



## Walk or Ride To School – Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

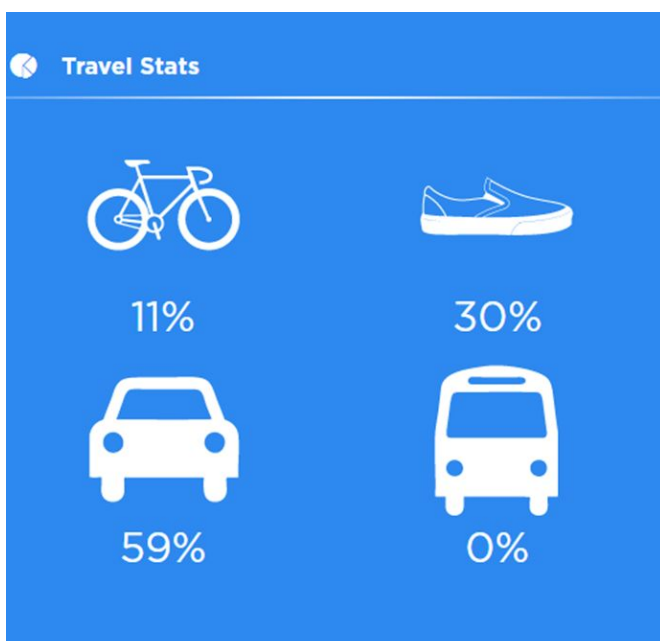
A big thank you to all of the families who participated in Ride to School Day on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Congratulations to 5/6T and 1/2FW who had the most students walking and scooting to school!!

### Well done to:

1<sup>st</sup> (equal) place- 1/2FW and 5/6T with 58% walking, riding and scooting to school

2<sup>nd</sup> place- 1/2L with 45% walking, riding and scooting to school

3<sup>rd</sup> place- 5/6O with 44% walking, riding and scooting to school



# Lunchtime Club

## Lunchtime Sports Club

Hi, this is Ariana, Antonia, Azalea and Sophia

Last Tuesday we held a running sports club during our lunch break. This week the focus was on tennis. Quite a few people came and everyone enjoyed it. We hope to see all of the children there next week. We have attached our sports clinic timetable below.

## Timetable

<i>Weeks &amp; dates :</i>	<i>Sports :</i>
<i>Week 2 10th of October</i>	<i>Tennis (passed) (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 3 17th of October</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 4 24th of October</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 5 31st of October</i>	<i>Running (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 6 7th of November</i>	<i>Public holiday</i>
<i>Week 7 14th of November</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 8 21st of November</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 9 28th of November</i>	<i>Tennis (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 10 5th of December</i>	<i>Fun day (PAC &amp; basketball courts)</i>





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](http://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 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](mailto:angie@agsprints.com.au)

# IMPORTANT DATES

## October:

- 30th Bike Ed Program Years 4-6

## November:

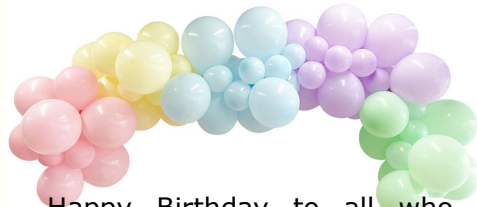
- 1st - 3rd Bike Ed Program Years 4-6
- 1st Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 1st All Saints Day, Whole School attending Parish Mass at 9:15am
- 2nd All Souls Day, Whole School attending Parish Mass at 9.15am
- 2nd Subway Lunch
- **6th Student Free Day**
- **7th Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday**
- 8th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 8th and 10th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 10th Remembrance Day Assembly at 2:50 pm
- 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 15th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 16th Sushi Day
- 20th, 21st, 22nd & 24th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 22nd Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 23rd Walk/Ride to School Day
- 29th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 29th Art Show Opens
- 30th Subway Lunch

## December:

- 1st First Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:50pm
- 5th Christmas Carols evening 7.00pm
- 6th Final Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 6th Art Show Closes
- 8th End of the School Year Mass at 12.00 noon
- 8th Second Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:50 pm
- 14th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony at 7.00pm
- 15th Last day of school - 3:10pm Guard of honour for Year 6 students



# Important Information



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

- Marcus Yr 5
- Jerome Yr 1

*"Here's wishing Mr Paul Cowan, all the teachers and all the staff of St Gerard's Nth Dandenong a happy and successful celebration of World Teachers' Day. Thank you all so much for all your dedication, hard work and commitment in educating our kids and moulding them with the right values.  
**From Flor Family"***

**Thank you Flor family from all of us at St. Gerard's**

2nd November

No late orders. Pls

send envelope **no later**  
**than 30th October,**  
**9:00AM**



## NOTICE COMMUNITY BOARD



- Catholic Bible Study Course through St Gerard's Parish
- Dandenong Saints Basketball Club - new players wanted
- Diamond Dancers - Recreation and Competitive Dancing
- Springvale Indoor Sports (Term 4)
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Dandenong Scouts
- Cricket Blast - North Dandenong Cricket Club
- Cricket Blast - Noble Park Cricket Club
- Australian Girls Choir Open Days (11 & 19 November)



### 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 \$6 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.