



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 4 Week 4

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

29 October 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

- Elaine - Prep B
- Tiffany - 3/4C
- Mrs Stewart

REMINDER School Closure Days

This Monday,
1 November
&
Tuesday,
2 November



A reminder that if your child is absent from school to please contact the Office either by phone or email. We are required to follow up all unexplained absences each day. Families will receive a text message if their child(ren) are not at school and we have not been informed. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Today We Celebrate World Teachers' Day

We are grateful for the contributions our teachers have made in ongoing difficult and trying circumstances.

We thank them for engaging in online learning, in supporting vulnerable students, for working tirelessly to reinvent education and for showing great resilience and creativity in their approach to learning and teaching.

We pray for all our teachers who help us to learn and grow in mind, body and spirit, and we ask God to specially bless them.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

We have come to the end of our transition phase back to Onsite Learning and look forward to having **all classes back every day from next Wednesday 3 November!**

A reminder that the school is closed on Monday 1 November and Tuesday 2 November.

With all our students back to Onsite Learning we will also be back to our usual start and end of the day routines. Cooperation with our before and after school arrangements is greatly appreciated as it keeps our children, families and staff safe.

Please note that our school gates are opened at 8.30am each morning. If children arrive or are dropped at school before this time there is a safety concern as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds.

At after school pick up, please **use the pedestrian crossing and designated walking areas** (please see the map below) when walking home or to your car. This is a busy time of the day and we have been out of this routine due to Remote Learning. To assist with this the **Pedestrian Crossing needs to be kept free of cars** and I ask **all drivers to monitor their speed and be very mindful of pedestrians**. I thank you in advance for your understanding, patience and cooperation.



School Pick up Arrangements Term 4, 2021



Also, if your child is **displaying COVID -19 symptoms**, please do not send them to school. 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

Today (Friday) in Australia is **World Teachers Day** when we acknowledge the **hard work and dedication of our teachers**. At St Gerard's we believe that all staff have a role to play in the learning of our children so we are in fact all teachers. I would like to especially acknowledge how they have **continued the learning of our children** while shifting from Onsite to Remote Learning and this recent transition period..

Thank you to the families that completed the **Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)**. This survey helps inform the ongoing improvement of our school and schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

While our main focus at the moment is to transition our children back to Onsite Learning, we are also looking **towards 2022**. I am therefore asking families to **contact the school office** if your child(ren) **will not be returning to St Gerard's next year**. Having accurate information helps us to be able to plan 2022 with a level of certainty.

Lastly, as mentioned last week, **St Gerard's** now has an **Instagram** account which will allow us to share aspects of our school and the learning opportunities we provide for all our students. Please see further information about this exciting addition to our school in this newsletter

Continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Celebration of First Communion and Confirmation

First Communion and Confirmation Mass times are currently scheduled to go ahead:

- Confirmation Mass: Friday 5th November, 7pm
- First Communion: Saturday 6th November, 11:30am and 2:30pm

The families of candidates have been contacted through Seesaw today to confirm times and numbers of guests allowed to attend. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Stack.

Important Dates for Term 4

Monday, 1st November	All Saints Day
Tuesday, 2nd November	All Souls Day
Thursday, 11th November	Remembrance Day, one minute silence
Thursday, 18th November	Year 6 Reflection Day
Friday, 26th November	Advent Assembly at 2:30 pm
Friday, 10th December	Special Christmas Carols Evening sent via Vimeo
Friday, 10th December	End of Year Mass - TBC
Tuesday, 14th December	Year 6 Final Assembly, 2 pm and 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.



Carols Evening

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Carols Event will again be held remotely this year. We hope to distribute a Vimeo link to our Christmas event for families on **Friday, 10th December.**



WELLBEING NEWS

How much exercise do children and young people need?

The [Australian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines](#) outline the following recommendations for children and young people:

- **Infants** (birth to one year): 30 minutes of supervised interactive floor-based play including tummy time, reaching and grasping, pushing and pulling and crawling.
- **Toddlers** (1-2 years): at least 180 minutes a day, including energetic play such as running and jumping.
- **Pre-schoolers** (3-5 years): at least 180 minutes a day of which 60 minutes is energetic play such as running, jumping and kicking and throwing.
- **Children** (5-12 years) and young people (13-17 years): at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity every day.
- The percentage of children meeting current guidelines is:
- 61% of two to five-year-olds
- 26% of five to 12-year-olds



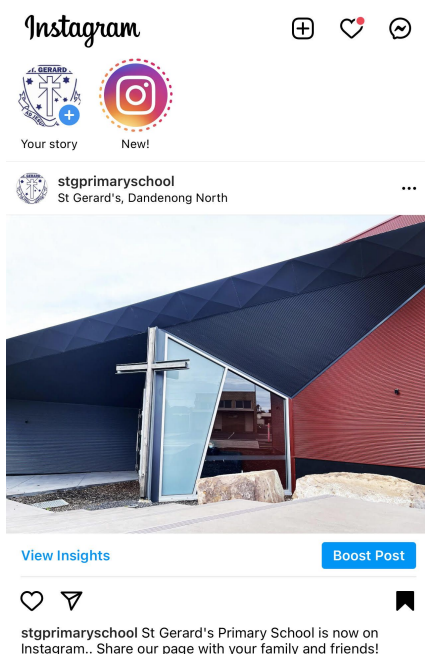
TECHNOLOGY NEWS

St Gerard's Primary School is now on Instagram and Facebook

We are excited to launch our St Gerard's Instagram Page. Please like and follow us to see the special moments captured at our school. Share our page with all your family and friends.



Stgprimarieschool
On Instagram



St Gerard's Primary School on Facebook

The St Gerard's News

LOCKDOWN IS OVER!!!! BROUGHT TO YOU BY 5/6 O AND 5/6 VT



Students Seen Smiling at School

Victoria has been fighting a deadly virus named Covid-19 since December 2019. We have learnt to stay strong and keep on fighting it. All of the year levels at St Gerard's Primary School have learnt how to 'do school' using technology. They know it now as remote learning. St Gerard students have learnt how to move on with remote learning whilst in lockdown.

'I am excited to go back to school, see all my friends and play fun activities with all of them,' Antonia Trovarelli said (1/2L). She excitedly waited to get away from screens and start talking face to face. With the new regulations, Grades 3 to 6 students have to wear masks and for Prep to 2 it is highly recommended that they also do so. St Gerard's also continues to follow Covid-Safe practices such as sanitising hands, social distancing and staying in class bubbles all while having fun back at school. Together!

Reporter: Alessia Trovarelli



The Lockdown is Finally Over

Melbourne's gruelling lockdown (which felt like it was going on forever) finally ended for the students in Victoria last week! The people have been freed from staying home all day long! Children can finally return to school. At St. Gerard's Primary School most of the children were just excited about seeing all their best friends, being social and FINALLY getting off their screens and devices. Learning and playing together with your friends at school is healthier than staring at an electronic device all day long at home. Some children may have considered remote learning challenging and very difficult whilst others enjoyed the independence. "It is actually really difficult to learn and understand your work without the guidance of our teachers personally beside us." But after the lockdown ended, everyone got into the learning mood! The students at St Gerard's are feeling eager that they can return to school and learn more with their friends and teachers!

Reporter: Eva Kurian

Opening the lock of the world's longest lockdown!

On the 21st of October 2021, it was finally over... the world's longest lockdown. Many students were excited to exit their homes and hit the road. The children of different schools in Melbourne, Victoria were thrilled to be back at school, especially at St Gerard's Primary School.

In speaking with Joe from year 5/6 at St Gerard's he quoted, "It's better to go back to school because you actually spend some real quality time with your friends, classmates and teachers." Another unnamed student from St Gerard's quoted, "you get the chance to have your own freedom and you get to be more active outside."

After staying in lockdown for 267 days, children were stuck at home with nothing left to do except sit and wait for it to be over. Most children would be thrilled to get a holiday from school because of the lockdown, but to our surprise, many school students disliked having to stay home, not being able to see their friends and getting their work electronically instead of the usual face to face learning. Students at St Gerard's will no longer take for granted the learning we do together and not behind a screen.

Reporter: Rish. K

The St Gerard's News

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The St Gerard's News

LOCKDOWN IS OVER!!!! BROUGHT TO YOU BY 5/6 O AND 5/6 VT

Melbourne Finally Free!

Noah Thomson -Melbourne news reporter, Melbourne, Victoria.

People in Melbourne are filled with excitement and anticipation after the recent announcement of lockdown restrictions easing, and as of midnight, Friday the 29th of October, people in Melbourne will be allowed out of lockdown, shops will be reopened and people will be able to do as they please with the minimal requirements of wearing a mask and social distancing.

It was recently announced that the restrictions and lockdown are easing as of Friday the 29th of October. The entire population of Victoria is overjoyed and are proudly saying they will Finally be free! Not only adults but children are also excited that they will be returning to school and they will once again be allowed to continue on-site learning with the exception that 3-6's are now required to wear masks while indoors, as well as all children in high school, however they are not required to wear masks outside, only when in class and in the corridors. With this new rule, there will also be a staggered start from Remote learning, with different year levels returning on different days to ensure that there is still a safe and germ free environment. "I can't wait to go back and see all my friends!" Said 7 year old Jack, from Mulgrave primary school and 9 year old Linda said, "It feels so good to finally be able to go back to school and not have to talk through a computer screen and a microphone!" Watch out for more reports and extra details and for more information visit our website at cncnc.org.au.

By Abigail Appelman (Level 5/6)



Covid Clatter Calms

MELBOURNE - St. Gerard's students rush into the gates with the adrenaline rush, as they greet teachers and friends with excitement. Here to stay for two whole days, 4th and 5th November. Each grade level joined with one another in the morning, on November 4th to attend the whole school assembly at the PAC (Performing Arts Centre).

On the 22nd of October, 2021 the 5/6 St. Gerard's level 5/6 students entered the school gates and into their classroom with huge smiles across their face, greeting classroom teachers! Most students claim to be glad that they are back at school from remote learning. Some even might say they'll skip the holidays to stay in school and enjoy their time, especially the Year 6's. The blazing sun came out to greet the students as well, having a sunny day of recess. "Remote Learning felt a little lonely, considering having no friends around but family and the only way you could interact with friends was by a meeting or video call but I'm glad to see my friends back even though it means we have to wear a mask" - Pieta Jada

Melbourne Makes More Eased Restrictions

Petro Ferens
Reporting

Melbourne - The sun is shining, the birds are singing, the lockdown in Melbourne, has been consigned to oblivion! Melbourne has finally eased the set restrictions and lockdown is a thing of the past!!! People around Melbourne are enjoying the restrictions, eased on the 21st of October 2021. Students at St Gerard's in Dandenong are having a great time back at school. Martin, a student at St Gerard's says, "I really enjoy going to school so I can play with my friends and not stare at the screen all day". On the first day back at school, which was the 22nd of October, 2021, the students from level 5/6 were seen playing games in order to bond again. It was reported that 79% of the students hated online learning and were happy to be back at school (which many say is their second home) even the students that liked online learning were happy to be back at school.

The St Gerard's News

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