



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

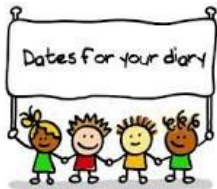


Term 2 Week 3

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

03 97917553

1 May 2020



## School Assembly Link

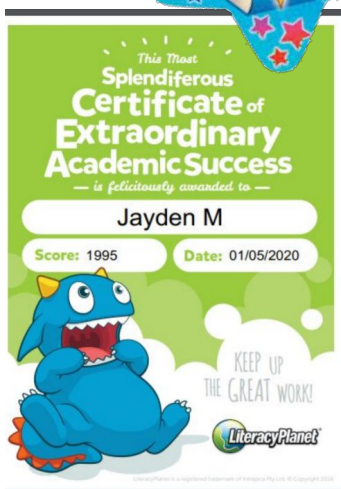
Link to our assembly for this week:  
<https://vimeo.com/413483107>

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students  
a happy birthday for this week:

- Matej Strukar - Prep C

We hope you have a great  
day!!!



**CONGRATULATIONS  
JAYDEN**



## Prayer:

Lord Jesus,  
You are the gate, the  
way to our Father in  
heaven. You know us  
by name and you call  
us to follow you. You  
promise us life to the  
full!

Amen

Acts 2:14, 36-41. *The Lord is my  
shepherd; there is nothing I shall  
want* – Psalm 22(23). 1 Peter  
2:20-25. John 10:1-10.

## I AM THE GATE OF THE SHEEPFOLD

I have always loved the image of Jesus as a shepherd. Someone whose job is to care for his sheep, to protect them, nurture them and be aware of each individual. Shepherds are not important or rich people, they are often lonely and away from family. Yet throughout the Old and New Testament, the image of the shepherd is there. Sunday's psalm is probably the most famous of all. It is they who are the first to go to see the new baby and Jesus himself uses the image of the shepherd over and over. A reminder that those important to God are not necessarily those seen as important by our world. Our world could not go on without the shepherds and those who care.

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan  
Parish Priest - Father Dean Mathieson  
[principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)  
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

I hope you are all well, safe and healthy.

We are 3 weeks into the term and I feel we are starting to really get into the mode of remote learning. This is a time full of new and challenging experiences and I must say **I am inspired** by the efforts of our families and staff to continue the education of our children. **Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any assistance with regard to your child's learning or family support in general.**

I hope that you were able to use our **ANZAC Day reflection** last Saturday to mark this important day and that you are finding our **Monday Meditations** and **Friday Assemblies** a source of information, familiarity and comfort. Thank you to all those families and individuals that have contributed in some way. I mentioned last week that we will be using **Google Meet** to keep our classes connected. It is wonderful to see our students and for them to see each other. **Invitations** to these meetings are sent through your **child's school email address**. Please contact your classroom teacher if you are having issues.

As I have said over the past few Newsletters, our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children. 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 [pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) **so we can work through this together**. A reminder that if you have a **current Health Care Card** you are entitled to a reduction.

**Prep enrolments for 2021** are open. If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the office or myself to obtain an enrolment form. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments**. To assist with planning and processing applications it is important that we know how many places are required for existing families.

All **Year 6 families** have had **Year 7 Transition Forms** posted out to them this week. These forms are a **government requirement**. Please keep a lookout for them in your mailbox and if you have not received them by early next week contact the office. We have included a stamped, school addressed envelope so that the **Application For Year 7 Placement 2021** form (the last 2 pages) can be returned to us via the post. Due to the current increase in mail, **please send them in as soon as possible so that we have them all by the due date Friday 15 May, 2020**. For questions about the forms please contact Mrs O'Brien via email : [gobrien@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:gobrien@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)

This Sunday is **Good Shepherd Sunday**. In St John's Gospel we hear Jesus refer to himself as a shepherd. There are many references to Christ being the **Good Shepherd** in scripture. In Our Lord's time, the shepherd lead from the front and the sheep followed the sound of his voice to reach good pasture. Jesus talks of other voices who might try to mislead the sheep. At present there are many 'voices' we may hear. This could be seen as a timely reminder to make sure we are listening to the right one.

Finally, a reminder of our **Give Me 5** principles: *Be Spirit Filled, Be Your Best, Be Cooperative, Be Respectful and Be Positive*. It may be useful to keep them in mind at this time.

Stay safe and God Bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal

# WELLBEING NEWS

## **Meditation and Assemblies during Remote Learning:**

An attempt to replicate meditation that we normally have on a Monday Morning and Assembly we normally have on a Friday afternoon will happen through remote learning. Please look out for the Seesaw messages as they come through.

## **Sacraments**

All sacraments have been postponed due to COVID 19 until further notice.

## **Important Dates:**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Our Lady Help of Christians:    | Monday 25th May   |
| National Sorry Day:             | Tuesday 26th May  |
| National Sorry Day Assembly:    | Friday 29th May @ 2:30 (led remotely by Social Justice Team remotely) |
| Refugee Week Assembly:          | Friday 12th June @ 2:30 (Lead remotely by Social Justice team)        |
| Refugee Week:                   | Refugee Week 14th to 20th June 2020                                   |
| Sacred Heart of Jesus Assembly: | Friday 19th June @ 2:30 (led remotely by Liturgy Captains)            |

## **Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Winter Appeal**

I have spoken to James Tudehope, from St Vincent de Paul, St. Gerard's Parish who has informed me that they have replaced the soup van for making hampers to give away due to COVID 19. Several local St Vincent de Paul groups have merged and are working out of our hall to make up these hampers.

James sounded concerned for the vulnerable populations during this pandemic. He said that our families can still help the needy by donating non perishable items. These items can be dropped into our school foyer during school hours throughout term 2.

## **Seasons**

The Seasons program, which offers children a safe space to come together and share their experiences of change and loss will be postponed until further notice.

## **Stay Connected: Mass Online**

During the COVID 19 pandemic, Mass online is available from our new parish website:

<https://www.saintgerardparish.com>.







## Healthy Families

In healthy family relationships, people trust and rely on each other for support, love, affection and warmth. Families often share common goals and work together to reach those goals (for example, children and young people may help their families get the dinner dishes done so that everyone can relax).

Family members feel safe and connected to one another. Sometimes these relationships involve conflict, which is a normal part of family life. Conflict can occur between adults, children and young people. In healthy relationships, these conflicts are dealt with in a safe and respectful way.

Healthy family relationships mean that positive interactions outnumber the difficult times. Adults experiencing difficult life situations can provide learning opportunities in teaching and modelling coping strategies – children and young people shouldn't be burdened with stress, but it's helpful for them to see families successfully managing it with positive coping strategies.

The key qualities of a strong family unit identified by Australians in the Family Strengths Research Project were:

- **communication** – listening to each other and communicating with openness and honesty
- **togetherness** – sharing similar values and beliefs that create a sense of belonging and bonding
- **sharing activities** – spending time together doing things they enjoy (for example, sports, reading, camping or playing games)
- **affection** – showing affection and care regularly through words, hugs, kisses and thoughtfulness
- **support** – offering and asking for support, with family members knowing they will receive help, encouragement and reassurance from one another
- **acceptance** – understanding, respecting and appreciating each family member's unique qualities
- **commitment** – seeing family wellbeing as a first priority and acting accordingly with commitment and loyalty
- **resilience** – being able to tolerate difficulties and adapt to changing situations in positive ways.



# Kitchen to Garden



# FAMILY COOKING



Each week students are invited to cook a meal with their family, write a short description of what they made and send through photos of themselves and their families cooking or gardening together.

Have a look at some of the little master chefs/ green thumbs we have at St Gerard's.

If you would like to send through a photo of your family cooking a meal together or gardening please email your photos to Mrs Fernandez [nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au).



# WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

## FAVOURITE PET OR TOY

On Tuesday the children had to upload photos of their pet or favourite toy. Here are some of those photos.



Jaison Family



Sandhriya - 5/6O



Torelli Family



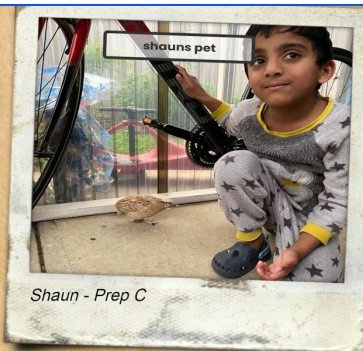
Mezin - 3/4L



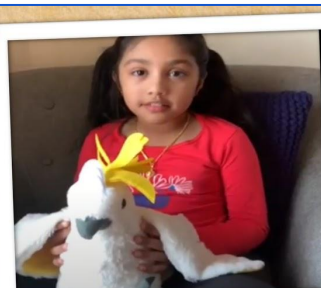
Hope - 3/4S



Aparanji - 5/6VT



Shaun - Prep C



Krystn - 1/2FP



Malakaj - Prep C



Pieta - 5/6O

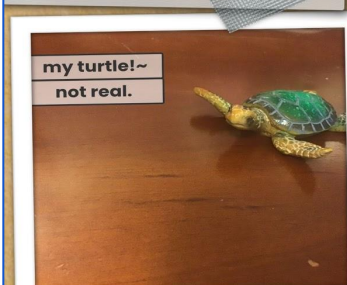


Trevor - 3/4S

## PET & FAVOURITE TOY SHOW

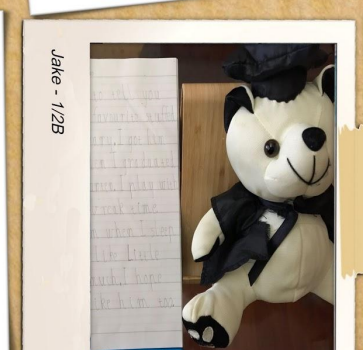


Katalina - Prep C



my turtle!~  
not real.

Trinity - 5/6VT



Jake - 1/2B



Julian - Prep C



Catherine - 3/4S