



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 3 Week 3

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

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30 July 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

- Joshlyn - 3/4C
- Adina - 3/4C
- Naira - Prep
- Gurnishaan - Prep
- Jerome - 1/2FP
- Shaun - 1/2FP

**RIDE OR WALK
TO SCHOOL
DAY
NEXT FRIDAY
6TH AUGUST**



School Prayer

God, our Father, as members of the Parish Community of St Gerard's we praise you for your love.

May we grow stronger in faith and hope, and may our love for each other, become deeper in our daily lives.

Grant this through your Son, and our brother, Jesus Christ,
Amen



Next week we will celebrate the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop who was the first saint and nun in Australian history.

GOD OF THE PROPHETS YOU GIFTED MARY MACKILLOP
WITH VISION AND COURAGE.

IN HER WE SEE ONE WHO WAS NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK
FEARLESSLY YOUR GOSPEL OF LOVE.

WE PRAY FOR THE SENSITIVITY AND IMAGINATION TO
READ THE SIGNS OF OUR TIMES, AND TO ARTICULATE NEW
POSSIBILITIES FOR OUR OWN DAY. LIKE MARY, MAY WE
LEARN TO CONFRONT ALL THAT IS OPPRESSIVE AND
UNJUST, AND EMPOWER OTHERS TOWARDS TRUE FREEDOM
AND INTEGRITY. SPIRIT OF WISDOM, BE WITH US AS WE
FACE NEW HORIZONS. **AMEN**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

Welcome back to onsite learning!

It was wonderful to see all our children come through the gates on Wednesday full of smiles and enthusiasm. I would again like to **thank and congratulate our school community on the way we continued to support our children's learning by working together.** There is a unique school spirit present at St Gerard's.

As a school we continue to have the **health, safety and wellbeing of our school community as our first priority.** We are continuing to follow the health advice and guidelines provided to us and remain vigilant in order to keep us all safe. At the moment we are unable to have any non-essential visitors onsite. **Parents may come onsite for drop off and pick up purposes but must wear a mask at all times (indoors and outdoors) and if entering any school buildings they must sign in using our school QR Code regardless of the length of time.** Meetings with families will need to be via phone or online at the moment. I thank you in anticipation for your support.

The **Tokyo Olympic Games** continue to inspire and provide wonderful examples of people striving to be their best. There are many examples of individuals and teams working hard, overcoming challenges and being grateful for the opportunities they have been given. The Olympics can also trigger a sense of national pride which is a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in such a blessed country.

This Sunday's First Reading and Gospel have a common theme of *Bread*. In the First Reading we hear of God providing 'bread from heaven' to sustain Moses and the Israelites and in the Gospel Jesus refers to himself as the 'bread of life'. This common thread of sustainability and life through the symbol of bread are important reminders for us all.

Please keep our **Confirmation** Candidates in your thoughts and prayers as they will be celebrating this final Sacrament of Initiation next Friday 6 August at 7.00pm. This is a significant step in their faith journey and I am sure you join with me in congratulating them.

Enrolments for Prep in 2022 are now open. If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the School Office. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments.** We are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we enrol our existing families as soon as possible.

Lastly, our **2020 Annual Report to the School Community** has been published on our school website and the School Office can provide you with a hard copy if you would like one.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacrament Dates, Term 3 2021

Please note that arrangements for Sacraments may change based on Federal and State Government health advice.

First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)

First Communion Reflection Day:

First Communion:

Monday, 9th August

Saturday 14th August at 5:30pm &

Sunday 15th August at 10:30am

(Parish Mass Times)

First Communion Assembly:

Friday, 20th August at 2:50 pm, parents invited

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Reflection Day:

Confirmation:

Wednesday, 4th August

Friday, 6th August at 7pm

(previously announced, 29th July & 30th July)

Confirmation Assembly & Living Rosary:

Friday, 15th August - time TBA

Parish Masses

Years Prep, 5/6

Years 1/2:

Years 4/5:

Thursday, 9th September at 9:15 am

Thursday, 5th August at 9:15 am (restrictions allowing)

Thursday, 12th August at 9:15 am followed by Reconciliation

Confirmation Postponed

The uncertainty caused by the announcement, by the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, that Victoria's lockdown will be extended by 7 days to help reduce community movement and prevent the spread of COVID-19 has led us to postpone Confirmation (due to take place 30th July) for one week.

The tentative rescheduled date for Confirmation is Friday 6th August at 7pm. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Mrs Stack.

Whole School Living Rosary

The Living Rosary will be celebrated on 13th August to honour Our Lady for the Feast of the Assumption. The senior students will lead the Rosary with student representatives from each class invited to contribute. Families and Parishioners will be invited to attend, COVID restrictions permitting.

St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

Early next term, as part of our celebrations for our Feast Day we will be holding our annual Talent Quest.

Children will need to audition for this event in the last week of term.

WELLBEING NEWS

Ride or Walk to School Day Friday, 6th August



Friday, 6th February 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



How can early learning services and schools build resilience?

Early learning services and schools are places where children and young people spend a great deal of their time. Learning communities play a key role in developing resilience through formal and informal learning opportunities. [Resilience](#) is key for developing positive mental health and wellbeing.

Caring and supportive relationships

Strong relationships within the family can help at times of stress or adversity. This support and security is a protective factor for children and young people's mental health. You support healthy relationships by:

- promoting family-centred practice and reach out to families
- providing information to families on how they can support their child or young person develop resilience
- encouraging families to draw on the resources available in their community in times of need.

Research also indicates a positive relationship with at least one caring, competent adult outside of the child or young person's immediate family is related to greater mental health and resilience. As an educator, you might develop connections with children in your learning community which are based on warmth, empathy, and respect.

Connection to diverse groups of friends is also valuable. Even very young children develop a sense of self and self-confidence through their peer relationships. You can encourage healthy relationships by:

- promoting a welcoming, friendly and safe environment
- promoting inclusion, and address bullying, sexism and racism
- role modelling perspective-taking and compassion
- celebrating diversity
- teaching the skills to work together effectively (for example, communication skills)
- requiring cooperation (for example, structuring tasks that require working in small groups)
- empowering children and young people to ask for support.

Setting high-but-achievable expectations of children and young people

Research has shown that high expectations give students the sense that educators care about them. You can assist by:

- exposing children and young people to manageable stress (for example, when you respond in a warm and sensitive manner, children and young people learn they are safe, that their needs will be taken care of and they'll be supported with their coping skills)
- making sure that goals are achievable by breaking down large tasks or responsibilities into small steps
- asking them questions to help them solve problems and promote further learning
- scaffolding their learning and help when necessary, without taking over.

Provide opportunities for children and young people to participate

You can:

- view children and young people as capable contributors to their world (for example, by providing tasks that require a meaningful contribution, letting them make decisions and experience consequences)
- give them meaningful choices
- express your belief in their capacity to learn and contribute
- help them learn from mistakes
- teach values
- support them to express their views and listen to their views.

BOOK WEEK 2021



This year Book Week is celebrated from 21st – 27th August. The theme for Book Week 2021 is ‘Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds’. We have a very exciting Book Week planned this year! More details will be sent home with students next week. In the meantime, here are some costume suggestions to help with your dress up ideas.

