



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

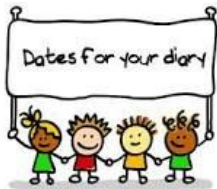


Term 3 Week 2

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

03 97917553

31 July 2020



Link for this week's assembly:  
[31 July Assembly](#)

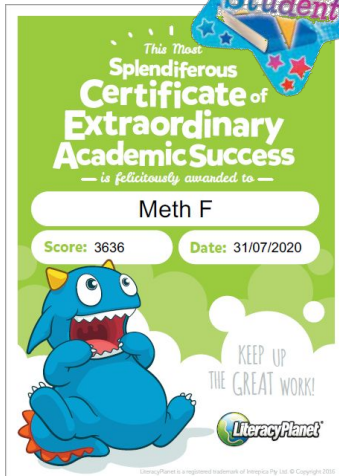
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing those students who celebrated birthdays during the holidays and this week the very best wishes.

- Joshlyn - 3/4L
- Adina - 1/2F $\Phi$
- Mila - 1/2F $\Phi$
- Anton - 3/4S
- Jerome - 1/2F $\Phi$
- Shaun - Prep C



CONGRATULATIONS  
TREVOR



The **LOVE** of a grandparent...

*The unconditional love of a grandparent is unlike any other, and the shared bond between grandparent and grandchild is something cherished for a lifetime.*

*Last Sunday was the Feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne celebrated for centuries as the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus.*

*St Gerard's celebrates this week as Grandparents' Week. So, what better time to celebrate and nurture the relationship between children and their grandparents!*



## For My Grandparents - for grandchildren

God of love,

We thank you for our wonderful grandparents.  
They bring such joy and happiness into our lives.  
Thank you for all the special times that we have with them.  
Please watch over them, protect them and care for them now.  
May they know your goodness and love always.

Amen

St Gerard Majella, Pray for us.

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 that this newsletter finds you all safe and healthy.

**Remote Learning** this term is certainly up and running with staff reporting that **students and families are very involved and the standard of work being produced is constantly improving**. Our staff are continually working together to **provide the best learning opportunities for all our students**. We will remain open to new and different ways to work with our families and keep the lines of communication open. **As always, if you have any concerns about your child(ren)'s learning please contact their classroom teacher or myself.**

Our **Give Me 5 focus** for this week was **'Be Respectful'**. With our current situation here in Melbourne and the challenges that go with it, this is a particularly important reminder to us all. We believe that we are **all created in the image of God and that we are a gift from God**. People may behave differently for reasons and purposes we may not always understand. Regardless of how we perceive other people to be, **it is God's will for us to show respect to everyone**. We are also custodians of our world and are therefore responsible for the care of all living things. This we do through our interactions with others and our actions. **When doing this we are 'living our faith'.**

With the **Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne** last Sunday, our **other focus this week was on Grandparents** and those special mature people in our lives. These **relationships are very special and enable the passing on of family traditions and stories in addition to providing love and support**. The interaction between grandparents and their grandchildren is often based around an activity or event that can often be quite simple but where everyone is 100% involved. The **impact of these relationships last a lifetime** and are evident in the contributions to our assembly this week.

A reminder that 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**. If you have a **current Health Care Card you are entitled to a reduction**. Our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children and in the current economic climate **we all need to support each other**.

Lastly, **Prep enrolments for 2021 are open and places are filling**. If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the office or myself. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments**, however we are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we know how many places are required.

God Bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## **An Invitation for families or individuals to Participate in an online Living Rosary:**

St Gerard's Primary School will come together to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary at our assembly on Friday 14th August (the 15th is a Saturday). Replacing the attendance of Mass due to COVID-19, we will be have an online "Living" Rosary. If you would like to participate, all you need to do is video yourself (family or individual) praying the Hail Mary or the Our Father and email it to Mrs Stack. These prayers will then be collated to create a Living Rosary. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Stack.

Tips for if you would like to to join in:

- Film in landscape
- Pray slowly
- Prepare a prayer space with a statue of Mary or flowers (optional)
- Email your video to Mrs Stack ([dstack@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dstack@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au))

## **To Know, Worship and Love (KWL) Digital Text**

All students have been given access to the digital version of the, To Know, Worship and Love, (KWL) Religious Education textbooks through their School Email Address. **Access is very easy**

### **Year 3-6 Students:**

All you need to do to access the KWL app for the first time is to click on the following website:

1. <https://app.kwl.com.au>.
2. Then click on the "Sign in with Google" button (giving your email address and password)

### **Year Prep-2 Students:**

All you need to do to access the KWL app for the first time is to click on the following website:

1. <https://app.kwl.com.au>.
2. Use the Username and password provided to your through Seesaw

## **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. This year our Talent Quest may be presented remotely. Children will need to audition for this event in the last week of term, which is likely to be conducted remotely.

## **Sacraments, 2020**

All Sacraments for 2020 will be rescheduled due to COVID-19 to a date to be advised.

## **Other important dates:**

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day	8th August
Whole School Living Rosary	14th August at 2:30, during assembly
Feast of the Assumption	15th August
Level Talent Quest Auditions:	Last week of term





## How a child's brain develops

The early years are critical for brain development because of the rapid growth of neural connections at this stage. It's estimated that during the first few years of life, more than one million neural connections form every second.

### These connections correspond with various skills

For example, when a child is learning to ride a bike, the skills required to ride, such as balancing, pushing pedals and watching ahead need to be stored in memory. This happens with repeated opportunities to practise these skills, so that when they ride on another day, they can do so without much thought thanks to the existing connections. If the child doesn't ride again for an extended period, they may need to make these connections all over again.

Experiences during the early years have the greatest impact on brain development – more than any other stage of life. The brain is most sensitive to stimulation during this period, so early experiences shape children's brain development and have a lasting effect on their mental health and wellbeing. Positive relationships and rich learning environments promote children's development while early adverse experiences may alter a child's progress.

### Relationships and interactions

Most experiences occur through a child's relationship with their family and other significant adults, including early childhood educators. Positive interactions are described as 'serve and return': when adults respond appropriately to an infant or young child's needs (communicated through cries, smiles, babbling). In this way, the neural pathways responsible for communication and social skills are formed.

If an adult is consistently warm and responsive to the child, the brain architecture develops in an optimal way. However, if they're inconsistent, absent, unreliable or inappropriate in their responses, this can have a negative impact on the child's brain architecture, affecting future learning and behaviour.

Experiences in the early years affect the way children respond and react to the world they live in for the rest of their lives



Lemilo in 1/2FP is being respectful by helping his mum to clear the table after meals.

**This week the whole school focus was 'Respectful'.**

**The Grade One and Two students drew pictures of what it looks like to be respectful at home. Have a look at some of their beautiful drawings.**



Zion in 1/2FP is being respectful to his mum by using his manners.



The 1/2 students were being respectful in their Google Meet by taking turns and listening to each other share information about their favourite toy.

## Garden to Kitchen News



*Cook a meal with your family, write a short description of what you made and send photos of yourself and your family cooking together. Email your photos to Mrs Fernandez [nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au).*

# ART NEWS

## Year 3 – 6 Art



This week our Year 3 – 6 students visited the Tate Modern Kids Art Gallery in London. Using the Tate Kids dedicated website

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids>,

they were asked to create a painting that could be hung in the Tate Kids Museum. Below are some of the wonderful work they have designed.

### WHAT IS TATE KIDS?

Tate Kids is a dedicated website from the Tate Art Gallery for Kids about art. Here kids can play games and quizzes, watch videos about art and be inspired to make their own creations at home. Kids can also share their own artwork with other children around the world in the Gallery.

## Prep – 2 Art

The Prep – 2's were asked to watch "Chicken Little" and then draw a picture of Chicken Little being hit on the head with an acorn. Great job Prep – 2's!!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRLXp3R7uZY&feature=youtu.be>





Dear parents, guardians and carers

**Re: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)**

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, in line with the *NCCD guidelines* (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal](https://www.nccd.edu.au) (<https://www.nccd.edu.au>).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

Kind regards

Principal