

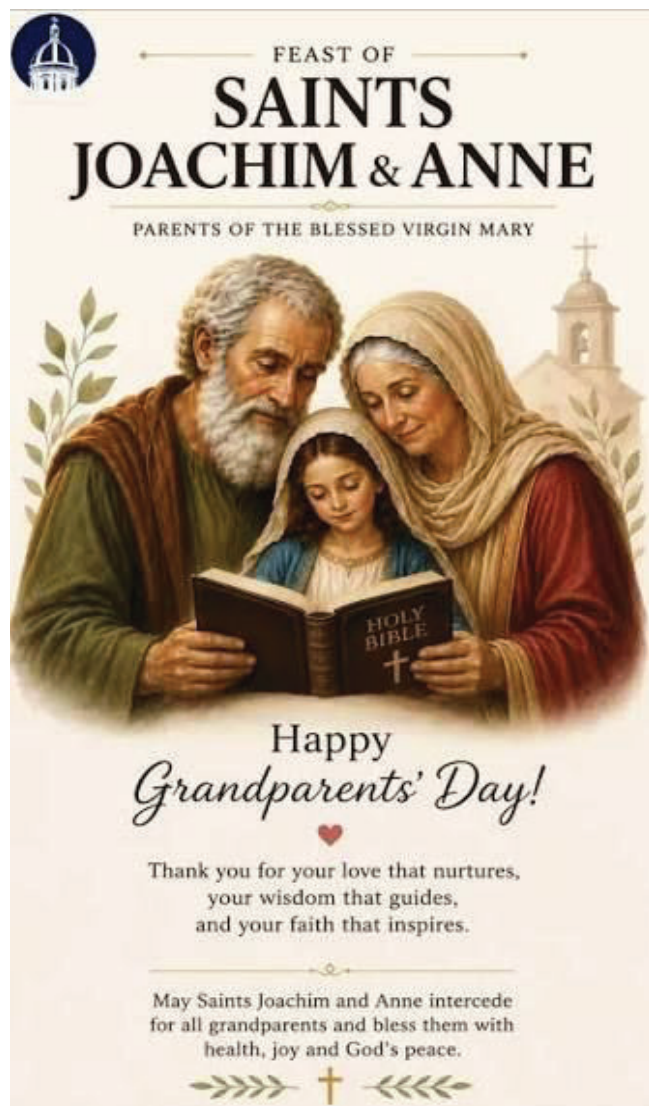
St Gerard's Newsletter

Term 3, Week 3

31 July 2026



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Grandparents Day Prayer

Loving God,

We thank You for the gift of our grandparents and grandfriends, for their wisdom, kindness, and the love they share so freely.

Bless them with good health, joy, and peace. May they continue to guide us with gentle hearts and inspire us with their faith and strength.

Help us to cherish the special bond we share, to listen to their stories, and to honour the legacy they give us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

It has been another week with numerous learning opportunities for our children and the chance to celebrate some important people.

Today (Friday), **we welcomed our Grandparents/ Grandfriends to our school.**

People who are 'grandparent figures' in the lives of our children play a unique and significant role and it was wonderful that we were able to **welcome, acknowledge and thank these very special people.** There is always a wonderful feeling associated with this day and it was certainly present again this year.

As mentioned previously, we have the **first of 3 OPEN DAYS** planned for prospective families to see all that we offer here at St Gerard's **next Thursday 6 August**, followed by Tuesday 11 August and Wednesday 19 August. If you know families that are looking for a school in 2027, I would appreciate it if you could please let them know. Also, **existing families that have a child starting school next year**, please contact the School Office so that we know that you require a place. There has been a high level of interest for Prep next year.

After-school Pick up / Car park Arrangements

We are asking **families that arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark. Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly just before the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars down the laneway and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues and frustration.** A reminder that **the driveway from Gladstone Road is an EXIT only.** We are asking that families **enter the car park via McNab Court and the speed limit in the laneway and car park is 5 km/h.**

Lastly, if **any of your contact details have changed**, eg: address, phone numbers, email address, etc. please contact the School Office. Also, families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan** if there are changes to any aspect of the plan you need to **contact the School Office.** It is vital that the information we have here at school is current and accurate and that Medical Plans are not out of date.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Key Dates

Term 3, 2026 Dates

August

- 3rd 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 5th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 6th 8:30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 6th Ride/Walk to School Day
- 6th OPEN Day
- 7th 2:50 pm Assembly
- 10th 8:55 am Monday Meditation
- 11th OPEN Day
- 12th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 13th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 13th SUBWAY Lunch
- 14th Living Rosary to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption
- 17th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 19th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 19th OPEN Day
- 20th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 21st 2.50pm Assembly
- 24th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 26th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 27th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 28th Book Week Dress up Day and Assembly
- 31st 8.55am Monday Meditation

September

- **1st School Hats must be worn when outside**
- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 3rd 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 3rd St John's Taster Day (Year 5 children)
- 3rd Walk/ Ride to School Day
- **4th Father's Day Breakfast from 8.00am**
- 7th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 9th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 10th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- **10th School Production 7.00pm**
- 11th 2.50pm Assembly
- 14th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 16th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 17th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 18th Footy Day
- **18th End of Term 3 - school finishes at 3.30pm**

Religious News

Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is teaming up with the school to lead Rosary prayer sessions during lunch breaks. These will take place during the first lunch on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

We invite families to take the Our Lady statue into their home for a week as a special way to deepen family prayer time. Each family will receive a brochure with simple instructions for praying the Rosary, as well as a set of rosary beads. If you would like to take the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs O'Brien know.



Altar Servers

Altar Server practice will resume on Thursday 23 July and will continue every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm at St Gerard's Church. To be eligible to serve, children must have received their First Communion. This is a wonderful opportunity for young members of our parish to take part in the liturgy and learn the responsibilities of altar service. For further information about practice times or eligibility, please contact the parish office on **9792 4422**.



Wellbeing



What's resilience?

Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help [build resilience in children](#).

A child or young person who is resilient might:

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it
- feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning.

Ride, Walk or Roll..



Walk or Ride To School Thursday, 11th June 2026

Thursday, 6th August 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 (in front of the Performing Arts Centre).



Wellbeing

PARENT & GUARDIAN WEBINAR

Balancing Life & Tech

Join us to get practical tips to reduce conflict and restore a healthy balance between screens and real life.

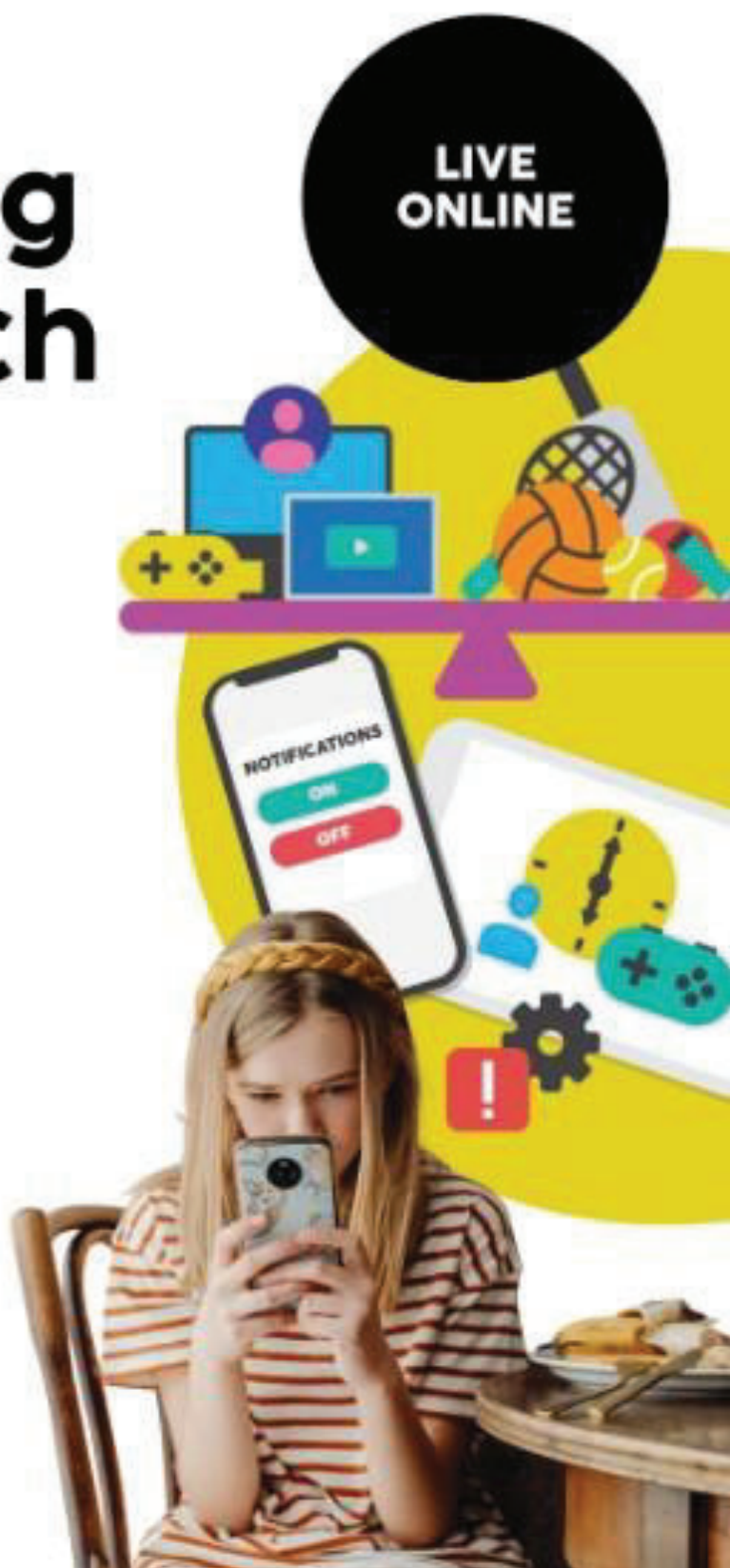
3 AUGUST 2026
7.30PM AEST

CAN'T MAKE IT LIVE?

Register to receive the recording & resources.

PRESENTED BY

CYBER SAFETY PROJECT





Parent/Carer Newsletter

6



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

**Working
together for
Child Safety**

Child Safe Standard 6

"People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice."

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students involves ensuring families and community members actively participate in promoting and upholding child safety and wellbeing. Our Catholic communities develop, review and uphold robust systems, processes, and policies that support staff and volunteers to act with professionalism, integrity, and care; ensuring child safety and wellbeing are embedded in all aspects of school life.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what schools governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Why is it important that all adults who work with children are suitable and supported?

Everyone who works with or around children has a responsibility to act with integrity, care, and accountability. When staff, volunteers, leaders, and contractors are suitable, supported, and well-informed about child safety, **children feel safe, valued, and able to thrive.**

Schools can uphold high standards of safety and wellbeing when all adults understand their roles, follow clear expectations, and receive ongoing guidance and supervision. This shared responsibility ensures that children experience **consistent, safe, and respectful interactions every day.**

Child Safe Standard 6

Child Safe Standard 6 reminds us that everyone who works with children has a responsibility to act with integrity, care, and trustworthiness.

As 1 Corinthians 4:2 teaches, "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." This scripture highlights that safeguarding children is a sacred trust, and we are called to be faithful stewards of their wellbeing.

By ensuring that all staff, volunteers, and leaders are suitable, supported, and accountable, the standard helps us live out this trust every day,

creating a safe, nurturing environment where children can thrive.

Child Safe Standard 6 focuses on ensuring that adults are carefully selected, appropriately trained, and are supported to maintain high standards of child safety. It recognises that safeguarding is not just about rules, but about everyday behaviours, professional conduct, and living out our shared responsibility to protect children.

Working together for Child Safety



Reviewed: June 2026

St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Recruiting safely:** We ensure all staff undergo thorough screening, including thorough background checks, reference checks, and interviews, to make sure they are suitable to work with children. As part of this, we ensure that all staff hold and maintain appropriate professional qualifications and registrations, including current Working with Children Check (WWCC) or Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration, in line with the Workforce Screening and Accreditation Policy.
- **Providing clear expectations:** Everyone is informed about the school's child safety policies and procedures, professional standards, code of conduct, and reporting responsibilities.
- **Ongoing support and guidance:** Staff and volunteers receive annual induction, professional learning, mentoring, and supervision to help them maintain safe and respectful practices.
- **Accountability in practice:** We encourage adults to speak up if they have concerns, follow clear reporting pathways, and model behaviours that prioritise children's wellbeing. We also ensure that professional qualifications and registrations are maintained.



How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Child Safe Standard 6 ensures that all adults are carefully selected, appropriately trained, and supported in keeping children safe.

Families can help by:

- **Knowing who works with your child:** Be aware of the staff, volunteers, and other adults involved in your child's learning and care
- **Asking questions:** Check that adults in your child's life have the training and support to maintain child safety standards
- **Staying informed:** Read updates from the school about professional learning and child safety initiatives
- **Partnering with the school:** Share observations, concerns, or ideas that might help all in our community ensure interactions are safe and supportive.



Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).

The Victorian Government has clear guidance around ensuring Child Safe Standard 6 is enacted in all schools, further information about how this standard is upheld and reviewed for every school can be found [here](#).

The Federal Government developed a [Child Safe Framework policy](#) and in May 2024 the Federal Government's Department of Education released its updated [Child Safe policy](#).



Working together for Child Safety



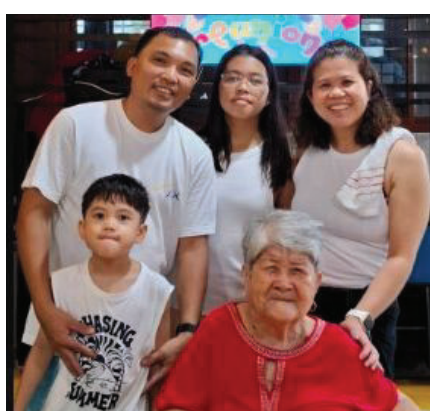
Grandparents/friends Day

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Grandparents/friends

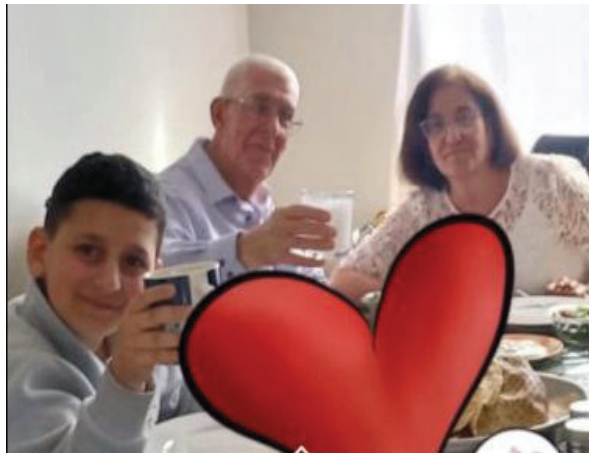
Thank you to all of our wonderful grandparents/friends who joined us to celebrate our Feast Day. Your presence made the day even more special and we are so grateful that you could share this celebration with us.

Grandparents and special friends hold a unique and treasured place in the lives of our children. Your love, wisdom, encouragement and support help shape them in countless ways and the joy on their faces as they celebrated with you was truly heartwarming.

We sincerely thank you for being part of our school community and for the invaluable role you play in the lives of your grandchildren. We hope you enjoyed the celebrations as much as we enjoyed having you with us.



Grandparents/friends Day



Grandparents/friends Day



Reading before School

Reading Before School has started full steam ahead. We had a very good turn out with parents and students reading to each other this week. Children receive a raffle ticket and go into a draw to win a prize. Students are encouraged to attend and read a book by themselves, to each other or with their families.





LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Week 3, July 2026

Exploring New Worlds at the Library, Together!

Come join us at the library, where there's more than just reading books! Engage in our library club and explore a world of knowledge, creativity, and community. Whether it's through interactive sessions, engaging discussions, or collaborative projects, there's something for everyone to enjoy and learn.

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATES

This week at Library Club, students took part in an exciting Puzzle Race Competition. Working in teams, students raced to complete their puzzles as quickly as possible while demonstrating excellent teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills. It was wonderful to see the perseverance shown by all students as they worked through the challenge.

Congratulations to our winning teams:

- 1st Place: Alfie, Sanaya and Grace (record speed of 3 minutes and 50 seconds)
- 2nd Place: Dia, Ameya and Drishika
- 3rd Place: Naomi, Bommy and Michael.

Well done to everyone for your fantastic effort and positive attitude throughout the competition!

Library borrowing has now started again for the term. Please remember that students must bring a library bag or another suitable bag to safely carry their books home. I have checked for overdue library books this week (Week 3), so we encourage all students to return any outstanding books on time, as overdue books may affect their borrowing privileges. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping students care for and enjoy our library resources.



Miss Stephanie Adrien





LIBRARY CLUB



Week 3, July 2026



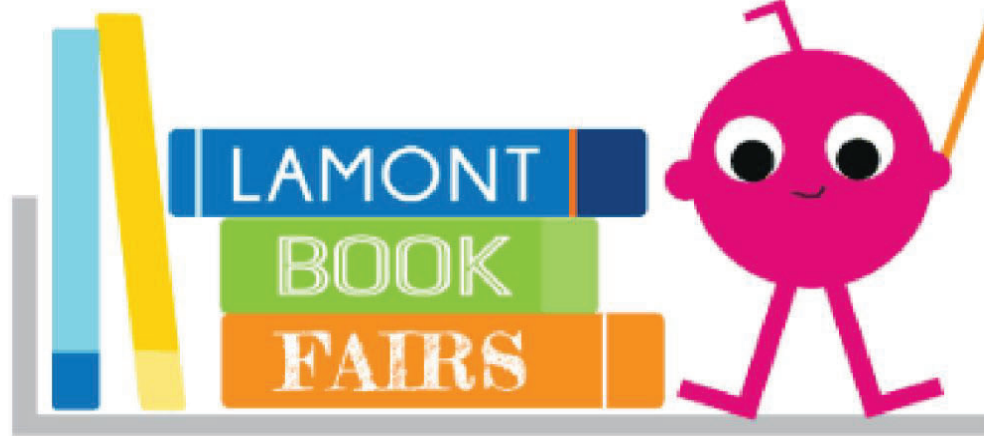
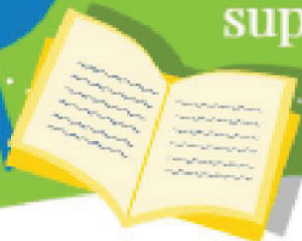
Miss Stephanie Adrien

LAMONT BOOK FAIR

Coming soon,
Don't miss it! 1st
September - 9th
September

Every purchase
supports our school!

BOOKS FOR EVERYONE



www.lamontbooks.com.au

Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

Any families who hold a current Health Care Card are asked to please provide a copy to the school office.

This will ensure you receive the MACS Concession on your school fees.

Please note, this must be a valid Centrelink Health Care Card. Private health insurance cards or Medicare cards are not eligible.

Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week including this weekend.

❖	GURNISHAAN	YR 5
❖	TAMMY	YR 1
❖	SHAUN	YR 6
❖	AYESHA	YR 2
❖	KATALINA	YR 6
❖	ANSEL	YR 3



20% OFF SCHOOLWEAR*

ZERO MEMBERS GET AN EXTRA 5% OFF!

SALE STARTS WED 29TH JULY

*T&C's apply. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Excludes mark downs & gift cards. No rainchecks. Discount applies to original prices, not markdown prices.

SERVICE HOURS	COST
Before School Care 6:45AM – 8:45AM	\$30/\$35 PERMANENT/CASUAL
After School Care 3:30PM – 6:30PM	\$35/\$40 PERMANENT/CASUAL
Pupil-Free Day 7:00AM – 6:00PM	\$83

fees effective 02 Mar 2026

ylv.com.au



ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

SERVICE CONTACT:
0402 192 685 (Marina) | sg@ylv.com.au