

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 - WEEK 5

3rd November, 2023

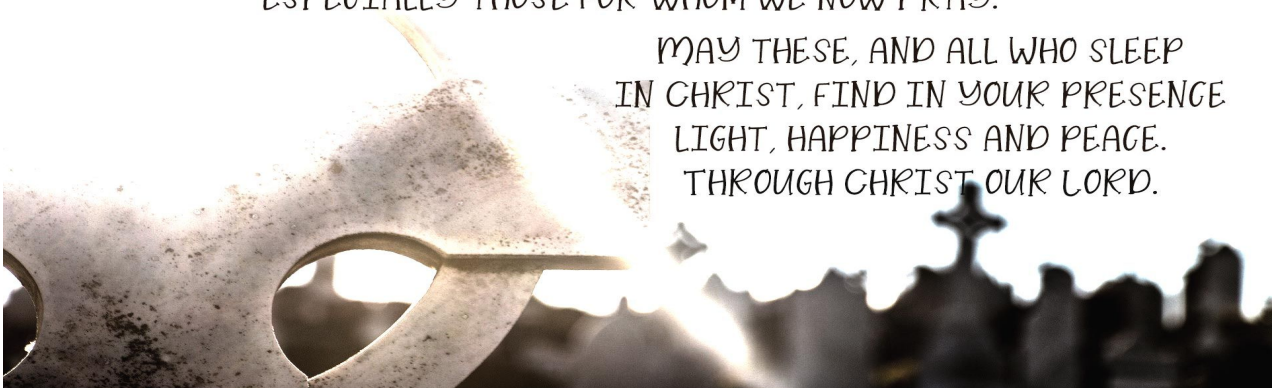


We Remember – All Souls Day

All Souls Day Prayer

REMEMBER LORD, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND HAVE GONE
BEFORE US MARKED WITH THE SIGN OF FAITH,
ESPECIALLY THOSE FOR WHOM WE NOW PRAY.

MAY THESE, AND ALL WHO SLEEP
IN CHRIST, FIND IN YOUR PRESENCE
LIGHT, HAPPINESS AND PEACE.
THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.



@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,

This week has seen us gather with our parish community for some significant Church celebrations, welcome our 2024 Preps and their families and conclude our Bike Ed. Program.

On Wednesday and Thursday our school attended the parish masses for **All Saints and All Souls**. It is important for our school to gather with parishioners to give our children an experience of the wider faith community. The parishioners are great role models for our children and their positive comments to myself show that they welcome the school's participation. As part of All Souls Day our Student Spirituality Leaders processed with Fr Shanthaiah and he accepted our '**We Remember**' Book that contained the names of people that our school wished to pray for. This book is now on display in our school.

We had the first two of four **2024 Prep Orientation Sessions** on Tuesday and Thursday where we welcomed the students and their families to our school. We have **a mixture of new, existing and returning families**. To see the excitement, enthusiasm and wonder on the faces of our newest students is heartwarming and inspiring. The last two sessions are in two weeks time.

We concluded our **Bike Ed. Program** for 2023 with our **Year 4 - 6 students**. This is the third year of this program and it is amazing to see the increased confidence and skills of our children. Riding a bike is a life skill as well as being a great way to engage in some physical activity. It has been so pleasing to see children ride a bike for the first time and the sheer joy they display when they do. I would like to **thank Mrs Wilson** for her coordination and delivery of this worthwhile program and the support of our staff.

As **planning for 2024** continues, I am asking families to contact me if their **children are not returning to St Gerard's in 2024**. Also, considerable time is spent in preparing class lists with numerous factors needing to be considered. **If families have a specific request for their child this needs to be put in writing and addressed to myself or emailed to principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au**. Requests need to be based on **educational grounds** and will be treated confidentially. **Please note that all requests will be considered but I cannot guarantee that all requests will be granted**. Our aim as a school is to provide the best opportunities for all our students to learn.

Requests need to be received by Friday 10 November.

Our **Swimming Program starts next Wednesday 8 November for all classes**. In the lead up to Summer water confidence, awareness and safety is very important. **Families are reminded to check Operoo for details** and the times of lessons.

Finally, a reminder that **next Monday 6 November is a pupil free day and that Tuesday 7 November is the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday**. Therefore we will see everyone next Wednesday.

Have a wonderful extended weekend and God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL



Religious Education

Important RE Dates

Saturday, 11th November:	Remembrance Day, one minute silence
TBA:	Year 6 Reflection Day
Tuesday 5th December:	Christmas Carols Evening
Thursday 7th December:	Christmas Activities Rotations
Friday, 8th December:	End of Year Mass, 12:00
Monday 11th December:	Christmas Carols Tour of the Nursing Homes Excursion
Thursday, 14th December:	Graduation Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm

Whole School Masses

End of Year Mass

Friday 8th December at 12:00

Class/Parish Mass Timetable

Classes that couldn't proceed with their Class Mass previously have been newly assigned one, while all other classes will attend the parish Mass.

- ★ Prep: 9th November, 10:15, Class Mass
- ★ 1/2 Level: 16th November, 9:15, Parish Mass
- ★ 3/4A: 23rd November, 9:15, Parish Mass



Religious Education

Lunchtime Rosary

Lunchtime Rosary: The Legion of Mary Group is collaborating with the school to reinstate the practice of praying the Rosary during lunch breaks. These sessions will be available during the first lunch in weeks 4 and 8 in each term.

The Poppy Appeal

The Social Justice Team will be selling Poppy Badges **\$1.00 or \$2.00**, up until Remembrance Day, 11th November.

The Poppy Appeal contributes significantly to the fundraising work of the RSL. The largest fundraising activity is the sale of poppies beginning in late October each year. All money raised is used to assist both current and former serving members of the Australian and Allied defence forces and their dependents in times of need.



Religious Education

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home



An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

St Gerard's school has been gifted with a beautiful statue of Our Lady, a generous gift from the Legion of Mary group. The statue comes with a handcrafted carrier bag, designed for its respectful storage when not in use. Families are invited to bring the statue home for a week to use it to enhance family prayer. A brochure offering guidance on how to engage in rosary prayer will be included, accompanied by some sets of rosary beads. If you would like to bring this statue home, please contact Mrs Stack.



FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#).

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to *What is a reasonable adjustment?* below to learn about adjustments.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.

WHAT MUST SCHOOLS DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students have the right to a quality learning experience at school.

Students with disability must be able to take part in education without discrimination and on the same basis as other students. To ensure this, schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed for students with disability. Educators, students, parents, guardians, carers and others (eg health professionals) must work together to ensure that students with disability can take part in education.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* describe schools' responsibilities.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NCCD?

The definition of disability for the NCCD is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The following students are examples of those who may be included in the NCCD if they need monitoring and adjustments:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes).

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NCCD?

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability.

Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including:

- their year of schooling
- the level of adjustment received
- the broad type of disability.

For students who have more than one disability, the school uses professional judgement to choose one category of disability. They choose the category that most affects the student's access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the [Public information notice](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

There is also a free [e-learning resource](#) about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

This document must be attributed as *Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers*.

Bike Ed.



Parish News



The Junior Legion of Mary Meetings are held every Monday at St Gerard's school term from 4:15pm – 5:15 pm in The Library Room (brown building in the car park of St. Gerard's Primary School).

Legion of Mary Contact: Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175 and Jacqueline Savanah on 0437 668 352.

Application forms are available to collect from the foyer of the Church.

Junior Legion of Mary

Dear Parents,

The Legion of Mary runs a Junior Legion of Mary praesidium (branch) at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong once a week after school during school term. Meetings last for one hour per week. All possible care will be taken while your child is with us.

Children are taught to:

- Pray the Rosary
- Be helpful at home
- Do works of service such as a Book Barrow

They are trained to be good Catholics by reaching out to others. One way they do this is by visiting a local nursing home during the school holidays, where they interact with the residents. Children are also guided to take part in parish events such as the Public Square Rosary in October.

This group will enable your child to grow spiritually and also learn to be an active apostolic worker in the Parish. All activities will be supervised by adult legionaries who hold Working with Children permits.

If you would like your child/children to join this group, please complete the application form below and return it to Kereena or Cecilia. For more information please phone a contact below.



Meeting Day:	Every MONDAY of St Gerard's school term
Time:	4:15 PM TO 5:15 PM STARTING JULY 10 TH
Place:	LIBRARY ROOM of St. Gerard's
Legion of Mary Contact:	Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175
Legion of Mary Contact:	Cecilia Donald 0402 716 101



✕ -----

Parent or guardian to complete: (All information provided is confidential.)

Child's Name:		Grade:	
Address:			
Any health issues?		Date of Birth:	

I (Parent/guardian) give permission for my child (name) to attend the Junior Legion of Mary at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong (in the Church foyer).

Signature..... Date.....

Name of First Contact Person			
Address			
Phone No.			
Second Contact for child	Name:		Phone No:

Altar Servers

Altar Server training will resume for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass.

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information contact St Gerard's Parish Office 9792 4422 or Mrs Stack 9791 7553

Literacy-Before School



WELLBEING

St Gerard's Primary School

Thursday 16th November

Sushi Day!

Order fresh and healthy sushi handrolls and rice paper rolls for lunch and help raise funds for our school!

\$7.50 TWIN PACKS

(2 rolls of the same type)

Avocado Handroll V GF DF EF

Crispy Chicken Handroll DF

Teriyaki Chicken Handroll GF DF EF

Tuna Handroll GF DF

Spicy Prawn Handroll GF DF

Chicken Rice Paper Roll GF DF EF

- SOY SAUCE INCLUDED WITH SUSHI HANDROLLS -

Order online: www.sushi.net.au

Orders must be placed by 10am Wednesday 15th November.

Sorry no late orders accepted.

PayPal transaction fees/charges apply. NB: You do **not** require a PayPal account, most credit/debit cards accepted. Detailed instructions for ordering, and detailed ingredients list available from your school.



sushi@school

www.sushi.net.au



Growing a mentally
healthy generation



Play helps children develop social skills

Play is important for learning the social skills (including language and communication) that develop over time and will be the foundation for future relationships.

Through play, children learn about:

- the give and take of relationships with friends (negotiating)
- how their behaviour can affect others and to develop empathy
- how to lead and follow
- repairing relationships.
-

Play helps children develop emotional skills

Through play, children can express their feelings, even before they have the words to say how they feel. Play also fosters imagination and becomes the basis for creativity in art or music or other ways of self-expression. These ways of personal expression can help people cope with feelings all their lives.

Play can also help children learn impulse control. They learn to think about what they want to do, to plan and to be patient. If they're building a castle and get frustrated and knock it down, they have lost their castle. In these ways, children gradually learn they need to control their impulses to achieve what they want.

Play is a way that children can work through and resolve problems

For example, a child whose family has separated may feel very anxious about what's going to happen to them. These feelings and possibilities can be explored through play. The child can practise having two homes set up with two houses and different dolls. There's no need for you to take part, but being near while the child plays shows support and acceptance.

Play helps children develop physical skills

Children like games that test their physical abilities (motor skills) – running, climbing, jumping and exploring. These games bring children happiness and build their confidence.

Lunchtime Club

Lunchtime Sports Club

Hi, this is Ariana, Antonia, Azalea and Sophia

Last Tuesday we held a running sports club during our lunch break. This week the focus was on tennis. Quite a few people came and everyone enjoyed it. We hope to see all of the children there next week. We have attached our sports clinic timetable below.

Timetable

<i>Weeks & dates :</i>	<i>Sports :</i>
<i>Week 2 10th of October</i>	<i>Tennis (passed) (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 3 17th of October</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 4 24th of October</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 5 31st of October</i>	<i>Running (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 6 7th of November</i>	<i>Public holiday</i>
<i>Week 7 14th of November</i>	<i>Gymnastics (PAC)</i>
<i>Week 8 21st of November</i>	<i>Basketball (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 9 28th of November</i>	<i>Tennis (basketball courts)</i>
<i>Week 10 5th of December</i>	<i>Fun day (PAC & basketball courts)</i>



Please note the following changes in relation to uniform purchases for St Gerard's Primary School:

Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

Option 1 - Online Order

Access to our Online Ordering System

1. www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
2. Go to **SHOP ONLINE NOW** (red box)
3. Select your school
4. Uniform listing with images will appear.

Select items you are wishing to purchase:

Style
Size
Colour
Quantity
Add items to bag

5. Once all items are added to bag, proceed to checkout.
6. Select delivery options
 - a. Pick up from school (free) in comments section please enter your child's name and class
 - b. Pick up from A Plus Schoolwear (free)
 - c. Postal address (delivery charges will apply)
7. Either checkout as guest, returning customer or create a new account.

Orders placed by Sunday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

Option 2 - Fill out the order form and leave it at the school office.

Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

RETURNS

Can be given to the school office and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus School wear.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact A Plus Schoolwear

9354 8345 or email angie@agsprints.com.au

IMPORTANT DATES

November:

- **6th Student Free Day**
- **7th Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday**
- 8th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 8th and 10th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 10th Remembrance Day Assembly at 2:50 pm
- 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 15th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 16th Sushi Day
- 20th, 21st, 22nd & 24th - Swimming Program at Dandenong Oasis
- 22nd Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 23rd Walk/Ride to School Day
- 29th Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 29th Art Show Opens
- 30th Subway Lunch

December:

- 1st First Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:50pm
- 5th Christmas Carols evening 7.00pm
- 6th Final Reading before school in the library - 8:15 am - 8:40 am
- 6th Art Show Closes
- 8th End of the School Year Mass at 12.00 noon
- 8th Second Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:50 pm
- 14th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony at 7.00pm
- 15th Last day of school - 3:10pm Guard of honour for Year 6 students

Important Information



Happy Birthday to all who had celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week.

- Elaine Yr 2
- Joanne Yr 3
- Sandra Yr 5
- Tiffany Yr 4
- John Yr 6
- Dhanya Yr 4

NOTICE COMMUNITY BOARD



- Catholic Bible Study Course through St Gerard's Parish
- Dandenong Saints Basketball Club - new players wanted
- Diamond Dancers - Recreation and Competitive Dancing
- Springvale Indoor Sports (Term 4)
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Dandenong Scouts
- Cricket Blast - North Dandenong Cricket Club
- Cricket Blast - Noble Park Cricket Club
- Australian Girls Choir Open Days (11 & 19 November)

Chicken Eggs For Sale



- St Gerard's would like to offer families the opportunity to purchase delicious organic eggs laid by our resident flock of chickens.
- You can purchase these eggs from the school office at a cost of \$6 per dozen.
- All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.
- Please message [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.