



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

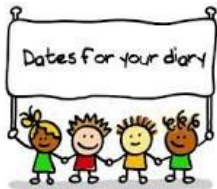


Term 4 Week 9

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

03 97917553

4 December 2020



**LAST  
DAY OF  
SCHOOL**

**Grade 6**

**Tuesday, 15 Dec**

**3:30 finish**

**Prep - 5**

**Wednesday, 16 Dec**

**3:30 finish**

**Is Your Child  
Returning in  
2021?**

Please notify the office in writing  
or email the principal on  
[principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) if your child is **not**  
returning to St Gerards in 2021

**Remote**

**Christmas Caroling**

**Friday, 11 December**



Celebration of  
**The Sacrament of Confirmation**

*St. Gerard's Parish  
Dandenong North*

Friday 4th December 2020, 7pm  
Celebrant: Rev. Shanthaiah Marneni

*St Gerard's rejoices tonight as our Year 6 students are Confirmed in the faith of our Baptism, the faith of our community, the faith of our Church. Tonight our Confirmation candidates will commit to living the Christian way of life and will receive the Holy Spirit to help them in that mission. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers.*

## Confirmands 2020

William Chilton  
Dhirain Collom  
Trinity Dang  
Caitlin De Kauwe  
Kurukulasooriya Fernando  
Charlie George

Abilas Kioginipatrowfe  
Chris Majing  
Mackenzie Perumal  
Ryan Rughoo  
Jefferson Zaher

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of another week there is a real sense of Christmas in the air.

We had a fantastic **Italian Day** on **Tuesday** with red, white and green filling our school. It was wonderful to see our children getting into the spirit of the day by coming dressed as famous Italian characters, something typically Italian or the colours of the Italian flag. I would like to **thank Signora Harris** for her organisation of this day that was filled with fantastic activities and congratulate our students who won their classes 'best dressed' award.

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** is being celebrated **in our church tonight (Friday) at 7.00pm**. This final Sacrament of Initiation is a significant step in the faith journey of our Year 6 children and it is wonderful that we are able to celebrate it given all the challenges of this year. I would like to **especially acknowledge the work of Fr Shanthaiah and Mrs Stack** for being able to plan what will be a very special celebration at such short notice and with changing restrictions. I would also like to thank our Year 5/6 teachers (Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Verhoosel and Mrs Theodore) for their efforts in preparing and supporting our children. I ask you to keep our Year 6 children and those children from our parish in your thoughts and prayers.

Our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children and 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 **so we can work through this together**. If you have a **current Health Care Card you are entitled to a reduction**.

This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent and Mark's Gospel gives us a very clear message on the focus of this season; **'Make straight the paths of the Lord'**. John the Baptist states *'I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'* This is also timely for our Confirmation Candidates.

Next **Friday (11 December)** we will be sending out a **link to our Christmas Carols event** for this year. We are hoping that families will be able to gather together and enjoy the presentation at a time that suits them. I would like to thank Mrs Stack for her coordination of this event and all the staff, students and families that have contributed to spreading some Christmas cheer.

Finally, **Please note that our school gates are opened at 8.30am each morning. Children are being dropped at school before this time which is a safety concern as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds**. I am therefore asking that families refrain from leaving their children unattended before 8.30am for their safety. Thank you in anticipation.

God bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Carols Evening

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Carols Event will be held remotely this year. We hope to distribute a Vimeo link to our Christmas event for families on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. More information will be available soon.

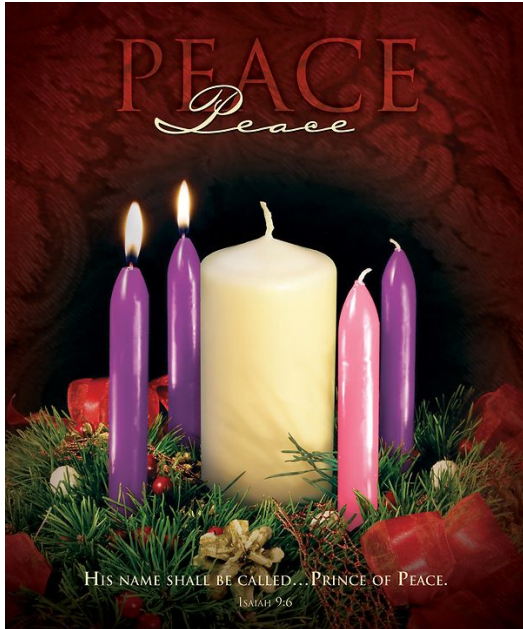
## Important Dates for Term 4

Confirmation

4th December, 7pm officiated by Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni MSFS.

Christmas Event (remote)

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December



## PRAYER



God of Peace

Fill our hearts with your peace.  
Guide us as we work for peace  
in our families, our communities  
and our world. May we continue  
to grow in faith and love, being  
examples of peace through our  
words and actions.

In your name, we pray.

Amen.

# WELLBEING NEWS



This week in our SEL groups we revised "being cooperative in the playground" statements from our Give Me 5 matrix.

The Prep to 2's discussed the importance of cooperating with others in the playground. The students then work collaboratively to discuss what taking turns, playing fairly, sharing and using equipment safely, accepting rules and including others looked like in the playground.

The senior students created posters and displayed them around the school, to remind students how everyone can be cooperative in the playground.

St Gerard's would like to offer parents 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 \$5 per dozen.

All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.

Please email Nicole Fernandez if you would like to purchase some eggs.



## WALK AROUND AUSTRALIA

In term 4 students are challenged to get fit by using a map of Australia to track the distance they have covered when they walk around the walking track.

Classes are timetabled to walk around the track for 15 minutes per day.

We have currently walked 21,389 laps of the oval which converts to 5347km. Our whole school has now walked from Melbourne to Broome which is a beach resort town in western Australia's Kimberley region,

Have a look at the red sticker dots below to see how far we have walked so far!!



## 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
- 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.

## Gardening Lesson

This week 5/6VT enjoyed their Gardening lesson. The students learned about the following concepts in the garden this week:

- composting
- worm farming
- harvesting (how to carefully harvest zucchinis)
- weeding
- how to look after chickens
- ways to fix broody chickens

Have a look at some of the fun we had in the garden today!

