



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 2 Week 7

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

4 June 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated their birthday this week.

- Nevyn - 1/2L

Stay at home,
be safe,
be healthy.

Remote Learning
Continues until
Friday, 10th June

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

Martin and his Mum Pam enjoying a walk and the sunshine during remote learning



Loving Our Neighbour

Community is essential to us as Christians at St Gerard's. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus' name, he is present with us. So it may be a bit harder for us to handle the "social distancing" happening at the moment in Melbourne.

Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in our neighbourhood community. How do we literally love our neighbour? How can we be witnesses on our streets?

Don't forget to be a positive, calming influence in any online neighbourhood communities.

Lord Jesus, you heal the sick. We pray that the coronavirus that has affected so many in our world can be contained, controlled, and cured. We lift up to your mercy all those affected, all those working hard to study and cure this illness, and all health care professionals and emergency management teams that are working day and night to keep us safe. Help us, Lord, to trust in your merciful care.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.
Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all safe and well. We have completed our first week of Remote Learning and I would like to **thank our students, families and staff for the way in which we have smoothly transitioned back to this mode of schooling.** With the lockdown extended until next Thursday 10 June, **I am confident that we will be able to continue the learning of all our children.** Information about next week was sent to families yesterday (Thursday) via email and Seesaw. **Please remember that we are here to support our students and families and we are only ever an email, phone call or Seesaw message away.**

At this stage we are hoping to be able to welcome everyone back to school next Friday 11 June. In addition to (potentially) coming back to school, it is also the **Feast of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** when we have traditionally celebrated Mass and presented St Vincent de Paul with the donations we have collected for those people who are most in need. **Our school community has once again shown how generous it is with a wonderful response.** We will wait and see what next week brings to make sure that we honour this act of charity in the right manner.

Unfortunately with the current situation we have had to **postpone a couple of significant events.** It was planned for students in Years 4 and 5 to make their **First Communion** this coming weekend at the parish masses. This will now occur on the weekend of the 14 and 15 August (the Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.) **Year 5/6 Camp** was planned for next Wednesday - Friday and has been postponed until November 15 - 17. While at the moment this can be disappointing it does give these groups of children and their families something to look forward to.

This Sunday is the feast of **The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.** The readings feature three prominent themes: the importance of the covenant, the atoning actions of Christ and the attitude of thanksgiving. The celebration of the Eucharist is a key pillar of our faith and this feast day helps remind us of its origin.

A reminder that **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,** however we are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we enrol our existing families as soon as possible.

Finally, please stay safe, look after each other and we hope to see everyone back at school next Friday.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacrament Dates, 2021

Planning for all Sacraments is underway. More information will be forthcoming once details are confirmed.

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

First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)

First Communion Reflection Day: Monday, 9th August
First Communion: 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: Wednesday, 28th July
Confirmation: Friday 30th July at 7pm
(previously announced, Thursday 29th July)
Confirmation Assembly: Friday 6th August, 2:40, parents invited

First Communion Mass Postponed

A letter was sent out recently to the Years 3-6 families to announce the postponement of this year's First Communion due to the uncertainty caused by the announcement on Thursday 27 May 2021, by the Victorian Government to help reduce community movement and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The tentative rescheduled date for First Communion is the weekend of, 14th and 15th August, The Feast of the Assumption. Mass times that were originally allocated to First Communicants will be transferred to the 14th and 15th August.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Mrs Stack.

Whole School Masses:

Friday 11th June Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15 (Adoration available throughout the day)

Other Important Dates:

Refugee Week: Refugee Week 20th to 26th June 2020
Refugee Week Assembly: Friday, 25th June at 2:30 pm (lead by Social Justice Team)

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

This Winter Vinnies Appeal will provide emergency relief to people at risk and experiencing homelessness. Your donation will help our Vinnies volunteers to rebuild lives. Once again we'll aim to have our food cart to be filled to the brim for the St Vincent De Paul Winter appeal. The social justice leaders collect food from week two and the collection will finish on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The class that brings in the most items will win a casual dress day. Please donate to this worthwhile appeal.

Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss

Seasons is a peer support program for children and young people who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. This loss may be the result of a death, separation or divorce.

This valuable program will become available this term. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.

WELLBEING 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 at nfernandez@sgdandenongn্থ.catholic.edu.au.



GIVE ME FIVE WEEK

Next week we will be focusing on 'Being Positive at Home and School'. Please take a photo of your family being positive at home and email your photo to Mrs Fernandez at nfernandez@sgdandenongn্থ.catholic.edu.au.



Make time to look after yourself so you're in a better position to support those around you. Children and young people's emotions can be affected by how adults are feeling. Try to maintain your routines, know your limits, debrief with trusted family or friends and try to do things you enjoy to manage your stress levels.



The Be You website provides information on [wellbeing tools](#) and how to practise [mindfulness](#), which can help with stress management. The Beyond Blue website provides more information on how to [look after your mental health during the coronavirus outbreak](#).

Self Care Tips to Add to Your Routine

Get Outside.

Ditching the comfort of your home is a great way to improve mental and physical health. Similar to meditation, spending time outdoors benefits the brain. Other research suggests that being outside in nature also makes us feel more alive. Even living in an area with more green space (i.e. gardens) is associated with greater life satisfaction and less mental distress. However, when getting outdoors in these uncertain times, please follow your local government's guidelines.

Eat More Fruits and Veggies.

Adding more fruits and vegetables to our plates is a great way to practice self-care all throughout the day. And in case we needed another reason to load up on nature's goodness, filling up on seven portions of fruits and veggies per day might make us happier.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

What sort of help does the school give students?

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

How will the NCCD be different this year?

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

Where can I find out more?

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).