

St Gerard's Newsletter

Term 3, Week 8 4 September 2026



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Heavenly Father,

you entrusted your Son Jesus,
the child of Mary,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly
father.

Bless all fathers and father like
figures
as they care for their families.

We ask you, Lord, to bless these
special men today.

Give them the strength of St.

Joseph,

the wisdom to guide us and
the tenderness to comfort us.

May they always feel loved,
appreciated, and supported by
our school and community.

Amen.



Honouring our fathers with love and joy at Father's Day
Breakfast



@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 a week of opportunities for some of our children to display their sporting talents, increase their fitness and wellbeing, further develop their performance skills, gain an insight into Secondary School life and acknowledge and thank some of the important people in their lives.

On Tuesday we had **20 children represent our school at the Dandenong District Athletics Carnival** at Ross Reserve in Noble Park. These athletes were selected based on their performances at our school Athletics Carnival which was held earlier in the year. I congratulate all of them on this achievement and based on their performances, we have 4 children that will progress to the next level of competition (Divisional Level) which is in the last week of Term 3.

Also on Tuesday, our annual **Book Fair** opened and **continues until next Wednesday 9 September in the Library**. Purchases can be made **each day from 8.30am - 9.00am and 3.30pm - 4.00pm**. Please feel free to come and have a look at what is available.

We had our latest **Walk/ Ride to School day on Thursday** which is always well supported and our **Year 4 and 5 children attended a St John's College Taster Day** which sees them gain an insight into life in Secondary School.

Today (**Friday**) we had our **Father's Day Breakfast** to acknowledge and thank the important and significant role these people play in the lives of our children. It was wonderful to see so many fathers, father figures and grandfathers enjoying each other's company and playing with their children. I would like to wish all our fathers and father figures a happy **Father's Day** for this coming Sunday. The love, support and guidance of a father is lifelong and the positive impact they can have should never be underestimated. **It is truly a blessing to be a father. Thank you also to our staff for their early start to the day to organise and serve breakfast.**

We are heading into the final week of preparation for our **School Production which is next Thursday 10 September starting at 7.00pm in the St Gerard's Parish Hall.** Information was sent out to families this week with regard to times, costumes and seating. This information is also included in this newsletter. Our School Production is the culmination of work done over the past two terms in our Performing Arts classes and promises to be a wonderful night. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Our school is participating in the **2026 Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)**. MACSSIS is an annual process whereby schools listen to the thoughts and feelings students, families and staff have about how their school is performing and where it can improve. These surveys also help inform the ongoing improvement of schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. **An email has been sent to families with a link to the survey and your family's PIN code for the parent survey.** Students in Years 4 - 6 will complete their survey at school in the coming weeks. **I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in advance.**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

cont'd,

The ***nForma for Parents App*** was decommissioned on **Tuesday 1 September**. Parents have been prompted to download the **new nForma Connect App** and I am asking all families to do this if you haven't already done so. If you encounter any difficulties please come to the School Office. **As this is the mode that we use to gain prenatal permission for excursions and other events, it is vital that all our families are connected and have access.**

As part of our SunSmart Policy children are required to wear a school hat when outside from 1 September - 30 April. Therefore, **children now need to wear a School Hat when outside for any learning activity and during Lunchtimes**. It is therefore time to locate your child's School Hat or you may need to purchase a new one through our uniform supplier LOWES at Fountain Gate.

Lastly, we have **changed the date of our Footy Day to Thursday 17 September** due to Year 3 - 6 Cricket Clinics occurring for the majority of the day on Friday 18 September. **The format of the day (9.00am Parade in the PAC followed by the Longest Kick Competition) will remain the same and as always, families are more than welcome to come and be a part of these events.**

Take care and God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL



Key Dates

Term 3, 2026 Dates

September

- 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
- **17th Footy Day**
- **18th End of Term 3 - school finishes at 3.30pm**



Father's Day



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

Father's Day



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Father's Day



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



How does confidence develop?

Babies are born curious

They want to touch, see, hear and taste everything within their reach. Toddlers and preschoolers demonstrate their need to understand their world by asking many 'why' questions. From their repeated experiences of seeing their actions affect their world and the people in it, young children begin to see themselves as capable and having control. This helps them to feel good about themselves and builds their self-confidence.

When they begin school, children typically start out with high expectations

But when they see how they do things compared to others, their view of their own abilities often changes. They learn that they're good at some things and not so good at others. They also see how other children and educators respond to what they do. These things influence children's confidence in their abilities. They also influence how willing they are to have a go in situations where they feel unsure.

Your response

The way adults respond to children as they explore their place in the world is their template for solving many challenging and difficult problems later on. For young children, it helps strengthen their sense of self when significant adults nurture their natural curiosity and demonstrate patience and interest. In primary school years, children who are suddenly less sure of themselves may need extra support and encouragement to build a functional sense of confidence they can take with them into adolescence.

Ride, Walk or Roll..



Thursday, 3rd September 2026

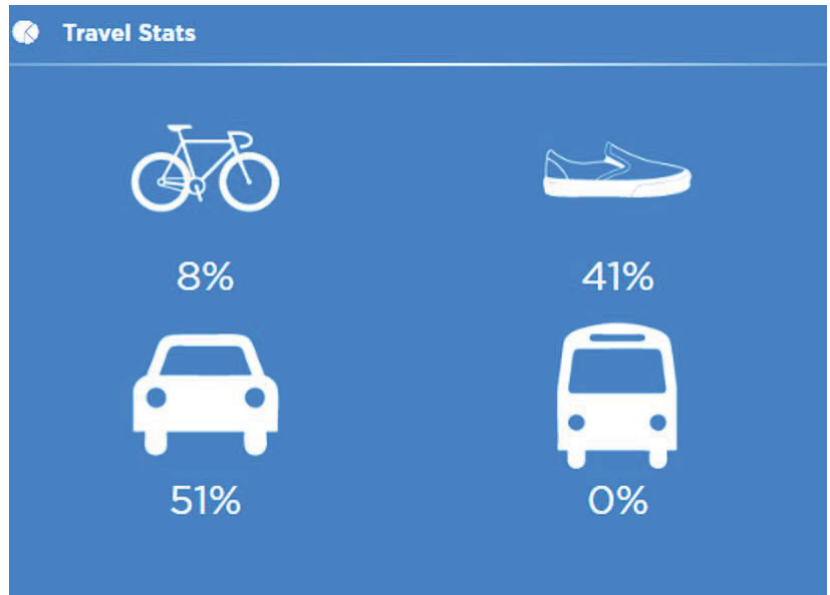
A big thank you to all the families who participated in Ride to School Day on Thursday 3rd September. Congratulations to 1/2S who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

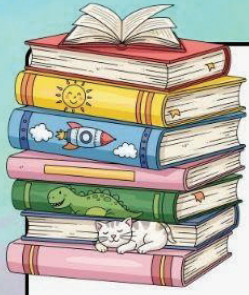
Well done to:

1st place- 1/2S with 71% riding, scooting or walking

2nd place- 3/4S with 57% riding, scooting or walking

3rd place- 5/6O with 52% riding, scooting or walking





LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Week 8, September 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 participated in an exciting Puzzle Race Competition! Students worked in two teams and raced to complete their puzzle as quickly as possible. It was fantastic to see students demonstrating excellent teamwork, communication, problem-solving skills and perseverance throughout the challenge.

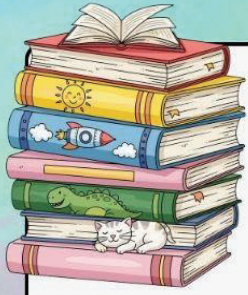
Congratulations to our winning team: Sanaya, Grace, Jacob and Jasmine! They completed their puzzle in an amazing record time of just 3 minutes! A big well done to all students for their fantastic effort, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the competition. It was wonderful to see everyone working together and enjoying the challenge.

A reminder that there is no more borrowing for the remainder of the term. Please ensure that all outstanding library books are returned as soon as possible. Students and families are also encouraged to visit the Book Fair before or after school. Please see the Book Fair invitation for further details. Thank you for your ongoing support in encouraging students to return their books and take care of our library resources.



Miss Stephanie Adrien





LIBRARY CLUB



Week 8, September 2026



Miss Stephanie Adrien





AN INVITATION TO OUR BOOK FAIR!

Where:

St Gerard's

Primary School Library

Date:

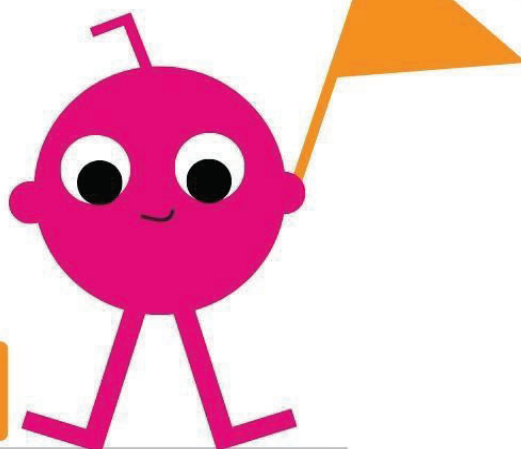
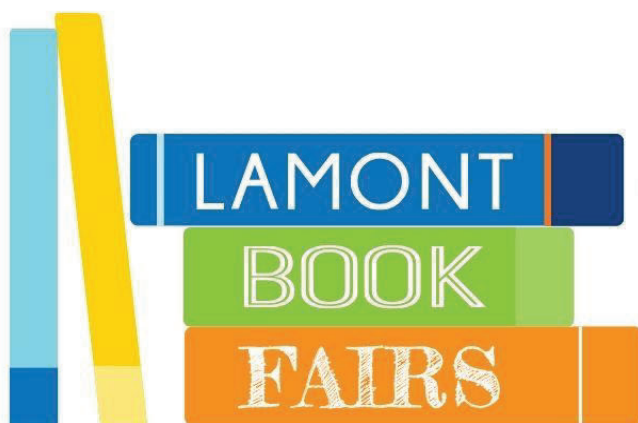
2nd Sep to 9th Sep

Time:

8:30am-9am & 3:30pm-4pm

Don't miss out!

supports our school!



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.

★	JASMINE	YR 4
★	NYADUT	YR 2
★	ANDREA	YR 4
★	MIA	YR 2



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