



ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

5 April 2019



**FIRST DAY OF
TERM 2**
Tuesday,
23 April

ANZAC DAY
(school closure)
Thursday,
25 April

May God bless you at Easter,
And keep you all year through.
May God give you all the faith it takes,
To make your dreams come true.
May His love and wisdom always help,
To guide you on your way.
May His light shine down upon you now,
To bless your Easter Day.

*Easter
Blessings*

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter.



Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. PHILIPPIANS 2:8.9



'Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.'

The presence of these women right through Jesus' torture and crucifixion testifies to the deep friendships they shared with him. They are faithful to Jesus in life and in death.

As Cynthia Bourgeault writes, ultimately these women do not flee, they do not run, they do not betray, nor lie when going gets tough. As we stop to contemplate the power of Jesus' redemptive love – let us turn towards the women at the foot of the cross for guidance.

In the darkest hour, they offer a ministry of presence to a dying Jesus. In standing by his cross they are a model of faith to the gathered churches all over the world on this day and for all days. This Easter, may we be attentive to these women as they bear the light burden of Jesus with fidelity and love to the tomb and beyond.

ACTING PRINCIPAL NEWS

Dear Families,

Term 1 has been such a productive and busy term. There have been so many things occurring this term including our new Preps beginning school. They have had a very successful start to their school life. They have settled in well and are enjoying life at St. Gerard's. We have also been fortunate to have both Father Arthur and Father Denton visiting our classrooms each week to speak to the students.

PLAY GROUP

We have seen the beginning of St. Gerard's Playgroup every Wednesday morning at 9.00 am in one of the school buildings. I encourage anyone who has children who are not at school, to come and please invite any friends you have to join our Playgroup.

KITCHEN GARDEN

Our kitchen garden is now well established with the support of Rob and Anna, two of our busy Learning Support Officers, have introduced the kitchen garden and food education every Friday. This program teaches positive food habits through fun and hands-on learning. This term the students have made Vietnamese rolls and wraps. Without the wonderful support of our parents this program would not occur Thank you to our many parents who attend every week.

PASSION PLAY

On Tuesday the Passion Play occurred in the school hall. It was a dramatic presentation depicting the Passion of Jesus Christ: his trial, suffering and death. It was an extremely moving and spiritual occasion. The task of putting on the play is enormous, and I thank Mrs. Stack for putting together the production and directing the students and co-ordinating the sound. A big thanks to the teachers and to the parents for their involvement and participation on the day.

Once again I thank Father Arthur and Father Denton, our parents and families for your continued support of myself and our wonderful school.

Have a safe and happy holiday and we will see everyone back on Tuesday 23rd April for another term learning and fun at St. Gerard's.

Kind Regards and Blessings,
Carol Stewart



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacrament Dates, 2019

First Reconciliation:

First Reconciliation

(Grade 3)

Thursday 13th June at 10:15

First Communion:

First Communion

(Grade 4)

Sunday 8th September at 2pm

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 in term 2.

If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Stack.

Project Compassion

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Project Compassion Boxes will be distributed to each class during Ash Wednesday Mass. Each class will have a target amount that they would like to raise during lent. Regular updates, by the Social Justice Leadership Team, with the amount raised so far will be announced at the school assembly.

Rosary

Each Tuesday we have a group that comes together to pray the rosary in the Church at first lunch, led by Jenny Gelderbloem from the Parish. Children are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring their own Rosary beads if they have them. Otherwise, Rosary beads will be provided.

Meditation

Thank you to everyone that has remembered that we begin each day with meditation. If you arrive late to school and the meditation bell has already gone, you need to wait in the office area until meditation time has finished.

Altar boy training

Please be advised that the final day for training for term 1 will be Thursday, 4 April and will recommence on Thursday, 2 May. If you would like your son to commence altar boy training it is in the Church at 5pm to 6:30pm every Thursday evening. Please contact Mrs Stack if you are interested.

HOLY WEEK 2019

HOLY WEDNESDAY – 17th April

7.30pm

Tenebrae

HOLY THURSDAY – 18th April

No morning Mass

6.00pm

Confessions

7.00pm

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

9.00pm

Tenebrae

HOLY SATURDAY- 20th April

10am-12pm Confessions

9.00pm Easter Vigil and Mass

GOOD FRIDAY – 19th April

10am-12pm

Confessions

1pm-2pm

Confessions

2.00pm

Stations of the Cross

3.00pm

Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

7.30pm

Tenebrae

EASTER SUNDAY – 21st April

8.30am Mass

10.30am Sung Mass

***There are no afternoon Masses on
Easter Sunday***



THE PASSION





Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and (insert service name here) is excited to be participating.

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to 16 years in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development.

To take part, children from birth to five are encouraged to read 40 books with their parents and carers before the closing date of the challenge. We will also record the books we read with your child at (insert service name here).

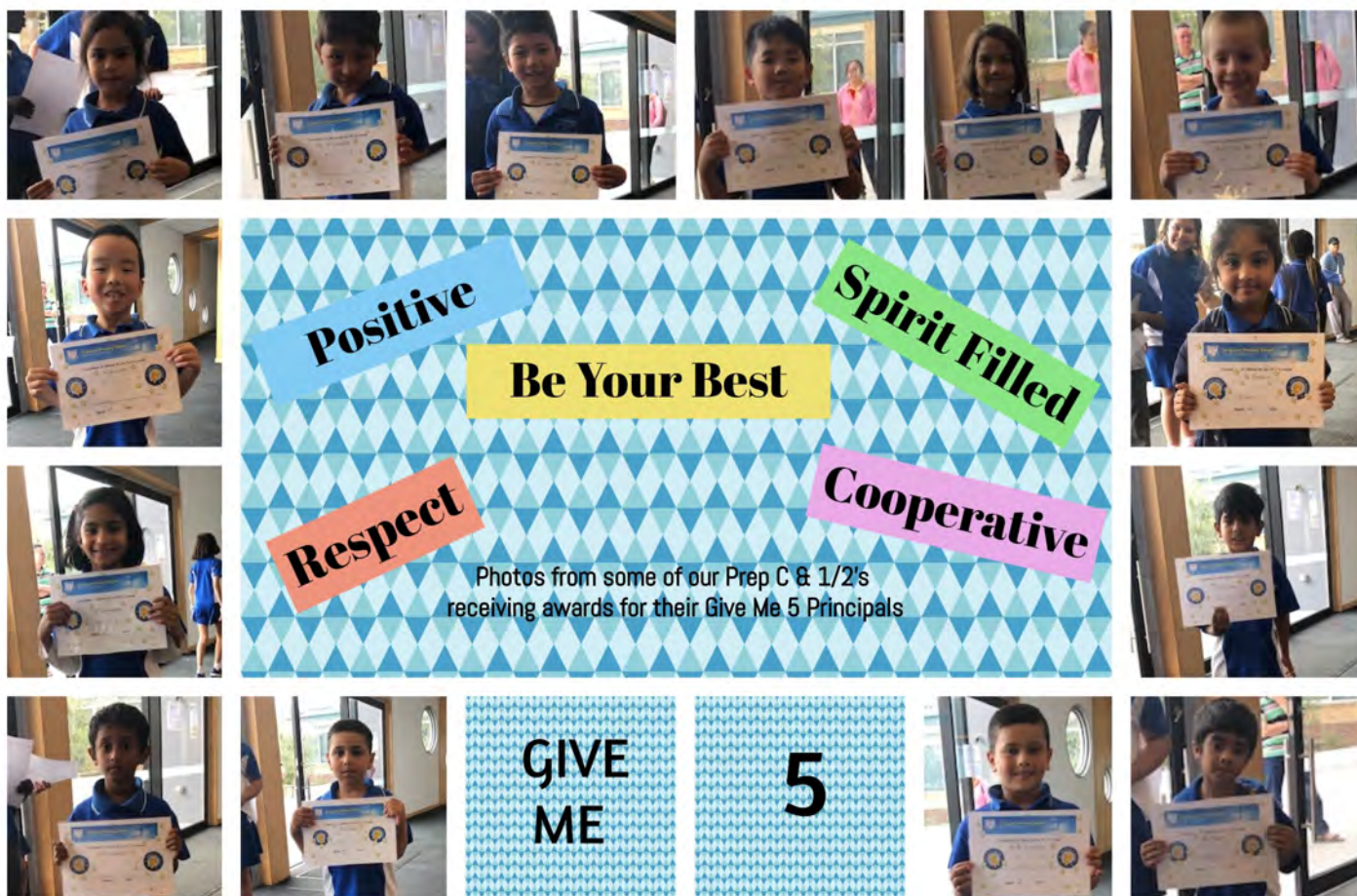
All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

Reading with your child is one of the joys of parenting. It establishes reading as a daily habit and sets children on a path to becoming strong readers and communicators. A 2012 study by the University of Melbourne found that reading frequently to young children has a direct effect on schooling outcomes. To read a summary of this research, see: [Reading to Young Children: A Head-Start in Life](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/readtoyoungchild.pdf)

(<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/readtoyoungchild.pdf>)

For more information on the Challenge and to view the booklists, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/prc





Gala Day 1

29 March 2019



On 29 March the Grade 5/6's participated in the Dandenong District Gala Day. Twelve schools from the local area came together to play netball, tee-ball and basketball. It was a great day with lots of fun and competition. A particular congratulations to the Mixed A netball and basketball teams that both came 3rd; a fantastic result for a small school!



Gala Day Reflection

***Our basketball team had the best offence. We need to work on our defence."* - Ishaan**

"The funniest thing was when the other team scored in our goal!" - Amolak

"Our offence was amazing!" - Eli

"Netball was competitive, but we worked it out." - Keji

*"No need to cry,
Just to play the game,
At the end of the day,
You shout hooray!" - Doki*

"Tee-ball was great. We got better and better each game!" - Blayke

"Lucky for me basketball was indoors!" - Matthew Dinh

Best thing was we learnt new skills and experiences. Some of the year 5's were nervous but it was fun." - Jessica



Easter Craft



Our gorgeous Prep class and Grade 1/2's have been busy making some beautiful Easter craft. The preps have made lovely Easter baskets and the 1/2's yummy shortbread biscuits. Here are some photos of their activities.

