



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 4 Week 5

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

5 November 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to those students and staff who have celebrated their birthday this past week:!

- Reyon - Prep B
- John A - 3/4S
- Dhanya - 1/2L
- Ms Sonno

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



A reminder that if your child is absent from school to please contact the Office either by phone or email. We are required to follow up all unexplained absences each day. Families will receive a text message if their child(ren) are not at school and we have not been informed. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



First Communion, Saturday 6th November

Loving God, Your love for us knows no end. May we be nourished by your word and by the gift of your Son through Eucharist, to have the strength to be an example of love to our children, our family, our friends and all whom we meet.

With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, enable all that we say and do to be full of the love and happiness that you offer, so that others may also know your love.

We ask this prayer, and all the prayers that lie in the quiet of our heart, through Christ your Son. Amen.



Confirmation, Friday 5th November

May the Holy Spirit bless you and guide you throughout your life.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

It has been great to have everyone back together this week with a sense of 'normal' flowing through the school.

This means we are back to our usual start and end of the day routines which are designed to keep our children, families and staff safe.

A reminder **that our school gates are opened at 8.30am** each morning. If children arrive or are dropped at school before this time there is a safety concern as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds.

At after school pick up, please **use the pedestrian crossing and designated walking areas** (please see the map in this newsletter) when walking home or to your car. This is a busy time of the day and we have been out of this routine due to Remote Learning. To assist with this the **Pedestrian Crossing needs to be kept free of cars** and I ask **all drivers to monitor their speed and be very mindful of pedestrians**. I thank you in advance for your understanding, patience and cooperation.

Also, if your child is **displaying COVID-19 symptoms, please do not send them to school**. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- loss or change in sense of smell or taste
- fever
- chills or sweats
- a cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- a runny nose

While our main focus at the moment is to transition our children back to Onsite Learning and finish the year on a positive note, we are also looking **towards 2022**. I am therefore asking families to **contact the school office** if your child(ren) **will not be returning to St Gerard's next year**. Having accurate information helps us to be able to plan 2022 with a level of certainty.

Also with regard to 2022, 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 19 November.

We have a busy weekend from a sacramental perspective with some of our **Year 6** children **celebrating Confirmation** tonight (Friday) and some of our **Year 4 and Year 5** children **making their First Communion** on Saturday. There have been a number of postponements for both of these major steps in our childrens' faith journeys so it is with great joy that they can be celebrated.

I am sure that your thoughts and prayers will be with these children and their families.

Continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principal



School Pick up Arrangements Term 4, 2021



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

First Communion

Tomorrow, 6th November, will be a joyous occasion as we celebrate First Communion which was postponed several times due to COVID restrictions. Please remember all of our First Communicants in prayers as they receive the Body of Christ for the very first time.

We pray that they will grow in goodness and faith as they come to know Jesus more. We pray that our Parish of St. Gerard's will come closer together as we share in the life of Jesus in the Eucharist. May God bless them on this very special day.

First Communion Candidates - 2021

Martin Allendes-Arias

Devaan Ariyatillake

John Audy

Duane Collom

Catherine Dinh

Hope Donovan

Filomena Mae Doroon

Kevan Fernando

Trevor Fernando

Sherhom Gamas

Tiffany Huynh

Isaiah Hayat

Amy Labour

Levi Lopez

Dahlia Maliko

Minh-Dang Nguyen

Ashton Nisanthan

Dominique Perumal

Aswin Sheen

Ella Torelli

Alessia Trovarelli

Amy Varghese

Confirmation:

We are delighted that the celebration of Confirmation will proceed tonight after several postponements. Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers, as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit in this special Sacrament this evening.

Confirmation Candidates - 2021

Abigail Appelman

Isabella D'Costa

Antonette Ivan

Pieta Jada

Beyonca Nisanthan

Arielle Punsalan

Sacraments Thank You:

Thank you to all who have helped the children prepare to receive the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation, especially our parents. The children were prepared beautifully by their teachers, Miss Sonno, Mrs Castello, Miss Theodore, Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Verhoosel.

Thank You to the parish volunteers for their dedication and efforts to keep St Gerard's safe, particularly at our Confirmation and First Communion Masses. Thank you to Moses and the choir for providing the music, our altar servers and catechists. Thank you especially to Fr Shanthaiah for being such a fabulous Parish Priest to guide us through this pandemic while on our spiritual journey. Please continue to pray for our children that their faith grows stronger each day and that they remain closer to our heavenly Father.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

Important Dates for Term 4

Thursday, 11th November	Remembrance Day Observance
Thursday, 18th November	Year 6 Reflection Day
Friday, 26th November	Advent Assembly at 2:30 pm
Friday, 10th December	Special Christmas Carols Evening sent via Vimeo
Friday, 10th December	End of Year Mass - TBC
Tuesday, 14th December	Year 6 Final Assembly, 2 pm and Graduation, 7 pm

Mission Walk Around Thailand

Socktober for Mission Month encourages students across Australia to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Thailand and around the world. During term 4 we are encouraging students to learn what life is like for children from Thailand, specifically those from slum areas in Bangkok.

Students are challenged to get fit and raise funds for Catholic Missions by using a map of Thailand to track the distance they have covered when they walk (run, hop, skip, walk backwards, whatever) around the walking track on the oval. Students will be timetabled to walk around the track, 15 minutes a day for the whole term. The Mission Walk Around Thailand will become our main fundraising event for Mission Month.



Carols Evening

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Carols Event will again be held remotely this year.

We hope to distribute a Vimeo link to our Christmas event for families on

Friday, 10th December.



WELLBEING NEWS

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF



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.

WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D

Our Garden



This week 5/6VT enjoyed their Garden lesson. The students harvested some juicy mulberries, weeded the garden beds, planted sunflower and parsley seeds and collected the eggs. We will be selling some of our parsley seeds, herbs, eggs and mulberries next week. Produce bags will be available for purchase next week. **If you would like to purchase a produce bag please send \$3 to school with your child next Tuesday.**



The next SRC meeting will be held on Monday 8th November at 1pm.

GIVE ME FIVE WEEK

Students who display the expectations present on the school Matrix are rewarded with a raffle ticket from their classroom teacher. Once a month the raffle tickets from each class are collected and drawn during the Friday assembly.

The raffle tickets will be drawn on Friday 12th November during next week's assembly. Good luck to all of our amazing students!

Next week the whole school will be focusing on Being Cooperative in the playground.



@st.gerards3175
On Instagram

Instagram



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St Gerard's
Primary School

Visual ART SHOW



Our students have been working hard at creating beautiful works of art before, during and after remote learning.

Over the next three weeks we will show you some of their creations in an on-line exhibition.

This week and next week the students will be finalising, mounting and labelling their work.

They will then film their art work and each student will present one piece of work on Seesaw for you to see.

We will keep you informed as to when the video and students work is available.

