



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

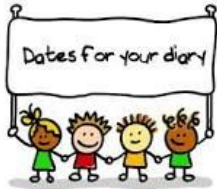


Term 1, Week 6

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

6 March 2020



Monday, 9 March

PUBLIC HOLIDAY - no school

Wednesday, 11 March

- Homework Club begins 4-5pm
- Garden stall- 3:20pm

Thursday, 12 March

- Reading Evening Prep - 2: Dinner @ 6pm for Preps followed by Meeting

Friday, 13 March

- Harmony Day Celebration
- National Ride to School Day
- Assembly 2:45 pm



NO SCHOOL!
Monday,
9 March
Public Holiday

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



Genesis 12:1-4.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you –
Psalm 32(33):4-5, 18-20, 22. 2

Timothy 1:8-10. Matthew 17:1-9.

His face shone like the sun

Whenever I think about Abram being called out of his own country to travel to a strange land I think of refugees and asylum seekers. Not knowing where you are going but hoping that it will be better is a dangerous thing to do. This is not the case for Christians. Our journey has been given to us quite clearly and in Sunday's Gospel, Peter, James and John are privileged to experience the Transfiguration which showed them the promise of glory. We are not blindly walking our journey. We know the promises and we know the One who has made the promises and he is completely trustworthy. In our case there is no risk at all. That is not to say that it will all be easy. The other side of it is that it will require suffering which will be supported by the hope given to us by Christ.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

This week saw us offer some unique learning experiences for our students.

This was the **first full week for our Preps** as they have been having Wednesday as a rest day. They have settled into our routines and are a constant source of energy and enthusiasm.

On Thursday our **Year 6 students** went on a boat called '**The Pelican**'. This trip was part of the Saltwater Program which provides students with an **insight into Port Phillip Bay**. In addition to the boat trip, there is classroom follow-up and an expo is planned so the children can share their learning.

We also had our **Prep - Year 2 Literacy Night on Thursday evening**. This provided the chance for families to hear about how we teach **Reading and Writing** and find out some ways that they can support their children in these vital areas of learning. It was great to see so many of our families there working with their children.

Today (Friday) we had our school **Athletics Day at Knox Athletics track**. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and engagement of our students. A big **thank you to Mrs Wilson** for her organisation and our **parent volunteers** who helped the day run smoothly.

Our **after school AFL/ Cricket clinics** were able to occur outside for the first time as the weather was kind to us. The co-ordinator Seb spoke to the parents that were there about possible links to local AFL and cricket clubs. If your child is coming to these clinics and you didn't hear him speak could you please come next week towards the end of the session so he can provide you with this information.

In this Sunday's Gospel we hear of the **Transfiguration of Our Lord**. The disciples were told to listen to Jesus and when they became fearful of the situation he told them to not be afraid. These two things are just as important for us in 2020. It can be challenging to find the time to **truly listen** and then **not be afraid** of what we hear.

Lastly, the parish is running a **Lenten Reflection Group** on **Wednesday evenings at 6.00pm in the Majellan Room**. They will be following the '*Grace Lenten Program*' and part of this will involve **Fr Dean leading a Gospel reflection** for the coming Sunday. Families are more than welcome to be involved.

God bless.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Level Masses:

Prep and Years 5/6:

Thursday, 12th March at 9:15 (with Preps)

Other Important Dates for Term 1

Tuesday, 17th March:

St Patrick's Feast Day

Tuesday 17th March:

Students wear full school uniform with a touch of green for St Patrick's Day

Tuesday 17th March:

St Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral for a delegate of School Leaders representing our school

Tuesday 24th March:

The Passion at 2pm followed by Hot Cross Buns for parents afterwards

Tuesday 14th April:

Easter Assembly at 2:45pm

Sacrament Dates, 2020

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Information Night:

TBA

Confirmation:

Sunday 26th July, 6pm (Confirmed by Fr Brendan Hayes)

Reconciliation: (Grade 3)

First Reconciliation Information Night:

Thursday 16th July at 7pm

Reconciliation:

Thursday 13th August at 7pm

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Information Night:

Tuesday 12th May, 7pm

First Communion:

Saturday 13th 5:30pm

Sunday 14th June, 8:30am & 10:30am

The Passion

Please mark this significant event into your diaries and it's well worth taking time off work if needs be to witness The Passion.

Our faith journey with Jesus in Holy Week sees us remembering his last days and moments. It is a journey of jubilation, of anxiety and suffering, of humiliation and abandonment, of dying on a cross.

During the Passion we journey with Jesus towards the cross and prepare to welcome him into our presence.

The Passion will take place on Tuesday 24th March at 2pm, followed by Hot Cross Buns being served to parents.

Palm leaves needed:

If you have some palm leaves that can be used for props for The Passion, please bring them to Mrs Stack on Monday 23rd March.

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 your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.

St Patrick's Day Mass

On Tuesday 17th March a delegation of 10 school leaders from Year 6 will represent our school by attending Mass to celebrate St Patrick's Day at St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne. After Mass, we will walk to the Treasury Gardens to have lunch followed by a concert in the park.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

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 the Legion of Mary 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

Altar boy training sessions will resume on Thursday 13th February. After that the boys will be trained at **St Gerard's Church** each Thursday from **5.00-6.30pm** by Frederick Maroun, a senior Altar Server. If your son is in Year 4 or above and is interested in becoming an altar server or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Stack at the school office.

WELLBEING NEWS

Freaky Friday 13 March 2020 **NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY**



Join more than 350,000 students across Australia, who will ride, walk, scoot and skate to school.

Register your school at ride2school.com.au



What is SEL?

A sense of self, emotional skills and social skills are at the core of SEL.

Sense of self

Ideally, this involves feeling good about themselves and what they can do. As children and young people experience success in their efforts to interact with others and explore their world, they develop self-confidence and see themselves as capable. This motivates them to continue engaging in new experiences and feel optimistic about the future.

Emotional skills

Emotional skills include recognising, expressing, understanding and managing a wide range of feelings. These help children and young people develop the ability to interact successfully with others and the world around them. Children and young people who can understand and manage their feelings are more likely to develop a positive sense of self and be confident and curious learners.

Social skills

These skills are about getting along with others. Through their first relationships, children learn they can trust others to care for them and meet their needs. As they grow, children learn to relate to others by watching, imitating and trying out new behaviours. They begin to understand they can have an impact on others and that other children may have different thoughts and feelings from their own. These skills continue to grow, develop and become refined throughout childhood and adolescence.

WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D



We will be celebrating Harmony Day on Friday the 13th of March. Students are encouraged pack a lunch and wear clothing related to their cultural background. The students will begin their day with a Para liturgy followed by exciting activities planned by the teachers.

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

On Thursday, the Year 6 students had a wonderful experience on Pelican 1, a 62 foot sailing catamaran which became their classroom on the sea for the day. The students, through their 'teacher', Marine Educator Harry Breidhal, were educated on the importance of understanding and promoting environmental awareness around Port Phillip Bay.



OTHER NEWS

ST ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL

Market Night



FRIDAY 27TH MARCH, 2020 5-9PM
111 BAKERS ROAD DANDENONG NORTH

MARKET STALLS - AMUSEMENTS - FOOD TRUCKS
LIVE MUSIC - FREE ACTIVITY STATION - RAFFLE PRIZES

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