

St Gerard's Newsletter

Term 3, Week 4

7 August 2026



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Saint Mary MacKillop's core message centers on active, compassionate service, radical trust in God, and her famous maxim: "Never see a need without doing something about it."



Dear St Mary MacKillop,

Thank you for showing us how to love, care, and help others.

Teach us to be kind in our words,
generous in our actions,
and brave when things are difficult.

Help us to see Jesus in everyone we meet,
to be thankful for our families, teachers and friends
and to always do our best each day.

May we follow your example of faith, hope, and
compassion
and bring God's love to our school and community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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<https://www.facebook.com/stgerardsps>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

This Thursday saw us have three 'firsts' for Term 3.

Thursday started with our first **Ride/ Walk to School Day** for the term and as always it is pleasing to see so many families make the effort to get to school in an active fashion. Despite the cold weather, the amount of children arriving by foot or on wheels was wonderful. As I have stated previously, it is also great to see many of our children walking or riding on a regular basis.

A large number of children **joined with the parish Legion of Mary at our first Lunchtime break to pray the Rosary together**. This is always an inspiring activity as it brings us together with our parish and the willingness of our children to give up some of their playtime to celebrate their faith is fantastic. I would like to thank Ms Adrien and Mrs J for accompanying the children. We will gather again in 4 weeks time with the Legion of Mary so your child may wish to be involved at that time.

We also had the **first of 3 OPEN DAYS** for the Term on **Thursday**. If you know of any families that are looking for a school in 2027, I would appreciate it if you could please let them know. Also, **existing families that have a child starting school next year**, please contact the School Office so that we know that you require a place. There has been a high level of interest for Prep next year. The next OPEN Day is (next) Tuesday 11 August with the third one being on Wednesday 19 August.

A reminder that **when it is raining at the end of the day we allow parents to come and collect their children from their classrooms from 3.25pm**. This will hopefully lead to less congestion in the Office area and enable everyone to get home safely. All our other wet day dismissal procedures will remain the same.

Lastly, with the **Feast of the Assumption occurring next Saturday (15 August)**, we will have a focus on this significant celebration at our Friday Assembly (14 August) at 2.50pm. As always, families are more than welcome to come to Assembly and our Monday morning Meditation.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Key Dates

Term 3, 2026 Dates

August

- 10th 8:55 am Monday Meditation
- 11th OPEN Day
- 12th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 13th 8.30 - 8.40 am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 13th SUBWAY Lunch
- 17th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 19th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 19th OPEN Day
- 20th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 21st 2.50pm Assembly
- 24th 8.55am Monday Meditation
- 26th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 27th 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 28th Book Week Dress up Day and Assembly
- 31st 8.55am Monday Meditation

September

- **1st School Hats must be worn when outside**
- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 3rd 8.30 - 8.40am Before School Skipping in the Courtyard
- 3rd St John's Taster Day (Year 5 children)
- 3rd Walk/ Ride to School Day
- **4th Father's Day Breakfast from 8.00am**
- 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
- 18th Footy Day
- **18th End of Term 3 - school finishes at 3.30pm**

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..



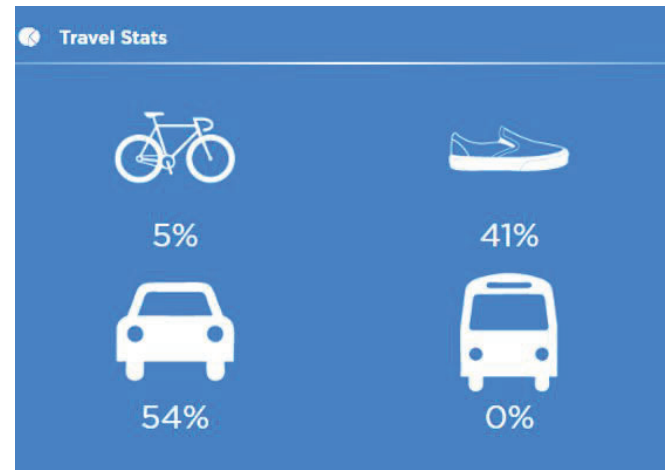
A big thank you to all the families who participated in Ride to School Day on Thursday 6th August. Congratulations to 1/2S who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

Well done to:

1st place- 1/2S with 66% riding, scooting or walking

2nd place- 5/6O with 61% riding, scooting or walking

3rd place- 3/4WL with 46% riding, scooting or walking



Reading before School

Reading Before School has started full steam ahead.

We had a very good turn out with parents and students reading to each other this week. Children receive a raffle ticket and go into a draw to win a prize. Students are encouraged to attend and read a book by themselves, to each other or with their families.





LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Week 4, August 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 YouTube Quiz Competition. It was wonderful to see everyone working together and using their knowledge to answer the questions. Students demonstrated excellent teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills throughout the competition.

Congratulations to our winning team, who achieved the highest score:

- 1st Place: Andrea, Harper, Nila and Thinuki.

Well done to all students for your fantastic effort, positive attitude, and encouragement of one another throughout the quiz!

A reminder that I will be checking for overdue library books next week (Week 5). Any students with overdue books at that time will unfortunately receive a strike, which may affect their borrowing privileges if books continue to be returned late. Please encourage your child to return any outstanding library books before next week's check. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping students care for and enjoy our library resources.



Miss Stephanie Adrien





LIBRARY CLUB



Week 4, August 2026



Miss Stephanie Adrien

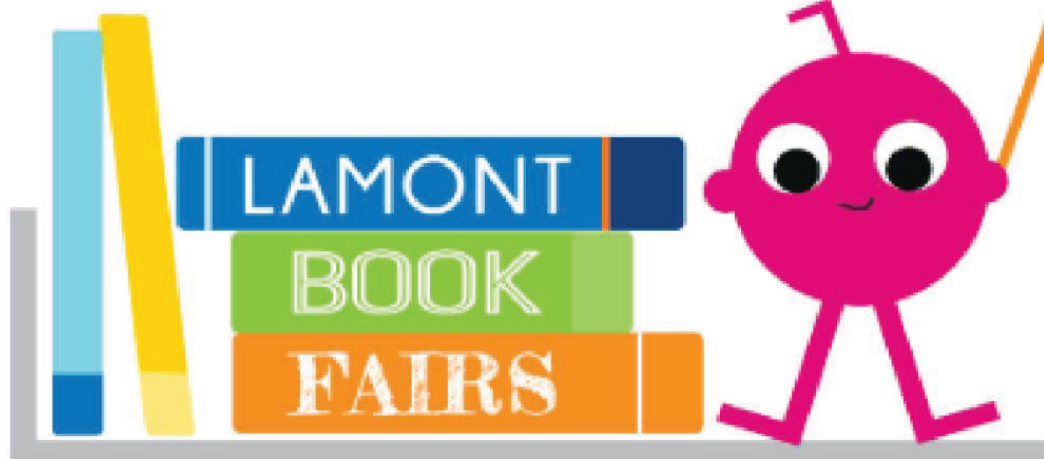


LAMONT BOOK FAIR

Coming soon,
Don't miss it! 1st
September - 9th
September

Every purchase
supports our school!

BOOKS FOR EVERYONE



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.

- ❖ GABRIEL FOUNDATION
- ❖ CARL YR 4



Thursday,
13 August 2026

Important Notes

Applications for **Year 7 2028** at Mazenod College will close on **Friday, 14 August 2026**.

Mazenod College
<https://www.mazenod.vic.edu.au/>

Click "**Apply Now**" to begin the application process.



ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

SERVICE CONTACT:
0402 192 685 (Marina) | sg@ylv.com.au

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