



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

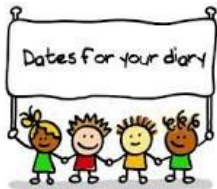


Term 1, Week 2

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

7 February 2020



Tuesday, 11 February

- 3 Way Conversations, 2:30 - 7 pm
- Running club commences

Wednesday, 12 February

- PLAYGROUP RESUMES
9am - 10:30am
- NO PREPS

Friday, 14 February

Assembly 2:45 pm

3 Way Conversations

Three way conversations are on Tuesday, 11 February between 2.30 pm and 7.00 pm. Appointment times are being sent home today with your child.

Meetings begin at 2.30 pm but students are dismissed at 3.30 pm on Tuesday.

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



Today our community gathered for our Beginning of the School Year celebration of the Eucharist as members of the Body of Christ. In our celebration, we asked God to bless us that we may grow together as we strive to reach our hopes and dreams, staying close to Jesus and following the greatest commandment of them all. We took heed while Fr Dean read the following Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples, 'My commandment is this: love one another just as I love you. The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. This, then, is what I command you: love one another.'

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of our first full week it is wonderful to walk around the school and see the children so settled and engaged. It has been the second week of our *Give Me 5* focus which has seen our children involved in a range of activities including a construction incursion called PLANKS, an AFL football clinic, an Information Technology exhibition from Dandenong Library and a cricket clinic. These activities provide our children with opportunities to experience and apply our principles of ***Be Spirit Filled, Be Your Best, Be Positive, Be Respectful and Be Cooperative***.

Another significant part of this week was our **Give Me 5 Night**. It was fantastic to see our families come together to create some delicious meals and enjoy each other's company. I saw all of our principles in action. The final scores were very close between all classes with 5/6VT our winners. **A big thank you to Mrs Fernandez** for all her work in making these 2 weeks so successful.

Today (Friday) we had our **Beginning of the School Year Mass** with Fr Dean celebrating with us for the first time. We also finished the week with our **Whole School Assembly**. As was mentioned last week, we will be having assembly **every Friday afternoon at 2.45pm in the PAC**. We will be reflecting on the week that has just finished, celebrating successes, recognising birthdays, praying together and singing our national anthem. **I am again extending an invitation to all families to come and be with us at this time of the week.**

Next Tuesday 11 February we have our **3 Way Conversations**. It is important at this stage of the year for our teachers, parents and children to come together so that everyone is able to positively impact your child's learning. Thank you to those families that have responded to the note that went home. If you haven't as yet I strongly encourage you to contact your child(ren's) teacher(s) to arrange a time.

At this stage there has been no further information or directive regarding the **Novel coronavirus**. Please be assured that if there is, it will be communicated to you as soon as possible. Let us all keep those affected in our prayers.

Families would have received their **School Fee Statements today**. Please note that if you have a **current Health Care Card you are entitled to a reduction**. If there are **families experiencing challenges** with regard to their fees please contact the Office to make an **appointment with myself so we can work through this together**.

Finally, the Gospel this week says: ***'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house.'*** This may be a challenge for all of us to share ourselves and our talents with our 'neighbour' and fits in with our Give Me 5 principles. What a perfect way to finish our focus of the last 2 weeks!

God Bless

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Whole School Mass

Wednesday, 26th February:

Ash Wednesday, 9:00am (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

Level Masses:

Years 1/2:

Thursday, 13th Feb at 9:15

Years 3/4:

Thursday, 20th Feb at 9:15

Prep and Years 5/6:

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

Calling for Soup Van Volunteers

Our St Vincent de Paul Soup Van volunteers will be celebrating the success of their first six weeks of operation in the St Gerard's Parish Hall on Sunday 9th Feb at 6pm. All prospective volunteers are welcome.

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering, please send an expression of interest to James Tudehope (St Gerard's Parish SVDP President Dandenong North Conference) at tadeu@bigpond.net.au.

Other Important Dates for Term 1

Tuesday 25th February:

Shrove Tuesday: Tuesday

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

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

GIVE ME 5 WEEK!

Every year each grade spend the first two weeks of school exploring our Give Me 5 values:

- Be Respectful
- Be Cooperative
- Be your Best
- Be Positive
- Be Spirit Filled

We do this because we think relationships are very important and we know we learn best if we are in a classroom where everyone is being respectful, co-operative, and positive, trying their best and trying to do the things God wants them to do. We know if we make good choices in the classroom and on the playground, we can learn and be happy at school.

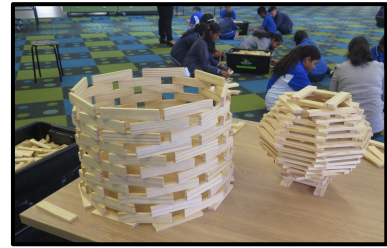
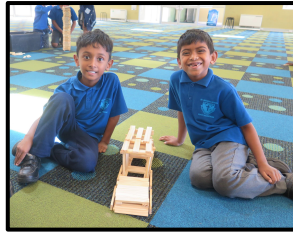
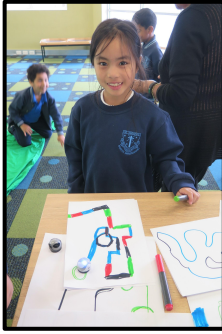
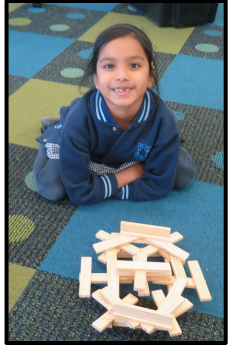
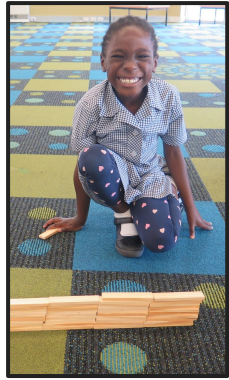
Kitchen Garden 3/4L



The Garden to Kitchen lessons will commence again on 14 February with 3/4L. If you would like to assist with these lessons please contact Anna Munro or Nicole Fernandez. We would love for you to join in! Lessons are Fridays between 11:45 - 1:40 pm. See class timetable below.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class</u>
14 February	3/4L
21 February	5/6VT
28 February	5/6O
6 March	NO LESSON
13 March	1/2FP
20 March	1/2B

WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D



GIVE ME 5 WEEK!





St Gerard's Primary School



Meet new and old friends.

Every Wednesday

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Come along and enjoy a cuppa while the children play

The only cost involved is a friendly smile.



**Resumes next
Wednesday,
12 February**

Located in the OSHC room

