



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



Term 2 Week 3

[www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)

03 97917553

7 May 2021

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated their birthday this week.

- Sherhom - 3/4 S
- Evolet - Prep
- Catherine D - 5/6 VT
- Mary - 3/4 C
- Jaskirat - 5/6 O

**School Photos**  
**Wednesday, 12 May**  
**Full winter uniform to be worn**



A big congratulations to Leah and Rhys on the safe arrival of their new baby girl, Dakota Rose.

A beautiful baby sister for our School Captain, Abby. What a special Mother's Day it will be for their family this Sunday!

*Loving God, you are always with us, holding us in your loving embrace. We place our mothers in your tender care and ask you to give us the strength we need to support them when they are weary, to show them compassion and kindness when they need it, and to have hearts full of love and gratitude for them.*

**Happy Mother's Day**  
**to all the Mothers and Grandmothers at**  
**St Gerard's**



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

We have had another week which provided a range of activities and opportunities for our students.

On Monday we had some children from Years 4, 5 and 6 participate in the **'Paul Wade Cup' Soccer Competition** which was conducted by **St John's Secondary College**. Paul attended St John's as a student and went on to Captain the Australian Soccer Team and have a very successful career. He was thrilled with the enthusiasm and skill of the children. Who knows, a future captain of Australia may have been playing! I would like to thank the students for the way they conducted themselves and represented our school and acknowledge St John's College for a well organised event.

Other opportunities this week concerned **Mother's Day**. We had **Dandenong South Bunnings** come and work with all our children on Tuesday to create a special gift for their mothers. Classes have also been creating other presents and rehearsing for their presentation at our **Mother's Day Assembly** which was held today (Friday). I would like to thank all the mothers and significant females in our students' lives who came to our **afternoon tea and assembly**. The sole focus of this event was to recognise and thank these very special people. I would like to acknowledge the work of **Mrs Fernandez** and **Mrs Stack** in coordinating the afternoon tea and assembly and **all teachers and students** for their efforts in making this such a wonderful occasion. Regardless of your age, mothers hold a very unique place in all our hearts and I hope and pray that all mothers are made to feel special on Sunday (and every other day!).

**Enrolments for Prep in 2022 are now open.** If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the School Office. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments**, however we are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we enrol our existing families as soon as possible.

**We are still seeing children dropped off or arriving at school before 8.30am which poses a safety threat as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds.** With the colder weather coming there is also the added health concerns of children being cold and potentially **getting wet**. I am therefore asking that families refrain from leaving their children unattended. **Our school gates are opened at 8.30am each morning.**

Lastly, our **Community Notice Boards** have a variety of flyers of local clubs and groups that may be of interest to your family. A list of these also appears in this newsletter.

God bless.

Paul Cowan  
Principal

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Sacrament Dates, 2021

Planning for all Sacraments is underway. More information will be forthcoming once details are confirmed.

**Please note that arrangements may change based on Federal and State Government health advice.**

### **First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)**

First Communion Reflection Day:

Tuesday, 1st June

First Communion:

Saturday 5th at 5:30pm & Sunday 6th June at 10:30am  
(Parish Mass Times)

First Communion Assembly:

Monday, 7th June, 2:50 pm, parents invited

### **Confirmation: (Grade 6)**

Confirmation Family Workshop:

Thursday, 13th May, 7pm

Confirmation Reflection Day:

Wednesday, 28th July

Confirmation:

Friday 30th July at 7pm (previously announced, Thursday 29th July)

Confirmation Assembly:

Friday 6th August, 2:40, parents invited

## Confirmation News:

Fr Shanthaiah has recently been given delegation to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation by Fr Brendan Hayes, Episcopal Vicar of the Southern Region of the Archdiocese. This indicates that Fr Shanthaiah will be able to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation instead of Fr Hayes allowing us to celebrate Confirmation within the Mass, which would previously have not been the case.

Confirmation will now be celebrated on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7pm (instead of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July as previously announced).

## Whole School Masses:

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Our Lady Help of Christians at 9:15 am

Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15 (Adoration available throughout the day)

## Level Masses:

Years P/3/4:

Years 5/6:

Thursday 6th May

Thursday 10th June (while on camp)

## Other Important Dates:

National Sorry Day:

Wednesday, 26th May

National Sorry Day Assembly:

Friday, 28th May at 2:50 pm (lead by Social Justice Team)

Refugee Week:

Refugee Week 20th to 26th June 2020

Refugee Week Assembly:

Friday, 25th June at 2:30 pm (lead by Social Justice Team)

## Project Compassion Thank You

Thank you for your generous donations to Project Compassion allowing Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

The winning class that raised the most money for Project Compassion is 5/6O who will be able to wear casual dress on a date TBA.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

## Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

This Winter Vinnies Appeal will provide emergency relief to people at risk and experiencing homelessness. Your donation will help our Vinnies volunteers to rebuild lives. Once again we'll aim to have our food cart to be filled to the brim for the St Vincent De Paul Winter appeal. The social justice leaders collect food from week two and the collection will finish on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The class that brings in the most items will win a casual dress day. Please donate to this worthwhile appeal.

## 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 this term. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.



### Junior Legion of MARY

*Legion of Mary would like to invite children and their mothers to attend any Mass on Sunday where they will receive a Mother's Day gift.. They look forward to seeing you there.*

The Legion of MARY celebrates 100 years (1921-2021) worldwide. Therefore a huge celebration is planned in September in Dandenong for this region. We are therefore appealing to all young people of St Gerards Primary School to enrol in the Monday Junior Praesidium 4-5pm; so that we can be well- represented. We meet at the Library( the brown Building in the carpark) . Phone Jenny 0413 663 886

## WELLBEING NEWS

### KITCHEN GARDEN DATES TERM 2

Week	Class
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May @ 12:45- 1:45	5/6O
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May @ 12:45- 1:45	1/2L
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May @ 12:45- 1:45	5/6VT
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June @ 12:45- 1:45	3/4S
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> June @ 12:45- 1:45	3/4C



This week 1/2FP enjoyed their second Garden lesson. The students prepared a few of the garden beds for new seedlings, planted new seedlings and learnt about harvesting seeds and the life cycle of a seed. The students also shared their garden session with the chickens. We had to make sure that the chickens were not pulling out our newly planted seedlings.

Have a look at some of the fun we had in the garden.

## WELLBEING NEWS



On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May we will hold our fifth **Garden Market Stall** for 2021.

The Environmental leaders will be selling fresh rosemary, parsley seeds, plants and eggs straight from the garden. We will also be selling delicious homemade tomato chutney, passata (tomato puree) and apricot jam which has been generously donated by one of our beautiful mums and Rob!

The market will be open from 3:15pm.

## OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

This week the students enjoyed a visit from Bunnings Warehouse. Anne and Leanne from Bunnings Warehouse assisted the students with decorating a pot and planting a plant for their mum or special person.

A big thank you to Bunning's Warehouse for visiting our school!



## Mother's Day Assembly



Hello! My name is Alessia. I am a member of the SRC and we have put together The Basketball Club. Some other SRC members helping with our club are Martin, Ariana and Elaine. Our first session was held on May 3rd 2021 at 2nd lunch. Our club will help students learn new skills, make new friends and of course, have fun. Our first session included: Fruit Salad, dribbling with a Basketball, dribble knockout and a game of Numbers. Once the students have the hang of these skills we will advance to other activities. Have a look at some of the fun we had on Monday!



## Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

### What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

### Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

### What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

### **What sort of help does the school give students?**

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

### **How will the NCCD be different this year?**

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

### **What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?**

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

### **What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?**

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

### **Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?**

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

### **Where can I find out more?**

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).