



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 4 Week 1

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

8 October 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to those students and staff who have celebrated their birthdays during the school holidays and this past week!

- Anointed - 1/2FP
- Antonette - 5/6VT
- Indiana - 3/4S
- Duane - 5/6O
- Ms Brown
- Ms Munro
- Mrs Zelic



During World Mission Month, which is celebrated each year in October, Pope Francis speaks of an opportunity to recall with gratitude all who by their lives help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel.

Let us remember especially all those who have resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all those places and people who thirst for its saving message.

*God of Love,
Through our baptism, your Spirit sends us on mission.
Your Sacred Word teaches us to reach beyond ourselves.
Make us generous of heart that we might see and respond.
May the needy ones in our midst know the joy of the Gospel
Through the care and kindness that we can give.
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord
And in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



A New Future With STEM

St Gerard's Primary - Special Event
Wednesday 10 November at 6:00pm via Zoom

This special event is an excellent opportunity to discover all of the opportunities on offer for Year 7 to Year 12 students, including the **New STEM building** (Opening 2022)

Register today!
www.trybooking.com/BUDOZ
or scan the QR Code



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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,
Welcome to Term 4!
I hope that this newsletter finds you all safe, well and ready for a great term.

With the State Government announcements regarding Term 4, we now have a **plan for our students transitioning to Onsite Learning**. This 2 week transition phase starts on Monday 18 October and will see all our students together again on Friday 5 November. Information was sent out via Seesaw earlier this week with the schedule for each year level. A copy of all year level schedules is also contained in this newsletter.

As part of this transition, we had previously advertised a **School Closure Day for Thursday 21 October**. As this is the first Onsite Learning day for our Year 1/2 students we have decided to **cancel this closure day**. For all other year levels this will be a day of Remote Learning. More information with regards to onsite procedures will be sent out next week but one item that will need to come with all students will be their school hat!

Our **Give Me 5 focus** for this week was to **Be Your Best**. While this is always important, I would encourage all our students to focus on this over the next few weeks. This will go a long way in helping them to continue with their learning.

Our school is participating in **Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)**. MACSSIS is an annual process whereby schools listen to the thoughts and feelings students, families and staff have about how their school can improve. These surveys help inform the ongoing improvement of schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Please look out for an email next week with your family's code for the parent survey. Students will complete their survey when they return to Onsite Learning. I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in anticipation.

Enrolments for Prep in 2022 are 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**. We are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we enrol our existing families as soon as possible.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns please contact me via Seesaw, email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au or phone 9791 7553.
I am looking forward to a wonderful Term 4.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

First Communion and Confirmation

Proposed new dates for First Communion and Confirmation are expected to be announced soon.

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.

Important Dates for Term 4

Friday, 15th October	Whole School Talent Quest to celebrate our Feast Day, sent via Vimeo link
Saturday, 16th October	St Gerard's Feast Day
Friday 29th October	Mission Month Assembly (led by the Social Justice team)
Monday, 1st November	All Saints Day
Tuesday, 2nd November	All Souls Day
Thursday, 11th November	Remembrance Day, one minute silence
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



"I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world. We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing."



What's mindfulness?

Mindfulness involves training our attention and attitude.

Being mindful means awareness of your own moment-to-moment internal and external experiences, with gentleness and acceptance and without judgment.

It's a state of being that encourages us to slow down, focus on the present, accept things as they are, and act with discernment. When we do this, we're less distracted by thoughts of the future and the past, which can often make us worry and stop us from enjoying the present moment.

What does it mean to be unmindful?

To better understand what it means to be mindful, it helps to understand what it means to be 'unmindful'. When we're inattentive, distracted and disengaged from the present moment, the mind habitually and unconsciously slips into what's called 'default mode' – we're physically doing one thing but the mind is somewhere else. For example, someone might be speaking to us, but we're not listening, or we might be reading a book but not taking in the words on the page.

Much default mental activity involves things such as worry or rumination about the past and future, which is one of the main reasons there's so much default mental activity in states like anxiety and depression.

Mindfulness is very simple

It's a practical way to notice thoughts, physical sensations, sights, sounds, smells, or anything that you might not normally notice. The moment we re-engage attention with the present moment, we switch off default mode. It gets us back on task, helps the body to relax, and helps us to respond to the moment. Despite this simplicity, mindfulness doesn't come easily to us.

You've probably noticed that children and young people are much better at being mindful – it's natural to them. While we might be hurrying them to get to school on time, they'll stop to look at butterflies, flowers or bugs and be immersed in that moment, with no worries about the past or future. As adults, however, we're often thinking about what we need to do next or what we wish we'd done differently.



Student Representative Council Meeting

The next SRC meeting will be held on
Monday 11th October at 1pm.
This meeting will be conducted online.

FAMILY COOKING

Cook a meal with your family, write a short description of what you made and send photos of yourself and your family cooking together.

Or take a photo of your garden to show our community what is growing in your backyard at the moment.

Email your photos to Mrs Fernandez at nfernandez@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au.



WELLBEING NEWS



Whole School Pyjama Day!

Next Tuesday, 12 October we will be having a fun Pyjama Day!!

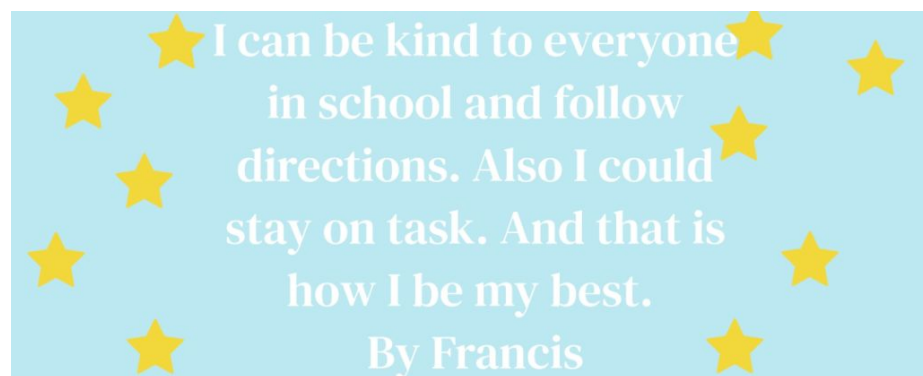
All students are encouraged to participate by wearing their pyjamas all day.

GIVE ME FIVE WEEK

This week our whole school focus was to Be Your Best at home and school. Have a look at some of our students being their best.



Diora is being her best at home by being a good and happy baby. She patiently waits for her milk and mum and dad to change her nappy. She's learning lots of new things everyday. She can wave goodbye, dance, clap and do open shut with her hands. She also babbles a lot.

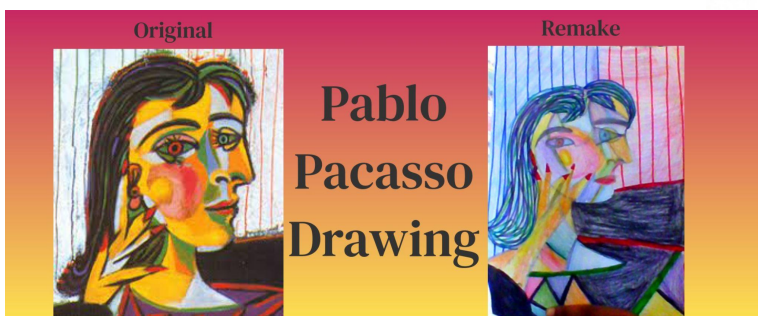


I can be my best by sharing and taking turns in games. Also when you do not win you do not be angry you have to say good game. When your playing a game be kind and happy in game.



Junior School Art

In art this week the junior classes created these beautiful spring blossom tree.



Senior School Art

The senior classes explored the art of Pablo Picasso and created some fantastic Picasso inspired drawings.

Transition to onsite learning

Prep

Day and Date	Onsite Learning	Remote Learning
Monday 18 October	😊	
Tuesday 19 October	😊	
Wednesday 20 October	😊	
Thursday 21 October		😊
Friday 22 October		😊
Monday 25 October	😊	
Tuesday 26 October	😊	
Wednesday 27 October	😊	
Thursday 28 October		😊
Friday 29 October		😊
Monday 1 November	School Closure Day	
Tuesday 2 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Wednesday 3 November	😊	
Thursday 4 November		😊
Friday 5 November	😊 Onsite Learning every day from this date 😊	

Year 1/2

Day and Date	Onsite Learning	Remote Learning
Monday 18 October		😊
Tuesday 19 October		😊
Wednesday 20 October		😊
Thursday 21 October	😊	
Friday 22 October	😊	
Monday 25 October		😊
Tuesday 26 October		😊
Wednesday 27 October		😊
Thursday 28 October	😊	
Friday 29 October	😊	
Monday 1 November	School Closure Day	
Tuesday 2 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Wednesday 3 November		😊
Thursday 4 November	😊	
Friday 5 November	😊 Onsite Learning every day from this date 😊	

Year 3/4

Day and Date	Onsite Learning	Remote Learning
Monday 25 October		😊
Tuesday 26 October	😊	
Wednesday 27 October	😊	
Thursday 28 October		😊
Friday 29 October		😊
Monday 1 November	School Closure Day	
Tuesday 2 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Wednesday 3 November	😊	
Thursday 4 November		😊
Friday 5 November	😊 Onsite Learning every day from this date 😊	

Year 5/6

Day and Date	Onsite Learning	Remote Learning
Monday 25 October		😊
Tuesday 26 October		😊
Wednesday 27 October		😊
Thursday 28 October	😊	
Friday 29 October	😊	
Monday 1 November	School Closure Day	
Tuesday 2 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Wednesday 3 November		😊
Thursday 4 November	😊	
Friday 5 November	😊 Onsite Learning every day from this date 😊	