



# St Gerard's Primary School

## NEWSLETTER



**Term 1 Week 1**

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

**03 97917553**

**4th February 2022**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to those students and staff who have celebrated their birthday this past few week:!

- Chris - 5O
- Richard - 5O
- Ella - 5O
- Aditey - 4T
- Levi - 6O
- Joy - 1L
- Gabriel - 3S
- Alfie - 2L
- Antonia - 3S
- Evelyn - 1L
- Victoria - 2L
- Eva - 6O
- Yohannes - Prep
- Ezekiel - 2L
- Thichot - 6O
- Jake - 4T
- Karen - 5O
- Lachlan - 4T
- Mia - 1L
- Lavia - Prep
- Jehan - 3S
- Petro - 6O
- Sajin - 2L
- Natalia - Prep

### 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



@st.gerards3175



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



Fr Shanthaiah led the Beginning of the School Year Blessing with School and Liturgy Captains.

### Subway Lunch Are Back

Families will have the opportunity to order a Subway lunch for their children this term for Shrove Tuesday. More details about how to place your order will be shared with families early this term.

### A Short School Prayer

Amighty God

We give you our school.

We give you all the teachers and Staff who work here,  
We give you all the children who study here.

We pray our school would be place of great  
Discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,  
A place where everyone is respected and All are deeply valued.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

Welcome to the 2022 school year!

I hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas and holiday and are ready for a fantastic year of learning with us at St Gerard's.

I would like to congratulate our students for the **positive way they have started the year**. It was great to see our children come through the gates on Monday with big smiles and plenty of enthusiasm. We welcomed our Preps which always brings so much joy and excitement to our school. It is a significant step in a child's (and their families) life and it was beautiful to see some of our older students walking hand in hand with their Prep siblings. In addition to our Preps, we have some other new children starting with us. It is always wonderful to have new members added to the **'St Gerard's family'**. In addition to new students and families, I would like to welcome two new staff members. **Mr Jon Bode** will be delivering our **Performing Arts Program** on Mondays and **Ms Josie Ferraro** will be working in our **School Office** on Tuesdays and Fridays. I am sure you would join me in **welcoming all these children, their families and staff to our community**.

We have had the first of our **Give Me 5** weeks. This has provided our students with the opportunity to build and strengthen their relationships with their new classmates and teacher(s). They have experienced our **Give Me 5 principles** of **Be Spirit Filled, Be Respectful, Be Cooperative, Be Positive** and **Be Your Best** through a variety of activities. Students have participated in a **gardening** session with the support of Bunnings, an **AFL clinic** and **KABOOM Kid Sports** had the whole school active. It has been wonderful to see the engagement of our children and I would like to thank **Ms Nicole Fernandez** for her organisation and coordination of this week.

**The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our first priority at St Gerard's.**

As communicated previously, we have a range of strategies as part of our **COVID Safe Procedures and Protocols**. Some of these strategies are: **additional daytime cleaning, increased ventilation, regular handwashing and hand sanitisation, maintaining class bubbles** and **conducting Meditation** and **Assemblies online**. Students were also provided with **Rapid Antigen Tests (RATS)** on Monday which will enable them to be tested twice each week. If families have concerns or questions at any stage, please feel free to contact me by phone: 9791 7553, email: [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) or Seesaw.

Finally, our **uniform supplier will be moving to online orders**. The **uniform shop at school will be open next Monday 7 February from 8.30am - 10.00am**. This will be the last day of purchases at school. Please see details of how to order online in this newsletter.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year.

Continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan

# UNIFORM SHOP ONLINE ORDERS



**AGS PRINTS Pty Ltd**  
Wholesalers of Quality Schoolwear & Uniforms  
In House Design & Printing  
[www.aplusschoolwear.com.au](http://www.aplusschoolwear.com.au)

BOR NO: 2010 / 2532

ADDRESS: 133 BAKERS ROAD  
NORTH COBURG  
VIC, 3058

PHONE: 03 9354 8345  
FAX: 03 9354 5777  
E-MAIL: [info@agsprints.com.au](mailto:info@agsprints.com.au)

**Please note the following changes in relation to uniform purchases for St Gerard's Primary School:**

**Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:**

## **Option 1 - Online Order**

### **Access to our Online Ordering System**

1. [www.aplusschoolwear.com.au](http://www.aplusschoolwear.com.au)
2. Go to **SHOP ONLINE NOW** (red box)
3. Select your school
4. Uniform listing with images will appear.

Select items you are wishing to purchase:

Style  
Size  
Colour  
Quantity  
Add items to bag

5. Once all items are added to bag, proceed to checkout.
6. Select delivery options
  - a. Pick up from school (free) in comments section please enter your child's name and class
  - b. Pick up from A Plus Schoolwear (free)
  - c. Postal address (delivery charges will apply)
7. Either checkout as guest, returning customer or create a new account.

**Orders placed by Sunday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday**

## **Option 2 - Fill out the order form and leave it at the school office.**

**Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday**

## **RETURNS**

Can be given to the school office and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus School wear.

**Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact A Plus Schoolwear**

**9354 8345 or email [angie@agsprints.com.au](mailto:angie@agsprints.com.au)**



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Beginning of School Year Paraliturgy Via Google Meet:

Today we welcomed our returning students and staff at our Beginning of the School Year Paraliturgy. We welcomed our new staff, new students and parents, and especially our new Prep children all of whom bring new energy, gifts and life to our school community.

The last two years have challenged us as a community and individually, diminishing our dreams and aspirations and, at times, reducing our hope to a thin thread.

What helps us to go on and not give up has been the constant presence of a God who holds us, a God who sustains us, a God who loves us, a God who gives us hope.

As Christians we are called to bring God's hope to others, to show them a generous hand and a kind heart, to help them believe in a future perhaps not one that they planned but one in which they can find joy and pleasure.

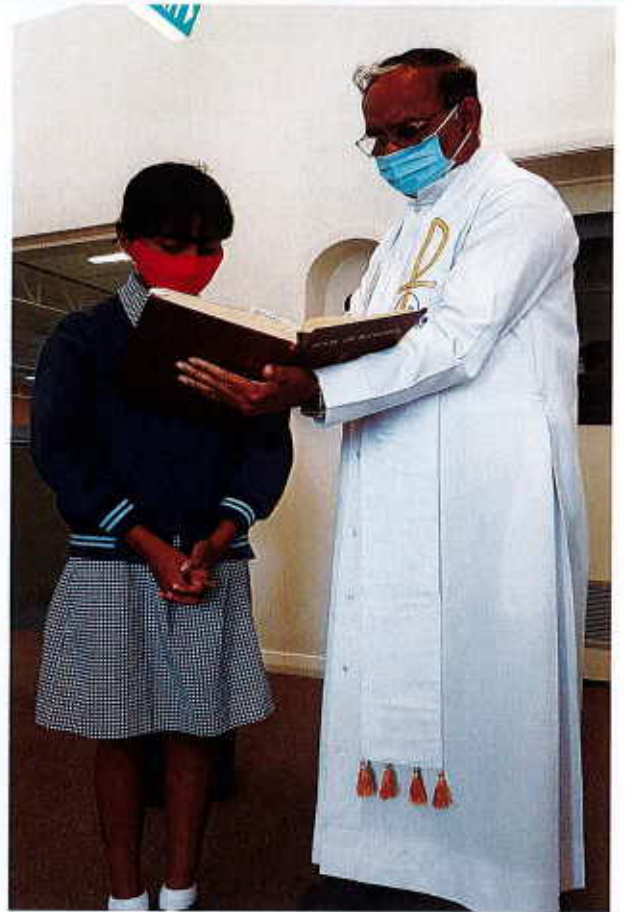
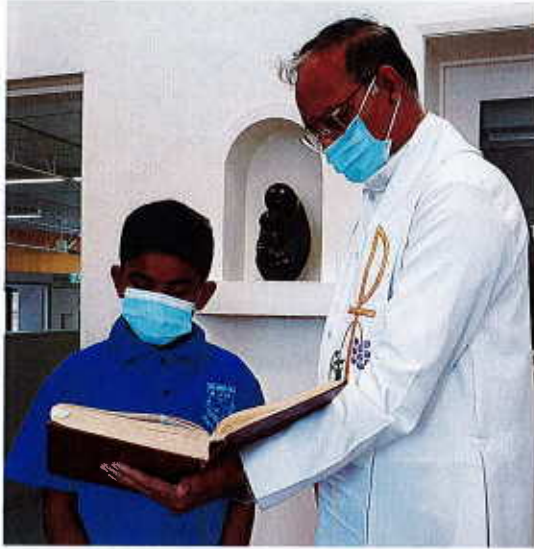
## Beginning of School Year Blessing:



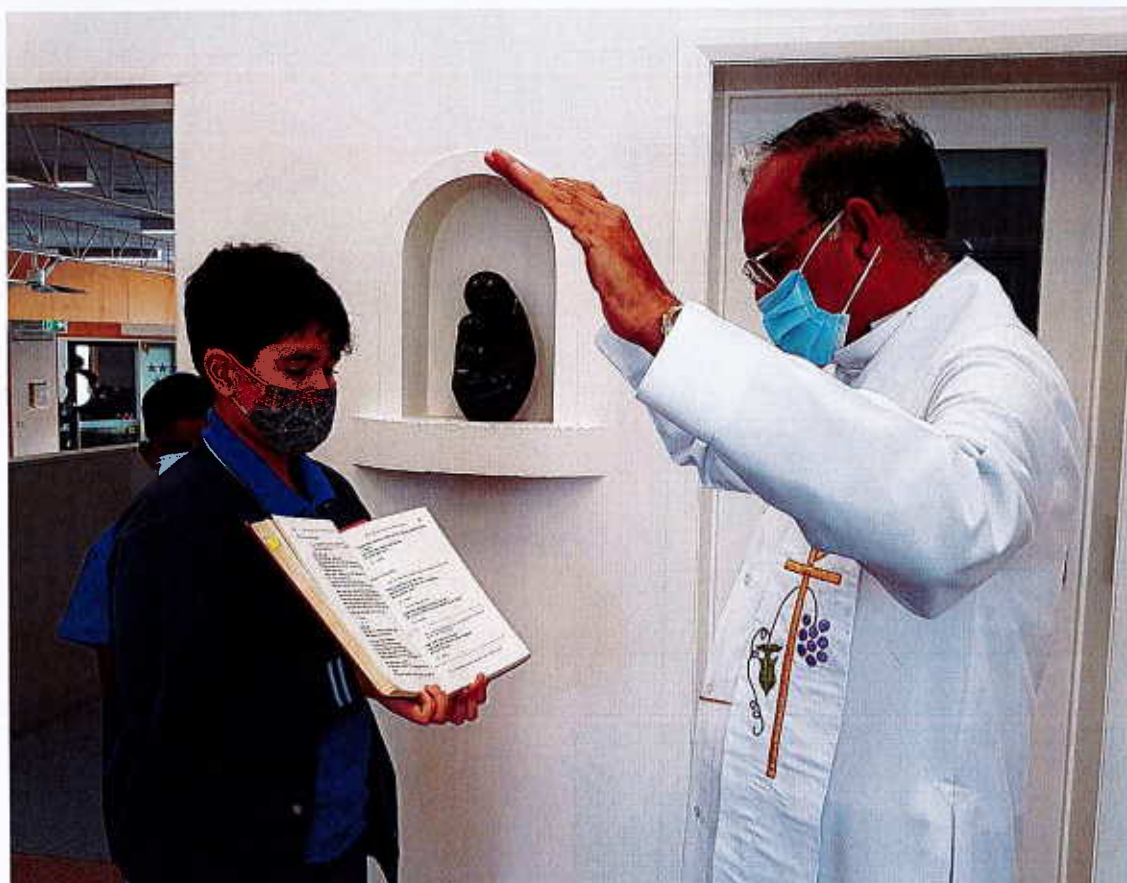


# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Beginning of School Year Blessing:







## Class Mass

This year we will be introducing Class Masses. Each class will prepare a Mass which is an opportunity to encourage the involvement of all in the co-design and organisation of prayer within our St Gerard's community.

4/5T:	Thursday 10th March
3S:	Thursday 24th March
5/6O:	Thursday 7th April
Prep B:	TBA for Term 2
1/2FW:	TBA for Term 2
1/2L:	TBA for Term 2

## Important Dates for Term 1

Friday 4th February:	Beginning of School Year Paraliturgy
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February:	Give Me Five Whole School Assembly, Prayer Mats presented
Tuesday 1st March:	Shrove Tuesday, Subway Lunch for students who pre-order
Wednesday 2nd March:	Ash Wednesday: Ashes will be distributed in the classrooms
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March:	St Patrick's Feast Day, students wear full school uniform with a touch of green
Week 10:	The Passion (Time and date TBA)
16th April:	Bishop Ireland will celebrate Easter Vigil at St Gerard's (Time TBA)

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Sacrament Dates, 2022

### **First Reconciliation: (Grade 3)**

First Reconciliation Family Workshop:	Thursday 17th February, 7pm
First Reconciliation Reflection Day:	Wednesday 15th March
First Reconciliation:	Friday 18th March at 7pm
First Reconciliation Assembly:	Friday 25th March at 2:50pm

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

First Communion:	TBA
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### **Confirmation: (Grade 6)**

Confirmation Information Night:	TBA
Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland Visit:	Thursday 19th May, 9:15am
Confirmation:	Saturday 21st May, 5:30pm

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.



## Give Me Five 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.



## Incursions during Give Me 5 Week

This week the students participated in an AFL clinic on Tuesday, Kaboom Sports incursion on Wednesday and on Thursday planted beautiful flowers and herbs which were generously donated by Bunnings Warehouse. Have a look at some of the fun we had!





# WELLBEING NEWS



All students from Prep to 6 will be participating in the following fun activities next week...

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February- Ride 2 School Active Maps Workshop

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February- Wildlife Exposure incursion

Friday- Whole school picnic and Give Me 5 assembly

## DID YOU KNOW? Facts from the Be You website

### How do decision-making skills develop?

Children and young people's decision-making is strongly influenced by the expectations and values they learn from those around them.



This occurs when they:

- observe others (particularly those close to them)
- hear about and discuss values
- have opportunities to make choices and experience their consequences.

Young children regularly choose how they'll behave, which toys or games they'd like to play with, which books they would like to read, or which television shows they want to watch. As they get older, children make bigger decisions that often involve their family, friends and schoolwork. The kinds of choices children and young people make affect their wellbeing, relationships and success.

Young children have some skills for making decisions, but they don't yet have the experience to understand complex adult situations. As their brain grows, a child is more able to hold things in their mind and remember what they've learned. They also improve the way they manage their thinking and feelings, control impulsive behaviour, think about time and plan ahead, and evaluate long-term versus short-term goals. All these skills help children become better at taking action and keeping things on track.



# Walk or Ride To School

**Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022**



**Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February is a Ride to School Day. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school from home or from a nearby drop off point. If your child doesn't normally walk to school, you could do this together.**

**Students who ride are given a sticker and the class who has the most students riding or walking get to keep our Ride to School trophy in their classroom for that month.**

**Students can ride bikes, skateboards or scooters.**

**They must wear a helmet at all times.**

**Upon arrival at school, students must hop off their bike or scooter and lock up their bike or scooter in our bike parking area.**