

# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



Term 1 Week 5

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

03 97917553

4th March 2022



Happy birthday to those students and staff who have and who will celebrate their birthday this week:!

- Martin - Year 6

## 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/stgerardsps>



## Ash Wednesday

Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday. It marked the beginning of Lent, which lasts for six weeks. We call it Ash Wednesday because many, many Christians around the world receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads.

Ashes are a sign of sorrow and repentance and God's people have used this sign for hundreds of years. This cross of ashes tells our friends and neighbours that we are not perfect, and that we know we are not perfect.

It also reminds us that we are followers of Jesus and we believe that God is always with us. We can be hope-filled people who encourage, inspire and support others by being optimistic and cheerful whilst acknowledging that life is difficult for many people at the moment.

Let us become beacons of hope to others.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

I was talking to one of our students on Wednesday after school who was telling me how excited they were about this week. They named Tuesday's Subway lunch and our Ash Wednesday Liturgy as 2 highlights as well as telling me how much they were looking forward to going to Nazareth Secondary College for a 'taster day' on Thursday and our whole school Athletics Carnival on Friday. This was wonderful to hear and reinforced the importance of providing a wide variety of learning experiences for our children.

The Church season of **Lent** began on Wednesday with our school coming together outside in the courtyard for our **Ash Wednesday Liturgy**. I would like to thank some of our Year 6 Leaders and students from other classes who coordinated and led aspects of this celebration under the guidance of Mrs Stack. This time of **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving** are key aspects of our faith and the perfect preparation for Easter.

Yesterday (Thursday) our Year 5 students went to Nazareth College for a 'taster day'. This provided them with an insight into what Nazareth has to offer and more generally how secondary school differs from primary school. The children had a wonderful day and represented our school well.

Today we held our annual **Athletics Carnival** at Knox Athletics track. This was a great day with our students displaying their sporting skills as well as school spirit. It was wonderful to see our children cheer on and support each other. Congratulations to those children that will now represent our school later in the year at inter-school events. **A huge thank you to Mrs Wilson for her coordination of the day and to the parents who helped the day run smoothly.**

Last week, **School Fee Accounts** were sent home along with information on payment options and possible discounts. **Please contact Ms Rachel Thoms in the office if you have any questions regarding these accounts or options.** If your family is experiencing financial challenges please phone 9791 7553 or email myself [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) to organise a meeting with myself **so we can work together to achieve a positive outcome.**

Finally, as I mentioned last week, to avoid **traffic congestion** occurring in the lead up to our end of day dismissal, **I am asking families that arrive before 3.20pm to park in the carpark rather than join the drop off line.** This creates a backlog of cars which causes issues in McNab Court. I thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community and neighbours safe.

Continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS





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## 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.

5/6O:	Thursday 10th March
3S:	Tuesday 22nd March
4/5T:	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

Tuesday 1st March: Shrove Tuesday, Subway Lunch for students who pre-order.

Wednesday

2nd March:

Ash Wednesday: Ashes will be distributed in the classrooms.

Wednesday

17<sup>th</sup> March:

St Patrick's Feast Day, students wear full school uniform with a touch of green.

Week 10:

16th April:

The Passion (Time and date TBA)

Bishop Ireland will celebrate Easter Vigil at St Gerard's (Time TBA)

## Sacrament Dates, 2022

### First Reconciliation: (Grade 3)

First Reconciliation Reflection Day:

Tuesday 15th March

First Reconciliation:

Thursday 17th March at 7pm (previously 18th March)

First Reconciliation Assembly:

Friday 25th March at 2:50pm

### First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion:

TBA

### 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.





## P-2 Family Literacy Night

Tuesday, March 22 · 7:00 – 8:00pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ndj-uqce-svv>

An email has been sent to your child's email address

Learning never stops so all readers and writers need to PRACTICE!  
PRACTICE! PRACTICE! everyday. Come to the meet with your child and  
get some tips to coach your CHAMPION learner!

Take away pack sent home on the day!!!



Surprise  
Reader

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Parents and teachers collaborating to  
provide an effective learning community  
for our children!

## Give Me 5 News

Students who display the expectations present on the school Matrix are rewarded with a raffle ticket from their classroom teacher. Once a month the raffle tickets from each class are collected and drawn during the Friday assembly.

The raffle tickets will be drawn on Friday 11th March during next week's assembly.

Good luck to all of our amazing students!

This week and the next the whole school will be focusing on Being Spirit Filled.

Have a look at some of our students and staff being Spirit Filled during our Ash Wednesday Paraliturgy.



### **Look after yourself**

Make time to look after yourself so you're in a better position to support those around you. Children and young people's emotions can be affected by how adults are feeling.

Try to maintain your routines, know your limits, debrief with trusted family or friends and try to do things you enjoy to manage your stress levels.

The Be You website provides information on [wellbeing tools](#) and how to practise [mindfulness](#), which can help with stress management.

# 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)

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)**



# Community Notice Board

Finally, we have requests from a number of community groups to promote their activities and services. Flyers are placed on our **Community Notice Boards** located in the courtyard and a current list is contained in this newsletter.

- ❖ Lyndale United Football Club (Soccer)
- ❖ Dandenong Basketball
- ❖ Soccer 5's
- ❖ Noble Park Community Centre Art Show
- ❖ Noble Park Junior Football Club (AFL)
- ❖ Swimland Swim Club



## OPEN EVENING

22 MARCH 2022

**Session 1**  
4:00 - 5:30 pm

**Session 2**  
5:30 - 7:00 pm

**Session 3**  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

### Explore the difference a Nazareth education provides

The Nazareth College Open Evening is a great opportunity for the whole family to experience all our College has to offer. You will hear from our Principal, Mr Sam Cosentino, view performances and demonstrations from several learning areas as well as have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss important aspects of the College with key members of our staff.

Registrations essential  
[www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/enrolments/school-tours](http://www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/enrolments/school-tours)



Nazareth College is a Catholic Co-educational Secondary School where all students are known and have the opportunity to succeed.



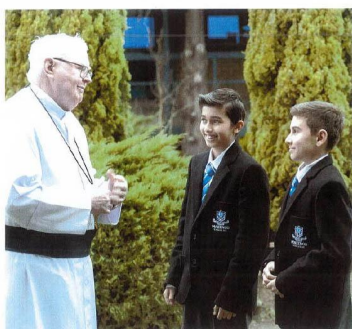
ENROLMENT INFO



BOOK A TOUR

[www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/enrolments/enrolment-process](http://www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/enrolments/enrolment-process)

MAZENOD COLLEGE OPEN DAY



Tuesday 29th March 2022  
4.00pm - 8.00pm (Last tour 7.30pm)  
**MAZENOD COLLEGE**  
5 Kernot Avenue, Mulgrave, Victoria

Visit our website to make your reservation:  
[www.mazenod.vic.edu.au](http://www.mazenod.vic.edu.au)

Year 7/2024 Applications Close  
Friday 19th August 2022

t: (03) 9560 0911  
e: [frontdesk@mazenod.vic.edu.au](mailto:frontdesk@mazenod.vic.edu.au)



## A New Future With STEM

**School Tours**  
**EVERY Thursday at 9.15am**

We invite you to tour our College to discover the opportunities for students from Year 7 to 12 including the **New STEM building (Opening 2022)**

Register today for your guided tour and meet the Principal  
[www.sjrc.vic.edu](http://www.sjrc.vic.edu)  
or scan the QR Code

