

St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 1 Week 7

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

18th March 2022



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

- Alessia Yr 6
- Jona Yr 4
- Dominique Yr 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



First Reconciliation Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last night:

Dhanya, Akash, Elijah, Edwin, Ariana, Lemilo, Ethan, Antonia, Chelsea and Francis.

They encountered God's love and mercy in this beautiful Sacrament!

A Prayer for our Reconciliation Candidates

Loving God, help us to teach our children that you love us totally and unconditionally.

Help us to encourage our children to grow in love and to learn how to say sorry, knowing that you always forgive. Give us the courage to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



@st.gerards3175



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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

I hope you have had a wonderful week. Here at school we have again provided lots of opportunities for our children to learn, grow and develop.

Our Year 3 children celebrated the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for the first time last night (Thursday). It was great to see them engage with this important aspect of our faith and the support and pride expressed by their families was wonderful to see. I would like to thank Mrs Stack for her leadership and coordination and Ms Sonno for her work in preparing our children.

We started our **4 week Auskick program** which is being run on **Wednesday afternoons at school from 3.30pm - 4.30pm**. There was a lot of enthusiasm and the children were fully involved in all the activities, as were some of their parents! This is a great chance to develop some AFL skills while working with others. We have also invited Emerson School to be part of this program and it was lovely to see the children mix and work together.

This afternoon (Friday) we had our **Year 6 Leadership ceremony** with our student leaders being presented with their badges that had been blessed by Fr Shanthaiah. While leadership is more than just wearing a badge, it is important to recognise the children that have been voted into these roles by their peers. **These children have already made a positive impact on our school** and we look forward to watching them grow into their roles over the course of the year.

Information was sent out regarding our school having a **COVID Vaccination Pop up clinic** next **Thursday 24 March**. This will be in the PAC and there will be exclusive access for the school community from **2.00pm - 4.00pm** and then from **4.00pm - 7.00pm** for the general public. This provides an opportunity for our school and the wider community to keep us all safe and healthy.

A reminder that our school gates are opened at **8.30am** each morning. If children arrive or are dropped at school before this time there is a genuine safety concern as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds. Also when it is raining there is no shelter. Therefore I am asking families to drop their children off after 8.30am or wait with them until the gates are opened. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Finally, **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 principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au to organise a meeting with myself so we can work together to achieve a positive outcome.

Continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Important Dates for Term 1

Week 10:	The Passion (Time and date TBA)
16th April:	Bishop Ireland will celebrate Easter Vigil at St Gerard's (Time TBA)

Sacrament Dates, 2022

First Reconciliation: (Grade 3)

First Reconciliation Assembly:	Friday 25th March at 2:50pm
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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.



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!

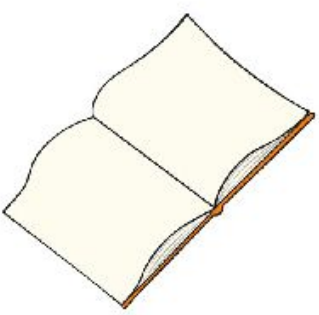

Take away pack sent home on the day!!!



Surprise
Reader



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 were drawn on Friday 11th of March and the following lucky winners will had a special treat this week:

1. Bethany
2. Edwin
3. Gabriel
4. Jorma
5. Azalea
6. Azaria



Today is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This day is an important opportunity to come together and demonstrate #KindnessCulture for bullying prevention for Australian school communities.

#BullyingNoWay#2022NDA



Why is SEL important for learning?

Research shows that children and young people's learning is influenced by a range of social and emotional factors.

Children and young people with social and emotional learning skills have better academic outcomes, as well as improved physical health and a better quality of life. How well individuals do in their learning community is affected by things such as how:

- o confident they feel about their abilities
- o effectively they're able to manage their own behaviour
- o well they can concentrate and organise themselves
- o effectively they can solve problems
- o positively they can get on with educators and their peers
- o effectively they consider others' needs
- o well they can understand and accept responsibilities.

Therefore, SEL and success within the learning community go hand in hand.

The Dandenong STAR local newspaper visited our school last week in preparation for the National Ride to School Day which will be held on Friday 25th March.

Thank you to Jacob, Sophia, Hurdie and Anita who volunteered to ride their bikes on the day.

NEWS



St Gerards Primary School cyclists Jacob, Sophia, Anita and Hirdey. 270596



St Gerards Primary School cyclists Jacob, Sophia, with Anita and Hirdey in the background.



Pictures: GARY SISSONS

School ride back on track

Students are set to get on their bikes for National Ride2School Day on Friday 25 March.

At St Gerard's Primary School, about 30 are expected to ride bicycles and scooters as well as others commuting on foot.

"You notice that the students who ride are a bit more settled at the start of the day because they've exerted that energy," teacher Nicole Fernandez says.

"Usually the parents join them and

really enjoy it too.

"They get to slow down in the morning, have a talk with their kids on the way to school.

"They're often huffing and puffing by the time they get here."

Ms Fernandez said that cycling to school was rebounding after the disruption of Covid remote learning.

This year, the school has already staged two ride to school days, competitions and bike

education classes to help encourage 'active travel'.

Several students who hadn't known how to ride a bike had become proud cyclists.

Ride2School Day organisers also visited to help draw an 'active map' to demonstrate safe routes between homes and school.

"We definitely seeing a lot more bikes than in the past," Ms Fernandez said.

Riding to school is being promoted as a way

for children to get their 60 minutes of daily exercise.

Bicycle Network behaviour change general manager Leyla Asadi said it helped students perform better in the classroom. "Studies have shown students arrive at school energised, alert and more ready to learn."

National Ride2School Day has been running nationally since 2006. Registrations are open at ride2school.com.au

NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

Friday 25 March 2022



Join in the celebration and
ride, walk, scoot or skate to school
on National Ride2School Day.



**RIDE2
SCHOOL**



ride2school.com.au



National Ride to School Day

Friday, 25th March 2022



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 to school, students must hop off their bike or scooter and lock up their bike or scooter in our bike parking area (on the side of the Performing Arts Centre).



CELEBRATES HOW ALL
OF OUR DIFFERENCES
MAKE AUSTRALIA A
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

HARMONY.GOV.AU



What is Harmony Week?

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it. The message of Harmony Week is everyone belongs. It is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

[Our school will be celebrating Harmony Day on Friday 25th March 2022.](#)

Did you know?

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- We identify with over 300 ancestries.
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia.
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia.
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi.
- More than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia



Dear Families,

On **Friday 25th March**, St Gerard's is celebrating **Harmony Day**. This is the day we celebrate all the cultural diversity in our school. Students are encouraged to **pack a lunch and wear clothing related to their cultural background or orange clothing**.

The students will begin their day with a Para-liturgy and incursion by Didgeridoo Australia followed by exciting activities planned by the teachers.

Kind regards,

St Gerard's Wellbeing Team



LUNCHTIME GARDENING CLUB

At St Gerard's students have the opportunity to learn about the garden during lunch time Gardening Club.

This week the students collected parsley seeds, chicken eggs, harvested zucchinis, corn, weeded, watered the plants and watched the pumpkins grow!

We also held our first garden market stall this Wednesday in the church car park.

Our eggs, zucchinis, corn, chives, pumpkin, parsley and rosemary were sold in minutes!

A big thank you to our beautiful students who work in the garden on a daily basis!

The next market date will be advertised through the newsletter and on Seesaw.



UNIFORM SHOP ONLINE ORDERS



AGS PRINTS Pty Ltd
Wholesalers of Quality Schoolwear & Uniforms
In House Design & Printing
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

ABN: 53 317 404 573

BOR NO: 2010 / 2532

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
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

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 Big Day Out
- ❖ Lysterfield Basketball Club
- ❖ Swimland Swim Club

MAZENOD COLLEGE OPEN DAY




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

Visit our website to make your reservation:
www.mazenod.vic.edu.au

Year 7/2024 Applications Close
Friday 19th August 2022

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



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



BUS DRIVERS WANTED

Emerson School is looking for part time bus drivers.

Emerson is a P-12 Specialist School situated at
1430 Heatherton Road, Dandenong.

Please ring if you are interested.

Contact: Jenny La'Brooy
Emerson School
Ph: 9791 8900



St John's
REGIONAL COLLEGE

**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
or scan the QR Code



ST GERARD'S OHSC

If your child/children who is enrolled to OSHC Care and attending Auskick for next 4 weeks please inform Marina as we have a permission form to be filled by families. If you have any questions please feel free to talk to Marina
contact details
0402192685
Marina Walallowita
Nominated Supervisor/Educational Leader OSHC