

St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 1 Week 8

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

25th March 2022



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

- Maleah Yr 1



Subway Lunch Orders
Are Back!

7th April, 2022

Families will have the opportunity to order a Subway lunch for their children.

Envelopes will be sent home Monday 28th.



@st.gerards3175



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



Today St Gerard's community had a wonderful celebration of our cultural diversity for Harmony Day. This is an opportunity to examine how we treat each other and how we live in harmony with others. The Gospel asks us the question: Who is my neighbour? Harmony means getting on together, looking after each other and encouraging others not to give up hope. When we work together and with God, we can achieve amazing things.

Harmony Day Prayer

O God You create all people in your image.

We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in this world.

Enrich our lives by ever widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children;

Through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of Week 8 of the term. Time really does fly when you are having fun (and involved in your learning)!

On Tuesday we had **Abdi Aden who is an author** come and speak to our Year 4, 5 and 6 children. It is always great to hear from people involved in a creative process.

We also had our **Prep - Year 2 Literacy Night** on Tuesday evening with **36 families** participating in this online session. It was lovely to see families sitting and working together. I would like to thank **Mrs Bruno, Mrs Lewis, Ms Fernandez, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Stack and Mrs O'Brien** for their input. I hope that families found the information and suggestions useful in helping develop skills and a love of reading. As always, when we work together our children benefit.

Our **4 week Auskick program** which is being run on **Wednesday afternoons at school from 3.30pm - 4.30pm** has seen more than half the school registered! It is wonderful to see so many of our children (and parents) involved.

Our school hosted a **COVID Vaccination Pop up clinic yesterday (Thursday) in the PAC**. This provided an opportunity for our school and the wider community to keep us all safe and healthy. We had a number of

Today (Friday) we celebrated Harmony Day. Didgeridoo Australia gave a fantastic performance in the Courtyard which was followed by activities that recognised and celebrated the diversity of our school community. **Ride to School Day** also occurred with many of our students riding or scooting to school. Both of these initiatives are important for the overall health and wellbeing of our children. Our challenge is to make them part of every day, not just specific times.

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, Our **First Reconciliation Assembly** will be held next Friday. Our Year 3 children will share their reflections on this significant step in their faith journey and provide an opportunity for our school to congratulate them and present them with their certificates. I would once again like to recognise and thank Mrs Stack, Ms Sonno, staff and families for their contributions in the preparation and celebration of this special sacrament.

Continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Pope Francis asks all Catholics to take part in consecration of Russia, Ukraine to Immaculate Heart of Mary

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/250762/pope-francis-asks-all-catholics-to-take-part-in-consecration-of-russia-ukraine-to-immaculate-heart-of-mary>

Please take some time today to join; with Pope Francis and the whole church in praying for peace throughout the world - and in particular for the people of Ukraine and Russia.

The Promotion of Peace is one of the Principles of our rich Catholic Social Teaching.

Today Pope Francis and the Bishops of Australia will consecrate Russia and the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and invites us all to join with him in prayer for peace

Mary, Queen of Peace – Pray for us.



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.

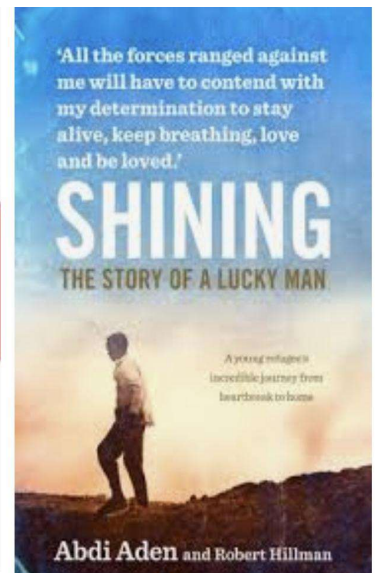
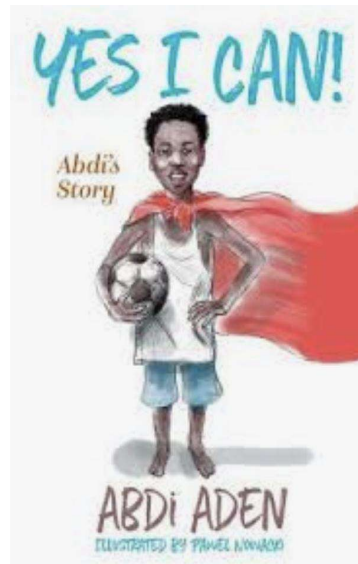


HARMONY WEEK

**Let's come together to celebrate
our cultural diversity.**

Abdi Aden visits St Gerard's

On Tuesday, our year 4-6 students were fortunate to have guest speaker and author Abdi Aden visit as part of our Inquiry unit of Identity and in celebration of Harmony week. Students have been reading Abdi's novel 'Yes, I can' to gain insight into the different journeys of people who migrate to Australia. Students were asked the question...



What does Harmony Day mean to you?

- Unity
- Celebrating individual cultures
- Sharing our culture with others
- Embracing where we came from
- Be unique
- Acceptance of all
- Being proud of your identity
- Living in peace
- Being kind
- Being respectful of everybody
- Helping refugees or new Australians



WELLBEING NEWS



St Gerard's celebrated Harmony Day on Friday 25th of March. Students were encouraged to pack a lunch and wear clothing related to their cultural background or something orange.

The students began their day with a Para Liturgy followed by a Didgeridoo Australia incursion in the courtyard where the students listened to the didgeridoo being played by Ganga Giri who is a descendant from the Palawa people in Tasmania.

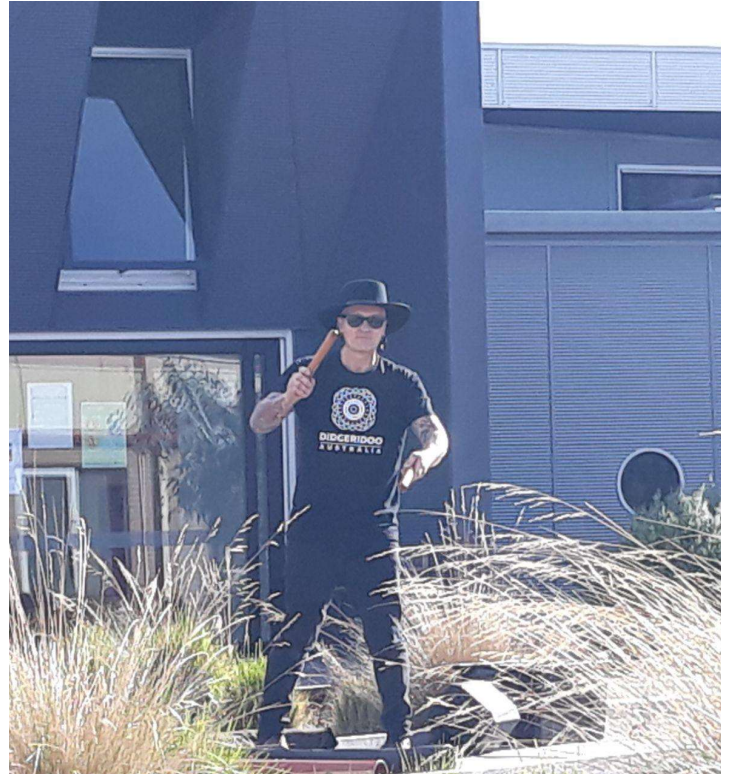
The whole school then gathered for a parade and picnic where students showed off their cultural dress and yummy treats in their lunch boxes. A big thank you to Joshlyn, Adina, Ella.J and Karen for performing a cultural dance as well as Dhanya, Ariana, Antonia and Chelsea for creating a poem about diversity and sharing it with the school during the picnic.

Students then participated in exciting activities from around the world which taught them about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Have a look at some of the fun we had!



WELLBEING NEWS





What do we mean by digital mental health?

Digital mental health refers to services delivered via digital platforms online, mobile or via the phone.

It also encompasses the use of social media and online support communities, which allows people to connect with others who are going through similar experiences or who share their interests.

Digital mental health services can be accessed in a confidential way – allowing children and young people to reach out for support when they may not be able to access support in the learning environment or broader community.

Online support services have been shown to support children and young people's learning, development, social networks, mental health and wellbeing. It can also provide access to opportunities to connect with others, and gain support, through the development of new skill sets to complement and build on their existing social and emotional competencies.

There are a range of online sites, services and supports available specifically for young people. The Be You [Wellbeing Tools for Students](#) is your essential guide to the online tools and other resources that will best support children and young people in taking care of their own mental health.

Ride to School Day

A big thank you to all of the families who participated in National Ride to School day on Friday 25th March. Congratulations to 3S who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

Well done to:

1st place- **3S** with 56% riding, scooting or walking

2nd place- **1/2FW** with 37% riding, scooting or walking

3rd place- **5/60** with 33% riding, scooting or walking

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 Fridays assembly.

The raffle tickets will be drawn on Friday 1st of April during the whole school assembly.



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](#).

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

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
- ❖ Springvale Indoor Sports

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