



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 11

04 July 2025



Our Spirituality and Social Justice Leaders have gathered a whole cage full of food and toiletries for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal.

Loving Jesus,

On this Feast of the Sacred Heart,
we thank You for Your boundless love,
poured out for each of us.

Fill our hearts with compassion,
so that we may be a reflection of Your mercy
to all who are struggling and in need.

We pray for the families who will receive
the food and toiletries we have gathered.
May these gifts bring warmth, hope and comfort,
reminding them that they are not alone.

Bless our school community,
our families and our Spirituality and Social Justice Leaders,

who inspire us to reach out with generous hearts.
May we always find ways to serve others
and share Your love each day.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place our trust in You.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that the first half of the School Year is over!

As we come to the end of the term (and the end of Semester One) it is a good time to reflect on all of the **learning opportunities our children have been provided with over the past 11 weeks**. Learning happens in many ways and forms and in addition to the day-to-day classroom experiences our school is always looking for ways to develop our children in all aspects of life. Below are some of the activities St Gerard's provided throughout Term 2.

Celebrating our faith is a key aspect of our school and it was wonderful to be able to share in the Easter Story in the first week of the term with our *Passion Gallery Walk*. We gave thanks for the life of Pope Francis and welcomed Pope Leo XIV as the head of our Church. We **joined St Gerard's parishioners** to commemorate **the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** and also joined them at 9.15am as levels to celebrate the Eucharist. Some of our children also joined the **Parish Legion of Mary to pray the Rosary together** on several occasions.

Fr Shanthaiah celebrated **Reconciliation with our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children over the course of the term**. Our **Year 6 children were confirmed by Bishop Tony Ireland** and our **Year 4 children made their First Communion**. As a school we supported **St Vincent de Paul** with our **Winter Appeal** which saw us fill our large basket to capacity.

As a school community we had a great **Mother's Day** celebration where we recognised the huge, lifelong impact mothers and those in motherhood roles have on us all. Our **Literacy Family Workshop** was well attended and provided an insight to our families on how Literacy is taught and how they can support their children in this crucial area of learning. **Italian Day**, as always, was molto bene! We also recognised our children that are excelling at out of school activities through our **High Flyers** part of our weekly assemblies and our **SUBWAY Lunch** days were as popular as ever!

From a wider community perspective, some of our **Year 6 Leaders** represented us at the **Dandenong RSL ANZAC Day ceremony** and as a school we recognised and highlighted **National Sorry Day and Refugee Week**. These are all significant aspects for our country and ones that our children need to have an understanding of.

Looking at outdoor and sporting opportunities we had our **Year 5/6** students represented our school at the **St John's College Paul Wade Cup Soccer tournament**. Students from Year 3 - 6 participated in our school **Cross Country event with some going on to the Dandenong District, Divisional and Regional levels**. Our **Year 5/6** children had their **first Gala Day** for the year with **St Gerard's fielding teams in Netball and Basketball**. As a whole school we continued with **Walk/ Ride to School Days** to promote health and wellbeing and **Hockey Victoria conducted a number of sessions** with our Year 3 - 6 children.

Our **Prep, Year 1 and 2** students had an incursion presented by **Task Works** and our **Year 3/4** children went on an excursion to **Twist-ED Science which enhanced their R.E / Inquiry topic for the term**. Our **Year 4 and 5** children were involved in **Taster Days** at **St John's Secondary College and Nazareth College** to gain an insight into Secondary School. We also had our **SRC (Student Representative Council) members provide 'student voice'**. Due to this group, a number of **Lunchtime Clubs** were established this term which have proved to be very well attended. **Art Club** has been running on Tuesdays, **Library Club** on Wednesdays and **Gardening Club** on Thursdays. I would like to thank the SRC for their input, suggestions and feedback. It is wonderful to have our students involved in our school and also feel that they can contribute in a meaningful way.

cont'd

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

cont'd

We had 3 **OPEN DAYS** for prospective families to see all that we offer here at St Gerard's with 3 more planned for **Term 3 on Thursday 7 August, Tuesday 12 August and Wednesday 27 August.**

Semester One Reports were sent home on Wednesday. I encourage families to take the time to discuss and celebrate the successes and achievements and set some goals for Terms Three and Four. Early next term we will be conducting 3 Way Conversations where these reports can be discussed with families, children and teachers.

Information was sent out today (Friday) regarding our **new School Uniform Supplier via Seesaw, Operoo and email.** Please note that uniforms will be able to be **purchased from Monday 14 July.**

Finally, a reminder that **Term 3 starts on Tuesday 22 July** as we have a School Closure Day on Monday 21 July in preparation for our School Review which will occur later in Term 3.

Have a wonderful break, if you are travelling, please take care. We look forward to seeing you all rested and ready for a wonderful Term 3.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

A decorative banner with a teal background. It features the text "WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS" in a white, serif font, arranged in three lines. The text is surrounded by various white snowflake icons of different sizes and a single blue butterfly icon. The banner is framed by a thin white border.

WINTER
SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS

Religious News



**Celebrating
NAIDOC
Week –
Artwork by
5/6T**

Religious News



An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

Families are welcome to take home the Our Lady statue for a week to support and enrich prayer time at home. It comes with a brochure on how to pray the rosary and some rosary beads. If families would like to take the statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.

Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is working with the school to lead the Rosary during lunch breaks. These Rosary sessions will take place during the first lunch break on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.



St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal – Results Announcement!

Over the past few weeks, St Gerard's has been collecting non-perishable food and toiletries to support families in need through the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Your kindness and generosity have helped fill our carts and bring hope and comfort to many this winter.

We're excited to announce our top collectors!

Third Place: 3/4V Well done for making such a big difference!

Second Place: 5/6T Fantastic effort and amazing generosity!

First Place: 5/6O Congratulations! You've won a well-deserved casual dress day!

Thank you to every student, family, and staff member who contributed. Together, we've shown what a caring and giving community we are. Let's keep looking for ways to make a positive impact every day!

Wellbeing



Self-care

Self-care is a good way to manage stress

You need to practice self-care in a way that works for you.

Having said that, there are some common practices that most people find useful, including maintaining a healthy lifestyle by eating well, getting enough sleep and exercise, and cutting back on alcohol and drugs.

Some other strategies which you might find helpful in managing stress include:

- Monitor your stress- recognise your own signs of stress and identify situations you find difficult, so you can be proactive about managing stress during these times.
- Learn how to manage your stress in positive ways- such as through exercise, relaxation, breathing, yoga, positive self-talk.
- Be aware of your thinking habits- challenge negative or unhelpful thoughts.
- Schedule 'time out' for yourself- pursue your hobbies or interests.
- Connect- foster and maintain your personal relationships. A sense of belonging and connection is important for your wellbeing.
- Relax- learn and use breathing techniques, progressive relaxation, visualisations or meditation to consciously relax your mind and body. Practice mindfulness by focusing your awareness on the present moment.
- Be mindful and self-aware- focus on how you are feeling and how you act, and the impact that can have on your colleagues and your students. Be supportive of others without passing judgement.
- Consider making specific times or days of the week for activities which support your wellbeing, so they become routine and are less likely to drop off at times of increased work demands or other competing priorities.
- Reflect- find a mentor through your workplace or professional networks to help you grow professionally. Take time to engage in reflective practices about your work and professional development.

Garden Club

Lunchtime Garden Club Update: Growing Together at St. Gerard's

This week, our Lunchtime Garden Club at St. Gerard's was buzzing with excitement as students planted cauliflower, broccoli, and beetroot in our veggie garden. The children explored the importance of plant spacing to maximize nutrient uptake and observed the root systems to understand how plants absorb water and nutrients from the soil. By ensuring adequate space between plants, we promote healthy growth and reduce competition for resources.

Abel took the initiative to observe the afternoon sun's position, ensuring our plants receive optimal sunlight for photosynthesis and growth. Additionally, we set up plant tripods to support our snow peas as they climb, encouraging vertical growth and efficient use of space.

We can't wait to return in Term 3 to continue our hard work and watch our St. Gerard's veggie garden thrive. Stay tuned for more updates on our gardening journey!



Landcare

Exciting News: Our Term 3 Landcare Project Begins!

This week, students and staff were thrilled to learn about our upcoming Landcare project launching in Term 3. Each class will be responsible for the garden area outside their classroom, transforming these spaces into vibrant, nature-friendly environments.

Student voice will play a pivotal role in the garden design process. Classes are already researching native birds and animals found in Dandenong North, such as the Eastern Yellow Robin and the Eastern Rosella, to ensure their gardens attract local wildlife. They're also exploring Australian native plants like Grevilleas, Callistemons, and Kangaroo Paws, which provide nectar and shelter for these species.

Some classes have eagerly started planning and even cleared their garden spaces in preparation. Be sure to check out the photos below for a sneak peek of their hard work and enthusiasm.

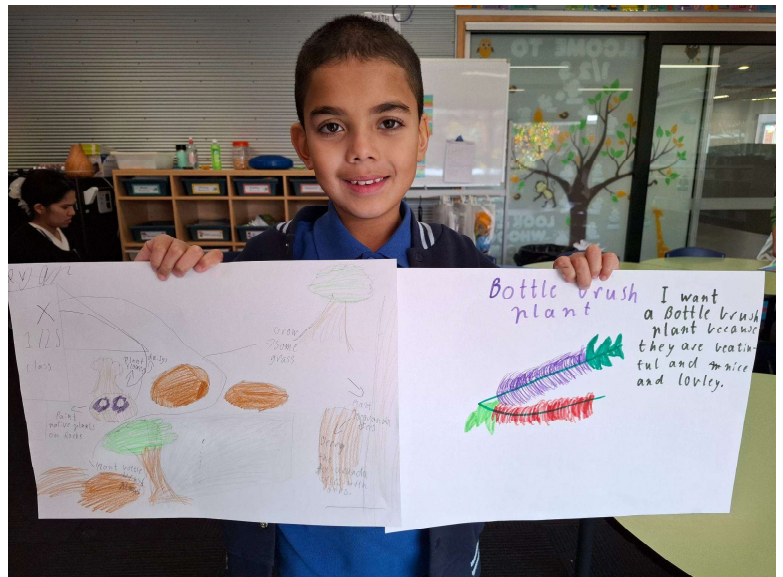
Students and staff are excited about this new project, and we look forward to sharing updates with you next term. Stay tuned for more!



Laughing kookaburra



Laughing kookaburra is a bird in the kingfisher subfamily it's a Native Bird of north dandenong



The native plants that attract to Laughing kookaburra



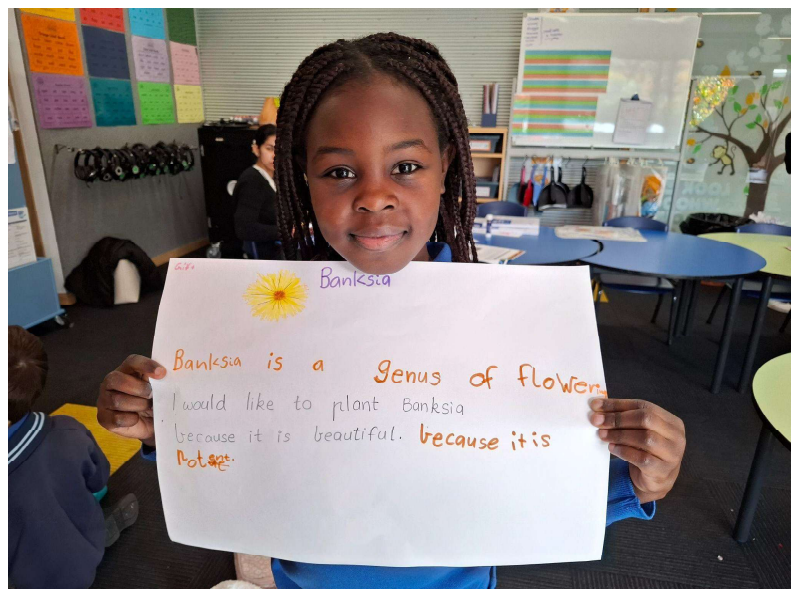
Bottle brush
Golden wattle
eucalyptus (gum trees)
paper barks



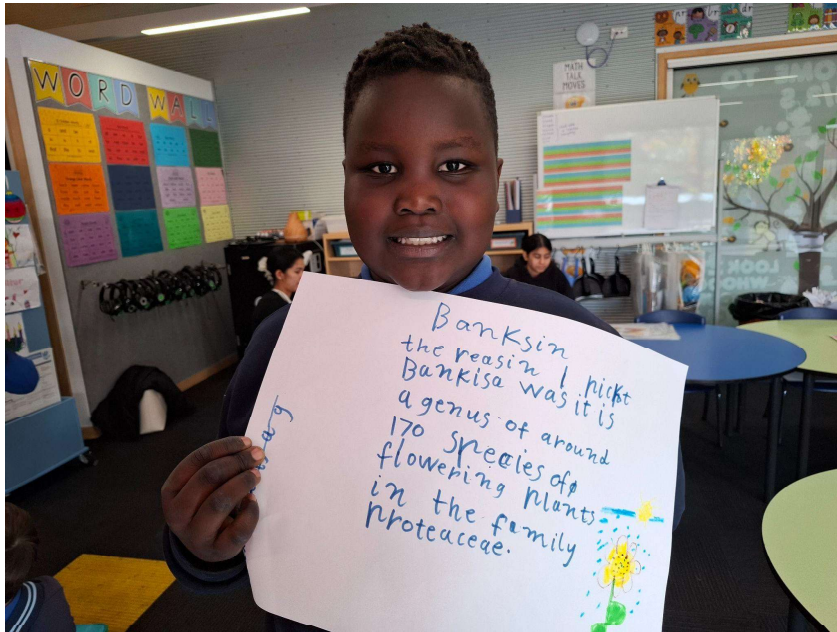
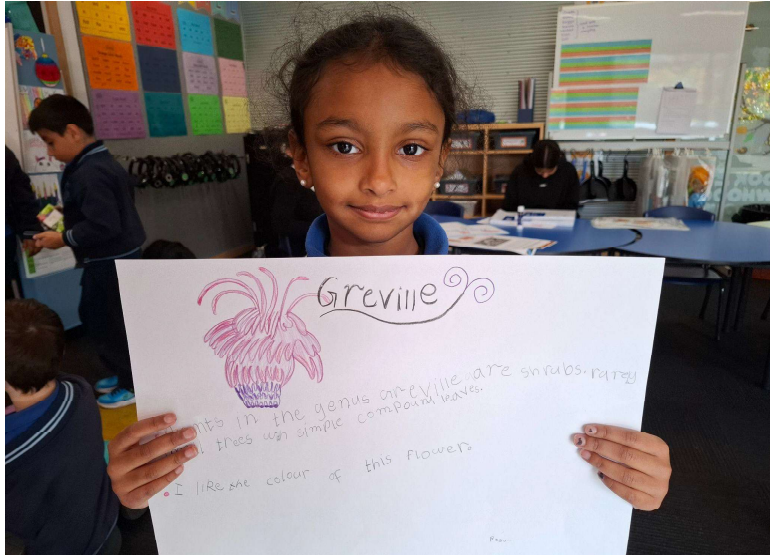
Magpie



The magpie is a black and white bird which are mammals who are native to australia it's also called the Gymnorhina tibicen



Landcare



What native plants grow in the North Dandenong

Table of contents

- | | |
|---|---|
| 01 Introduction
The Native birds and the plants | 02 Honey eater and the plant |
| 03 Laughing kookaburra and its plants | 04 Magpie and the plants
You can describe the topic of the section here |

Introduction

Hi this is Jerome, Julian, Elijah and we are the three Wellbeing leaders and this is our presentation for the native plants that grow in North Dandenong to attract the native birds.



2

Native birds in Dandenong north

Honey Bird, laughing kookaburra, Australian magpie

Honey eater

In North Dandenong, Victoria, several native honeyeater species can be found, including the White-plumed Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, and Yellow-tufted Honeyeater.

The native plants that attract the Honeyeaters.

Grevilleae,
Bottlebrushes (Callistemon),
Bankeiae,
Kangaroo Paws,
Eucalyptus trees

Reading Before School

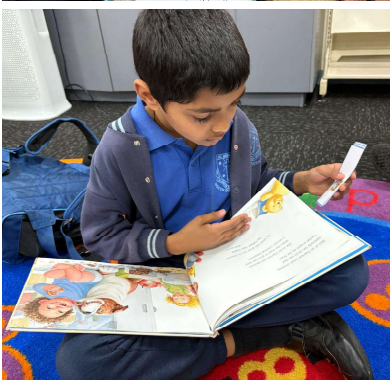
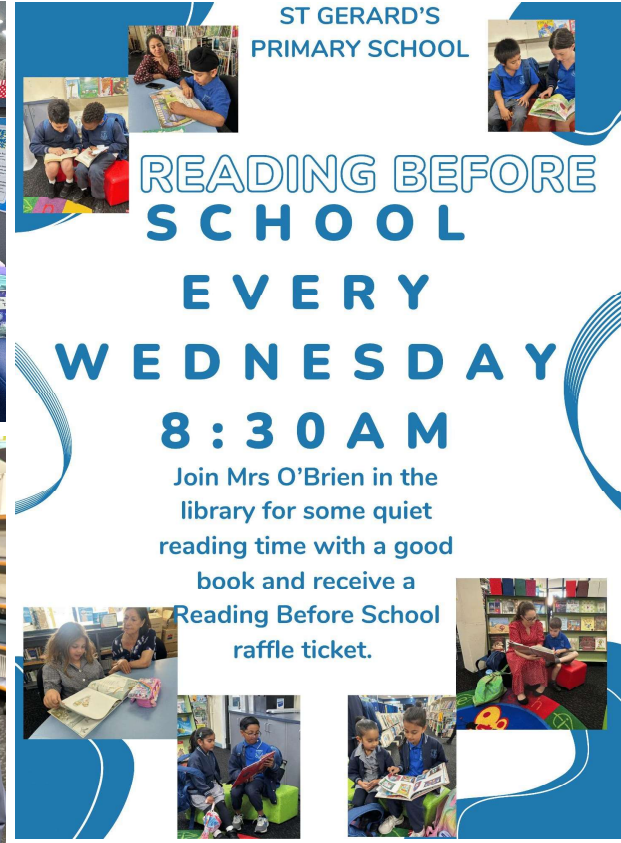
ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

READING BEFORE
SCHOOL

EVERY
WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM

Join Mrs O'Brien in the
library for some quiet
reading time with a good
book and receive a
Reading Before School
raffle ticket.



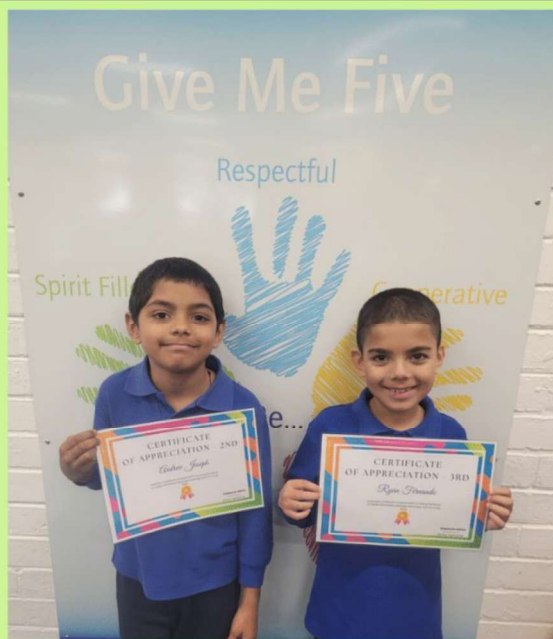
St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week in Library Club, students took part in a riddle-style Challenge Scavenger Hunt, exploring different aspects of books. Some of the riddle clues were quite the challenge! Congratulations to Anjali, Sophia, Andrew and Ryan for solving them all.



REMINDER

Please support your child in returning library books on time by ensuring they use a library or book bag. Last week of borrowing.



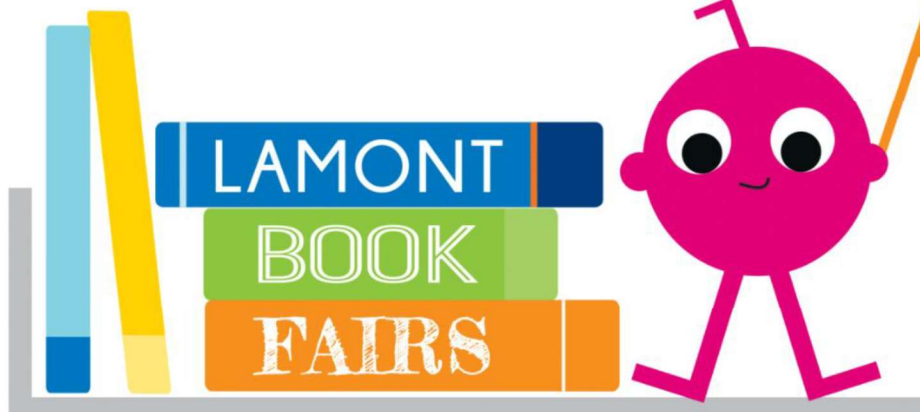
LIBRARY

LAMONT BOOK FAIR

Coming soon,
Don't miss it!
26th August – 2nd
September

Every purchase
supports our school!

BOOKS FOR EVERYONE



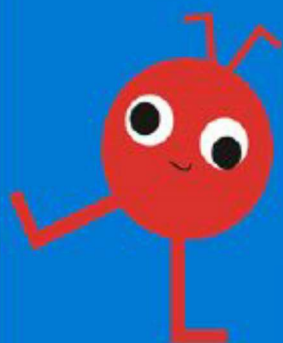
www.lamontbooks.com.au

Book Fair

To complement St Gerard's Primary School's reading and writing focus, we are again hosting a Lamont Book Fair.

Lamont Book Company is a local book supplier, which gets its books from a variety of publishers. This means that there will be a large range of quality books to choose from.

The Book Fair is arriving on 26th August to 2nd September



Please support our school



We hope that everyone will help to make this a very successful Lamont Book Fair.

**GREAT BOOKS AT
GREAT PRICES**



Important Dates / Info

Paying School Fees

St Gerard's understands the financial commitment associated with providing a quality education for your child. Recognising the diverse needs of our families, the school has a convenient and flexible solution for paying school fees through our payment schedules accessible via the office.

If you are having trouble paying or require assistance in setting up your payment schedule, please contact the office who will be more than happy to assist you in setting up a suitable payment arrangement.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in providing the best possible education for your child at St Gerard's School.

Updating Payment Details

Parents are reminded to contact the school office if there are any changes to your payment details. This includes expired credit cards or updated bank account information. Keeping these details current helps ensure your payments are processed smoothly.

Outstanding School Fees

If you have not yet made any payments toward school fees, we kindly ask that you begin doing so as soon as possible to avoid falling behind.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please don't hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Principal Paul Cowan. We are here to support you and work together on a solution.

Important Dates / Info

2025 Term 3 Dates

July

- **21st School Closure Day - School Review Preparation**
- **22nd Term 3 starts for all students**
- 23rd 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 25th Year 5/6 Gala Day 2
- *29th 3-Way Conversations*
- 30th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library

August

- 1st Whole School Assembly at 2.50pm in the PAC
- 6th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 7th OPEN Day 9.30am - 5.00pm
- 8th Feast of Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop), Whole School attends Parish Mass at 9:15 am
- 8th Whole School Assembly at 2.50pm in the PAC
- 12th OPEN Day 9.30am - 5.00pm
- 13th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 14th Ride to School Day
- 14th 11:05 Rosary in the Church
- 15th Feast of the Assumption, Holy Day of Obligation, Whole School attends Parish Mass at 9:15am
- 15th Whole School Assembly at 2.50pm in the PAC
- 20th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 21st Subway Lunch
- 22nd Book Week Dress Up and Activity Day
- 26th - 2nd September - Lamont Book Fair
- 27th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 27th OPEN Day 9.30am - 5.00pm
- 29th Whole School Assembly at 2.50pm in the PAC

September

- 1st School Hats must be worn when outside
- 3rd 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 5th 8.00am - 9:00 am Father's/ Father Figure's Day Breakfast and outside games
- 10th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 11th 11:05 Rosary in the Church
- 11th Ride to School Day
- 12th Whole School Assembly at 2.50pm in the PAC
- 17th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 18th Subway Lunch
- 18th Footy Day, Parade at start of the day followed by longest kick
- **18th End of Term 3 for children at 3.30pm**
- **19th School Closure Day**

Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

Pick-up From After-School

Parents are asked to please be prompt when picking up your child/ren after-school. If a ride is not here when school concludes, the student may be sent to aftercare instead of the office. Please remember school aftercare does have a cost involved and time will begin accruing at the end of the school day. If a student's ride has run into an unexpected delay, please call the main office to let them know.



3rd July, 2025

3-Way
Conversations
will be held on
29th July.
Invitations will
be sent out
shortly.



St John's
REGIONAL COLLEGE

Come & Explore

At St John's Regional College, we provide a supportive and inclusive environment where students can thrive. With a strong focus on educating the whole person, we offer a range of academic, vocational, and creative pathways tailored to your child's unique interests and strengths.

WHY CHOOSE ST JOHN'S?

- Faith-Based, Values-Driven Education
- Academic Excellence and Innovative Learning
- Dynamic Arts and Sports Programs
- A Warm, Welcoming Community

DISCOVER THE ST JOHN'S DIFFERENCE.

Join us for an upcoming tour and see our vibrant learning community in action:

Saturday, 2 August at 10:00 am or **Thursday, 28 August** at 6:00 pm, followed by our **Sports Academy** Information Session. Weekly tours also run every Thursday at 9:15 am.



BOOK A TOUR TODAY

Come and see what life at St John's is really like. Meet our students, tour our facilities, and speak with our team about how we can support your child's next chapter.

VIBRANT PROGRAMS.
ENGAGED LEARNERS.
SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY.

Notice Board



Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays this week.

- Bommy Yr 2
- Anthony Yr 2
- Rafael Yr 5
- Johnny Foundation



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- St John's REgional College Term 3 OPEN Days
- Nazareth Secondary College School Tour Dates and 2027 Year 7 Application Dates
- Mazenod College Open Day & School Tours Info
- Goodstart Early Learning - Princes Highway



Chicken Eggs For Sale

- St Gerard's would like to offer families the opportunity to purchase delicious organic eggs laid by our resident flock of chickens.
- You can purchase these eggs from the school office at a cost of **\$8** per dozen.
- All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.
- Please message [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.