



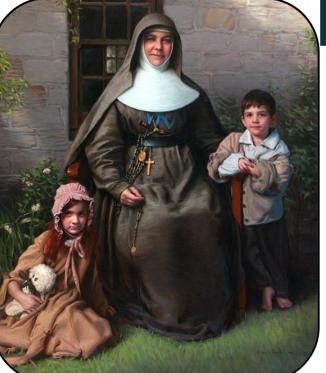
ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 3, Week 03

08 August 2025





In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop – Never See a Need Without Doing Something About It.

Prayer for the Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop

Australia's First Saint - A Woman of Faith and Courage

Loving God,

We thank You for the life and example of Saint Mary MacKillop. In her, we see the power of faith, the strength of kindness, and the courage to stand up for what is right.

Help us to follow in her footsteps — to reach out to those in need.

to act justly, love tenderly and to walk humbly with You.

May we, like Mary,

"never see a need without doing something about it," and may her spirit continue to guide our school community in love, hope, and compassion. Saint Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

Amen





PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

This week saw our children be able to engage in before school activities, lunchtime clubs and celebrate our faith with the parish community.

8.30am - 8.45am in the Courtyard (or PAC depending on the weather). It was wonderful to see a large number of children starting the day with some exercise and lots of laughs. Equally wonderful was the parents that came and got involved. Families are more than welcome to come and be part of the fun.

Our Lunchtime Clubs also occurred across the week with Art Club on Tuesday, Library Club on Wednesday and Gardening Club on Thursday. All of these clubs are proving to be popular with children across all year levels and I hope that your child will consider attending. I would also like to thank Mrs Theodore (Art Club), Ms Adrien (Library Club) and Ms Fernandez (Garden Club) who are coordinating these activities.

We had the first of our 3 **OPEN DAYS** on Thursday for prospective families to see all that we offer here at St Gerard's. We have 2 more for this term on **Tuesday 12 August and Wednesday 27 August.** If you know families that are looking for a school, please let them know. Similarly, if you have a child who will be starting school in 2026 please contact the School Office. Also on **Thursday** we had **Sushi Day** which proved popular with our children. I would like to thank Ms Fernandez for organising this event.

Today (Friday) as a school we attended the 9.15am Parish Mass to celebrate the Feast of Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop). Being Australia's first saint obviously makes this feast day significant but also her contribution to education endears her to schools. Together with Fr Julian Tenison Woods, she founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and established a number of schools and welfare institutions throughout Australasia, with an emphasis on education for the poor, particularly in country areas. She is truly a great role model for all Australians and is rightfully the Patron Saint of Catholic Education in Australia.

Lastly, at Assembly today (Friday), we recognised our **latest 'High Flyer'**. Evelyn was recognised by her Representative Basketball Team the Dandenong Rangers for her commitment, dedication and discipline. These traits were evident through her leadership, sportsmanship and team-first approach. <u>Well done Evelyn!</u> A reminder that if you would like your child(ren) recognised, please email myself <u>principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au</u> or send a message through *Seesaw* by Thursday 5.00pm. Please provide a brief description which will be read out. I look forward to sharing with our school community the great things our children are doing.

God bless.

Paul COWAN PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Level Mass

Yrs: Foundation, 5/60 & 5/6T Thursday 21st August, 9:15am
Yrs 1/2FB & 1/2S Thursday 4th September, 9:15am
Yrs 3/4S & 3/4W Thursday 11th September, 9:15am

Reconciliation

Yrs 3/4W & 3/4S: Thursday, 28th Aug at 10:15am
Yrs 5/6O and 5/6T: Thursday, 11th Sept at 10:15am

Whole School Mass

Friday, 15th August: Feast of the Assumption at 9:15am (Parish Mass)

Grandparents and Grandfriends Day - Save the Date!

This year, we will be celebrating **Grandparents and Grandfriends Day** on **Thursday, August 28th**, to honour the special role grandparents and grandfriends play in the lives of our children.

The morning will include a **Paraliturgy and classroom visits** from **9:00 to 10:30 AM**, where grandparents and grandfriends will have the opportunity to spend time with our students and enjoy a glimpse into their school day.

We look forward to welcoming our special visitors to St. Gerard's for this joyful occasion.

St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

Next term, as part of our Feast Day celebrations and Mission Month activities, we'll be holding our much-loved Talent Quest! If any students would like to be involved, auditions will take place in the final week of this term.

Religious News



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.



What's resilience?

Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help <u>build resilience in children</u>.

A child or young person who is resilient might:

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it
- feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning.

Proudly supporting Bullying No Way: National Week of Action

This year St Gerard's will be participating in the Bullying No Way: National week of action, 11 to 15 August 2025.

Bullying No Way Week is a commitment being made by thousands of schools and supporters across the country. It provides an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to bullying prevention.

The theme for this year's campaign is Be Bold. Be Kind. Speak Up.

It takes a community to be brave and address bullying behaviours, within and beyond the school gate.

Students can be bold, kind and speak up to support others being bullied. While trusted adults are there to support children and young people learn how to be kind to each other and report bullying.

This Bullying No Way Week, we're asking you to be bold and say something, be kind and support someone and be proud to speak up against bullying.

For more information about Bullying No Way Week and bullying prevention, visit the Bullying No Way website.



Walk or Ride To School Thursday, 14th August 2025

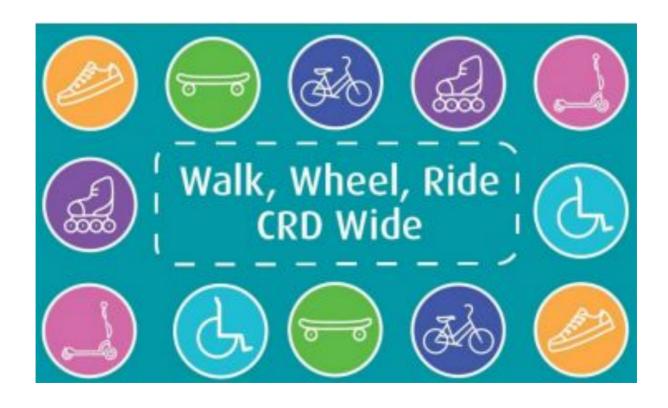
Thursday, 14th August is a Ride to School Day. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school from home or from a nearby drop off point. If your child doesn't normally walk to school, you could do this together.

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 (in front of the Performing Arts Centre).





WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to What is a reasonable adjustment? below to learn about adjustments.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.

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WHAT MUST SCHOOLS DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students have the right to a quality learning experience at school.

Students with disability must be able to take part in education without discrimination and on the same basis as other students. To ensure this, schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed for students with disability. Educators, students, parents, guardians, carers and others (eg health professionals) must work together to ensure that students with disability can take part in education.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* describe schools' responsibilities.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The Disability Standards for Education 2005 define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NCCD?

The definition of disability for the NCCD is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The following students are examples of those who may be included in the NCCD if they need monitoring and adjustments:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes).

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NCCD?

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability.

Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including:

- their year of schooling
- · the level of adjustment received
- the broad type of disability.

For students who have more than one disability, the school uses professional judgement to choose one category of disability. They choose the category that most affects the student's access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

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HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the Public information notice.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the NCCD Portal.

There is also a free e-learning resource about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

This document must be attributed as Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers.

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Sushi @ School











Sushi Lunch

This Thursday, our students had the exciting opportunity to purchase sushi for their lunch and the buzz was terrific. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many students asking for seconds. We're delighted so many enjoyed the treat and are pleased to announce that the next sushi lunch will be held next term stay tuned for the date and menu!

Garden Care

Lunchtime Garden Club

This week during our lunchtime garden time, the students enthusiastically revisited their previously planted seedlings and checked on their progress. They learned the importance of training snow peas to climb and grow effectively, applying careful guidance to support their development. The students also cleared and prepared a fresh garden bed, planting vibrant new lettuce and beetroot seedlings with excitement. Throughout the week, the students continued tending the garden, watering the plants and diligently weeding the older beds to promote healthy growth. A particularly joyful moment came when we discovered even more worms in the soil, an encouraging sign of rich, thriving soil life. We continue to delight in watching our garden grow and flourish, nurturing both plants and young minds in the process.













Garden Care









MHIPS



Reading Before School

















ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



READING BEFORE

8:30 A M

Join Mrs O'Brien in the library for some quiet reading time with a good book and receive a











LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week in Library Club, students took part in a Puzzle Race activity and a Lucky Dip – Guess the Answers challenge.

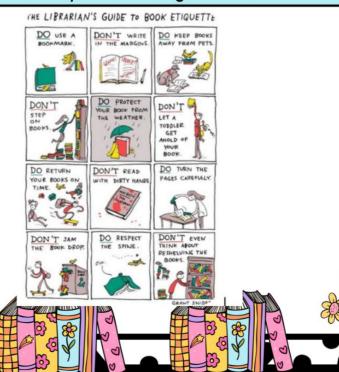
Congratulations to Team I members Sanaya, Bommy, Ryan, Grace J and Ephrata, who completed their 48-piece puzzle in a NEW record time of 3 and half minutes.

Well done to Team 2 members Nyadut, Mia, Rosana, Ameya and Grace V for showing great perseverance in completing their 48-piece puzzle.

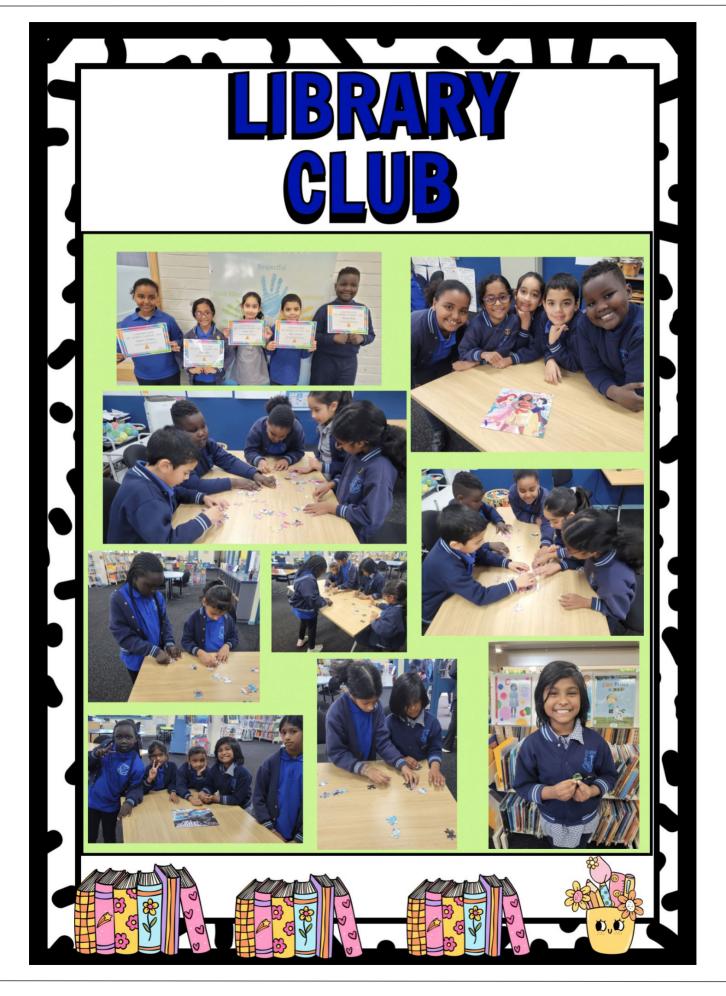
Congratulations to Ameya, who answered all the questions correctly.

REMINDER

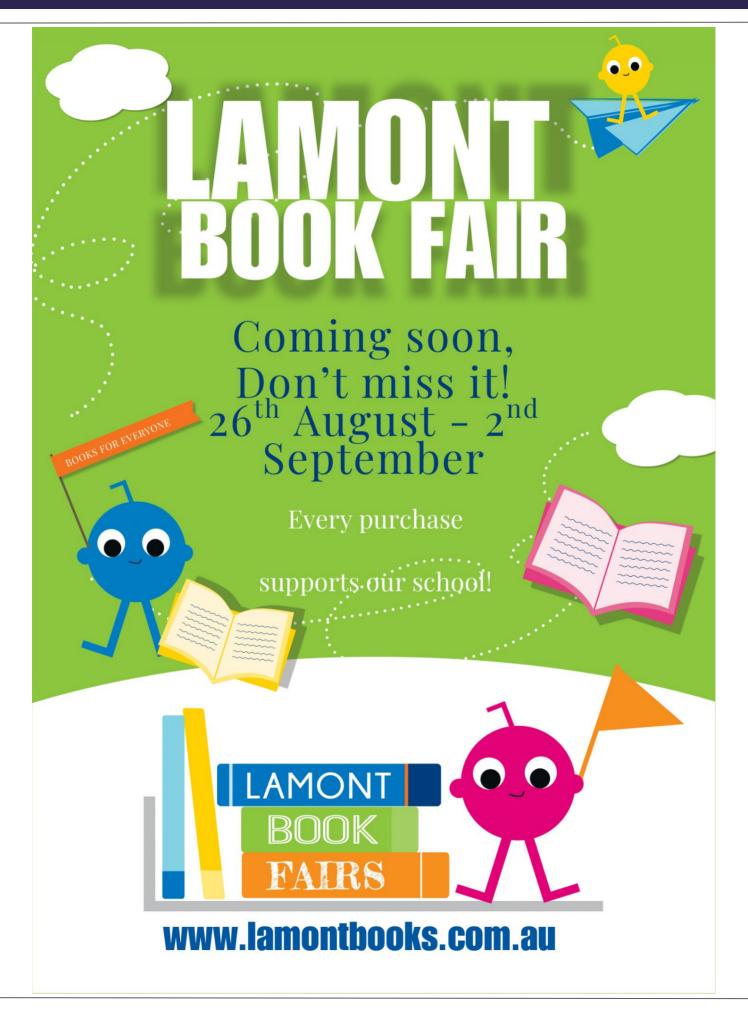
Please support your child in returning library books on time by ensuring they use a library or book bag.



LIBRARY



LIBRARY



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







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









UNIFORM AVAILABLE IN STORE 14TH OF JULY

1st July to 13th July – During this period, families will not be able to purchase school uniforms while we transition the school into its new store.

Any existing back orders will continue to be fulfilled and delivered to the school by Aplus Schoolwear.



Important Dates / Info

2025 Term 3 Dates

August

- 12th Before School Skippin 8:30am-845am
- 12th OPEN Day 9.30am 5.00pm
- 13th 8:30 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 14th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 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
- 19th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 20th 8:30 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 21st Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 21st Subway Lunch
- 22nd Book Week Dress Up and Activity Day
- 26th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 26th 2nd September Lamont Book Fair
- 27th 8:30 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 27th OPEN Day 9.30am 5.00pm
- 28th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 29th Whole School Assembly at 2.50pm in the PAC

September

- 1st School Hats must be worn when outside
- 2nd Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 3rd 8:30 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 4th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 5th 8.00am 9:00 am Father's/ Father Figure's Day Breakfast and outside games
- 9th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 10th 8:30 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 11th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 11th 11:05 Rosary in the Church
- 11th Ride to School Day
- 12th Whole School Assembly at 2.50pm in the PAC
- 16th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 17th 8:30 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 18th Before School Skipping 8:30am-845am
- 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

<u>Medical Plans And Asthma</u> <u>Plans</u>

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.





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.

Carl Yr 3Vailill 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
- Springvale Indoor sports
- Lyndale & Surrounds AUSKICK Centre



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 <u>Nicole Fernandez</u> via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.