



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 3, Week 04

15 August 2025



Prayer for the Feast of the Assumption

Dear God,

Today we remember Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

You brought her to be with you in heaven, body and soul, because she loved you so much.

Thank you for Mary's "yes" to you and for showing us how to be kind and loving.

Help us to follow her example, to listen to you, and to care for others. Mary, our Mother, pray for us.

Amen.





PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Here we are at the end of Week 4 and it seems like only yesterday we were welcoming everyone back from holidays! This week saw the latest versions of a few of our 'regular' events that our children can take part in as well as our Prep/Foundation children celebrating a significant milestone in their learning.

Our Prep/ Foundation children celebrated their **first 100 days of school** with activities throughout the week focussing on this significant milestone and on the number 100. A party with them wearing 'fancy clothes' was part of the festivities and bringing to school 100 of an item of their choice to share with their classmates gave them a great insight into numbers being a part of everyday life. We all hope that their next 100 days of school are just as exciting!

We had the second of our 3 **OPEN DAYS** on Tuesday with 1 more planned for this term on **Wednesday 27 August.** If you know families that are looking for a school, please let them know. They can come on this day or at a time that suits them by contacting myself principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au or the School Office 9791 7553. Similarly, if you have a child who will be starting school in 2026 please contact the School Office so we can secure your place.

On Thursday some of our children joined with the **Parish Legion of Mary and prayed the Rosary** together. This occurs twice a term and is another way to strengthen our link with the parish and live out our faith. It is always inspiring to see the number of children who take up this invitation.

Also, our latest **Walk/ Ride to School Day** was yesterday **(Thursday)** and it is encouraging to see an increasing number of children choosing to travel to school by foot, bike or scooter not just on these days but regularly.

Today (Friday) as a school we attended the 9.15am Parish Mass to celebrate the Feast of The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary. This celebration highlights once again the pivotal role Mary played in Jesus' life and the Church as well as in our faith today. There were a number of positive comments made to myself and the school by parishioners about the behaviour, involvement and reverence of our children. This is always wonderful to hear and is a reflection on us all (school and families).

Looking to next week, we will be celebrating Book Week. While there will be activities throughout the week our Dress Up Day will be next Friday 22 August. Please refer to the information sent out through *Operoo* which details the activities. Families are more than welcome to come to the PAC on Friday at 9.00am for our parade. This is always a fantastic week when we celebrate literature and reading.

Lastly, at Assembly today (Friday), we recognised 2 more 'High Flyers'. Lemilo has commenced his Altar Serving training which will see him play a role in parish and school masses in the future. This is a wonderful way to live your faith and serve our community. Joy was recognised for her efforts in Calisthenics which she has been involved in for 5 years with her club competing in competitions at the highest level for her age group! It is wonderful to hear about the wide variety of activities our children are engaged in. If you would like your child(ren) recognised, please email myself principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au 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

Celebrating Our Grandparents & Grandfriends - Share Your Best Photo!

As we look forward to our upcoming Paraliturgy on **Thursday, 28th August**, we invite you to share **one special photo** of your child with their Grandparents and/or Grandfriends, perhaps the best one you have.

This special celebration will honour the important role Grandparents and Grandfriends play in our lives, and will also remember the Feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus, which we marked earlier this term.

We warmly welcome all Grandparents and Grandfriends to join us for the Paraliturgy, followed by classroom visits. The event will run from **9:00 am to 10:30 am** .

Please send your photo to dstack@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edv.av by Friday, 22nd August.

Thank you for helping us make this a memorable occasion!



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.



How do decision-making skills develop?

Children and young people's decision-making is strongly influenced by the expectations and values they learn from those around them.

- . This occurs when they:
 - observe others (particularly those close to them)
- hear about and discuss values
- have opportunities to make choices and experience their consequences.

Young children regularly choose how they'll behave, which toys or games they'd like to play with, which books they would like to read, or which television shows they want to watch. As they get older, children make bigger decisions that often involve their family, friends and schoolwork. The kinds of choices children and young people make affect their wellbeing, relationships and success.

Young children have some skills for making decisions, but they don't yet have the experience to understand complex adult situations. As their brain grows, a child is more able to hold things in their mind and remember what they've learned. They also improve the way they manage their thinking and feelings, control impulsive behaviour, think about time and plan ahead, and evaluate long-term versus short-term goals. All these skills help children become better at taking action and keeping things on track.



Give Me 5 News

Next week our Give Me 5 whole school focus is to be Positive in all learning areas. You can do this by never giving up. Students who are being positive in the learning areas will be rewarded with a raffle ticket.

St. Gerard's Give Me 5 Whole School Matrix



Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
Be Respectful	Speak appropriately and use manners	Speak appropriately and use manners	Speak appropriately and use manners	Speak appropriately and use manners
	500 0.300 0.0 500 	65 (965) 55 (65	 Give other users their privacy 	
	Care for property	Care for property	25 25	Care for property
		 Keep the area neat and tidy 	Care for property	 Place rubbish in the bin
	Take turns		Keep toilets tidy and flush	 Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden
	Whole body listening		Wash hands	
				Include others
	Greet people by name			200
				Respect everyone's views and space
Be	Follow Directions	Follow Directions	Follow Directions	Follow Directions
Co-operative	CONTRACTOR DATE ALLOWED CO	200 A C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C		F-4500 (500 N-040 NL/940 CO
	Move safely	Move safely	Move safely	Move safely
		 Walk on the left hand side of 		
	Stay on task	the corridor to exit and the	Wait for your partner	Play fairly
		right hand side to enter		Accept rules
	Share with others and help each other			Take turns
				Share and use equipment safely
				Accept rules
Be Your Best	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself	Keep hands, feet and objects to	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
be four best	keep nands, reet and objects to yourself	yourself	keep nands, feet and dojects to yourself	keep nands, feet and objects to yourself
	Ask for help		Report problems to a teacher	Try to solve your problems
		Only enter the area with permission	COLUMN SAND CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR AND CONTRACTOR COLUMN CO	
Be Positive	Never give up			Encourage others
Be Spirit filled	Treat others as you would like to be	Treat others as you would like to be	Treat others as you would like to be	Treat others as you would like to be
	treated.	treated.	treated.	treated.
				 Say sorry and forgive others
	Pray daily and during meditation			
				Be kind

Proudly supporting Bullying No Way: National Week of Action

This week St Gerard's participated in the Bullying No Way: National Week of Action. Bullying No Way Week was a commitment undertaken by thousands of schools and supporters across the country, providing an opportunity to demonstrate their dedication to bullying prevention.

The theme for this year's campaign has been "Be Bold. Be Kind. Speak Up." It takes a community to be brave and address bullying behaviours, both within and beyond the school gates.

Students had actively participated in lessons where they had discussed bullying and explored what it meant to be bold, be kind, and stand up for others. They had learned how to support peers who were being bullied, while staff guided them on how to be kind to each other and report incidents.

During Bullying No Way Week, the school asked everyone to be bold and say something, be kind and support someone, and be proud to speak up against bullying.















Proudly supporting Bullying No Way:











Proudly supporting Bullying No Way: National Week of Action















STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

"When students are heard, schools become places of real learning, real respect, and real change."

Student Representative Council

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of a group of students who want to help other students by presenting ideas which are of benefit to all students. The SRC also informs its peers of any important information which affects the student body.

On Thursday 14th August the Semester Two SRC reps of St Gerard's attended their first meeting. They discussed the role of an SRC member and upcoming events including Book Week Day, Grandparents Day and the Talent Quest. The students also provided feedback and new ideas for lunch time groups. The next SRC meeting will be held on Thursday 28th of August.

A big congratulation to the following students who were voted in by their class members to be the SRC reps for

Semester Two 2025.



Foundation B- Enric and Lucia

1/2S- Anthony and Mia

1/2FB- Andrew and Grace

3/4W- Dia and Gi'on

3/4S- Rex and Gurnishaan

5/60- Azaela and Hailey

5/6T- Nevyn and Katalina







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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100 Days Smarter

















100 Days Smarter







Reading Before School





























Reading Before School

Reading before school winners



LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week in Library Club, students took part in a Puzzle Race activity and a Book Hunt challenge.

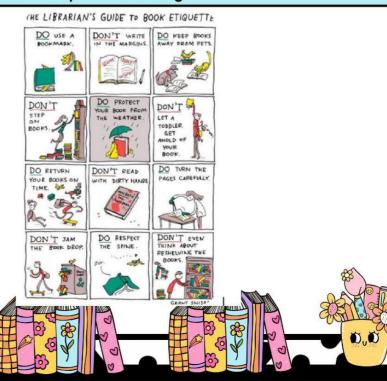
Congratulations to Team I members Ameya, Grace J, Alleah, Mila and Sophia who completed their 48-piece puzzle in 5 minutes.

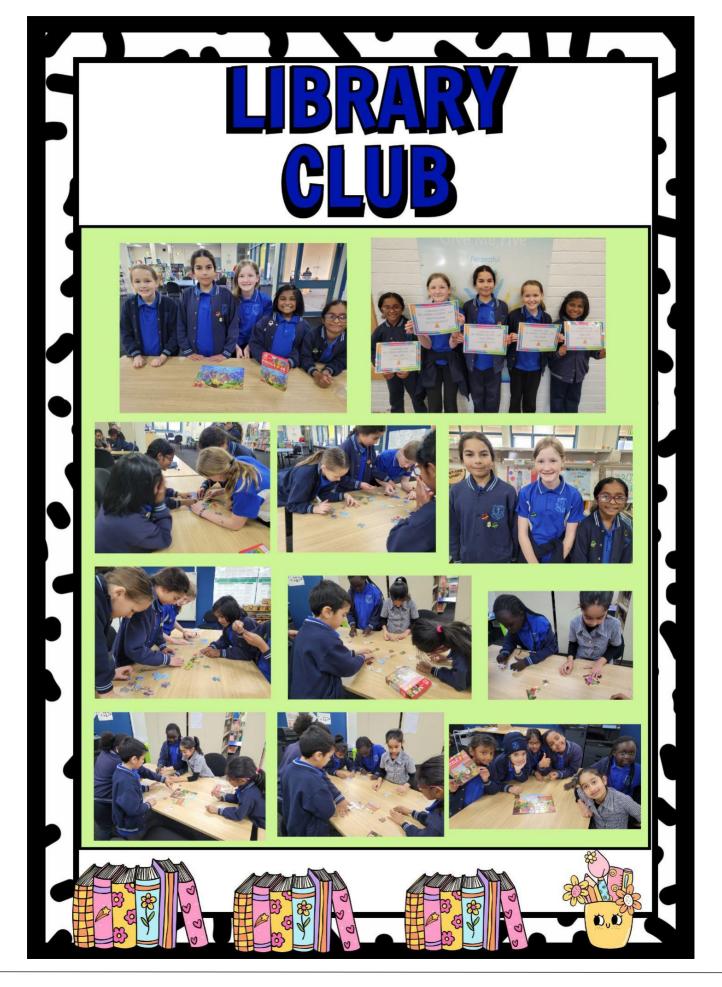
Well done to Team 2 members Nyadut, Mia, Rosana, Sanaya, Ryan and Ephrata for showing great perseverance in completing their 48-piece puzzle.

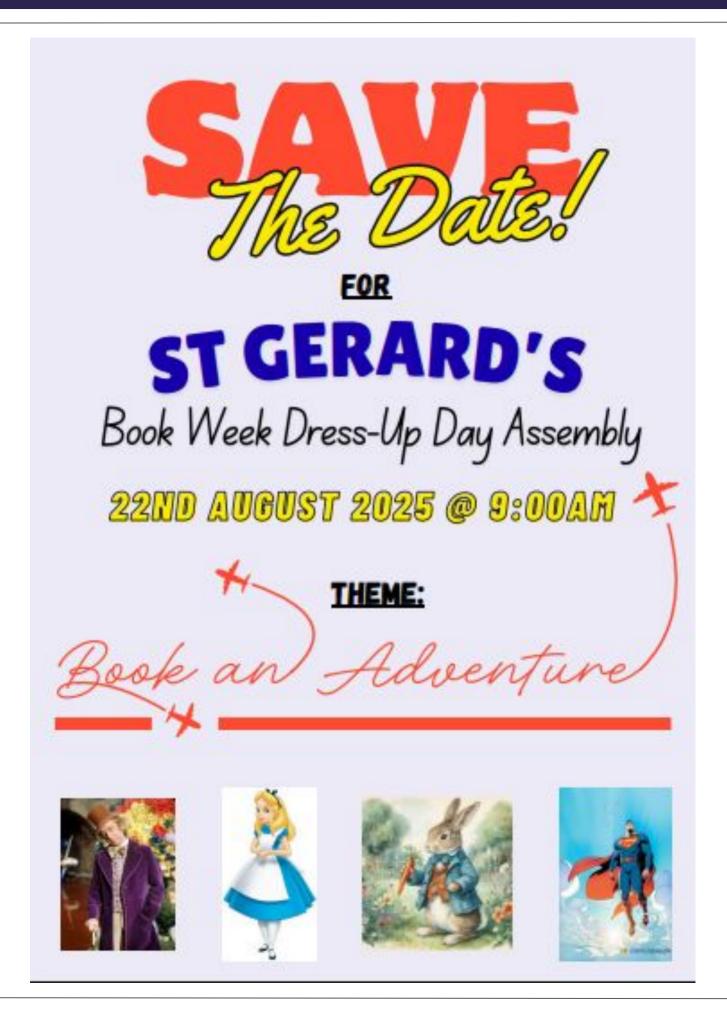
Congratulations to Alleah, Grace J and Sophia who were the fastest to find their required books.

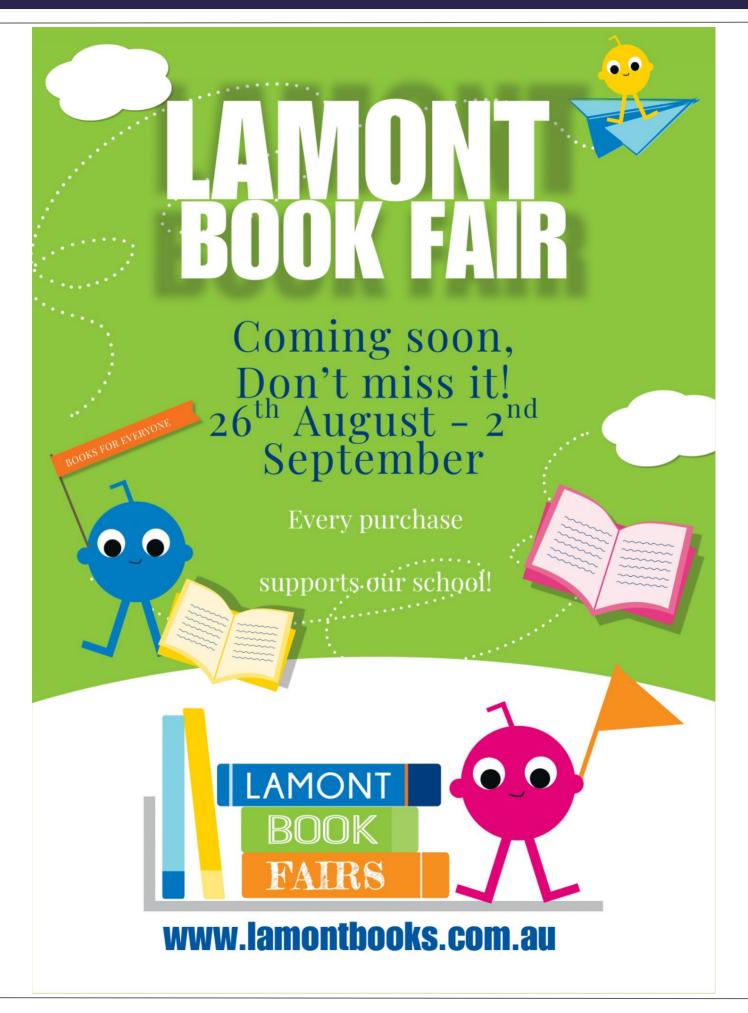
REMINDER

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









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



LOWES FOUNTAIN GATE WESTFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE

STORE TRADING HOURS MONDAY 09:00 - 17:30 TUESDAY 09:00 - 17:30 WEDNESDAY 09:00 - 17:30 THURSDAY 09:00 - 21:00 FRIDAY 09:00 - 21:00 SATURDAY 09:00 - 17:00 SUNDAY 10:00 - 17:00

WEAR NOW, PAY LATER.

With your Lowes Zero Card you will receive 5% discount on every purchase. Receive 5% in reward points to redeem,



Important Dates / Info

2025 Term 3 Dates

August

- 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.







21st August, 2025

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.

Kai Yr 3



- 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.