



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3, Week 05

22 August 2025



Book an adventure and let your imagination take you to
amazing new worlds!

Dear God,

Thank you for the joy of reading and the exciting adventures we discover in books.

Thank you for the stories that make us laugh, help us think, and open our minds to new ideas.

May the books we read at St. Gerard's inspire our imaginations, teach us valuable lessons, and help us grow in kindness, curiosity, and understanding.

Bless our love of learning and guide us to share the joy of reading with our friends, classmates and family, so that together at St. Gerard's we can explore new worlds and celebrate the wonder of every story.

Amen.



Children's Book Week
16–23 August 2025

BOOK AN
Adventure



@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,

This week we celebrated Book Week with a stronger than usual focus on books and reading with activities throughout the week culminating **today** (Friday) with our **Dress up Day**. It was wonderful to see **families come to the PAC for our parade** and the school full of book characters. Reading certainly is not only for learning, but also a wonderful way to relax, be transformed to another time/place and create lifelong memories. I asked the children to find out what their families favourite childhood books/ stories were. You may even want to read/ share them together at home. I would like to thank our families for their efforts in organising costumes and acknowledge all the work **Mrs O'Brien** did to make this such a successful week. All our staff once again got into the spirit of the day and it was certainly a **celebration** of this special week.

We also had our latest **SUBWAY Lunch** yesterday (Thursday) which is always very popular and the first in a series of **Netball Clinics** conducted by Netball Victoria for our Year 3 - 6 classes.

Our focus on reading continues next week with our annual **Book Fair** occurring from **Tuesday 26 August - Tuesday 2 September in the Library**. Purchases can be made from **8.30am - 9.00am and 3.30pm - 4.00pm each day**. Please feel free to come and have a look at what is available.

Our third **OPEN DAY** for this term is next **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.

A reminder that we have our **Father's/ Father Figure's Day Breakfast and outside games from 8.00am - 9:00am on Friday 5 September**. I am looking forward to seeing all our fathers and father figures as we recognise the vital role these people play in the lives of our children.

Lastly, a reminder that as part of our SunSmart Policy, children are required to wear a school hat when outside from 1 September - 30 April. **Therefore, from the start of Week 7 (Monday 1 September) children have to wear a school hat when outside for any school event**. School hats can be purchased from our Uniform Supplier LOWES at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre.

Thank you for your ongoing support and God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Level Mass

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

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 dstackesgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au by **Friday, 22nd August**.

Thank you for helping us make this a memorable occasion!



ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL INVITES
YOU TO
**GRANDPARENTS &
GRANDFRIENDS DAY**

**Paraliturgy and Classroom Visit
in the PAC Friday**

**28 | 08 | 2025
9:00AM**

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.

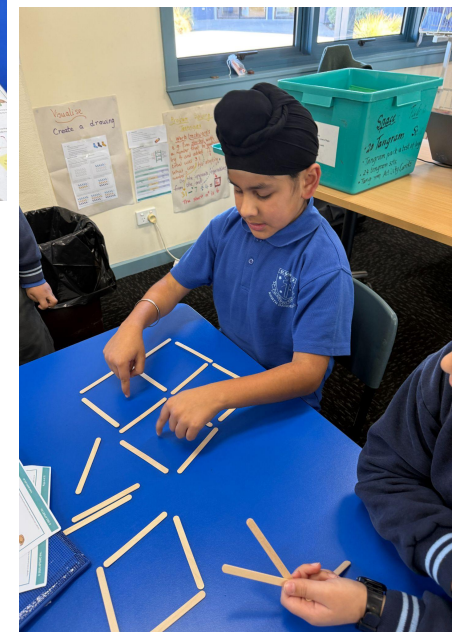
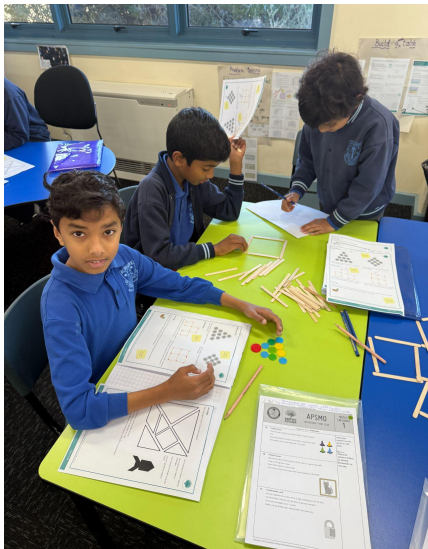
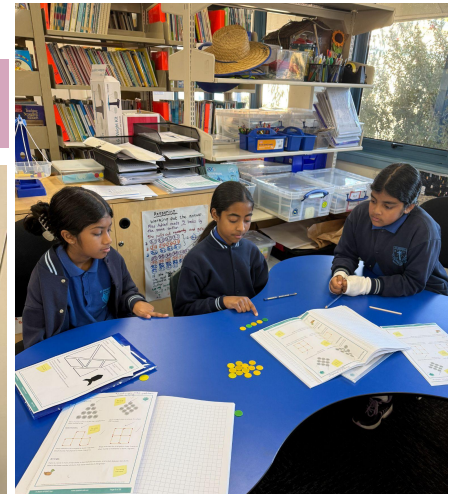
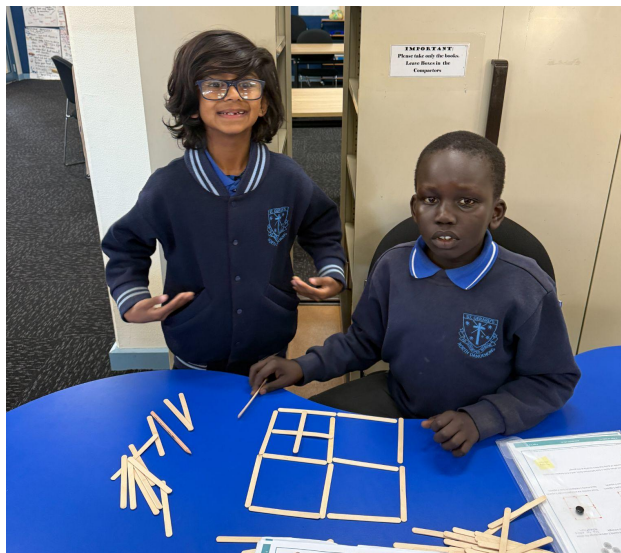
MHiPS



skipping



Enrichment Mathematics



Wellbeing



How does confidence develop?

Babies are born curious

They want to touch, see, hear and taste everything within their reach. Toddlers and preschoolers demonstrate their need to understand their world by asking many 'why' questions. From their repeated experiences of seeing their actions affect their world and the people in it, young children begin to see themselves as capable and having control. This helps them to feel good about themselves and builds their self-confidence.

When they begin school, children typically start out with high expectations

But when they see how they do things compared to others, their view of their own abilities often changes. They learn that they're good at some things and not so good at others. They also see how other children and educators respond to what they do. These things influence children's confidence in their abilities. They also influence how willing they are to have a go in situations where they feel unsure.

Your response

The way adults respond to children as they explore their place in the world is their template for solving many challenging and difficult problems later on. For young children, it helps strengthen their sense of self when significant adults nurture their natural curiosity and demonstrate patience and interest. In primary school years, children who are suddenly less sure of themselves may need extra support and encouragement to build a functional sense of confidence they can take with them into adolescence.

Wellbeing



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 Friday's assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn last Friday during whole school assembly and the lucky winners are:

1. Matej
2. Aryan
3. Roy
4. Ameya
5. Trinity
6. Cains

These students will be rewarded with a special surprise.



Wellbeing



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 Care for property Take turns Whole body listening Greet people by name	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the area neat and tidy 	Speak appropriately and use manners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give other users their privacy Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place rubbish in the bin Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden Include others Respect everyone's views and space
Be Co-operative	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the right hand side to enter 	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept rules Take turns Share and use equipment safely Accept rules
Be Your Best	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Ask for help	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Only enter the area with permission	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Report problems to a teacher	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Try to solve your problems
Be Positive	Never give up			Encourage others
Be Spirit filled	Treat others as you would like to be treated. Pray daily and during meditation	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say sorry and forgive others Be kind

Wellbeing

School Safe Survey - Student Voice Matters

This week, students participated in the School Safe Survey an important opportunity for them to share how they feel both in the classroom and in the school environment more broadly.

The survey provides valuable insights into students' experiences, including their sense of safety, belonging, and wellbeing at school. It gives every student a voice and the opportunity to express their thoughts, feelings, and any concerns they may have.

Once the survey was completed, staff reviewed the results and collaborated to brainstorm meaningful ways to support students and enhance their overall school experience.

Listening to our students and acting on their feedback is a vital part of building a positive, safe, and supportive school community.

Prep - Year 2 Safe School Survey 2025

B *I* U ☺ ☹

Form description

Name *

Short answer text

I am happy at school. *

☐ Happy



☐ Neutral



☐ Sad



Wellbeing



FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

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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Wellbeing



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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Wellbeing



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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Garden Club

Garden Club News – A Week in the Garden!

This week, Garden Club members made the most of the beautiful weather with two productive and fun filled sessions on Tuesday and Thursday.

On Tuesday, students got their hands dirty as they worked together to clear out one of the garden beds, preparing it for new plantings. They then carefully planted cauliflower and broccolini, showing great teamwork and enthusiasm.

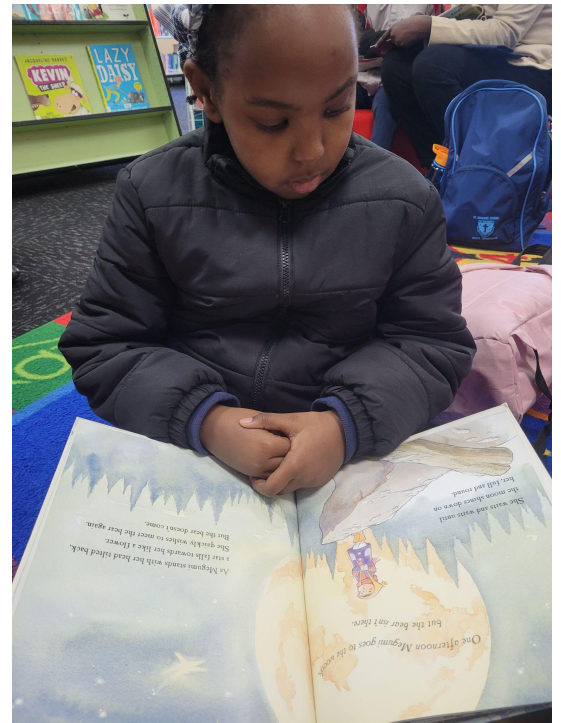
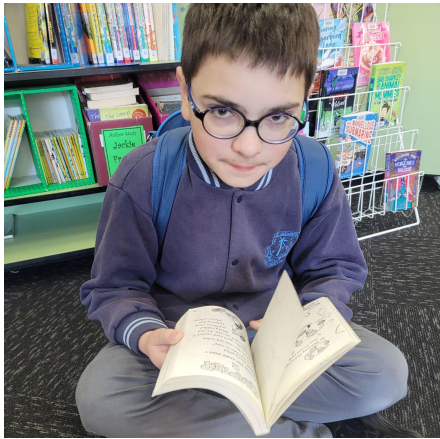
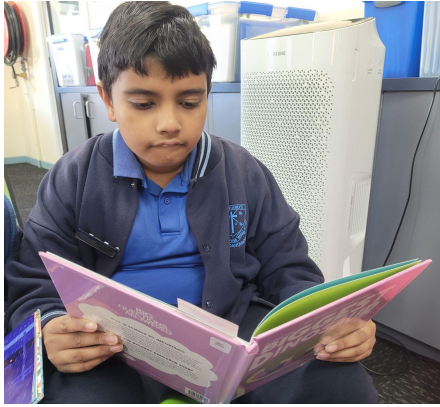
Thursday brought even more gardening action! The group tied up the growing snow peas to give them support as they climb, planted cucumber, and made sure all the seedlings received a good drink of water to keep them healthy and strong.

Throughout both sessions, the students embraced the sunshine and fresh air, enjoying the chance to learn more about gardening and the natural world.

Have a look at some of the fun they had!



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.



And the winners are....



LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week in Library Club, students took part in a Puzzle Relay Race activity.

Congratulations to Team 1 members Chudier, Ameya, Grace J, Sanaya, Nyadut and Rosana, who completed their relay in 9 minutes! This means they were able to complete each 48-piece puzzle in just under 5 minutes, finishing two puzzles in total.

Well done to Team 2 members Sophia, Layla, Bommy, Ryan and Ephrata for showing great perseverance and finishing very close second behind Team 1.

Amazing teamwork from these two teams!

REMINDER

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

THE LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO BOOK ETIQUETTE



LIBRARY

LIBRARY CLUB



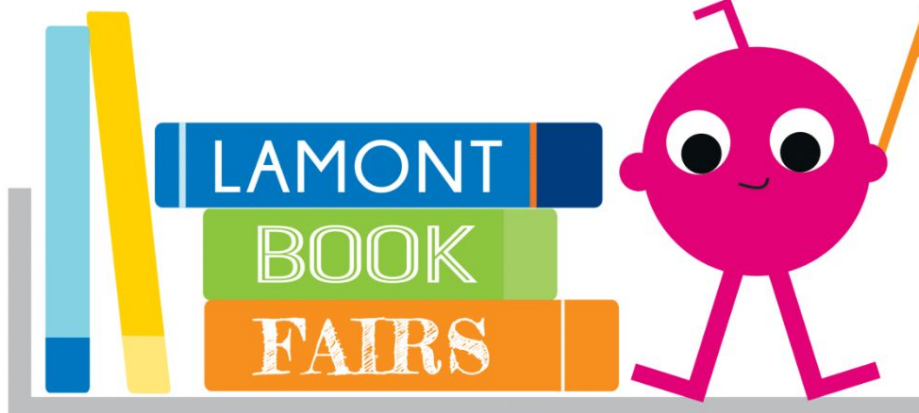
LIBRARY

LAMONT BOOK FAIR

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

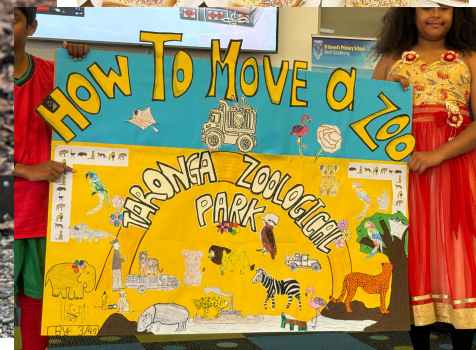
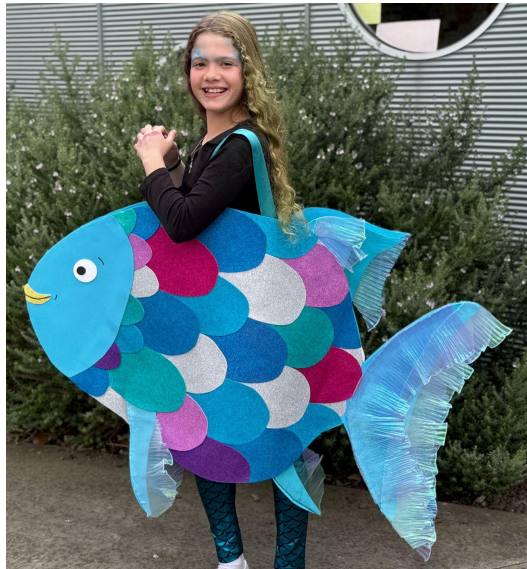
Every purchase
supports our school!

BOOKS FOR EVERYONE

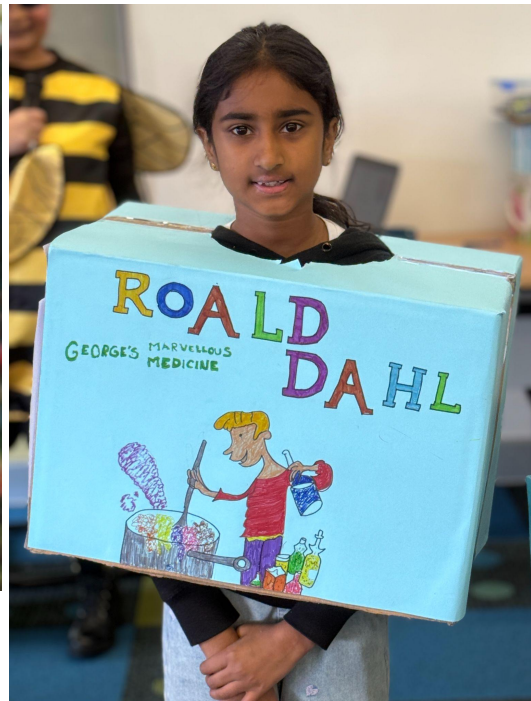


www.lamontbooks.com.au

Book Week



Book Week



Book Week



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



We're thrilled to welcome
**ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

as the newest
member of the Lowes family!

We look forward to supporting your school,
families, and community with all your
uniform needs.

INSTORE AT LOWES FOUNTAIN GATE

WESTFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE
SHOP 2012/352 PRINCES HIGHWAY,
NARRE WARREN, 3805,



FROM
**MONDAY
14TH JULY**



EARN 5%
REWARD POINTS
THAT NEVER EXPIRE



ZERO INTEREST
ON ALL PRODUCTS



5% INSTANT
SAVINGS



FIVE 20% OFF
SALES EVENTS
PER YEAR



GET EVERYTHING
YOU NEED NOW



With your Lowes Zero Card you will receive 5% discount on every purchase. Receive 5% in reward points to redeem, plus great features and benefits. For more information please contact EzyWay on 1300 156 937 or zero@lowes.com.au

WEAR NOW, PAY LATER.



20% OFF SCHOOLWEAR

PLUS EVERYTHING INSTORE*

**ZERO MEMBERS GET
AN EXTRA 5% OFF!***



4 DAYS ONLY! | AUGUST 27TH, 28TH, 29TH & 30TH

Important Dates / Info

2025 Term 3 Dates

August

- 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

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.



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.



21st August, 2025

Notice Board



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

- Akash Yr 6



- *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 [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.