



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3, Week 06

29 August 2025



Celebrate
Father's Day
with a **light
breakfast**,
followed by a
fun
**father-and-child
activity**.

We look forward
to sharing this
special morning
with all dads,
grandfathers,
and father
figures in our
community.

YOUR INVITED FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER
8:00 AM

ST GERARD'S PAC



Grandfriends Day Prayer

Loving God,

We thank You for the gift of our
grandparents and grandfriends,
for their wisdom, kindness, and the love they
share so freely.

Bless them with good health, joy, and peace.
May they continue to guide us with gentle
hearts and inspire us with their faith and
strength.

Help us to cherish the special bond we share,
to listen to their stories,
and to honour the legacy they give us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
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 has been another week with numerous learning opportunities for our children and a very special event on Thursday where we recognised some significant people in the lives of our children.

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

Our third and final **OPEN DAY** for this term was on Wednesday. If you know families that are looking for a school, please let them know that they can come 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 their place as existing families are our first category of enrolments.

Yesterday (Thursday), **we welcomed our Grandparents/ Grandfriends to our school**.

People who are '*grandparent figures*' in the lives of our children play a unique and significant role and it was wonderful that we were able to **welcome, acknowledge and thank these very special people**. There is always a wonderful feeling associated with this day and it was certainly present again this year.

Our **Year 3 - 6 children** took part in the second in a series of **Netball clinics** today (Friday). As well as developing skills which can be transferred to many other sports, the aspect of working together as a team is an important life skill. Netball offers all these aspects and the children are approaching these sessions with enthusiasm and energy.

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 activity**. School hats can be purchased from our Uniform Supplier LOWES at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre.

Lastly, our school is participating in the **2025 Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)**. MACSSIS is an annual process whereby schools listen to the thoughts and feelings students, families and staff have about how their school is performing and where it can improve. These surveys also help inform the ongoing improvement of schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. **An email will be sent to all families next week with a link to the survey and your family's PIN code for the parent survey**. Students in Years 4 - 6 will complete their survey at school in the coming weeks. **I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in advance**.

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 5/6O and 5/6T:

Thursday, 11th Sept at 10:15am

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.



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.

Wellbeing

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 [build resilience in children](#).



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.



Give Me 5 News

Next week our Give Me 5 whole school focus is to Be Cooperative in the playground. You can do this by following directions, moving safely, playing fairly and sharing and using equipment safely. Students who are being cooperative in the playground will be rewarded with a silver band.

Wellbeing

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 left 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
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

Garden Club News – A Week in the Garden!

Garden Club

This week in Garden Club was all about maintenance! Students rolled up their sleeves and got hands on experience learning the importance of keeping pesky weeds at bay to help our plants thrive. We spent the session weeding and checking in on the progress of our growing veggies, which are coming along beautifully. A special shoutout to Joram in Grade 3/4, who took a keen interest in learning how to grow potatoes in raised garden beds. While working in the garden, some of our young gardeners shared their thoughts on a potential new project: extending the garden into an orchard on the oval. What great minds at work, watch this space!

Grandparents Day a Special Day of Building and Belonging

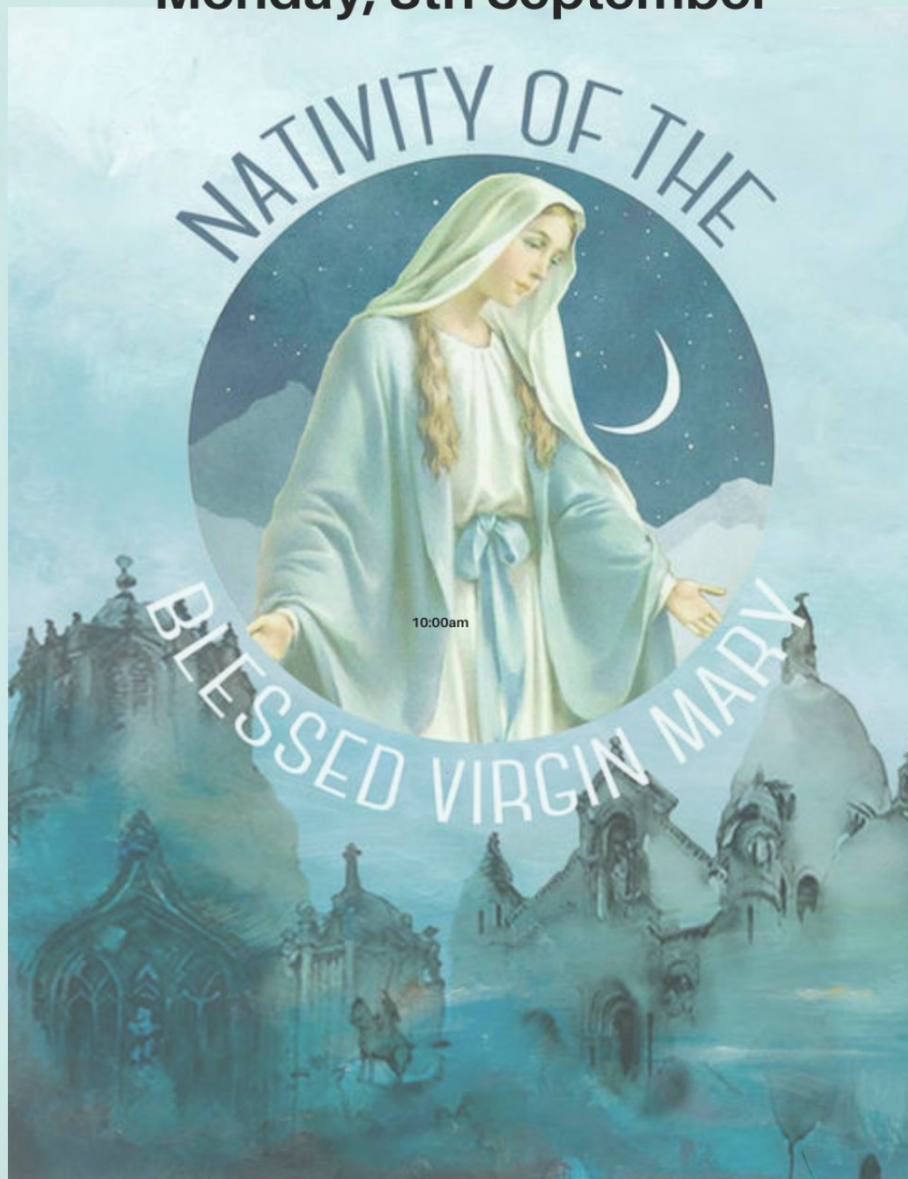
On Thursday 28th August, the Junior School celebrated Grandparents Day with a wonderful hands-on incursion led by Anne from Bunnings Warehouse Dandenong. Ann guided our students, grandparents, and special friends through the process of building nesting boxes, which will soon become safe havens for local birds and small creatures. These boxes will be a part of our Landcare gardening project, *Wurrundjeri Way*, helping to support and protect our natural environment. With hammers and nails in hand, students and their special guests followed step by step instructions to bring their nesting boxes to life. More than just a fun activity, the day created lasting memories and strengthened the bond between generations. When hung, these nesting boxes will not only support our local wildlife but also serve as a beautiful reminder of the time we shared together. A heartfelt thank you to Anne and Bunnings Warehouse Dandenong for making this special experience possible.

Wellbeing

The Nativity of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

10:00am

Monday, 8th September

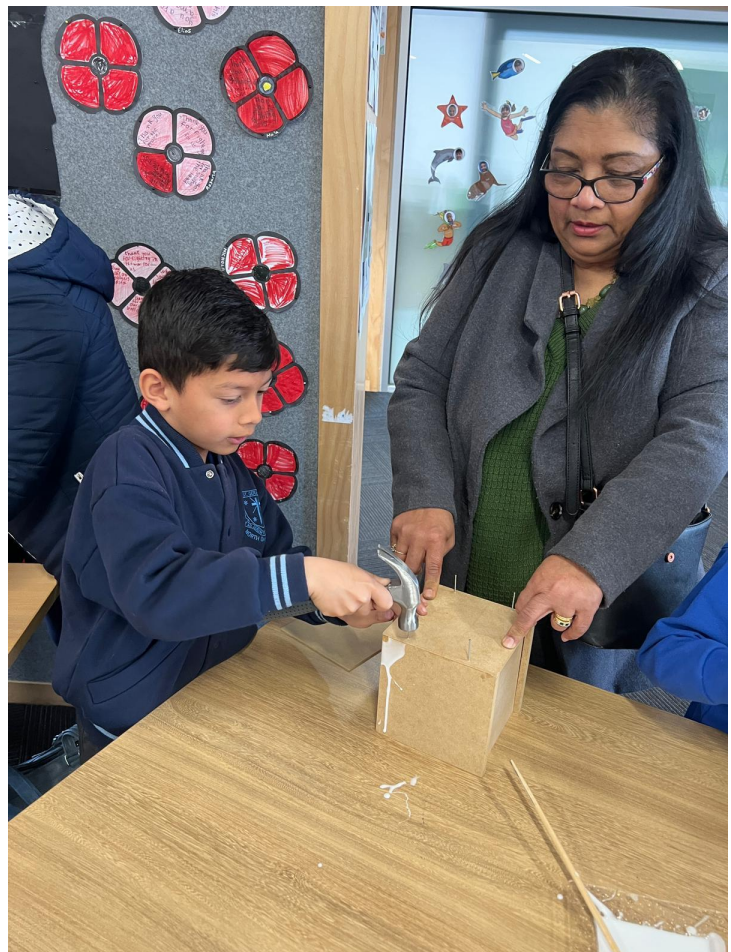


Whole School Living Rosary after Mass in the PAC

Special Day of Building and Belonging



Special Day of Building and Belonging



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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FATHER'S DAY

YOU'RE INVITED

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER
8:00 AM

ST GERARD'S PAC



Family Maths Night

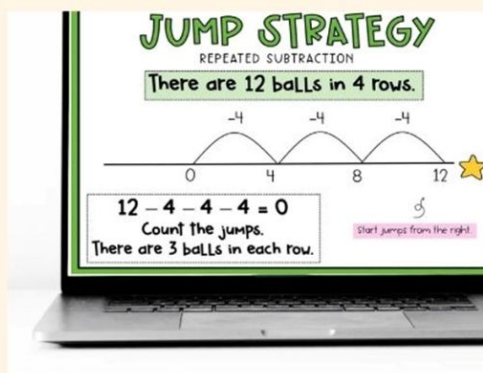
FAMILY MATHS NIGHT 2025

Come and explore the written strategies with your children and their teachers.

**THURSDAY 11
SEPTEMBER**

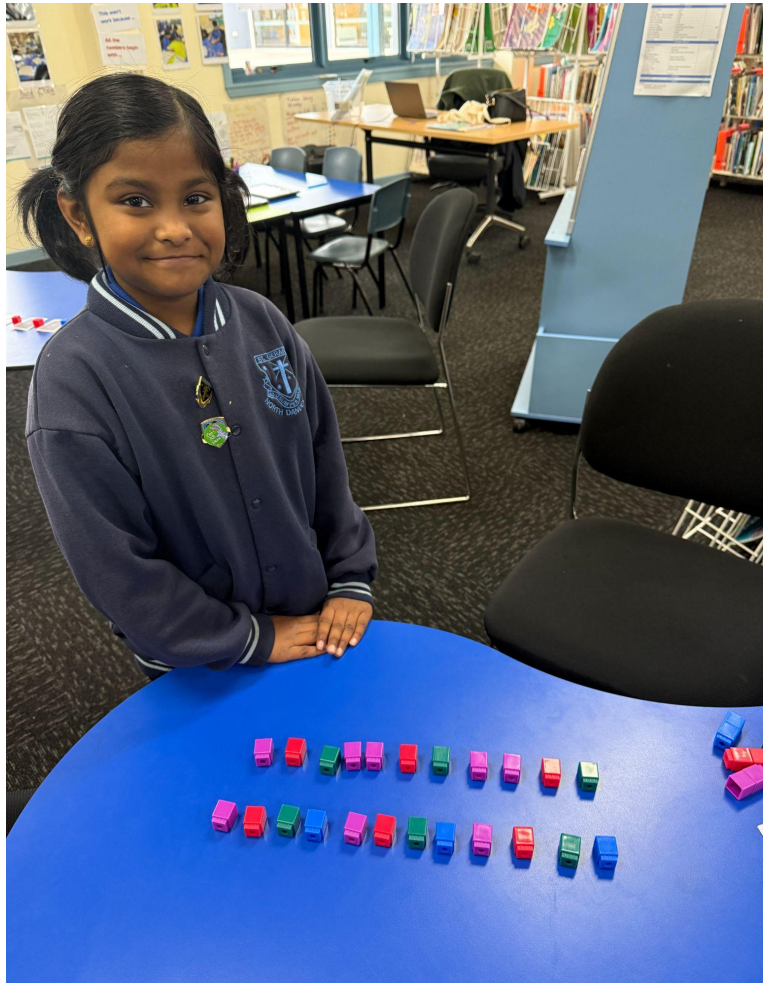
6:00-7:00 pm

Meet at St Gerard's Library



Enrichment Maths

Andrew, Ameya and Grace have been creating and analysing patterns.



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.



LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week in Library Club, students took part in a Word Search Race and a Crossword Race.

Congratulations to Ariana, Antonia and Ryan who won the Word Search Race!

Congratulations to Mila and Sophia who won the Crossword Race!

It was wonderful to see the perseverance of all students, with incredible teamwork shining through in many groups. Their curiosity and problem-solving skills were especially evident when tackling a particularly tricky clue!

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



GRANT SNIDER



LIBRARY

LIBRARY CLUB



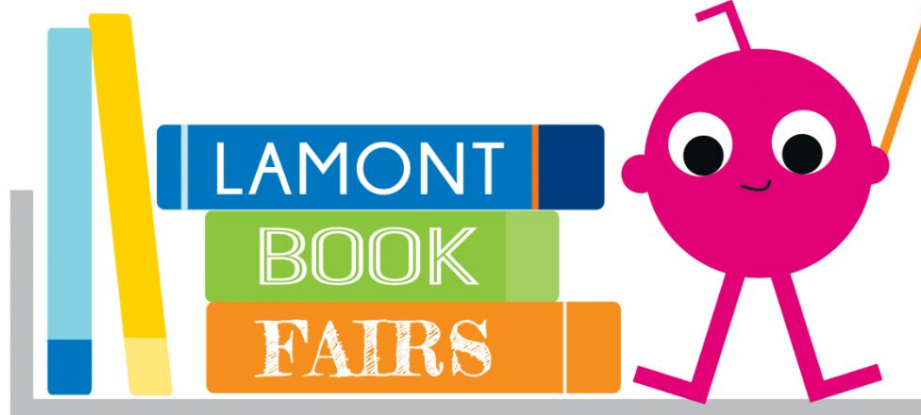
LIBRARY

LAMONT BOOK FAIR

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

Every purchase
supports our school!

BOOKS FOR EVERYONE

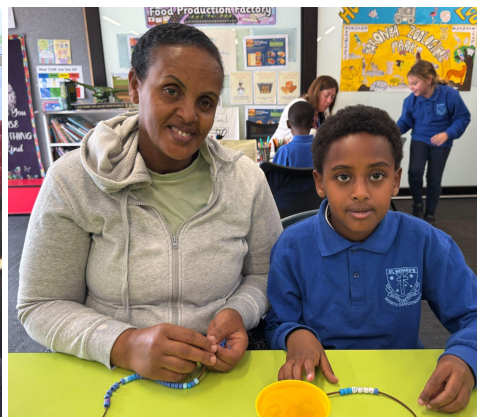


www.lamontbooks.com.au

Grandparents Day



Grandparents Day



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

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**

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.**



Notice Board



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

- Dinuka Yr 1
- Izabella Yr 4
- Oscar Yr 5
- Jesston 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 [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.