

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Term 3, Week 7

30 August, 2024



Sharing Laughter and Special Moments: A Heartwarming Father's Day Breakfast!

Happy Father's Day to all the incredible dads out there!

A Father's Day Prayer for Fathers and Father-Figures

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of fathers and all the love, strength, and guidance they provide. Bless them with wisdom, patience, and joy in their role as caregivers and role models.

May they be inspired by Your example of compassion and kindness, leading their families with hearts full of faith and hope. Grant peace to those fathers who are no longer with us, and comfort to those who miss them dearly.

Guide all fathers, grandfathers, and father-figures in our St Gerard community to continue nurturing, protecting, and supporting their children with love.

Amen.



Celebrating Fathers Day : More photos inside



@st.gerards3175

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



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Our focus on reading continued this week with our annual **Book Fair** starting on Tuesday and finishing next **Tuesday 3 September in the Library**. Purchases can be made from **8.30am - 8.45am and 3.30pm - 3.45pm each day**. Please feel free to come and have a look at what is available. It is always wonderful to see the joy and excitement on a child's face when they find a book that captures their imagination.

Today (**Friday**) we had our **Father's/ Father Figures Breakfast** to acknowledge and thank the important and significant role these people play in the lives of our children. It was wonderful to see so many father's (and some grandfathers) enjoying each other's company and playing with their children. The cricket game in the playground certainly took on a life of its own! Thank you to Ron (one of our fathers) for organising this. I would like to wish all our fathers and father figures a happy **Father's Day** for this coming Sunday. The love, support and guidance of a father is lifelong and the positive impact they can have should never be underestimated. It is truly a blessing to be a father. **Thank you also to our staff for their early start to the day to organise and serve breakfast.**

Today we had **29 children represent our school at the Dandenong District Athletics Carnival** at Ross Reserve in Noble Park. These athletes were selected based on their performances at our school Athletics Carnival which was held earlier in the year. I congratulate all of them on this success and we wait and see if any of them progress to the next level of competition.

Our school is participating in **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. Families were sent a *Letter of Informed Consent* via *Operoo*, email and *Seesaw*. **An email will be sent to all families next week with your family's code for the parent survey.** Students in Years 4 - 6 will complete their survey at school. I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in advance.

Things are starting to come together for our **School Production *Side By Side* which is on Wednesday 11 September at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall**. Yesterday (Thursday) we had our first whole school rehearsal which gave everyone the opportunity to see what each class has been working on. Please see the information contained in this newsletter and additional costume information will be sent out via *Seesaw* and *Operoo*.

A reminder to **families that arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark**. **Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly near the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues.** Another aspect of this is to be mindful of our **procedures at the end of the school day**. There are **designated pick up areas for our students and pedestrian pathways**. It can be busy at the end of the day, especially when it is cold and raining, however we **need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways**. **The safety of our students and their families is always our first priority and we want to make the end of the day as safe as possible.**

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 next week (Monday 2 September) children have to wear a hat when outside for any school event.** School hats can be purchased from the Uniform Shop online with limited stock available at the School Office.

Thank you for your ongoing support and Happy Father's Day to all our dads.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Level Mass

Yrs 1/2FW & 1/2S
Yrs 3/4SG & 3/4LG

Thursday 5th September, 9:15am
Thursday 12th September, 9:15am

Seasons

We are pleased to offer the Seasons Program, a supportive initiative designed to help children who are experiencing grief. This 10-week course provides a nurturing environment for children to explore their feelings and find support.

If you believe your child could benefit from this program, we encourage you to consider enrolling them. For more details or to express interest, please contact Mrs Stack or the school office.



St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

Next term, as part of our Feast Day celebrations and Mission Month awareness activities, we are excited to host our annual Talent Quest! Students who wish to participate will need to audition during the final week of this term.

Religious News

[Invitation to Host the statue of Our Lady: A Week of Family Prayer](#)

We invite families to host the statue of Our Lady in their homes for a week, fostering a deeper connection through family prayer. A brochure with rosary prayer instructions and rosary beads will be provided to guide your experience. If you would like to welcome the Our Lady statue into your home, please inform Mrs. Stack.



Talent Quest

PRESENTED BY ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 2024

TALENT QUEST

SPECIAL GUESTS

ST GERARD'S
CHILDREN

FEATURING

THE ST GERARD MAJELLA FEAST DAY

PARISH HALL
AT 11:50 AM

ALL WELCOME

Wellbeing



Digital mental health

Digital mental health – that is, online mental health supports and services – is an effective way of providing support to children and young people.

What do we mean by digital mental health?

Digital mental health refers to services delivered via digital platforms online, mobile or via the phone.

It also encompasses the use of social media and online support communities, which allows people to connect with others who are going through similar experiences or who share their interests.

Digital mental health services can be accessed in a confidential way – allowing children and young people to reach out for support when they may not be able to access support in the learning environment or broader community.

Online support services have been shown to support children and young people's learning, development, social networks, mental health and wellbeing. It can also provide access to opportunities to connect with others, and gain support, through the development of new skill sets to complement and build on their existing social and emotional competencies.

There are a range of online sites, services and supports available specifically for young people. The Be You [Wellbeing Tools for Students](#) is your essential guide to the online tools and other resources that will best support children and young people in taking care of their own mental health.

Wellbeing



This week in our SEL lesson we revised the "Being Your Best in the classroom" expectations from our Give Me 5 matrix.

The Prep to 6's discussed the importance of being their best by keeping hands feet and objects to themselves and trying to solve their own problems.

The students worked collaboratively to determine if a scenario demonstrated students being their best or not. The student's role-played different scenarios of how they could be their best in the classroom.

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



Thursday, 5th 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).

Important Dates



IMPORTANT DATES

September

- 1st September (Sunday) Father's Day
- 3rd Lamont Book Fair concludes
- 4th Rosary in the Church with Legion of Mary - 11:05 am
- 5th Ride / Walk to School Day
- 5th Level Mass: Yrs 1/2FW & 1/2S
- 11th School Production 'Side By Side' - 7.00pm in Parish Hall
- 12th Level Mass: Yrs 3/4SG & 3/4LG
- 19th Subway Lunch
- 20th Footy Day Parade followed by longest kick - 9.00 am
- 20th End of Term 3 - 3.30 finish

Father's Day Breakfast

HAPPY
Father's
DAY



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

Father's Day Breakfast



Father's Day Breakfast



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

Performance Art

Important: Costume Requirements for St. Gerard's School Production

Dear Families,

We are excited to announce that St. Gerard's School will be presenting our school production, *Side by Side*, on Wednesday 11th of September. As part of our preparations, we need your assistance in ensuring that your child is ready with the appropriate costume.

Please make sure that your child is equipped with the following basic costume items:

- A black t-shirt (without any prints, long or short sleeve)
- Long black pants
- All Black shoes (School shoes, all black runners/ canvas shoes)

Additionally, there will be specific costume requirements for certain classes. A detailed list of these individualised costumes will be sent out early next term.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in making this a memorable event for our students.

Stephanie Adrien
Performing Arts



Before School Reading



Athletics Day

Congratulations to everyone who placed at Athletics Day! Your hard work and dedication truly shone through. For those who gave their best effort, your spirit and perseverance are just as commendable. Keep up the fantastic work! 🌟🏅



Please note the following changes in relation to uniform purchases for St Gerard's Primary School:

Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

Option 1 - Online Order

Access to our Online Ordering System

1. www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
2. Go to **SHOP ONLINE NOW** (red box)
3. Select your school
4. Uniform listing with images will appear.

Select items you are wishing to purchase:

- Style
 - Size
 - Colour
 - Quantity
 - Add items to bag
5. Once all items are added to bag, proceed to checkout.
 6. Select delivery options
 - a. Pick up from school (free) in comments section please enter your child's name and class
 - b. Pick up from A Plus Schoolwear (free)
 - c. Postal address (delivery charges will apply)
 7. Either checkout as guest, returning customer or create a new account.

Orders placed by Sunday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

Option 2 - Fill out the order form and leave it at the school office.

Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

RETURNS

Can be given to the school office **AFTER** contacting AGS and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus School wear.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact A Plus Schoolwear

9354 8345 or email angie@agsprints.com.au



A reminder to families that arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark.

Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly near the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues. Another aspect of this is to be mindful of our procedures at the end of the school day. There are designated pick up areas for our students and pedestrian pathways. It can be busy at the end of the day, especially when it is cold and raining, however we need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

Just a reminder to parents to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications please supply ventolin, spacer and medications on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labelled bags in the school office.


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.**

St Gerard's YLVOSHC

Program Information

Service Phone Number: 0402 192 685



OPERATING TIMES

Before School Care
Hours:
6:45am – 8:45am

After School Care
Hours:
3:30pm – 6:30pm

Pupil Free Days:
7:00am – 6:00pm

Vacation Care:
7:00am – 6:00pm


Prices

Before School Care
(Permanent) \$15.00
(Casual) \$20.00
After Max CCS: \$2.89

After School Care
(Permanent) \$20.00
(Casual) \$25.00
After Max CCS: \$3.16

Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care
(Permanent) \$65.00
(Casual): \$72.50
After Max CCS: \$6.50

* MAX CCS REBATE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED AS APPROXIMATES AND MAY VARY



YLV.COM.AU

IMPORTANT NOTES



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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IMPORTANT NOTES



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.

IMPORTANT NOTES



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*.

Important Information



Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week including the weekend.

- FRANCIS Yr 5
- DUNUKA Foundation
- IZABELLA Yr 3
- OSCAR Yr 4
- JESSTON Yr 2
- NYADUT Foundation



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer
- Silverton Bakers Cricket Club



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 **\$7** 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.