

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term 3, Week 9

13 September, 2024



Side by Side: Together We Shine on Stage!

Loving God,

We thank You for the talents shared in our production, Side by Side.

Bless the students, teachers, and families who made it possible, and may the lessons of unity and teamwork continue to inspire us.

Help us to walk side by side, supporting one another as You walk with us.

Amen.



Check out more 'Side by Side' photos inside!



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
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71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Wow! What a wonderful night we had on Wednesday with our **School Production *Side By Side***. It was fantastic to see our children shine on stage and share their (many) gifts and talents with us. While the night focussed on them, I must acknowledge all the work done by our staff to have the children ready to perform the way they did. A **huge thank you to our Performing Arts teacher Ms Stephanie Adrien** for her direction, encouragement and vision to produce the night. To **all our staff** for their contributions which range from working with our children, backstage work, organising props, photography, lighting, producing and printing the program and of course being present on the night to ensure it ran smoothly. The support our families provided to our children is also a significant contribution and the genuine joy (and a few tears) on the faces of our families was amazing to see. The **biggest thank you needs to go to our children for their energy and enthusiasm**.

As I have mentioned previously, 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. **An email was sent to all families 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. **Please note that the survey closes next Friday 20 September (the last day of term)**.

I am being contacted regularly by families who cannot access the carpark at the end of the school day. I am again asking families that **arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark**. Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly just before the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars down the laneway and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues and frustration. The current building works in McNab Court also adds to this challenge. **This situation will be monitored closely to see if there is any improvement and if there is a need for a change in procedures and processes**.

Looking forward to next week, I would like to congratulate the 8 children from our school that have qualified for the **Divisional Athletics** after their performances at the Dandenong District Athletics Carnival. These athletes will compete at Ross Reserve in Noble Park next Monday. We wish them all the very best.

Next Friday we have our annual Footy Day where we encourage everyone to wear their AFL footy colours to school. We will have a parade at 9.00am in the PAC followed by a longest kick competition. Families are more than welcome to come along and be part of this occasion.

Some important dates for Term 4 to take note of are:

- Friday 18 October - School Closure Day - Literacy Professional Learning for Staff
- Monday 4 November - School Closure Day - Time in Lieu Acquittal
- Tuesday 5 November - Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
- Tuesday 17 December - Last Day of School for Students

Lastly, a reminder that **Term 3 finishes next Friday 20 September at 3.30pm**.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL



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.



The Junior Legion of Mary Meetings are held every Monday at St Gerard's school term from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Children will be picked up from school office at 3:30pm.

Please pick up your child from Parish Library.

Legion of Mary Contact: Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175 and Jacqueline Savanah on 0437 668 352.

Application forms are available to collect from the foyer of the Church.

Religious News

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.

Wellbeing



What's mindfulness?

Mindfulness involves training our attention and attitude

Being mindful means awareness of your own moment-to-moment internal and external experiences, with gentleness and acceptance and without judgment. It's a state of being that encourages us to slow down, focus on the present, accept things as they are, and act with discernment. When we do this, we may find that we are able to think more about the here and now. Mindfulness may sometimes bring up strong feelings for some people, so it's important to be gentle with yourself about whether mindfulness works for you.

What does it mean to be unmindful?

To better understand what it means to be mindful, it helps to understand what it means to be 'unmindful'. When we're inattentive, distracted and disengaged from the present moment, the mind habitually and unconsciously slips into what's called 'default mode' – we're physically doing one thing but the mind is somewhere else. For example, someone might be speaking to us, but we're not listening, or we might be reading a book but not taking in the words on the page.

Much default mental activity involves things such as worry or rumination about the past and future, which is one of the main reasons there's so much default mental activity in states like anxiety and depression.

Mindfulness is very simple

It's a practical way to notice thoughts, physical sensations, sights, sounds, smells, or anything that you might not normally notice. The moment we re-engage attention with the present moment, we switch off default mode. It gets us back on task, helps the body to relax, and helps us to respond to the moment. Despite this simplicity, mindfulness doesn't come easily to us.

You may have noticed that the ability to focus on the current moment can come naturally to some children and young people. While we might be hurrying them to get to school on time, they'll stop to look at butterflies, flowers or bugs and be immersed in that moment, with no worries about the past or future. As adults, however, we're often thinking about what we need to do next or what we wish we'd done differently.

cont'd

Wellbeing



Mindfulness takes practise

Mindfulness is about learning to make a conscious and discerning choice where our attention lies, rather than allowing it to be dominated by concerns which take us away from experiencing the present moment. It allows us to stay open, curious and flexible about the moment that we're in.

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 Give Me 5 raffle was drawn this Friday 6th September and the lucky winners are:

1. Yohannes
2. Reggie
3. Elias
4. Shannelle
5. Jake
6. Shaun

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

School Production



School Production



School Production



School Production



Before School Reading



Before School Reading

Reading Before School Raffles

At our Friday Assembly today the raffle ticket for Reading Before School was drawn.

Through student agency for change, a decision has been made to separate the raffle draws.

Our winner from:

F - 2 Pahul and Ansel

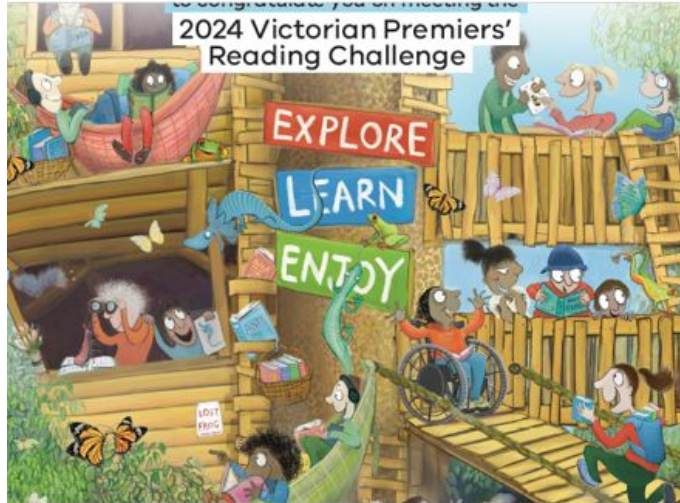
3-4 Christian and Abel

5-6 Bethany and Chelsea

Congratulations to the winners. Everyone is invited to be part of the Reading Before School opportunity.



Literacy



Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

2024 Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge has finally come to a close.


Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Premier


The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Former Premier of Victoria
December 2018 - September 2022


The Hon Dr Denis Napthine
Former Premier of Victoria
March 2019 - November 2020


The Hon Ted Baillieu
Former Premier of Victoria
December 2007 - March 2010


The Hon John Brumby AC
Former Premier of Victoria


The Hon Steve Bracks AC
Former Premier of Victoria


The Hon Jeff Kennett AC
Former Premier of Victoria

A huge 'thank you' to all those who participated. Certificates have been handed out to the students who have completed the challenge.

Congratulations to the following students:

Foundation - Mia Varghese and Maya Scott

Year One - Ameya Sheen and Michael Richardson

Year Two - None

Year Three - Elaine Ebin

Year Four - Alfie Joseph and Izabella Sunny

Year Five - Anjanna Dharmesh, Francis Vinod, Gabriel Ebin, Jacob Richardson and Lemilo Saletale.

Year Six - Iona Jerry



Important Dates



September

- 19th Subway Lunch
- 20th Footy Day Parade followed by longest kick - 9.00 am
- 20th End of Term 3 - 3.30 finish

Some Important Dates for Term 4

- Friday 18 October - School Closure Day - Literacy Professional Learning for Staff
- Monday 4 November - School Closure Day - Time in Lieu Acquittal
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LUNCH

Thursday,
19 September 2024

Return Order by:

10:00 AM Monday, 16 September 2024

NO LATE ORDERS CAN BE
ACCEPTED

**Please ensure correct money
enclosed and envelope sealed**

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** (redbox)
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



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

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

Important Information



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

- ARIANA YR 5
- ROSANA FOUNDATION
- NAMAN YR 2
- RYAN YR 1



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer
- Silverton Bakers Cricket Club
- Splash Learn to Swim - School Holiday Program



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.