

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term 4, Week 1

11 October, 2024

GO AND INVITE EVERYONE to the banquet

Building on this inclusive message, Pope Francis has recently published his World Mission Sunday message with a key theme from Matthew 22:09 of "Go and invite everyone to the banquet".



**Catholic Mission Launches
2024 World Mission Month
Appeal:
Focus on the House of
Mercy in Mongolia**

Loving God,

As we begin Mission Month, we are called to "Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet" (Pope Francis). Open our hearts to serve those in need, especially through The House of Mercy in Mongolia.

Bless our efforts, particularly in our Coin Line activity, and guide us to share Your love generously. May our actions bring hope and compassion to those who need it most.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen



Our Social Justice Leaders: Leading with Compassion this Mission Month!

Mission Month is here! This October, we invite you to "Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet" (Pope Francis) and support Catholic missions, with a special focus on The House of Mercy in Mongolia. Keep an eye out for our upcoming Coin Line activity!



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Welcome to Term 4!

I hope that you all had a wonderful break and that you are all ready for a big final term of the year. We have settled back into 'school mode' with some events this week and some exciting things planned.

This week we resumed our **Before School reading on Wednesday** and our **Year 5/6** children were involved in their third **Gala Day** for the year where they competed in Cricket and Soccer against other local schools. As always, they competed hard and represented our school with distinction. Thank you to Mrs Wilson, Mrs Te, Mrs Theodore and Mrs Zelic for supporting our children.

We welcomed **Amanda O'Neil** to our staff. Amanda will be working with us this term in the capacity of **School Counsellor**. She will be at St Gerard's two days a week (Wednesday and Thursday). You may already have seen or met her as she was out the front of the school before and after school this week and has met our children both in the classrooms and on the playground. We look forward to Amanda adding to our school community through her support.

Information was sent out this week via *Operoo* about our upcoming **Whole School Excursion to Melbourne Aquarium** which is on **Monday 21 October**. This is part of our St Gerard's Feast Day celebrations. There is already a 'buzz of excitement' about this opportunity and we are all looking forward to a great day.

I would like to thank families for their response to our end of the day parking challenges. With families arriving before 3.25pm and parking in the carpark (rather than joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly just before the pedestrian crossing) there is less of a backlog of cars down the laneway. **To further address this challenge, the pedestrian footpath gate that runs alongside the house near the St Gerard's Memorial Garden/ Grotto will be opened at 3.15pm each afternoon.** We will continue to monitor this situation closely to see if there is a need for any further changes in procedures and processes.

Families are invited to attend a ***Cyber Safety in the Home - Responsible Device Use*** session presented by Yanni Bakaniozos from Edge IT Solutions. Yanni works at our school on a weekly basis and manages our school's digital network. We are offering 2 sessions which will occur in the Library, next Thursday 17 October at 9.15am and Thursday 24 October at 2.45pm. There are more details contained in this newsletter and I would encourage all families to attend one of the sessions. Thank you to Mrs Lewis for coordinating this opportunity as this is an area that we all need to be up to date with.

A reminder to those families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan**. If there are changes to any aspect of the plan, please **contact the School Office**. It is vital that the **information we have at school is current**. With Spring now upon us, there is often a need to check and re-assess certain medical conditions.

Finally, **a reminder that next Friday 18 October is a School Closure Day** as our staff will be participating in Literacy Professional Learning.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Level Mass

YYrs: Foundation, 5/6O & 5/6T
Yrs 1/2FW & 1/2S
Yrs 3/4SG & 3/4LG

Thursday 28th November, 9:15am
Thursday 5th December, 9:15am
Thursday 12th December, 9:15am

Whole School Mass

St Gerard Majella Feast Day Parish Mass:
All Saints' Day, Parish Mass:
End of Year Mass

Wednesday, 16th October, 9:15am
Friday 1st November, 9:15
Friday 13th December at 12:00

Reconciliation

Yrs 3/4LG & 3/4SG:
Yrs 5/6O and 5/6T:

Thursday, 28th November at 10:15am
Thursday, 5th December at 10:15am

Pope Francis' Message for World Mission Month

Drawing from the inclusive call in Matthew 22:9, Pope Francis urges us to extend the invitation to the banquet to all, fostering solidarity and unity across the world.

Mission Month Assembly

The Mission Assembly took place today to kick off Mission Month. The Social Justice Leaders have introduced a coin line activity.

Coin Line

This year, we will host a coin line to raise money for Mission Month. The class that raises the most funds will win a casual dress day! Join us for the coin line on Friday, November 8th.

World Mission Month 2024



Reach out. Give life.

Religious News

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

St Gerard's school has been gifted with a beautiful statue of Our Lady, a generous gift from the Legion of Mary group. The statue comes with a handcrafted carrier bag, designed for its respectful storage when not in use. Families are invited to bring the statue home for a week to use it to enhance family prayer. A brochure offering guidance on how to engage in rosary prayer will be included, accompanied by some sets of rosary beads. If you would like to bring this statue home, please contact Mrs Stack.



[Lunchtime Rosary](#)

Lunchtime Rosary: In partnership with the Legion of Mary, we are promoting the tradition of praying the Rosary during lunch breaks. Students interested in participating are invited to attend sessions during the first lunch break in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

Religious News

Key Dates

Friday 11th October:	Mission Month Assembly (Led by the Social Justice team)
Wednesday, 16th October:	Whole School Talent Quest to celebrate our Feast Day, 11:50
Sunday, 20th October:	St Gerard's Feast Day Parish Mass at 10:30am
Wednesday 30th October:	11:05 Lunchtime Rosary in the Church
Friday, 1st November:	All Saints Day, Parish Mass 9:15 am
Saturday, 2nd November:	All Souls Day
Friday 8th November:	Coin Line to raise money for Catholic Missions
Monday, 11th November:	Remembrance Day, one minute silence
Monday, 25th November:	Year 6 Reflection Day
Wednesday 27th November:	11:05am Lunchtime Rosary in the Church
Friday, 29th November:	First Sunday of Advent Assembly, 2:50pm
Tuesday 10th December:	Christmas Carols Evening, 7:00pm
Wednesday 11th December:	Christmas Activities Rotations, Yrs P/1/2/5/6 Middle Block, Yrs 3/4 TBA
Friday, 13th December:	End of Year Mass, 12:00pm
TBA:	Christmas Carols Tour of the Nursing Homes Excursion
Monday, 16th December:	Graduation Mass and Ceremony, 7:00pm

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



Building resilience in children

Resilience is something that can be fostered and developed over time. A combination of individual, family, community and societal factors influence children and young people's developing resilience.

How can early learning services and schools build resilience?

Early learning services and schools are places where children and young people spend a great deal of their time. Learning communities play a key role in developing resilience through formal and informal learning opportunities. [Resilience](#) is key for developing positive mental health and wellbeing.

Caring and supportive relationships

Strong relationships within the family can help at times of stress or adversity. This support and security is a protective factor for children and young people's mental health. You support healthy relationships by:

- promoting family-centred practice and reach out to families
- providing information to families on how they can support their child or young person develop resilience
- encouraging families to draw on the resources available in their community in times of need.

Research also indicates a positive relationship with at least one caring, competent adult outside of the child or young person's immediate family is related to greater mental health and resilience. As an educator, you might develop connections with children in your learning community which are based on warmth, empathy, and respect.

Connection to diverse groups of friends is also valuable. Even very young children develop a sense of self and self-confidence through their peer relationships. You can encourage healthy relationships by:

- promoting a welcoming, friendly and safe environment
- promoting inclusion, and address bullying, sexism and racism
- role modelling perspective-taking and compassion
- celebrating diversity
- teaching the skills to work together effectively (for example, communication skills)
- requiring cooperation (for example, structuring tasks that require working in small groups)
- empowering children and young people to ask for support.

cont'd

Wellbeing

cont'd

Setting high-but-achievable expectations of children and young people

Research has shown that high expectations give students the sense that educators care about them. You can assist by:

- exposing children and young people to manageable stress (for example, when you respond in a warm and sensitive manner, children and young people learn they are safe, that their needs will be taken care of and they'll be supported with their coping skills)
- making sure that goals are achievable by breaking down large tasks or responsibilities into small steps
- asking them questions to help them solve problems and promote further learning
- scaffolding their learning and help when necessary, without taking over.

Provide opportunities for children and young people to participate

You can:

- view children and young people as capable contributors to their world (for example, by providing tasks that require a meaningful contribution, letting them make decisions and experience consequences)
- give them meaningful choices
- express your belief in their capacity to learn and contribute
- help them learn from mistakes
- teach values
- support them to express their views and listen to their views.

Wellbeing



Give Me 5 News

This week the Give Me Five focus was to 'Be Your Best' in the play areas.

The teachers were looking for students who were being their best in the playground. These students were rewarded with a raffle ticket in the classroom and silver wristband in the playground.

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

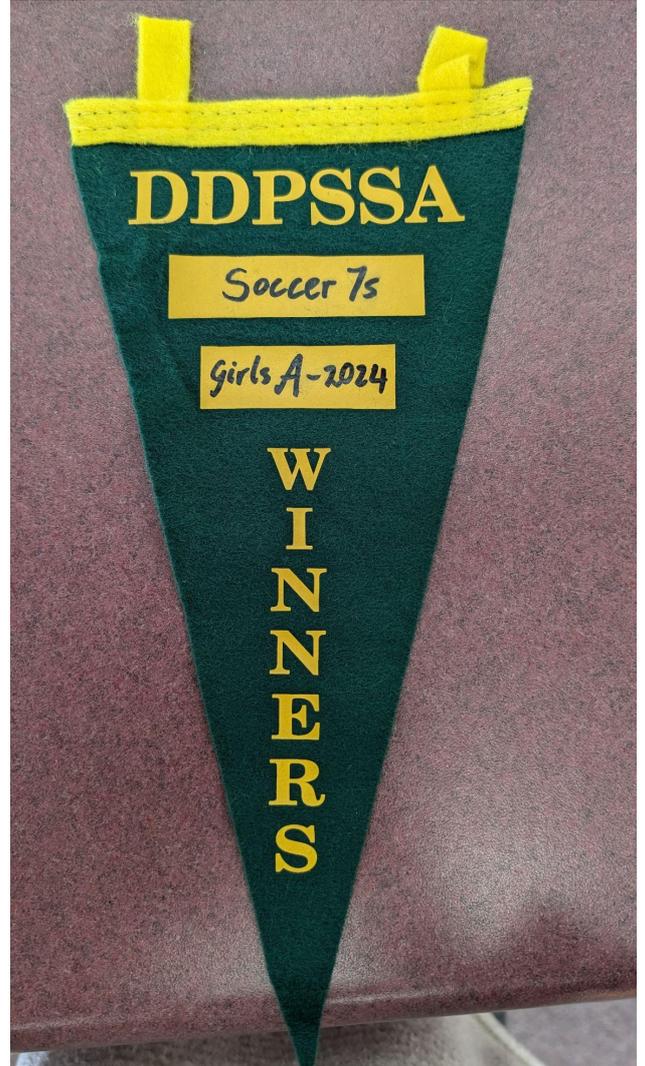
Before School Reading

Every Wednesday from 8:30am

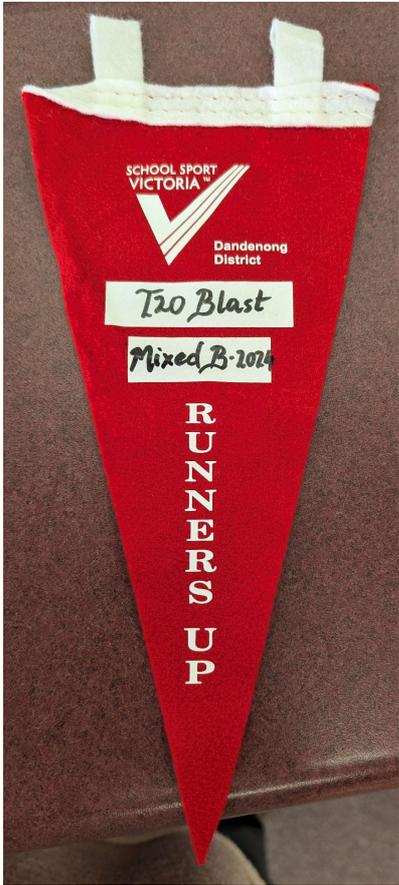


Sports Gala Day

 We couldn't be prouder of the children today! Their hard work and dedication truly shine through. Take a moment to check out their amazing efforts—congratulations to all! 



Sports Gala Day



Sports Gala Day



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

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.**

St Gerard's YLVOSHC

Program Information

Service Phone Number: 0402 192 685



Prices

Category	Permanent	Casual	After Max CCS
Before School Care	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$2.89
After School Care	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$3.16
Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care	\$65.00	\$72.50	\$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*.

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IMPORTANT NOTES

October

- 15th Open Day
- 16th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 16th St Gerard's Feast Day- Whole School attending Parish Mass at 9:15am
- 16th Talent Quest for St Gerard's Feast Day in hall at 11:50am
- 16th Subway Lunch
- **18th School Closure Day - Literacy Professional Learning**
- 21st - 25th Bike Ed Years 4-6
- 21st Whole School Excursion to Melbourne Aquarium
- 23rd 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 23rd Open Day
- 30th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 30th Rosary in the Church with Parish Legion of Mary at 11:05am
- 31st Open Day
- 31st Ride to School Day

November

- 1st All Saints Day, whole school attends Parish Mass 9:15 am
- **4th Closure Day - TIL**
- **5th Melbourne Cup holiday**
- 6th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 11th - 22nd Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (not Wednesdays)
- 11th Remembrance Day Assembly at 10.55 am
- 13th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 20th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 21st The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Whole School Living Rosary
- 27th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 27th Rosary in the Church with Parish Legion of Mary at 11.05 am
- 28th Ride to School Day
- 28th Preps, Year 5/6 attend Parish Mass at 9.15am
- 28th Reconciliation: Yrs 3/4LG & 3/4SG
- 29th First Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2.50 pm

December

- 1st First Sunday of Advent
- 4th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 5th Years 1 & 2 attend Parish Mass at 9.15am
- 5th Reconciliation: Yrs 5/6O and 5/6T
- 6th Second Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2.50 pm
- 8th Second Sunday of Advent
- 10th Christmas Carols evening 7.00pm
- 11th 8:30 - 8:40 am Reading before school in the library
- 12th Subway Lunch
- 12th Years 3 & 4 attend Parish Mass at 9.15am
- 13th End of year Mass @ 12.00 noon
- 13th Third Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2.50 pm
- 15th Third Sunday of Advent
- 16th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm
- 17th **Last day of school for all students** 3:10pm Guard of honour for Year 6 students

Important Information



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

- NAOMI Yr 3
- ELANA Yr 6
- JOEL Foundation
- AINSLEY Yr 6



Reminder: Due 10:00 am
Monday 14th October, 2024



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