



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



Term 4, Week 05

# ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

07 November 2025



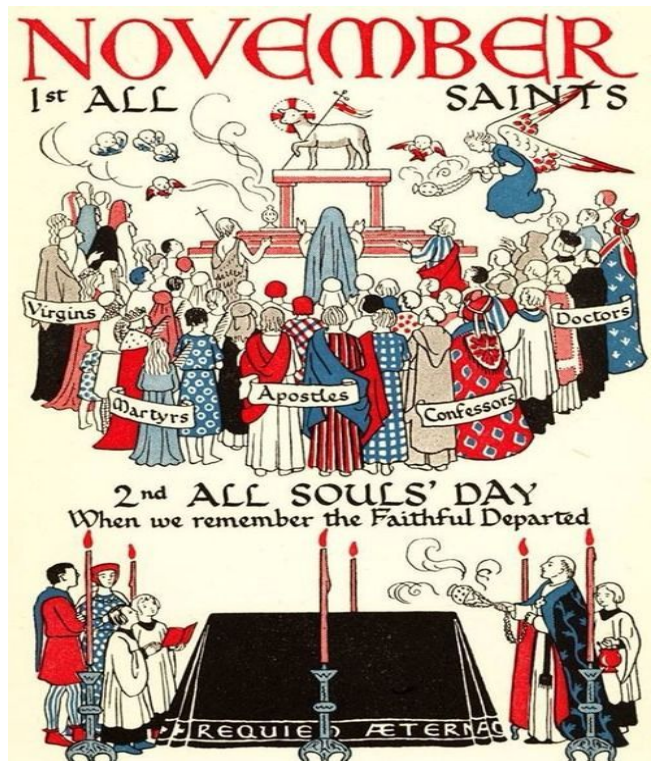
Smiles,  
kindness,  
and fair  
play: that's  
being  
positive in  
the  
playground!

## Prayer for All Saints and All Souls

Loving God,  
We give thanks for all the saints, ordinary people who lived  
with great love, courage, and faith.  
May their example inspire us to follow Jesus more closely and  
to bring light and kindness into our world.

We also pray for all souls who have gone before us.  
Welcome them into your eternal peace and surround them  
with your mercy and love.  
May we cherish their memory and find comfort in the hope of  
being united again one day in your heavenly kingdom.

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,

I hope that the shorter week provided you with the chance to refresh before we head into the final stage of the year.

On Wednesday and Thursday we had the first **two of our four 2026 Prep Orientation sessions** where there were some familiar faces as well as some new ones. One thing that was noticeable was the excitement and enthusiasm of our youngest children and their families. It is always a wonderful time to welcome new members to our school community. We have two more sessions coming up in the next few weeks. There are limited places still available for Prep in 2026 so if you know of any families looking for a school please let them know.

Yesterday, (Thursday) we had our **latest SUBWAY Lunch** day which as always was very well supported.

As planning **for 2026** increases, considerable time is spent in **preparing class lists** with numerous factors needing to be considered. **If families have a specific request for their child this needs to be put in writing and addressed to myself or emailed to [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) .** Requests need to be based on **educational grounds** and will be treated confidentially. **Please note that all requests will be considered but I cannot guarantee that all requests will be granted.** Our aim as a school is to provide the best opportunities for all our students to learn. **Requests need to be received by Friday 21 November.**

As we look to next week, our **Swimming Program starts on Monday.** Children will be involved in **lessons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday over the next two weeks.** This is a highly anticipated event amongst our children with a number of them counting down the days until it starts! In the lead up to Summer, water confidence, awareness, safety and skills are very important.

Lastly, thank you for your support last week for World Teachers Day and our White Elephant Stall. It is truly appreciated.

God bless.

Paul COWAN  
PRINCIPAL



# Religious News



## An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

Families are welcome to take home the Our Lady statue for a week to support and enrich prayer time at home. It comes with a brochure on how to pray the rosary and some rosary beads. If families would like to take the statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.

## Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is working with the school to lead the Rosary during lunch breaks. These Rosary sessions will take place during the first lunch break on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

## Celebrating the Month of the Rosary

Throughout October, we honour Our Lady during the Month of the Rosary. Each week, Our Lady's statue will visit different year levels, giving students the opportunity to pray the Rosary together and reflect on the life of Jesus with Mary.

Class Schedule:

- Week 1: Years 1 & 2
- Week 2: Years 3 & 4
- Week 3: Years 5 & 6
- Week 4: Foundation





# Religious News

## World Mission Month 2025



## Help plant seeds of change in Zambia

Join Sr Jane this World Mission Month, empowering women in Zambia with seeds, tools and training to overcome hunger and create hope-filled futures.



## Pope Leo XIV Opens Jubilee Celebrations for Missionaries of Hope

October is World Mission Month, a time to celebrate and support those who bring hope, faith and compassion to communities around the world. This year's theme, *"Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples,"* reminds us to live with faith and share God's love in our daily lives. Let us pray for and support missionaries everywhere who bring light and hope to others.

## Remembrance Day Poppy Badges

The Social Justice Team will be selling Poppy Badges for **\$1** in the lead-up to **Remembrance Day on 11 November**. All proceeds will be donated to the **RSL**, supporting Australian veterans and their families. Each badge purchased helps provide essential care and assistance to those who have served our country.





# Religious News

## Level Mass

Yrs: Foundation, 5/6O & 5/6T  
Yrs 3/4S & 3/4W  
Yrs 1/2FB & 1/2S

Wednesday 3rd December, 9:15am  
Thursday 4th December, 9:15am

## Reconciliation

Yrs 3/4W & 3/4S:  
Yrs 5/6O and 5/6T:

Thursday, 27th November at 10:15am  
Thursday, 4th December at 10:15am

## Important Dates for Term 4

<b>Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November:</b>	Remembrance Day, one minute silence
<b>Thursday, 26th November:</b>	Year 6 Reflection Day
<b>Wednesday 5th November:</b>	Graduation Mass Planning (8:55-9:55) TBC
<b>Thursday 27th November:</b>	11:05 Lunchtime Rosary in the Church
<b>Friday, 28th November:</b>	First Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:30
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	Christmas Carols Evening
<b>Wednesday 10th December:</b>	Christmas Activities Rotations
<b>Wednesday 10th December:</b>	Christmas Carols Tour of the Nursing Homes Excursion TBC
<b>Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	End of Year Mass, 12:00
<b>Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	Graduation <b>Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm</b>

# 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.

# 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*.



# Wellbeing



## How does confidence develop?

### **Babies are born curious**

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

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

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

### **Your response**

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

# Wellbeing

## Give Me 5 News

### Give Me 5 News

Students who display the expectations present on the school Matrix are rewarded with a raffle ticket from their classroom teacher. Once a month the raffle tickets from each class are collected and drawn during Friday's assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn and the lucky winners are:

1. Katara
2. Rutesh
3. Maya
4. Steve
5. Riona
6. Dhanvin

These students will be rewarded with a special surprise.



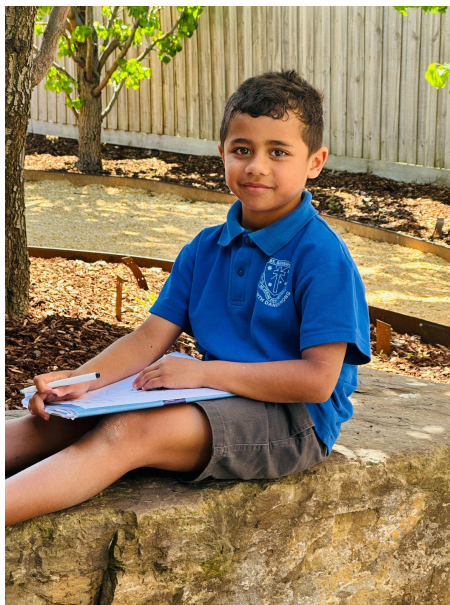
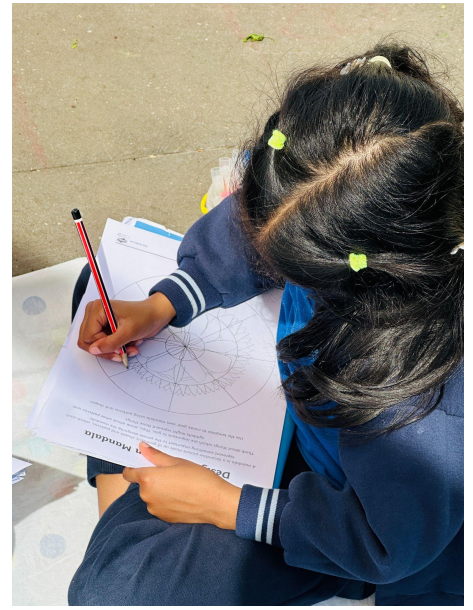


# MHiPS



The children have begun to create mandalas as a way to manage their big emotions. Creating Mandalas is a type of meditation. They can be drawn or created from things found in nature.

Below are photos from Yr 1/2S showing how the students used a template to create unique mandalas.





# Library News

## LIBRARY NEWS

### LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week at Library Club, students took part in a Colouring Competition activity. Everyone worked wonderfully together, singing songs as they showcased their amazing colouring skills.

Winners will be announced next Wednesday, as a special visitor will be coming to spend some time in the St Gerard's Library for a couple of weeks this term.

Well done to everyone who participated. You showed great perseverance and pride.

Please remember to both borrow and return books to the library. Miss Adrien checks for overdue books every two weeks. Students with overdue books will receive a strike, and three strikes in a term will affect borrowing opportunities.

There are lots of new titles on display, and it would be fantastic to see regular borrowing from all students!

### REMINDER

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

#### THE LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO BOOK ETIQUETTE





# Library News

## LIBRARY CLUB





# 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.





# MHiPS

OFFICIAL

GET  
ACTIVE  
KIDS  
VOUCHERS



The Get Active Kids Voucher Program is open! Get in quick as applications for a voucher will close on 13 November or earlier if the budget allocation is fully exhausted.

Victorian families with a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card can apply for up to \$200 to support their child's sport and active recreation activities. Apply now at [www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers](http://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers)

Get \$200 to help your  
child play sport!



[getactive.vic.gov.au](http://getactive.vic.gov.au)

GET  
ACTIVE  
KIDS  
VOUCHERS





## The Get Active Kids Voucher Program is now open!

We are pleased to let you know that we are a Get Active Kids Voucher Program Activity Provider and Round 9 is open! Get in quick as applications for a voucher will close on 13 November or earlier if the budget allocation is fully exhausted.

If your family or child has a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, you may be eligible for up to \$200 to put towards the cost of your child's registration and membership fees at <insert club name>.

Important Dates:

**Round 9 open to apply for a voucher or reimbursement:** 10:00 am Wednesday, 15 October 2025 and will close 13 November or earlier if the budget allocation is fully exhausted.

**Reimbursement expenditure dates:** from 1 July 2025 to submission of application

**Vouchers expiry date:** Wednesday, 31 December 2025.

Apply now at [www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers](http://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers) to have your voucher emailed to you. Let us know your voucher code when you pay your fees and we will take up to \$200 off the registration and membership fee (as well as any included uniforms and/or equipment).

Tip: Be sure to select us as your Activity Provider. We are listed as <insert club name> and our Get Active Kids Voucher Program number is <insert number>.

If you have already paid for your child's activity, you can apply for a reimbursement. You can only apply for either one voucher or a reimbursement for each child in Round 9.

Special consideration applies for children residing in care services as well as temporary or provisional visa holders, undocumented migrants or international students.

To find out if you are eligible, how to apply, what costs are covered and more, visit [www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers](http://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers)



# 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

**WELCOME!**  
TO  
**LOWES**

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,

**LOWES**  
SCHOOLWEAR

FROM  
**MONDAY  
14TH JULY**

**WELCOME!**  
TO  
**LOWES**

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.**

## November

- 10th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 1)
- 10th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 11th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 2)
- 11th Remembrance Day
- 12th 8.30am Reading before school in the library
- 13th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 3)
- 14th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 4)
- 17th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 17th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 5)





# Important Dates / Info

## November

- 10th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 1)
- 10th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 11th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 2)
- 11th Remembrance Day
- 12th 8.30am Reading before school in the library
- 13th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 3)
- 14th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 4)
- 17th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 17th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 5)
- 18th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 6)
- 19th 8:30 am Reading before school in the library
- 20th Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 7)
- 20th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 21st Swimming at Dandenong Oasis (Day 8)
- **24th School Closure Day - Mathematics**
- 26th 8:30am Reading before school in the library
- 26th Year 6 Reflection Day
- 27th Level Mass - Foundation, Years 5/6O and 5/6T
- 27th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 27th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 27th Reconciliation Years 3/4W and 3/4S
- 27th Ride/ Walk to School Day
- 28th 2:50pm Assembly in the PAC

## December

- 1st 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 2nd Art Show Opens
- 3rd 8:30am Reading before school in the library
- 3rd Level Mass: Years 3/4S and 3/4W
- 4th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 4th Level Mass: Years 1/2FB and 1/2S
- 4th Reconciliation Years 5/6O and 5/6T
- 8th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 9th Christmas Carols evening at 7.00pm
- 9th Art Show Closes
- 10th 8:30am Reading before school in the library
- 11th 8:30am Skipping in the Courtyard
- 11th Subway Lunch
- 12th End of School Year Mass at 12.00 noon
- 15th 8:45am Whole School Meditation in the PAC
- 15th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm in the PAC
- **16th Students last day of school** 3:10pm Guard of honour for Year 6 students



## 2026

## January

- 28th Prep(Foundation) -Year 6 commence Term 1, 2026

# Important Dates / Info

## **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.

## **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.

YLV are always happy to hear from families, carers, and members of the local school community. If you would like to make an enquiry about our services, including After School Care, Before School Care, Pupil-Free Day and Vacation Care, please call Marina 0402 192 685

[ylv.com.au](http://ylv.com.au) to register



GOOD AFTERNOON, ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL FAMILIES.

All bookings for 2025 will close at the end of this year. Bookings for Before and After School Care in 2026 are now open. To secure a place, please submit your request by the end of Term 4. You may book by texting Marina (Coordinator) on 0402 192 685. When texting, please include:

The days you require care

Whether care is for Before School Care, After School Care, or both

Whether the booking is permanent or casual

Early submissions for 2026 will help prioritise existing families before places are offered to new families.

For any questions, please contact Marina directly.

Kind regards

Marina Walallawita

Area Manager, Coordinator Educational Leader

[marina@ylv.com.au](mailto:marina@ylv.com.au)

0402 192 685

Coordinator/Educational Leader/Area Manager



# Notice Board



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

- Thinuki Found
- Kayson Found



**Congratulations Harold!** 🎉

A big congratulations to **Harold (Year 1/2 S)** who achieved an incredible **187 skips in a row** during before-school skipping this week! 🏆

That's the **highest number of skips ever recorded** by a student at **St Gerard's School** – what an amazing effort!

Well done, Harold – we're all so proud of your determination and skill! 🙌



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- North Dandenong Cricket Club - Junior Teams & Woolies Blast
- Nazareth Secondary College School Tour Dates and 2027 Year 7 Application Dates
- Mazenod College Open Day & School Tours Info
- Goodstart Early Learning - Princes Highway



## 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.