



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



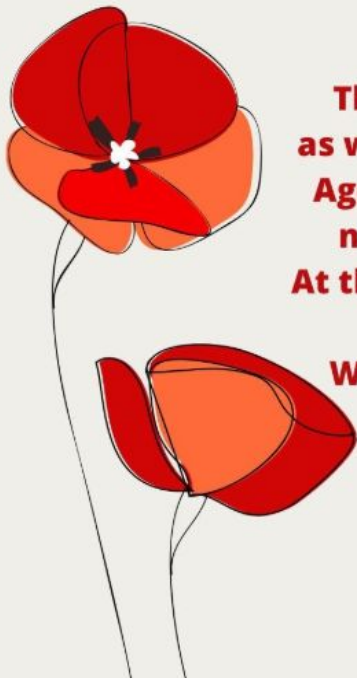
Term 4, Week 06

# ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

14 November 2025



A thoughtful Remembrance Day creation by  
one of our Social Justice Leaders



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020

**They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.**

**Laurence Binyon**

## Remembrance Day Prayer

Loving God,  
We remember with gratitude those who  
gave their lives for peace and freedom.

We pray for all who have served and for  
those who continue to serve our country  
with courage and compassion.

May we honour their sacrifice by living  
with respect, kindness, and hope for a  
world where peace reigns.  
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,

This week saw our children engage in activities that develop their broader learning with opportunities to increase their organisational skills as well as specific skills.

Our **Swimming Program** started on Monday and it was wonderful to see our children so enthusiastic. There has also been a number of positive comments from Dandenong Oasis staff about the behaviour and manners of our children which is fantastic. Lessons continue next week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. It has been great to see a number of families come to the pool to support their children. This program is vital as we lead into Summer as water confidence, awareness, safety and skills are very important.

I mentioned last week that 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 next Friday 21 November.

Next week we have our last two 2026 Prep Orientation sessions on Monday and Tuesday. These sessions help our newest students settle into St Gerard's with the goal being that their transition from pre-school to school is as smooth as possible.

Lastly, a reminder that we have a School Closure Day on Monday 24 November when our staff will be involved in Professional Learning in the area of Mathematics.

God bless.

Paul COWAN  
PRINCIPAL





# Religious News

## PLANNING FOR GRADUATION MASS



Students discussing ideas and designing the key parts of their upcoming Graduation Mass.

# 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>Thursday, 26th November:</b>	Year 6 Reflection Day
<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>



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

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

## Lunchtime Rosary

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



# Wellbeing



## 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.

Supported by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, © 2019 Education Services Australia Ltd, unless otherwise indicated.  
Creative Commons BY 4.0, unless otherwise indicated.





# 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



## What's resilience?

Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help [build resilience in children](#).

A child or young person who is resilient might:

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it
- feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning.



# Enrichment Mathematics

## ENRICHMENT MATHEMATICS AT ST GERARD'S SCHOOL 2025

During the year, selected students from Years One to Six have participated in various Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads programs.

Congratulations to Abiel Abiel (Bommy) Chatting, Harold Mendo-Fernandez, Michael Richardson, Ryan Fernando, Jacob Ormond, Grace John, Andrew Joseph and Ameya Sheen from Years One and Two, who participated in the Maths Quest program.

Congratulations to Dhanvin Ranganath, Rex Jacob, Neil Jinesh, Kai Wial, Carl Rizkallah, Christian Ormond, Roy Skaf, Grace Vanmelil, Gurnishaan Dhami, Elaine Ebin and Izabella Sunny from Years Three and Four, who participated in the Maths Explorer program.

Congratulations to Anastasia Nguyen, Antonia Trovarelli, Sophia Fernando, Shaun Robin, Nevyn Thearath, Chelsea Vilorio, Dhanya Caballero, and Anjanna Dharmesh from Years Five and Six, who participated in the Australasia wide Mathematical Olympiad competitions.

Congratulations to Elaine Ebin who obtained the highest cumulative score for St Gerard's students in the Maths Explorer competition.

Congratulations to Anjanna Dharmesh and Nevyn Thearath who both obtained the highest cumulative score for St Gerard's students in the Mathematical Olympiad competition.

Encouragement Awards have been awarded to Izabella Sunny, Grace Vanmelil, Kai Wial and Gurnishaan Dhami for their strong work ethic and helpful participation in the Maths Explorer program.





# Library News

## LIBRARY NEWS

### LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week at Library Club, students took part in Christmas-themed activities. We began by listening to a letter from Clara Dizzy Toboggan, our very own Library Elf on the Shelf! She shared that she has arrived early to join in the festive cheer until Christmas Carol time, before heading back to the North Pole to report on all she has seen here at St Gerard's.

Everyone worked wonderfully together to decorate the Library Christmas tree. Well done to all who participated and collaborated with their partners to complete a short Christmas Trivia activity. Congratulations to Layla and Sanaya, who came first; Naomi and Jacob, who came second; and Mila and Willow, who came third.

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. 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.

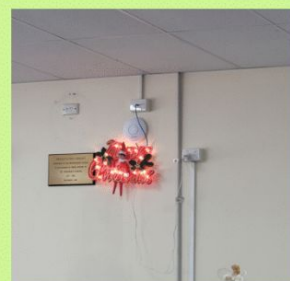
#### THE LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO BOOK ETIQUETTE





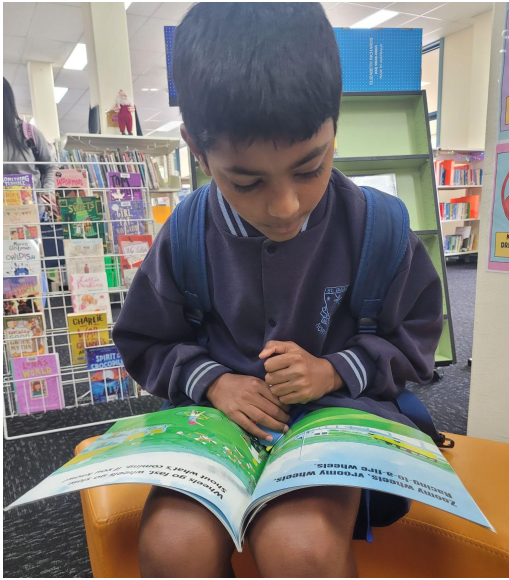
# Library News

## 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.





# Important Dates / Info

## Paying School Fees

St Gerard's understands the financial commitment associated with providing a quality education for your child. Recognising the diverse needs of our families, the school has a convenient and flexible solution for paying school fees through our payment schedules accessible via the office.

**If you are having trouble paying or require assistance in setting up your payment schedule, please contact the office who will be more than happy to assist you in setting up a suitable payment arrangement.**

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in providing the best possible education for your child at St Gerard's School.

### Updating Payment Details

Parents are reminded to contact the school office if there are any changes to your payment details. This includes expired credit cards or updated bank account information. Keeping these details current helps ensure your payments are processed smoothly.

### Outstanding School Fees

If you have not yet made any payments toward school fees, we kindly ask that you begin doing so as soon as possible to avoid falling behind.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please don't hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Principal Paul Cowan. We are here to support you and work together on a solution.

# Important Dates / Info



We're thrilled to welcome  
**ST GERARD'S  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

as the newest  
member of the Lowes family!

We look forward to supporting your school,  
families, and community with all your  
uniform needs.

**INSTORE AT LOWES FOUNTAIN GATE**

WESTFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE  
SHOP 2012/352 PRINCES HIGHWAY,  
NARRE WARREN, 3805,



FROM  
**MONDAY  
14TH JULY**



EARN 5%  
REWARD POINTS  
THAT NEVER EXPIRE



ZERO INTEREST  
ON ALL PRODUCTS



5% INSTANT  
SAVINGS



FIVE 20% OFF  
SALES EVENTS  
PER YEAR



GET EVERYTHING  
YOU NEED NOW



With your Lowes Zero Card you will receive 5% discount on every purchase. Receive 5% in reward points to redeem, plus great features and benefits. For more information please contact EzyWay on 1300 156 937 or zero@lowes.com.au

**WEAR NOW, PAY LATER.**



**3 DAYS ONLY** **20% OFF**  
**ALL SCHOOLWEAR\***



**TAKE AN EXTRA 5% OFF BY  
USING YOUR ZERO CARD!**



# Important Dates / Info

## November

- 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



**OSHC IMPORTANT UPDATE**

YLV Youth Leadership Victoria Inc.

Important Fee Update – Effective 3rd November, 2025

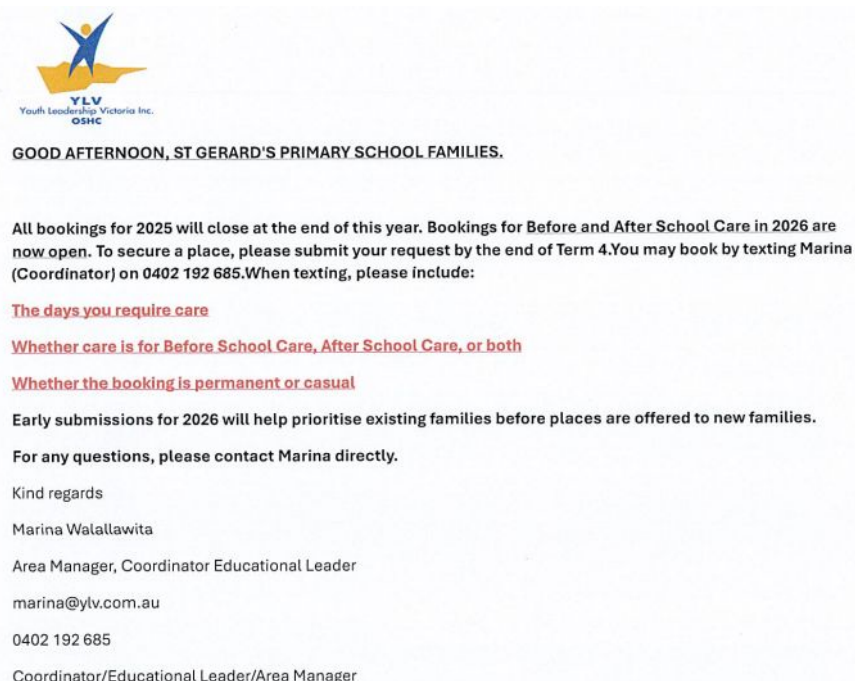
Dear Parents & Guardians, To continue providing high-quality care and professional staff, Youth Leadership Victoria will be adjusting OSHC fees.

**New Fees:**

- ✓ Before School Care: Casual \$30 | Permanent \$25
- ✓ After School Care: Casual \$35 | Permanent \$30
- ✓ Vacation Care/Pupil Free Day: \$78
- ✓ Early Finish: 1:30pm \$45 | 2:30pm \$40

We appreciate your support and understanding.  
For any questions, please contact **Rita Strachan** 0412 958 601.

Thank you for being part of our OSHC community!



YLV Youth Leadership Victoria Inc. OSHC

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.

•



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- North Dandenong Cricket Club - Junior Teams & Woolies Blast
- 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.