



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4, Week 07

21 November 2025



Our Give Me 5 focus this week is: "Be Our Best in the Learning Spaces."



In this week's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that life won't always be easy. There will be moments that feel confusing, challenging, or even a little bit scary. But Jesus also gives us a promise: we don't face these moments alone. He is with us, giving us the strength and wisdom we need.

When we follow our Give Me 5 focus and Be Our Best in the Learning Spaces, we practise the same qualities Jesus asks of His disciples, listening, staying calm, showing respect, and being ready to learn. These small daily choices help us become stronger on the inside. So when something is difficult or doesn't go to plan, we already know how to respond with courage and trust.

Just as a smile, a gentle word, or a helping hand can comfort someone who is sad, our good choices can bring God's love into the world.

Today we pray:

"Jesus, help us trust You."
Help us stay focused, stay kind, and stay brave; knowing You are always guiding us.



@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,

It has been a week where the overall theme has been water via the weather and at the swimming pool!

Our **Swimming Program** concluded today (Friday) with a fun day and it was wonderful to see our children so enthusiastic. I would like to thank our children for the way they have participated in this program in the water and when travelling to and from the venue. I would also like to thank our staff for their involvement in keeping our children safe and ensuring the sessions run smoothly. It has been great to see a number of families come to the pool to support their children. As I have stated previously, we believe this program is vital as we lead into Summer as water confidence, awareness, safety and skills are very important.

We had the last of our four **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. The joy and enthusiasm our newest children have brought is infectious and we look forward to welcoming them and their families next year.

At present there are a **large number of items in our Lost Property**. The unpredictable weather and Swimming have added to this collection. If your child is missing an item it would be worth a look. Unfortunately many of the items are not named so we are unable to return them to the children. **Next week we will relocate the Lost Property to the space outside the Year 1/2FB classroom**. I encourage families to come and have a look if you are missing items.

As Term 4 continues, I wanted to remind families that **this newsletter contains important dates** for the remainder of the year. These dates were **also in our Level Newsletters** and are **published on the front page of our website**. Our website also has a **'TRANSLATOR' function** on the front page next to the 'Event Calendar' and 'Event Quick View' which may be of assistance. From a **week by week perspective, the electronic sign at the front of the school is updated every Friday for the following week and the TV in the Office foyer displays events for the current week**.

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

Thank you for your ongoing support.
God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious News



Religious News



"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..." Join us for a festive evening of Christmas caroling! Enjoy performances of your favorite carols by the talented students of St. Gerard's School in the quadrangle on Tuesday, December 9th, at 7:00 pm. We ask all children to be seated with their class by 6:45 pm.

What to wear:

Children have been asked to dress in a theme for the Christmas Carols.

Foundation	Wear a Christmas T-shirt with black pants, leggings or shorts, or a Christmas dress instead. (Foundation staff will supply any additional costumes). Santa hats if you have one.
Year 1/2	Wear a Christmas T-shirt with black pants, leggings or shorts, or a Christmas dress. Students will also be given a Rudolph headband by the school.
Year 3/4	Christmas coloured t-shirt, green, red, gold, white or silver (with or without Christmas design) Tinsel and Christmas hats optional.
Year 5/6	All black long or short sleeve tops and long pants with different coloured tinsel around wrists and forehead. Santa hats if you have one.

Religious News

Level Mass

Yrs: Foundation, 5/60 & 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 5/60 and 5/6T:

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

Important Dates for Term 4

Thursday, 26th November:	Year 6 Reflection Day
Thursday 27th November:	11:05 Lunchtime Rosary in the Church
Friday, 28th November:	First Sunday of Advent Assembly at 2:30
Tuesday 9th December:	Christmas Carols Evening
Wednesday 10th December:	Christmas Activities Rotations
Wednesday 10th December:	Christmas Carols Tour of the Nursing Homes Excursion TBC
Friday, 12th December:	End of Year Mass, 12:00
Monday, 15th December:	Graduation Mass and Ceremony 7.00pm



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.

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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



Healthy eating helps children and young people cope more effectively with stress, better manage their emotions and get a good sleep - all of which assist learning.

Most research about nutrition and mental health has focused on adults. We know that good nutrition is associated with better mental health outcomes, whereas a poor diet is associated with a greater risk of depression and anxiety. However, emerging research that focuses on children and young people has also found a relationship between unhealthy diets and poorer mental health outcomes.

Poor nutrition has been associated with:

- externalising behaviour (such as hyperactivity, aggression, disobedience)
- symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- poor concentration and tiredness, which interfere with learning
- immune system function, which is also linked to mental health
- delayed brain development – high-fat, high-sugar diets can affect proteins in the body that are important for brain development
- iron deficiency, which has been linked to cognitive function impairments associated with learning and memory
- nutrient deficiencies, which have been associated with mental health conditions including depression and anxiety (we know that fruits and vegetables, grains, fish, lean red meats and olive oils are rich in important nutrients such as folate, magnesium, vitamins and zinc which all impact on body and brain functions, including mood regulation)

Give Me 5 News.

Next week, our *Give Me 5* whole-school focus will be “Be Your Best in the Learning Areas.” We will be encouraging all students to show their best learning behaviours to help create a safe, calm, and productive environment for everyone.

To be their best, students are reminded to:

- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- Ask for help when you need it



Students who consistently demonstrate these positive behaviours will receive a raffle ticket as recognition for their efforts.

Our next Give Me 5 raffle draw will take place on Friday, 28th November. We look forward to celebrating our students who go above and beyond!

Wellbeing



Walk or Ride To School

Thursday, 27th november 2025

Thursday, 27 th November is a Ride to School Day. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school from home or from a nearby drop off point. If your child doesn't normally walk to school, you could do this together.

Students who ride are given a sticker and the class who has the most students riding or walking get to keep our Ride to School trophy in their classroom for that month.

Students can ride bikes, skateboards or scooters.

They must wear a helmet at all times.

Upon arrival at school, students must hop off their bike or scooter and lock up their bike or scooter in our bike parking area (in front of the Performing Arts Centre).



Library News

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week at Library Club, students took part in a Christmas-themed activity. We enjoyed colouring and cutting Christmas ornaments to create a garland to decorate the library space. We listened to Christmas tunes, and some students even chose songs for us to enjoy while we worked on our decorations. The students unexpectedly ended up sitting around the tables in the shape of a bauble, which added to the festive fun. Everyone worked wonderfully together on their decorations.

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



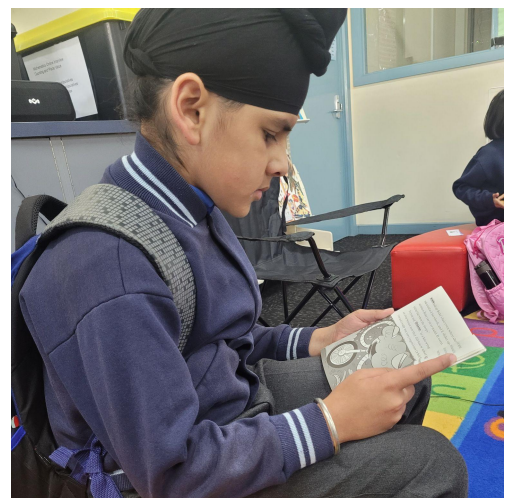
Reading before School



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.

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WEAR NOW, PAY LATER.

Important Dates / Info

November

- **24th School Closure Day - Mathematics for Teachers**
- 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 to register



OSHC IMPORTANT UPDATE

YLV Youth Leadership Victoria Inc.

Important Fee Update – Effective 3rd November, 2025

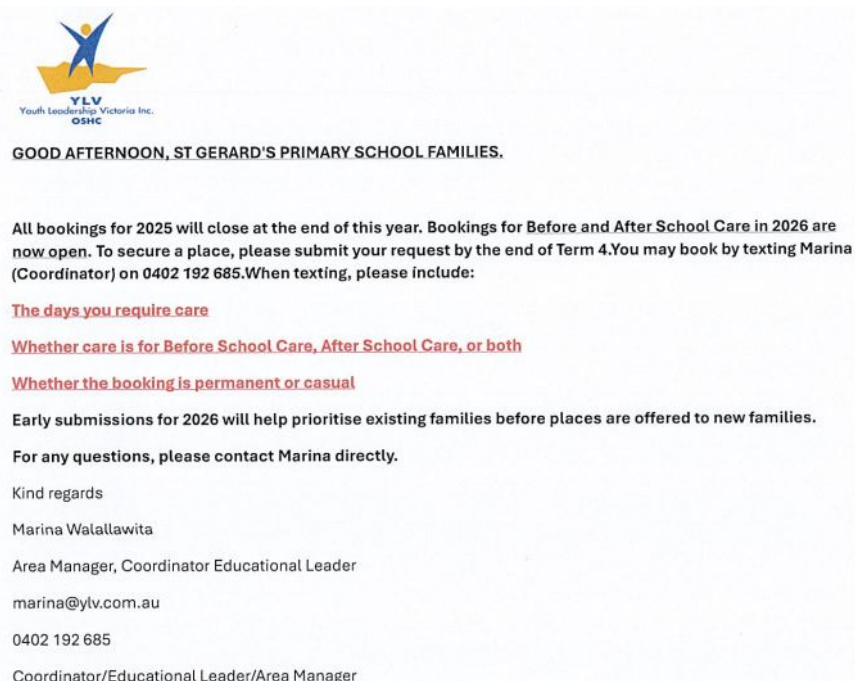
Dear Parents & Guardians, To continue providing high-quality care and professional staff, Youth Leadership Victoria will be adjusting OSHC fees.

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

0402 192 685

Coordinator/Educational Leader/Area Manager

Notice Board



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

- Bella Yr 3
- Grace Yr 4



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- North Dandenong Cricket Club - Junior Teams & Woolies Blast
- Goodstart Early Learning - Princes Highway
- St John's Regional College - Tours & Information



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.