



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



Term 4, Week 09

ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

05 December 2025



As we enter the second week of Advent, we light the candle of Peace.



#### Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

Loving God,

As we enter the second week of Advent, we light the candle of Peace.

Help us to quiet our hearts and make space for Your presence in our lives.

May we bring peace into our classrooms, our playground, our families,

and to all those who need kindness and hope.  
Guide us to prepare the way for Jesus with gentle words, helping hands, and open hearts.

Come, Lord Jesus, and fill St Gerard's community with Your peace.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan  
principal@sgdandenongn nth.catholic.edu.au  
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

We are certainly nearing the end of the year as we start to have the 'last' of certain activities.

While we have already asked for Library books to be returned for stocktake, we also had our **last Before School Reading on Wednesday**. This weekly event has proved to be popular for our children and families with attendance being consistent all year long. **I would like to thank Mrs O'Brien and Ms Adrien for their commitment and leadership of this activity.** It has certainly become a 'school tradition'.

Our **Year 6 children had their fun day on Wednesday** which saw them spend time together both off-site and at school. This was a time for reflection, fun and enjoying each other's company with their teachers as they move into their final weeks of primary school.

From a faith perspective, a number of our classes attended our parish morning masses this week. Our **Year 3/4 classes attended on Wednesday** while our **Year 1/2 classes joined our parishioners on Thursday**. Today (Friday) the **focus at our Assembly** was focused on the **Second Sunday of Advent**. This significant Church Season helps us maintain the real celebration of Christmas.

A highlight of this week was the **opening of our Art Show** on Tuesday afternoon. The work presented is absolutely wonderful and shows a wide range of styles. When looking through the displays, there are certainly **many talented artists amongst our children**. I would like to **acknowledge and thank Mrs Theodore** for her work with our children in Visual Arts and her vision for our Art Show. A reminder that the **Art Show is open every morning from 8.30am - 9.10am and 3.30pm - 4.15pm every day until next Tuesday**. **I encourage everyone to come and have a look.** It will also be open prior to our Christmas Carols evening.

Looking to next week, which is the last full week of the year, there are some significant events we hope to see you at. Our **Christmas Carols evening is next Tuesday 9 December starting at 7.00pm**. This is always a wonderful occasion that I feel really spreads Christmas cheer and has a good balance between our faith and broader Christmas celebrations in our community. We also have our **End of Year Mass next Friday at 09:15 am in the church**. This is a great way to reflect and give thanks for our school year and it would be wonderful to have families join us.

Lastly, a final reminder that there are still a **large number of items in our Lost Property**. 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. **We have relocated 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.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I hope to see you at some of our events over the coming weeks.

God bless.

Paul COWAN  
PRINCIPAL



# ART SHOW

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ART SHOWCASE



**03-09**

DECEMBER

8:30 - 9:00 AM BEFORE SCHOOL  
3:30 - 4:00 PM AFTER SCHOOL

- Food sculptures and drawings
- Glocean interactive art space
- Life in perspective
- Collaboration of Christ
- Student personal artpieces

**CLOSING NIGHT  
AFTER CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

# 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.

<b>Foundation</b>	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.
<b>Year 1/2</b>	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.
<b>Year 3/4</b>	Christmas coloured t-shirt, green, red, gold, white or silver (with or without Christmas design) Tinsel and Christmas hats optional.
<b>Year 5/6</b>	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

## Important Dates for Term 4

<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 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.

# 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.

## Give Me 5 Planning Meeting

We are excited to begin planning for our Give Me 5 Night 2026 and would love to invite parents to be part of the planning team. Your ideas, feedback, and support play an important role in helping us create a memorable event for our school community.

Our first planning meeting will be held next Thursday, 11th December at 1:00pm online.

A meeting link will be shared with all families via Seesaw on Wednesday, 10th December.

We hope you can join us and contribute to shaping this special event.



# Wellbeing



SAVE  
THE DATE

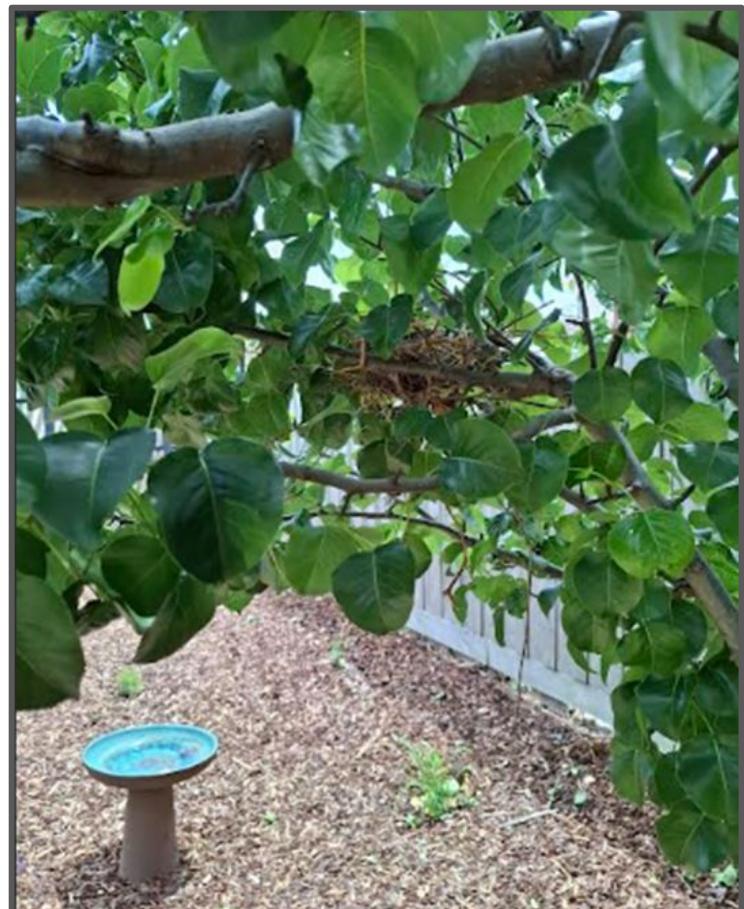
GIVE ME 5 EVENING

05.02.2026

ST GERARD'S P.S.

# Wurundjeri Way Update

This week, our Grade 1/2 students spent time weeding and checking on the growth of our beautiful native garden. During their work, the students noticed several birds carrying twigs into the space. With careful supervision, they were delighted to discover that two of our regular native visitors, who often enjoy our bird baths, felt safe enough to build a nest just outside our classroom! Both 1/2 classes are now observing the nest's progress from a respectful distance, taking great care not to disturb our soon to be new bird family. It has been a wonderful reminder of the impact our students' hard work and care for Country can have on the local wildlife.



# Library News

# LIBRARY NEWS

## LIBRARY CLUB UPDATE

This week at Library Club, students once again gathered to continue our Christmas-themed activity and Christmas Trivia. They coloured more Christmas ornaments to create additional garlands for the library, and some of these have already been hung up to bring festive cheer to the space. We listened to Christmas tunes making it an enjoyable and festive experience for everyone. The students worked wonderfully together and showed great enthusiasm in adding to our growing collection of decorations. Well done to all who participated and collaborated with their partners to complete a short Christmas Trivia activity.

Congratulations to Sophia who won the singles devision going unopposed and to Anthony, Michael, Mia and Rosana who came first in the group division. Well done to Anthony who was able to find Clara the Elf on the Shelf at Before School Reading.

Please note that borrowing has now finished for the term. All books should begin making their way back to the library. Students with overdue books will receive a strike, and three strikes in a term will affect future borrowing opportunities.

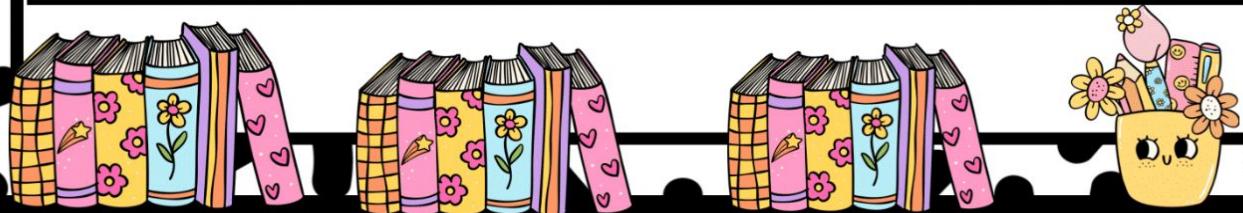
There are lots of new titles on display, and it was fantastic to see regular borrowing from most students across the school and borrowing resumes next year!

### THE LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO BOOK ETIQUETTE



# Library News

## LIBRARY CLUB



# Reading before School



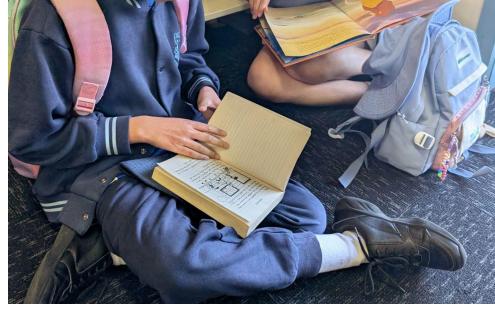
ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 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

**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**

**LOWES**

**WELCOME TO  
LOWES**

EARN 5%  
REWARD POINTS  
THAT NEVER EXPIRE 

ZERO INTEREST  
ON ALL PRODUCTS 

 POWERED BY  
ezy-way  
zero  
GREAT BENEFITS / ZERO INTEREST

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](mailto:zero@lowes.com.au)

**WEAR NOW, PAY LATER.**

# Important Dates / Info

## December

- 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

## 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.



**11th December, 2025**

# Important Dates / Info



## OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE NEWS/INFORMATION



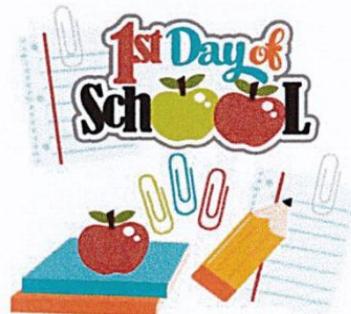
Youth Leadership Victoria provides a safe fun and secure environment for the quality care of school aged children through a structured well-balanced Program. Our services include Before School Care, After School Care and Curriculum Day (Pupil free day). We develop fun engaging activities for children aged from 5-12 years and have an outstanding relationship with the School Community.

We provide variety of board games/art and craft activities and encourage children to participate in outdoor activities including sports by using the school grounds. We encourage children to complete their homework (if required) during before/after care and we provide a healthy, tasty and nutritious breakfast and afternoon tea and consider each child's preferences by asking what they like. For more information, please speak to the OSCHC Program Coordinator Marina Walallawita.

**OSHC Responsible Person Educational Leader/Nominated Supervisor/Area Manager**

**OSHC phone number: 0402192685 - email: [admin@ylv.com.au](mailto:admin@ylv.com.au) /area1@ylv.com.au**  
**Fax: (03) 98488156**

**General Enquires and feedback: Rita 0412958601 Email: [rita@ylv.com.au](mailto:rita@ylv.com.au)**



### OSHC operating hours:

**Before School Care: 6.45am-8.45am**

**After School Care: 3.30pm-6.30pm**

**Curriculum Day 7.00am-6.00pm (depending on numbers)**

### Enrolments/Booking procedures

Prior to commencing at our service please complete Enrolment form this can be uploaded by online [ylv.com.au](http://ylv.com.au) also by QR code given to all families on the OSHC family pack

### OSHC Fees

**Before care 2-hour session (Permanent): - \$25.00 full fee (before rebate)**

**Before care (casual): - \$30.00 full fee (before rebate)**

**After care 3-hour session (permanent): \$30.00 full fee (before rebate)**

**After care (casual): -\$35.00 full fee (before rebate)**

**Curriculum day \$78.00 full fee (before rebate)**

### CCMS Information

Did you know . . . Most of our families are eligible to receive the Child Care Subsidy this helps to cover some of the out of pocket expenses of childcare for eligible families Youth Leadership Victoria is a Child Care Subsidy approved service. For more information please call Family Assistance Office: ph. 136150



# Notice Board



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

- Bhanuri Yr 5
- Israel Yr 2



- *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.