

St Gerard's Newsletter

Term 2, Week 3 – 08 May 2026



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



These special moments captured throughout our Mother's Day celebrations reflect the joy, gratitude and appreciation shared by our students



Pray for Mothers

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the gift of mothers and the love, care, and sacrifices they give each day.

Bless them with strength, peace, and joy, and guide them always with Your grace.

May Mary, Mother of Jesus, watch over all mothers and keep them in Your loving care.

Fill their hearts with faith and happiness today and always.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

We certainly received a reminder this week that Winter is fast approaching - if it hasn't actually arrived! As we come to the end of our third week of the term we started with a sporting event and finished on a great high by celebrating the Mother's and mother figures in our school community.

On **Monday** we had two Year 5/6 teams participate in the **Paul Wade Cup** which is an annual **soccer tournament conducted by St John's Secondary College**. This once again proved to be a fantastic day and wonderful experience for our children who competed well, had some wins and represented St Gerard's with distinction. I would like to thank Ms Boyle, Mrs Te, Mrs Munro and Mrs Zelic for supporting our children throughout the day. I also wish to thank St John's for their invitation for us to compete.

Today (Friday) we had our **Mother's Day celebration in the PAC**. It was wonderful to see so many of our Mother's and Mother figures of our children. Our guests were provided with afternoon tea and our school then gathered to recognise, thank and celebrate these very significant people. **Regardless of your age, mothers and significant females hold a very unique place in all our hearts**. I hope and pray that all mothers and significant females are made to feel very special on Sunday (and every other day!).

With the wet weather this week, a reminder that **when it is raining at the end of the day we are going to allow parents to come and collect their children from their classrooms from 3.25pm**. This will hopefully lead to less congestion in the Office area and enable everyone to get home safely. All our other wet day dismissal procedures will remain the same.

Looking to next week, we have some of our **Year 6 children completing their final preparations to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next Saturday 16 May**. I ask that you keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers. As a school community we will congratulate them at our Friday Assembly on 22 May.

Lastly, a final reminder that in the last week of Term 1 **an email was sent to all families about an nForma App** which we will use in place of Operoo. **We were hoping to have every family connected by the end of this week**. I am asking families to please install this App if you haven't already, so that we can communicate and gain consent for excursions and events digitally. If you experience any difficulties please come to the Office and we will be able to assist you.

God bless and Happy Mother's Day for Sunday!

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL



Key Dates

Sacraments 2026

First Communion: (Grade 4)

- Thursday, 14th May, 2026, First Communion Family Workshop 6:30pm
- Thursday, 11th June, 2026, First Communion Reflection Day
- Sunday, 14th June, 2026, First Communion, 10:30am
- Friday, 19th June, 2026, First Communion Assembly in the PAC

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

- Monday 11th May Confirmation Reflection Day (Yr 6 wear casual)
- Saturday, 16th May Confirmation 5:30pm (Vigil) Fr Madry CR, Episcopal Vicar, Southern Region
- 22nd May Confirmation Assembly in the PAC

Whole School Masses:

- Monday 25th May Our Lady Help of Christians at 9:15
- Friday 12th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

Other Important Dates for Religion

Mother's Day Activities:	8th May 2:00pm TBC
Sorry Day Assembly:	26th May, 2:50 pm
Refugee Week Assembly:	19th June, 2:50

Religious News

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

We invite families to take the Our Lady statue into their home for a week as a special way to deepen family prayer time. Each family will receive a brochure with simple instructions for praying the Rosary, as well as a set of rosary beads. If you would like to take the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.



Lunchtime Rosary

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

Altar Servers

Altar Server practice resumed on Thursday 29 January and will continue every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm at St Gerard's Church. To be eligible to serve, children must have received their First Communion.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young members of our parish to take part in the liturgy and learn the responsibilities of altar service.

For further information about practice times or eligibility, please contact the parish office on **9792 4422**.

St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:

We're once again setting our sights on a full food cart for the St. Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal! Our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will begin gathering donated food items, with collections continuing through to the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As always, there is a little friendly competition involved. The class that contributes the most items will enjoy a well earned casual dress day.



'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.' Mathew 25

Wellbeing



MACS
CARE
Parent/Carer Newsletter 3



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Working
together for
Child Safety

Child Safe Standard 3

‘Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.’

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Overview of Child Safe Standard 3:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- Children are informed about all their rights, including safety, information and participation
- The importance of friendship is recognized and support from peers is encouraged
- Where relevant to setting or context, young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs in an age-appropriate way
- Staff are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child friendly ways for children to express their views, participate in decision making and raise their concerns
- Organisations have strategies to develop a culture that facilitates participation and are responsive to input from children and young people.

The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organisations create safe environments for children and young people.

They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to, and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies, and a culture that puts children first.

As a parent or carer, you can expect organisations to involve families, empower children, train staff properly, and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.

This standard focuses on empowering children and young people by ensuring they are informed, respected, and actively involved in decisions that affect them. This participation helps build a school culture that is safe for them and values their voice.

Working together for **Child Safety**



Wellbeing

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Creating Opportunities for Student Voice:** We create formal structures such as student councils and leadership programs, but we also include fewer formal opportunities so all students, especially the most vulnerable, can have their voice heard.
- **Acting on Student Feedback:** We listen deeply to what students are telling us and we respond to concerns, suggestions and ideas. This includes making sure students are aware when we have acted on their feedback.
- **Building Staff Capacity:** Our staff receive professional learning, so they understand the importance and benefits of listening to and responding to, student voice. This also includes training for staff regarding how to incorporate student voice, agency and empowerment in their daily interactions and decision making.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

- **Listen and talk often:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings. Let them know it's always ok to speak up.
- **Talk about rights and safety:** Help your child understand that everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.
- **Be a role model:** Show kindness, respect, and inclusion in everyday life, children learn from what they see.
- **Stay connected with the school:** Take part in conversations or surveys about student wellbeing and safety.
- **Support student voice:** Encourage your child to get involved in school activities where their ideas can make a difference.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).



Working together for Child Safety



Reviewed: January 2026

Literacy

SAVE THE DATE!



LITERACY WORKSHOP EXPO - 2026

WHERE: ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL,
DANDENONG NORTH

WHEN: 21ST MAY. 2026

TIME: FROM 6.00PM TO 7.15PM

WHO: STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Join us in supporting your
child's Literacy journey
through Primary School!

**The class with the highest
attendance wins a Free Dress
Day!!!**

Reading before School



READ WITH ME!



Just 10~15 Minutes a Day Makes a Lifelong Difference



Why Reading Together Matters



Builds Strong Brains

- Improves concentration and memory
- Develops imagination and creativity
- Strengthens thinking skills



Grows Literacy Skills

- Expands vocabulary
- Improves spelling and writing
- Builds fluency and comprehension
- Increases confidence



Strengthens Relationships

- Creates special one-on-one time
- Encourages meaningful conversations
- Helps children feel supported and valued



Broadens Understanding

- Develops empathy
- Introduces new ideas and cultures
- Helps children understand the world



How You Can Help at Home

- Set a regular reading time each day
- Take turns reading aloud
- Ask questions about the story
- Praise effort, not just accuracy
- Make reading enjoyable
- Let your child see you reading too



Remember

- You don't need to be a teacher to make a difference.
- Your time, encouragement and interest matter most.

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

Library News



LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Week 3, May 2026

Exploring New Worlds at the Library, Together!

Come join us at the library, where there's more than just reading books! Engage in our library club and explore a world of knowledge, creativity, and community. Whether it's through interactive sessions, engaging discussions, or collaborative projects, there's something for everyone to enjoy and learn.

LIBRARY CLUB UPDATES

This week at Library Club, students participated in an activity exploring caring and uncaring behaviours in a library environment. Students worked hard to cut, sort, and paste different behaviours into the correct categories, demonstrating thoughtful discussions and excellent understanding of how to respectfully use and care for our library space. Some students chose to work independently, while others collaborated in teams, with all students showing responsibility and positive teamwork throughout the activity.

Students should now be returning books borrowed over the past two weeks and selecting new books to borrow. Miss Adrien will be checking for any overdue books in Week 6. Students are reminded to bring a separate library bag (book bag) on their allocated library day when borrowing books. This helps protect library materials, encourages responsibility, and ensures all students can continue to enjoy our library resources.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Miss Stephanie Adrien



Library News



LIBRARY CLUB



Week 3, May 2026



Miss Stephanie Adrien



2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 2, 2026 Dates

May

- 10th Mother's Day
- 11th Confirmation Reflection Day
- 14th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 14th First Communion Family Workshop at 6.00pm
- 15th Walk/ Ride to School Day
- 15th District Cross Country
- 16th Confirmation at 5.30pm
- 19th School Photos
- 21st OPEN DAY
- 21st SUBWAY Lunch
- 21st Literacy Workshop Expo at 6.00pm
- 24th PENTECOST Sunday
- 25th Our Lady Help of Christians whole school mass at 9.15am
- 26th National Sorry Day
- 27th OPEN DAY
- 29th Italian Day

June

- 2nd OPEN DAY
- **8th King's Birthday Public Holiday**
- 11th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 11th First Communion Reflection Day
- 14th First Communion 10.30am
- 22nd - 24th Year 5/6 Camp
- 25th SUBWAY Lunch
- **26th End of Term 2 at 3.30p**

Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

Any families who hold a current Health Care Card are asked to please provide a copy to the school office.

This will ensure you receive the MACS Concession on your school fees.

Please note, this must be a valid Centrelink Health Care Card. Private health insurance cards or Medicare cards are not eligible.



ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

SERVICE CONTACT:
0402 192 685 (Marina) | sg@ylv.com.au

SERVICE HOURS	COST
Before School Care 6:45AM – 8:45AM	\$30/\$35 PERMANENT/CASUAL
After School Care 3:30PM – 6:30PM	\$35/\$40 PERMANENT/CASUAL
Pupil-Free Day 7:00AM – 6:00PM	\$83

fees effective 02 Mar 2026

ylv.com.au

Important Information



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

- EVOLET Yr 5
- JETT Foundation
- THARUL Yr 4



COMMUNITY NOTICE

- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer
- Mazenod College - Open Day 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.