

# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 - WEEK 1

3RD FEBRUARY, 2023



### A New Beginning: A Prep Student Takes the First Step in their Educational Journey

Dear Lord,

We pray that St. Gerard's is a nurturing and supportive community that will inspire and guide us as we face life's challenges. May we be inspired by the saints who rose to their challenges with determination and lived lives of service and generosity, sustained by their faith and hope in you.

Amen.



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023 school year!

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and holiday and are ready for an exciting year full of rich learning opportunities. It was great to see so many familiar faces on Monday morning.

A special welcome to our new families who are now part of our school community. In addition to our Preps, we have a number of children who have joined us at every year level.

As well as welcoming new families, we also have some new staff members. **Ms Stephanie Adrien** is our **Year 3/4A** classroom teacher. Stephanie has worked with us previously as a Casual Relief Teacher (CRT). She has a great knowledge of our school, children and staff and will be an asset to our school. Welcome Stephanie!

**Mrs Michelle Benson** will be working with us delivering some of our specific Intervention Programs. Michelle has also worked with us over the past few years and has knowledge and experience in this specialised area of education. She is excited to be joining our staff and we are excited to have her!

**Give Me 5 Week** has given our children and staff the chance to establish routines, get to know each other better and experience our ***Give Me 5 principles of Be Spirit Filled, Be Respectful, Be Cooperative, Be Positive and Be Your Best.*** The children have participated in **AFL clinics**, a **Techxhibition conducted by Dandenong Library**, a **Wildlife Xposure** session, and a **School Disco**. In addition, our **Year 5/6** classes were involved in **Bike Education and Toolbox sessions**. We also had our Give Me 5 Family Night last night (Thursday) and it was fantastic to see so many families in attendance and working together. It has been wonderful to see the engagement of our children and staff throughout the week and I would like to thank **Ms Nicole Fernandez for her leadership, organisation and coordination.**

Now that we are all getting back into familiar routines, a reminder **that our school gates are opened at 8.30am each morning. If children arrive or are dropped at school before this time there is a genuine safety concern as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds.** Also when it is raining there is no shelter. Therefore I am asking families to drop their children off after 8.30am or wait with them until the gates are opened.

At the end of the day I am requesting families in cars to reduce the traffic congestion in McNab Court. **Families that arrive before 3.25pm are asked to park in the carpark.** Joining the drop off/ pick up line creates a backlog of cars which causes issues and does not allow families wishing to park access to the carpark. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

A reminder to those families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan** that if there are changes to any aspect of the plan you need to **contact the School Office**. It is vital that the information we have here at school is current and accurate.

Lastly, an invitation is extended to all our families to join us at our **Beginning of School Year Mass which will be celebrated next Friday 10 February at 12.00 noon in the church.** As part of this whole school gathering our Year 6 Student Leaders will be blessed and receive their leadership badges and hats. I hope you are able to join us.

This first week has set us up for what promises to be a wonderful year at St Gerard's.

God bless.

Paul Cowan  
PRINCIPAL

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Class Masses

This year, our classes will be hosting Class Masses. This is a unique chance for all members of our St. Gerard's community to come together and actively participate in the planning and organisation of our prayers. Classes will send invitations closer to the date. All families are cordially invited to join us.

## Class Mass Timetable for Semester One:

5/6O:	Thursday 16th March, 10:15am
3/4S:	Thursday 2nd March, 10:15am
3/4A:	Thursday 9th March, 10:15am
5/6T:	TBA for Term 2
Prep B:	TBA for Term 2
1/2FW:	TBA for Term 2
1/2L:	TBA for Term 2

## Other Important RE Dates for Term One

Event	Date
Beginning of School Year Mass, 12:00	Fri 10th February
Shrove Tuesday, Subway for students who pre-order	Tues 21st February
Ash Wednesday: Whole School at Parish Mass, 9:15 (day of Fast and Abstinence)	Wed 22nd February
St Patrick's Feast Day, students wear full school uniform with a touch of green.	Thurs 17th March
The Passion	Wednesday 3rd April

## Sacrament Dates, 2023

### Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Family Workshop Night:	Thursday 30th March, 7:00pm
Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland Visit:	Tuesday 2nd May, 9:30am
Confirmation:	Saturday 13th May, 5:30pm

### First Reconciliation: (Grade 3)

First Reconciliation Family Workshop:	Thursday 23rd February, 7pm
First Reconciliation Reflection Day:	Tuesday 21st March
First Reconciliation:	Thursday 23rd March, 7pm
First Reconciliation Assembly:	Friday 24th March, 2:50pm

### First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Family Workshop:	Thursday 27th April, 7pm
First Communion:	Sunday 11th June, 10:30am



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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## Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss

The Seasons program provides peer support for children facing grief and loss, such as death, separation, or divorce. This useful resource will be accessible in Term 3. If you have any inquiries, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or Mrs. Stack.

## Project Compassion

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten appeal brings together millions of Australians to combat poverty, advocate for justice, and defend dignity worldwide. During Ash Wednesday Mass, Project Compassion Boxes will be distributed to each class with a designated fundraising goal for Lent. The class that raises the most will be rewarded with a free dress day! The Social Justice Leadership Team will provide regular updates on the progress of each class's fundraising efforts during school assemblies.





# WELLBEING

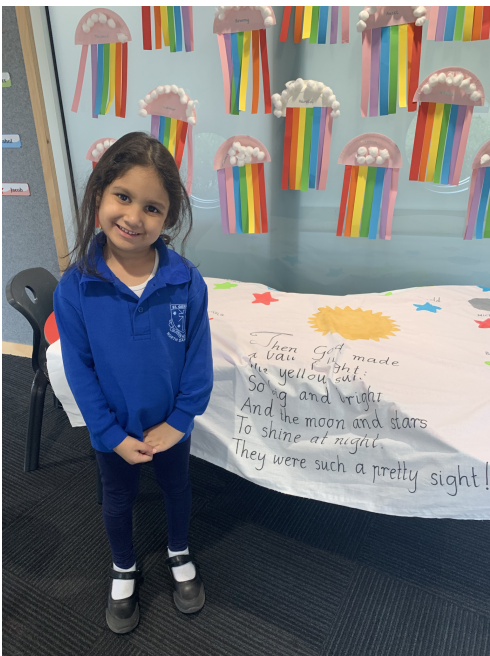


## Give Me Five Week

Every year each grade spends the first week of school exploring our Give Me 5 values:

- Be Respectful
- Be Cooperative
- Be your Best
- Be Positive
- Be Spirit Filled

We do this because we think relationships are very important and we know we learn best if we are in a classroom where everyone is being respectful, co-operative, and positive, trying their best and trying to do the things God wants them to do. We know if we make good choices in the classroom and on the playground, we can learn and be happy at school.





# WELLBEING

## Incursions during Give Me 5 Week

This week the students participated in an AFL clinic on Tuesday, followed by a visit from Dandenong Library where they had the opportunity to play with robots, a green screen, 3D printers and Spheros.

Wild Life Xposure visited us on Thursday where students had the opportunity to learn about wildlife and meet some furry, feathery and scaly friends.

On Friday the Grade 5/6 students attended a Toolbox incursion where they learned about Emotional Regulation as well as a Bike Ed session provided by Bicycle Network. All students celebrated the end of Give Me 5 Week with a disco.

A big thank you to the Dandenong Council, AFL Australia, Dandenong Library, Shane Vandort (Artist), ARDOCH and Bicycle Network for providing our students with these amazing opportunities.

Have a look at some of the fun we had!





# WELLBEING



*St Gerard's is a Child Safe School. Promoting the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.*



**be  
you**

*Facts from the Be You website*

## DID YOU KNOW? Facts from the Be You website

### How do decision-making skills develop?

Children and young people's decision-making is strongly influenced by the expectations and values they learn from those around them.

This occurs when they:

- observe others (particularly those close to them)
- hear about and discuss values
- have opportunities to make choices and experience their consequences.

Young children regularly choose how they'll behave, which toys or games they'd like to play with, which books they would like to read, or which television shows they want to watch. As they get older, children make bigger decisions that often involve their family, friends and schoolwork. The kinds of choices children and young people make affect their wellbeing, relationships and success.

Young children have some skills for making decisions, but they don't yet have the experience to understand complex adult situations. As their brain grows, a child is more able to hold things in their mind and remember what they've learned. They also improve the way they manage their thinking and feelings, control impulsive behaviour, think about time and plan ahead, and evaluate long-term versus short-term goals. All these skills help children become better at taking action and keeping things on track.







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FAX: 03 9354 5777  
E-MAIL: [info@agsprints.com.au](mailto:info@agsprints.com.au)

Please note the following changes in relation to uniform purchases for St Gerard's Primary School:

Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

### **Option 1 - Online Order**

#### **Access to our Online Ordering System**

1. [www.aplusschoolwear.com.au](http://www.aplusschoolwear.com.au)
2. Go to **SHOP ONLINE NOW** (red box)
3. Select your school
4. Uniform listing with images will appear.

Select items you are wishing to purchase:

Style  
Size  
Colour  
Quantity  
Add items to bag

5. Once all items are added to bag, proceed to checkout.
6. Select delivery options
  - a. Pick up from school (free) in comments section please enter your child's name and class
  - b. Pick up from A Plus Schoolwear (free)
  - c. Postal address (delivery charges will apply)
7. Either checkout as guest, returning customer or create a new account.

**Orders placed by Sunday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday**

### **Option 2 - Fill out the order form and leave it at the school office.**

**Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday**

### **RETURNS**

Can be given to the school office and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus School wear.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact A Plus Schoolwear

9354 8345 or email [angie@agsprints.com.au](mailto:angie@agsprints.com.au)

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Displayed on the Community Notice Boards is information on the following:

- Ukraine Support Fund
- Swimland Swim Club
- Noble Park Junior Football Club (AFL)
- Netball Dandenong

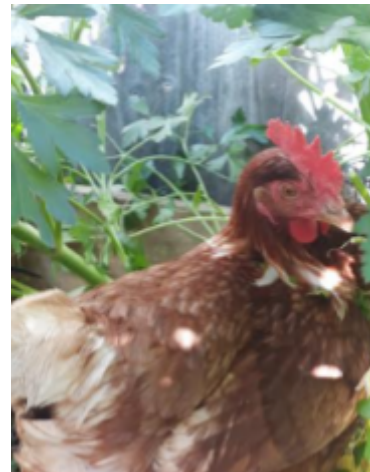
## Chicken Eggs For Sale

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 \$6 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.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### February

21st Feb:	Shrove Tuesday
21st Feb:	Subway Lunch for students who pre-order
21st Feb:	3 Way Conversations 2.00pm - 8.00pm
22nd Feb:	Ash Wednesday
23rd Feb:	5/6T Reconciliation
24th Feb:	Ride to School Day

### March

2nd March:	3/4S Class Mass, 10:15
3rd March:	St Gerard's Athletics Day at Knox Athletics Track
9th March:	3/4A Class Mass, 10:15
13th March:	Labour Day Public Holiday
21st March:	First Reconciliation Reflection Day
16th March:	5/6O Class Mass, 10:15
17th March:	St Patrick's Day
21st March:	P, ½ Family Literacy Workshop, 7pm
23rd March:	First Reconciliation 7pm
24th March:	National Ride to School Day
24th March:	Harmony Day Whole School Celebration
15-27 March:	NAPLAN Testing period - Year 3 and Year 5
24th March:	First Reconciliation Assembly
30th March:	Confirmation Family Workshop
30th March:	5/6O Reconciliation

### April:

2nd April:	Daylight Savings Ends
5th April:	Subway Lunch
5th April:	The Passion
6th April:	Last day of Term 1, 3.30pm finish