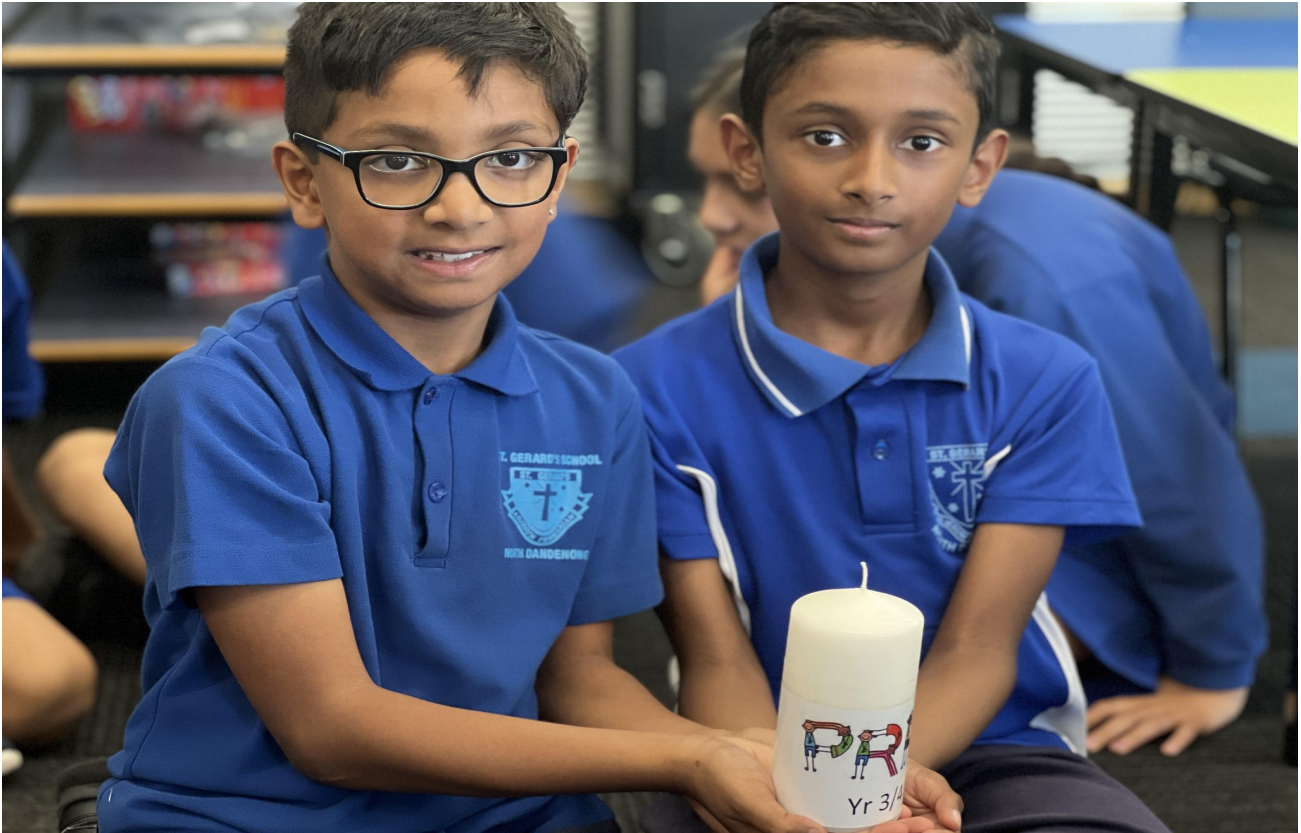


ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 - WEEK 2

10th FEBRUARY, 2023



As a reminder of the light of Christ we are, each class received a prayer candle for their classroom at our Beginning of the School Year Mass



Empowered with grace and guidance, these young leaders shine brightly as they embark on their journey of serving St Gerard's School Community with courage and compassion.

*Dear Lord,
we come before you today to
ask for your blessings and
guidance on our new school
leaders as they begin this new
academic year. We pray that
you give them the wisdom and
discernment to make the right
decisions for our students and
staff. May they lead with
integrity, compassion, and
fairness. We ask that you bless
our school community with a
year filled with love, learning,
and growth.*

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,

This week has seen our children take part in our specialist lessons for the first time this year after last week's Give Me 5 activities. **All our classes** are involved in **hour-long lessons of P.E (Mrs Wilson), Italian (Signora Harris), Performing Arts (Mr Bode) and Visual Art (Mrs Benson)**. These programs provide learning opportunities that not only address their specific curriculum areas but also enhance other areas covered in their classroom. It is wonderful to have such great teachers delivering these important programs.

Today (Friday) we gathered together for our **Beginning of the School Year Mass**. It is always great to be able to come together as a school and celebrate mass in our church. This celebration is always full of our **hopes and dreams for the year ahead** and a chance for us to recognise and be grateful for **all the blessings we have received**. Some significant aspects of this celebration was the **first attendance of our Foundation (Prep) students at a school mass**. Also, our **Year 6 School Leaders were blessed and presented with their leadership badges and hats**. It was lovely to see their pride and that of the families that attended.

Information was sent home earlier in the week regarding **Auskick clinics** which will occur on Wednesday afternoons straight after school. This will be a **3 week program starting on Wednesday 22 February and continuing on Wednesday 1 March and Wednesday 8 March**. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop some AFL and social skills and will hopefully lead to our children becoming part of the local Auskick Program. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Wilson or myself via Seesaw or email twilson@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au or principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au. This has proved to be a very popular program in past years and I am sure it will be again.

Seesaw is an app which is closed to everyone except the families of the Year Level, teachers and staff. This allows for the sharing of notes, newsletters, children's work, photos and videos.

Teachers can send information to the whole level or individual families and families can contact the teacher directly. **This is a key aspect of our communication with families so it is vital that all families are connected. If you have difficulties with this communication tool at any time, please contact or come to the School Office.**

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, please be on the lookout for our Year Level Term Newsletters. These contain important information which is relevant specifically to your child's class. Please read it carefully and if you have any questions please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher.

Continue to stay safe and 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

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

Other Important RE Dates for Term One

Event

Date

Beginning of School Year Mass, 12:00	Fri 10th February
Shrove Tuesday 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, 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

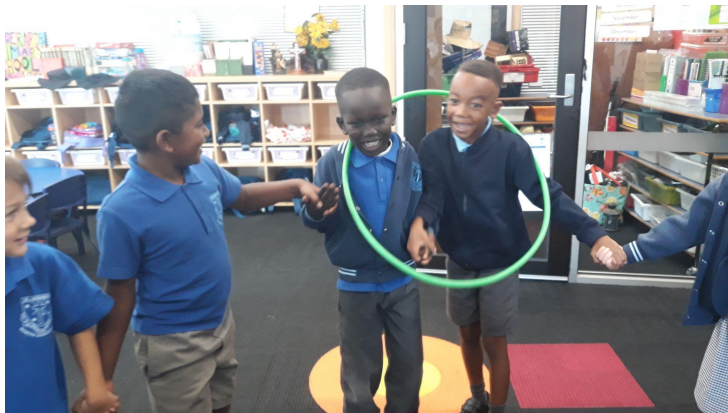
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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.





be
you

Facts from the Be You website

What's self-regulation?

Self-regulation is learning about your own feelings and emotions, understanding how and why they happen, recognising them (and those of others), and developing effective ways of managing them.

When children and young people learn to self-manage their emotions, they feel more confident, capable and in control. They have stronger relationships, are more able to pay attention, learn new things and can cope better with the normal stresses and disappointments of daily life.

- **How can you help?**

Children and young people need repeated experiences of having their needs met by a caring adult.

Warm, trusting and responsive care helps children to respond with appropriate emotions, internalise a positive view of themselves and others, and learn appropriate behaviour. Children and young people also develop self-management skills by watching and experiencing how other people manage their emotions. Here are some tips about how you can support the development of self-management in children and young people.

Explicitly teach skills

- Talk about ways of managing upsetting situations.
- Help them to develop strategies to use when they're feeling out of control.
- Help them express their emotions in productive ways (for example, by drawing or acting out their feelings).
- Practise mindful breathing with older children and young people.
- Explore the immediate and long-term consequences of actions.
- Promote empathy by talking about emotions and understanding how people will have different reactions to events depending on their circumstances.
- Teach problem-solving and decision-making skills.
-

Talk about emotions

- Acknowledge and respond to emotional communication.
- Role-model how you manage your own feelings.
- Talk about strategies to manage strong or uncomfortable emotions.

WELLBEING

Promote a calm environment

Environment contributes to children and young people's self-management. Promote a calm, welcoming and encouraging environment by:

- providing structure and predictability
- establishing age-appropriate routines and limits
- avoiding competitive experiences for young children
- including relaxation breaks in the day
- encouraging ways to release tension they might be holding in their body
- demonstrating calmness and staying in control of your own feelings and behaviours – self-awareness allows you to maximise your positive interactions with children and young people and better manage situations where they 'push your buttons'.



Student Representative Council

SRC

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of a group of students who want to help other students by presenting ideas which are of benefit to all students. The SRC also informs its peers of any important information which affects the student body.

On Thursday 23rd February the SRC reps of St Gerard's will attend their first meeting.

The SRC reps will be voted in by their class and announced in next weeks newsletter.

MULTICULTURAL FOOTY 4 FUN



Experience Australia's most loved sport through AFL Victoria's FREE Footy 4 Fun events delivered across Victoria! A footy experience full of fun activities, modified games & memorable moments to take home with you!

Footy 4 Fun Multicultural is an offering for kids aged 5-12 years from diverse backgrounds that focuses on providing a safe and inclusive introduction to football. While the kids are learning all about the basic skills of the game, the parent will be provided an opportunity to understand the game of Australia Rules Football.

WHERE:

St Gerard's Primary School

WHEN:

February 22nd - March 8th
Wednesdays, 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm



REGISTER HERE!

LUNCHTIME GARDENING CLUB



At St Gerard's students have the opportunity to learn about the garden during our lunch time Gardening Club. This week we collected chicken eggs, weeded and watered the corn, tomato, pumpkin and capsicum plants.

Have a look at some of the students enjoying themselves in the garden.



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.



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
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

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>



FINANCE



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/carer details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb State Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

- - - OR

☐ Foster parent under a temporary care order* OR ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card

Is this an application for special consideration (no CRN needed)? Yes ☐ No ☐

Student details

Student's surname	Student's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DFFH will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant Date / /





CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – General eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or carer of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one
 - on the first day of Term two
- a) be a holder of one or more of the eligible financially-means tested cards OR be a temporary foster parent, and;
- b) submit an application to the school by the due date.

For the list of eligible financially-means tested cards refer to the CSEF Policy:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/policy>

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with the above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Special Consideration

A special consideration category exists for

- Families on a bridging visa, temporary protection visa, in community detention or are asylum seeker families
- Students in temporary out of home care arrangements, including statutory kinship care

For more information, see <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/guidance/eligibility>

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer concession card being validated successfully with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (30 January 2023) or term two (24 April 2023).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see:

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents/carers so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/CARER DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

If you are claiming as a temporary Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

If you are seeking special consideration, mark this in the form and provide a copy of the relevant documentation.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2023 closes on the 23 June 2023.

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

Happy BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to all who had celebrated their birthdays in January up until this weekend.

• Ephrata	Prep
• Antonia	Yr 4
• Evelyn	Yr 2
• Victoria	Yr 3
• Yohannes	Yr 1
• Ezekiel Z	Yr 3
• Jake	Yr 5
• Karen	Yr 6
• Ezekiel B	Yr 1
• Devanshi	Prep
• Michael R	Prep
• Lachlan	Yr 5
• Layla	Yr 1
• Natalie	Yr 1
• Jacob	Prep
• Jehan	Yr 4
• Sajin	Yr 3
• Amy V	Yr 6
• Ayik	Yr 1
• Jacob R	Yr 4



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Nazareth College Open Evening
- St John's College Open Evening
- Springvale Indoor Sports