

# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 - WEEK 3

17th FEBRUARY, 2023



Happy Valentine's Day! ❤️ Love one another as I have loved you was our prayer phrase this week, and this student embodies that message perfectly. By making a heart with their hand, they remind us to spread kindness and compassion to those around us. Let's follow their lead and show love to others today and every day.

#SpreadLove #LoveOneAnother



## A Valentine's Day Prayer for St Gerard's

*As we celebrate Valentine's Day, we pray that your love would be evident in our lives and in our school community. Help us to remember to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). May we show kindness, compassion, and grace to those around us, especially to those who may be lonely or hurting.*

*We ask that you bless St Gerard's with an outpouring of love that creates a culture of support, empathy, and encouragement. May your love fill our hearts and overflow into the lives of others, so that we may be a shining example of your love to the world.*

*In Jesus' name we pray,*

*Amen.*



@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

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Dear families,

We are well and truly into the school year with all our programs and learning opportunities in 'full swing'.

On **Wednesday morning** we had '**Before School Reading**' in the **Library** which allows our students and their families to come **from 8.15am** and read together. This has proved very popular in the past and there is a standing invitation to all our children and their families to come along. Today (Friday) our Year 3 - 6 children were involved in the first in a series of basketball clinics conducted by Dandenong Basketball Association. Basketball is a great team sport and one that we see being played by our children at lunchtimes. I am sure we will see an increase in their skills and maybe some future stars!

While I am talking about sport clinics, a reminder that **Auskick clinics** which will occur on Wednesday afternoons straight after school. This will be a **3 week program starting next 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. **Please return the permission form that was sent out last week by next Monday**. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Wilson or myself via Seesaw or email [twilson@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:twilson@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) or [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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.**

Information has been sent out regarding our **3 Way Conversations which are next Tuesday 21 February**. They allow for our students, their families and teachers to come together and share information. These sessions can be face-to-face or online. **Please note**, that families involved in Program Support Group (PSG's) Meetings this week do not need to have a 3 Way Conversation but they may choose to.

Lastly, 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.

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

## Other Important RE Dates for Term One

Event	Date
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

## 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

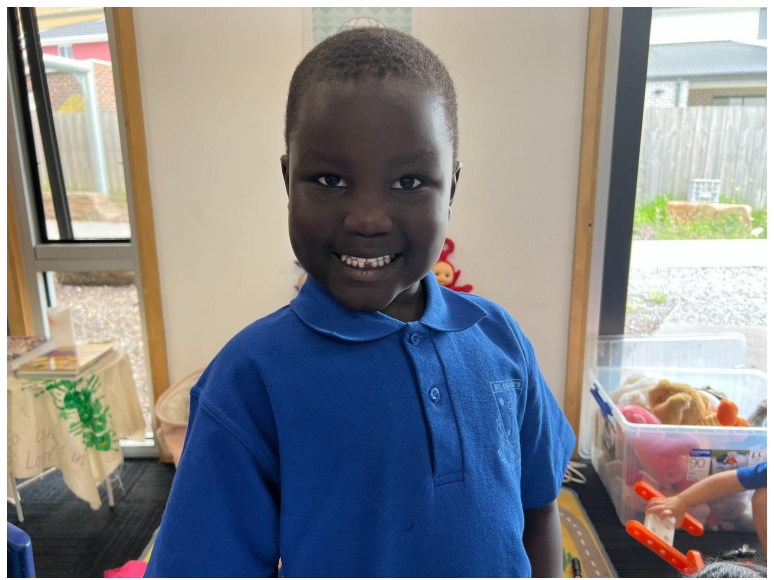
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## Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss

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.



## 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](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)



## 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
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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](http://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:	3 Way Conversations 2.00pm - 6.00pm
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 and will celebrate their birthdays this week

- Chudier Yr 3



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Nazareth College Open Evening
- St John's College Open Evening
- Springvale Indoor Sports
- St John's College Open Evening
- Mazenod Secondary College Open Day
- Noble Park Junior football Club (AFL)
- Netball Dandenong
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Swimland Swim Club