



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 5

23 May 2025

*This Week's Give Me 5 Focus: Be Positive  
in the Classroom*

*We saw plenty of positivity shining  
through in the classrooms during our  
Literacy Night!*



## Prayer for Our Lady Help of Christians Feast Day

Dear Mary,

Our Lady Help of Christians,  
we come to you with grateful hearts on this special feast day.  
You are our gentle guide and protector, always ready to help us in times of need.

We ask for your loving intercession as we face challenges, that through your care,  
we may find strength, courage, and peace.  
Help us to follow your example of faith and kindness, and to trust in God's love  
every day.

Watch over our families, our schools, and our communities.  
May your presence bring comfort and hope to all who seek your help.  
Guide us to be faithful and loving, always ready to serve with joy and generosity.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us now and always.

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

Dear families,

We have had another week with a variety of learning opportunities for our children both in and out of the classroom.

On Monday our **Prep** and **Year 1/2** classes took part in an **incursion presented by Task Works**. The interactive, hands-on Science experiences the children were involved in will enhance the work being done in the classroom in their *Change* unit.

Our **second Open Day for Term 2 was on Wednesday** with our third scheduled for next Thursday 29 May. If you know families who are looking for a school in 2026 they are more than welcome to come on one of those days from 9.30am - 5.00pm at a time that suits them or they can contact the School Office on 9791 7553 or email: [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

On Thursday a number of our children joined the parish **Legion of Mary** to **pray the Rosary**. This is offered to our children twice a term and is always well supported by children throughout the whole school. Thursday also saw our latest **SUBWAY Lunch** day which is always very popular. The other big event on Thursday was our **Literacy Family Night**. It was wonderful to see so many families come and see their children share their work and gain an insight into our English Program. I would like to thank all our staff for making this night so successful and in particular **Mrs Gwen O'Brien for her leadership and coordination**.

As I mentioned last week, we had our Cross Country team compete last Friday. This week we were informed that 4 of our children have qualified for the Divisional competition which is next Friday. We wish them all the very best and look forward to seeing how they perform at this next level of competition.

Looking forward to next week, on **Friday** we have our **annual Italian Day**. This is always a great event when we celebrate our learning and increase our knowledge of Italian culture. Information was sent out via *Operoo* which includes ingredients that will be part of some of the cooking activities.

Finally, a reminder that we have a **School Closure Day on Friday 6 June** for our staff to be involved in some Religious Education Professional Learning.

God bless

Paul COWAN



# Religious News

## Sacrament Dates. 2025

### **First Communion: (Grade 4)**

Thursday, 19th June First Communion Reflection Day  
Sunday, 22nd June First Communion, 10:30am 2025  
Friday, 27th June First Communion Assembly in the PAC

### **Confirmation: (Grade 6)**

Tuesday, 24th June Confirmation Reflection Day (Yr 6 wear casual)  
Thursday 26 June Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation at 10.00am (confirmed)  
11:50 practice in the Church with Catechetics and School Candidates  
Saturday, 28th June Confirmation 5:30pm (Vigil)  
Friday, 4th July 1:15pm Confirmation and end of Term Assembly in the PAC

### Whole School Masses:

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June                      The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

### Level Mass:

1/2 Level:                              29th May, 9:15am  
Prep/5/6 Level:                      5th June, 9:15am  
3/4 Level:                              12th June, 9:15am

### Reconciliation:

Years 3 & 4:                              Thursday 19th June, 10:00am  
Years 5 & 6:                              Wednesday 25th June, 10:00am

### Other Important Dates:

26th May, 2:50pm                      Sorry Day Assembly  
6th June                                  Mary Glowrey Faith Formation Day for Staff, School Closure  
15th to 21st June                      Refugee Week  
16th June, 2:50                        Refugee Week Assembly

## **Altar Servers**

Altar service practice will resume on Thursday, February 13th, and will take place every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm in St. Gerard's Church. To be eligible for service, individuals must have completed their First Communion. This provides a wonderful opportunity for young members of the Church to participate in the liturgy and take on the responsibilities associated with altar service. For any inquiries regarding altar service practice or eligibility, please feel free to contact the parish office at 97924422.



# Religious News



## **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.

## **St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:**

We're aiming to fill our food cart to the brim once again for the St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal! Starting in Week Two, our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will be collecting food donations right up until the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that brings in the most items will be rewarded with a casual dress day.

## *Vinnie's* **WINTER APPEAL**



*'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



## Give Me 5 News

Next week, our school will continue to dedicate time to reinforcing our "Give Me 5" value of being positive in the classroom. Students will be encouraged to demonstrate positivity by persevering through challenges and maintaining a positive attitude in their learning. Those who consistently exhibit this behavior will be rewarded with a raffle ticket, providing an opportunity to win exciting prizes. We look forward to celebrating the positive efforts of our students and fostering an environment of encouragement and resilience.

Students who display the expectations present on the school Matrix are rewarded with a raffle ticket from their classroom teacher. Once a month the raffle tickets from each class are collected and drawn during Fridays assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and the lucky winners are:

1. Jacob O
2. Nyadut
3. Trinity
4. Katalina
5. Joanne
6. Ethan Z



# 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.



# Wellbeing

## Student Representative Council

On Thursday, 22 May, the Student Representative Council (SRC) at St Gerard's gathered to discuss upcoming events and address key issues affecting the school community. The meeting highlighted the SRC's commitment to fostering a school environment where student voices are heard and valued.

During the meeting, students shared their ideas for potential rewards if their names were drawn in the whole-school "Give Me 5" raffle. Suggestions included extra recess time, movie afternoons, and opportunities to choose class activities. These ideas reflect the students' desire for enjoyable and meaningful incentives.

The council also considered several important topics, including the scheduling of future events and initiatives aimed at enhancing student engagement and well-being.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to continue working collaboratively, ensuring that the perspectives and ideas of students contribute to the ongoing improvement of the school community.





# 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.

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# 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.

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# 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*.

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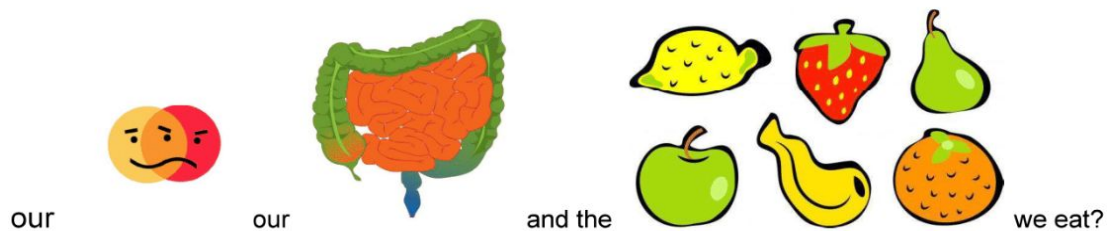




## WHAT WE EAT CAN AFFECT OUR BRAIN HEALTH

**Do you know...**

**that there is a link between**



**Yes, what we EAT affects our emotions and mood!**

Take the humble  ...



**Bananas** are rich in vitamin B6, which helps make serotonin—a chemical that supports mood balance and can help us feel calm. They also provide natural sugars and fibre for steady energy without a crash.

© GIN Discovery Program - Monash University

So the next time you are feeling a little cranky, reach for a **banana** instead of a cup of coffee.

**P.S. If you have any recipes that feature bananas, send them to Mrs Lewis:**

[mlewis@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mlewis@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)

# Reading Before School

ST GERARD'S  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



## READING BEFORE SCHOOL

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

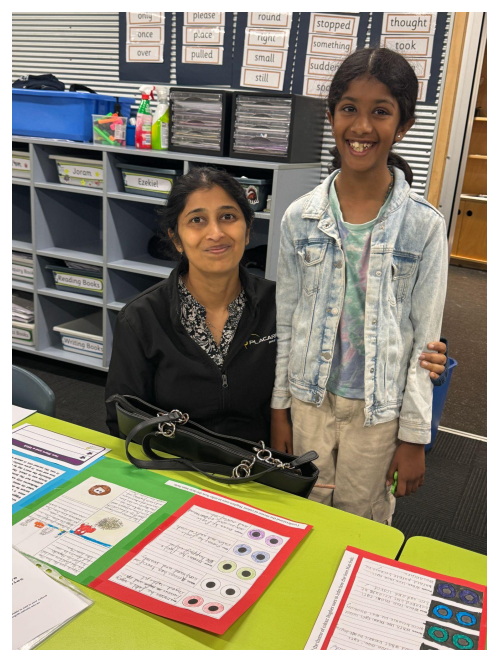
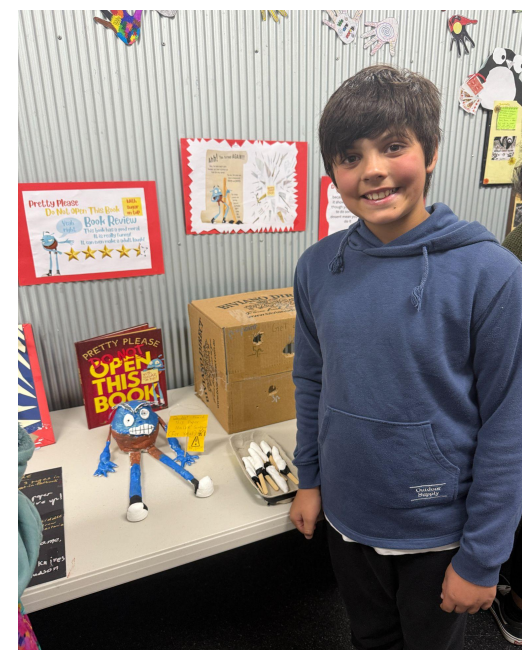
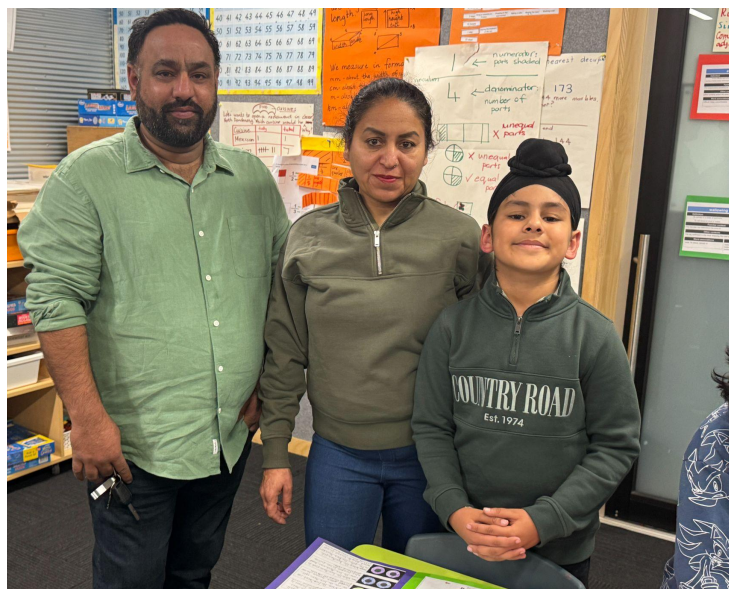
## 8:30 AM

Join Mrs O'Brien in the  
library for some quiet  
reading time with a good  
book and receive a  
Reading Before School  
raffle ticket.



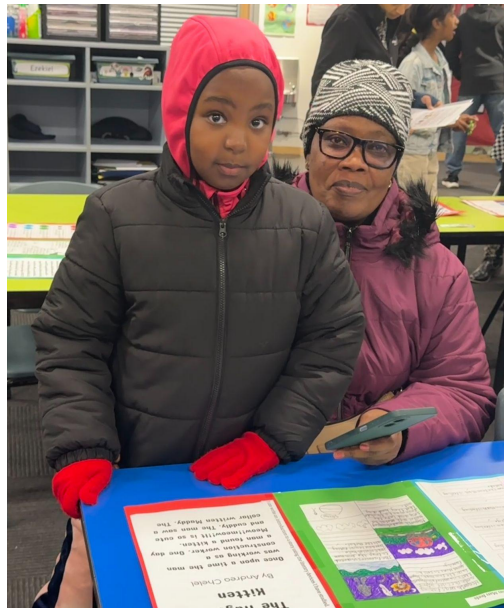
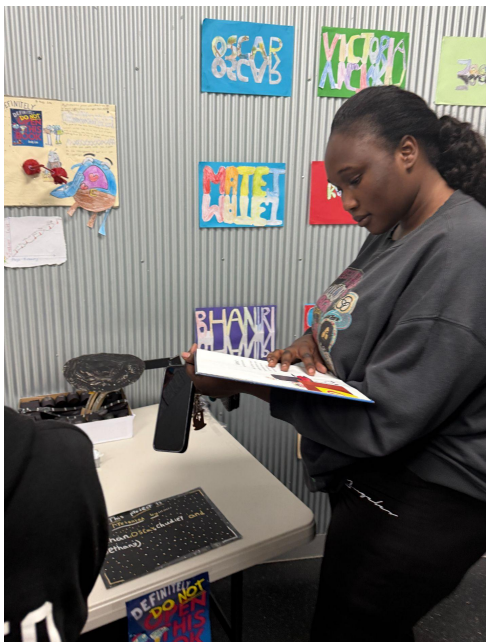
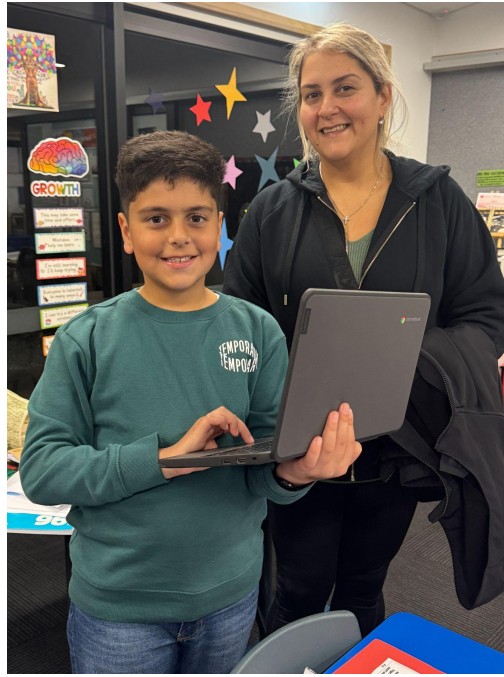
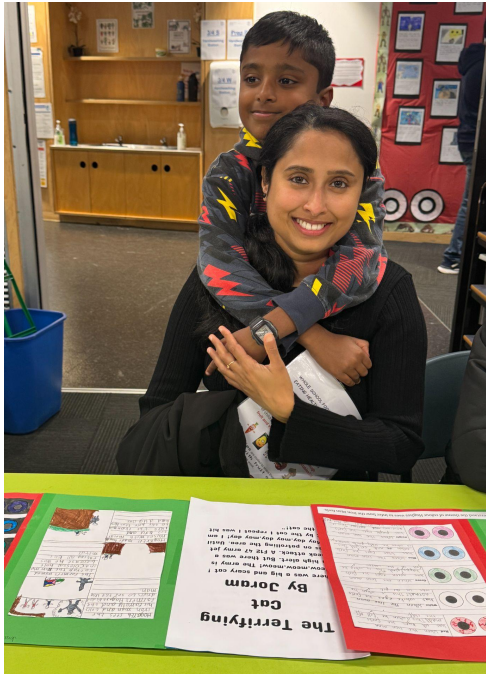


# Literacy Night



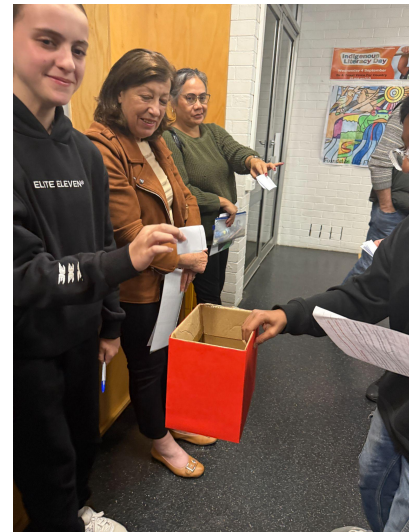


# Literacy Night





# Literacy Night





# LIBRARY NEWS



## LIBRARY SKILLS AND GOLD PASS ACHIEVEMENTS

This term, pupils from Years 3 to 6 have either commenced or refreshed their library skills training. As part of this programme, they are learning to independently access the library computer system, borrow and return books, and support their peers with library tasks.

Congratulations to all pupils who have earned their Gold Pass by completing either a refresher session or three library training sessions. You should be extremely proud of your efforts and dedication.

Below is a list of our Gold Pass recipients - well done!

**Congratulations to: Chudier, Katalina, Anjali, Lemilo, Nevyn, Chelsea, Anjanna, Gabriel, Sophia, Julian, Alfie, Azalea, Mila, Ariana, Dekota and Joanne.**

## REMINDER

Please support your child in returning library books on time by ensuring they use a library or book bag.





# Important Dates / Info

## May

- 26th National Sorry Day
- 28th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 29th Open Day
- 30th Italian Day

## June

- 4th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- **6th School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning - Religious Education**
- 8th Pentecost Sunday
- **9th King's Birthday Public Holiday**
- 11th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 12th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 12th Ride to School Day
- 18th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 19th First Communion Reflection Day
- 22nd First Communion at 10:30am (Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ)
- 24th Confirmation Reflection Day
- 25th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 26th Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation
- 28th Sacrament of Confirmation 5:30pm

## July

- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 3rd Subway Lunch
- **4th End of Term 2 - School finishes at 3.30pm**

# 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.

## 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.



## Important Notice:

### School Fee Payments

#### 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.

Experience the  
*Mazenod* advantage.

mazenod.vic.edu.au

Book a tour →

Bookings essential

2025 Open Day: Wednesday 5th March  
2025 Tours: 1st May / 24th Jul / 5th Aug / 16th Oct  
Year 7/2027 Applications Close Friday 15th August 2025



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 **AFTER** contacting AGS and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus Schoolwear.

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

0354 8345 or email [info@agsprints.com.au](mailto:info@agsprints.com.au)



## OSHC IMPORTANT UPDATE

### 📢 Important Fee Update – Effective March 24, 2025 📢

Dear Parents & Guardians,  
To continue providing high-quality care and professional staff, Youth Leadership Victoria will be adjusting OSHC fees.

#### New Fees:

- ✅ Before School Care: Casual \$25 | Permanent \$20
- ✅ After School Care: Casual \$30 | Permanent \$25
- ✅ Vacation Care/Pupil Free Day: \$72.50

We appreciate your support and understanding.  
For any questions, please contact **Rita Strachan** 0412 958 601.

Thank you for being part of our OSHC community! 🎉

# Notice Board



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

- Andrew Yr 2
- Nila Foundation
- Riona Yr 5



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- North Dandenong MASALA Junior Football club (AFL)
- Mazenod College Open Day & School Tours Info
- Goodstart Early Learning - Princes Highway



## 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.