



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 8

13 June 2025



Give Me 5 Focus this week: *Be Spirit Filled in the Playground*

***As the Father sent
me, so I send you.
Receive the Holy
Spirit.***



Holy Spirit of life,
Fill us with your love and
energy so
That we can bring peace,
comfort and joy to others.

Amen

Pentecost Prayer

**Come, Holy Spirit,
Fill our hearts with your love and
peace.**

**As we celebrate Pentecost,
Help us to follow your light,
Speak with kindness
and live with courage and hope.**

**Be with us at St Gerard's,
And guide us each day.**

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,

I hope that the King's Birthday Public Holiday provided you with the chance to 'recharge your batteries' and stay warm! Despite this being a shorter week we still had a lot to offer our children.

Our **Year 3/4** classes attended the **Thursday morning 9.15am Parish Mass**. It is always great to be able to celebrate Mass with the Parish and with **First Communion being celebrated on Sunday 22 June** it is another way to help these children prepare for this significant step in their faith journey. Also on Thursday, our children were able to pray the **Rosary with the Parish Legion of Mary**. There is always a good uptake of this invitation and a practical way to share our faith. We gather with this group twice a term to pray together with this being the second time this term.

Our latest **Walk/Ride to School Day** held yesterday saw a large number of our children walk or ride to school despite a chilly morning. I would like to thank families for supporting these days as exercise in the morning does help prepare our children for learning. It is also pleasing to see children walking / riding to school on a regular basis.

Today (Friday) our **Year 3 - 6 children had the next installment in a series of Hockey Clinics**. This is another team sport that we are introducing our children to which may lead to participation in the local area. It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and skill development.

As I mentioned last week, there was a growing concern over the safety of our children at the end of the school day. We were seeing an increase in children and their families walking in front of and in between cars. Families were also standing in the car park waiting for their children who were walking directly to them without looking for cars. We asked that **families use the Pedestrian Crossing to access the carpark so that they were not walking near the cars leaving the pick up zone. Children and families were also reminded that they can leave the school site safely by walking along the side of the Church.** The additional visual reminders put in place and the children being reminded in class and at Assembly has had a positive impact. I thank you for your cooperation and understanding in helping everyone get home safely.

A reminder to **current families** that if you have a child who will be **starting school next year** to please come to the Office for an Enrolment Pack. Also, if you know families who are looking for a school in 2026 they are more than welcome to contact the School Office on 9791 7553 or email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

Finally, at Assembly today we recognised another one of our **'high flyers'**. **Antonia's basketball team, the Casey Cavaliers won the National Junior Classic Basketball Tournament going through the event undefeated!** Congratulations to Antonia and her team! A reminder that 'high flyers' is to recognise our children that have achieved something outside of our school. It could be in the sporting or performing arts fields or involvement in a community based program or initiative. High Flyers will be a part of our Assembly each week so if you would like your child(ren) recognised, please email myself principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au or send a message through Seesaw by Thursday 5.00pm. Please provide a brief description which will be read out. We look forward to sharing with our school community the great things our children are doing.

Take care and God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

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
Saturday, 28th June Confirmation 5:30pm
Friday, 4th July 1:15pm Confirmation and end of Term Assembly in the PAC

Whole School Masses:

Friday 27th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

Level Mass:

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:

15th to 21st June Refugee Week
16th June, 2:50 Refugee Week Assembly

Altar Servers

Altar service practice takes 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



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

Exciting Lunchtime Clubs Launching Next Week!

Our Student Representative Council (SRC) has been working hard to enhance our school community. After gathering student feedback, we're thrilled to announce the introduction of two new lunchtime clubs starting next week:

- **Art Club:** Led by Mrs. Theodore on Tuesdays during 2nd lunch, this club offers a creative space for students to explore their artistic talents.
- **Library Club:** Hosted by Miss Adrien on Wednesdays during 1st lunch, this club provides a quiet environment for reading and book discussions.

Both clubs will run for four weeks, based on student input, allowing students to engage in different activities and keep things fresh. This initiative aims to enhance student engagement, promote social inclusion, and provide opportunities for students to connect with peers who share similar interests. Lunchtime clubs have been shown to improve peer relationships and increase feelings of safety and belonging within the school community.

A big thank you to our SRC leaders for their dedication in making our school a more vibrant and inclusive place!

Give Me 5 News



Give Me 5 News: Be Your Best in the Learning Areas

Next week, our school community will focus on one of our Give Me 5 values: *Be Your Best in the Learning Areas*. This initiative encourages students to maintain personal space, ask for help when needed, and keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves during learning activities.

What Does It Mean to Be Your Best in the Learning Areas?

Being Your Best means engaging fully in your learning, respecting personal space, and seeking assistance when necessary. These principles are essential for creating a positive and supportive learning environment for everyone.

Recognising Positive Behaviour

To celebrate and encourage these values, students who demonstrate being their best in the learning areas will be awarded a raffle ticket.

Let's work together to make our learning spaces a place where everyone can thrive.

Wellbeing

Give Me 5 News

A big congratulations to the following students who received their first golden band for 2025.



Foundation

Jasmine

Harper

Reyna

Nila

Nina

Katara

Rutesh

1/2FB

Jacob A

Willow

Grace

Drishika

Maya

Ameya

Jacob O

1/2S

Anthony

Nyadut

Ephrata

Elias

Sanaya

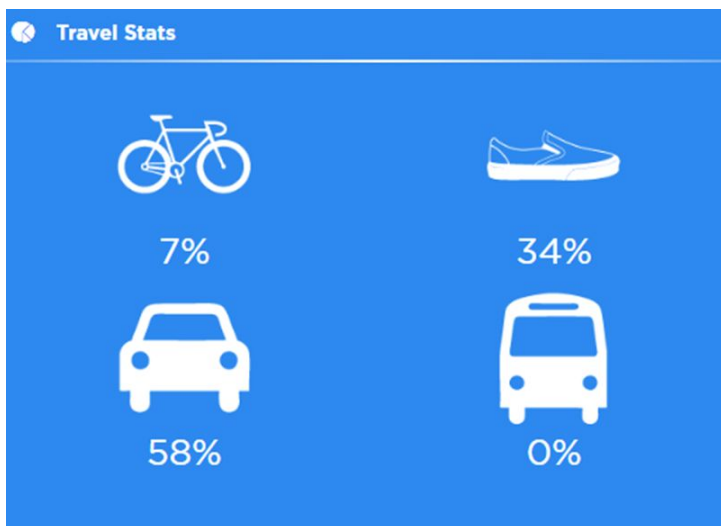
Michael



Well-done to 5/O for achieving 50 wristbands!! They will be negotiating a class reward with their teacher.

Wellbeing

WALK OR RIDE TO SCHOOL



A big thank you to all families who participated in Ride to School Day on Thursday 12th June. Congratulations to 1/2FB who had the most students walking, scooting and riding to school!!

Well done to:

1st place- 1/2FB with 83% riding, scooting or walking

2nd place- Foundation B with 38% riding, scooting or walking

3rd place- 5/6T with 35% riding, scooting or walking



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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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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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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EATING HEALTHILY TO MANAGE FEELINGS.

This term, the whole school focus is **DIET**.

The healthier you eat, the better you will cope with life's **big worries**.

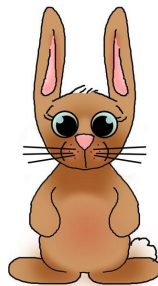
The **BEST FOODS** to eat are **fruit and vegetables AND Legumes**.

Do you know that



Carrots are loaded with Magnesium, which may help us cope with life's big worries!

Joke: How do you know carrots are good for your eyes?



Because you never see a rabbit wearing glasses



RECIPES!!!!!!

Last time, we learned about the benefits of **oranges**. Here is a delicious cake recipe using **oranges** from Miss Fernandez - WHOLE ORANGE FLOURLESS CAKE:

<https://www.recipetineats.com/flourless-orange-cake/>

I cooked this as a birthday cake and it was tasty and moist.

This week, our feature recipe comes to us courtesy of Sophia F from 5/6O and Ms J: SRI LANKAN VEGETABLE ROTI. I can't wait to try it.

Sri Lankan Vegetable Roti

By Sophia F



Ingredients:



- 350g All purpose Flour
- 100g Shredded coconut (Desiccated or fresh)

- Lukewarm water
- ½ tsp salt
- 50g chopped carrot
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp oil

Method:

1. In a bowl, add flour, salt, egg and coconut. Mix well.
2. Gradually stir in some water and make the mixture into a ball of dough that should not stick to your hands.
3. Pour in a little oil onto the dough and divide the dough into four balls. Keep the balls aside for 5-10 minutes.

4. Oil a plate and roll out each ball into a circle. Do not make it too thin.
5. Cook them on a flat pan or a griddle on low heat. Flip the roti to cook them evenly.

PHOTOS

Look at how Miss Brown's family loved making the **Banana Weetbix Slice** recipe from last week. Her family's comments were,

'It tastes yummy.' and *'It tastes like a banana muffin.'*



**crushing
Weetbix**



**mashing
bananas**



**out of the
oven**



**Verdict:
tasty!**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN THE NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE SHARE PHOTOS OF YOUR COOKING.**

If you have a delicious recipe about **our next star vegetable - broccoli**, please send them to: 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.



St John's Taster Day



Important Dates / Info

June

- 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 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.

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.**



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

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Mazenod advantage.

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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
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



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 this week.



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Nazareth Secondary College School Tour Dates and 2027 Year 7 Application Dates
- 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.