



St Gerard's Primary School NEWSLETTER



TERM 3 WEEK 3

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 9791 7553

29 JULY 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to those students and staff who have and who will celebrate their birthday this week!:

◆	Joshlyn	Yr 5
◆	Adina	Yr 4
◆	Gurnishaan	Yr 1
◆	JeromeYr 3	
◆	Shaun	Yr 2

SUBWAY

Thursday,
11th August,
2022



STUDENT FREE DAY

12th
AUGUST,
2022



@st.gerards3175



<https://www.facebook.com/stgerardsps>



Sunday's readings lead us to reflect on the importance of focusing on heavenly things rather than earthly things. Our Give Me 5 goal next week will be to 'Be Your Best' by considering one way in which we can be more sharing.

Obviously we can't ignore earthly things but we have to guard against becoming too absorbed in them and excluding God.

Next week we will focus on the rich man who built bigger and bigger barns to store his belongings, but when he died it was all for nought. We will encourage the children to think about how easy it is to get caught up in the desire for more and more possessions.



Principal's Message



Dear families,

I hope you are all well and good and coping with the Winter weather.

It has been another week with plenty of learning opportunities here at St Gerard's and it is wonderful to see the students so positive and engaged in all aspects of school life.

A key aspect of children learning is having the right support around them. Earlier this week information was sent out regarding our **3 Way Conversations**. This allows for our students, their families and teachers to come together and celebrate successes and set goals for the second half of the year. These will occur next **Tuesday 2 August from 2.30pm - 6.30pm**. Currently we will be offering these conversations both onsite here at school or online via *Google Meet*. Due to the challenges we are currently facing with COVID and Winter illnesses we may need to move all meetings online. If this was to occur we will contact you as soon as possible. To organise a time please **email Ms Josie Ferraro** jferraro@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au with your preferred time frame (2.30pm – 5.00pm or 5.30pm - 6.30pm).

We had our first **Garden Market** yesterday (Thursday) with some of our students in charge of sales. Our garden allows for students to gain an understanding of how to grow and care for various plants and to look after our chickens. These experiences provide a chance for students to **work together**, give their own time for **the benefit of others** and to **develop life long skills**. I would like to thank the families who supported our Garden Market.

We have **3 Open Days** planned for this term on **Wednesday 10 August, Tuesday 16 August and Thursday 1 September** for families to see all the things we offer here at St Gerard's. If you know of families who are looking for a school for 2023 they are more than welcome to come on these days at a time that suits them or they can contact the Office or email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

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

As mentioned last week, there have been some recent changes to the **Child Safe Standards** which commenced in Victoria in January 2016. These **new Standards** took effect from 1 July, 2022. As a school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) we have **updated our policies to reflect these changes**. These policies can be found on our school website and we will continue to have the safety and wellbeing of our children as our first priority.

Lastly, a reminder that we have a **School Closure Day on Friday 12 August**.

Please continue to stay safe and God bless.

Paul Cowan.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sacrament Dates, 2022

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Reflection Day:	Tuesday, 23rd August (children may wear casual clothes)
First Communion:	Saturday, 27th August, 5:30 pm & Sunday, 28th August, 10:30 am
First Communion Assembly:	Friday, 2nd September, 2:50 pm

Class Masses:

This term students and staff are invited to engage in designing a Class Mass and families will be invited to attend. It would be fantastic to see lots of families there.

Year 3S:	Thursday, 4th August, 10:15am
Year 1/2FW:	Thursday, 11th August, 10:15am

Whole School Mass

Monday, 15th August: Feast of the Assumption at 9:15 (Parish Mass)

Other Important Dates:

Mary of the Cross Paraliturg:	Monday, 8 th August at 2:50
Talent Quest Auditions:	Week 10

St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

Early next term, as part of our celebrations for our Feast Day and raising awareness for Mission Month, we will be holding our annual Talent Quest. Children will need to audition for this event in the last week of term.

Altar Servers

Altar Server training resumed yesterday, Thursday 28 July from 5.30pm - 6.30pm in the Church. This is for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass. For more information contact St Gerard's Parish Office 9792 4422 or Mrs Stack 9791 7553

WELLBEING NEWS



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.

This Thursday the Semester One SRC reps attended their last SRC meeting for 2022.

The Semester Two reps will be announced during next week's assembly.

We would like to thank the Semester One SRC reps for their dedication and contributions to making St Gerard's an even better school.





How does confidence develop?

Babies are born curious

They want to touch, see, hear and taste everything within their reach. Toddlers and preschoolers demonstrate their need to understand their world by asking many 'why' questions. From their repeated experiences of seeing their actions affect their world and the people in it, young children begin to see themselves as capable and having control. This helps them to feel good about themselves and builds their self-confidence.

When they begin school, children typically start out with high expectations

But when they see how they do things compared to others, their view of their own abilities often changes. They learn that they're good at some things and not so good at others. They also see how other children and educators respond to what they do. These things influence children's confidence in their abilities. They also influence how willing they are to have a go in situations where they feel unsure.

Your response

The way adults respond to children as they explore their place in the world is their template for solving many challenging and difficult problems later on. For young children, it helps strengthen their sense of self when significant adults nurture their natural curiosity and demonstrate patience and interest. In primary school years, children who are suddenly less sure of themselves may need extra support and encouragement to build a functional sense of confidence they can take with them into adolescence.

WELLBEING NEWS

Give Me 5 News

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 the Friday assembly.

The raffle was drawn on Friday 22nd of July and the following lucky winners will have a special reward with the Mr Cowan:

Ainsley	Alfie
Rhythm	Rafael
Anjanna	Roy

GARDENING



This week **1/2FW** enjoyed their Gardening lesson.

The students learned about the following concepts in the garden this week:

- · composting
- · worm farming
- · planting seedlings
- · harvesting (how to carefully lettuce)
- · weeding
- · how to look after chickens

Have a look at some of the fun we had in the garden today!

RIDE or WALK to school



Thursday, 4th August 2022

Thursday, 4th August is a Ride to School Day. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school from home or from a nearby drop off point. If your child doesn't normally walk to school, you could do this together.

Students who ride are given a sticker and the class who has the most students riding or walking get to keep our Ride to School trophy in their classroom for that month.

Students can ride bikes, skateboards or scooters.

They must wear a helmet at all times.

Upon arrival at school, students must hop off their bike or scooter and lock up their bike or scooter in our bike parking area (in front of the Performing Arts Centre).

BOOK WEEK

Book Week 2022

Dear Families,

From Monday the 22nd to the 26th of August, St. Gerards will be celebrating book week! The theme for Book Week is *'Dreaming with eyes open...'*

Each morning during this week Families are welcome to read with their child/ren from 8:15 to 8:30 in the Library. We have an exciting Book Week planned.

Activities include:

- **Lamont Book Fair**
Monday 29th August to Friday 2nd September - Lamont Book Fair
The trollies will be set up in the **Library** and parents and students will be able to purchase books between **8.45 and 9.15 am** and also from **3.15 pm - 3.45 pm**.
- **Dress Up Day**
Dress up day will be on **Thursday the 25th of August**. Children can dress up as their **favorite book character!** There will be a **prize** for students who have the best outfit!
- **Secret Reader**
Another fun thing is there will be a secret reader! The surprise reader will read a book to the school through the PA system.
- **Class Competitions**
Class competitions and activities.

Costume ideas:



MARKET STALL

A big thank you to our beautiful students who work in the garden on a daily basis!



Chicken Eggs For Sale

St Gerard's would like to offer parents 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 email Nicole Fernandez if you would like to purchase some eggs.



LANDCARE GRANT

Recipient of a 2022 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant



**Now growing the
next generation
of environmental
champions**



We've been successful with our application for a 2022 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant for our project, 'Greenhouse Magic!'

We will soon be purchasing a large greenhouse! This will offer the students a hands on learning experience to experiment with pollination and nutrition and explore the relationships between plants and insects.

St Gerard's is one of 1,054 primary schools and early learning centres throughout Australia receiving a Woolworths Junior Landcare grant to help grow our next generation of environmental champions.

The children and teachers are looking forward to working and learning from this project and we'll keep you updated on the results.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

What sort of help does the school give students?

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

How will the NCCD be different this year?

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

Where can I find out more?

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).



Catholic Schools Child Safe Schools

CECV Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

A safe, nurturing and empowering culture for all children and young people in Catholic schools.

This statement has been updated in light of the revised Child Safe Standards coming into effect from 1 July 2022 and the supporting Ministerial Order No. 1359.

Every person, created in the image and likeness of God, is unique and has an intrinsic and inalienable dignity (Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization 2020, n. 379).

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of Catholic education. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.

This statement is intended to reaffirm the central focus on child safety across Catholic education in Victoria, built around a unified understanding of the moral imperative and overarching commitments that underpin our drive for continual improvement, and embedding a culture of 'no tolerance' for child abuse in our schools and organisations.

The characteristic element of the Catholic school, in addition to pursuing 'cultural goals and the human formation of youth', consists in creating 'for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity'. To this end, the Catholic school aims ... 'to order the whole of human culture to the news of salvation so that the knowledge the students gradually acquire of the world, life and [humanity] is illumined by faith'. In this way, the Catholic school prepares pupils to exercise their freedom responsibly, forming an attitude of openness and solidarity (Congregation for Catholic Education 2022, n. 16).

The CECV has a universal expectation for the protection of children. It is resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in Catholic education in Victoria promote the inherent dignity of children and young people, and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe school environment.

Catholic schools have a moral, legal and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing school environments, where all children and young people are respected and have agency, their voices are heard, and they are safe and feel safe. The CECV recognises that some children and young people are more vulnerable than others, and commits to providing the care and services required to support them and their families, and to ensure their safety within all Catholic schools.

Catholic schools will take prompt action to have any allegations of abuse concerning children and young people appropriately referred and investigated when raised. While the context and reality at each Catholic school will differ, the fundamental issues of understanding effective practices in child safety, and identifying and responding to child harm remain the same. All schools must strive for continual improvement that is responsive to emerging thinking, evidence and practice, so as to eliminate the potential for abuse to occur.

Creating child-safe school environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by school governing authorities, schools, families and their communities. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures, curriculum and practices.

Every person involved in Catholic education has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.





Catholic Schools Child Safe Schools

The CECV commits to providing a **safe, nurturing and empowering culture** for all children and young people in Victorian Catholic schools through:

Upholding the primacy of the safety and wellbeing of children and young people

At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of children and young people will be the primary focus of care and decision-making. In addition to the universal focus on safety and wellbeing, schools need to pay attention and attend to the needs of their students who are most vulnerable.

To create and maintain a safe and nurturing culture, schools will actively and continually develop and review all policies, processes and practices, informed by their governing authority, emerging thinking and evidence.

Empowering families, children, young people and staff to have a voice and raise concerns

Schools, in partnership with families, will ensure children and young people are informed of their rights, and are engaged and active participants in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on their safety.

This means that the views of children, young people and families are taken seriously, and their concerns are addressed in a just and timely manner. Children and young people are also taught to raise concerns, gaining the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing, and the safety and wellbeing of their peers, through educational approaches and programs.

Implementing rigorous risk management and employment practices

Schools will systematically and continually identify and assess risks to child safety, and will eliminate (where possible) or reduce all potential sources of harm in both physical and online environments. Effective risk management is embedded in school life through effective, transparent and well-understood policies, procedures and practices.

Schools will employ highly competent and professional staff who are formed and challenged to maintain the safety of all students. The high quality of staff appointments will be upheld through rigorous employment and review processes and practices, which include a demonstrated knowledge of child safety.

Catholic education will stay abreast of legislation, and will meet the legislative duties to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in its care, including meeting the minimum requirements for compliance with the Child Safe Standards for schools and school boarding premises as set out in Ministerial Order No. 1359. This is in addition to ongoing work to support child safety, including mandatory reporting, reportable conduct, information sharing and complaints management.

References

Congregation for Catholic Education 2022, *The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue*, The Holy See, accessed 30 May 2022 https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_20220125_istruzione-identita-scuola-cattolica_en.html.
Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization 2020, *Directory for Catechesis*, St Pauls Publications, New South Wales.

UNIFORM SHOP ONLINE ORDERS



AGS PRINTS Pty Ltd
Wholesalers of Quality Schoolwear & Uniforms
In House Design & Printing
www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
BOR NO: 2010 / 2532

ADDRESS: 133 BAKERS ROAD
NORTH COBURG
VIC, 3058
PHONE: 03 9354 8345
FAX: 03 9354 5777
E-MAIL: info@agsprints.com.au

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

Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

Option 1 - Online Order

Access to our Online Ordering System

1. www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
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



We have requests from a number of community groups to promote their activities and services. Flyers are placed on our *Community Notice Boards* located in the courtyard and a current list is contained in this newsletter.

- ❖ Ukraine Support Fund
- ❖ Dandenong Basketball - New Information
- ❖ Lyndale United Football Club (Soccer)
- ❖ Lysterfield Basketball Club
- ❖ Swimland Swim Club
- ❖ Springvale Indoor Sports

ST GERARD'S OHSC

If you would like to enrol your child, please do so by contacting Marina.

Contact

Marina Walallawita 0402192685

Nominated Supervisor/Educational
Leader OSHC

School Pick up Arrangements from Term 3, 2022

