



# St Gabriel's

Parish Primary School Reservoir

*Inspiring to Thrive*

237 SPRING ST, RESERVOIR. 3073

Ph: 9469 3513

Website: [www.sgreservoir.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sgreservoir.catholic.edu.au)

Email Address: [principal@sgreservoir.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgreservoir.catholic.edu.au)

TERM 1 - Tuesday February 18th 2020 Fortnightly Newsletter No: 1.04

## Prayer for the Week

*Father in Heaven,  
as we hear your word  
give us your Holy Spirit,  
and reveal to us to your only Son, Jesus Christ  
Amen*

## Food for Thought

“  
If you cannot do great things, do  
small things in a great way.”

Napoleon Hill

## Important Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Time
Mon 17th February	Swimming Program Session 1	
Tues 18th February	Swimming Program Session 2	
Tues 18th February	Parent Helper Training	9.00am
Wed 19th February	Swimming Program Session 3	
Wed 19th February	No School Prep	
Thurs 20th February	Swimming Program Session 4	
Thurs 20th February	Parent Helper Training	2.30pm

Date	Event	Time
Thurs 20th February	Sacramental Journey Evening	7.00pm
Sunday 23rd February	Opening of School Welcome Mass	10.00am
Mon 24th February	Swimming Program Session 5	
Tues 25th February	Shrove Tuesday - P & F Pancake Day	
Tues 25th February	Swimming Program Session 6	
Wed 26th February	No School Prep	
Wed 26th February	Ash Wednesday Mass	11:00am

# Principal's News

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

I would like to congratulate everyone on a great first couple of weeks. It has been a great and busy start.

I would like to welcome all of our community to attend our Welcome and Commissioning Mass this Sunday. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate with Bishop Terry the beginning of our school year, the commissioning of students making their sacraments this year and a commitment by staff. There will be a BBQ and activities following Mass in the school yard.

One of the things that makes St Gabriel's so unique is our Catholic Identity. Catholic identity is a term used frequently in Catholic Education but it is a difficult concept to define. Most parents inform me at interviews that Catholic identity is linked to things like: caring; discipline; values and a high standard of education. Parents tell me they choose our school because they want the school to reflect the values and attitudes they have in their home and they want to belong to a community that has this collective understanding. This development of faith is very important to the spiritual development of all children. One important element of our catholic faith is an understanding of the sacraments.

This Thursday evening, students in Years 3 & 6 and their families will participate in a workshop facilitated by Fr Elio Capra on unpacking the importance of the sacraments. All sacramental children and their families are encouraged to be in attendance, as this is an important step in the celebration of the sacraments. To develop your own understanding of the sacraments, all adults are welcomed to attend.

I am often asked by families around what the protocols are for birthday treats at school, as parents often like to acknowledge their child's birthday by providing treats. Due to allergies, as a school we are discouraging the sharing of cakes. It is preferable to bring along water icy poles to have at school, a lollipop to take home, or a small favour such as a pencil or rubber for students to take home. Thank you for your understanding with this issue.

Can I also please remind families to refrain from smoking on the opposite side of Viola Street. This is not only setting a poor example for our students, however is also encroaching on Fr Hctor's property. He has collected a large bag of cigarette butts and has asked for people to please refrain from smoking and leaving the butts on Parish Property. Thank you for understanding in this matter.

The swimming program has begun this week and the children have enjoyed their first lesson. Thank you for your assistance in preparing students with their bathers and towels each day.

Many of you would have seen the newly renovated toilet blocks. Please check out the before and after photos in this newsletter. I would like to sincerely thank Ms Jane for her coordination and management of this project. I truly think we have the best toilets in Reservoir! I would like to thank the Parents and Friends Committee and all of our families who supported our fundraising initiatives last year. All of the money raised has gone towards the renovation of the new toilets so that your children can have clean and comfortable new facilities. The children are most grateful. Thank you.

This year we have many new other projects for school improvement that we are aiming for, such as new line markings, updating of the sandpit, new shade sails, updating of technology etc. The children and staff at St Gabriel's thank you in advance for your contributions and support of all our upcoming fundraising initiatives, so that we can continue to make St Gabriel's the "school of choice" in Reservoir.

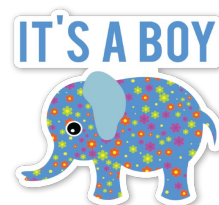
Just a reminder, that in line with the Child Safety policy that all schools are accountable to, all parent helpers and visitors must sign in at the front office. Visitors will need to wear a 'Visitor Pass' and Parent Helpers/Volunteers will need to wear a lanyard with their Working With Children Check cards.

Finally, please keep Fr Hoor in your prayers as he is unwell at the moment and has taken some personal leave.

Have a great week.

*Mark Miatello*

## Congratulations - It's a Boy



Congratulations to the Kaur family (Ravneet - Yr 3) on the safe arrival of a beautiful little boy in November - Sam.



## Congratulations - It's a Boy

Congratulations to the Milazzo family (Ayden - Yr 3) on the safe arrival of a beautiful little boy in December - Dominic.

## Congratulations - It's a Girl



Congratulations to the Swami family (Siddhi - Yr 1) on the safe arrival of a beautiful little girl in January - Jiya .



Our school will be hosting a ThinkUKnow presentation on 27th February and all parents, carers and teachers are encouraged to attend.

ThinkUKnow Australia is a cyber safety education program that educates parents, carers and teachers of how people are using technology, the challenges they may face online, and how to help them overcome these in a safe and ethical way.

ThinkUKnow Australia is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police, Microsoft Australia, Datacom and the Commonwealth Bank. The program is delivered in collaboration with policing partners New South Wales Police Force, Northern Territory Police, Queensland Police, South Australia Police, Tasmania Police, Western Australia Police, as well as Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The presentation will be delivered by a local law enforcement member and an industry volunteer. The presentation covers issues relating to children and young people's' privacy and security online, their relationships with other users and their online reputation. It provides insight into the devices young people are using, as well as the popular websites, apps and social networking sites they're accessing.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about young people and the online environment, and how you can help them to be safe and responsible users of technology.

For more information, you can visit [www.thinkuknow.org.au](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au) or contact Mrs Ryan.

# RE News... DON'T FORGET: THIS WEEK...

Thursday 20th February at 7pm (St Gabriel's)- *Sacramental Journey evening for all Sacramental Candidates and their parents.* Allow approximately two hours

Sunday, 23rd February at 10am- *Opening of the School Year and Sacramental Commitment Mass and BBQ.* This is a school community day.

Wednesday 26th February- *Ash Wednesday Mass at 11am.*

## PROJECT COMPASSION 2020:



Next Wednesday, your child (eldest) will bring home a Project Compassion box.

This is for families to add any loose change at the end of every day. The money collected is forwarded to Caritas— an organisation that works with those who are marginalised through poverty, mental health issues or who experience injustice in their lives.

This year we will be asking families to send in their money which will be collected EVERY FRIDAY. Look out for and ask your child what the focus for each week is as determined by the Senior students.

St Gabriel's Parish commit to Project Compassion every year as do all parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne



## Stations of the Cross:

Once again, our St Gabriel's children from Year 3-6 are invited to be part of the group who will dramatise the Stations of the Cross for the parish one Friday in Lent. This involves practices at school ONLY and availability one Friday night in Lent to present in the church. Details will follow with a confirmed date time and other organisational details.

Please return the slip below if your child is interested. We will need approximately 20 children.

.....sign , cut and return.....  
Attn: Clare Ryan

My child(ren), ..... is/are interested in participating in the Stations of the Cross. I understand that this will require them to be available for the presentation in the St Gabriel's Parish Church one Friday evening in Lent. I understand I will need to be present on that evening.

Parent Signature: .....Contact No: .....

# School Advisory Council

Our New School Advisory Board met on the 4th February and we discussed the purpose of the advisory council. Over the coming months we will be reviewing some of our existing policies and modifying/updating their contents. If you would like to contribute to this discussion, please contact one of the Advisory Council members.

The 2020 School Advisory Board include;

**Chairperson:** Hollie Hazelwood

**Deputy Chairperson:** Beth Coleman

**Secretary:** Clare Ryan

**Board Members:** Fr Hoctor, Mark Miatello, David Harrison, Claude Bains, Sylvia Santos, Teresa Barravecchio and Dina Trezise

## Student Expectations

All of us (parents and staff) at some point have wondered if it's worth the effort to keep talking, urging and pleading with children about a whole range of expectations. Well, the answer is **YES**, but don't expect instant result on all fronts: we plant the ideas, keep nurturing them and trust that they will be alive and well in the children.

It is important for us to be consistent in teaching children; otherwise how can they learn and understand what is really expected. Telling a child what should be done is one thing, but true learning takes place for the child when they see it happening in our lives (for example: using manners, speaking politely, listening, etc.). When discipline is used to reinforce our expectations, it should be regarded, firstly as teaching not punishing; it is guiding the child to make good choices; it is educating them about self-respect, respect for others, patience, love and knowing the limits.

The staff have spent some time renewing and establishing our school's approach to discipline and behaviour management. As a result we have established a set of 6 rules and expectations which will ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students.

The most important expectation at school would be the most important at home; that is that children need to '*follow the staffs' instructions*'. This means that, at all times, children need to listen and follow what a staff member asks them to do (at home this could be 'follow your parents instructions'). This is important for the safety of your child and other children and shows respect for all. Positive Behaviour Management is best seen as a teaching process with clear guidelines and procedures that address the management of student behaviour. It also is a means of helping students to learn to make better choices.

The following rules will be consistently used in all areas of school life e.g. classrooms, whilst children are playing, school camps and excursions.

**Follow instructions**

**Speak appropriately**

**Listen to the speaker**

**Move safely**

**Hands off**

**Care for all property**



# Communication at St Gabriel's

*As a school, we value the partnership which exists between parish, school, parents and wider community and its integral role in realising this vision.* It is therefore vital that effective communication processes are in place so that everyone has a clear understanding of positive communication channels that will enhance and promote the ethos of our school. It is also a way of ensuring that a sense of fairness is maintained for all concerned.

## Processes for parents with a concern

Where a parent has a concern involving a student, the following procedures are in place:

1. The parent should request an interview with the teacher at a time convenient to both parties.
2. If no resolution, the parents should contact the principal who will arrange a meeting between the parent/teacher and principal and any other relevant staff.
3. If no resolution, the parties should consult with the Parish Priest.

**Where a parent has a family matter that they believe the school needs to know about** or a concern with a parent or staff member, **the following procedures are in place:**

1. The parent contacts the Principal to discuss the matter.
2. If necessary the parent and Principal will meet with the classroom teacher to discuss the matter and the possible implications for the student in the school setting.
3. At the request of the parent, counselling can be sought for the family.
4. In the event that the parent contacts a staff member other than the Principal in the first instance:
  - a. The staff member should direct the parent to meet with the Principal, and/or
  - b. The staff member should record the purpose and content of the meeting and forward it to the Principal.

# Notices / Reminders

## After school

All teachers are walking their grades outside after school to meet parents. This is a great opportunity to have a quick 'catch up' with your child's classroom teacher. Parents of children in Years 3-6 who may not normally come into the yard are very welcome!

## Picking Children up early

Please remember you need to come to the office to sign out your child/ren from school. The office staff will call your child from the classroom and your child will come with their school bag to the office.

## School Hours

Before school children are supervised from 8.30am to 8.50am only. No responsibility is taken for children who arrive before 8.30am. Children are only able to leave the school (during school time) if a family member fills out the early dismissal form in the office. School finishes at 3.30pm every day.

## Staff Meetings

The Staff meet every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. We ask that families who wish to make appointments to speak to teachers (where possible) please avoid Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

## Dogs

Please remember our school is a dog free zone. Many children are very scared of dogs and some children are allergic to dog hair. Dogs can also be unpredictable and bite a child (there is always a first time!) a situation we want to avoid.



# Home Reading

There has been a lot of encouragement in recent times, encouraging parents and caregivers to take time to read to their children. The objective of this promotion is to encourage parents and caregivers to start a new year's resolution to spend more time with their children helping and encouraging them to read. Through the promotion it is hoped to put three million books into the hands of Aussie children, and create a habit by exposing the importance of reading to children and the implications of not having good literacy.

At St Gabriel's School our goal is to develop independent and creative lifelong learners who comprehend and communicate respectfully and effectively.

We believe that:

- Literacy is the foundation for all other learning areas and life opportunities.
- All students should have the opportunity to develop a sense of joy and wonder in literacy
- Staff should provide explicit and effective literacy programs based on current, research-based practices.
- Literacy should be a priority for both staff and student as they actively seek to achieve goals.
- Students and families play an integral role in the literacy development of a child.

The experience of reading with your children, to your children and by your children is absolutely critical to students improvements in all areas of literacy. We urge everyone to make this a priority. Included below is some information about reading at home.

## WHY CAN'T WE SKIP READING TONIGHT?

**Student A reads 20 minutes each day. This equals 3600 minutes a school year. Student A will read approximately 1,800,000 words.**



**Student B reads 5 minutes each day. This equals 900 minutes in a school year. Student B will read approximately 282,000 words.**



**Student C reads 1 minute each day. This equals 180 minutes a school year. Student C will read approximately 8,000 words.**



**By the end of the school year, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 school days. Student B will have read only 12 school days. Which student do you expect to be the better reader? (Nagy & Herman, 1987)**

Created By: Deana Kehlerberg

Setting time aside each night for your child to read has tremendous academic benefits and it is also a nice way to end the day.

Your child's teacher will let you know what the expectations are for your child when it comes to home reading in the coming weeks.

The expectations are different from year level to year level.

To help foster a love of reading in your child, visit the local library, reread the good old favourites- the ones you loved as a child, talk about the books you are reading by making connections to your world and use that time to be together.

# St Gabriel's Commitment to Child Safety

St Gabriel's and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria commits to providing a safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people through:

## **Upholding the primacy of the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.**

At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children and young people will be the primary focus of care and decision-making, with particular attention paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability. To create and maintain a safe and nurturing culture, schools will actively and continually develop and review all policies, processes and practices, informed by 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 engaged and active participants in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on their safety. This means that the views of staff, 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 provided with the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.

## **Implementing rigorous risk-management and employment practices.**

Schools will systematically and continuously identify and assess risks to child safety and will eliminate (where possible) or reduce all potential sources of harm. Effective risk management will be 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 staff review processes and practices. Catholic education will stay abreast of current legislation and will meet their legislative duties to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in their care, including the Victorian Child Safe Standards (Victorian Government 2016), mandatory reporting, grooming, failure to disclose and failure to protect requirements.

## Volunteers – Ministerial Order No; 870: Child Safe Standards & WWCC

Victoria has introduced compulsory minimum standards for organisations that provide services for children to help protect children from abuse. These standards include new requirements for volunteers. We have a Code of Conduct for Volunteers. There is no change to requirements around Working With Children Checks (WWCC). All Catholic Schools in Victoria (as advised by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria) require parents who wish to assist in any way in the school to have WWCC card. It is illegal for anyone to work/volunteer in the school without this card, resulting in the school and the person being fined. If you don't already have a WWCC you can apply online via the following website: [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au).

All volunteers will also be required to sign our Code of Conduct under the new Child Safe Standards legislation.

### **Uniform Shop**

Please note uniforms can be ordered by sending an order form with correct money to the office. Orders will be filled and sent home with your child within a couple of days. Uniform shop is open Monday's 2.30 - 3.15 pm. Thank you, Ms Teresa.

# 2020 School Fees

	Family Fee	Curriculum Fee per child	Camp per child	Yearly Cost
Junior School Prep - 2	\$1260.00	\$435.00	N/A	\$1695.00
Middle School Yr 3 - 4	\$1260.00	\$435.00	\$95.00	\$1730.00
Senior School Yr 5 - 6	\$1260.00	\$435.00	\$285.00	\$1920.00

*The above figures are based on a family with one child.*

**Curriculum Fee must be paid in full by Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 2020**

**Please refer to page 4 for Family Fee Instalment Options and due dates**

Just a reminder that Curriculum Fees are due by the end of February. If you have a Health Care Card or a Pension Card, please submit your application form and a copy of your card to the office.

**If you have any difficulties with payment of fees please see me ASAP so that an arrangement can be worked out. We are able to assist families in need!**

**If you were on a payment arrangement in 2019 please come and see me for a new 2020 payment arrangement.**

Please note: Independent auditors review our financial records to ensure money has been spent appropriately and according to the guidelines.

## CSEF (CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND)

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you are the holder of a valid Centrelink concession card you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid directly to the School and will be credited towards appropriate levies. The annual CSEF amount per student is \$125. Any families that may be eligible can see the office staff. **If you hold a Health Care Card please pass this on to the office as our school receives additional funding for each health care card we have.**

## Medication



If your child needs to take medication please see the office staff. You will need to fill out an authority to administer medication form and provide the office with the medication to be held in our office or refrigerator in the sick bay. Under no circumstances should medication be left in a school bag or self administered due to the safety of all students.

## School Tours

School Tours with the principal can be arranged by contacting the school office to make an appointment

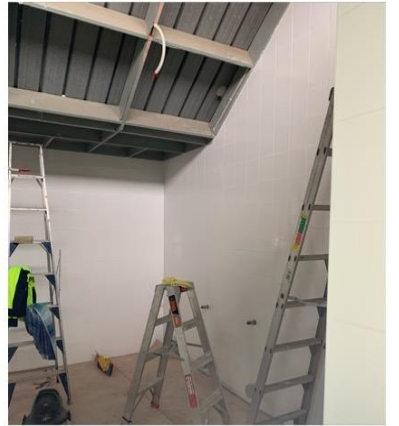
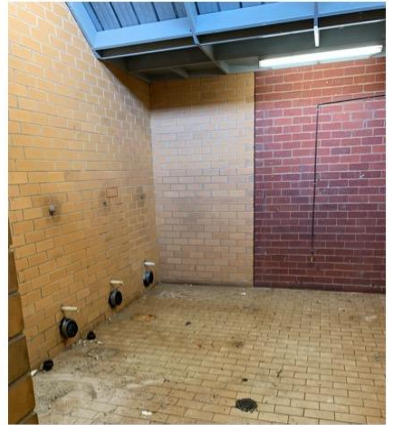
### SUN SMART REMINDER:

**Wear school hats at recess & lunchtime, during sport and excursions.**



# Toilet Rennovation

Before



After

Our first event for the year, our annual ice-cream day was such a big hit, we are going to do it again in 2 weeks!  
Friday 28th Feb at RECESS in HALL



Thanks to all our  
great helpers :)

## Tuesday 25th Feb Pancakes sales at RECESS in HALL

Pancakes served with a variety of toppings  
including maple syrup, jam and icing sugar



*Shrove Tuesday*

1 pancake for  
\$2.00

We will also have  
milk drinks for sale  
\$2.00 each

This year is already looking like it's going to be a fun year and we can't wait to share it with you all.

**Our next Parents and  
Friends Committee  
Meeting - Friday 6th  
March, 2pm, hall**

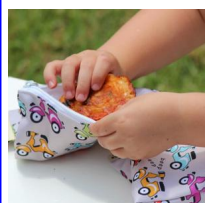
Please bring along your ideas  
and enthusiasm!

If you can't come to this one and you have any fundraising ideas or general suggestions please talk to any of the committee or email us at [pandf@sgreservoir.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pandf@sgreservoir.catholic.edu.au)

Active travel is back in 2020.  
Don't forget to use our Active  
Travel paths to guide you to  
school!



## Litter free living



Our litter free living fundraiser from 2019 is still open for orders.  
Go online to look at the great range. <https://litterfreeliving.com.au/>  
Enter SGPSR20 at the checkout to receive 10% discount plus 20% of your sale will go back to St Gabriel's

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW ACTIVE TRAVEL TEAM

We are pleased to advise that we are continuing with Active Travel in 2020 - our 6th year! We are currently a 'Gold' School as we conduct regular 'HandsUp' Tallies.

Our School Leaders make up the Active Travel Team. They will start visiting classrooms on **Wednesdays to conduct the HandsUp Tally** as per the list below

**Prep** - Whitney Kugonza and Alana London-Walker

**Juniors** - Jaivalee Neiva, Jennifer Ngo and Navya Bhatia

**Middle** - Siena Dowsing, Jesse Commisso and James Laurence

**Senior** - Faried Nasab and Kevin Dao

Simply put your hands up to let the Active Travel Team know how you got to school - walk, ride, skate, scoot or car.

**The most Active Class will receive certificates and prizes at the end of the month!**



## SAVE THE DATE!!

**Our next Bunnings BBQ and cake will be Sunday 24th May.** We will require many helpers on the day - so PLEASE keep it free so you can assist :)

**Our 20/20 TRIVIA NIGHT will be held on Friday 19th June.** (please note the school calendar date is incorrect). Our Trivia nights are adults only and always lots of fun! Save the date and tell all your friends!

## Cuppa & Cut Sessions



The "Cuppa & Cut Sessions" have been working well and are starting up again. We thank the parents who have come along to assist with the creation of resources.

Parents are invited to gather and assist the teachers in producing a range of classroom resources, through Cutting; Laminating; Colouring in; Gluing; Collating; etc.

Where: Library  
When: Every Thursday  
Time: 2.30pm-3.30pm

Why not come before you pick up your child from school, grab a cup of coffee, and help staff with all the work that needs to be completed.



2020  
Science Laboratory Refurbishment

### TERM ONE DISCOVER MERCY Open Days

Meet our Principal, explore the facilities and chat with our students and staff at our first open days for 2020.

Saturday 29 February - 10.00am  
Monday 2 March - 9.30am and 6.00pm

Presentation and tour will take approximately 90 minutes  
Book your sessions online or call 9319 9299

[mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](http://mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au)  
Applications for year 7 2022 now open

CEBROS 02/21