

NEWSLETTER 2023 TERM 3 WEEK 4

St Bernadette's Primary School Dundas Valley

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Week 4:

Friday, 11th August : Movie Night

Week 5:

Monday, 14th August : Motiv8 after school program

Thursday, 17th August : Crazy Hair Day

Friday, 18th August : Canteen Day

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's been a very busy fortnight. A successful visit with our Japanese students, a fun activities afternoon and to finish with on Friday a sausage sizzle lunch. A large number of our students represented us at the zone athletics carnival and we will finish this week with our annual movie night. We look forward to a fun evening. Next week, we have our crazy hair recognition day, an author visit and a yummy canteen day provided by Year 4.

So just when we thought our busy weeks would slow down, we will celebrate book week. See details on all of the events later in our newsletter.

Thanks so much to all of those parents who took the time to fill in our *questions for the board* form. Your responses will be passed prior to their visit and I will keep you posted on the date once it is confirmed.

Have a great fortnight,



Love & Light

Lisa Gerrard

(on behalf of the St Bernadette's staff & students)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

We have noticed that many students have not been wearing their winter uniform correctly. Thank you to all of our students and families who wear our uniform correctly and with pride. Wearing our uniform correctly is one of the many ways we show that we are proud of our school.

The correct winter school uniform is:

Girls-

Winter tunic

Long sleeve shirt

Tab tie

Grey stockings or long socks

Black leather school shoes

Boys -

Long sleeve shirt - tucked into pants, top button done up.

Long pants

Tie

Black leather school shoes

Just a reminder that students should not be wearing nail polish to school and hair should be tied back and out of our eyes.

Regards

Rebecca Boidin

Assistant Principal



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 13 Aug 2023

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried.

Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA



Although divine power is manifested in dramatic ways, it is also present in what is unassuming. Traces of God can be seen in the delicacy of a violet, in a cool summer breeze, in the blush of innocence, in the fiery eyes of justice. Every one of us lives in the midst of God, breathes the breath of God's life, and is constantly touched by the exquisite artistry of God's creativity. Life itself is a mountain experience of God.

As wonderful as life may be, it can also be very frightening at times. There are misunderstandings and rancour, jealousy and vindictiveness, greed and a hunger for power. Our personal lives can come unravelled and we can feel that we are genuinely 'at sea'. Every human being is tossed about by the exigencies of life. It is at times like these that we need faith in Jesus. Even though we do not recognise him, he is there in the midst of our chaos. Having the power of God, he is the definitive champion of all chaos, and so he is able to allay our fears and calm the sea.

A true experience of God, whether it be within the ordinariness of life or one of life's tribulations, is both transformative and effusive. It is a reality that cannot be contained; it must be proclaimed. Disciples must be ready to do what they can in order that the good news of God's revelation be made known to others.

CHILDREN'S DISCUSSION STARTERS

Where were Jesus and his friends in today's Gospel?

What did his friends do when they saw Jesus walking on water?

What did Jesus say to them?

Why did Peter begin to sink when he got out of the boat?

What did Jesus do?

Jesus comes to help us when we find things hard.

What are some of the things that you need Jesus to help with?

We pray that we might believe in Jesus, even in the hard times.

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Photos from my Sea of Galilee experience whilst on pilgrimage, January 2023, C.Brooker.



First Holy Communion



Savanna and Sebastian L, Elle H, Sienna P, Ethan L, Jackson D, Sebastian B, Cameron B and Jackson C received the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday, 6th August and Sunday, 13th August. We pray that the gift they received on this special day will continue to be the nourishment that keeps them spiritually strong and healthy. We give thanks for all those who helped the children prepare for First Holy Communion, and for those who assist them in their growth in faith through their prayers and actions, especially their parents.

SCHOOL NEWS

Attendance

Attendance Rate: 76.1% - To unpack this a little more, this means that 76.1% of our students have an attendance rate of 90% -100%.



Next Assembly

Our next assembly will be **Week 5, Friday 18th August**. The class presenting at this assembly will be Kindergarten.

Gentle Reminder

Our supervision begins at 8:30am and finishes at 3:30pm. Should you be dropping your child at school after the 8:55am bell then you need to escort your child into the office and sign in. If you are unable to collect your child before supervision finishes please contact the school office on 8846 2600.

If your child is attending Mass on Friday please ensure that they are at school prior to 8:50am as we have to be seated in the Church, ready to begin by 9:00am.

Cheese Toastie Breakfast

Wednesday mornings

Get ready for a delicious start to your Wednesday mornings with our new Cheese Toastie Breakfast! Join the Faith in Action Team at the canteen between 8:30 and 8:50 am for a mouth-watering cheese toastie that will leave you feeling energised for the day ahead.

To participate, simply purchase a voucher for \$3 through QKR between Thursday 10:00 am and Tuesday 10:00 am. All proceeds from the sale of the cheese toasties will be donated to the Manning Foundation, a worthy cause that supports our parish and community.

Don't miss out on this tasty opportunity to support a good cause and start your day off right. We can't wait to see you there!



Important Dates To Remember

Week 4:

Friday, 11th August : Movie Night (5:00pm - 7:30pm)

Week 5:

Monday, 14th August : Motiv8 after school program

Thursday, 17th August : Crazy Hair Day

Friday, 18th August : Canteen Day (Run by year 4)

Week 6:

Monday, 21st August : Book Fair (Open from 8:30am)

Monday, 21st August : Motiv8 after school program

Tuesday, 22nd August : Book Week Parade at 9:30am

Wednesday, 23rd August : Last day of Book Fair

Week 7:

Monday, 28th August : Motiv8 after school program

Thursday, 31st August : Father's Day Stall

Friday, 1st September : Father's Day Breakfast (More details to follow)

Week 8:

Monday, 4th September : **Staff Development Day (No students at school)**

Monday, 4th September : Motiv8 after school program (Parents to drop kids at school 3:05pm for program)

Week 9:

Monday, 11th September : Whole School Swimming program starts (2 week program)

Monday, 11th September : Motiv8 after school program (Last session)

Week 10:

Friday, 22nd September : Last Day of School & Swimming Program

Term 4

Week 1:

Monday, 9th October : **Staff Development Day (No students at school)**

Tuesday, 10th October : **Staff Development Day (No students at school)**

Wednesday, 11th October : First day back to school for students

School Fees:

Thank you to all our families who have settled their school fees account or continue to pay fortnightly/monthly installments.

Term 3 invoices have been issued and sent home to families. If you have not received your statement for any reason, please contact the office immediately. It would be appreciated if your payments are made in accordance with the due date (23-Aug-2023) listed on your statement.

If your School Fees are still outstanding and you are experiencing financial difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact our Finance Officer, for a confidential discussion on options available to you.

Please notify our office as soon as possible, if you know that you may be leaving St Bernadette's. As you know, you are required to give ten week's notice if you are leaving. Please contact our office for a copy of a leaving form that must be completed.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

Movie Night

Our Movie Night is tomorrow. Dinner will be served at 5pm and the movies will commence at 5:30pm. Students attending must bring their movie ticket for entry into their movie, as well as their food voucher. Vouchers will be distributed on Friday.

Students are encouraged to wear their favourite pyjamas.

Please remember that this is a student only event.

Parents, please drop your child off at the canteen area between 4:45-5pm.

Infants students will need to be collected from the hall at 7:30pm and primary students will need to be collected from the Year 5 learning space at 7:30pm.

All children must leave with their own parents. If any child is going home with another adult, a signed parent note will be required. This is to ensure safety for all.



PBS4L

We have completed the Bernie Bright puzzle for the second time this year and the wheel landed on crazy hair day! Students are allowed to come to school on **Thursday, 17th August** with their hair adorned with items to make their hair as crazy as possible. Here are some ideas:

- Hats
- Wigs
- Hair Clips
- Colour hair spray that can wash out
- Plaits
- Bows
- Buns



Students are to wear their normal school uniform on this day. Please don't bring coloured hair spray to school.

Representative Sport

On Monday, Eamon competed at the NSWCPSS Golf Tournament, which pitted him against all of the very best golfers from Catholic schools in NSW. Eamon hit a personal best round and has now qualified to be a part of the MacKillop Team. This is an outstanding result, ranking Eamon as one of the best golfers in all of NSW. Congratulations to Eamon on this fantastic achievement! We look forward to more golfing news in September, when he competes in the NSWPSA Golf Tournament.

Community Of Learners



On Friday, 28th July, Kindergarten celebrated their 100 days of Kindy! Students dressed up as 100 year olds and spent the day engaging in fun activities all around the number 100.

Children enjoyed a yummy pizza lunch and ended their fun filled day with a 100 day disco party where they danced the afternoon away!

Congratulations to Kindergarten for reaching 100 days of school. What an achievement!





Japanese Students Visit:

Reflections from two of our host families

" I enjoyed having an exchange student because he played with me. We took him to the aquarium and he enjoyed seeing the sharks. " Morton Yr 1

"My experience with the Japanese students was very enjoyable. They had lovely manners and were fun to be around. Although interactions and communication was limited it was fun to speak with them and attempt to understand each other. We got to go to different places like BounceInc, Olympic Park and we caught a ferry to Manly. We also went to the beach, which was a very exciting experience for all of us. I hope to be pen pals and stay friends for a long time." Rachel Yr 5

Reflections from a few of our Stage 2 and Stage 3 buddies

Last week, our school welcomed a group of 29 Japanese exchange students. To ensure a smooth transition, the Japanese students were paired with a buddy from Year 4, 5, or 6, who provided them with insights into our school's routines and particulars. This arrangement greatly enriched their visit and experience.

Our interactions were marked by a fantastic time of bonding. In the afternoons, the Japanese students seamlessly integrated into our regular classes, actively participating in our lessons and activities. Language proved to be less of a barrier as some of the Japanese students were proficient in English, fostering easy communication and camaraderie. Their amiable nature made them wonderful companions on the playground, where we engaged in spirited games of soccer and basketball, thoroughly enjoying each other's company.

As part of their cultural exploration, the Japanese students embarked on an excursion to a local farm, affording them the opportunity to encounter Australia's native animals in their natural habitat. Additionally, our Stage 3 students collaborated with them to create Indigenous art, an enlightening cultural exchange. Not to be outdone, the Japanese students imparted their expertise in origami to all students, ranging from Kindergarten to Year 6.

The past week was undoubtedly a memorable one, filled with learning, laughter, and cross-cultural friendships that were forged through shared experiences





Zone Athletics

On Tuesday, more than 30 of our children competed at the Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival, hosted at Blacktown International Sportspark. It was a great day of competition, where all of our children competed in good spirit and cheered each other on from the stands.

All of our children have done so very well to reach this level and should be proud of the opportunity to represent St Bernadette's. There were a number of children who reached finals for the sprint races as well as many strong performances in heats and field events.

Congratulations to the Zone Athletics Team for 2023!

Nerso B	Melanie C
Harrison B	Yvonne C
Lachlan B	Olivia E
Saacha C	Monika F
Oliver C	Ruby H
Jayden E	Elle H
Nicholas F	Scarlet J
Ayden H	Eva L
Jun L	Megan L
Nicolas L	Matipa M
Sebastian L	Elena M
Ray M	Bonnie Q
Eamon N	Scarlett T
Noah P	Ella T
Stefan S	Chloe X
Terrence T	Lydia Y
Ansh T	
Leo X	

A special mention goes to the following children, who have successfully qualified to represent St Bernadette's at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival on Friday, 25th August.

Monika - 100m (3rd), Discus (4th)

Ayden - 200m (3rd), Discus (3rd), Shot Put (1st)

Elle - 100m (4th)

Jun - 100m (1st)

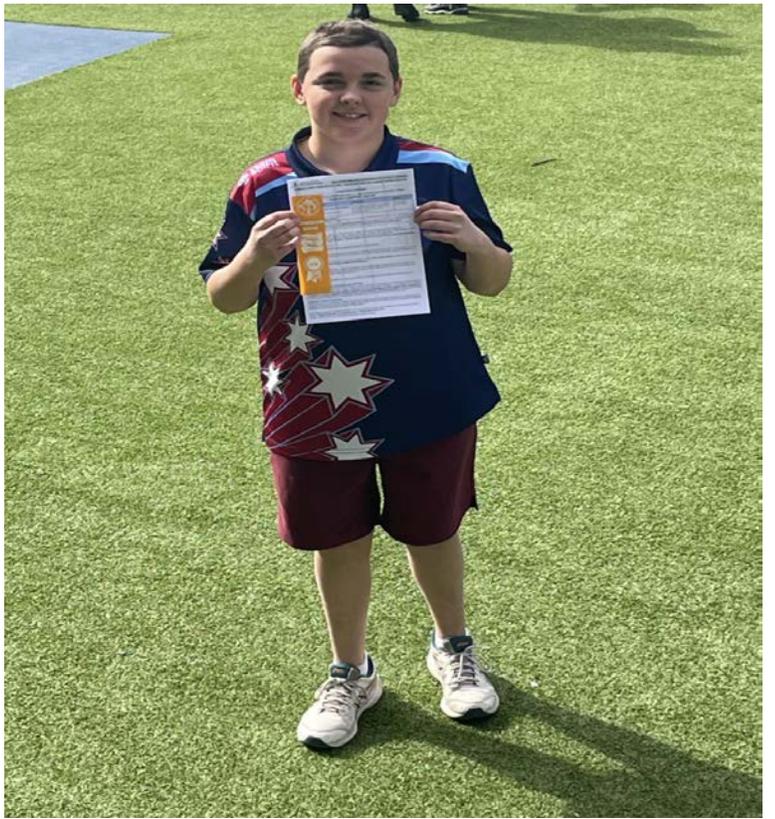
Megan - Shot Put (4th)

Eamon - 800m (1st)

Noah P - Discus (4th)

Nerso, Jayden, Ayden & Terrence - (4 x 100m Junior Boys Relay)

Another great result for St Bernadette's! We look forward to more sporting news later this month.



Premier's Reading Challenge

There is just under one month left until the PRC closes. Please make sure you add all your books by Friday, **18th August 2023**.



Book Week

Each year since 1945, the Children's Book Council of Australia has brought children and books together across Australia through CBCA Book Week. During this time, schools spend one awesome week celebrating books and Australian children's authors and illustrators. The Book Week theme this year is *Read, Grow, Inspire*.



This year, we will celebrate Book Week with a visit from Australian children's authors, Kate and Jol Temple, on Friday, 18th August (Week 5), the Scholastic Book Fair and a book parade in Week 6 (stay tuned for more information).

Authors Visiting St Bernadette's

Next Friday, we will have an exciting visit from Kate and Jol Temple who have written a number of books.

Kate and Jol are happy to sign copies of their books. If you are interested in purchasing any of their books you can do so via [The Children's Bookshop](#) (please be aware books may not be delivered by next Friday) or from any book store.



Family Fun Evening!



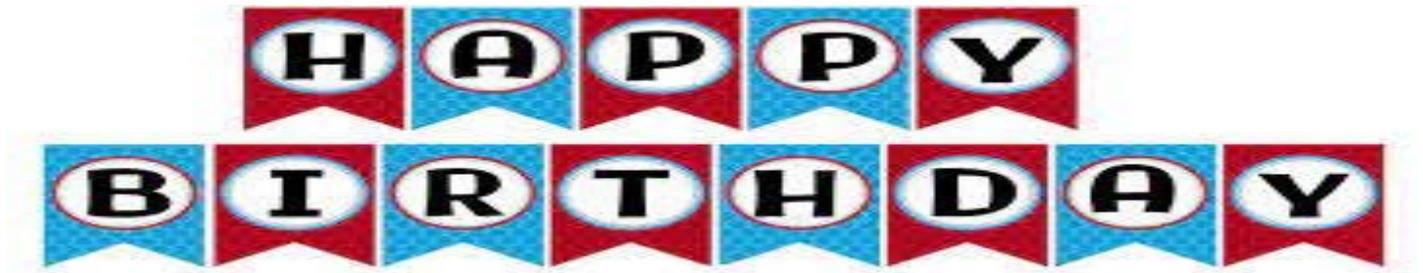
Our large fundraising event for 2023 is a Family Fun Evening!

Date: Friday, November 3rd

Time: 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Events: Stalls, Sausage sizzle, games and more

Your class contact person will be in contact with you to seek suggestions and assistance in making the evening a success. This event will be open to families, friends and members of the wider parish community. All money raised will be put towards a sensory play area for all to enjoy.



Adam - 31/07
Matipa - 02/08
Megan - 04/08
Catherine - 06/08
Roy - 06/08
Jack - 07/08
Maree - 10/08
Oliver C - 11/08
Ella - 13/08

Just a reminder that any treats sent in are kept to a minimum and individually portioned.

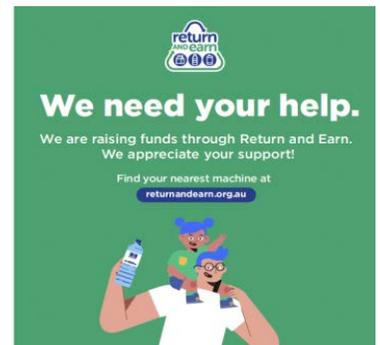
Return and Earn

Want to know how you could help the environment AND earn some money for the school?

St. Bernadette's has become a registered charity with Return and Earn so now you can recycle your containers and contribute to the school at the same time.

Here is how you do it:

- Collect the empty containers.
- Take them to the Return and Earn Machine **located at Victoria Road, Rydalmere.**
- Put the containers into the machine.
- At the end press DONATE.
- Then find St. Bernadette's Dundas and press that button.



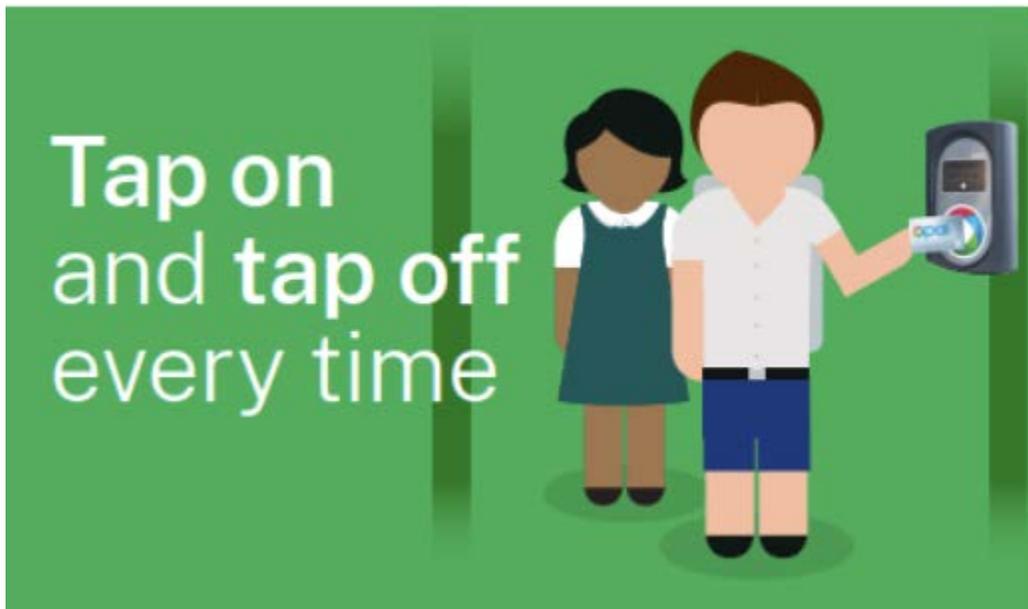
The money raised will go towards purchasing games and other resources for the students to enjoy. So start collecting those containers to help us out.

Thank you.

Which drink containers are eligible for a 10c refund?

10c REFUND AT COLLECTION DEPOTS/POINTS IN PARTICIPATING STATE/TERRITORY OF PURCHASE

- ✓ Lids on
- ✓ Barcode
- ✓ Uncrushed
- ✓ Empty



Tap on and tap off, every time you travel by bus

Our school is partnering with the local school bus operator, Busways, to support a new Tap On and Tap Off education campaign encouraging students who travel by bus to correctly use their school Opal cards. Busways is implementing this campaign throughout Term 3, 2023. This campaign will focus on a simple message – tap on and tap off every time you travel by bus.

Why is tapping on and off on the bus important?

The use of Opal cards is the primary way bus operators and Transport for NSW analyse demand for bus services. When students don't use their Opal cards, their trip is not recorded. Therefore, buses may appear underutilised. Tapping on and off provides better data to plan better bus services.

How can you help?

If your child travels to school by bus, please ensure your child has a valid Opal card (either a School or Child/Youth Opal card). Visit Transport for NSW website to apply for a school Opal card. Students may see onboard bus posters and Busways Community Relation Officers at afternoon loadings. Together let's get students into good habits of tapping on and tapping off with their Opal card. Thank you for your support with this campaign.



St Bernadette's Primary School

St Bernadette's Primary, Dundas Valley is a community focused, Catholic parish school catering for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 6. The school strives to build a Christ centred community where faith is integrated with daily life. We provide learning and teaching experiences which enable the children to deepen their faith understandings, investigate, solve problems and explore their learning. We recognise the importance of creating a learning environment that provides opportunities to develop 21st century learning. Technology is integrated into the learning at St Bernadette's in all Key Learning Areas.

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