



ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 4, WEEK 10, 19 DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**Our attendance percentage
to date is: 87%**

This week as I reflected upon my very short time here at St Bernadette's, one word kept coming to me - gratitude. I am ever so grateful for the the opportunities I've had to get to know the students, staff and parents of this amazing and loving community. As a community of learners, together we have achieved some amazing work and learning.

The **students** at St Bernadette's truly live out the message of coming to school to live, learn and love. We are thankful that our students demonstrate respect and compassion in their everyday interactions with each other and with the teachers.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the **teachers** for their passion and compassion and their commitment to Catholic Education over the past year. The teachers are so dedicated to creating exciting and engaging learning opportunities for your child and see every child here as a faith filled learner. They give of themselves, their time and skills are so generously shared often outside the 'normal' hours of the school day. It is in their giving so much that they also receive.

Our school cannot function without the expertise of our support **staff** either. We are grateful for the ladies in the office who greet our visitors and your children with a smile and make everyone feel welcome. Thank you also to our Teacher Aides who work so closely with the students to assist them to be the very best learners they can be. We are also grateful for Mr Gately who has kept our grounds looking so beautiful and clean and Mr Losurdo for sharing his IT skills with us.

To our **parent** community, I offer my humble thanks for your support and contribution in 2018. Our community can only be effective if we have the support of parents so, for your encouragement and enthusiasm, we are truly grateful.

We are blessed to have such strong support from our **parish** and Fr Christopher, Fr Reuben and Fr Benedict have guided our school and parish community in our spiritual journey and relationship with Christ. We are grateful for their leadership, love and care.

My personal gratitude is extended to our school leadership team, Mrs Lisa Gerrard, Mrs Leanne Cakmakci, Mr Anthony Kensell and Mrs Mary Elliott with whom I've worked so closely with over the past two terms. They have worked tirelessly to lead the learning at St Bernadette's and will continue to have a great impact on the learning culture and character of our school in 2019.

As the celebration of Christmas Day is nearly upon us, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a fabulous 2019. May the birth of Christ our Saviour bring you joy, happiness and peace.

*I will declare the Lord's mighty deeds
proclaiming your justice, yours alone.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still.
Ps 70:3-6. 16-17. R. see v.8*

Peace and Joy!

Mrs Baird



STAFFING 2019

Our **draft** plan for Staffing 2019 is as follows and is **subject to change**:

Principal	Mrs Mary Ann Gatt-Petrini (on leave until Term 3)
Acting Principal	Mrs Lisa Gerrard (Term 1 and 2)
Acting Assistant Principal	Mr Anthony Kensell (Term 1 and 2)
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Mary Elliott (on leave until Term 3)
Acting Leader of Learning	Mrs Leanne Cakmakci
Kindergarten teacher	Mrs Maria Sadler
Year 1 teacher	Mrs Angelina Femia
Year 2 teachers	Mrs Stephanie Bonora (Mon, Tues, Wed) & Mrs Carly Lake (Th & Fri)
Year 3 teachers	Mrs Leanne Cakmakci & Mrs Louise Williams (Th)
Year 4 teacher	Miss Simone Farago
Year 5 teachers	Term 1 and 2 Miss Adriana Guisa & Term 3 and 4: Mr Anthony Kensell
Year 6 teachers	Term 1 and 2: Mrs Corinne Brooker & Mrs Kerrie Kavanagh (Fridays) & Term 3 and 4: Mrs Mary Elliott & Mrs Kerrie Kavanagh (Fridays)
Learning Support	Mrs Mary Hines (Mon-Wed)
Release from Face to Face	Mrs Catherine Gillies (W & Th) & Mrs Halina Levenets (W, Th & F)
Executive Release	Mrs Louise Williams (Thursdays) & Mrs Kerrie Kavanagh (Fridays)
Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU - Year 1)	Mr Anthony Kensell
Reading Recovery (Year 1)	Mrs Angelina Femia
Language teacher	TBA and yet to confirm
School Counsellor	Mrs Jeanette Mansour
School Support Officers	Mrs Hala Haddad & Mrs Emma Sidoti
Teacher's Aides	Mrs Kaye Onorato, Mrs Carol Hanna & Mrs Jennifer Arthur
Grounds & Maintenance	Mr Ben Gately
IT Trainee	Mr Bryce Sayer

Farewell

- Mrs Anna Beard, our current Year 2 teacher, is taking a break from full-time teaching in 2019. We thank Mrs Beard for her dedication, compassion and flexibility and we wish her well.
- Mr Andrew Losurdo, our current IT Trainee, has now graduated from the IT trainee program and will be taking on a full-time IT support role at St Angela's Castle Hill. Andrew's skills and talents were formally recognised by the Australian Training Company and the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta with the award of IT Trainee of the Year. We're very proud of you Andrew!

Tuesday, 25 Dec 2018: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

The Gospel situates the birth of Jesus within Roman rule of the first century. Through the Incarnation, the ordinary becomes transparent and reveals the extraordinary; the divine is known in the child. Only those of humble heart experience this wonder. They behold it and they come to embrace it. In fact, it is the nature of this child, born in history, to reverse the orders of power.

God is portrayed as a valiant liberator who champions the cause of justice and who brings a liberation that reverses history and the ways of war, power and oppression. This reversal is made more shocking by the fact that the one who is the mighty warrior and conqueror of the nations is a child. This child is the weak and voiceless one, the one who has neither power nor legal rights. God's reversal of the long-standing realities of this world is accomplished through the apparently insignificant, through the gift of this child who is given to us in the middle of the night.

Something new has happened: the age of God's fulfilment has arrived. The age of grace and fresh hope, made available to all people of good will, is an era of redemptive presence. Now all people can walk in the newness of life and grace. Yet, while this new age has begun, it is not yet fully realised. We live believing in its presence and awaiting its fulfilment. Although we are celebrating Christmas, we still await the final coming of the Lord.



Positive Behaviour Support for Learning update

St Bernadette's strives to create a positive learning environment for all our students using Positive Behavior Support 4 Learning (PBS4L). Some examples of PBS4L principles are

- Encouraging all staff to aim for 4 positive student interactions for every correction.
- Collaboration and implementation of PBS4L by all school staff in order to create learning environments conducive to academic learning and achievement.
- A belief that just like academic learning, students need to be explicitly taught behavioral expectations, need to practice the skills to achieve those expectations, and may require additional opportunities or re-teaching of skills. We do not make the assumption that students automatically understand what we mean when we ask them to "be good."
- Active supervision and positive interactions by staff during transitions and unstructured activities.

As we begin the new school year we will be teaching the school-wide expectations in all areas of the school: classroom, playground, hall, toilets, etc. Teachers will also teach the expectations for their individual classrooms - explicitly demonstrating what the behaviors look like, giving students opportunities to practice, and giving the rationale behind the expectation.

Staff have finalised lesson plans and procedures ready to launch into 2019. Plans are also in place for new signage around the school reminding everyone of our expectations in addition to our mascot, Bernie Bright, to greet the community. There are exciting plans in place for the official launch of PBS4L early 2019. The students have also noticed some brightly coloured letter boxes in the breezeway, but what are they for? All will be revealed in 2019.

MAI - The Mathematical Assessment Interview

All families have now received a note about the Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI). This is a one on one teacher/student interview where your child will be asked questions in relation to their knowledge of counting, place value, addition & subtraction as well as multiplication & division.

As a school, we keep data from year to year to track student progress in Mathematics. Individually, we use this information to identify areas of strength and challenge for your child as a Mathematician. Opportunities will be provided before the start of the school year 2019, for all students, Kindergarten to Year 6, to come to school for approximately 30 minutes per child to participate in the MAI with a teacher.

An electronic booking system is now open and parents can nominate time slots for their child. These interview times begin for Years 1 to 6 on Wednesday 30th January and continue on Thursday 31st January for Kindergarten students.

To make your booking go to:

www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter our school code: **dhwy8**

Select the year level your child will be in for 2019.

Select a suitable time.

All students from Years 1 to Year 6 return to school on Thursday 31st January. Kindergarten students first full day at school is Friday 1st February. It is crucial all students have the opportunity to participate in the collection of this important information. If you have any further questions in relation to the MAI please contact the school.

SCHOOL NEWS

Term Dates for 2019

Term 1:

Tuesday 29th January - Staff Development Day - NO students at school

Wednesday 30th January - Years 1 to 6 Assessment day

Thursday 31st January - Kindergarten Assessment day and Years 1 to 6 full school day

Friday 1st February - Kindergarten begin full school days (Years 1 to 6 at school as usual)

Friday 12th April - Last Day of Term 1

Friday 19th April - Good Friday

Term 2:

Monday 29th April to Friday 5th July

Term 3:

Monday 22nd July to Friday 27th September

Term 4:

Monday 14th October to Wednesday 18th December

PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Kindergarten - Rachel B

Year 1 - Angelina Z

Year 2 - Veronica M

Year 3 - Molly C

Year 4 - Nicholas C

Year 5 - Damon K

Year 6 - Erin B



P&F NEWS

SAVE THE DATE - 18 FEB 2019!!

The first P&F meeting for 2019 will be held on Mon 18 Feb with the AGM at 6:30pm followed by the Committee meeting at 7pm.

All positions will be vacant, please consider nominating for any of the following: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and General member/helper.

Also looking for co-ordinators for P&F run events throughout the year.

Further information regarding roles etc will be sent home week 2 next year.

SRC 2019

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to make up our school's Student Representative Council for 2019.

Year 6

Mia V

Kiara B

Will B

Daniel B

Melanie M

Amelia N

Lily M

Damon K

Year 5

Brandon N

Olivia N

Zoey L

Lauren T

We know you will do a fantastic job representing your fellow students and our whole school community.





From left to right: (On TV screen) the Late Stephen Manning, Georgina Manning, Peter Ross (Director), Lorraine Bonisoli (President), Fr Christopher Sarah

THANK YOU

The Members of the Manning Foundation thanks the Staff, children and families of St Bernadette's Primary School for your continued and generous support of the Manning Foundation in 2018.

The donations of canned foods, chips, lollies and cash have helped us to support people in need at times of the year where much stress is being placed on the household budget.

We are truly appreciative of the time and work involved to donate and collect these items.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish you and your family a Merry and Holy Christmas. May God bless you abundantly.





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