



ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 4, WEEK 8, 6 DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Our attendance percentage to date is: 89.3%

A Community of Learners

As a Community of Learners, our teachers have been hard at work preparing Semester 2 learning reports. These will be available to parents next Wednesday 12th December. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of learning with your child's teacher, please make an mutually convenient appointment via the office.

Staffing Update:

Early this week, I wrote to parents advising them that Mr Anthony Kensell has been appointed as Acting Assistant Principal for Terms 1 and 2 in 2019. I know that you will join with me in congratulating Mr Kensell on this appointment and thank him for his hard work and ongoing contributions and commitment to the St Bernadette's community.

Yesterday, our IT Trainee Mr Andrew Losurdo, graduated from his traineeship. Unfortunately for us this means that he will move on from our community next year. We thank him for his dedication and hard work at St Bernadette's. Next year, we welcome Bryce Sayer to our community as our new IT Trainee. I know he'll feel welcome!

Thank You!

A very big thank you to our families for their overwhelming generosity to the Manning Foundation Christmas appeal. Our office has been jam packed with donations of Christmas party food. If you haven't yet had an opportunity to donate, or you'd like to make another donation, please do so by tomorrow so that the hampers for those in need can be created.

2018 is wrapping up!

Tomorrow, **Friday 7th December**, is our final assembly for the 2018 school year. We will begin a little earlier than usual at 2:15pm. Please join us in the hall if you can!

Our final Parent Newsletter will be sent home on **Wednesday 19th December**. Thank you for your patience, as Mrs Gerrard and I work to draft our staffing plan for 2019. We intend to be in a position to share this with the St Bernadette's community in the next newsletter.

Positive Behaviour Support for Learning update

As we move closer to our launch date in 2019 the staff have been working hard on classroom and playground procedures to support positive behaviour. A great deal of discussion has been around building resilience and a growth mindset in our community of learners. Again, we thank Mrs Mapagu for her generosity in giving her expertise and time to design our mascot - Bernie Bright!

As we move forward towards, 2019 now is a great time to stop and reflect on our interactions with each other. Remember, it takes 10 positive statements to override one negative statement! Food for thought isn't it?

"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."

Ps 125. R. v.3

Peace and Joy!

Mrs Baird

Love Joy Peace
Patience
Kindness Goodness
FAITHFULNESS
Gentleness
SELF-CONTROL

Sunday, 9 Dec 2018: Second Sunday of Advent - Year C

Do we have to be like John the Baptist, eccentrically dressed and scavenging for food, to prepare the way of the Lord? No. You and I are called to be a John or Joan the Baptist, preparing people's hearts in our own time and place.

But we have to allow God to prepare *our* hearts for this role. John the Baptist challenges us to 'Repent', i.e. to turn around our own lives seeking God's forgiveness. John then challenges us to see the big picture which is that 'All who live shall see the salvation of God'.

Pope Francis is the exemplary universal pastor inspiring us to become 'les misericordiosos sin fronteras'. And young people through social media are already saying 'We are one community of human beings on this fragile planet'.

The challenge for most of us is more immediate and apparently of smaller scope. The challenge this Advent is to identify the one person whose heart you can help prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus in three weeks' time. The best method is to let that person see your faith and joy centred on that little Jewish baby lying in a manger.

Do that, and who knows what may happen because that little baby is in fact the Sovereign Lord of history and of the whole cosmos. With God's grace, you don't have to be as eccentric or bizarre as John the Baptist to play your part in changing the course of history!

We could take a moment to pray that, repenting of our own sins where necessary, we may prepare the heart of at least one person so that the Lord Jesus may enter in this Christmas, helping him fulfil his mission that all who live shall see the salvation of God.

© Fr Michael Tate



SCHOOL NEWS

Upcoming Activities Term 4

Reminders on upcoming activities and events around our school, please use the SkoolBag App. This will give you the most up to date information on what is happening each week.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Reports home to parents - **12/12**
- Christmas Concert 6pm - 7:30pm - **12/12**
- EOY Mass & Graduation - **14/12**
- Year 6 Dinner Dance - **17/12**
- P&F Free Ice Cream at lunch - **19/12**
- Last day of school for students - **19/12**
- Staff Development Day. **No students at school - 20/12**
- Staff Development Day. **School Closed - 21/12**



Staff Development Day - no students at school

Please be advised that the following dates have been designated as Staff Development Days:

- **Thursday December 20th - no students at school**
- **Friday December 21st - school closed**

School Zone Reminder

A reminder to all our parents ahead of the Christmas holiday break at the end of Term 4, that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families. School zones operate on all gazetted school days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days/Staff Development Days. Most NSW Catholic Schools school zones operate as normal until (and include) Thursday, 20th and Friday 21st December 2018 and resume on Tuesday, 29th January 2019. NOTE: even though some schools will elect to have some of these days as pupil free days, school zones will be in operation on all gazetted school days, whether students are present or not. Drive safely!

Student Leave Applications (for any leave other than sick leave)

Compulsory School Attendance

The Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) has procedures and guidelines in place to achieve high standards of student attendance in collaboration with parents. Parents are required by law to ensure that children aged between 6 and 17 attend school. Schools are required to monitor and keep a register of student attendance and explained absences.

Requirements for Exemption from attendance for student absence and travel.

1-5 days absence: Parents must notify the school principal by mail or email (written) at least 2 week before leave date. If this travel is Overseas, and Application for Extended Leave form must be completed. Copies of travel document must be attached to Overseas Leave Applications.

5-100 day absence (whether travelling in Australian or Overseas): Parents must complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave form at least 2 weeks prior to commencing leave. (Copies of travel documents must accompany this application whether travelling in Australia or Overseas). If approved, the Principal will

issue a Certificate of Extended Leave. If the principal declines this application (i.e. it is not within the best interest of the child to take leave and be absent from school), a letter notifying parents that the application has been declined will be forthcoming.

Enrolment for Year 1 to Year 6, 2019

St Bernadette's is still accepting applications for enrolment for 2019. Please pass this information on to any family and friends who may be interested in joining our community.

Are you leaving SBD at the end of the year?

Families of students in Kindergarten to Year 5 who are leaving our community at the end of the school year need to advise the school office in writing (if they haven't already) so that future grade numbers can be calculated and that any families on our waiting list can be contacted. Thank you for your understanding.

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 19th April - Good Friday

Friday 12th April - Last Day of Term 1

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 - Jasmine I

Year 1 - Annabelle A

Year 2 - Kaitlyn T

Year 3 - Angelica B

Year 4 - Lily P

Year 5 - Melanie M

Year 6 - Liam E



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Olivia N - 7/12

Natalia H - 17/12

Ian B - 12/12

Yu Y - 29/12

Kaitlyn T - 13/12

Gianluca B - 13/12

Isabel L - 13/12

EXTRA CURRICULUM

Swimming Carnival

St Bernadette's Annual Swimming Carnival took place on Tuesday, 27th November at Merrylands Swimming Centre. We were blessed by beautiful weather which helped to make the day a great success.

The children were in good voice and cheered heartily for their friends and house colours. There were some excellent performances on the day, however there can be only one winner.

Congratulations to the Clare house, who were the winning team with a total of 445 points!

They were closely followed by Bernadette of 430, MacKillop on 405 and Francis on 380.

Many thanks go to our wonderful parents who came to cheer and also help as timekeepers, your ongoing support is always appreciated.

Junior and Senior Age Champions will be announced at Friday's afternoon assembly.



2019 Team Sport Trials

A note will go home today and be posted on SkoolBag for our current Year 4 and Year 5 students to participate in the 2019 Team Sport Trials. If your child is at a representative level please follow the details on the note to register.

LEARNING MATTERS

We all know the importance of reading and how a great book can spark the imagination and creativity in us all.

These summer holidays, we are launching the Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel.

How to enter:

It's simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it.

The more material a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis. Students can enter [online](#) by visiting the CEDP website.

Entries open on 3 December 2018 and close at 5pm on 5 February 2019.



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SRC UPDATE

In the past 2 weeks we have had lots of practicing from Kindy to Year 6! We can't wait for the Christmas Concert! We also loved the swimming carnival! Thanks to all of the people involved in it! We are also having our last assembly for 2018 and the last one for Year 6 students! We also congratulate students.

Some more upcoming events are:

The dinner dance

Assembly

Christmas concert

Year 6 graduation mass

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Year 3

Year 3 have been developing their writing skills by building up suspense in their writing. Here are some samples:

Boring! Waiting for a new born baby takes forever. I'm going to die. Come on, let's get out of here..... Eamon B

Arrr... How long will it take to get a single pet puppy. Borrrring.... This is taking years. I know, let's play a game. How about snakes and ladders. (2 minutes later) mmmmm...I HATE waiting. Sereno C

Brrrr..... how long does it take of get a pet dog? I've waited weeks. I am showing the patience of a fox. I'm so irritated. I'm sure time will pass somehow. Francesco M

BOOOOORRRRRRIINNNGGGG...waiting for my puppy. 10 weeks till he's born. !0 weeks till he comes..... 3 weeks till I can walk him. Rex B

My patience-o-meter is off the meter for the dog. It's like it's been a decade for the puppy. Every day I say "Is it here?" Miguel M

P&F NEWS

2nd Hand Uniform shop - Stock up for 2019!

Plenty of summer dresses in size 5, 6 and 8, limited stock of sz 12 and 14 \$10 each

Winter tunics in sz 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 \$10 each

Girls blouses in all sizes \$5 each

Boys summer shirts in sizes 10, 12, 14 and 16 \$5 each

Boys shorts in all sizes \$5 each

Jackets available in sizes 8 - 16 \$10 each

Sport shirts in all sizes \$5 each

Please text Cathy Nagy for any 2nd hand uniform requirements

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