

NEWSLETTER 2023 TERM 4 WEEK 10

St Bernadette's Primary School Dundas Valley

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Week 10:

Friday, 15th Dec : Last day of term 4 for Students

Term 1 2024

Week 1 :

Thursday 1st Feb : First day back for Years 1 - 6

Thursday 1st Feb : MAI Testing day for Kindergarten

Week 2 :

Monday 5th Feb : First day for Kindergarten

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our Week 10 newsletter! Can you believe our school year of 2023 is coming to a close? This year we have had much to celebrate and many awesome events that have been well attended by our parents and carers. I would like to take this opportunity to say sincere thanks to all of you for your continued support to our wonderful school.

Last Thursday evening we were thoroughly entertained by the students during our annual Christmas Concert. What an amazing combination of celebrating the real meaning of Christmas and having a little fun. Again I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Brooker and all of the staff for preparing the children so well. It was obvious by the huge smiles on their faces that the children were having a great time.

As this is our final newsletter for 2023, I would like to wish all of our families a blessed Christmas. May the spirit of Jesus during this most joyous season wrap his arms around you all and keep you safe and well moving into 2024.

Love & Light



Lisa Gerrard

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

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe that this is the last newsletter for 2023, it seems like yesterday that I was writing for the first newsletter of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all members of the school community for making 2023 such a successful year. It has been a year of growth and learning for everyone. It has been a privilege to work alongside our students and watch them improve in their learning. For the families and children moving on in 2024 I wish you all the best, may God continue to watch over you and keep you safe. To everyone returning in 2024 I look forward to working with you and learning together.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Gerrard for her guidance, leadership and friendship this year. I have been fortunate to work closely with Mrs Gerrard and I will miss her next year. Christmas is a time for giving and this year we are giving one of the best gifts to St Michael's. Mrs Gerrard you will be missed by the school community. We thank you for your generosity, leadership and friendship.

I wish all of our families a very blessed and Happy Christmas.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Boidin
Assistant Principal

Sunday 17 Dec 2023

Third Sunday of Advent Year B

Gospel

John 1:6-8. 19-28

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing. As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah is the one imbued with the spirit and with the power of the prophet, the one who will fulfil the promises of God. It becomes obvious in the Gospel that the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist. John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed one, and from that time on the lives of believers have been the pathway through which the Messiah has entered the world.

CHILDREN'S DISCUSSION STARTERS

A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

If someone asked you 'Who are you?' What would be your answer?

Was one of your answers 'I'm a follower or disciple or friend of Jesus'?

What are some of the ways we normally get ready for a birthday?

How is the celebration of Jesus' birthday different from a normal birthday?

What are some things we all can do to get ready for the celebration of the day Jesus was born?

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SCHOOL NEWS

Attendance

Attendance Rate: 75.8%- To unpack this a little more, this means that 75.5% of our students have an attendance rate of 90% -100%.



School Library Books & Home Readers

As we draw closer to the end of the year, now is the time to look around your house to see if you have any school library books or home readers. These are valuable teaching resources so we greatly appreciate it if you could locate these and return them.

If you are unable to find the book(s) which are overdue please make a payment for the book at the school office so we can replace it.

Thank you



As a community of Learners:



Last week our community came together for what was a wonderful Christmas concert. The Christmas story told through the eyes of Mary was beautifully presented by the children, followed by a series of fun Christmas songs.

The children looked amazing in their costumes and sang with such enthusiasm throughout. There was such a wonderful atmosphere in the room, for both the individual class items and the stirring whole school songs.

We are grateful to St Patrick's Marist College for generously providing us with their hall. A big thank you to the parents for all of the effort you took to source the brilliant costumes, as well as to Mrs Brooker & the teachers for all of the time you put in to prepare the children. A special thank you to Mr Kirkwood for taking some beautiful professional photos for us.









Important Dates To Remember

Week 10:

Friday, 15th December : Year 6 Fun Day

Friday, 15th December : **Last Day Of School For Students**

2024 Calendar

Term 1:

Week 1:

Tuesday, 30th January : SDD (no school for students)

Wednesday, 31st January : SDD (no school for students)

Thursday, 1st February : First day back for years 1 - 6

Thursday, 1st February : Kindergarten 2024 MAI testing day

Monday, 5th February : **First day of school for kindergarten students**

SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDERS:

Throughout the last few weeks of school we have noticed that the uniform policy has not always been followed.

Please keep in mind the hairstyles that your children will have at the end of the holidays are appropriate for school. Hair should not be dyed or coloured, no undercuts, mullets or mohawks. Hair longer than the collar should be tied back with appropriate school coloured ribbons (maroon or blue).

School shoes should be leather and polishable and joggers must be predominantly white, please no bright coloured joggers are to be worn.

No nail polish should be worn at any time.

Thank you for your support with the upkeep of our school uniform.

2023 CITY OF PARRAMATTA TRUCK ART COMPETITION

A few weeks ago Parramatta council was running a colouring competition for a new art work to be put on one of their Veolia waste trucks.

They had many amazing entries from all local primary schools within the Parramatta area including many of our students.

Jayvis in year 2 from St Bernadette's won best truck art for year 2 in City of Parramatta and Veolia's Truck Art Competition. Jayvis was presented with a certificate and won a family zoo pass for his fantastic entry.

Congratulations to Jayvis on this wonderful achievement.





Saacha - 06/12
Nathan R - 08/12
Oliver J - 11/12
Orlando M - 12/12
Jun - 14/12
Tinaye - 14/12
Doris - 15/12
Rayaan - 17/12
Lydia G - 18/12
Evie - 20/12

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

Leaving School

Please notify our office as soon as possible, if you know that you may be leaving St Bernadette's at the end of this year. As you know, you are required to give ten weeks' notice if you are leaving.

Please contact our office for a copy of a leaving form that must be completed.

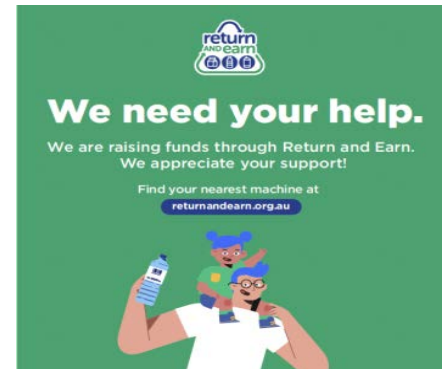
Return and Earn

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.



With the festive season coming up please make a big effort to save all of those empty containers and bottles and drop them into the Return and Earn centre at Rydalmere.

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.



Motiv8sports will be back in Term 1 2024 for a 8 week After School Sports Clinic.

When: TUESDAY afternoons - 8 weeks starting Tuesday Feb 6th

Time: 3.05pm - 4.35pm (pickup)

Where: Held on school grounds

Cost: \$110 for 8 weeks or \$60 if you use your NEW \$50 ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER

For more event information and to book please see the link below.

https://motiv8sports.com.au/m8_event/2023-11-15-term-1-tuesday-st-bernadettes-dundas-valley-8-week-after-school-sports-clinic-6-2-26-3/

Spots are limited to 80



PLAYERS WANTED!

Mini Footy (4-8) & Mod Footy (9-12)

Safe Play modified rules for boys and girls U6-U12 playing on a Sunday.

League Tag Girls Teams (7-Opens)

"Non-Contact" League Tag for girls aged 7 and above playing on a Sunday.

Rugby League (13-Opens)

Rugby League for boys U13s-U16s and Opens playing on a Sunday.

Girls Only Rugby League (11-16)

Rugby League for girls U12s and above playing on a Saturday.

"COME & TRY" NIGHTS

Thursday, December 7, 2023 and Friday, December 15, 2023

Friday, February 2, 2024 and Friday, February 16, 2024

5.30-6.30pm at Sir Thomas Mitchell Reserve, Dundas Valley.



**If you have any questions please contact
us on rego@carlingfordcougars.com.au
or call on 0418 158 027**



Discipline • Team Work • Fair Play

INAUGURAL

CSNSW SPORT

AQUATHLON

TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2023

Age Groups:

8 Years - 19 Years

Cost:

Entry - \$35 4th Dec

Late Entry - \$55 11th Dec

Eligible Students:

**Affiliated schools to
Catholic Schools NSW**

Register Now!



First Race: 8:30AM

Max Parker Leisure & Aquatic Centre

**NSW
TRIATHLON**

csnsw.sport/sports/csnsw-sport-programmes/aquathlon



**CSNSW
sport**

WE ARE LITTLE ATHLETICS

Registrations Now Open



**Parramatta City Athletics
Barton Park, North Parramatta
6pm Fridays**

**Visit parramattacityathletics.org.au
for more information and to register**

REGISTER TODAY!



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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