

# NEWSLETTER 2024 TERM 1 WEEK 4

## St Bernadette's Primary School Dundas Valley

Cox Crescent, Dundas Valley 2117

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Week 5 :

Thursday, 29th February : Grip Leadership Conference (FIAT & SRC Students)

Friday, 1st March : Cross Country ( Year 2 - 6 Students )

#### Week 6:

Tuesday, 5th March : Open Day for 2025 Prospective Families

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear St Bernadette's Parents and Carers,

We have certainly had a fantastic start to the year with the slogan 'Together we'll SOAR in 2024'. The staff have supported students to develop daily routines and social connections which are so important at this time of the year.

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast last Tuesday. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come. It was lovely chatting with families. A big thank you to the staff for cooking and serving the tasty pancakes! Our school is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic staff!

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the parent information sessions last week. I managed to join each session and mingle with families. Our teaching team at St Bernadette's is very professional and committed. I would like to thank them for giving their time to run these sessions to ensure that your child has a smooth start to their learning journey.

It was exciting to see the first few lessons of Auslan being taught as a second language with Mrs Brooker over the last few weeks. What an amazing opportunity to learn a new form of communication whilst fostering inclusivity and understanding, developing a lifelong skill and increasing our students' ability to communicate with members of the Australian deaf community. We hope they are sharing their learning with you at home.

Warm regards,  
Michelle Yager  
Principal

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Everyone has settled back into school and 2024 is promising to be a fun filled and successful year for our community.

We have had our first grade mass, first assembly and our parent teacher information night. It is a relief that we begin the school year with a sense of "normal" and routines are back in place.

Part of a successful year at school in the classroom is the setting up of routines. Every classroom may look slightly different in their routines, however they all have the same purpose. This being to create a safe and positive learning environment, where students are encouraged to develop independence in their learning.

Just as routines are important at school they are also important in the home to prepare for school. Here are some suggested tasks and routines that we encourage for home that will set our students up for success.

Have a firm bedtime that is early enough so they have some wind down time before needing to go to sleep.

Limit screen time, especially just before going to bed.

Keep phones, ipads out of the bedrooms when children are sleeping.

Make sure they have a good breakfast each morning.

Make sure they are able to tie their own shoelaces.

Encourage your child to carry their own school bag to and from school.

Ensure they know what is in their lunchbox and what to eat at recess and what should be kept for lunch.

Getting dressed independently each morning (especially getting jackets on and off)

All children should be responsible for making sure their hat is in their bag.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Boidin

Assistant Principal

**25**  
February  
2024

# Mountaintop Moments

## THIS WEEK...

*"Climb the mountain so you can see the world, not so the world can see you."*

David McCullough

## PRAYER

*Lord, be with me as I navigate the delights of rollercoaster life. May I be awake to and cherish the purpose of each moment.*

Amen



## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

GEN 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

ROM 8: 31-34

**MK 9: 2-10**

There are so many elements to the story of the transfiguration. Jesus seems to be selecting an 'inner circle' – Peter, James and John. Were they his most trusted disciples? Were they the smartest? Or were they the ones that most needed the lesson to be spelt out clearly?

Their time on the mountaintop was like nothing they had ever experienced before. *Dazzlingly white* is Mark's description, a white unseen on earth. Jesus wasn't simply showered in rays of sunshine. The change came from within and He radiated calm as well as light.

They wanted it to last forever. I dare say we would feel the same! Let's build a tent for each of you, Peter says. Let's stay here – just us. Let's not go through that whole death and resurrection scenario. Let's avoid that pain. Such a human response, don't you think? Life is good, let's keep it that way. Don't make me return to real life - to work, to the challenges that the world is throwing at us and the people we support.

But no, Jesus leads them back. They have a job to do. The job ahead of Jesus is worse than most! The disciples don't realise it yet, but they are on a roller coaster. They've had this moment of exhilaration. They return to real life - one that is already not easy, and soon, after just learning that they should listen to Him above all else, they will lose their rabbi and friend. His crucifixion is not that far away. In Mark's gospel, it's a handful of chapters.

How often do we have those moments of immense happiness or contentment that we wish could last forever? More importantly, what do we learn from those times? Peter, James and John received an enormously important message on that mountaintop, about who Jesus really was. In last week's reflection I pondered the growth or transformation that might come from our life lows, our crises.

Equally, there are lessons in our highs if we are attuned to them.

**What mountaintop moments have been inspirational for you in your faith?**

*Reflection by Leonie Duck*

# CHILDREN'S DISCUSSION STARTERS

What are some of the things that you hope for this year?

Can you think of a time when you hoped for something but it did not turn out the way you wanted?

In today's gospel Jesus' friends were surprised to see Jesus change before their eyes. How did they react?

Although they were frightened and did not understand what was going on they knew that Jesus was with them.

Have there been times when you have been disappointed or did not understand what was going on around you?

We believe that God is always with us.

During Lent let us build a better world by making time to speak to God in prayer and help those in need.

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## Term 1 Mass/Reconciliation Roster

| Week/Date   | Other Celebrations   | Wednesday Reconciliation | Friday Mass          |
|---|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Students return to school Thursday 1 February - no Reconciliation/Mass</b> |  |                          |                      |
| <b>Week 2</b><br>5 - 9<br>February  |  | 6                        | 6 & 2                |
| <b>Week 3</b><br>12 - 16<br>February  | <b>Monday - (IN SCHOOL)</b><br><b>Beginning School and</b><br><b>Commissioning</b> | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>     |                      |
| <b>Week 4</b><br>19 - 23<br>February  |  | 5                        | 5 & 1                |
| <b>Week 5</b><br>26 Feb - 1 Mar   |  |                          | <b>Cross Country</b> |
| <b>Week 6</b><br>4 - 8 March  | <b>CSW- More</b><br><b>information to come</b>                                     | 4                        | 3 & 4                |
| <b>Week 7</b><br>11 - 15 March  |  | 6                        | 6 & 2                |
| <b>Week 8</b><br>18 - 22 March  |  | 5                        | 5 & 1                |
| <b>Week 9</b><br>25 - 29<br>March   | <b>Monday - (PARISH)</b><br><b>The Annunciation Of</b><br><b>The Lord</b>          | <b>Holy Week</b>         | <b>Good Friday</b>   |
| <b>Week 10</b><br>1 - 5 April   |  |                          | <b>Whole School</b>  |
| <b>Week 11</b><br>8 - 12 April  |  | 4                        | 3 & 4                |

## SCHOOL NEWS

### **Attendance**

Attendance Rate: 83%- To unpack this a little more, this means that 83% of our students have an attendance rate of 90% -100%.



### **SCHOOL CENSUS DAY FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY**

Friday 9th February was the school census day. If your child was absent Friday 9th February, please email the school advising the reason for the absence, if you have not completed the unexplained absentee form via compass. This is of course a requirement that applies to everyday of the school year, however Census data is directly related to Government funding for our schools and the requirements outlined above are set by the Department of Education. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Next Assembly**

Our next assembly will be **Week 5, Friday 1st March**. The class presenting at this assembly will be year 4. The assembly starts at 2:30pm in the school hall.

### **Motiv8**

The after school Motiv8 program has had a very successful start. In previous years students have worn their sports uniform with their Motiv8 shirts to school for the duration of the program, however we are requesting that they not wear them to school and that they bring them to school in their bag and change into them after school. Thank you for your support.

### **School Fees**

Please be aware that 2024 School Fees Statements were 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 (13/03/2024) listed on your statement.

Should you wish to make an arrangement to suit your needs, or if you have any queries regarding your fees, please contact our Finance Officer Mrs Haddad. All conversations are strictly confidential.

Thank you for your continuous support.

## **Important Dates To Remember:**

### **Term 1**

#### **Week 5:**

Thursday, 29th February : Grip Leadership Conference (FIAT & SRC Students)

Friday, 1st March : Cross Country ( Year 2 - 6 Students )

#### **Week 6:**

Tuesday, 5th March : Open Day for 2025 Prospective Families

#### **Week 7:**

Wednesday, 13th March : Naplan

Thursday, 14th March : Naplan

Friday, 15th March : Naplan

#### **Week 8:**

Monday, 18th March: Naplan

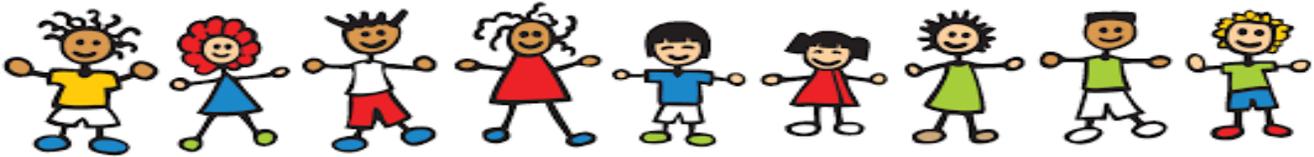
Tuesday, 19th March : Naplan

Wednesday, 20th March : Naplan

Thursday, 21st March : Naplan

Friday, 22nd March : Naplan

## **As a community of Learners:**



This week in Year 2, we spoke about the importance of gratitude and were able to reflect on the blessings we have in our lives.

Gratitude is an important value that we can find in our faith and teachings. In the Bible, we are reminded to give thanks in all situations. It's not just about saying thank you; it's about recognizing the goodness around us.

This week, we took some time to create this craft and writing piece that helps us reflect on what we are grateful for. This activity is a way for us to individually consider the blessings in our lives, just as we learn from the teachings of God.

The students were able to come up with many things they were thankful for and why, including parents, family, grandparents, a house, money, teachers, an education, hospitals, food, toys and their friends. Being grateful is not only a way to appreciate what we have but also a way to show kindness and love to those who make a positive impact on our lives.

*We would like to thank our families and our school community for pouring so much into us everyday.*

## **Faith In Action: Helping others soar in 2024**



At assembly last week, we shared the exciting news of our first mission activity for 2024. In Week 11, we will hold a *Mission marketplace*. Mission marketplace was such a success last year so we thought it would be a great way to kick off this year. More details will be shared in the upcoming weeks.

For now, we have asked teachers and students to think about a stall they would like to hold at this exciting event. Anything is possible, from a nail salon to a basketball shooting hoops game.

All monies raised from Mission marketplace will be donated to Caritas Australia. Caritas Australia tackles some of the biggest challenges in the world today including food security, disaster response and poverty alleviation to name a few. By supporting Caritas Australia, we will be helping to fund life changing programs that use local knowledge to create lasting and sustainable change. For more information about Caritas Australia you can visit

<https://www.caritas.org.au/>

## **News from the SRC**

On Monday last week, we had our Welcoming and Commissioning liturgy to welcome Mrs Yager and all of the new students, as well as to present the badges to the 2024 SRC and FIAT teams. It was an excellent way to begin our school year. Both the new students and student leaders are now more recognisable to all of the St Bernadette's community. The leaders are more accessible and our badges make it easier to say hello to all new faces. We hope that this will lead to a brilliant year for all the pupils, staff and family members. *By Ella M.*

Last week, we had Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake day. A lot of people came to enjoy the pancakes. We thank all of the teachers for making those delicious pancakes. We also had our first assembly. Thankyou Year 2 for a wonderful assembly to start our year. *By Tinaye M*

The SRC members have been allocated their class and have presented their first award at Assembly. This award was based on our PBS4L focus: being in the right place at the right time. They have also allocated themselves into one of the four teams; Media, Technology, Sports or Garden. The children will stay in this team for the term and will change their roles each term. The members of the SRC will meet with their class on a Friday before lunch to talk with the children about " Life at St Bernadette's" . They will discuss the good things that are happening and will also talk about ways we can make our school a better place for all. They will then eat lunch with their class. The SRC members are looking forward to spending time with their nominated class. *By Miss Boidin*



**2024**

# ST BERNADETTE'S DUNDAS VALLEY OPEN DAY



TUESDAY  
5TH MARCH

9.30AM -  
11AM

SCHOOL  
TOUR

PLEASE JOIN US  
02 8846 2600



## **NAPLAN**

In 2024, NAPLAN will be held from **Wednesday 13 March to Monday 25 March**. Our Timetable of the schedule will be sent closer to the date.

Students in **Years 3 & 5** who are enrolled at a school are expected to participate in four NAPLAN tests:

- writing
- reading
- conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- numeracy.

All schools in NSW undertake NAPLAN online. However, Year 3 students do the writing test on paper. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the format of the tests before the NAPLAN test window.

### ***Supporting your child***

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills your child is already learning at school.

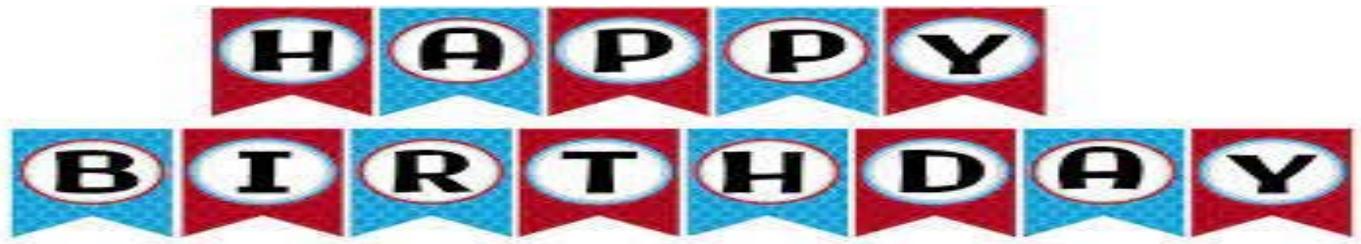
It is important to remember that NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about assessing learning progress.

The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

**Excessive preparation or the use of coaching providers is not recommended.**

### ***Public demonstration site***

The [public demonstration site](#) is available for students, teachers and parents to familiarise themselves with the types of questions, tools and functions available for the NAPLAN tests. It includes demonstration tests for each NAPLAN year level, test domain and alternative tests for students with disability.



We would like to wish all the following children a very Happy Birthday

Isaac L - 14/02  
Sebastian - 14/02  
Nathan J - 14/02  
Angelena - 16/02  
Lyvia - 16/02  
Lily Rose - 19/02  
Milania - 20/02  
Kara - 21/02  
Nicole G - 22/02  
Mason M - 22/02  
Tadiswa - 24/02

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

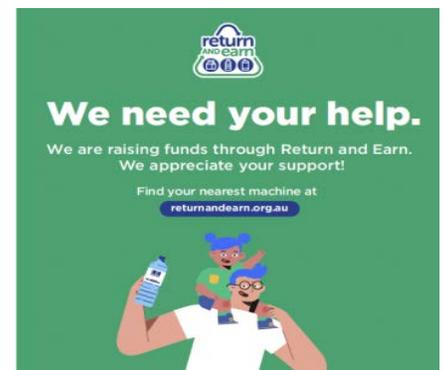
## **Return and Earn**

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.



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



### 1<sup>st</sup> Brush Park Scout Group Lawson Street, Eastwood

Access adventure, games and learning by doing.

Open nights for all young people are:  
Cubs (8-11 Years): Wednesdays 7:00pm – 8:00pm  
Scouts (11-15 Years): Fridays from 7.30pm – 9:30pm

We would like to invite you, your family & friends to join us on at the above times for the next few weeks to see what Scouts is about, meet some new friends & to enjoy our activities.

These exciting activities include hikes, camps, swimming, bike rides, cooking, campfires, skits, singing, games, canoeing, leadership practice & hands on problem solving.

Many students from school are already Scouts, so you are sure to have friends within our group.

You are welcome to come along free of charge for a few weeks to try it out and to bring a friend if you want too.

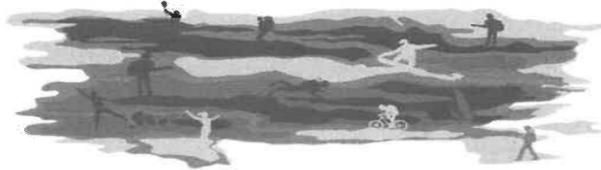
We look forward to sharing with you the Scouting adventure.

**Contact Lynda Calder (Group Leader) for further details**

[Lynda.Calder@nsw.scout.com.au](mailto:Lynda.Calder@nsw.scout.com.au)

0432055575

<https://1st-brush-park.group.scoutsnsw.com.au/home/>





# Enrolling now for 2024!

## Just starting or yet to start your own adventure in music?

The GKs are starting a new intake of our popular  
**DISCOVERY BAND** in Term 1 2024!

The Discovery Band is for people who have never played an instrument before. Under careful, expert and caring tuition members learn everything from putting the instrument together to reading music and producing a sound. Within months you'll have enough learning to be part of the new Discovery Band's first performance to an appreciative and supportive audience of friends!



Your musical journey doesn't stop there – most Discovery Band members continue to improve and go on to play with one or more of our other ensembles.

**We are located in Beecroft and meet on a Monday evening. Contact Us to for more info and secure your place now!**

**[Like and Follow us on Facebook](#)**



Contact Us at [contact@goldenkangaroos.org.au](mailto:contact@goldenkangaroos.org.au)



**PLAY RUGBY LEAGUE ON SUNDAYS IN 2024**

**DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION FEES**

**(For a limited time )**

**TO CELEBRATE THE SHAMROCKS**

**60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**FREE REGISTRATION**

**Under, 4s, 5s & 6s**

**GIRLS TACKLE & TAG**

~~\$149.00~~ **FREE Rego**

**UNDER 7s & Above ~~\$149.00~~ \$100.00 Rego.**

**(Excludes Men's Opens Team)**

**FREE Playing Uniform,  
Training Shirt, shorts & more.**

**REGISTER NOW**

**For more information:**

**0417 382 007 or 0414 891 644**

**info@shamrocksdundas.com.au**

**www.dundasshamrocks.com.au**

#ChildSafeStandards

We're implementing the

**Child Safe Standards**

[www.ocg.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-standards](http://www.ocg.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-standards)

| School Sport Unit

# NSW Australian Football Primary All Schools Girls 12 Years & Under Selection Trial 2024



The NSW Australian Football Primary All Schools Girls 12 Years and Under Pathway Program is a School Sport Unit initiative. Initial trials will be held during Term 1 to select 6 All Schools teams from identified areas around NSW. These selected teams will participate in a final championship to be held in Albury on 20 and 21 May 2024. A NSW All Schools team will be selected from the final championship to compete at the School Sport Australia, Australian Football Girls 12 Years and Under Championship in Victoria from 4 to 10 August 2024.

### Who can register to trial?

This trial is only for primary school girls 12 years and under. Girls can be 12, however must not be turning 13 in 2024. Girls enrolled in secondary school are ineligible to trial. Tackling is permitted and will occur at this level of competition. Girls turning 9 years of age or younger during 2024 are deemed too young for selection and will not be eligible to trial.

### Cost?

Cost per student is \$10.00, payable through the registration process.

### Registration

To register for the Primary All Schools Selection Trial in your area, follow the link or QR Code below to complete the application form by the **closing date, Thursday 29 February 2024.**



**Students must only register for and attend one of the trials.**

### Trial dates & venues

#### Monday 4 March 2024

Metro East - Robertson Road Fields, Centennial Park  
Metro West - Greenway Park, Hoxton Park  
Mid North Coast & Inland - Tulkaba Park, Teralba  
Southern Inland - Bolton Park, Wagga Wagga

#### Tuesday 5 March 2024

Northern Coastal & Inland - Wiigulga Sports Complex, Woolgoolga

#### Wednesday 6 March 2024

South Coast - Gundry Oval, Moruya

#### Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 May 2024

All Schools State Selection Trial - Lavington Sports Complex, Albury

### Further trial information

Follow the links for each trial or utilise the QR Code below to access the School Sport Unit website representative school sport calendar for further trial information.

**Note:** Each trial is posted on the calendar as a NSWPSA trial event and will occur during week 6.



| School Sport Unit

## NSW Netball Primary All Schools Boys 12 Years & Under Selection Trial 2024



The NSW Netball Primary All Schools Boys 12 Years and Under Pathway Program is a School Sport Unit initiative. Initial trials will be held during Term 1 to select 6 All Schools teams from identified areas around NSW. These selected teams will participate in a final championship to be held in Sydney on 15 and 16 August 2024. A NSW All Schools team will be selected from the final championship to compete at the School Sport Australia, Netball Boys 12 Years and Under Championship in Victoria from 7 to 13 September 2024.

### Who can register to trial?

This trial is only for primary school boys 12 years and under. Boys can be 12, however must not be turning 13 in 2024. Boys turning 9 years of age or younger during 2024 are deemed too young for selection and will not be eligible to trial.

### Cost?

Cost per student is \$10.00, payable through the registration process.

### Registration

To register for the Primary All Schools Selection Trial in your area, follow the link or QR Code below to complete the application form by the **closing date, Thursday 29 February 2024.**



**Students must only register for and attend one of the trials.**

### Trial dates & venues

#### Monday 4 March 2024

Mid North Coast & Inland - Maitland Basketball Stadium, Maitland.

#### Tuesday 5 March 2024

Sydney Basin - Billbergia Indoor Sports Stadium, Camellia.

#### Wednesday 6 March 2024

South Coast - Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Stadium, Bomaderry.

#### Thursday 7 March 2024

Western Plains - Orange PCYC, Orange.

#### Friday 8 March 2024

Northern Coastal & Inland - Sportz Central, Coffs Harbour.

#### Wednesday 13 March 2024

Southern Inland - MPS Equex Centre, Wagga Wagga.

#### Thursday 15 and Friday 16 August 2024

All Schools State Selection Trial - Penrith Valley Indoor Sports Stadium, Cambridge Park.

### Further trial information

Follow the links for each trial or utilise the QR Code below to access the School Sport Unit website representative school sport calendar for further trial information.

**Note:** Each trial is posted on the calendar as a NSW PSSA trial event and will occur during weeks 6 and 7.





# 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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