

NEWSLETTER 2024 TERM 3 WEEK 2

St Bernadette's Primary School Dundas Valley

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UPCOMING EVENTS

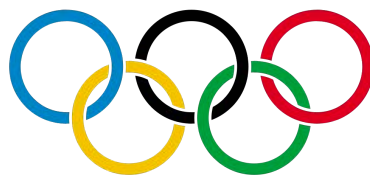
Week 2:

Thursday, 1 August: Stage 1 Excursion
Friday, 2 August: 100 days of Kindergarten Celebration
Friday, 2 August: Year 6 Fundraiser Event

Week 3:

Thursday, 8 August: Olympics Fun Day

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Going for Gold: St Bernadette's Olympic Spirit Shines Bright

Dear St Bernadette's Parents and Carers

I have loved the Olympic Games since forever! For me, the Olympic values of excellence, harmony, friendship and respect are the key elements of the Olympic movement. It brings cultures from all over the world together striving for sporting excellence. I don't know about you, but sitting on my couch I have become a canoe slalom expert and a synchronised diving judge!

As the world gathers to celebrate the Olympic Games, next week our school will embrace the spirit of competition, teamwork and fun with a day of Olympic-themed events and activities. The students, teachers, and staff will come together to honour the values that the Olympics represent. Our student athletes will parade behind flags, each representing the countries of their origin for what promises to be a memorable day.

At the heart of the Olympic Games are the values of friendship, respect, and excellence. As we celebrate the achievements of our students and the global unity represented by the Olympic Games, we are reminded of the incredible potential within each of us. Let's continue to strive for greatness, support one another, and always go for gold in everything we do!

Go Team St Bernadette's!

Warm regards
Michelle Yager

FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

An integral part of the Science & Technology Syllabus is the Content Strand of Digital Technologies. Through study of this area, children learn about the important role digital systems play in society, as well as learn practical skills, such as coding, to support future learning in an ever-changing world.

Throughout term 2, our stage 2 students studied Earth & Space. As part of this learning, they learnt how to program Ozobots. Ozobots are small, yet very versatile, robots that can be coded with physical lines, as well as drag and drop coding on an iPad or Chromebook. It was amazing to see not only how captivated the children were with this technology, but also how quickly they learnt to program these robots in increasingly sophisticated ways.

Follow the link below to have a look at our stage 2 students in action.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q5yJnk0dYLZO8KBc96CRbfrHMZ5k3uYI/view?usp=sharing>

In term 3, our stage 3 children will also be incorporating digital technologies into their Geography unit, which explores how connections with our Pacific neighbours are strengthened through technology. To support this learning, several new digital technologies will be introduced to the students, including our recently-acquired grant which earned us a 3D printer and a year's subscription to the Maker's Empire 3D modelling software. I will be attending professional development with our stage 3 teachers this week to learn more about how we can best utilise this technology to support and enhance student learning.

We look forward to sharing more of our student learning with the stage 3 parents later in the term

Anthony Kensell
Acting Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday 04 Aug 2024

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Gospel

John 6:24-35

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly,
you are not looking for me
because you have seen the signs
but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.
Do not work for food that cannot last,
but work for food that endures to eternal life,
the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you,
for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly,
it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven,
it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven,
the true bread;
for the bread of God
is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said, 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered:

'I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me will never be hungry;
he who believes in me will never thirst.'



REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Francis encourages us to remember that 'Jesus came to bring us something more' than just food or even miracles. Jesus seeks 'to open our lives to a wider horizon.'

Jesus, the Pope points out, 'encourages the people to go a step further' than being receivers of bread. Jesus wants his followers to ponder 'the significance of the miracle, and not simply to take advantage of it.'

In a sense, the crowd in this Gospel passage got hung up on spiritual work and gain. They ask: what must they do? Jesus says: believe in him. 'What work will you do?', they ask in turn. It is as if their relationship with God was transactional.

Jesus wants his followers to avoid this sort of thinking. 'This is a common temptation', the Pope says, where 'the crowd wants to know from Jesus which actions it must perform in order to please God.'

The reality which Jesus reveals is quite the opposite. Rather, as the Pope puts it, 'faith in Jesus allows us to carry out God's works.'

It is, after all, the giver of life itself who is the giver of bread. That creative love precedes any of our thoughts or actions. We receive God's love by recognising its presence. Which in turn allows us to play our part in making it present to others.

© Nick Brodie

CHILDREN'S DISCUSSION STARTERS

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

What are some of your favourite things?

Which of these are important because they keep you alive and well?

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us he gives us the bread of life, himself. How is Jesus good for us?

The more we believe in him and do what he asks the more we have Jesus within us.

We pray that Jesus will be with us this week and fill us with his goodness.

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The Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

On Thursday 8 August we celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mary was remarkable as a strong female leader in 19th century Australia. Education in this country is what it is today thanks to her dedication and determination. We thank God for her example of faith.



<https://catholicfoundation.org.au/event/feast-of-saint-mary-of-the-cross-mackillop/>

Saint Mary MacKillop's Story

If Saint Mary MacKillop were alive today, she would be a household name. It's not that she sought the limelight. On the contrary, she simply wanted to serve the poor wherever she found them in her native Australia. But along the way, she managed to arouse the ire of some rather powerful churchmen. One even excommunicated her for a time.

Born in Melbourne in 1842, to parents who had emigrated from Scotland, Mary grew up in a family that faced constant financial struggles. As a young woman she was drawn to religious life but could not find an existing order of Sisters that met her needs. In 1860, she met Father Julian Woods, who became her spiritual director. Together they founded a new community of women—the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, also known as the Josephite Sisters. Its members were to staff schools especially for poor children, as well as orphanages, and do other works of charity.

As the congregation grew, so did Mary MacKillop's problems. Her priest-friend proved unreliable in many ways and his responsibilities for direction of the Sisters were removed. Meanwhile, Mary had the support of some local bishops as she and her Sisters went about their work. But the bishop in South Australia, aging and relying on others for advice, briefly excommunicated Mary—charging her with disobedience—and dispensed 50 of her Sisters from their vows. In truth, the bishop's quarrel was about power and who had authority over whom. He ultimately rescinded his order of excommunication.

Mary insisted that her congregation should be governed by an elected mother general answerable to Rome, not to the local bishop. There also were disputes about whether or not the congregation could own property. In the end, Rome proved to be Mary's best source of support. After a long wait official approval of the congregation—and how it was to be governed—came from Pope Leo XIII.

Despite her struggles with Church authorities, Mary MacKillop and her Sisters were able to offer social services that few, if any, government agencies in Australia could. They served Protestants and Catholics alike. They worked among the aborigines. They taught in schools and orphanages and served unmarried mothers.

Money, actually the lack of it, was a constant worry. But the Sisters who begged from door to door, were bolstered by faith and by the conviction that their struggles were opportunities to grow closer to God.

By the time Mary was approaching the end of her life, the congregation was thriving. She died in 1909 at the age of 67. Pope John Paul II beatified her in 1995. In 2010, when Pope Benedict XVI canonised her, she became Australia's first saint.

[Saint Mary MacKillop | Franciscan Media](#)

TERM 3 MASS/RECONCILIATION ROSTER

Week/Date	Other Celebrations	Wednesday Reconciliation	Friday Mass
Week 1 22 – 26 July	Grandparent's Day <i>Friday</i>		
Week 2 29 Jul – 2 Aug		4	Whole School
Week 3 5 – 9 Aug	Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop <i>Thursday</i>	6	6 & K
Week 4 12 – 16 Aug	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>(Whole School to attend parish Mass on Thursday)</i>	3	
Week 5 19 – 23 Aug		5	5 & 1
Week 6 26 – 30 Aug	Father's Day <i>Friday</i>	6	
Week 7 2 – 6 Sep		5	Whole School
Week 8 9 – 13 Sep		3 & 4	2, 3 & 4
Week 9 16 – 20 Sep	Whole School Swimming Program		
Week 10 23 – 27 Sep	Whole School Swimming Program		

FAITH IN ACTION: HELPING OTHERS TO SOAR IN 2024

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU

Last week, we received some great news from Ronald McDonald House. We blew them away with our fundraising efforts. We raised a life-changing \$3,160.22 to provide families with support and accommodation when times are tough. As a result of our fundraising efforts, our **school name will be listed on their SUPERSTAR WALL!!!**

We should be very proud of what our small community has achieved for Ronald McDonald House. Thank you so much for every dance move and dollar you raised. We are so lucky to have your support.



Term 3 Fundraising



This term, we will be selling **cheese toasties** to raise funds for '*Flanno for a Farmer*'. This charity provides financial and emotional assistance, food hampers, care packs and personalised support to thousands of farming families across Australia every year.



Orders will open on QKR each Thursday and close the following Tuesday. Don't miss out!

[Miss Carly and the FIAT](#)

FEAST DAY OF MARY MACKILLOP

ST BERNADETTE'S

OLYMPICS FUN DAY



8 AUGUST 2024

**9.15AM FEAST DAY OF MARY
MACKILLOP LITURGY**

10AM OPEN CLASSROOMS

**11.30AM OLYMPIC FUN ROTATING
ACTIVITIES**

LUNCHTIME SAUSAGE SIZZLE

WEAR YOUR OLYMPIC MUFTI

FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

Visit to Bede Polding College



Last week, year 6 and the FIAT team visited Bede Polding College, an agriculturally-based high school in South Windsor. This is where we learned about animals, farming and agriculture as a whole. We also learned about the troubles of farmers such as a recent contagious disease, droughts and financial difficulties.

As well, we discovered the pleasures of farming such as competitions, caring for animals and enhanced our knowledge of flora and fauna.

It also helped us to understand the complexities of farming life when raising money for our term 3 fundraiser, *'Flanno for a Farmer'*.

Tinaye Makoni and the SRC





OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

Next Assembly

Our next assembly will be on Friday, 9 August in week 3, starting at 2:30pm in the school hall. The class presenting will be kindergarten.

Community Assistance

We are in need of hobby horses (horse head on stick) and trikes for our Olympics Fun Day events next Thursday. If you have either of these and are happy for us to borrow them, can you please contact the school. Thank you.

NAPLAN Results—Wonderful Success and Collated School Results

I'm pleased and proud to share a brief summary below of our students' NAPLAN achievements in the top two proficiency bands. Below is a table collating the NAPLAN results for Reading, Writing and Numeracy, demonstrating strong achievement for students in the top two proficiencies for years 3 and 5.

Congratulations to our students and teachers on these great results. This is a reflection of the robust collaboration between teams of teachers and excellent intervention practices to support and extend student understanding.

	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
Year 3 - Strong or Exceeding	77%	87%	71%
Year 5 - Strong or Exceeding	83%	86%	76%

Lateness to School

It is a school requirement that when a student is late to school, a parent or carer is to walk the child into the school office to sign them in.

CBCA Book Week 2024

Introducing **Book Week 2024!** Book Week will be held in week 5 of term 3 (19 - 23 August). More information will come in term 3 regarding Book Week events. Always a highlight of our year, Book Week introduces a whole new world of inspirational reading for children (and adults!) of all ages. This year's Book Week theme is **Reading is Magic!** You can see the shortlisted books which we will be exploring [here](#).

Voice of Youth

Year 6 is busy preparing for the upcoming Voice of Youth Diocesan competition. This is a wonderful opportunity for each student to showcase their unique voices and perspectives on important matters that resonate within their hearts.

We have been thrilled to see the level of enthusiasm and dedication our year 6 students have displayed and the mature way in which they have approached crafting their speeches. Good luck to you all!

STEM MAD

STEM MAD is an opportunity for schools to showcase their STEM learning (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) through projects that are designed to **Make a Difference (MAD)**. Students showcase their projects with peers, receive feedback, and learn from viewing other student work. A group from our stage 3 will share their project at CathWest Innovation College Mt Druitt on Wednesday, 7 August. We wish them all the best.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENTS

We are once again welcoming students from Kaichi Primary School from 21 - 24 August. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to be involved in and we are hoping that some of our families would be able to assist in hosting the students. If you are interested in being a host family, please contact the number below.



St Bernadette's Primary School Host Families Needed

St Bernadette's Primary School
will be hosting Japanese students from
21st - 24th August 2024.

Share your lifestyle & home whilst experiencing
another culture.

- **Students attend school on weekdays and enjoy family life with you on the weekend**
 - **Japanese language is not necessary.**
- **Students just fit in with your family routines – eat your food, they need their own bed but can share a room.**
 - **Families are paid \$50 per night.**

If you can assist in hosting a student or would like
more information, please contact.....

VS Oceania Pty Ltd
Ph: 02 9889 4366
Email : admin@vsoceania.com

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 2:

Thursday, 1 August: Stage 1 Excursion

Friday, 2 August: Year 6 Fundraiser

Friday, 2 August: 100 Days of Kindergarten

Week 3:

Thursday, 8 August: Feast Day of Mary Mackillop Fun Day

Week 4:

Friday, 16 August: School Movie Night (more information to follow)

Week 5:

Monday, 19 August: Book Fair open from 8:30am - 9:30am

Tuesday, 20 August: Book Fair open from 8:30am - 9:30am

Tuesday, 20 August: Book Parade at 9:30am under the COLA

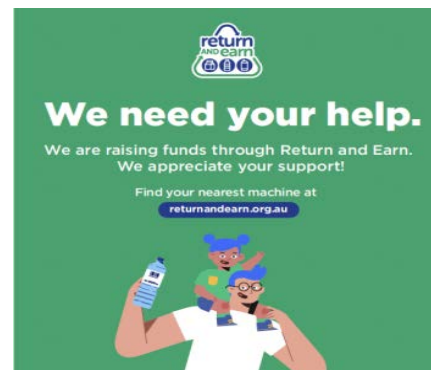
Wednesday, 21 August: Book Fair open from 8:30am - 9:30am

Thursday, 22 August: Rug Reading afternoon from 2:00pm

RETURN AND EARN

Would you like 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.



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

Tevita - 08/07
Amy - 08/07
Layla - 09/07
Morgan - 10/07
Joseph H - 12/07
Oliver O - 13/07
Sio - 17/07
Tahlia - 19/07
Henry - 19/07
Olivia - 19/07
Felice - 22/07
Ayden - 25/07
Savanna - 25/07
Jayden - 28/07
Chloe K - 30/07
Adam - 31/07
Matipa - 02/08
Megan - 04/08

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

NSWCPS Girls 7s Rugby (MacKillop and Polding)

Date: 14th August 2024

**Venue: Santa Sabina
College**

Eligibility: 11 Years - 12 Years

*Please check for
mandatory size/weight
ratios on the website

**Register via the
csnsw.sport/ portal before
2 August 2024**



NSWCPS Girls 7's Rugby (MacKillop and Polding) Trials

Date: 14th August 2024 Venue: Santa Sabina College

Eligibility: 11 Years - 12 Years GIRLS in 2024

***Please check for mandatory size/weight ratios on the website**

Register via the csnsw.sport/ portal before 2 August 2024

SYDNEY SCIENCE FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY

10AM - 3PM | SATURDAY 17 AUGUST
PARRAMATTA SQUARE & PHIVE

FREE EVENT

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES & WORKSHOPS,
SCIENCE DEMONSTRATIONS,
LIVE MUSIC, SPACE & TECH



Brought to you by

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PARRAMATTA

POWERHOUSE



PHIVE
5 PARRAMATTA SQUARE

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

 **UTS**



ARE YOUR KIDS MINI SCIENTISTS AND WANT TO EXPLORE LIFE BEYOND EARTH?



City of Parramatta has teamed up with Powerhouse to bring you an exciting and educational day of FREE family-friendly science workshops and activities.

Join us at Parramatta and discover the wonders of space and tech!



Parramatta Square

Get excited for live robotics demonstrations, slime and lego workshops and the entertainment stage serving up funky-fresh tunes, nitrogen explosions and 0-gravity hip-hop performances. No registrations required - get there early to avoid the queue!



PHIVE

Unravel the mysteries of space and experience a Q&A with a scientist, aircraft origami design, space story writing and travel to moon in Minecraft. **Registrations essential - book now!**

In the PHIVE Library, look forward to a suite of drop-in science activities your kids will love to get their hands into. First come, first served!



Parramatta Town Hall

Register to hear from the first Australian female astronaut, then drop-in to experience the sounds of space and construct a star clock to map the celestial sky.

There's so much to see and do for the whole family!



Learn more
[@atparramatta.com/science](https://atparramatta.com/science)
[@atparramatta](https://twitter.com/atparramatta)





St Bernadette's Primary School

St Bernadette's Primary School, 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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