



ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
TERM 3, WEEK 10, 27 SEPTEMBER 2018
NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As a Community of Learners, I ask that you please pray for the children in our school and parish who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this Friday night. Our own journey of faith is one in which we, as parents, have the precious opportunity to nourish our children's faith. The promise that we foster their growing sense of God and ensure their initiation, begun in Baptism, is completed through Confirmation. For our school and parish it is a joy to support these children and families through prayer. Thank you to those in our community who have supported the students in their preparation. Please pray for all of the confirmation candidates.

Thank you for the very warm welcome I've received this term. I am truly blessed to be working in a faith-filled, compassionate community. I hope you all enjoy your school holidays and return to us safely on Monday, October 15th.

NAPLAN results

This week, parents of children in Years 3 and 5 received their child's 2018 NAPLAN results. While this assessment is important, parents are reminded that it is just a snapshot of their child's learning for that time. During Term 4, the staff will be analysing these results more closely, identifying areas where we are doing well and any areas where we can help improve the children's learning, so that we will continue to grow and improve. This data will then help inform our 2019 learning goals.

Peace and Joy,

Megan Baird
Principal



**Our attendance percentage
to date is: 87.3%**

A Community of Learners

As a community of learners, you know that we have our three big goals this year:

- **Religious Education:** For all students to continue to improve their understanding of Scripture.
- **Numeracy:** For all students to improve their multiplicative thinking.
- **Literacy:** For all students to improve their use of vocabulary when writing.

This week, Mrs Gerrard, our Assistant Principal and Leader of Learning, Literacy explains how the teachers are developing students vocabulary when writing.

Our goal this year has been around being more deliberate in our word choice when writing. As a staff we have been working on how to assist students to move away from using more simple phrases and words through the introduction of word walls in the learning spaces. The older students are beginning to use thesaurus' (both digital and books) to challenge themselves to make more complex word choices that add depth to their writing.

In the younger grades, the children are being encouraged to move away from the favourites like "and" or "said" by replacing them with more descriptive language.

To further support students writing, our teachers are being very strategic in the choice of the books they read to the class and those that are used in reading groups. Making clear the links between the word choice authors make and how it entertains, informs or persuades an audience continues to ignite the passion that our students have for writing.

You only have to take a look at the *Hall of Fame* and learning spaces to see how many budding authors we have at St Bernadette's.

So, during the holidays here are a couple of things that you could do:

- Write a list together. This helps with your child organising ideas and recording them.
- Recount in writing a favourite holiday outing. Assist the child with details and specific language.
- Read and discuss. Encourage your children to explore and express their thoughts and feedback about a text.
- Discuss technical language. Call items by their name. A wrench and hammer have their purpose just as a hard drive does.
- Begin a project together. I still recall putting together my family tree with my grandma.

Any chance you have to encourage your child to write is valuable.

Happy writing!

Mrs Gerrard



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Sunday, 30 Sep 2018: Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

An easy way to deal with this Gospel: 'anyone who is not against us is for us,' would be to emphasise the transformation of the relationship of Catholics with Protestants. Too easy.

But what about our relationship with the Muslims? There is a huge gulf between Muslims and us about Jesus Christ. Muslims do not even believe that he was killed on the cross, let alone raised to life. We hold to the testimony and the faith of the Apostles.

But Catholics also believe that the Divine Wind blows where it pleases amongst all people of all religious traditions (and of none). In the early Church this was expressed by saying that the Seeds of the Word were sown by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all human beings.

We need to recognise the Seed of the Word in Islam – our shared belief in the one God, Creator of the cosmos, Lord of history, merciful and just. The task of the Church is to bring that Seed closer to the illumination of Divine Light so that it may eventually grow in belief that God is indeed One in the loving relationship of Triune life.

The world is holding its breath over the encounter of the Catholic Church and Islam. There is a history of mutual violence and contemporary barbarities which are inhumane and blasphemous. But, in the face of indifference and hostility to religion, at least in the West, it is good to acknowledge what we share in common.

We may take a moment to pray for the grace to relate to those Muslims whom we know in our own society in light of our faith that the Divine Wind has sown and is nurturing the Seed of the Word amongst them.

© Fr Michael Tate

Confirmation

Congratulations to the 34 young people who will be receiving Confirmation from Rev. Peter Williams at the Vigil Mass 28th September at St Bernadette's Parish. Please pray for them and their families as they prepare for this wonderful Sacrament.

Frances Zore.

Sacramental Coordinator.

Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

There will be information night for parents/carers for the First reconciliation/First Holy Communion program on Thursday 18th October 2018 at 6:45pm in the school hall. First Reconciliation is for children in Year 2 or above. Baptism is required for the sacrament. Lessons begin in term 4. First Reconciliation is at 6:30 pm on 5th December. The program then continues in 2019 for First Holy Communion. For more information please contact parish office on 9871 4414.

Frances Zore.

Sacramental Coordinator.

Sacramental Preparation



Congratulations to Rorie and Zoey L. who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 22nd September.

Year of the Youth Art Competition

We have some wonderfully creative students in our school so it was with some difficulty that the following students' artworks were chosen to be entered into the Diocesan competition;

Infants- Rachel B, Gabriella V and Addison Rose P.

Primary- Mary T, Mia V and Justine M.

Congratulations to all participants on your efforts.

The winners for the Diocesan competition will be announced at the Diocesan Education Mass on October 25th.

SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten 2019 Parent Information Evening

A reminder to parents that our Kindergarten 2019 Parent Information Evening is on:

Wednesday, 17th October - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Are you moving?

To estimate enrolments for 2019, please notify the school, in writing, if your child/ren are not returning to St Bernadette's.

For your information

Please note that if the weather is fine during the holidays, there will be some updates to our playground areas.

Staff Development Day - no students at school

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

- **Friday November 9th**
- **Thursday December 20th**
- **Friday December 21st**

Upcoming Activities for Weeks 1 & 2, 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



- Stage 1 excursion - **24th October**
- Year 5 PDHPE information evening - **24th October**
- Cyber Safety Parent Education Program - **12th**

November.

- Reports home to parents - **12th December**
- Christmas Concert - venue confirmed - St Patrick's College, Dundas
- Last day of school for students - **Wednesday 19th December**

Staffing Update

Mrs Mary Elliott will be taking extended leave in Term 4. To maintain consistency during Mrs Elliott's absence, Mrs Angelina Femia will be teaching Year 1 on Monday to Friday, Mrs Anna Beard will be teaching Year 2 on Monday to Friday. At this time, we are expecting to see Mrs Elliott return to St Bernadette's in December. Mrs Leanne Cakmakci will continue as Acting Religious Education Coordinator for the remainder of the year and Mrs Catherine Gillies will teach Year 3 on Thursdays.

Reminder

Parents, can you please return to school any books which your child may have at home? This includes library books, readers or school novels.

THINKUKNOW - Cyber Safety Education Program

Our school will be hosting a ThinkUKnow - Cyber Safety Education Program for adults only. It will be held in the school hall on Monday, 12 November 2018 at 6:30pm. The program is delivered by a local law enforcement member and is designed to educate parents and carers on how people are using technology, the challenges they may face online, and how to help them safely. A note will be going home to all families

Father's Day Raffle

The Father's Day Raffle was a huge success and raised \$1311.00! This money will go towards the Year 6 Graduation Dinner Dance, which is held at the end of the year. Thank you to those who bought raffle tickets and we hope the winners are enjoying their wonderful prizes. On behalf of St Bernadette's and Year 6, thank you to the following businesses and individuals for their generous support of and donations to our annual Father's Day Raffle.

Bunnings, Rydalmere, Captain Cook Cruises, Dooley's Waterview Club, Silverwater, Downer, North Ryde, Event Cinemas, Genesis Gym, Parramatta, Il Posto Pizzeria, Epping, Lowes, Carlingford, Oatlands Golf Club, The Bedwani Family, The Fernandes Family, The Lewandowski Family, The Nakhoul Family, The Nazarian Family, St Bernadette's Parish

Special thanks go to the tireless Year 6 Graduation Committee, who have worked so hard to make both the Mother's and Father's Day Raffles a success this year:

Nazira B, Carmelina B, Jennifer L, Danielle L, Souzan N, Katherine R, Grace T, Nissrine T, Tracy S.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Kindergarten - **Shane F**

Year 1 - **Afreen M**

Year 2 - **Ian B**

Year 3 - **Lenita T S**

Year 4 - **Benji B**

Year 5 - **Samuel J**

Year 6 - **Isabel L**



Justine M - 28/9

Amelia N - 10/10

Jada N - 28/9

Afreen M - 10/10

Lenita T S - 4/10

James B - 11/10

Kobi M - 4/10

Jessica E - 12/10

Orlando C - 6/10

Rebecca K - 12/10

Louis B - 7/10

Takara C - 12/10

Jessica K - 7/10

Emily B - 12/10

Johnluke A - 8/10

EXTRA CURRICULUM

2018 Swimming Program



In Weeks 9 and 10 of this term, students from St Bernadette's have been attending our annual Intensive Swimming Program at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatics Centre, Homebush. Throughout this important program children are grouped according to their individual needs and are provided lessons by qualified instructors. By supporting our children in the development of the essential skill of swimming, we are helping them to keep safe and to be able to actively participate in water based activities, both at school and elsewhere.

Mackillop Athletics

On Tuesday 25th September, Amelia N competed at the Mackillop Athletics Championships. At this very high level of competition she achieved a commendable 12th in the 11 Year Girls Discus, making her among the very best in this discipline from all Catholic Schools in NSW. Congratulations Amelia on this outstanding achievement!



Supporting Positive Choices

For the 1st four weeks of Term 4, our counsellor Janette Mansour will be working with our students on the playground at recess or lunchtime in an effort to support positive choices. If you do not wish for your child to participate, please email the office by the end of term.

P&F NEWS

- Canteen day was a great success. We made \$172.00. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time on the day to help with preparing and serving.
- School banking is on tomorrow 28th September, the last one for Term 3.
- Banking will resume Week 1, Term 4.

LEARNING MATTERS

During the holidays we invite you to encourage your children to take some time to write. Two separate notes with different images have gone home to the families of our infant and primary students, which have some great starting ideas for their writing.

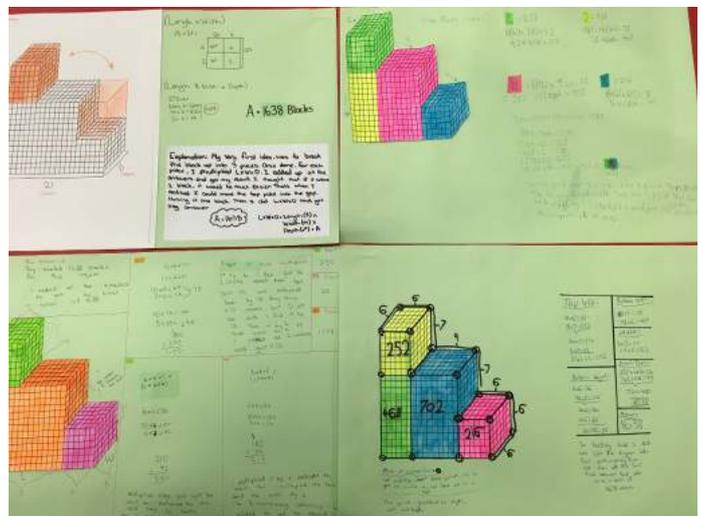
You can submit your child's story to the school email: dundasvalley@parra.catholic.edu.au or hand it in to Mrs Gerrard on the first day back of term, Monday 15th October 2018.

All winning entries will be awarded a sweet treat and a place on the Wall of Fame.

We look forward to reading all of your writing.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Year 6 are doing some hard thinking in Mathematics!



Here are some examples from Year 6, where everyone solved a difficult problem using different solutions. The children are encouraged to show all of their working and to explain their thinking.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

- Follow this link for more news around the Diocese. [LINK](#)



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