



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Our attendance percentage to date is: 89.8%



It is with mixed emotions that I share the news that both Mrs Mary Ann Gatt-Petrini and Mrs Mary Elliott are leaving St Bernadette's.

As mentioned in the letter sent home via skoolbag, Mrs Gatt-Petrini is retiring. I know that you will join with me and wish Mary Ann all of the joy and adventure that this next stage of her journey brings. During her time as our Principal we have seen many great changes to both the aesthetics of our grounds and the learning journey of our staff and students. She will be missed! We will farewell Mary Ann as a school community in Week 6 with details to be confirmed via skoolbag.

We also say farewell to our Religious Education Coordinator Mrs Mary Elliott. Mary has been responsible for many of our formation celebrations and has been a great asset to staff and students of our community. We wish Mary well on her future endeavours. She too will be missed.

While these are two key roles in the leadership of our school community, rest assured that CEDP are working through the protocols and procedures to ensure that they find the 'best fit' for our school community. Mr Kensell and I will be maintaining our current roles for Term 3 while the interview process to appoint a permanent Principal takes place. The REC position is currently being advertised with the new candidate commencing day 1 of Term 3. Further news of these appointments will be communicated as soon as they are finalised.

Thank you for your patience.

Love & Light

Lisa Gerrard

Sunday, 26 May 2019: Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year C

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Some people have the idea that God is awfully remote, dwelling beyond the edge of the cosmos. We make contact by sending a prayer like a long range rocket, hoping it will find its target.

This is far distant from Our Lord's teaching in today's Gospel.

'If anyone loves me and keeps my word, my Father and I *will make our home* with that person.' It is not in *outer* space, but in *inner* space that Divine Love will make a home.

What turns a house into a home? It is in sitting around a table sharing a meal. So, Jesus created a sacred meal for us and invites us to share in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink.

When we do so, we find, in the words of St John Paul II, that we 'digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection'. We take into ourselves the Real Presence of the Risen Lord who makes his home with us.

Coming to Communion, even after a long time away, satisfies the yearning of the human heart because it is made to be the habitation of Divine Love. We could pause for a moment to reflect on the gracious fact that God chooses to dwell in our hearts. Let us respond wholeheartedly.



© Fr Michael Tate

Prayers please

Please pray for:

Mrs Louise Williams who is currently recovering after some minor surgery. We send her our prayers for a speedy recovery.



SPECIAL CELEBRATION

On Tuesday we celebrated the official blessing of our new Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA).

The ceremony was attended by Mrs Christine Howe (CEDP), Mrs Mary Ann Gatt-Petrini and officiated by Fr Christopher.

It was beautifully organised by Mrs Corinne Brooker and our Year 6 leaders did an amazing job.

This amazing structure has made a huge difference to our community and we are most grateful for the grant that we received from CEDP.

We look forward to the great outdoor events that will be held under the COLA in the coming years.



SCHOOL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR TERM 2

For 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.

29/5 - Stage 3 Girls Soccer

31/5 - Breakfast Snack Day

6/6 - SAVE THE DATE: Mrs Gatt Petrini's Farewell

7/6 - Whole School Mass

Election Day BBQ



Another very successful Election Day for St Bernadette's!

Between the Cake Stall and the BBQ we raised nearly \$3000. Sincere thanks to all who contributed time or goodies (or both). Once again we presented a great community feel for which we received many positive comments.

The money raised from the BBQ will go towards an author visiting the students during Book Week.

Safety First Please

Please make an appointment:

If you wish to see your child's teacher please make an appointment. Trying to see teachers when they are supposed to be in class is not appropriate.

Safety in drive thru:

Children are not going straight to the cars as it is not safe. Also please don't park at the front of the school and get out of your car as this constitutes parking and comes with a fine if you are caught.

Purchase of a new bike rack:

I have just purchased a bike rack with enough space for 6 bikes to start. However, children riding to school will need to have written parental permission and provide their own bike chains. I

will let you know of the start date once I have all of the permissions in place.

Children waiting in Cox Crescent:

It has come to my attention that a number of children are walking further around Cox Crescent and waiting to be picked up. This is a concern as they are unsupervised and potentially at risk. As I now know this they may come under my duty of care which is a risk that I am not prepared to take. This is an arrangement will no longer be an option unless I have a note outlining this arrangement with the person picking these students up, absolving the school of responsibility. The safety of your children is of the utmost importance to us.

Well Done to our students who catch the bus

The school office had a call from a retired Principal (Tara school) Mrs Ruth Shatford - she was on the bus last Thursday afternoon and wants to congratulate us on our students. There was a difficult lady on the bus blocking their way getting on the bus, but she said our kids waited patiently, and that she was very impressed when each one said thank you to the driver when they got off.

She said that she was very impressed & had never seen school children on a bus behaving this well before.

She said she wants to congratulate our school.

We are so proud of you

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tania C - 11/5

Liam M - 12/5

Kayla H - 21/5

Isla M - 23/5



LEARNING MATTERS

As a community of Learners:

Over the past two weeks as a staff we have had a number of great learning opportunities.



Literacy:

Our Staff Development Day was led by our Teacher Educator Mrs Lise Sercombe. During the course of the day we looked at the way our syllabus aligns with the literacy progressions. We also looked at ways to feedback to our students to assist them with their goal setting.

Numeracy

Our Learning in Numeracy has been around problem solving. Being able to design problems that are complex enough to challenge though not overwhelm can be tricky. Mr Kensell led the staff through a number of tasks which we can adapt and share with our students. A number of students have already come to show me their hard thinking. We maintain that while getting the answer correct is great, it's the solving that is fun.

PBS4L

Star Token Tally up to Week 2

BERNADETTE	CLARE	FRANCIS	MACKILLOP
67	45	82	89

A part of the PBS4L programme is for staff to be proactive in identifying places and procedures which may challenge some children's behaviour and to help prevent issues. As a result staff are regularly reviewing current practices and procedures and making small changes. If you have attended an assembly recently you would be familiar with the new dismissal procedure for assemblies. Now that we have a COLA another such procedural change is that children are lining up under the COLA after each bell. This has enabled students to get to their lines quicker and to line up easily. Though these changes are small they help to keep our children safe, respectful learners.



The focus for the next two weeks will be 'Before School' and 'Bus' procedures as well as 'We take responsibility for our decisions and actions'. So, with your support, we will be reminding the children to sit near the office if they arrive to school before 8:30 before moving down to the courts with the supervising teacher. For those who travel by bus we will be reminding them of public transport etiquette and safety. Of course, as parents, we try to teach our children to be honest and to own their behaviour and we will be supporting you at school by also teaching and modelling this in our lessons and everyday interactions with the students.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN Online

This year, for the first time, St Bernadette's completed NAPLAN online. Children from Years 3 & 5 sat tests in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions & Numeracy between Tuesday 14 May and Monday 20 May. There was also a catch up session on Tuesday 21 May for children who were absent on testing days.



The testing periods were very successful, with only very occasional interruptions due to minor technical issues. Due to the online testing (aside from Year 3 writing which was done on paper), the children were catered for with questions that suited their ability level. For example, if a child answered a series of questions successfully, the next set of questions would be of a more challenging nature. The same would apply if a child found a series of questions too difficult, where the next set of questions would be more accessible.

Results should provide both parents and educators with greater detail and be available earlier than in previous years.

The children from Year 3 & Year 5 are to be commended on the positive and sensible way they approached all of the assessments.

SRC UPDATE

Hello everyone,

We hope you are having a great first few weeks at school and are excited for what is next in store!

First of all, Year 6 got awesome new sports shirts on April the 28th. From what us SRC's think, they are absolutely stunning and rather different from any of the previous ones. The colours are really great and unique. We love the colours of navy blue, light blue and white together on their shirts. And we absolutely adore their name! The Year 6 All Stars!

Now, last weekend, we had our election day barbeque and also our cake stall. We are happy to say that the day went successfully. However, a lot of cakes and sweet treats were left over and the students were able to feast the next day!

Then on Tuesday, the 21st of May, Father Christopher came to our school and blessed the new COLA by spreading holy water throughout the entire COLA, whilst saying a prayer of thanks. Then, even after retiring, Mrs Gatt-Petrini came with a visitor from CEDP to see the COLA.

Lastly, we hope that everyone will have a great weekend and rewind and relax.

Kind regards Will, Melanie, Lauren and the rest of the SRC.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Parramatta Softball Team



On the 1st of May, Lily P successfully trialed for the Parramatta Diocesan Softball Team. She will now go on to trial for The Mackillop girls primary team on Friday the 28th of June.

Congratulations to Lily on this wonderful achievement!

NSWCPS MacKillop Girls Football Team

On Friday 10th May Kiara B headed down to Canberra as a member of the Parramatta Diocesan Girls Football Team to participate in further trial games against four other Dioceses.

The weather proved challenging and the opposition were tough, however, this did not deter Kiara. She had a successful trial and was selected in the NSWCPS MacKillop Girls Football Team. Congratulations Kiara!

Kiara will now head to Lismore to compete at the NSW PSSA State Carnival running from the 20th-23rd May. This competition is also a trial for selection into the NSW State Football Team for girls. Best of luck Kiara!



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Stage One Excursion

On Wednesday 15th May, Year 1 and 2 visited the Schoolhouse Museum in North Ryde. The children were very excited and keen to explore. They saw many relics from the past and experienced life at school in the late 1880s and early 1900s. This included a treasure hunt, using toys and games from the past, a suitcase investigation, using jelly pads and stamp pads, and they were also able to toast bread on an open fire.

The children sat at desks in straight lines, they used slate boards and discovered how difficult it was to use ink pens. They were in awe of the cane and found it intriguing as to why it had ever been used.

The children wore attire from times of old including pinafores for the girls and sailors collars for boys. They danced around the maypole and marched up and down the grounds. They exercised using a simple wand which in times gone by was done to build fitness and instill order and discipline. The children really enjoyed the playground games which included fly (a game using sticks), skipping, bowling hoops, quoits and clapping chants.

A fabulous day was had by all and an experience that we're sure will never be forgotten.



SPECIAL CELEBRATION

On Thursday 9 May we came together as a school community to celebrate all of our Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunties, care givers and important female figures in our lives. We honored these people with an assembly, open class rooms and afternoon tea.

It was an occasion where the children were able to spoil their mums with an afternoon dedicated to showing them just how special and loved they are.





SEMINAR

Dealing With the Legal System

Hosted by
CatholicCare - Solo Parent Services

Guest Presenter:

Mr. Richard Brading

Solicitor

This Seminar covers the following topics:

- How the Legal System Works
 - How to choose the best lawyer for your situation
 - How best to prepare for and communicate with your Lawyer to minimize your legal fees,
 - The importance of having a Will
 - Options if you can't afford a lawyer or representing yourself
- Opportunity for Question Time

DATE

Tuesday, 04th June 2019

TIME

6.45pm for 7pm Start
7pm—9pm



VENUE

13 Buller St,
North Parramatta

FEE:

\$10.00



Further Details and Bookings Essential

Solo Parent Services

Contact Rita

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