



# St Bernadette's School



Friday 2 December 2016

No. 38

Dear Parents,

As the school year is starting to draw to a close, the teachers and children are reflecting on their learning; the opportunities that they have been given, the achievement of goals that they have set and identifying the challenges that still lie ahead of them. Together the teachers and children are naming the hard work, persistence, determination and grit that has been needed for authentic learning to take place.

Coming up to Christmas we are all thinking about what presents we would like to buy for loved ones and most especially our children. I would like to present a different take on gift giving that Psychologist Carol Dweck encourages of parents. She states

*"If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning."*

When children are learning something new, they won't be right every time, they will need to persist and work hard. It is good for them to know that this is what everyone needs to do, especially the most successful as can be seen in the words of Michael Jordan:

*"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. That is why I succeed."* – Michael Jordan

As parents we can encourage persistence, hard work, dedication and effort by the way in which we praise our children for demonstrating these attitudes in everything that they do and most particularly in their learning - praising the process of their learning rather than the product of their learning.

This might sound like:

'I like how you really stuck with it and kept trying until you solved that part' or 'You're not there yet but I can still see that you are having a go at another way'.

**Leanne Nettleton—Principal**

## R.E. NEWS



This Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent. We light another purple candle on the Advent wreath to represent the hope of Christ coming to the world. The word 'hope' has two meanings in the Bible. The first, *tiqvah*, contains the sense of eager anticipation or waiting. The second, *elpis*, depicts a sense of confident expectation based on certainty. Biblical hope is secured by God's faithfulness to His promises. For the Old Testament leaders, their hope was in the Messiah's arrival. For us, it is the hope of the Messiah's return.

The children know and understand that Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of our saviour.

Here are some suggestions on activities to do during the month of December through the season of Advent.



1. Make an Advent wreath at home – you will need 3 purple candles, one pink candle and one white candle for the middle of the wreath and use this as a focus for your family prayer.
2. Read the Scripture of the day and discuss the message God and what it means for our lives.
3. Decorate your own Jesse Tree. Use ornaments that represent people and stories from the Bible eg. you might hang a dove to represent Noah or a harp to represent David. Each night you could read a passage from the Bible on the person you have chosen. Celebrating Advent will help keep your children focused on Jesus and what we can do while we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Shane Robinson—REC**

### Week 9

**Mon 5 December**  
8.30am Assembly  
2.45—4.30pm  
Motiv8sports Club

**Tue 6 December**  
9am Thanksgiving Mass  
1.10pm Choir

**Wed 7 December**  
Last Student Banking

**Thurs 8 December**  
*Feast of the Immaculate Conception*  
Principal's Morning Tea  
5pm onwards—  
'Christmas on the Grass' Celebration

**Fri 9 December**

### Coming Dates:

**13 Dec**—8.40am  
Primary Awards  
Ceremony (Church)  
10.40am Infants Awards  
Ceremony (Church)  
**Please note changes  
above**

**15 Dec**—Year 6  
Graduation Mass

**16 Dec**—Year 6  
Activities Day & Last  
day for students



## Christmas Wishes

As there are a number of children at St Bernadette's who have severe allergies we kindly ask that you do not send in any edible treats for the children to give to each other. This includes gingerbread, chocolates, candy canes, marshmallows or any other lolly, biscuit or cake. We ask this so that we can ensure that our school community remains safe for all of our children. Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

PS: Children are welcome to carry out the Christmas spirit by sending and receiving Christmas cards with lovely messages of joy and thanks.

## Thanksgiving Mass—Invitation

An invitation is extended to all of the St Bernadette's community who have helped at school during the year to our Thanksgiving Mass on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>**

**December** at 9am in the Church, followed by my morning tea in the library. An invitation was emailed to all families. To assist us with catering, please RSVP to the school on [Bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au) if you are able to attend. Thank you.



## Mathematics Assessment Interviews

At the beginning of the 2017 school year the teachers will again administer the 'Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI)' on each of the students attending St Bernadette's. This is a 1:1 interview with a student that takes approximately 40 minutes. The information gathered from this assessment is extremely useful in helping teachers understand where students are in their understanding of number.

Further details on how to book your online appointment will be given in the next newsletter.

### Term 1 2017:

**Fri 27 Jan**  
**Staff Development & Pupil Free Day**  
**MAIs (pm)**

**Mon 30 Jan**  
**Staff Dev Day & MAIs**

**Tue 31 Jan**  
**Yrs 1 to 6 commence at 8:30am**

**Wed 1 Feb**  
**Kindergarten start at 8:30am**

## 'Christmas on the Grass'

Please join us for the St Bernadette's Christmas Concert on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December**, commencing at 6pm. Bring a picnic & picnic blanket or low chair to watch the children who will perform on the grass area. Each grade will preform a part of the Christmas Story through song and action. Hope you can join us for a lovely community celebration.



Our P&F Association will be providing a '**sausage sizzle**' on the night from 5pm! Sausage sandwiches for \$2, cans of drink \$2 and bottled water \$1.

## Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open from 8-9am next Tuesday 6 December due to the Thanksgiving Mass.

## Second Hand Items

The shop welcomes donations of second hand items in good condition. Donations can be dropped into the Uniform Shop on Tuesday mornings.

## Advance Notice—Welcome BBQ Friday 3rd February 2017

An invitation has been sent to all Kindergarten and new families to the school in 2017. We hope you will be able to join us as we welcome you to St Bernadette's School.



## Library News:

Overdue notices were distributed to the children this week. If you find any books at home with a St Bernadette's barcode on the back cover, please return them to the library. It is expensive to replace lost or damaged books. We're always pleased to have books returned to us—no matter how long they've been missing! Thank you.

## Summer Reading Challenge

With summer now here it should be full steam ahead with the Summer Reading Challenge. To find out details about how to enter the challenge simply go to [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au) and you could even win a mini iPad.



You have all summer to enter and the more times you enter the more chances you have to win. Entries close on 7th February 2017. Remember we want the children to keep working on their reading skills over the long holiday break.

## Cleaning Up

As many family start to prepare for the festive season and finish their spring cleaning, it's time to hunt for any reading books at home that are marked with the St Bernadette's school stamp. Please return any books that you find to your child's teacher.



**Congratulations to the following  
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

***Social Skill: Displaying Care & Compassion***

<b>Class</b>	<b>Student of the Week</b>	<b>Student of the Week</b>	<b>Social Skill Award</b>
<b>KB</b>	Sofia Papandrea	Jason Wong	Mia Parame
<b>KG</b>	Tiana Symin	Marcus Yacoub	Lucy Saad
<b>KW</b>	John Dimitriou	Breannah Ragno	Sebastian Haywood
<b>1B</b>	Kevin Le	Olivia Munro	Annabelle Farag
<b>1G</b>	Angelique Debelak	Harry Palmer	Samantha Simmons
<b>1W</b>	Will Boxshall	Caterina Porte	Elle Gaya
<b>2B</b>	Mia Khoudair	Antonio Zeaiter	Xavier Bounassif
<b>2G</b>	Mekenna Vickers	Antonio Wadih	Natalie Samperi
<b>2W</b>	Hannah Cherian	Levi Parame	Lucas Heyes
<b>3B</b>	Cassandra Losurdo	Tyler Beames	Sabrina Puglisi
<b>3G</b>	Dean Guy	Imogen Vines	Saskia Bullen
<b>3W</b>	Nicole Del Rio	Rene Ferris	Claudia Homsy
<b>4B</b>	Mitchell Daly	Blake Noonan	Grace Zeaiter
<b>4G</b>	Roman Taha	Gabrielle Younis	Caitlin Leong
<b>4W</b>	Natalia Barone	Thomas Heyes	Sienna Gomes
<b>5B</b>	Bailey Thom	Grace Towner	Mischa Timbrell
<b>5G</b>	Rebecca O'Brien	Logan Ragno	Alec West
<b>5W</b>	Sebastian Akle	Priscilla Leib	Yves Rahme
<b>6B</b>	Fintan Hogan	Michael Kavanagh	Not for Publication
<b>6G</b>	Samantha Kelly	Isayah Maybury-Picatoste	Kaylah Street
<b>6W</b>	Joseph Geaitani	Renyi Xu	Alexandra Law

**Principal's Awards:**

Alexandra Parington 4G  
Maya Salloum 2W  
Ysabella Salalila 5B  
Thomas Runac 5B  
Gregory Zucconi 2B  
Aidan Sweeney 3W  
Samuel Akle 2G  
Sofia Aiossa 1G  
Peter Cheon 6B  
Cooper Thom 6B  
Grace Hay 6B  
Piper Laurie 6B

Tayla Knight 6B  
Layaan Arraf 2G  
Luciana Romanski 5B  
Rosemary Carroll 2B  
Juliana Farag 2B  
Dominic Dodd 2G  
Keira Pereira 1W  
Isabella Willard 4W  
Magdala Salloum 6B  
Oliver Silvester 6B  
Saxon Orsini 6B  
Michael Kavanagh 6B

Cooper McGlynn 3G  
Michelle Zeaiter 5B  
Mea Cavallo 5B  
Isabella De Souza 2B  
Deangelo Chedid 2B  
Joshua Bounassif 2G  
Piper Johnson 1G  
Aidan Grace 6B  
Adam Bugarija 6B  
Philip Porte 6B  
Connor McGovern 6B



### Are you moving?

To estimate enrolments for 2017, it would be appreciated if the school could be notified in writing of any children who may be leaving St Bernadette's at the end of the year from grades other than Year 6.



You are reminded that CEO policy is that families need to give the school one full term's notice in writing in these circumstances. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Year 2—End of Year Get Together

Family Movie Night—Troll

Wednesday 14 December at 5:15pm

\$11 per person

Please contact grade parent for payment options or further details 0424 932 125  
anitacatanese@hotmail.com

### St Gabriel's School—Christmas Gift Wrapping

Volunteers are required to help with Christmas gift wrapping at Castle Towers. Over the past 8 years \$33,000 has been raised for St Gabriel's School from this service. Bring a friend and join in the fun for a minimum of 2 hours. You just need to be able to wrap gifts of all shapes and sizes!

Dates: Saturday 10 December to Christmas Eve

Please visit [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and enter the code Z6QVJ to book your time—and thank you!

### Calling all Netball Players Born in 2010 and Ladies

Our parish netball club is still welcoming players born in 2010 to join the 7 year olds next year. We already have 10 children keen to play – a wonderful, big team. If 4-6 friends were able to join them, the club could enter *two* teams in the competition. Registrations are open and you can find out how to enrol here:

<http://sbnc.nsw.netball.com.au/content.aspx?file=43308|41144e>

We've also had enquiries about starting an Over 35s 'Mums' team to compete in the Saturday competition at Kellyville next year. If you or your friends would like to play, let us know! (The club is open to anybody in the Parish or local community, so friends from outside your school circle are welcome too). We're looking for six more players – once enough people tell us they're interested, we'll open up registrations in this age group.

Email the registrar, Pauline Andrew at [P.Andrew@mail.com](mailto:P.Andrew@mail.com), or call her on 0403 762 796 if you'd like to join us or you'd like to know more.

### Mary MacKillop Place—Summer Holiday Activities

We invite students and their families to visit us and the new Botanical Room at the MMP Museum opening 16 December 2016. Children are invited to draw their own artwork (supplies provided) inspired by the discoveries and observations in nature by Fr Julian Tenison Woods (co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph). We have a family-friendly café and garden—all welcome! Contact: 02 8912 4899 for further details.

### Child Protection—Online

A reminder to parents that it is a diocesan requirement that you must have completed the Child Protection Module ONLINE if you would like to volunteer at school. The link for the child protection module is available below or from our website (right hand side). Please note there are ***two*** steps to complete the online course.



<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers>

All parents must have completed the above prior to helping in the classroom, on excursions, sport days, in the uniform shop or any other help around the school

An email confirmation of both steps is then sent directly to the school to confirm your child protection is completed and valid for two years.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**R.I.P.** †† Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Dimitriou family (Anna IG and John KW), following the recent passing of their great grandmother. May she rest in peace.

