



St Bernadette's School

Friday 19 February 2016

No. 3

Dear Parents,

Being a parent is a hard job, a complicated job and sometimes a lonely job. Probably, it's the most important job parents will ever have, because as their child's first teacher, you will make a difference one way or another.

Each school year, as parents you have the opportunity to form a valuable partnership with your child's teacher and together you have a common goal: a successful school year for your child. It is this common purpose and the positive relationship between school and parents that enables children to successfully move through their schooling years. A good relationship with your child's teacher will make it easier for you to stay informed about your child's progress across all areas of schooling and to work together if challenges arise during the year. On occasion, you might find that your teacher has constructive criticism about your child; it's important to keep an open mind to the teacher's comments. Neither the child nor the teacher is perfect – nor parents for that matter – so, if a problem arises, it's important to consider both sides of the story. The outcome should be the one that helps your child succeed at school. There needs to be a sensitivity that respects the teacher as a well-trained professional and respects the parents who have special knowledge of their child.

Teachers are dedicated and caring and want to be good teachers. Jonathan Sarks, Rabbi and author of "The Politics of Hope", said about them:

*"Teachers open our eyes to the world.
They give us curiosity and confidence.
They teach us to ask questions. They
connect us to our past and future. They are
the guardians of our social heritage. Life
without a teacher is surely not a life."*

Everyone likes to be appreciated and teachers are no exception. If we go for the "We" attitude and work with our child's teacher, then our child will have a great school year and so will we, and so will the teacher.

God, our Father, bless us, so that Your Spirit within us will give us a common bond as together we take responsibility for the well-being of Your gift of creation to us. We ask for strength and determination to create more space in our lives for You, so that by the example of our lives, our children will be inspired to follow Your ways.

Leanne Nettleton
Principal

R.E. NEWS



During the weeks of Lent we can focus on the Corporal works of Mercy. These are actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

Here are some ideas for how we can do something, in school, parish and community.

- Donate money to the Project Compassion
- Donate Food and clothing to St. Vincent de Paul
- Make a meal for a sick/elderly person or a family in need
- Volunteer for a group that looks after the sick or elderly in the Parish

Mrs Shane Robinson
Religious Education Coordinator

Week 5 Dates

Mon 22 Feb
Hills Zone Swimming
2.45—4.30pm
Motiv8sports

Tue 23 Feb
8.45am Welcome
Mass—Church—All
invited
1.10pm Choir
3-4pm Club Dance
Fever

Wed 24 Feb
School Banking—NEW
DAY FROM NOW ON

Fri 26 Feb
Diocesan Swimming—
Blacktown
Captivate Choir
Members—St Paul's,
Winston Hills
1.40pm Whole School
Assembly—Church—All
Invited

Coming Dates:

Open Day Kindy 2017
Tue 8 March 9.15am

Dance Fever Challenge
Wed 23 March
Homebush 5.30pm Start

Term Dates 2016

Term 1:
29 January—9 April

Term 2:
26 April—1 July

Term 3:
18 July—23 Sept

Term 4:
10 Oct—20 Dec

Social Skill for Weeks 4 and 5: For helping others in need at St. Bernadette's.

Our first Australian saint Sr. Mary MacKillop said, "Never see a need without doing something about it".

At St Bernadette's you will find this quote in every classroom and it reminds us that if you help others they will help you. If we see someone in need we offer assistance or go to a teacher for help, this allows all of the children at St Bernadette's to feel safe and cared about. In using our friendship skills and working together and making sure that you do your part as well as you can, you not only help others in need, you help everyone in the school community and your home.

Kathy Watt

Year 3 Incursion

Community and Remembrance

This term, Year 3 are learning about **Community and Remembrance** in our History topic. We recently had a guest speaker from the Mura Mittigar organisation, teaching the children about cultural aspects of the Darug people. (the Traditional Custodians of our area).

The Officially Amazing Darug People with only two tribes left. The Darug people live on the coast so their diet is mainly fish. They share their land. Aboriginals have totems (for example: if a mother is pregnant and her baby kicks often the totem will appear to the mother for her to name the child perhaps after a Kangaroo).

Hunting is for the men. They use spears and boomerangs to catch their food. There are 9 types of boomerangs used for different things. Only 1 type returns when thrown. Spears are sticks that have sharp metal knives at the end. The fishing spear has three barbs to catch fish and the hunting spear is used to hunt and has a thin end to catch prey. The 'emu tube' to catch emus is called an 'emu cracker'. It is a hollow tube. At the top you pat it and you rustle the grass and when the emu comes up looking around curiously, you then whack it on the head.

Women are gatherers. They prepare the food and make dampers. They also take care of their children.

Women use a coomera and put it against their hip. They can use it for taking home ingredients for supper. You can also use a coomera as a baby's cradle because all you need is some animal fur to line the dish and make it soft. The tribes extend from Sydney to the Blue Mountains/Hawkesbury River. 'Garay' means hello and good bye in the Aboriginal language.



Year 3 Incursion continued

Plants are important to the Darug people. They use them for all sorts of things. False Indigo is full of nitrogen and it takes oxygen out of the water. So when placed in running water, the fish come to the surface and the men can catch them. Paper bark tree is hollow and when it rains it stores water inside its trunk. When there is a drought, it can be used as to find drinking water.

By Cooper McGlynn & Georgia Pratt 3G

YEAR ONE 'LITTLE DIG' EXCURSION

On Tuesday, Year 1 children thoroughly enjoyed their big day out as they excitedly went by bus into The Rocks.

As part of our HSIE (History) unit, which linked so well with the new Australian curriculum, the children were engaged in many different activities throughout the day. The highlight was the children taking on the role of archaeologists to excavate artefacts from an indoor simulated archaeological dig and then analyse these artefacts to find out about the everyday lives of children who lived on the Big Dig site.

The children were given opportunities to put themselves in the shoes of children from the past, discussing what their houses were like, the games they played and where particular artefacts would have come from.

The children have already started writing enthusiastically about their experiences of the day. A big thank you to our parent helpers who were able to assist on the day and hopefully enjoyed the day as much as the teachers and students.



SCHOOL BANKING

Parents are advised that from Week 5 (next week) school banking will happen on a **WEDNESDAY**.

Thank you to Mrs Pratt and Mrs Lee for taking over the administration of Student Banking.

This year, School Banking is running a wild Grand Prize competition. We're giving students the chance to win a family trip for up to two adults and three children to explore Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin, plus:

- A full day Platinum Zoo Adventure Tour
- Domestic return economy airfares to Sunshine Coats, QLD, 4 nights accommodation, 5 days car hire and \$1,000 spending money.

How to enter—simply make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 and you'll automatically receive an entry into the competition for a chance to win.

Find out more at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

OPEN DAY—KINDERGARTEN 2017

Prospective parents are invited to attend our Open Day for Kindergarten 2017. Presentation by Mrs Nettleton at 9.15am in the School Library. Enrolment packs will be available on the day or to download from our website. School Fee schedule for 2016 is also available to download. There is no need to book—we look forward to seeing many new families to the school looking to enrol their child into Kindergarten in 2017.

Parents are asked to inform their neighbours and friends of the upcoming Opening Day and time.



GRADE PARENTS & GRADE CONTACT LISTS

An email was sent to all parents today with a note attached from the P&F detailing how to become a Grade Parent and a link for parents to add their details for Grade Contact Lists.

The closing date for parents to add their details is 25th February 2016—NEXT FRIDAY!. No changes can be made after this date.

SCHOOL FEES

TERM 1 School Fee accounts were sent home this week and are due on Monday, 7th March 2016. Fees can be paid by cash, cheque, credit card, EFTPOS, BPAY or POSTBILL.

Should you wish to make arrangement for the payment of your 2016 school fees or discuss your account please contact Mrs Vicki Cassidy on 9634-2898 or email:

vcassidy@parra.catholic.edu.au

TUCKSHOP ROSTER FOR: Week 5 Term 1

Parent helpers please arrive at 10.25am for recess and 12.45pm for lunch

Monday	<i>Recess</i>	IF PARENTS
	<i>Lunch</i>	
Tuesday	<i>Recess</i>	WOULD LIKE TO HELP
	<i>Lunch</i>	OUT IN THE
Wednesday	<i>Recess</i>	TUCKSHOP—PLEASE
	<i>Lunch</i>	CALL STACY DALY
Thursday	<i>Recess</i>	ON 0409 994 838
	<i>Lunch</i>	
Friday	<i>Recess</i>	
	<i>Lunch</i>	Karen Grace

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop will be open EVERY Tuesday morning (term time) between 8 and 10am for the purchase of school uniform. EFTPOS, Cash & Cheques are accepted.

