



St Bernadette's School



Friday 13 May 2016

No. 13

Dear Parents,

Big and small keys, deadlocks, bolts, chains, padlocks and even nails are all used to lock doors. When we come across a locked door, it can stop us in our tracks, thwart our plans, or say to us, "You aren't welcome here," and there's nothing we can do about it. It takes an intervention of some kind to open a locked door.



Even the disciples of Jesus gathered behind locked doors because they were afraid. In Luke's Gospel we read of the man who refused to open his door to a friend "the door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything."

At the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis opened the Door of Mercy. The doors are normally sealed by mortar and cement so that they cannot be opened. He declared that the time for tenderness, joy and forgiveness had begun.

Some doors are locked to keep others out – those who disturb us, the stranger whose presence challenges us, those who ask something of us, those we know but do not want to make welcome. Is my door of mercy, the door of my heart, carefully locked in these situations? Perhaps we lock the door of mercy because we are afraid or wounded – we feel unable to reach out to others at this time. Our doors of mercy are closed and locked tightly when we think we know it all or when we shut out an alternate viewpoint.

May our God of Mercy break through our locked doors, offering us the gifts of joy, tenderness and forgiveness

Image: morgueFile free photo
Anne Ferguson, Mission Animation, Parramatta

Leanne Nettleton
Principal

R.E. NEWS



Pentecost always falls 50 days after Easter. It celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Virgin Mary. It is often called the 'the birthday of the Church'.

The disciples of Jesus were waiting to receive the Holy Spirit because that is what Jesus told them would happen.

Just before He was taken up to heaven he told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and they would be his witnesses in the whole world (Acts 1:8).

The disciples and other Christians had come together to thank God and suddenly a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were singing. Next they saw tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. When the tongues of fire came they were filled with the Holy Spirit and the disciples began speaking in different languages. The main message for the disciples was to go out and spread the Good News.

That is our mission today as Catholics. We must spread the Good News to all we meet. Let others know about our faith, do not be afraid to let everyone know that we follow Christ. Perhaps this week we could do that by inviting a friend or family member along to come to Mass with us and then enjoy the wonderful food from many lands at the **Parish Food Fiesta**.

Shane Robinson
Religious Education Coordinator

Week 4 Dates

Mon 16 May
8.30am Assembly
4G Design2shine Project
2.45—4.30pm
Motiv8sports

Tue 17 May
4G Design2Shine Project
1.10pm Choir

Wed 18 May
Student Banking
3-4pm Sydney FC
Soccer Clinic

Thurs 19 May

Fri 20 May
Yr 6 Debating
Hills Basketball Clinic
1.40pm Whole School
Assembly

Coming Dates:
Week 9 Parent/Student/
Teacher interviews

Term Dates 2016

Term 2:
26 April—30 June
1 July—Staff Development & Pupil Free Day

Term 3:
18 July—23 Sept

Term 4:
10 Oct—20 Dec



This week we were able to forward on \$1676 to support pilgrims from the Parramatta Diocese at World Youth Day this year in Krakow, Poland and in the Philippines as they help on the rebuilding projects in the diocese of Tagbilarian.

Pope John Paul II announced the institution of World Youth Day on December 20, 1985 and the first official WYD was held in 1986. Since 1987 every WYD has had a motto taken from the Gospels.

The theme for World Youth Day 2016 is "Blessed are the Merciful, for they will receive Mercy."

Please keep the Parramatta pilgrims in your prayers as they prepare to embark on World Youth Day 2016.

Children's Workbooks coming home today

Today the children will be bringing home their Religious Education and Science and Technology workbooks. We encourage you to talk to your child about the learning that you can see in these books. The children are extremely proud of their work and will be delighted if you are able to write a comment to them in their book. We encourage you to write this comment after their last piece of work. Children really do enjoy receiving feedback from you and they also like to know that you are aware of what they are doing at school. Your comment also allows the teacher to see that you were able to take the time to walk through the book with your child. You are asked to return the book promptly on Monday May 16th so that your child can continue their written work in the appropriate book.



Sibling Enrolments for Kindergarten 2017

Parents are reminded to submit enrolment forms for siblings who will be seeking enrolment in Kindergarten 2017. Offers of enrolment will be made at the point of interview not at the conclusion of the entire enrolment process. Therefore, in order to secure a position it is important that parents submit sibling enrolment forms and arrange for an interview to be conducted as early as possible so as not to miss out on a position in 2017.

Why are we asking your children to attend the Mid Year School Report Interviews?

In Week 9 when the teachers meet with you about your child's learning, we are asking you to bring your child to the meeting. This is an opportunity for teachers, children and parents to acknowledge the progress and achievement that has been made in the first semester of the school year. The children will talk about their learning achievements as well as their learning goals. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions both of the teacher and of their child. The interviews will vary slightly across the grades depending on the age of the children.



Maternity Leave

Mrs Bojanowski (2B class teacher) will commence her maternity leave on 25th May 2016. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Mrs Bojanowski for all the wonderful care that she has taken of the children in 2B so far this year. You are asked to keep Mrs Bojanowski and her husband Peter and son Thomas in your prayers as they await the birth of their baby. We thank Mrs Hourigan who already teaches Year 2B with Mrs Bojanowski, for taking over the class in a fulltime capacity for the remainder of the year.



St Bernadette's – A Positive School Community

As a school we formally launched KidsMatter with our Belonging Tree on Tuesday 5th April. We listened to the story behind the tree and the magnificent visual of handprints showing that, 'We all belong' at St. Bernadette's.



A sense of community is..... " a feeling that members have of belonging , a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group , and a shared (belief) that members' needs will be met through their commitment to be together." McMillan & Chavis- 1986

Communities especially schools can have a powerful influence on their members by helping them to meet their mental health and wellbeing needs, which are:

- To feel respected - treating people in a courteous, thoughtful and attentive manner.
- To feel important - communicating to people that they are of value, believed in, and that their opinion matters.
- To feel accepted – making people feel accepted in their own right, with their own uniqueness.
- To feel included - making people feel part of things, part of the group, and connected to others.
- To feel safe and secure – communicating to people that they are cared for, looked after, and protected.

At St Bernadette's we always strive to be a positive school community, which gives children a sense of security that their needs will be met. At St. Bernadette's we have a strong connection with our school motto:

"Strength through Gentleness"

Our school values of Respect, Honesty, Tolerance, Forgiveness, Care and Compassion are embedded within our Social Skills and Gospel beliefs. It encompasses everything we do, everyday.

KidsMatter is all about growing healthy minds to nurture happy balanced kids.

St. Bernadette's KidsMatter Team



Social Skill Focus: Weeks 3 & 4

Respecting Others and their Property

Respecting ourselves, others and their property, and accepting responsibility for what you say or do. This includes being honest and truthful with everyone within our school community.

The following quotes both from Year 6 students and others outlines for us the meaning of respect and its importance in building friendships and a caring school environment where we look after our own belongings.

"If you respect others, they will respect you." (Yr. 6 student)

"Don't expect respect if you don't respect others." (Yr. 6 student)

"One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say." (Bryant H. McGill)

"Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners." (Laurence Sterne)

"To be one, to be united is a great thing. But to respect the right to be different is even greater." (Bono)

Mrs Kathy Watt

Winter Uniform

We ask that from next week, Monday 16 May, all students be in their full winter uniform.



Premier's Reading Challenge

The children have been busy this week. We have 29 children completing the Reading Challenge
CONGRATULATIONS!

Amelia Lavis, Ella Tegg, Xander Younan, Alexander Barone, Grace Kalina, Jason Khoudair, Sienna Leuzzi, Harry Palmer, Audrey Sullivan, Douglas Windress, Charlie Barone, Alyssa Khoudair, Brayden Leuzzi, Harrison Miller, Genevieve Sing, Liam Collyer, Sienna Gomes, Alexandra Parington, Aaliyah Symin, Bianca Gomes, Brooke Hughes, Mark-Mina Kamel, Connor McGovern, Kaylah Street, Matthew Wilson.

Canteen News

A new menu was emailed to parents this afternoon. We ask that you use this menu from now on to order your child's recess and lunch.

From the SRC



Waste Free Lunch Day – Wednesday 8th June
More information to follow

Join us at
THE FOOD FIESTA
for great food & entertainment!

Parish Hall from 11.30am
THIS SUNDAY

Food ticket books: 5 for \$10

FREE TEA & COFFEE



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 and Credit Cards are accepted (not American Express).



Pre-orders received at the school by Friday can be collected the following Tuesday from the Uniform Shop. Payment must be made on collection. Credit card payment facilities available on order form copies available to download from our website: *Parents/Notes from School/Whole School/Winter Uniform Order Form.*

R.I.P. †† Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Knight family (Tayla 6B & Jason-Leigh 2W), following the recent passing of their great grandmother in South Africa. May she rest in peace.



R.I.P. †† Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Zaiter family (Jacob 6G & Kayla 4G), following the recent passing of their grandfather. May he rest in peace.

R.I.P. †† Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Salter family (Jai in 1B), following the recent passing of his grandmother. May she rest in peace.

R.I.P. †† Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Waters family (Pam Waters and her husband Barrie), following the recent passing of Pam's brother, Dominic. May he rest in peace.