



St Bernadette's School



Friday 25 November 2016

No. 37

R.E. NEWS



Dear Parents,

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. Each season has its special grace and in the season of Advent we prepare for Christmas and await with expectant longing for God to be born again into our lives, our families, our Church and our world. During Advent we are meant to take stock of our lives, to check our direction and to await with expectation the special grace that God promises to offer us at Christmas.

During the Advent season we symbolically participate in the waiting of the patriarchs, kings, prophets, and priests, as we await Christ's final and glorious return. As we wait in long lines this Advent season, or as we wait for anything really, we can remember the waiting of those expecting the Messiah, and always wait with patience, humility, and expectant hope in a state of prayer. It is difficult, but especially during Advent, waiting prayerfully and patiently, in the manner of our Lord and his blessed Mother, is not only a good spiritual discipline, but could also lower our risk of holiday-induced blood pressure. It seems like we're all waiting for something, so why not use these experiences to enhance our Advent disciplines by prayerfully waiting, joining our prayers with Isaiah, Zechariah, and all the saints?



Come Lord Jesus may we be prepared for your coming in glory

**Leanne Nettleton
Principal**

Staff and Student use Lectio Divina during prayer, which is the traditional practice of Scriptural reading. The teacher reads the Scripture passage twice and asks questions to help students respond, to demonstrate their understanding of God's word. Sunday 29th is the First Sunday of Advent and we will focus on the Scripture readings from Matthew' Gospel.

The Gospel reading for Sunday is Matthew 24: 37-44, where we are reminded anew how to read the signs in the light of the Word of God.



After hearing the Gospel you might like to reflect what part of the text struck you and why? You could talk with your family about what you can do during the Season of Advent, while waiting for the coming of Jesus.

In Mass this weekend we will see one of the symbols of Advent, the Advent wreath. The evergreen leaves of the wreath stand for life and the circle has no beginning or end, which stands for God's eternal presence in our lives. On the wreath there are 3 purple and 1 pink candle . The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. The 1st purple candle will be lit this week at mass. Christmas Celebration

Our Christmas Concert 'Christmas on the Grass' will tell the story of the birth of Jesus in song and actions. It will be held on **Thursday 8th December**, commencing at 6pm. We hope you will be able to join us for this wonderful concert.

Mrs Shane Robinson—REC

Week 8 Dates

Mon 28 Nov
8.30am Assembly
K & Yr 1 Swim Program (all week)
2.45—4.30pm Motiv8sports

Tue 29 Nov
Yr 5 Leadership Speeches (Church)
1.10pm Choir

Wed 30 Nov
Student Banking
KB Movie & Popcorn
7.30pm P&F AGM (All parents invited)

Thurs 1 Dec
1.45pm FINAL Whole School Assembly (Top court)

Fri 2 Dec
Yrs 2 to 6 Swimming Carnival at Blacktown Aquatic Centre

Coming Dates:
6 Dec—9am Thanksgiving Mass & Morning Tea (Church)

8 Dec—Term 4 Principal's Morning Tea
6pm Christmas on the Grass Celebration (school)

13 Dec—8.40am Primary Awards Ceremony
10.40am Infants Awards Ceremony (Church)

Please note changes

15 Dec—Year 6 Graduation Mass

16 Dec—Year 6 Activities Day & last day for students



KINDER 2017 TRANSITION

Congratulations to the 2017 Kindergarten children and parents on the fabulous three transition days that they have attended over the last three weeks. I would like to particularly thank our existing families who have children commencing in Kindergarten in 2017 for the wonderful way in which you have offered support and encouragement to our new families commencing at St Bernadette's in 2017. Your hospitality and friendliness at each of the Parent Workshops has been outstanding and has made our new parents feel really welcome and prepared for their exciting first year at our school. A huge thank you also to Anne Hishion and Michelle Towner in the Uniform Shop who have coordinated very helpful uniform fittings for our new Kindies.



2017 Class Groups

This year children in Years One, Three and Five will progress to their next year level group in the same class group. Children in Kinder, Two and Four will have their class groups rearranged into newly formed classes giving children an opportunity to learn with other children. Teachers take many factors into consideration when re-grouping children including social and learning needs.

Kindergarten & Year 1 Swimming Program

Mon 28th November – Fri 3rd December
Reminders:

- Children may wear sports uniform next week
- Children will change into their swimming costumes at school before their lessons. They are not to come to school in their swimming costume.
- Children will need to bring swimmers, thongs, towel and goggles **each day**
- All items must be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Children will need to bring their own lunch each day (no lunch orders) as we will be at the pool during lunch time



Thanksgiving Mass—Invitation

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

December at 9am in the Church, followed my morning tea afterwards in the library. An invitation will be email to all families. To assist us with catering please RSVP to the school on Bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au if you are able to attend.



'Christmas on the Grass'

Please join us for the St Bernadette's Christmas Concert on **Thursday 8th 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.



Awards Ceremony 13 December 2016

Please note changes:

Primary — 8.40am in the Church

Infants – 10.40 in the Church

All parents are invited to join us as we celebrate the academic/creative/social talents of our students.

Swimming Carnival

Notes have been sent to students in Years 2 to 6 with details of our upcoming Swimming Carnival at **Blacktown Aquatic Centre**. All notes must be returned to class teachers by **Monday 28th November**.

Summer Reading Challenge

Have you entered the Summer Reading Challenge yet? Haven't heard about it yet? Well it's on now and at St Bernadette's we are going to see just how many of our students can register! Entry is easy go to

www.parra.catholic.edu.au to find out how you could 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.



Parents & Friends News:

P&F AGM—Wednesday 30th November 7.30pm

All parents are invited to attend this meeting to celebrate another wonderful year at St Bernadette's. Please join us for Christmas drinks and to select our committee for 2017. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to be a part of our very active Parents & Friends Association.



Advance Notice—Welcome BBQ Friday 3rd February 2017

An invitation is extended to all Kindergarten and new families to the school in 2017. Please make a note of this date as we hope you will be able to join us as we welcome you to St Bernadette's School. An invitation will be emailed to you soon.



Kindergarten 2016 families—you will remember the Welcome Barbecue that you enjoyed at the start of this year, we now ask for your assistance for our Kindergarten 2017 families. Please note **Friday 3rd February** in your diaries. A note asking for helpers will be sent home shortly. Thanking you in advance!

Banking News

Next week (30th November) **will be the last day** for redeeming banking rewards for 2016.

We are currently only able to order the following items.

- Wriggly Glow Worm
- Outer Space Savers Money Box
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- ET DVD

If these rewards do not appeal to your child you may keep your tokens and redeem in 2017.

Wednesday 7th December (Week 9) will be the last day for banking this year.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.

The Banking Co-ordinators

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.

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 and enter the code Z6QVJ to book your time—and thank you!

Term 4:

10 Oct—16 Dec

19 & 20 Dec—Staff Dev & Pupil Free Days

Term 1 2017:

Fri 27 Jan -Staff Development & Pupil Free Day

Mon 30 Jan—Staff Dev Day & MAI Interviews

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

Wed 1 Feb—Kindergarten start at 8:30am

Celebrating Talents

Good luck to Louis Malandrino of 4G and the rest of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hills District Cricket Association under 10 Foster Shield team playing in the quarter final against Blacktown on the weekend.

We wish them well in their first year of representative cricket.

