



# St Bernadette's School



Friday 24 February 2017

No. 4

Dear Parents,

Providing Catholic education for our children relies heavily on the collaboration of families, school staff, the Parish Priests and Parish Team as well as the wider parish community. At St Bernadette's we have always been blessed to be able to work together harmoniously and energetically in providing an outstanding Catholic education for the generations of children who have been students of the school.

This week Monsignor John told us that he will be finishing his time at St Bernadette's with his last day in the Parish being Easter Monday. Archbishop Anthony Fisher has requested Monsignor John to take up the position of Rector at Domus Australia Roma – yes in Rome! Monsignor John was parish priest at Castle Hill between 1983 and 1985 and then as you know more recently since 2006. Over these years Monsignor John has guided and nurtured the St Bernadette's parish including our school with great love, care, encouragement and support. I know that you will join me in thanking Monsignor John for his dedication to your children and your families and wish him God's blessings as he takes up this new role. As a school community we will certainly have the opportunity to farewell and express our deep appreciation to Monsignor John before he leaves. We will keep you informed of these plans.

**Leanne Nettleton**  
Principal

## R.E. NEWS



Next Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday. 'Shrove' means being forgiven for wrong doings. Another name for Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day. A long time ago this was a day for feasting and having a good time. People went to church to confess the bad things they had done and would be forgiven before the start of Lent. As rich foods such as eggs were forbidden during Lent, one way of using them up would be to make pancakes. (<http://www.topmarks.co.uk>)

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March is Ash Wednesday and this marks the beginning of Lent. The season of Lent goes for forty days and is a time for Catholics to prepare for Easter. Lent is usually a time of fasting and repentance as well as a time for reflecting on Christ's suffering and sacrifices for us.

On Ash Wednesday, Years 3 to 6 will attend the 9:15am Parish Mass and the 12 noon Parish Mass. They will receive the ashes on their forehead and hear these words 'turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel'. The Infants grades will have their own special liturgy in the hall.

**Mrs Shane Robinson**  
Religious Education Coordinator



### Week 6

**Mon 27 Feb**  
8.30am Assembly  
2.45—4.30pm  
Motiv8sports Club  
7pm Parent Writing  
Workshop K—6

**Tue 28 Feb**  
Dance Fever  
1.10pm Choir

**Wed 1 March**  
Ash Wednesday  
Student Banking

**Thurs 2 March**  
School Photo Day  
3-4pm Sporting Schools  
ARU Sessions

**Fri 3 March**  
School Photo Day

### Coming Dates:

**Wed 8 March**  
9.15am Kindergarten  
2018 Enrolment Day

11.15am Open  
Classrooms Yrs 1 to 6

**Thurs 23 March**  
School Cross Country

**Fri 31 March**  
Dance Fever Challenge

**Staff Development Day**  
**Term 2:**  
Mon 24 April

### Kindergarten 2018 Enrolment Day

Our enrolment day for Kindergarten 2018 will be held on **Wednesday 8 March 2017** at **9.15am** in the school library. If you have any family, friends or neighbours who would like to enrol their child into Kindergarten next year could you please ask them to contact Mrs Crake in the school office for an enrolment form. We look forward to welcoming all of our new families next week to showcase our wonderful school and its facilities.

## Parent Literacy Workshop

How is writing taught at St Bernadette's?

Find out more about this topic and how you can help your child on Monday 27th Feb in the school library at 7pm.

Have you sent in your RSVP for our Kinder to Year 6 Writing Workshop? Please register by return email with Parents Writing Workshop as the subject header to the school office.

## Kindergarten 2018 — Sibling Families

Thank you to parents who have already advised that they have a Kindergarten child ready to start at St Bernadette's next year. If you have not yet informed us, please contact Mrs Crake in the school office on 9634 2898 and an enrolment form will be forwarded to you. We ask that sibling enrolment forms be returned to the school before Wednesday 8 March. Thank you for your assistance.



## Catholic Schools Week

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March is Catholic Schools week. In Catholic Schools Week we celebrate the joyful and distinctive character of a distinctive school. The week is designed to be a celebration for all those who have a stake in our school community, students, staff, parents, families, priests and Parishioners.

We are beginning our celebration with a **Prayer Liturgy on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March on Top Court at 8:30am.**

**On Wednesday 8 March we will open classrooms between 11:15 and 1pm.** We would like to invite parents to come and share the joy of their school experience with their child and small groups of children. You might have a memory box of mementos from your school days that you could bring along to share. This will be a wonderful way to celebrate our theme for this year, 'Learning Connected.'



## Monday Mornings

Our attendance data reveals that a number of St Bernadette's students regularly arrive late to school on a Monday morning. Our school day commences at 8:30am and concludes at 2:45pm. Monday morning assemblies are an important part of our school week and it is very disappointing for your child if they miss the announcements and presentations that happen at these assemblies because they have arrived late to school. Arriving on time at school includes arriving on time on Mondays. It is important that you know that every child who arrives late on a Monday (just like any other day) has their attendance marked with a partial absence.

Congratulations to all those children who arrive at school ready for assemblies.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Starting this week, we will be posting a more realistic representation of the students' actual attendance at the school. The past two weeks' figures have been generalised from a less accurate set of data. The new figures more accurately reflect students' actual attendance.

Currently we are sitting at 88.7%. This is below the expected [minimum target of 90%].

The main reason for the lower figure [accounting for almost 40% of all absences] is the number of students accompanying families on 'holidays' during the term. We need to remain mindful that attending school everyday throughout the term, on time every day, is what's important and most essential for the students' learning.

## Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

Week 8 – 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March [updated in subsequent newsletters]

Approximate start - finish time: 3:15pm - 8pm  
Interview length – 10 minutes

Parents have a wonderful opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher and your child, to discuss various aspects of their learning, discuss specific needs your child may have and the student's present learning goals.



Bookings for the interviews will be via the School Interviews site. More details on accessing the site and booking your interview will follow in subsequent newsletters.

## Student Workbooks

Your children will be bringing home their workbooks on Friday 3 March (Week 6) to share their learning with you. This is an opportunity for you to encourage your child to do his or her personal best. We encourage you to write a comment to your child in their book after their last piece of work. Children really do enjoy reading your comments. Literacy workbooks will be coming home in Week 8.



## Pancake Day

Pieklets will be available from the canteen over the counter on Tuesday for Pancake Day—**3 for \$1**. Please note ingredients may contain traces of egg.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Mitchell More in Year 6** for being a caring and responsible student. Last week Mitchell took the initiative to ensure the safety of some younger students who travelled on his bus. Mitchell's actions were a fine example of student leadership embodying the St Bernadette's school values. Well done and thank you Mitchell.

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

*Social Skill: For helping others in need*

<b>Class</b>	<b>Student of the Week</b>	<b>Student of the Week</b>	<b>Social Skill Award</b>
<b>KB</b>	Elliot Beers	Matilda Cowper	Xavier Ranieri
<b>KG</b>	Xavier Lavulo	Harper Moynahan	Arianni Sebastian
<b>KW</b>	Joanna Asaroglou	Nicholas Masina	Emma Sakkal
<b>1B</b>	Peter Georges	Zara Osborn	Grace Semaan
<b>1G</b>	Khiara Heyes	Jackson Randall	Mia Lee
<b>1W</b>	Nadia Ishak`	Aaron Pereira	Tess Gooley
<b>2B</b>	Lanna Heneghan	Alexander Nader	Matthew Hanna
<b>2G</b>	Oscar Polley	Caterina Porte	Christopher Zaiter
<b>2W</b>	Anna Dimitriou	Dillon Sweeney	Samantha Simmons
<b>3B</b>	Lana Formosa	Bennett Moynahan	Cohen Orsini
<b>3G</b>	Matthew Barone	Alexis Vishnivetskiy	Deangelo Chedid
<b>3W</b>	Emily Nguyen	Samuel Sywak	Grace Zwaine
<b>4B</b>	Eva Cooper	Michael Khoudair	Sinead Delac
<b>4G</b>	Alivia Dowling	Sarah Jacinto	Charlie Barone
<b>4W</b>	Joshua Foo	Sarah Lievano	Imogen Vines
<b>5B</b>	Christopher Dodd	Dominique Jothy	Joseph Hadchiti
<b>5G</b>	Mitchell Daly	Aprille Exton	Aaliyah Symin
<b>5W</b>	Timothy Kelly	Isabella Muscat	Christian Farfoud
<b>6B</b>	Shayan Pala	Mea Cavallo	Marcus Tchetchenian
<b>6G</b>	Mia Metwally	Ashton Paull	Emma Mizzi
<b>6W</b>	O'Shea Gooley	Chloe Metwally	Edward Zalloua

**Photo Day Schedule**

Please be advised of our photo day schedule for next week::

**Thursday 2 March**

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2  
Recess: Sibling photos

**Friday 3 March**

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6  
Recess & Lunch: Sibling photos



On your child's grade photo day they must be in full summer uniform (even if it is grass/sport day).

For sibling photos, parents can choose either the Thursday or Friday to have these taken. An announcement will be made at recess on Thursday and at recess and lunch on Friday asking children who are to have sibling photos taken to go to the hall. Please let your children know to expect this announcement. Again all family members must be in full summer uniform on this day.

Family envelopes were sent home early this week. If you have not received yours please contact the school office.

### **Principal's Treat**

Congratulations to our Year 2 classes and their teachers for moving quickly and safely into their rooms each morning. Many children use the Year 1 / 2 verandah's in the morning and throughout the day to get to their classrooms. The Year 2 classes and their teachers have been trying extra hard ... and succeeding at moving down the verandah quickly and quietly, putting their bags on the bag racks and moving into their classrooms so that other classes can access the verandah's safely. Well done boys and girls! The Year 2 classes and their teachers enjoyed a Zooper Dooper treat today to recognise their effort in this area.



### **Sporting Schools—ARU Free Sessions**

We still have 7 spaces available in the FREE ARU Sporting Schools programme on the next four Thursday afternoons? It's on between 3 and 4pm at school. Sporting Schools Australia are running this program and students in Years 3 to 6 can still apply for the remaining 7 spots. Contact the office if your child is interested.



### **Year 6 2016 Yearbook**

Parents please be advised that the Year 6 2016 Yearbook is now ready to be collected. If you have a sibling at school, please email us or call the office on 9634 2898 and we will send one home with your other child. If you see any other Yr 6 students from last year—please pass on this message. If you are requesting another child/parent to collect your yearbook, please send an email to the school to inform us of this. Email: [Bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au) or call 9634 2898.

### **Hills Junior Rugby Club**

Play the best game at the best club in 2017! Register before 17 March—season starts on 1 April 2017. contact Sam Pethybridge 0419 900 239 or Jenny Morris 0402 468 288 for further information.

### **Mount St Benedict's College—Open Day**

Sunday 5 March 2017 10—2pm  
Prospective Parent Information Evening for Year 7 2019 on Thursday 9 March 7pm.  
449C Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills—9980 0444  
W: [msb.nsw.edu.au](http://msb.nsw.edu.au)

### **52nd Annual Country Fair—12 March**

Benedictine Monastery Arcadia, 121 Arcadia Road, Arcadia. Mass starts at 10am. Fete 10.30am  
Lots of stalls: Plants, BBQ, Chocolate Wheel, Raffles, Face Painting, Cakes, Farm produce etc.  
Tours of the Monastery: 11am, 12 noon, 1pm and 2pm. Major Raffle Prizes.