



St Bernadette's School

Friday 3 February 2017

No. 1

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff I would like to warmly welcome you and your children back to St Bernadette's and to the 2017 school year. We hope that you have all enjoyed a relaxing holiday with family and friends.

There has been much excitement over the past week as the teachers and children reunited for the new year. Firstly each child was welcomed back through their individual interview last Friday and then this Monday. Then on Tuesday the playgrounds were buzzing before school with excited voices as the Years One to Six children commenced the 2017 school year. Of course our biggest excitement came on Wednesday when our newest members of our school - Kindergarten were brought into the school by their families. Finally we were all together as one, starting a new year of learning, faith, friendship and fun.

Strength Through Gentleness is our motto and it is at the basis of all the relationships that we develop at St Bernadette's. We ask for God's blessings throughout this year on all our families especially as we work in partnership as a catholic community recognising, appreciating and sharing our gifts and talents and the gifts and talents of others.

2017 is set to be a fabulous year - the teachers have been preparing learning programmes and their classrooms over the last weeks and have many rich learning opportunities in store for the children. Mr Balfour has re-marked our handball courts ready for the many tournaments that will take place at recess and lunch times and the uniform shop has been busily catering for the uniform needs of all our students.

I would really like to congratulate all the children on the way in which they have settled into their new routines - especially when the beginning of the week was so hot. Congratulations also to parents on how smart the children look in their summer uniforms and how they each came to school with the resources they need to support their learning.

I extend a special welcome to our 15 new families (27 new students distributed across Years 1-6) who have joined the St Bernadette's community for the first time this year. Along with our new Kindergarten families we know that you will find St Bernadette's a welcoming and nurturing community. I look forward to welcoming you at our P & F Family BBQ this evening at 5:30pm and to collaborating with you as we nurture your children throughout their education.

New Families:

Crimston (Yr 5)
Dowling (Yrs 2, 4 and 6)
Duthoit (Yr 3)
Farrow (Yr 6)
Fernando (Yrs 2 & 6)
Kamel (Yr 2)
Lievano (Yrs 2 & 5)
Lagana (Yrs 3 & 5)
Lim (Yr 4)
Moujalli (Yr 5)
Raad (K & 2)
Reitmann (Yr 5)
Rendulic (Yr 2)
Robinson (Yr 2)
Semaan (1, 4 & 5)
Sathees Kumar (Yr 1)
Van Jour (Yr 3)
Worne (Yr 3)
Zalloua (K, 3 & 6)



Leanne Nettleton—Principal

Week 3 Dates

Mon 6 February
8.30am Assembly

Tue 7 February
Dance Fever
1.10pm Choir

Wed 8 February
Student Banking

Thurs 9 February
NRL Community
Carnival

Fri 10 February
Band starts
SCHOOL CENSUS
1.40pm Whole School
Assembly—Parents
invited

Coming Dates:

Tue 14 February
Yr 5 Vision Valley Camp

Wed 14 February
Yr 5 Vision Valley Camp

Fri 17 February
9am Beginning School
Mass — Church —
parents invited

Wed 8 March 9.15am
Open Day & Enrolment
Day Kindergarten 2018

Fri 31 March
Dance Fever Challenge

Staff Development Day
Term 2:
Mon 24 April 2017

**P & F Association Welcome BBQ TONIGHT! IT'S ON COME RAIN, HAIL OR SHINE
5.30PM ONWARDS
HOPE ALL OUR KINDY AND NEW FAMILIES TO THE SCHOOL CAN JOIN US**

R.E. NEWS



Welcome back to our new school year. We are also in a new liturgical year, which marks the transition of the Lectionary cycle for the readings from Year A to Year B to Year C. We have a 3 year cycle built around the 3 synoptic gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke. We are currently in year A with the readings of Matthew. Students will also be focusing on the readings of Matthew in their Religious Education Units. On Friday 17th we will be celebrate the start of the school year with our Opening mass in the church at 9am. All parents are welcome to attend.

Parent Interviews

This year the teachers will be holding Parent Teacher Interviews in Weeks 8. These interviews will replace the beginning of year Meet the Teacher Interviews and will focus on your child's learning progress. They will be an opportunity for you to hear from the teachers about your child's MAI, Reading and Writing Assessments as well as their general progress so far in their new grade. From next week grade overviews and Parent surveys will be emailed to you and parents are invited to contact class teachers to discuss any information that they would like the teacher to know prior to these interviews. Children's workbooks will be sent home in Week 6 (Maths) and Week 8 (Literacy).

Grade Mentors

At St Bernadette's each of the leadership team members act as a communication point for parents when necessary. Of course the first point of communication about your child is always with the class teacher. Please find below the Grade Mentors for 2016. They can be contacted through the school office.

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Kindergarten | - Mrs Pam Hord |
| Year One | - Ms Lyn Sweetnam |
| Year Two | - Mrs Rochelle Borg |
| YEAR Three | - Mrs Leanne Nettleton |
| Year Four | - Mrs Kathy Watt |
| Year Five | - Mr Peter Visser |
| Year Six | - Mrs Shane Robinson |

Next Friday 10 February is School Census Day

If you know that your child will be absent on Friday 10th February, please email the school explaining their absence prior to the day. Likewise, if your child is unexpectedly absent on the day, please email the school by 10:00am on Friday 10th February simply advising your child's name, class, the reason for their absence and when they will return.

Please note: Auditors have advised that written advice from parents is mandatory. This is a requirement that applies to every day of the school year, however, Census data is directly related to Government funding for our schools and the requirements outlined above are set by the Department of Education. Thank you for your co-operation.

Student Attendance

Regular attendance at school is critical to ensuring that every student has the kind of opportunities in life that he or she deserves.

When students are not at school, they are missing out on so much, as can be seen in the graphic. Missing just 2 days a month is the equivalent of missing 4 weeks of school every year – **almost 10% of their learning**. We do understand that children may sometimes need to be absent from school through sickness or misadventure. We understand the work demands of parents and their ability to take leave does not always coincide with school holiday periods.

We ask that leave for extended periods – such as overseas holidays – is kept to a minimum – and wherever possible within the usual school holiday periods.

When a student is not sick and requires leave, the Principal – Mrs Nettleton - needs to be notified of this in writing prior to that leave being taken. If the leave is not approved, you will be informed in writing by the school office.



Where a leave application exceeds 5 days, parents are **required** to complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave form for approval. The form can be found on the school's website in Current Families/Notes from School/Administration Forms. All children accessing extending leave for travel need to be issued with a certificate of extended leave approved by the principal.

St Bernadette's Summer Reading Challenge

It not too late to enter our Summer Reading Challenge. Please check your emails for entry forms, simply print the form, complete the details and return it to school by Monday 6th February. There are many great prizes to be won. Don't be the one to miss out!

Open Day & Enrolment Day —Kindergarten 2018

Prospective parents are invited to attend our Open Day & Enrolment Day for Kindergarten 2018 on **Wednesday 8 March 2017 at 9.15am**.

A presentation by Mrs Nettleton will be followed by a tour of our Kindergarten classrooms. Enrolment packs will be available on the day or from our website.

Please register your interest by either contacting Mrs Dawn Crake in the school office on 02 9634 2898 or via email: bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au

School Enrolments for 2017

For enrolment into St Bernadette's in 2017 please contact Mrs Dawn Crake for an enrolment pack or via our website: bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Grade Teachers for 2017

KB Miss Stephanie Doherty
KG Mrs Corena Laso
KW Mrs Leanne Napoli
1B Miss Belinda Heagney
1G Miss Courtney Crivici
1W Miss Nicole Edwards
2B Mrs Michelle Hourigan/Mrs Bianca Bojanowski
2G Miss Kristina Jurcevic
2W Mrs Julie Ingegneri
3B Mrs Karyn Lee/Mrs Uno until Mrs Macey returns
3G Mrs Marilyn Ryan
3W Mrs Maryanne Lean-Fore
4B Mrs Melinda Bullen
4G Mrs Rhiarna Thomas
4W Mrs Shane Robinson/Mrs Alexandra Buscall
5B Mrs Ilana Blazevic
5G Mrs Nicole Metwally
5W Mrs Rochelle Borg
6B Mrs Karen Orsini
6G Mrs Amanda Thorpe/Mr Peter Visser
6W Mrs Kathy Watt

Principal: Mrs Leanne Nettleton
Asst Principal: Mr Peter Visser
REC: Mrs Shane Robinson
Teacher Release & Music/Drama Mrs Elizabeth Evans & Mrs Alexandra Buscall
Sport: Mr Tony Bye
Library: Mrs Gaye Crammond
Learning Support: Mrs Pam Hord
Reading Recovery: Miss Lyn Sweetnam
Choir: Mrs Elizabeth Evans
Admin: Mrs Vicki Cassidy
Mrs Dawn Crake
Mrs Fran Murphy
Maintenance: Mr Colin Balfour
IT Mr Liam Culican

Award System at St Bernadette's

The children at St Bernadette's are recognised for their behaviour, work habits and school performance in many ways within the classroom, at various assemblies and through various award opportunities.

- Each Monday we recognise our Birthday children for that week
- In weeks 3, 5, 7 and 9 (in Term 1) children from each class will be recognised in the following categories:
 - Student of the Week
 - Social Skill
 - Merit certificates
- Behaviour leading to a Principal's Award—children then have a morning tea with Mrs Nettleton at the end of the term. A letter advises students of the date and time.
- At the end of each term two students from the entire student body are awarded the School Values Award.

Children will be acknowledged in newsletters to follow each of these awards so that our community can celebrate with the children.

2017 School Fees

Term 1 School Fee accounts will be sent home from the Catholic Education Office **Wednesday, 8th February, 2017**. Flexible Payment Plans (FPP) will again be offered in all Schools in the Parramatta Diocesan - 2017. The FPP is an alternative to our current payment terms of **30 days** and offers families choice to pay their annual fees weekly, fortnightly or monthly over either a six month period from **March to August (Standard Plan)** or nine month period **March to November (Extended Plan)**.

Fees can be made by cash, cheque, credit card, EFTPOS, BPAY or POSTBILLPAY. If you take advantage of the BPAY facility to pay your school fees, you will need your biller code and reference code which are located on the bottom right hand side of your school fee account. Please allow 2 days for all BPay and POSTBILLPAY payments to reach our account.

Should you wish to make arrangements for the payment of your 2017 school fees please contact Mrs Vicki Cassidy on 9634 2898 or email vcassidy@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Supervision

We start at 8am with the morning supervision of the students. School commences **PROMPTLY** at 8.30am.



In the afternoons, all the children are supervised on to buses, at Tuckshop, across roads, to after school care or while waiting for the Car Pick Up Service.

School finishes at **2.45pm** - your collection of children at this time is very much appreciated.

Parking in and around the school

Please adhere to the school and parish guidelines for parking within the school and parish car park

- Entry to the car park **ONLY** from Brisbane Road
- Drive with care and caution in the car park
- **DO NOT** park in the Kiss 'n Drop area
- **NEVER** double park at anytime in the school grounds
- **DO NOT** drive through the car park at the bottom of the driveway closest to Brisbane Road
- Comply with the requests of volunteer traffic monitors and teacher supervisors as they monitor the smooth running of the '**Kiss 'n Drop**' and '**Car Pick Up**' services
 - Obey parking signage
 - Be mindful and vigilant at each pedestrian crossing in the car park

When we all work together we will be able to look after the safety of our precious children.

Choir—If you are in Years 3 to 6 and are interested in joining our school choir for 2017, auditions will be held next week—Tuesday 7 February at lunchtime 1.10pm in the Music Room. Please contact Mrs Evans if you have any questions or just come along to the auditions next week.

Library—General Information

The library is an educational centre for both students and staff. It is a valuable resource where children can study as a class, group or individuals.

The Library is open Monday to Thursday from 8.30 to 2.45pm. The library is supervised at lunchtime 1.20 to 1.40pm and the children may visit Monday to Wednesday. The Library is closed at recess.

Borrowing

Borrowing limits for children vary according to the child's grade.

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Kindergarten - | 1 book at a time |
| Years 1 & 2 - | 2 books at a time |
| Year 3 & 4 - | 3 books at a time |
| Year 5 & 6 - | 4 books at a time |

Students visit the library once a week for Library lessons and borrowing but may borrow more often if they are avid readers.

They must however return books before new ones can be loaned.

Students are encouraged to choose a suitable book themselves as this develops their tastes and skills. However this does not always occur. Please contact me if you are concerned.

Borrowing is encouraged over the school holidays (excluding Christmas) for recreational reading.

A Library bag is required by the children when borrowing.

All books should be returned after 2 weeks.

Late Books

After the due date (i.e. 2 weeks after the book was borrowed) the book is overdue. Books may be renewed if students need more time to finish reading the book. Overdue notices are issued to students once per term. Long term overdue notices are issued as a message to parents.

Lost or Damaged Books

If you think a book has been lost or damaged, please contact the library.

We will:

- check the shelves to ensure that the item has not been returned. (It may not have been scanned or incorrectly scanned.)
- ask to check with your child's classroom teacher to make sure it is not in with the classroom books or reading books.
- request payment to replace the book.

Sport Uniform Days—Term 1

These are the days this term that your child/ren should wear their sports uniform:

| | |
|-------|-------------|
| Kindy | Tue |
| Yr 1 | Tue & Wed |
| Yr 2 | Tue |
| Yr 3 | Tue & Thurs |
| Yr 4 | Tue & Thurs |
| Yr 5 | Tue & Thurs |
| Yr 6 | Tue & Wed |



Anaphylaxis

At St Bernadette's this year there are a number of children who experience anaphylaxis – in particular a severe allergic reaction when they are exposed to peanuts and nut related products. If those children are exposed to these foods a severe allergic reaction can occur within 20 minutes of exposure and can rapidly become life threatening. Accidental exposure to these foods can happen at eating times and in the case of one of our students, the allergic reaction can be triggered when another person has touched or eaten these foods and then that person touches them.

As a community we can assist these children by making our school environment safe. We ask families to:

- NOT use peanut, nut and chocolate spreads when making and sending sandwiches to school.
- NEVER send nuts to school for your own child to eat
- remind children NOT to share their food with other children at school
- explain to your children the seriousness of food allergies for those children who are affected by them and that we can help to keep these children safe by the choices we make.

Should you wish to have more information about anaphylaxis this can be found at the Anaphylaxis Australia website www.allergyfacts.org.au

Thank you for your assistance with all that you do to help us provide a safe environment for all the children at St Bernadette's Primary School.

Birthday Cakes

If parents do need to send in a birthday cake for their child's birthday, teachers would prefer cup cakes.



This makes distribution in the classroom so much easier without the safety issues of bringing a knife into the class to cut the cake. Thank you.

Child Protection

A reminder for parents who are required to 'UPDATE' their child protection and for 'NEW' parents to the school.



It is a Diocesan requirement that parents who volunteer at school must complete the **two part** Child Protection Module ONLINE. This training is available online at: <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers> and **MUST** be completed every two years.

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

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/Summer Uniform Order Form.*

Term Dates 2017

Term 1:

Fri 27 Jan to Fri 7 April

Term 2 :

Mon 24 April (Staff Development & Pupil Free Day)

Tue 25 April ANZAC Day

Wed 26 April to Fri 30 June

Term 3:

Mon 17 July to Fri 22 September

Term 4:

Mon 9 October to Tuesday 19 December

St Bernadette's Playgroup

St Bernadette's Playgroup extends a warm welcome to families with children up to 5 years to attend playgroup this year.

Playgroup runs on Monday and Thursday mornings during school terms. Term 1 commences Monday 6th February. For further information please check the parish website or contact Carolyn Lincoln 0411 547 285.



St Bernadette's Soccer Club

Registrations are now open for the 2017 Soccer Season. You can register and pay online now at <http://www.myfootballclub.com.au>

You will need to create a FFA number for your child, then you can officially register for the season, and pay.

Need help or have questions?

Come and meet the committee at the Registration Day for SBFC.

Date - This Sunday, 5th February

Time - After 9am Mass (10am to 11am)

Where - St Bernadette's Church, outside the Hall

Motiv8sports—Kindergarten to Year 6

Come and join MOTIV8SPORTS every Monday after school for the Term 1 2017 Super Sports Clinic. The Motiv8sports After School Clinic is an 8 week event that will take place on school grounds every week. From the conclusion of school until 4.30pm children who are enrolled meet Coach David and the Motiv8sports coaching team on Top Court for roll call before the sports clinic commences. From the time your son/daughter commences the afternoon they are in our duty of care and experience first class supervision and discipline equal to school. Further details were sent home today with your child. Book online at www.motiv8sports.com.au

Netball: Vacancies for players born in 2010, 2011 and 2012

Our parish netball club is welcoming players born in 2010 to join the 7 Year old next year. We already have 10 children keen to play. 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>

A seven week long program for younger players (Friday NetSetGo) will run for an hour after school on Fridays, beginning 17 February. The cost is \$65 (payable by credit card online) and all participants receive a netball and a T-shirt. We have places for boys and girls born in 2010 or 2011. Email registrar Pauline Andrew at P.Andrew@mail.com or call on 0403 762 796 if you'd like to join us or you'd like to know more.

Hills Hawks Junior Rugby League

Come & Try—9 February 4.30—5.30pm and every Thursday from 5.30pm (starting Thursday 9 March) at Dural Park, Quarry Road.

Further details: hawksrugbyleague@gmail.com

Play Rugby League with the Brumbies

Does your child want to play rugby league in a safe and happy environment? The Baulkham Hills Brumbies Junior Rugby League Club includes students from St Michael's, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Bernadette's and St Angela's from Under 6s to Under 11s.

Registration fees \$130 for one child and \$190 for a family. Registration for new players: Sunday 26 February at Castlewood Oval, Castle Hill 10—12 noon. All new players will be given information to register online from this date. You will need to supply original copies of your birth and baptism certificates. Contact: Registrar: Melanie Barton 0414 712 565 or Email: brumbies.jrlfc@gmail.com

R.I.P. †† Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Perete family (Isabella 2B), following the recent passing of her grandmother. May she rest in peace.

