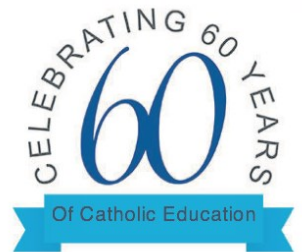




St Bernadette's School



Friday 31 March 2017

No. 9

Dear Parents,

Lent a season of Reflection and Renewal
Lent can be a good time to reflect on the people who mean the most to us, and the relationships we hold most dear. It can be alarming to realize that our time together as a family might amount to no more than a few minutes a day. Our lives are independent as we scatter in different directions each day for work, school or childcare.

This season of reflection and renewal provides an appropriate time to pray about our family lives and how we can be more thoughtful and prayerful about Lent as a family.

Perhaps we could hold a family meeting over dinner or some other relaxed time. We could discuss Lent and the symbols of the season. We might want to talk about how our faith life is not a journey we make alone, but one we are in as a community, as a family.

One Lenten family practice might include a daily act of love for our family. Can we look around and see some small thing that needs to be done to make our lives together better? Is there laundry to sort or dishes to be washed? Is there a floor that needs sweeping or a room that needs dusting? Just one effort by each of us each day can make a dramatic difference in sharing the workload in the family.

The grace we are reaching for goes beyond getting the garbage taken out, for example. We know it is a grace when our experience of taking the garbage out, feels to us like an act of love, an act of solidarity as a family. Perhaps the simplest way to prepare for this grace is to pray:

Dear Lord, may this simple, ordinary sacrifice of my time for the sake of those I love, draw us closer together as a family whose hearts you are drawing to yourself in the togetherness of our family love.

One of the real graces of Lent has to do with forgiveness and reconciliation – mercy and healing. This is never simply a matter between the individual and Jesus. It always has something to do with our families and with our relationships – how we are with each other.

This Lent, what in us needs mercy and healing?

Leanne Nettleton—Principal



R.E. NEWS



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament of Healing. Our relationship with God is healed when we receive forgiveness during Reconciliation.

The children in our Parish have been involved in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and this week they received the sacrament for the first time. We will continue to keep the children in our prayers as they begin their preparation for receiving their first Eucharist.

During Week 11 at a special Prayer assembly, on Top Court each morning the children in our school will remember the events of Holy Week through reading the scriptures and praying about the significant events of Jesus' life.

Shane Robinson—REC

Week 11 Dates

Mon 3 April
8.30am Assembly
2.45—4.30pm
Motiv8sports

Tue 4 April
Yrs 3 to 6 Rescheduled
Cross Country Carnival

Wed 5 April
Student Banking
K & Yr 1 Tennis
Incursion
Term 1 Principal's
Morning Tea

Fri 7 April
St Bernadette's Day &
Activities
9.30am Mass—all
invited
Last day of Term 1

Coming Dates:

Mon 24 April
Staff Development Day
Term 2

Wed 26 April
8.30am ANZAC
Commemorative
Service
Students & Staff return
for Term 2

NAPLAN Dates:
Tues 9 May
Wed 10 May
Thurs 11 May
Fri 12 May Catch up day

Mothers' Day
Fri 12 May
Grandparents' Day
Fri 28 July
Fathers' Day
Fri 1 September

St Bernadette's Feast Day Celebrations

Next Friday 7th April, we will be celebrating our schools' Feast Day and give thanks for Monsignor John's ministry as he prepares to take up his position in Rome. Children can wear their sports uniform on Friday as all grades will be attending DISCO's throughout the day- K-2/ Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6.

Student Representative Council News

Our SRC has been meeting this term to plan activities and make suggestions to Mrs Nettleton about school activities. The SRC will continue to meet in Term 2 at lunch times in Week 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. Watch this space for advertising about our first fundraising initiative that will take place in Term 2.

Dance Fever Challenge

Best wishes to students and staff attending the Dance Fever Challenge tonight being held at Homebush. Thank you to Mrs Karyn Lee for her coordination of the program throughout the term. Don't forget to check out the school Facebook page tonight as we post pictures of the Challenge.

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy 2017 (NAPLAN)

In May 2017, the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 9th to 11th May 2017. Friday 12th May - A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Tuesday 9th May—Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) Writing

Wednesday 10th May—Reading

Thursday 11th May—Numeracy

School Tour—Kindergarten 2018

Wednesday 3rd May 9.30am

Prospective parents are invited to come along and have a tour of our wonderful school and Kindergarten classrooms. Please register your interest by emailing us on: Bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au.



If our families know of any neighbours or friends that would like to send their child to Kindergarten next year please advise them of this date/time and ask them to register their interest or call the office on 9634 2898.

Student Attendance - Week 9 Term 1

Our attendance is certainly improving. We are currently at

90.3%



Remember that those children who have 100% attendance for Term 1 will be receiving an award from their class teacher on Friday.

ANZAC Commemorative Service

As there is every year, there will be a special ANZAC Commemorative Service on April 9th. Our school leaders usually attend this and anyone else is welcome to attend. School leaders will be visible by the school blazer if you are looking for other students or parents from St Bernadette's.

ANZAC Service 25th April

School leaders will attend the Dawn Service at the War Memorial, Centenary of ANZAC Reserve, Wrights Road, Castle Hill. Free return shuttle buses run from Castle Hill Showground or Rouse Hill Shopping Centre from 4:15am should you wish to use this service. Parking around Wrights Road is restricted and traffic flow is often congested and slow.

ANZAC Service at St Bernadette's School

On Wednesday 26th April (8.30am) at our morning assembly we will be holding our own ANZAC Day Commemorative Service. Parents are welcome to attend.

International Competition & Assessments for Schools (ICAS) 2017

Each year, students can participate in the ICAS competitions. These take place before the start of the school day and a timetable is made available to parents whose children participate.

Participation in these competitions is voluntary and there is a cost involved.

Dates for the competitions our students may participate in are:

Writing: Tuesday 13th June

English: Tuesday 1st August

Mathematics: Tuesday 15th August

For more information, please visit <https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about>

Primary Cross Country

We are going to try again to hold our Primary Cross Country Carnival. All parents of children in Years 3 -6 will have received a new Cross Country note with return permission slip. Please note that weather permitting the Cross Country will be held on Tuesday April 4th at Alfred Whaling Reserve, Roxborough Park, Baulkham Hills.



All children will attend school at 8:30am to participate in our Holy Week Liturgy and then will be transported by bus to the park. As this is a rescheduled carnival held at an alternate venue we will not be having the usual picnic lunch as part of the day. All children will return to school by bus at 1:15pm for the remainder of the school day.

Thank you to all those parents who have offered again to assist on the day.

Quality Catholic Schools Survey

Thank you to all of the teachers, students and parents who have completed the survey. Thank you all again for your feedback on how we operate as a school.



Premier's Reading Challenge

This week's reading champions are:

Kindy: Julia Foong

Yr 1: Nada Ishak, Mia Lee, Sofia Papandrea

Yr 2: Lucas Ranieri

Yr 3: Samantha Badenhorst, Antonia Wadih

Yr 4: Olivia Boxshall, Charlotte Lee, Genevieve Sing, Tayah Vickers

Yr 5: Jarratt Allan, Elias Semaan

Yr 6: Nadine Ishak, Priscilla Leib and Rebecca O'Brien



Easter Eggs at School

Please be reminded that we have a large number of students at St Bernadette's who are severely allergic to nuts, eggs and/or dairy etc. Parents are asked to support us by ensuring that Lollies/Chocolates/Easter eggs are not brought to school by the children, either for themselves or to share with others. Thank you for your continued cooperation in making St Bernadette's a safe environment for all our children.

Canteen Reminder

Parents please be aware that children must purchase morning tea items over the counter at recess time. At St Bernadette's we do not offer the online munch monitor ordering system. Your child needs to line up at the canteen for canteen items. Thank you for your cooperation.

Staff Leave

Teachers have entitlements such as long service leave, maternity leave, sick leave, bereavement leave, jury duty etc. This means that there may be times when your child's teacher is absent from the classroom. On these days the teacher's program and day book is followed. At St Bernadette's the teachers on a grade work closely together and this allows grade partners to liaise with relief teachers so that excellent teaching and learning continues and routines are kept when the class teacher is away. Thank you for your support in this matter.

School Fees

Please be aware that a term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing **MUST** be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term and where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit will be calculated. Where a term's notice has not be given to the Principal a term school fees **will be** charged for your child/children.

Celebrating Talents

Congratulations to the following girls who won their Netball Grand Final recently for the U11 summer competition:

Darcey Sullivan, Rebecca O'Brien, Sienna Vines, Sofia Giallonardo, Michelle Zeaiter and Summer O'Bryan.

Exhibition—Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience 15-27 April 2017

International Convention Centre, Sydney

Free tickets are now available to Australia's largest and most complex travelling exhibition, the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience.

The Award Winning, interactive exhibition displays over 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial, which tell the story of our nation's involvement in the First World War. Visit: www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/book-tickets **Free Children's Activities!**

As the Sydney Experience falls predominately during the Easter school holidays, we will also be hosting some fun and educational activities, in conjunction with the Australian War Memorial, from **Monday 17 to Friday 21 April 2017**. Various sessions will take place throughout these dates. Whether you are a vacation care group or family, you will be able to tour the exhibition, participate in craft sessions, explore artefacts and learn more about service men and women from the First World War.

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 Monday 18 December