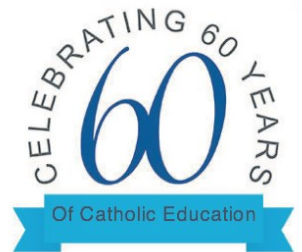




St Bernadette's School



Friday 24th November 2017

No. 37

Dear Parents,

Throughout this year all of our students have been participating in meditation and mindfulness – two practices that enable individuals to celebrate silence through finding inner peace and taking opportunities for reflection. In a modern world that values activity, achievements and results it is perhaps surprising that more and more people are turning to meditation and mindfulness.

While there are many different kinds of meditation, ultimately they all share the common goal of quietening the mind and stopping your thoughts. Christian meditation has a strong element of 'relationship' and 'union with God' as its ultimate goal. In religion the teachers use a resource called Exploring the Scriptures to take children through reflecting on 'I wonder....' questions.

There is plenty of research that tells of the benefits of meditation and mindfulness to everyday life. These include :

- Happiness
- Inner peace
- Improved health
- Simplicity
- Living in the present
- Improved relationships with others
- Discovery of self

I include below a simple repetitive meditation that I can commend to you at this time of the year:

I
 I want
 I want to
 I want to be
 I want to be more!
 I want to be more than
 I want to be more than I am
 I want to be more than I am today!

Leanne Nettleton—Principal

R.E. NEWS



Mini Vinnie Social Justice Initiatives

This is a reminder for children to bring in gold coins on Wednesday 29th November. The coin collection will provide many benefits for struggling families.



We are also collecting non-perishable food and/or a small gift for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers. Any donations can be sent to your child's class and they will be collected on Friday 1st December for packaging.



Thanksgiving Mass—Invitation

We would like to invite all of the St Bernadette's community who have helped us during the year to our Thanksgiving Mass on Tuesday 5th December at 9am in the Church, followed by morning tea afterwards in the library. It will also be a chance to farewell Mr Visser.



Shane Robinson—REC

Week 8 Dates

Mon 27 November
8.30am Assembly
K, Yr 1 & 2 Swim Program ALL WEEK

Tue 28 November
8-10am Uniform Shop
1.10pm Choir

Wed 29 November
Student Banking
Waste Free Lunch Day
ST3 NRL Gala Day
Gold Coin Day & Christmas Mufti

Fri 1 December
1.40pm Whole School Assembly—Parents Welcome

Coming Dates:

Tues 5 December
9am Thanksgiving Mass & Farewell to Mr Visser

Thurs 7 December
6pm Christmas on the Grass Celebration

Tue 12 December
9am Primary Awards
11am Infants Awards
All parents invited!

Thurs 14 December
7pm Yr 6 Graduation Mass

Fri 15 December
Yr 6 Activities Day
Last day for students



Student Council War on Waste initiative – Waste Free Wednesdays
Don't forget – EVERY Wednesday pack a waste free lunch.

Staffing News

Many of you would know that prior to coming to St Bernadette's Miss Heagney spent two years teaching in the Wadeye community in the Northern Territory at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Thamarrurr. This was a wonderful and life changing experience for Miss Heagney and she has shared so many of her experiences with the staff and students of St Bernadette's and her colleagues across the diocese. Last year we were able to send off to Wadeye a wonderful collection of Christmas gifts for the children of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and we all feel connected to the school and community because of Miss Heagney's story sharing. I am able to now share with you on Miss Heagney's behalf that she has decided that she still has more to contribute to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and will be returning to Wadeye in 2018. I know that you will all agree that Miss Heagney has so many talents and gifts to share and along with the staff, will wish her the very best and keep her in your prayers in the work that she will be doing.

WE WILL MISS YOU



Other staff changes for 2018:

Miss Crivici will be joining the staff of the newest primary school in our diocese St Luke's at Marsden Park, Miss Edwards has accepted a position at St Michael's, Blacktown and Miss Doherty a position at St Michael's, Baulkham Hills. We wish each of these teachers continued success in their teaching careers and thank them for their contribution to St Bernadette's during the time that they have spent teaching here.

Church Air conditioner Works have been completed

Thank you to all families for your patience and cooperation during the recent church works. Entry and exits to the school via the gate at the Kiss n' Drop Zone have been reestablished as has the access to the tuckshop terrace. Parents can recommence meeting their children on the tuckshop terrace in the afternoon.

2018 Kindergarten Transition Programme

Congratulations to our 2018 Kindergarten children and their parents on the completion of a very successful transition programme. The children attended 3 transition sessions in the Kindergarten classrooms and the parents have attended 5 transition meetings focused on Fine Motor Skills development, Orienting Parents and Children to Kindergarten, Reading and Writing Development, How Can we help our Children develop skills in Maths and a General School Information session.

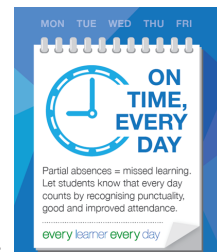


Kindergarten 2018 continued

As you can see St Bernadette's highly values the transition programme and commits significant resources to working in partnership with our new families. Congratulations to the current Kindergarten teachers and Miss Fitzalan and Mrs Hord for their organisation and commitment to the early years of learning. We look forward to welcoming our newest members of St Bernadette's in 2018.

Attendance

Target Achieved! **90.6%**
 Well done – we achieved our target this week. Now let's see if we can double up and repeat it this coming week! Kindergarten, Years 3, 4 & 5 achieved well over the 90%. Years 1, 2 and 6 have remained steadily below the target compared with previous weeks.



Social Skills Weeks 7 & 8: Showing Strength through Gentleness (Relationship Skills)

Our school motto is 'Strength through Gentleness' and it is this motto that is the basis of the relationships that we endeavour to build with those in our school. Our school values of respect, honesty, tolerance, forgiveness, care and compassion align with our motto and gospel beliefs. We define 'strength' as the state of being strong; muscular power, mental power, moral power and power by reason of influence.

'Gentleness' is defined as the value and quality of one's character.

It is timely that we consider our school motto and the implication its meaning has on our social interactions, as we engage in our last term for the school year. The development of our friendships and enriching our caring school environment allow us to display our school motto of being strong in our beliefs and gentle in our ways, as we interact with each other at school and at home.

'There is nothing so strong as gentleness; nothing so gentle as real strength.' Anon

Mrs Kathy Watt

'Christmas on the Grass'

Please join us for the St Bernadette's Christmas Concert on **Thursday 7th December**, commencing at 6pm. Bring either a picnic blanket or low chair to watch the children who will perform on the grass area. Each grade will perform a part of the Christmas Story through song and action. The P & F will be providing a free Sausage Sizzle and will have soft drinks on sale for \$2 and water for \$1. An invitation to this wonderful celebration was sent to all parents yesterday.



Swimming Carnival 2017

St Bernadette's 2017 Swimming Carnival was an enormous success yesterday. As always, this is due to our dedicated staff, our generous parents - who always give up their time to assist, our amazing Gilroy students who support our carnival days, as well as our House Captains and student leaders who assisted in and around the pool.

Congratulations to all the students from Years 2 to 6 who competed in our carnival. It was wonderful to see so many of you in the pool participating in your events. There were many highlights on the day - our Year 2's in their first ever swimming carnival; our Year 6's in their last school carnival; many participants who swam in their first ever 25m or 50m race; amazing outfits and chants which demonstrated our team spirit.

We finished the day on a high with a Parent/House Relay. Our fastest male and female swimmers from each house, as well as a parent team competed in a 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay.

Final placings were

1. Parents
2. Green
3. Red
4. Blue
5. Gold

Our swimming carnival is a wonderful celebration of participation in swimming at St Bernadette's. It also serves as a pathway for our competitive swimmers who strive to progress to the Hills Zone Swimming Carnival in 2018. The top 2 places overall in each event will be selected to represent St Bernadette's at the Hills Zone Carnival.

We had two records broken on the day: (presented at Monday's Assembly):

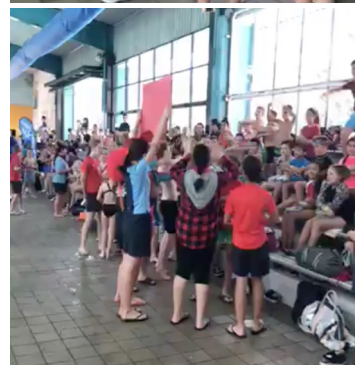
Chloe Gething - 11 Years Girls 50m Backstroke - 38.68
Tayla Milicevic - Senior Girls 50m Backstroke - 36.27

Our Age Champions on the day: (Trophies to be presented at Monday Assembly)

	Age Champion	Runner Up
U7/8 Boys	Anthony Gomez	Douglas Windress
U7/8 Girls	Mekenna Vickers	Ysabella Jaucian
U9 Boys	Liam Worne	Charlie Akle
U9 Girls	Eva Bailey	Bridget Clemente
U10 Boys	Jarratt Allan	Zachary Miller
U10 Girls	Tayah Vickers	Amy Hammersley
U11 Boys	Jardyn Orsini	Blake Noonan
U11 girls	Chloe Gething	Annalise Besters
U12 Boys	Sebastian Akle	Taylor Egan
U12 Girls	Tayla Milicevic	Flynn Batty

Overall House Points:

Green 657 Blue 641 Gold 567 Red 559



Kindy 2017 Parents

Advance Notice—P&F Welcome BBQ for Kindy 2018 and new families to the school in 2018

Friday 9th February—5.30pm onwards

Please mark this date in your diaries as we will require helpers on the night. A note was sent to parents yesterday.

Change of School for 2018

To estimate enrolments for 2018, 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.

A reminder to families 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 the 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 been given to the principal, the term's school fees will be charged for your child/children.

Year 3 Movie Night—Ferdinand

Wednesday 13 December—5pm

\$11 each—email already sent to parents with payment options and details. Anna Jaucian—0414 309 929

Anna.jaucian@idx.com.au

Year 3 Grade Parent

Expression of Interest

Uniform Shop Coordinator

The school is calling for Expressions of Interest for the Uniform Shop Coordinator. The position will be responsible for managing, ordering and selling the school uniform to the St Bernadette's families and reporting to the Parents & Friends Association and school principal.

For further information, please contact the school office to obtain a description of the various duties associated with the role.

Banking News 2017/2018 **HELP NEEDED**

We are looking for a new team to run school banking. School banking doesn't take long to do and it is beneficial to our school as it is a great fundraiser. The day is flexible and can be changed to a day that suits you. If you are interested in continuing our school banking at St Bernadette's, please contact the School Office. Your support would be very much appreciated

PLEASE NOTE: The last day of banking for this year will be Week 8 Wednesday 29 November. Thank you for supporting the program. **School Banking co-ordinators**

Term Dates 2017

Term 4:

Mon 9 October to Friday 15 December (for students)

Mon 6 November—Staff Spirituality /Pupil Free Day

Fri 15 December—Last day for students

Mon 18 December—Staff Development & Pupil Free Day

Term 1 2018

Mon 29 Jan

Staff Dev Day / Pupil Free Day / *MAI Day

Tue 30 Jan

*MAI Day / Pupil Free Day

Wed 31 Jan

Yrs 1 to 6 commence at 8.30am

Thurs 1 Feb

Kindergarten 2018 commence at 8.30am

*Mathematics Assessment Interviews

