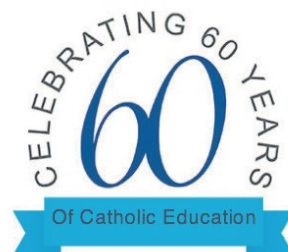




St Bernadette's School



Friday 8 December 2017

No. 39

Dear Parents,

Wait on the lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord" Psalm 27:14

Waiting is hard work. During this period leading up to Christmas, it is likely that we will come across many people who do not wait well. We will probably be in line with them when we wait at the checkout buying our groceries, in the department stores waiting for our turn to receive help from the shop assistance, or online trying to book tickets or make purchases. What will we do? Will we join the grumbling and complaining about long lines, slow cashiers, slow internet speed or insufficient staffing?

To wait well is to become aware of the extraordinary in the ordinary – to notice things we have seen hundreds of times as if they are our first viewing. We look at people around us until we see God in their faces. We stop; we slow down long enough to realize that we are not waiting for presents, but for His Presence. We wait well when peace replaces impatience, calm overcomes anxiety, and kindness tempers tempers. This Christmas whether shopping in stores or online, let's remember to wait well.

Here's a thought:- While you are waiting in line or online during the next weeks, consider praying for people who are waiting on you.

*Dear Heavenly Father,
thank You for giving me the best gift of all:
salvation through your Son Jesus Christ.
May this precious gift always be a reminder
to me that you are an on time God and that
You are worth waiting for and trusting. May
my heart be filled with anticipation and joy
as I rest in the truth that You know what is
best for me and also when it is best for me.
Lord, thank You for loving me and giving
me good gifts. I love You. In Jesus Christ's
name I pray, Amen.*

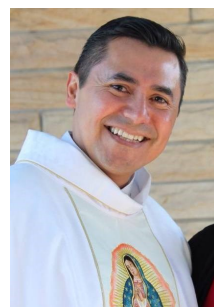
Leanne Nettleton—Principal

Parish News:



Hello everybody,

Before we finish the school year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy joyful Christmas. Enjoy the time with your family and spend some time thinking about the gift of God in his Son Jesus. I hope to see you all next year at the **Opening of the School Year Mass on Sunday 4th February at 9am** when, together with the Parish community, we will ask from God every grace and blessing for the school year ahead.



Have a great Christmas and a happy New Year.

Peace in Jesus

Fr Fernando Montano
Parish Priest



Week 10 Dates

Mon 11 December
8.30am Assembly & School Values Awards

Tue 12 December
8-10am Uniform Shop
9am Primary Award Ceremony
11am Infants Award Ceremony
All parents invited!
1.10pm Choir

Wed 13 December
Waste Free Lunch Day
10am Principal's Morning Tea
12-1pm Meet the Teacher
1.10pm SRC Meeting

Thurs 14 December
7pm Yr 6 Graduation—Church

Fri 15 December
Yr 6 Activities Day
Last Day for Students

Mon 18 Dec
Staff Development & Pupil Free Day

Term 1 2018
Mon 29 Jan
Staff Dev Day / Pupil Free Day / MAIs (pm)

Tue 30 Jan
MAI Day / Pupil Free Day

Wed 31 Jan
Yrs 1 to 6 commence

Thurs 1st February
Kindergarten 2018 commence

Sunday 4th February
9am Opening School Mass—All invited!

Christmas Concert

Congratulations to all the girls and boys and their teachers for a wonderful Christmas Concert. The grass area came alive with music and song as our children told the story of the first Christmas. Thank you to Mrs Buscall for her coordination of the event, Liam Culican and Steve Lavis for the fabulous audio system, Holy Cross Glenwood for again allowing us to use their staging, the P & F for the delicious sausage sizzle and all our families for joining in the Christmas spirit.



Christmas Wishes

As there are a number of children at St Bernadette's who have severe allergies we kindly ask that you do not send in any edible treats for the children to give to each other. This includes gingerbread, chocolates, candy canes, marshmallows or any other lolly, biscuit or cake. We ask this so that we can ensure that our school community remains safe for all of our children.



Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

PS: Children are welcome to carry out the Christmas spirit by sending and receiving Christmas cards with lovely messages of joy and thanks.

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

Class Groupings and Meet the teacher

On Wednesday 13th December the children will meet their 2018 teacher and class group. This year, in addition to the usual processes for organisation of class groups, we have made some rearrangement of class groups for students progressing from Year 1 into Year 2 and from Year 5 into Year 6. As always teachers take into consideration a number of factors when determining the composition of classes, including social and learning needs.

Awards Ceremony 13th Dec 2017—Church Primary: 9am Infants: 11am

As we draw to the end of another school year, the children look back on how they have progressed in their learning and participation at school. For some children there will be huge growth and significant changes – our Kindergarten parents will attest to this. Their growth or change may not be so obvious to others however it will none the less be substantial and significant.



As a Catholic School in the 21st Century when we are assisting our children to reflect on their achievements, it is important that we recognise the full breadth of what those achievements may be – academic, spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual, musical, athletic, creative, higher order and lateral thinking and the list can go on. If we want our children to have a passion for life long learning we need to create a community in which children are encouraged and recognised for the unique learning styles that they possess.

In an endeavour to give feedback to all our students at St Bernadette's about their learning, at each of the Award Ceremonies, the teachers will be recognising every student for their achievement/effort/learning/progress across the year. This will be a powerful source of recognition and feedback for all of our students.

Remember the following as you prepare for the new school year

All students are expected to wear the St Bernadette's uniform with pride throughout the school year. This includes wearing the correct hat, socks and shoes. This helps to keep students focused on their learning whilst also keeping a consistent atmosphere across the school. Please note the following uniform expectations from Kindergarten to Year 6: Socks are fold over ankle socks. Shoes are black leather lace ups/velcro. Joggers must be predominantly white, with white laces not coloured shoe laces. No slip on 'Raben' type shoes nor coloured joggers, runners or basketball boots. Thank you for ensuring that your child upholds the uniform code.



Student Attendance

Congratulations! **90.8%**

Well done everyone! Now – only one week to go – can we do it again?

We do great things together – much more than we can achieve individually – and the more of us there are – the better the result!

Mathematical Assessment Interviews 2018

Mon January 29th (pm), Tues January 30th (all day)

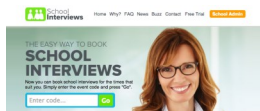
At the commencement of the 2018 school year, we will conduct the Mathematical Assessment Interview [MAI] with all students. Information from these interviews assists teachers to be aware of the students' mathematical understanding and allows teachers to tailor teaching programs to more effectively meet the needs of the students.

The MAI involves a 1:1 teacher/student interview of approximately 30 minutes.

It is essential to book in for these interviews and every student attending St Bernadette's will be interviewed.



We use the **School Interviews** system to create these bookings online. The site is <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au> and looks like this when it opens:



From December 13, families will begin to receive a code [via email] to enter the site allowing them access to create an interview time with their child's class teacher. Enter the code [lower case letters and numbers]. Priority is initially given to those families with 3 or more children attending the school to allow for their interviews to be conducted at the same time. A day or two later, all other families are issued with the code.

It is in fairness to all families and the children that when issued with the code you do not share it with others.

We realise that not every child will be able to be interviewed by their class teacher in the given time frame. There are extra teachers available to interview the children - so if you are unable to book a time with your child's teacher, **please select a teacher from the list who is not interviewing in an actual classroom.** Please contact Mr Peter Visser for any other issues relating to your child's interview.

There will be limited opportunities to interview students once school recommences on Wednesday for Years 1 to 6 and Thursday for Kindergarten.

Mr Visser

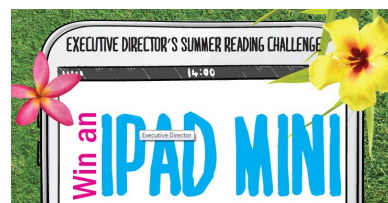
Change of School for 2018

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.

Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

These summer holidays, I am once again launching my Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read! Students can read anything they like



to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and provided students with more chances of winning a prize.

Click on the following link to find more details:

<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge>

HOW TO ENTER

It's simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. The more material a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis.

[Click here to view the site and enter](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge)

<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge>

Entries open on 4 December 2017 and close at 5pm on 5 February 2018.

St Bernadette's Summer Reading Competition

Not only is there the Parramatta Diocese competition but St Bernadette's Summer Reading Challenge is about to begin too. Details about our own special competition will be sent home in Week 10. Don't forget to keep reading over the summer break so that you have a flying start into 2018.



Thank You

*This will be my last opportunity to publicly express my thanks to everyone for the wonderful years I have been privileged to be Assistant Principal at St Bernadette's. Over the years it has been my joy to work with and truly **be with** this fantastic community – the children, the teachers and teacher's aides, Office staff, parents, leaders and the Parish community. I also want to thank my wife Mandy and all my family for the support, encouragement and patience over the years.*

I find it extraordinarily difficult to express just how much my time here has meant to me, and the profound effect and influence St Bernadette's has had on me these past 17 years. But I am so very grateful and privileged for everything that I have experienced and of which I've been a part.

The tributes, letters and cards of thanks, Facebook comments, and farewells expressed over the past few weeks in particular, have made me realise the effect I have had on the community; and I am truly humbled that you allowed me a place in your lives and learning.

I know that every student will try their hardest to truly and honestly live out our school motto and its values.

*As the years ahead roll on, I have a request / challenge: that every student at or coming to St Bernadette's practises my **CAPWELL** 'Be' attitudes:*

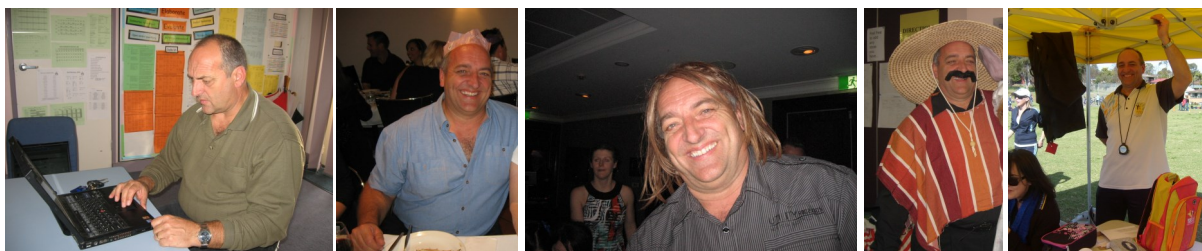
***BE** the person who:*

*Chooses with no regrets and practises wellness,
Appreciates everyone and does what they love,
Plays with abandon and laughs often,
Walks to the edge and takes risks in their schoolwork,
Engages a Growth Mindset and never stops learning,
Listens harder than they speak and is patient with others, and
Lives their life with intention and passion.*

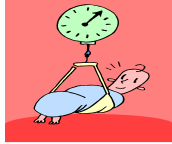
St Bernadette's, and all it represents, will always have a special place in my heart. A place I will return to again and again many times in the years ahead.

Thank you and God bless,

Mr Visser



Our congratulations to the Cowper family on the birth of a baby boy, Jed, brother to Matilda in KB & Charlotte in 3B. Our best wishes to the family.



R.I.P. †† Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Windress family (Patrick 3W & Douglas 2G), following the recent passing of their grandfather. May he rest in peace.



R.I.P. †† Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Randall family (Jackson 1G), following the recent passing of his grandmother. May she rest in peace.

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. Hours are approximately 6 hours per week. Currently this position is shared across two people.

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

Play Netball in 2018

Our parish netball club is open to boys aged 12 and under and women and girls of all ages. Our teams play in the Baulkham Hills Shire Netball Association. Games are held at Wellgate Avenue, Kellyville. Junior teams aged from 7 to 9 years old play modified games on Friday evenings. 10 to 15 years olds play on Saturday mornings and matches for older players are on Saturday afternoons.

Our club trains at Coolong Reserve, Castle Hill on Wednesday afternoons.

The 2018 season starts in Term 2, but we are taking online registrations from 31 January until 16 February 2018 – right at the beginning of the new school year. There will be information afternoons on 9 and 10 February. Check the school newsletters in weeks 1 and 2 next year for information on how to register your child (or yourself!). In addition, our littlest players (Kindergarten and Year 1) learn to play netball in an eight week long NetSetGo program at the school netball court.

We'll be commencing the 2018 NetSetGo program in Week 3 of Term 1 (on a weekday still to be determined). The sessions run from 3pm to 4pm. More information will be in the school newsletters early next year. The cost of the program is \$65, which includes all insurances and a NetSetGo T-shirt and netball. Further details will be posted on our website: <http://sbnc.nsw.netball.com.au/> and on our Facebook page before registrations open. Email the registrar, Pauline Andrew at stbncregistrar@hotmail.com, or call her on 0403 762 796 if you'd like to join us or you'd like to know more.

NBC Badminton Academy is organising a FREE Kids Badminton event for Primary School children this summer holiday. This is a great opportunity to promote a healthy and fun activity.
When: Sat 20 January 2018 2—4pm NBC Silverwater
And Sun 21 January 2—4pm NBC Seven Hills RSVP by 14 January 2018 coach@nbcbadminton.com.au

