



# St Bernadette's School

Friday 21 February 2020 — Term 1 Week 4 No. 04

Dear Parents,

A reminder that this Monday, 24th February is a Pupil Free Day. That means no children are to come to school and alternative arrangements for their care are to be made. The teachers will be engaged with deep learning all day and we welcome members of the Catholic Education Office Parramatta as well as the system's overseas Academic Partner, Mr Michael McDowell who are joining us. The focus of our work will be about educational challenge- how do we strengthen the intensity of our teaching and learning to ensure high academic achievement and success. We thank Mr McDowell for being part of our professional learning and I know he will love to hear all about the current and past successes of the students of St Bernadette's Castle Hill.

I was delighted to confer the badges on our 2020 School Leaders at today's beginning of year Mass. Congratulations once again to Leah Symin, Anthony Gomez, Charlotte Cowper, Antonio Zeaiter, Antonio Wadih, Danielle Khoudair, Ashton Pulvirenti, Eva Bailey, Deangelo Chedid, Georgina Kassis, Andrew Zalloua and Ella Lagana. Congratulations also to the other Year 6 students and members of the SRC for taking on positions of responsibility this year. The Year 6 students are a credit to their families and their teachers as they consistently set high standards of behaviour and learning for others to follow. True leadership is when you allow others to rise and this is certainly a theme that consistently runs through the Year 6 space and our school.

Welcome back to Mrs Dawn Crake. Mrs Crake has been overseas since the holidays and I am sure she is excited to see your smiling faces. Special thanks to Mrs Vicki Cassidy and Mrs Kelly Debrincat for ensuring the Office continued to run smoothly and for doing lots of 'extras' in the past few weeks.

As you know, this Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. The children will be attending Mass or a Liturgy (Kinder) to mark this very important day in the Church's year.

Here are some words of wisdom to reflect upon in your own prayer time:

*"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us.*

*What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor – He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."*

*-Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

May God bless you and your family.

**Mrs Bianca Cooke-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.

**Wednesday, 26th February** 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.

When we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday we show Jesus the choice we have made. Ash Wednesday signals our choice to turn away from sin. We turn over our lives to Jesus and we try to become more like Jesus.

Lent is a season of penance. During Lent we admit that we have turned away from Jesus. We admit that from time to time we have been selfish and unkind. We are sorry that we have sinned. We want to make up for our sins so that we can grow closer to Jesus.

During Lent we show that we are sorry and that we want to be better by doing three things. We pray, we fast and we do kind deeds for other people. Doing kind deeds is called almsgiving.

On Ash Wednesday, Years 1 to 6 will attend either the 9:15am Parish Mass or 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'.

Kindergarten will have a short prayer service in the hall and then receive their ashes.

**Shane Robinson – Religion Coordinator**

### Week 5 Dates

**Waste Free Recess & Lunch**

**Mon 24 February**  
**Pupil Free Day—no school for students**

**Tue 25 February**  
Shrove Tuesday  
8-10am Uniform Shop  
Pancake Day  
Dance Fever

**Wed 26 February**  
Ash Wednesday  
Student Banking Day

**Fri 28 February**  
7.45am band & music tuition

### Term 1 Assembly Dates

Week 4 - Fri 21 Feb

Week 6 - Fri 6 Mar

Week 8 - Fri 20 Mar

Week 10 - Fri 3 Apr

Time: 2pm

**Address:** 357 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill NSW 2154 **Phone:** 9407 6600 **Fax:** 9407 6699

**Address:** 357 Old Northern Road CASTLE HILL NSW 2154 **Phone:** 02 9407 6600

**Email:** [Bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au) **Website:** <http://www.stbernadetteschill.catholic.edu.au>

**School Calendar:** <http://www.stbernadetteschill.catholic.edu.au/en/Community/Events>

## Student Council War on Waste initiative – Waste Free EVERY DAY

### From the Assistant Principal

It was a beautiful Leadership Mass celebrated today with our students. Congratulations to all leaders and a special welcome to our Semester 1 SRC members. I will be meeting with SRC members in Week 6.

Looking ahead, in Week 8 our generous staff will be making 10 minute timeslots available to meet with students and families to discuss student goals. Bookings will be made via the school interviews website. Codes, opening and closing dates will be made available shortly.

Please refer to the additional information page of our newsletter- **Fact Sheet for Parents and Caregivers** - Explanation of Absences as published by CEDP.

**Charmain Floody**  
*Assistant Principal*

**Reminder: Monday 24 February** is a Pupil Free Day and Staff Development Day. There will be no school for students on this day.

### Bushfire Appeal

**Thank you** to all the St. Bernadette's families for your generous donations to the School's Gold and Fold Day for the bushfire victims. We raised an amazing \$1,443 for the Bushfire Appeal.



### Morning Tea and Lunch

A friendly reminder: parents please ensure to supply enough for your child for morning tea and lunch as the office is unable to hand out food to our students.

## Sports News

### Swimming

Last week we had 32 students representing St Bernadette's at the Zone Swimming Carnival. They all did such an amazing job and we were so proud of the way they conducted



themselves and how they swam.

A special congratulations to Rafael Clemente who was the 2020 Hills Junior boys runner up. The following students represented the Hills Zone at the Diocesan Carnival at Blacktown Yesterday:



Nicholas Ward - 8yr 50m Freestyle  
Rafael Clemente - 10yr 50m Freestyle, Jnr 50m Backstroke & Jnr 50m Breastroke  
Sebastian Vilorio - Jnr 50m Breastroke  
Ryan Suwandy - Snr 50m Backstroke

Savanna Jaucian - 10yr 50m Freestyle & Jnr 4x50m girls relay  
Charlotte Ward - 10yr 50m Freestyle, Jnr 50m Butterfly, Jnr 4x50m girls relay

Olivia Kirkham - Snr 50m Backstroke & Snr 4x50m girls relay  
Zara Osborn - Jnr 4x50m girls relay  
Amelia Lavis - Jnr 4x50m girls relay  
Charlotte Cowper - Snr 4x50m girls relay

Ysabella Jaucian - Snr 4x50m girls relay  
Rachel Sahabu - Snr 4x50m girls relay  
Congratulations!



**Ilana Blazevic**

*Physical Education Teacher & Sports Coordinator*





## P&F Meeting

**Wednesday March 4, 7:30pm**

The St Bernadette's P&F is a group of parents, ex-parents, staff and other volunteers who come from diverse backgrounds to support the learning and growth of the students in our school. Parents can contribute in many ways depending on what talents, time and resources you have available. One of the most generous contributions you can make is to offer your time and point of view at one of our P&F meetings. We meet once each term in the school library and welcome you all to join us. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday March 4 at 7:30pm in the School Library.**



**COME JOIN US**  
**P&F Meeting**  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 7:30 PM  
SCHOOL LIBRARY

- Reports on P&F and school activities
- Meet other parents
- Contribute to our school community



**SAVE THE DATE**

Friday 20th March

Welcome BBQ & Movie Night

More info to follow...

## Child Protection—Online

A reminder to parents that it is a diocesan requirement that you must have completed the Child Protection Module ONLINE if you would like to volunteer at school. The link for the child protection module is available below or from our website (right hand side). Please note there are **two** steps to complete the online course. <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers> All parents must have completed the above prior to helping in the classroom, on excursions, sport days, in the uniform shop or any other help around the school. An email confirmation of both steps is then sent directly to the school to confirm your child protection is completed and valid for two years. Thank you for your cooperation.



## Catherine McAuley Westmead—Open Evening

Enrolling for Year 7 2021

Open Evening: Wednesday 4 March 2020 4pm—7pm

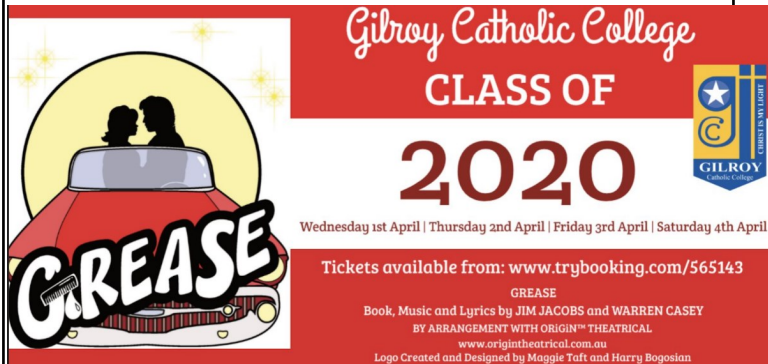
Applications close 27th March 2020

## Mount St Benedict College—Open Day

Sunday 1 March, 10am –2pm

Bookings online [www.msb.nsw.edu.au](http://www.msb.nsw.edu.au)

449C Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills



*Gilroy Catholic College*  
**CLASS OF**  
**2020**

Wednesday 1st April | Thursday 2nd April | Friday 3rd April | Saturday 4th April

Tickets available from: [www.trybooking.com/565143](http://www.trybooking.com/565143)

GREASE  
Book, Music and Lyrics by JIM JACOBS and WARREN CASEY  
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL  
[www.origintheatrical.com.au](http://www.origintheatrical.com.au)  
Logo Created and Designed by Maggie Taft and Harry Bogosian



**HILLS FOOTBALL**

**GIRLS WELCOME TO FOOTBALL PROGRAM**

**FREE 4 WEEK PROGRAM**  
Teaching the basics of Football to new players!

14, 21 & 28 FEBRUARY | 6 MARCH  
5:45PM | BELLA VISTA PUBLIC SCHOOL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [WWW.HILLSFOOTBALL.COM.AU](http://WWW.HILLSFOOTBALL.COM.AU)

## Term 1 2020

**Mon 24 Feb—Staff Development & Pupil Free Day**

**Thurs 9 April—Last Day Term 1**

## Term 2:

Mon 27 April to Fri 3 July

## Term 3:

Mon 20 July to Fri 25 September

## Term 4:

Mon 12 October to Fri 18 December

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## Fact Sheet for Parents and Caregivers - Explanation of Absences

CEDP promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify their school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within **7 days** from the first day of any period of absence.

Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. Email: the school at [bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au)
2. Telephone: the school office 02 9407 6600
3. Note sent with your child

Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on the student's record. The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received within the 7 day timeframe.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

### Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfil this legal responsibility.

The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for schools. Parents need to know if their child isn't at school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in school.

### What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within 7 days
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details so that you can receive attendance information about your child

every learner every day 