

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

MARCH 2020 Newsletter



Principal's Message - Mrs Joanne Webster

IMPORTANT DATES

2nd –6th March
Meet n Greet

Thursday 5th March

Yr 1 & 2 Wellness Incurtion & Learning Helpers Workshop
9am or 2.45pm

Friday 6th March

Prep Melbourne Market Incurtion

Monday 9th March

LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Wednesday 11th March

Bushfire Fundraiser—Gold Coin Donation &
Yr 3 & 4 Science Immersion

Friday 13th March

7.30pm Family Movie Night

Monday 16th March

Prep, Yr 1 & 2 Semper Dental Visit
Yr 3 & 4 Science Incurtion
Yr 5 & 6 Suzie Lavole

Tuesday 17th March

4pm Learning Environments Exhibit
Mass for Catholic Education Week

Thursday 19th March

Prep, Yr 5 & 6 Policeman Visit

Friday 20th March

Final Yr 3 & 4 swimming
National Day Against Bullying & Violence
2pm PIP Meeting

Wednesday 25th—27th March

Yr 5 & 6 Camp ADANAC

Friday 27th END OF TERM

School Finishes 1pm

As we enter the month of March and season of Lent, we celebrate and give thanks for the great start we have had to the 2020 school year. The Preps are now here every day; exploring and discovering the many aspects of school life... learning time, play time, time for eating, time for listening and speaking, and most importantly time spent learning to make new friends. We thank their families, teachers and the whole school community for making them feel welcome.

Today marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday signifies the beginning of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. The 'wilderness' in Jerusalem is the desert—an open, barren land with little or no water. Here Jesus was exposed to the elements—oppressive heat in the day, cold in the night, wind, dust and thunderstorms. You may well ask what is the significance of this for us today?

Last year, as part of my pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we spent time in the 'wilderness'. What struck me during this time were two things; the sense of wonder and awe at the magnificence of God's creation mingled with the sense of harshness within this magnificent creation. It supported me to draw an analogy with the life of Jesus, God made human, to our own lives. Jesus was exposed to the beauty and harshness of the 'wilderness', not dissimilar to our own journey in life. At times we are struck by the sheer beauty of life, and all it offers to us and yet there are times of sadness, grieving, loss...the harsh reality of life.

The significance of the Jesus' time for us in the wilderness, demonstrates the strength of God's love for us. Jesus prayed to God. God walked with Jesus and at times carried him in the palm of his hands. God's great love for us is reimagined in this story. God walks with us and at times carries us in the palm of his hand during our joys as well as our times of adversity. The Holy Spirit present to Jesus at this time through the gifts of fortitude and piety are examples that during lent, a time of prayer, almsgiving and fasting we too may spend devoted time with God in prayer, supporting us to hear his voice, to do his will and to live the gospels.



Student Leadership is an important component of school life at St Bernadette's School. It gives the students the opportunity to represent their peers giving them a strong voice in the life of the school community. We have many forms of leadership here: School Captains, School Vice Captains, House Captains and House Vice Captains, the Student Representative Council and the Social Justice Group. Over the last couple of weeks, the students from Years 1 to 6, have engaged in a mini inquiry into "What is a good leader?"

Today at Assembly the following students were presented with their leadership badges and so, it is with great pleasure that I announce the **2020 Student Leadership Group**:

School Captains: Tracey Luu Andrew Bik School Vice Captains: Tram Do Simon Lung Baw

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|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Mamo House Captain: | Ayden Le | Mamo House Vice Captain: | Jovan Tran |
| McKay House Captain: | Terrence Han | McKay House Vice Captain: | Daryl Van |
| Mahoney House Captain: | Max Hart | Mahoney House Vice Captain: | Danny Tran |
| Mackillop House Captain: | Georgia Pastras | Mackillop House Vice Captain: | Kira Thai |

SRC

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|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Jolie Filikotzias 6H | Ryan Bui 6R | Amelia Pham 5K | Jayden Grevnik 5C | Tha Tha Hlawn Ceu 4P |
| Zianni Kuljis 4S | Christopher Tran 3S | Andy Hau 3E | Martin Dvorak 2C | Sienna Duong 2P |
| Emma Fratic 1H | Nashe Cedric Chirenje 1T | | | |

The Social Justice Group has been established since 2013. This Group leads our school community to work together to highlight the importance of the "Principles of Social Justice" within the school and in the worldwide context. The Principles of Social Justice are: Dignity of the Human Person, The Common Good, Subsidiarity and Participation, Solidarity, Preferential Option for the Poor and Stewardship of Creation. Students in the Social Justice Group lead, create, participate and encourage the school community to participate in actions which help demonstrate these principles. These may include taking part in the Bahay Tuluyan Social Justice Conference or organising a fundraiser for the St Vincent de Paul Society or the Missions. Members of the Social Justice Group are expected to be good role models for their peers and our school community, as they work towards helping to build a future that promotes justice for all.

Student News

Social Justice News—Bushfire Fundraiser

We will be having a fundraiser for the Bushfire Appeal on the 11th of March. As mentioned in the note that went home, as a Catholic school, it is part of our mission to try and uphold the dignity of all people and those affected by the bushfires are no exception. The fundraiser will be Zooper Doopers for a gold coin donation. The money raised will be donated to the St Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal. We thank you in advance for your generosity.



ICT News

On the 12th of February, the Year 4 and 5s had the iPad Deployment information night. We were fortunate to have Phill Cristofaro, a Digital Specialist from Apple come and speak to our students and parents about how we use iPads at St Bernadette's. Phill is a regular guest at our school who works with teachers and students to support them in using the iPad as a tool to enhance creativity, student voice and learning.

Phill returned to our school on the 20th February and presented a Cyber Safety session with students from Years 3 - 6. It was a valuable experience, as they learnt about the essentials of what it means to be safe and responsible when using any form of digital technology. It was all about online safety, privacy and communication. Students found this to be a practical and useful session and walked away with some effective strategies about what it means to be safe and responsible online.

District Swimming Carnival

On Friday, 14th of February, eight of our students from Year 5 and 6 represented our school at the Footscray District Swimming Carnival. This was held at Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre. Our swimming squad comprised of Terrence Han, Tracey Luu, Cole Mercieca, Georgia Pastras, Natalie Stumpo, Kira Thai, Jarrett Tieu and Anthony Xuereb. The students competed against representatives from Corpus Christi Primary School, Footscray Primary School, Footscray North Primary School, Footscray West Primary School and St. John's Primary School. Georgia and Jarrett have qualified to compete at the Maribyrnong Divisional Championships. This will be held at St. Alban's Leisure Centre on Tuesday, 17th March. Georgia will compete in the 50M Backstroke having won her event, while Jarrett will compete in the 50M Freestyle and the 50M Breastroke having finished runner up in both events.

There were many other success on the day including, second and third place for Cole in the 25M Breastroke and 50M Butterfly, second place for Jarrett in the 50M Butterfly and third place for our Boys 4X50M Freestyle Relay. The Swimming Carnival was a huge success and we are really proud of all of our swimming squad and their individual and team achievements. Thank you to all of our families for their continual support. It was fantastic to be able to welcome some of our families on the day who were able to come along and cheer on the squad.

Literacy News—Reading at Home with your Children

Research has shown that parents can make a difference in their child's reading journey. Reading at home together regularly, sets a foundation for the child's reading success and has many proven benefits for children, such as:

- An improvement in their reading ability and self-esteem.
- More time spent reading.
- Building relationships with their parents and family through shared stories.

Students at St. Bernadette's are expected to read at home each school day and document this reading. Parents can support their children when reading at home in a variety of ways.

Tips for Reading at Home

- Establish a routine and read aloud with your children regularly. If English is your second language, read in your home language. The fact that you are reading with your child is what matters.
- Allow the reader to hold the book
- Find a comfortable spot at home where reading will be enjoyable.
- After reading, encourage discussion about what you have read together with questions such as: What do you think will happen next? Why do you think that character behaved like that? What has been your favourite part?



Student News Cont.

Strategies Parents Should Know

Echo Reading

The parent reads a sentence or paragraph and the child repeats it back. This allows the parent to model good reading and the child to 'echo' them.

Shared Reading

During shared reading, the parent and child take turns reading parts of the book. This allows the child to feel more confident in their reading because they have a parent to support them as a partner.

Paired Reading

Paired reading is simply reading together at the same pace and in the same place. It is an effective support for readers who ignore punctuation, read in a monotone, and/or extremely quickly or slowly. The child holds the book, turns the pages and enjoys the time together.

Mathematics News

The students have been working on units on 'place value'. Place value is a concept that develops over time and it involves students being able to read and understand the value of numbers (i.e. knowing that a '5' in the number 65 768 has the value of 5 000), understanding our 'base 10' number system (that our number system is based on grouping quantities in tens and the relationship between the columns) and the 'relative size' of numbers (i.e. how big a number is compared to other numbers). Good place value knowledge underpins the 'Number' domain of Mathematics and is therefore a crucial concept to develop in children. You can help to support the development of this concept at home by doing activities like the one listed below:

Wipe out

- Play in pairs using one calculator between two (or individually)
- One person nominates a 3 (or 4 or 5) digit number, e.g. 345. The aim is to 'wipe out' one digit at a time and replace it with a zero using subtraction. Play continues until only a zero remains.
- For example, a player could wipe out the 4 by subtracting 40.
- This game helps students to know the value of the numbers in each position.

You can add an extra challenge to this game by also allowing addition to wipe out the number, e.g. with 456, to wipe out the 5, you could *add 50 or subtract 50*.

You can view a video demonstration of how to play (given by Dr Paul Swan) here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6qRHFgc1Ic>. In this video, there is also a variation to the game called 'Wipeout Multiplicative Thinking' that can be beneficial for older students, or used as a challenge.



Term 1 Incursions

This term many exciting learning experiences have been planned ...

Prep: How can we stay safe and healthy at school?

We are learning how to be healthy and we welcome Melbourne Markets. They are coming to St Bernadette's on Friday 6th March to share many fruits and vegetables with us. We will need some parents to help in cutting up food before this incursion. We are also learning to keep our teeth and gums healthy with Semper Dental on Monday 16th March. Miss Browne will also visit us and teach us how to wash our hands properly. We are learning to be safe by visiting Fred the crossing supervisor and he will help teach us how to safely cross the road. Policeman Trung Luu will also visit and tell us that the policeman can help keep us safe.

Yrs 1 & 2: How can I be happy and healthy?

An exciting 'Wellness Day' has been planned for Thursday 5th March. We will engage in wellness activities into keeping their mind and body healthy. One of the sessions is a yoga session by Namaste Yoga. As researchers, we will need to reflect and explore the impact of these activities on our well-being.

Yrs 3 & 4: 'What happens when...'

The Yr 3/4 level is inquiring into the provoking question 'What happens when...'. This is a curious question that makes us wonder and think creatively. On Wednesday 11th March, a science immersion session is planned exploring the concepts of cause and effect. We will respond to a Call to Action about solids, liquid and gases, and will use the iPad and our Keynote skills to document our learning.

Yrs 5 & 6: What does it mean to be a good citizen?

This inquiry question explores the concepts of identity, diversity and citizenship. We have been busy preparing our St Bernadette's leadership speeches. We have also been learning about rights and responsibilities and we will explore some case studies of examples of active citizenship. We will welcome back scientist Susie Lavoie on Monday 16th March to share her December 2019 study tour as a female scientist and her leadership role in travelling to Antarctica. Policeman and Army volunteer Trung Luu, will visit and share how he is an active citizen who makes contributions to the community.

Student News Cont.

Social Emotional Learning - Prep Play

As a way to help our prep students transition into school life, we run Prep Play in the school yard each day in Term 1 at recess time. Prep Play is set up and run by the Year 5 and 6 students. There are special games in the under-croft area of the yard, just for Prep students to play in and get to know others.



Student Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Over the last few weeks, the Prep to Year 2 students will and have been taking part in Literacy and Numeracy testing. This testing gives teachers current and relevant information to plan and implement learning and teaching strategies to improve student learning at the point of need. Years 3 to 6 have also undertaken testing to situate learning and teaching for students.

Parent News

A few years ago, St Bernadette's became a member of Parenting Ideas, an online resource developed by one of Australia's leading parenting educators, Michael Grose. Michael is the author of many parenting books and regularly appears in the media throughout Australia. He has featured on such programs as The Project, The Today Show and ABC radio. With our membership, we will have access to a range of articles that are written for parents on critical topics such as resilience, wellbeing, cyber-safety and developing children into the best they can be. Over the course of nearly twenty years, Parenting Ideas has become one of Australia's most trusted sources of parenting education and support.

This year, you will find a monthly article pinned to your child's FlexiBuzz page. If you're interested in expanding your skills and confidence in effective parenting or hearing from child development experts, you can read up on the latest insights by looking out for each article on FlexiBuzz! We look forward to learning alongside you to best support our children and students in all aspects of their lives.

Parents in Partnership (PiP):

The PiP team had their first meeting last week and we are excited about the year ahead. It was great to hear how well the students have settled in and the new school year has started so well. In recent years we have fundraised within our school, and out in the community, and we are excited this money will be used to purchase a beautiful Statue of St. Bernadette. She will be housed in a beautiful garden setting right by the front entrance to the office. She is currently being made and we look forward to her arrival later in the year. In the meantime, we are planning family nights - with the first one to be Movie night in a couple of weeks. Our next meeting is scheduled for 2pm on March 20th. All parents are welcome to attend.

Parish News

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross, which follow the path of Christ from Pontius Pilate's praetorium to Christ's tomb, have been a popular devotion in our parish for many years. Come and join us as we pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent. This takes place in the Church after the 9.15am mass and each week a different Stations of the Cross is prayed. Consider making this your Prayer practice for Lent this year, as you aim to develop a stronger relationship with God, yourself and others. We hope to see you there for our first Stations of the Cross this Lent on the 28th of February.

Be Opened

A journey to new life Be Opened – a journey to new life is a 6 week program which helps to break open the Gospels throughout the weeks of Lent. We all have moments or times in our lives when we experience an inner closing of our heart, our eyes and our minds to God. Jesus came to liberate God's people from their darkness, from their fears, from ignorance and from hatred. This group program will be run each Thursday evening for six weeks beginning on the 27th February The focus of each session will be the following Sunday's Gospel reading. The group will be facilitated by Amanda Browne and will take place in the Parish Presbytery at 7pm. Come along to these sessions as this Easter and Lent we are called to be open to the fullness of life in God. To be opened... • to be led by the Spirit • to listen • to the living water • to see A journey to new life • to believe • to death • to new life We look forward to seeing you there.



MARCH Calendar - 2020

ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|--|---|--|---|--|-----------|--|
| 2nd March Meet 'n' Greet Experience Music | 3rd March Meet 'n' Greet 3.00pm Tuesday Tea Time | 4th March Meet 'n' Greet 2.30pm Assembly Yr 5C Hosting | 5th March Meet 'n' Greet Yr 1 & 2 Wellness Incursion Learning Helpers Workshop 9am & 2.45pm Experience Music | 6th March Meet 'n' Greet Prep Melbourne Market Incursion Swimming Yr 3 & 4 | 7th March | 8th March |
| 9th LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY | 10th 3.00pm Tuesday Tea Time | 11th Bushfire Fundraiser - Zooper Doooper Gold Coin Donation Yr 3 & 4 Science Immersion 2.30pm Assembly 4S Hosting | 12th Experience Music | 13th Swimming Yr 3 & 4 7.30pm Family Movie Night | 14th | 15th |
| 16th Catholic Education Week: The Future is Listening Yr 3 & 4 Hands on Science Incursion Yr 5 & 6 Suzie Laviole Guest Speaker Prep, Yr 1 & 2 Semester Dental Incursion Experience Music | 17th St Patrick's Day Maribymong Division Swimming Carnival Mass for Catholic Education Week 3.00pm Tuesday Tea Time 4.00pm Learning Environments Exhibition | 18th 2.30pm Assembly 4P Hosting | 19th Yr Prep, 5 & 6 Policeman—Trung Luu Guest Speaker Experience Music | 20th 10.30am National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence Final Swimming Yr 3 & 4 2.00pm Parents in Partnership Meeting | 21st | 22nd |
| 23rd Experience Music | 24th 3.00pm Tuesday Tea Time | 25th Yr 5 & 6 Camp Adanac 2.30pm Assembly 3E Hosting | 26th Yr 5 & 6 Camp Adanac Experience Music | 27th Yr 5 & 6 Camp Adanac and returning 1.15pm END OF TERM School Finishes 1.00pm | 28th | 29th |
| 30th | 31st | 1st April | 2nd April | 3rd April | 4th April | 5th April Term 2 Begins Tuesday 14th April 8.45am |