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St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

MARCH 2018 Newsletter



Principal's Message - Mrs Joanne Webster

IMPORTANT DATES

- School Closure**
Monday 5th March
- Public Holiday**
Monday 12th March
- Yr 2, 3 & 4 Swimming**
Friday 9th February—23rd March
- Family Movie Night**
Friday 2nd March
- Principal's Book Club**
Thursday 8th March at 3.00pm
- School Photo Day**
Tuesday 20th March
- Family Eucharist Night**
Tuesday 20th March 7pm
- Last Day of Term**
Thursday 29th March Finish
1.00pm
- Term 2 Starts**
Monday 16th April 8.45am
- St Bernadette's Feast Day**
Monday 16th April
- Yr 4 Eucharist Retreat Day**
Yr 4 Reconciliation
Thursday 19th April

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 2018 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.

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?"

When speaking to the students in Year 5 and 6 about what the school is looking for in a leader, we discussed 3 elements of leadership. Firstly, "leading by example", living our school values and the gospels in our words, actions and interactions with each other. Secondly, leadership was about "service", ensuring the best interests of the school community were served as the leader and thirdly, we discussed it as about "going first" at times, and by that we meant, having the courage to be the first to stand up for what is right and to lead the way.

And so, it is with great pleasure that I announce the 2018 Student Leadership Group:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| School Captains: | Joseph Vo & Erica Nguyen | School Vice Captains: | Evan Mac & Lily Nguyen |
| Mamo House Captain: | Jonathan Tieu | Mamo House Vice Captain: | Ethan Tran |
| McKay House Captain: | Catherine Duong | McKay House Vice Captain: | Gia Han Le Do |
| Mahoney House Captain: | Queenie Tran | Mahoney House Vice Captain: | Kenny Tran |
| Mackillop House Captain: | Elizabeth Cassar | Mackillop House Vice Captain: | Daniella Vella |

The School Representative Council Leaders for 2018 are:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6E: Gia Lee Le Do | 6C: Raymond Van | 5K: Sage Moreira | 5H: Eden Nguyen |
| 4M: Jarrett Tieu | 4S: Mitchell Mikunda | 3G: Luka Nunokawa-Dong | 3O: Ruby Nguyen and Thuy Duong Ngo |
| 2S: Ethan Duong | 2P: Ruby Nguyen | 1G: Aimee Moreira | 1G: Darren Mai |

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 as they work towards helping to build a future that promotes justice for all.



Principal's Message Cont.

Social Justice Group Leaders for 2018 are:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Angelle Nguyen 5k | Tommie Tran 5K | Nicki Phan 5K | Alexandra Nguyen 5K | Tavishi Tavishi 5K |
| Madelyn Nguyen 5K | Vincent Hosny 5K | Jereh Hlawn Ceu 5K | Lucas Yang 5K | Sienna Manarifi 5H |
| Henry Le 6E | Anthony Le 6E | Ngun Cha Chai 5H | Benedetta Muccini 6C | Lily Huynh 5H |
| Anthony Luu 6C | | | | |

We congratulate them all and thank them for their expressions of interest, as well as the significant role they will play in leading the school to identify and participate in actions of justice for our community and beyond.

Prayer

As we enter the period of Lent on the Liturgical Calendar, Christians all over the world begin to celebrate this very special time. On Ash Wednesday, many Catholics received the ashes, which are traced on their foreheads to remind them that they are disciples of Jesus and that this six-week season of Lent is a time to give special attention to prayer, fasting and good deeds.

And so we pray...

Gracious and loving God,
As we begin our Lenten season
may we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.
May we see with his eyes those who are rejected and abandoned,
and act with love and acceptance.
May we hear with his ears the cries of those who are in pain and sorrow,
and listen with compassion and understanding.
May we love with his heart those who are different and challenging
and show to them the face of Christ. Amen.



Staff News

Miss Federica Falco will begin Maternity leave at the end of term 1. We wish her all the best. We welcome two new Learning Assistants to our school community, Ms Jo Hennessy and Ms Cherie Saad.

School News

Prep Enrolments 2019

Enrolments for Preps 2019 are now open. Enrolment applications are available from the School Office. A non-refundable \$50 Enrolment Fee is payable with each new family's application. Parents are also asked to provide copies of: Baptismal Certificate, Birth Certificate and Certificate of Immunisation Status for Primary School Enrolment. Interviews and school tours will be conducted with the children and parents, from late April to early June. If you have any queries please call our school office on 93118872.

Meet n Greet

This week we have "Meet n Greet". This is a time for parents or carers to meet and greet their child's teacher. It is an opportunity for families to share the knowledge they have of their own child with the school. This conversation supports the teacher and school to have a better understanding of your child, hence enabling the school to better situate the learning or personalise the learning for your child.



Swimming

The swimming program has begun in earnest. The Year 2, 3 & 4 students have participated each Friday since week 2. The swimming program, builds student confidence and skills to swim in and around water. It was pleasing to visit the students on Friday and watch the development of swimming skills, increased water confidence and fitness, as well as the joy associated with this activity. This year the teacher to student ratio has been increased, allowing students learning and participation to be improved and to give students the opportunity to experience all depths of water in the pool. This is a compulsory program at St Bernadette's School, and is now being highly recommended by the Department of Education, to combat the huge increase in child drownings.

Whole School Masses and Class Masses

In the School Calendar and in the Level Newsletters all families will be made aware of the dates for Whole School Masses and Class Masses. All families are invited to attend these with the students.

School News Cont.

Payment of School Fees and Levies and Family Contact Details Sheet

Family statements will be sent home shortly with the Family Contact Details Sheet. If you would please check the Family Details Sheet, make any amendments necessary, sign and return to the office as soon as possible so we can have the most up to date details on file for your children.

1:1 Mobile Device: Deployment

Last week the Year 5 students and their parents participated in an Information Session led by Bernadette Hitch: ICT Leader, explaining the use of the iPad as a learning tool in Year 5. Parents and students attended the meeting to listen to and share how this tool would be used to enhance the learning and teaching. At St Bernadette's School, the Year 5 & 6 students have a school owned iPad, which is used at school and home for learning and teaching. In the Year 3 & 4 learning spaces the ratio of iPads is 1:1, 1 iPad for every child. Here the iPads are used to redefine and recreate the learning at school. The Prep to Year 2 spaces, have a combination of iPads and MacBooks to support the learning.



District Swimming Carnival



On Friday, 16th of February, students from Years 4, 5 and 6 represented our school at the Footscray District Swimming Carnival. This was held at Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre. Our swimming squad included Erica Nguyen, Elysha Trieu, Minh Chau Vo, Patrick Luu, Jonathan Tieu, Angelle Nguyen, Eden Nguyen, Lily Nguyen, Sage Moreira, Sabastian Packer, Robert Nguyen, Jarrett Tieu, Andreas Segovia, Aaron Lieng and Kristo Akoch. The students competed against other students from Footscray Primary School, Footscray North Primary School, Footscray West Primary School and St. John's Primary School. Erica, Elysha, Minh Chau, Jonathan and Jarrett have qualified to compete in the Regional Swimming Carnival at St. Albans Leisure Centre on the 20th of March.

The Swimming Carnival was a huge success and we are really proud of all of our swimming squad. 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 their child.

St B's Got Talent

St B's Got Talent is an opportunity for students to showcase their talents in the Performing Arts whether it be singing, dancing, or playing an instrument. Throughout this year all students will have this opportunity.

This term the students in Year 5 and 6 will lead this fun filled event and have the opportunity to submit an item for audition. Our newly appointed SRC will host this event and all students will be invited to attend. All families are also invited to auditions and finals on the following dates and times:

| Years | Dates | Time | Event | Venue |
|--------------|---|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Year 5 and 6 | Friday 2 nd March 2018 | | Submission of performance or acts | Box in the Office Area |
| | Tuesday 13 th March Wednesday 14 th March Thursday 15 th March | 11:15-12:00 | Audition | Stage Area |
| | Wednesday 21 st March | 11:15-12:00 | Final | Stage Area |

We look forward to seeing you there.

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

Parenting Ideas

Last year, St Bernadette's became a member of **Parenting Ideas**, a 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 including The Project, The Today Show and ABC radio. With our membership, we will receive monthly articles and resources that are written for parents on critical topics such as resilience, cyber-safety and developing children into the best they can be.

You will find this month's article in our current whole school newsletter. It is titled "Working closely with your child's teacher this year". The article discusses the importance of strong parent-teacher relationships and how these relationships contribute to student success. Michael discusses five elements that can guide parents in forming strong bonds with their child's teachers this year!

We look forward to learning alongside you to best support our students in all aspects of their lives.

Parents In Partnership

The first of the PIP meetings occurred earlier in February and there were quite a few parents in attendance. A big thank you to all who came along. We covered a lot of ground - setting goals, discussing ideas and information sharing around ways we can connect together as a school community. We will continue build on these ideas during the year.

Our next meeting will be on **Friday the 16th of March at 2:15pm**. An invitation is extended to all parents and carers to attend and be part of this team. We hope to see you there!

The agenda so far is:

1. 2018 PIP meeting dates;
2. Principals report - an update on several aspects of school activities;
3. Information sharing topic: Navigating the new-look website. There is loads of information on the website, come and learn how to find it;
4. Movie Night wrap up;
5. Upcoming events.



Parish News

Volunteers needed!

Parishioners have been asking about the reintroduction of the get together and cup of tea and coffee once a month after the Saturday 6.30pm Mass. We are seeking people who are willing to volunteer to do the setting up and running of this. If you are interested in supporting our Parish with this, add your name and contact details to the list in the foyer. Thank you

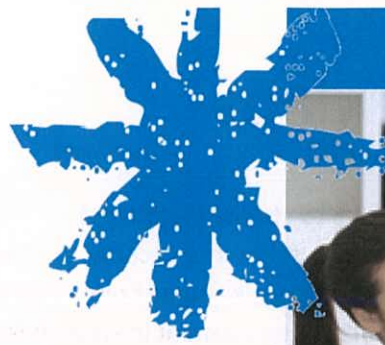
Come along for an evening of faith, fun and friendship. Thank you for all those who attended our Movie Night last Friday. The movie "Fireproof" proved to be one that touched the hearts of all those who viewed it.

The next session will be on Friday March the 16th at 7pm in Spinelli House. The DVD is called 'Do You Believe?'

It tells the story of a dozen different souls - all moving in different directions, all longing for something more. As their lives unexpectedly intersect, they each are about to discover there is power in the Cross of Christ....even if they don't yet believe it. When a local pastor is shaken to the core by the visible faith of an old street corner preacher, he is reminded that true belief always requires action. His response ignites a faith-fuelled journey that powerfully impacts everyone it touches in ways that only God could orchestrate.

More than a movie, it's a question we all must in our lifetime: DO YOU BELIEVE?

insights



Working closely with your child's teacher this year

by Michael Grose

In my work as a presenter and educator I've visited hundreds of schools, spoken with hundreds of school leaders and worked with many educational innovators and researchers at the forefront of modern education. These people and experiences have given me valuable insights into what makes great schools tick.

Strong parent–teacher relationships are one of the hallmarks of all great schools. They're a major contributor to student success. The research into schooling across the Western world reveals that positive parent–teacher partnerships are a more significant factor in student success than parent income levels or social status.

However, parent–teacher relationships require effort and energy from both parties if they are going to really benefit children and young people.

Here are five elements to guide you as a parent in forming strong bonds with your child's teachers this year:

1. Knowing (building affinity)

Know – the first element – requires you to be both proactive and patient. *Proactive because you need to be willing to meet and work at maintaining relationships. Patient because it may take some time to build a working relationship.* For your partnership to be meaningful and successful you need to meet with your children's teacher(s) with the goal of forming a respectful professional relationship. Share your aspirations for your child and be willing to build the teacher's knowledge about your family.



Get to know your child's teachers' aspirations and gain an understanding of their approach and the focus they have for this particular year group.

Also commit to continuing to know what's going on in the life of your child's classrooms as well as the life of the school on an ongoing basis.

2. Supporting (building trust)

Children need to know that you are fully behind what their teachers are trying to achieve if they are going to commit fully to learning. The best way to support your child's teacher is to trust their knowledge, professionalism and experience. Avoid the temptation to question the expertise of teachers in front of students, particularly when the teachers use methods that you are unfamiliar with. Initiate conversations with teachers around methodology to give them the chance to explain the approach they are taking.

3. Participating (building links to student learning)

Participation – the third element – takes into account the level of parent engagement in student learning. There's a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent engagement in student learning and their educational success. If you want your child to improve his learning, take an interest in what he is doing. Follow school and teacher guidelines about helping at home and attend as many conferences, meetings and events involving your child as possible. This simple strategy has a significant, long-term impact.



4. Communicating (building relationships)

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids of any age. Family circumstances change. Friends move away. Illness happens. Mental health challenges can hit anyone at any time. These changes affect learning. Keep teachers up to date with significant changes or difficulties that your child or young person experiences so they can accommodate your child's emotional and learning needs at school.

5. Advocating (building loyalty)

Advocacy – the last element – means that you talk teachers and your school up rather than tear them down among children and the wider community. Teachers hold very public positions and generally work hard to build good reputations both within their school and their wider education community. Consider a teacher's reputation among the community and also with children when you discuss educational matters with others.

Building parent-teacher relationships doesn't just happen. They take good will from both sides, a commitment to setting aside the time necessary to support the home-based learning tasks that are expected, and a willingness to communicate both concerns and commendations through the correct channels.

Parent-teacher relationships – long may they prosper!



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.

March Calendar - 2018

ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|---|---|---|--|---|------------------|---|
| 26th Week 5 Preps 8.45—3.30 8.55 Assembly 4M Hosting All Welcome 2.35 Whole School Meditation | 27th Preps 8.45—3.30 3.00 Tuesday Tea Time | 28th Preps 8.45-3.00 3.00pm School finishes | 1st MAR Preps 8.45—3.30 Yr 1 & 2 Hands on Science Incursion | 2nd MAR Preps 8.45—3.30 Yr 2, 3 & 4 Swimming Yr 1 & 2 Hands on Science Incursion Family Movie Night 6pm | 3rd MAR | 4th MAR |
| 5th - Week 6 SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING | 6th Alpha Dental 10.45 Yr 6 Aged Care Visit 3.00 Tuesday Tea Time | 7th Alpha Dental 2.30 Whole School Meditation 3.00pm School finishes | 8th Alpha Dental 3pm Principal's Bookclub | 9th Alpha Dental 9.15 Yr 6 Class Mass | 10th | 11th |
| 12th - Week 7 Catholic Education Week NO SCHOOL PUBLIC HOLIDAY | 13th Catholic Education Week St B's Got Talent Audition 10.45 Yr 6 Aged Care Visit Yr 1 & 2 Melbourne Markets Incursion 3.00 Tuesday Tea Time | 14th Catholic Education Week St B's Got Talent Audition 2.30 Whole School Meditation 3.00pm School finishes | 15th Catholic Education Week St B's Got Talent Audition | 16th Catholic Education Week Social Justice Group Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral 9.15 Yr 5 Class Mass Prep Incursion Policeman Visit Yr 2, 3 & 4 Swimming | 17th | 18th |
| 19th - Week 8 Alpha Dental 8.55 Assembly 30 Hosting All Welcome 11.20 Meditation Mondays "Values For Life"—Whole School Incursion | 20th SCHOOL PHOTO DAY 10.45 Yr 6 Aged Care Visit 3.00 Tuesday Tea Time Yr 4 Eucharist Family Night 7pm | 21st St B's Got Talent Final 2.30 Whole School Meditation 3.00pm School finishes | 22nd | 23rd 9.15am Yr 4 Class Mass Yr 2, 3 & 4 Swimming | 24th | 25th |
| 26th - Week 9 Yr 5 & 6 Camp Adanac 8.55 Assembly 25 Hosting All Welcome 11.20 Meditation Mondays | 27th Yr 5 & 6 Camp Adanac 10.45 Yr 6 Aged Care Visit 3.00 Tuesday Tea Time | 28th Yr 5 & 6 Camp Adanac 2.30 Whole School Meditation 3.00pm School finishes | 29th 10am Holy Thursday Liturgy END OF TERM SCHOOL FINISHES AT 1.00PM | 30th GOOD FRIDAY | 31st HOLIDAYS | 1st APRIL EASTER Term 2 Begins Monday 1 6th April at 8.45am |

