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St Bernadette's School Newsletter - Week 4

A Prayer as we begin Lent - Project Compassion

God of all peoples and nations,
As you accompany us on our Lenten journey,
May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity,
Our almsgiving be an act of justice,
and Our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.
Through living simply and loving generously,
May we care for our global family and our common home,
as we "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." *
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.
*Saint Oscar Romero

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are, as a school and local community, once again affected by this global pandemic. This short lockdown will hopefully act as a circuit breaker to the spread of the virus. Our thoughts go out to any families that have been adversely affected by this short lockdown. Please contact the school if we can support you in any way. I know many of our Asian families had big celebrations planned on the weekend for New Year, but had to cancel these.

The news of the lockdown came late on Friday, however, the staff responded quickly and were able to get the children organised with some work (except for Prep). If the lockdown extends beyond this week, then we will resume remote learning, similar to what was in place in Term 3 last year. I will endeavour to keep all families up-to-date with any changes and information. Please make sure you are checking SeeSaw and emails. We had had such a wonderful start to the school year, with the children settling into their classrooms and routines. Teachers have begun initial assessments of children so as to enable targeted teaching, and lots of planning has been done for the term ahead - excursions booked, camps organised, masses planned. Hopefully it will be back to business as normal as soon as it is safe.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday which also marks the beginning of Lent. It is a significant time in the church's year, and one which calls us to look at our own lives and seek ways to improve. During Lent, we have been traditionally asked to 'give up' something. This Lent, in keeping with the theme of Project Compassion, we are encouraging all in our community to BE MORE - be more kind, be more prayerful, be more forgiving, be more giving. Continuing the work of Jesus and St Bernadette should be something positive and joyful, so I hope you are able to join with us in doing the same.

During Lent, we also have the opportunity to support the work of Project Compassion.

MEET AND GREET

The teachers are looking forward to meeting parents/carers and students via whereby.com with every family next week. A letter about this important event went out last week with all the information about how to book the online time. These meetings are a great opportunity to get to know our children and their families, so that we can partner with you as parents/carers and engage you in your child's learning.

PROJECT COMPASSION

This week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion.

Saint Oscar Romero is our inspiration for Project Compassion 2021, so in his words let's "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

The first Parents in Partnership meeting was to be held this week on Friday, but we have decided to cancel this meeting and hold the first meeting on FRIDAY 19TH MARCH.

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

- During Term 1, we can have some very hot weather. As we are a Sunsmart school it is compulsory that your child has a school hat to wear or they will have to sit in the shade.
- A reminder that the first bell rings at 8:45am.
- The school gates open in the morning at 8:30am and will now close at 8:45am. Entry after this time is through the front office door.
- School finishes at 3:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and at 3:00pm on a Wednesday. The gates will open 5-10 minutes before this time.
- At the end of the day, children move to the playground when the music is going. Children cannot go home until the bell rings at 3:30pm.
- For the safety of all parents, carers and children, please do not gather on the deck outside the Evodia Resource Centre at the end of the day. This will allow the children to come out into the playground.
- School Assembly is on a Wednesday at 2:30pm. Due to COVID restrictions, we are still unable to have parents/carers at assembly, however, they will be available online. Zoom links to follow.
- Camp Australia runs a before and after school program for students from 6:30am-8:30am in the mornings and 3:45pm-6:00pm in the afternoons. Students at school before 8:30am or after 3:45pm are required to attend this program.
- If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the office via phone 9311 8872 or email your child's teacher by 9:15am.
- If you have a valid Health Care Card, please complete the attached form. For more information or assistance with this contact the office staff.

EXPERIENCE MUSIC

Once again, Experience Music are offering their program to the students at St Bernadette's. For more information and how to enrol, please visit www.experiencemusic.com.au/enrolment or see the included flier.

A reminder that all dates appear on the school website www.stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au

Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this newsletter.

Take care and stay safe,

Brendan

Principal