



## On Our Lenten Journey

Gracious God, as we continue our Lenten journey,  
help us to be people of hope.

***God, you are with us.***

Help us to be people of love.

***God, you are with us.***

Help us to be people of compassion.

***God, you are with us.***

Help us to be people of justice.

***God, you are with us.***

Help us to be people of courage.

***God, you are with us.***

**"ASPIRE NOT TO HAVE MORE, BUT TO BE MORE!"**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Autumn as we continue to journey through Lent. Our summer was very short lived, but hopefully we will be able to enjoy some warm days through this season as we once again enjoy some great freedoms as part of our COVID normal.

Thank you to all those who booked a **Meet and Greet** interview online and attended the virtual meet with your child's class teacher. From all reports, the meetings were a great success, and gave both teachers and parents/carers a chance to share information that will contribute to staff planning targeted learning opportunities for your child/children. I encourage you to keep in contact with your child's teacher via email or SeeSaw.

On Friday 19th February we celebrated '**Ash Friday**'. It was a beautiful and prayerful celebration of Lent and of our commitment to 'BE MORE' during this Lenten season. Fr John reminded us that Lent is a time to grow closer to our God, by doing 3 things - praying, giving and doing things for others.

Thank you to all the parents in Grade 3 - 6 who attended the **CYBERSAFETY** sessions. These meetings were well attended, and I hope those who attended were able to gain some valuable information from these information sessions. The internet and technology are great tools for living and learning and we want to encourage children to use them responsibly and respectfully.

Please pray for the children in Grade 3 and 4 who are preparing to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. This week the children will join with their classmates and families to reflect on the meaning of the sacrament and to explore some of the symbols and rituals.

This Wednesday at assembly we will be announcing our **Student Leaders**. This is a very special occasion for the school, children and families. Thank you to the teachers for guiding the students through this process.

Parking around the school is always an issue at every school, however, our focus is always on keeping our children and community safe. We are very lucky at St Bernadette's that we have lots of areas for parking around the school. Therefore, **parents are not to double park at any time**. I often see parents doing this after school at the pick-up bays on Westmoreland Rd. This is very dangerous. If it continues, I will have no choice but to seek support from the Brimbank Council and these cars may receive a warning or even a fine. PLEASE CONSIDER THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN WHEN DRIVING AND PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL.

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**CLASSROOM REMINDERS**

**Mobile phones, Apple Watches, etc.** - Students are required to leave mobile phones at the office while in school. This for safety reasons and so that the phone is not a distraction to their learning. Some children now are wearing watches that have communication capabilities, such as, apple watches. We have noticed that these watches are distracting students from their learning and they are using them to communicate outside the school during the day. Therefore, students with these sort of watches will need to hand these into the office also at the beginning of the day and collect them at the end of the day. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

**Fruit break / Brain Food Break** - many of the classrooms have a food/brain break around 10:00am each day. This is just a short break which allows the children to have a quick snack, drink of water and exercise. Please make sure the food you provide for this break is only a small amount - one piece of fruit, a cup/small container of cut up fruit, etc.



## ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SUNSHINE NORTH

9311 8872

ENROLMENTS FOR PREP 2022 ARE NOW OPEN.

IF YOUR CHILD TURNS 5 BY APRIL 30TH 2022, THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO START SCHOOL NEXT YEAR.

DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FORM FROM OUR WEBSITE, OR COLLECT ONE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE.



### PROJECT COMPASSION

This week in Project Compassion we learn about 39-year-old Margret, a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment. Apart from the difficulties the students all have, the school also faced water shortages, with not enough to supply staff and students with safe water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables.

Staff and students rely on the vegetable garden to provide food for their meals.

With Caritas Australia's support, the school installed water tanks, provided cyclone-proof building materials and helped to implement COVID-19 prevention measures. Margaret's school now has enough water for its students and the capacity to cater for more, with plans to boost food security, through increased agricultural production.

- Around 60% of people in rural areas in the Solomon Islands don't have access to piped water, while about 80% don't have access to latrines or toilets.

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion.

### PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP - COFFEE 'N' CHAT

& MEET THE NEW PRINCIPAL

2:30-3:30PM - THURSDAY 4TH

MARCH in Pioneers Hall



All parents are invited to attend this meeting to hear about the great work of the Parents in Partnership(PiP) group, and to contribute to the future of this important group as they rebuild after a difficult 2020!!!!

The key purpose of the PiP group is to build community, create connections and to promote partnerships with the school. All evidence suggests that the more parents/carers are involved in a school, the more your child feels connected and this can lead to improved engagement and success.

So come along, have a cuppa, meet parents and the new Principal and join the conversation. We are hoping to plan some great events for the year ahead, which will begin with the Easter Raffle at the end of Term 1. Vietnamese and Burmese interpreters will be there also.

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### COVID UPDATE

At schools, face masks are no longer mandatory in all indoor spaces for school staff and students aged 12 or older.

Requirements for the use of masks are outlined below. Visitors and parents must also observe this guidance.

- Face masks are recommended, but not mandatory, for use by staff, students and visitors when physical distancing of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained.
- People aged 12 years and over must always carry a face mask – unless they have a lawful exemption.
- People aged 12 years and over must wear a face mask when on public transport, school buses and when in taxis or ride-share vehicles – unless they have a lawful exemption.

### 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 before 9:15am.
- If you have a valid Health Care Card, please complete a form to claim the Camp, Swimming and Excursion Fund. For more information or assistance with this contact the office staff.

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## 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](http://www.experiencemusic.com.au/enrolment) or see the included flier.



experience music

A reminder that all dates appear on the school website

[www.stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au)

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

If you have any questions regarding what's in the newsletter, please contact me via the school number or email [principal@stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au).

Take care and stay safe,  
Brendan  
Principal