



St Bernadette's School Newsletter

Wednesday 24th November 2021

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Stay awake, praying at all times.'

Dear Lord, we are often overwhelmed by the busyness of this time of year. O come Emmanuel, come into our hearts and show us by your light the beauty of your way of LOVE.

We are your people, Lord, and we are waiting for your return. COME LORD JESUS.



St Bernadette - pray for us.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday begins the Season of Advent - a time to prepare our hearts and homes to welcome hope, joy, peace and love in the person of Jesus Christ at Christmas. May it be a special time for us all to pray, reflect and to reach out to those around us. COME LORD JESUS - FILL OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR LOVE THIS ADVENT.

The easing of restrictions has certainly been a welcome relief. It is nice to be once again catching up with family and friends, going to Church, eating out, playing sport, etc. Last week, our community was once again able to celebrate some key events.

On Tuesday and Wednesday we celebrated First Communion for a number of children in Year 4 and 5. As parents, you should be proud of your children and I thank you for your support in preparing them.

Congratulations to the following children who received the Eucharist for the first time and who looked so wonderful and prayerful on the evenings:

Emily B, Tiffany B, Nyanlok C, Alannah D, Tiffany D, Ivy L, Darren M, Isabella Ma, Isabella Mc, Cooper M, Aimee M, Alexis M, Olivia M, Bryan N, Cecilia N, Charlee N, Jessica N, Kevin P, Jathusan S, Aiden T, Anna T, Christopher T, Elysse T, Emily T, Faith T, Michael T, Xavier T, Sara W, Aaliyah B, Jaylee B, Trinity B, Hayden C, Bethany C, Elizabeth D, Xavier D, Max G, Matilda H, Jonathan J, Kimberley L, Erin N, Linh N, Ruby N, Tiana N, Khang N, Leanne P, Antonella P, J Sorgiovanni, Wendy T, Zaria VR

A very big thank you to the children's teachers who have been preparing them for quite some time now. Thanks also to our Amanda Browne, our Religious Education Leader, for preparing the mass, to Jenny Marshall for providing the beautiful music and all staff who were able to attend, given the restrictions on numbers. Thanks also to Fr John for celebrating the mass and for his words of encouragement and support. He reminded us that this was the children's First Communion, the first of many, and we as parents and school community should ensure the children are prodded with many opportunities to receive this sacrament.

We give our prayerful support to the children in Year 6 who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday evening. We hope and pray that the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit will continue to play an important part in their life.

We also had a great celebration on Friday as we dressed up in our favourite book characters to celebrate Book Week. It was great to see so many children dressed up. The parade was colourful and entertaining. The children also enjoyed lots of book-related activities throughout the day.

SCHOOL FEES 2021 AND 2022

Thank you to all those families who are up to date with their school fee payments or who have paid in full already. We are in the process of working out what fees/levies need to be refunded given that these activities did not take place during COVID.

I'd also like to invite and encourage families to set up a NEW DIRECT DEBIT or CREDIT CARD payment arrangement for 2022. This is a great way to pay your fees and helps families to budget for these costs. Simply set it up and the rest is done for you. Please fill out the attached form if you wish to do so.

SEMPRE DENTAL VAN

The Sempre Dental Van will be onsite this week conducting checkups for children who have completed the necessary forms. If you wish to take advantage of this great service, please contact the office for a form. Dental Health and oral hygiene are very important when children are young.

COVID SAFETY AT SCHOOL

St Bernadette's is doing its best to ensure the health and safety of our children, staff and community. As part of our COVID SAFE PLAN, we have adopted numerous practices and procedures to minimise the risk of infection. Some of those practices include:

- Students in Year 3 to Year 6 will wear face masks when indoors on school premises, unless an exception applies.
- Students in Prep - Year 2 are recommended to wear face masks when at school and attending an OSHC program
- All staff at school have met current vaccination status requirements
- Windows and doors are opened to promote ventilation and improve the air quality
- There is minimal mixing between classes during learning time. The operable walls have been used to minimise this mixing also.
- Children use hand sanitiser on entering and exiting the classroom.

I thank you for your ongoing support with all of these practices.

SCHOOL PARKING - WESTMORELAND RD

The Council are in the process of installing new NO STANDING signs on Westmoreland Rd in the car bay area. Once the signs are attached, parents/carers will need to ensure they obey these new signs. I have been told by the Council that they will send officers out to patrol the area to ensure everyone is doing the right thing. There are some parents who continue to do the wrong thing in that area, and will therefore not only risk getting a fine, but are also risking the safety of all.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL - LAST CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

As part of the new governance structure in Catholic Schools, St Bernadette's is required to establish a School Advisory Council. I am still seeking expressions of interest from parents/carers who would like to be part of this Advisory Council. I would also be happy to receive recommendations of parents/carers who you believe would be valuable members of this group. I have already had a couple of volunteers, but would like to get 2-3 more so that this Council can be truly representative of the School Community. If you are interested or would like to recommend someone, please email me at principal@stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

ALL children should now be wearing their **SUMMER UNIFORM. HATS** must be worn when outside during Term 4. I have noticed that some children are not wearing the school uniform correctly, and are also not following expectations regarding hair and jewellery. Hair that is longer than shoulder length needs to be tied back or tied up. I would appreciate your support in ensuring we maintain our high standards of uniform wearing at St Bernadette's. The uniform is readily available through the school office and is reasonably priced. Second-hand uniforms are also available.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Parents in Partnership Team will be launching their Christmas raffle. More information will be sent home soon.

SCHOOL FEES AND LEVIES FOR 2022

The school fees and levies have been set for 2022. In consultation with the MACS Business Manager, schools fees and levies for 2022 will be:

- School Family Fee \$1200 per family
- Education Levies \$300 per student
- Camp Prep - Yr 3 \$10 per student
- Camp Yr 4 \$185 per student
- Camp Yr 5 & 6 \$275 per student
- Sacrament Yr 3 \$15 per student
- Sacrament Yr 4 \$20 per student
- Sacrament Yr 6 \$20 per student
- Interschool Sports
 - Yr 5 & 6 \$30 per student
- Graduation Yr 6 \$20 per student
- Swimming
 - Prep - Yr 4 \$90 per student

As many of you will be aware, the school has kept the fees/levies the same for the last 2 years as a recognition of the challenging events of the last 18 months. Next year's fees/levies represent a small increase of around 5% in total. As always, the school endeavours to keep Catholic education affordable for all families. If you are having difficulty paying these fees/levies, please make a time to come and see me to discuss your options.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or at principal@stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 22nd and 23rd
Tuesday 23rd November
Thursday 25th November
November 24th - 26th
Tuesday 7th December
Friday 10th December
Monday 13th December

Thursday 16th December

Grade 4 Camp at Sunnystones
Prep 2022 School Visit - 3 Groups
Confirmation - Grade 6 at 7:00pm
Sempre Dental Van
School Orientation Day incl Preps 2022
School Closure Day - NO SCHOOL
Student Reports go home
Graduation Liturgy and Ceremony at 7:00pm
End of Year Mass at 10:30am
Term 4 finishes at 1:00pm

2022

Tuesday 1st February

School starts for all Year levels

Stay safe,
Brendan Gill
PRINCIPAL

GOD LOVES US - LET US LOVE GOD