

St Bernadette's School - Newsletter 12

Monday 24th August 2026

PRAYER TO ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

God of the Dreaming, you show yourself to us in dreamers and prophets. We thank you for all those who, like Mary MacKillop, have helped us to see the possibilities for our country and its people.

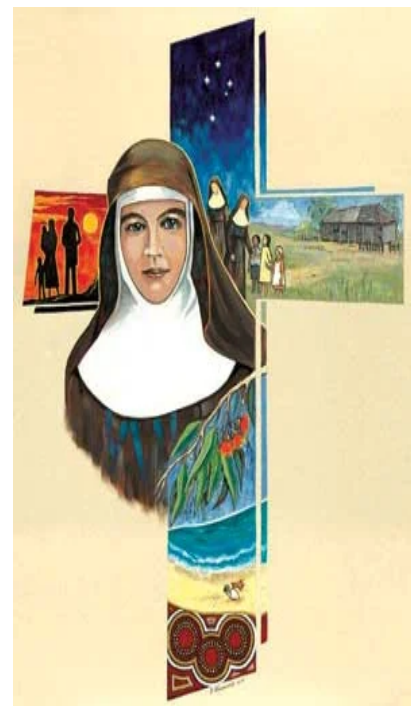
Inspire us to continue dreaming and working for a just and compassionate world. May we witness to our world the true meaning of respect and care just as St Mary did.

We pray that we will cherish particularly, the gifts of the First Nations people of our lands, and those new to our country. Teach us that, in the richness and strength of our diversity, lie our possibilities for truly becoming one.

St Mary of the Cross – Pray for us

St Bernadette – Pray for us.

GOD LOVES US – LET US LOVE GOD



A REMINDER THERE IS NO SCHOOL THIS WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST DUE TO THE STAFF CONFERENCE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are just over halfway through Term 3, and almost at the end of Winter!! Time certainly flies in a school that is busy and productive!! I had a wonderful 2 weeks away on the beautiful Sunshine Coast with my mum. It was a very precious time together, although I'm not sure what is easier to manage - your own children or your elderly mother!!! Both come with their joys and challenges. I thank Heidi, Fred and the staff for taking good care of St Bernadette's in my absence.

There has been and is a lot going on at St Bernadette's, so I encourage you to take time to read this newsletter to make sure you are up to date.

YEAR 4 CAMP AND A VERY SPECIAL EMAIL

The Year 4s had their Camp at DOXA, Malmsbury at the end of July. It was a great camp, and the weather did little to dampen this children's joy and enthusiasm. They had a wonderful time, facing many new and exciting challenges and did so in their stride. A big thank you to the staff who attended the camp, giving up their personal time to supervise and care for the children.

The children travel to and from Kyneton on the V-Line train, and 2 days after the Camp, I received this email from a VLine passenger who was on the train with our Year 4s on their return trip from camp.

St Bernadette's respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the owners of the land on which we live, play and learn at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

All students attending St. Bernadette's Primary School have the right to feel safe. The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility of all within our school.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Stuart and I work for an area of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I was travelling on a train from Castlemaine to Melbourne on the Friday just gone when an announcement came over the speakers that about 50 school children would be boarding at an upcoming station.

I had chosen to sit in the "quiet" carriage in order to complete some work and to be quite honest, wasn't looking forward to a mass of school kids joining the carriage.

I was absolutely awed by just how well behaved the students of St Bernadette's were. Respectful, quiet, kind to each other (and to passengers), orderly, and organised, they brought a smile to the faces of passengers and were clearly excited after a school excursion. Two young students (one next to me and one on the opposite side of the aisle) played "Rock, Paper, Scissors" wordlessly, which was a small delight on an otherwise busy work day, and when it came time to alight at Footscray, everybody formed an orderly line and we all exited smoothly.

The students (and their grown ups) should be absolutely commended for the way they represented the school. They were exemplary in every way and put other passengers, who should know much better, to shame.

Please send my praise, thanks and gratitude to the class (may have been a grade 4?), the teachers, the parents, and the Principal.

Sincerely,

Stuart

I shared this email with the children on Friday at assembly, and I told them that my heart was filled with pride reading this email. It even brought a tear to my eyes. What wonderful ambassadors the Year 4s were for our school. Well done to our Year 4s, the staff and the school as a whole.

BULLYING NO WAY WEEK

Last week was Bullying No Week, with the theme being SMALL ACTS - BIG IMPACT!! The children reflected on what small acts they could do to show kindness and care to others and to stand up to bullying. They created a massive chain of kind acts, which clearly demonstrated what happens when we all do something!!

CARE AND SAFETY CONCERNS

Recently there have been a couple of incidents at school that have raised concerns around children's safety and care. As a result of these, I wish to state the following:

- **NO GLASS WATER BOTTLES** - children are not to bring glass water bottles of any kind to school. These can be quite dangerous if dropped or broken. Please use only plastic or metal.
- **NO TOYS AT SCHOOL** - although it is a temptation for children to bring favourite toys to school to show and share, these toys become a temptation for other children. NO TOYS ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL. The school will take no responsibility for lost or damaged toys.
- **ONLY 1 OR 2 KEY TAGS ON BAGS** - it is becoming quite ridiculous and distracting the number of keyrings/tags that children have on their bags. Again, they are a temptation for children, so please limit the number of keytags to 1 or 2.
- **NO SQUISHIES AT SCHOOL** - children are not to bring squishies to school of any kind. These are considered a toy and are not allowed at school. They are a distraction in the classroom, and recently on the news, I heard that some of the 'fake' ones are a health risk. So NO SQUISHIES AT SCHOOL
- **NO SHARING OF FOOD** - can you please remind your children not to share food with any other student at school. This is a serious health risk due to the potential health risks of allergies and anaphylaxis

I do not enjoy being the 'fun police', but I certainly don't enjoy or wish to deal with the consequences, disputes, fallout, etc from any of the above matters.

DISTRICT ATHLETICS

Many of our Year 4, 5 and 6 children competed in the District Athletics Carnival last Thursday. The children participated with a great attitude and with lots of enthusiasm. In some way they were all winners just to have the courage to go out on the track. However, we had a small number of children place in a variety of events. These children were:

- Riley N: 1st - Triple Jump, 2nd - Long Jump, 3rd High Jump
- Andy P: 3rd - 80m Hurdles
- Angelica T: 3rd - Shotput
- Alex N: 1st - 200m
- Winchester T: 1st - Long Jump
- Hannah L: 3rd - 80m hurdles
- Nathaniel Z: 2nd - 100m
- Keira T: 3rd - High Jump
- Yuel T: 2nd - 200m
- Riley N, Winchester T, Alex N and Nathan P: 2nd - 4 x 100m Relay

At this stage, Riley, Winchester and Charlie will go on to represent the school and district at the Divisional level

STAFF CONFERENCE - WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST - NO SCHOOL

This Wednesday 26th August, we have our annual Staff Conference focussing on our mission as educators here at St Bernadette's, and as part of the mission of the Catholic Church. Br David Hall will be facilitating the day. There is no school on this day. Camp Australia will not be providing care on this day.

BOOKWEEK - A SYMPHONY OF STORIES

This week is the Children's Book Council of Australia's Annual Bookweek, with the theme emphasising the joy to be had from listening to the multitude of children's stories available to read. We actually began our celebrations last week with a performance of the nominated book, 'Dear Brocoli'. It was a wonderful and thought-provoking retelling that the children really enjoyed.

COSTUME PARADE

This Friday is our dress-up day, parade and activity day. Children are encouraged to come dressed up in their favourite book character. We are hoping that all children will get involved. Parents and friends are invited to join us in Pioneers Hall for the parade of costumes from 9:15am-10:15am. Please enter through the office and sign in..

THE GREAT BOOK SWAP

As a part of Book Week we are holding a Great Book Swap to raise money to support the literacy development of our First Nations children. A big thank you to those who have already donated books towards St. Bernadette's Great Book Swap.

Just a reminder that there is still time to donate books, and the books will be swapped for a coin donation on Friday, 28th August.

Grade 6 Students will have their book swap on Thursday 27th of August, due to timetabling arrangements. All funds raised will be donated to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Any books remaining after the swap will also be donated. Your generosity will help ensure that children in remote First Nations Communities have access to books that celebrate their languages, cultures and stories.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to celebrating the Great Book Swap with you and your child. Happy swapping!

For more information, please visit: <https://greatbookswap.org.au/st-bernadettes-sunshine-north>

Any questions, please feel free to email Lyn or Nicole.

Many Blessings

Lyn Sciberras and Nicole Marevic

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

I ask that you keep the following children in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 10th September.

Martin, Eli, Sophia, Violet, Hannah L, Ariela, Riley, Alex, Maddy,
Winchester, Minh-Vy, Yanai Kezius, Mercedes, Amy, Issac, Genevieve, Jasmine,
Jordan, Elisha, Hannah S, Atlas, Nelly and Charlie

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of these candidates, and enkindle in them
the fire of your Love.*

LITTLE ANGLERS INITIATIVE - FREE CHILDREN'S FISHING KITS

Our school has received 56 Anglers Kits as part of a Victorian Government Initiative to promote a healthy and active pastime that gets children into the great outdoors, experiencing nature with friends and family. For more information go to <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/go-fishing-victoria/little-angler-kit-project>. If you wish to claim one of the free kits, please contact the office by phone or email by **MONDAY 31ST AUGUST**. Priority will be given to the Year 5 children as that is the intended audience for the kits. Families can claim up to 2 kits if there is enough available. Kits will be available to collect from Tuesday 1st September.

CHILD SAFETY AT ST BERNADETTE'S

Child Safety is everyone's concern at St Bernadette's. All children have a right to feel safe and heard. Please read the attached MACS Care article on ***Child Safe Standard 7 - Processes for Complaints and Concerns are Child-focused***.

- Children and young people have the right to be heard, believed, and responded to when they raise complaints or concerns about their safety or wellbeing.
- Child Safe Standard 7 recognises that child safety depends not only on preventing harm, but on how organisations listen and respond when concerns arise. Clear, accessible, and child-focused complaint processes help ensure that children feel safe to speak up and trust that adults will act in their best interests.
- Grounded in our Catholic mission, this standard reflects our responsibility to seek justice, protect dignity, and respond with care and integrity. When complaints and concerns are handled respectfully, promptly, and transparently, schools strengthen trust, accountability, and a culture where children's voices are valued and safeguarded.

As you can see, there is a lot happening at St Bernadette's. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Have a great week,

Brendan Gill
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES 2026 (as at 24/8/26)

SCHOOL TERMS 2026

Term 3	Monday 13th July to Friday 18th September
Term 4	Monday 5th October to Tuesday 15th December

- **STAFF CONFERENCE - NO SCHOOL - WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST**
- **Bookweek Parade - Symphony of Stories** - Friday 28th August @ 9:15am
- **Fathers' Day Breakfast** - Friday 4th September @ 7:30am
- **Fathers' Day Mass** - Friday 4th September @ 9:15am
- **Assembly** - Friday 4th September @ 2:30pm - PREP E
- **Year 3 Camp Information Session** - Monday 7th September @ 3:15pm
- **Year 1/2 Excursion to Ceres** - Tuesday 8th September
- **Confirmation Mass** - Thursday 10th September @ 7:00pm
- **Whole School Mass** - Friday 18th September @ 9:15am
- **Term 3 ends** - Friday 18th September @ 1:00pm

SACRAMENTS 2026

- **Confirmation (Year 6)** - Thursday 10th September @ 7:00pm
- **First Reconciliation (Year 3)** - Tuesday 17th November

CAMPS

- **Year 3 Camp** - October 13 - 14

NO SCHOOL - PUBLIC HOLIDAY / SCHOOL CLOSURE

Wednesday 26th August - No School - Staff Conference (Catholic Identity and Mission)

Monday 2nd November - No School - Time in Lieu Acquittal

Tuesday 3rd November - Public Holiday - Melbourne Cup

Wednesday 2nd December - No School - Planning Day for 2027 (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2027 (Please note changes to highlighted dates)

Term 1	Friday 29th January - Wednesday 24th March
Term 2	Monday 12th April – Friday 25th June
Term 3	Tuesday 13th July – Friday 17th September
Term 4	Monday 4th October – Tuesday 14th December

ADVERTISEMENTS AND PUBLIC NOTICES

EXPERIENCE MUSIC

Experience Music is offering their program to the students at St Bernadette's. Lessons are available for guitar, keyboards, drums and voice. For more information and how to enrol, please visit www.experiencemusic.com.au/enrolment.



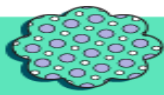
experience music

CAMP AUSTRALIA

Camp Australia are our before and after school care provider. Please contact them on 1300 105 343 or email info@campaustralia.com.au should you wish to book a place.



Camp Australia
Guiding children's growth



Your OSHC.

ROCKETEERS



Camp Australia acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and Elders, both past and present.