



St Bernadette's Parish School, Lalor Park

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7th October 2015

NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 1

From The Principal

Dear Parents and friends of St. Bernadette's

Welcome back to Term 4....the final school term of 2015! The teachers have already been working hard in the term break and completed a professional learning day yesterday on mathematics, data analysis and developing a shared belief and agreed practise for Numeracy Teaching.

We will be holding our Transition to Kindergarten Program over the next 4 weeks each Wednesday morning. This is an exciting time for the families of the new intake of Kindergarten students for 2016. Many of the parents who have children finishing in Year 6 at the end of this year, no doubt remember beginning the school journey 7 years ago and wonder where the time went! Life is full of transitions. From birth to death we have to accept and go through changes at many and varied levels.....physical, emotional and spiritual. Some transitions are smooth and comfortable, some are rocky and difficult, others are necessary but not always welcome! No matter what the transition is, the journey goes on and we continue to adapt and grow and learn.....often times in ways we didn't expect, yet which moulded us into a newer better and more empowered version of ourselves.

The children starting their transition to Kindergarten today will be excited and worried all at the same time. Some will adapt quickly, others will cry at the being in a new environment with unfamiliar faces. By the end of the Transition to Kindergarten Program, when we celebrate together with a simple liturgy and morning tea, they and their parents, will have made a good beginning on their journey into the St Bernadette's school community and will feel welcomed and valued.

Of course when day 1 of schools comes in 2015, the transition will be a mixture of emotions and uncertainties for both the child and the parents, yet the transition will inevitably continue and we will look back with hindsight in years to come and see it as a personal success story.....and all survived the experience!

For the year 6 students, who will be preparing to leave St Bernadette's as they make their transition into high school in 2016, the countdown has begun! They will be traversing unknown territory with new faces, new expectations and new experiences to explore. They will feel a mixture of sadness and excitement all at the same time.....as will their parents (much like when they started Kindergarten way back in 2009).

As parents and adults, we are charged with holding the children's hands through each transition. Leading them, guiding them, and gently supporting and encouraging them, into each 'new space' in their lives. Even we are fearful, anxious or uncertain for them. We are the light showing them the way.....with grace and positivity.

You will often hear me say that as parents you are the first and foremost educators for your children. Teach them resilience and equip them with faith and confidence to face every transition in life with positivity and to know the wisdom they've learnt through each experience. Talk to them throughout each new transition and allow them to share their fears, confusions, learning and successes at these times.

Lastly, but most importantly, encourage them pray through transitions. The notion of God to children is simple and trustingthat significant 'other' that is there to support and love them. Term 4 promises to be a busy and hectic term. I read today it's 71 days until Christmas.....let the countdown begin!

Have a great week. Take care! If you see our transition to Kindergarten parents and children on next Wednesday morning, please make them welcome.....say hi and tell them all about our great school.

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Theresa of Avila

Kind Regards

Liz Devlin



Diary Dates

TERM 4

OCTOBER

9 th	Reconciliation Stage 3
11 th	Youth Group – 6.30pm – 8pm
14 th	Kindergarten Transition
21 st	Kindergarten Transition
24 th	SCHOOL FETE
28 th	Kindergarten Transition
29 th	Reconciliation Stage 2
30 th	Primary Mass 10am
30 th	Halloween

NOVEMBER

1 st	All Saints Day
3 rd	Melbourne Cup Day
4 th	Kindergarten Transition
5 th	Fruit and Veg Day
6 th	Stage 2 Assembly 2.10pm
8 th	Youth Group – 6.30 – 8pm
9 th	Swimming Program Commences
10 th	Parent Workshop TBA
10 th	Parent Group Meeting 7pm
11 th	Remembrance Day Ceremony
29 th	Youth Group – 6.30pm – 8pm
30 th	Swimming Carnival

DECEMBER

4 th	Stage 3 Assembly 2.10pm
8 th	Christmas Concert 6.30pm
9 th	Reports sent home
11 th	Year 6 Graduation Mass and End of Year Whole School Mass Commencing at 10am
13 th	Youth Group – 6.30pm – 8pm
14 th	Year 6 Fun Day
15 th	Year 6 Graduation Dinner Dance
16 th	Last day for Students

Birthdays



Congratulations to the following students who have celebrated their birthday this week or over the school holidays.

Tracey Kide	Nevaeh Campbell
Naga Sudhagar	Krish Patel
Darko Grubisic	Christian Peregrina
Lincoln Walker	Jasmine Ardill
Wenceslaus Pilayre	Caitlin Donovan

Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards last week of Term 3.



Khushee	Parmar	STAGE 1B	Bronze award
Khushee	Parmar	STAGE 1B	Learning Excellence Award
Ella	Taylor	STAGE 1B	Learning Excellence Award
Wenceslaus	Pilayre	STAGE 1G	Learning Excellence Award
Wenceslaus	Pilayre	STAGE 1G	Silver Award
Oscar	Sweeney	STAGE 1G	Learning Excellence Award
Oscar	Sweeney	STAGE 1G	Silver Award
Michael	Jabbour	STAGE 1G	Learning Excellence Award
Kim	Martin	STAGE 1G	Learning Excellence Award

Sacramental Process 2015

Parents who have enrolled their children for reconciliation in the 2015 Sacramental Process are reminded that they are required to attend the MEETING FOR PARENTS ONLY ON: Wednesday 7th October 9.15am OR 7.30pm

OR

Thursday 8th October at 7.30pm
WHERE: The Parish Centre Meeting Room
14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park

You are required to attend only ONE session. At least one Parent needs to attend as non-attendance is an indication that you would like to defer the process.

Enquiries to Madge Miranda 9671 2008

St Bernadette's Parent Group School and Parish Fete 24th October 2015

OUR FETE

Chocolate Wheel
Continental Food
Devonshire Tea
White Elephant
Face Painting
Spooky Room
Pass the Ball
Pick a Stick
Plaster Fun
Bric a Brac
Show Bags
Fairy Floss
Book Stall
Lucky Dips
Cake Stall
Jewellery
Sweets
Raffles
Lottery
Hoopla
Games
Drinks
Books
Plants
Food
Craft
Rides
Toys
BBQ



WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF COORDINATORS FOR, CHOCOLATE WHEEL.

Please seriously consider one of these positions.
Contact Anne-Maree Ward 0402 137 247.

White Elephant

Spring is here. So start cleaning out those cupboards. We are looking for Books, CD's, DVD's, Games, Toys, Bric-a-Brac. Anything in a sellable condition, with all pieces, in working order. We are unable to take your clothes or white goods.

Any enquires call 0402 137 247 Anne-Maree Ward.

RAFFLE TICKETS WENT HOME LAST TERM. IF YOU REQUIRE MORE RAFFLE TICKETS THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

October

Final Collections, Baskets, Crafts, Cakes etc.

Raffle Tickets
have been sent
home for our
Fete



Baskets

Box lids for our Basket Stall will be sent home this week. We ask each family to take home a basket (or A4 box lid) and fill it with goodies. Please feel free to decorate your basket.

Basket ideas are provided to assist you.



How does your garden grow?

After an entertaining Book Parade what better place to gather and talk about your favourite characters, than in the garden! **Fern** was there (**Charlotte** was hiding in her web!) along with **Snow White** and a **Princess** or two! Even fictitious characters like to munch on **parsley**!



On returning to school for Term 4 new discoveries were made, the **Bromeliads** were now encasing the **Frog Pond**, a big load of mulch had arrived and the strawberries looked good enough to eat!



To be part of the learning and fun make contact via: claresgarden118@gmail.com and visit <http://kitchengardensinschools.blogspot.com>

Or the school office on 96223535 or stbernadetteslarp@parra.catholic.edu.au

Please see our website www.stbernadetteslarp.parra.catholic.edu.au for more photos from the garden

Visit <http://catholicearthcare.org.au/project/connect-care-share-our-common-home/>. World Environment Day resource – 5 June 2015

St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park

Parish Priest:	Fr Andrew Robinson	Mass:	Sat 6pm Vigil; Sun 8:30am & 10:00am
Secretary:	Mrs Bev Baxter		Children's Liturgy - Sat 6pm; Sun 10am
Office Hours:	Tues, Thurs & Fri 9am to 4pm		except school holidays /
			First Communion times
Telephone:	9672 4037		Blessings at all Masses for children
Fax:	9671 5377	Weekday Mass:	Tuesday to Saturday 8.45am
		Rosary:	Before Mass Tuesday to Saturday
Email:	admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au		
Web Page:	www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au		

SHARING LIFE AND LOVE!

Gospel in Life

Grace was excited about the prospect of her new job, teaching 15 and 16 year olds a variety of subjects, including religion. She had passed her own exams at university with flying colours. She was young and attractive and was familiar with the culture of the day. She was looking forward to the challenge of helping other young people fulfil their dreams and she was especially excited at the prospect of trying to share her faith with them, when it seemed that so many saw the teaching of religion as an impossible burden.

Nevertheless, nothing could have prepared her for what she was actually to encounter. The young people did indeed find her attractive and soon began to confide in her. There was Maria, the tormented young girl who sat at the back, her face etched with frustration and anger; it transpired she had been appallingly abused by a close member of her family from early childhood. There was Stephen, a sullen and disruptive student, who countered his innate shyness by asserting himself whenever the opportunity arose. There was Brian, a confused young man with a chip on his shoulder, who had all the answers. She calculated that almost 50% of her students were living either with a single parent or with a step-parent. Among the many subjects to be covered in that 1st term was Christian marriage. How on earth could she broach the subject with this group of young people, many of whom were already scarred for life because of the unhappy marriages of their parents?

Thank God Grace was bright and capable. She quickly realised that before she looked at Jesus' teaching on marriage, she would need to convince these young people of his unconditional love for each of them and their families in all the mess that surrounded them and the society in which they were all struggling to cope and, hopefully, one day to make their mark. They looked at how Jesus dealt with people who came to him with different afflictions - physical mental and spiritual - and they noted how he responded to them with love and compassion. What Grace may not have realised was the person of Jesus was having a real influence on these youngsters, not so much because of what they learnt about him, but because of the love and compassion they realised he had for them.

When the time came for her to talk to them about Jesus' teaching on marriage, she was able to put it into context. Jesus was not going to be caught out by the Pharisees, but neither was he going to short-change his listeners. He stood by the teaching of the ancient scripture in Genesis, that men and women were made for each other; they are called to be united as one body.

Although many in her class told Grace that they would never get married, saying that in their experience it was a recipe for disaster; deep down some of them were promising themselves that they would not make the same mistakes as their parents. In reality they dreamt of finding someone who would make them happy and with whom they could share their life and their love.

(Weekly Parable from e-News)

GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL

It seems from today's gospel passage that divorce has always been a contentious issue. Jesus sidesteps the test that the Pharisees set for him, and instead speaks about the union God intends for married love. Authentic love expresses itself in openness, total commitment and mutual care. May this love grow in the life of each one of us, so that we experience the kingdom of God in our relationships.

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD IN ROME ON THE FAMILY

In answer to the call from our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we pray for all those meeting in Rome for the Synod on the Family.

'May it be a precious treasure to enrich the Church. May the Church undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel'

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

(SYNOD FROM 4th - 25th OCTOBER 2015)