



# Newsletter

## St Bernadette's Parish School, Lalor Park

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**Website:**  
[www.stbernadetteslalorpark.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stbernadetteslalorpark.catholic.edu.au)

**Parent Group Email:** [sbparentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:sbparentgroup@gmail.com)

**Canteen:** [sbcanteen@gmail.com](mailto:sbcanteen@gmail.com)

**Band:** [stberniescrew1@gmail.com](mailto:stberniescrew1@gmail.com)

### Contact Us



## December

17th Youth Group

## January

29th Staff Development Day

30th Testing for Yrs 1-6

Kindergarten testing

31st Year 1 - 6 Commence

Kindergarten testing

## February

1st Kindergarten Commence

[See more ...](#)

## Principals Message

The end of the school year has come and our attention turns to the Christmas Season.

A short personal story, my three year old associates Christmas with Santa and presents. In contrast my five year old is beginning to understand that Christmas has a higher significance. He has a profound interest in the Christmas Story and asks question after question about Jesus, the three kings, the straw bed, the star, the list goes on and on. Yesterday in the back of the car they were talking together about Jesus. My eldest was trying to educate my three year old about the Christmas story. It end abruptly with my youngest stating, 'Lions eat Christmas!' He is obsessed with Lion King.

The point of my story is that in a commercial age it is easy to forget about the true meaning of Christmas. We get absorbed in the chaos of life as we prepare lists, buy presents, buy more presents, prepare food, rush from shop to shop, etc. These things are all important.

In some ways these things help to bring families together for a small period of time away from their daily lives to enjoy each other's company. This is when the true meaning of Christmas is unveiled. Coming together as a family or with a group of friends is when we get to show our love for others.

## Principals Message continued

Never forget the importance of spending time with your family and friends experiencing the joy of being in the presence of your loved ones. If you have a little extra change, donate it to those in need. Buying and receiving presents is a luxury that some people won't get to enjoy without a little extra help. As the holidays approach, don't forget to take it all in and live in the present.

Christmas is a significant event in the Churches year. I urge you all to take an hour out of your Christmas festivities and visit church. Be with others and nurture your faith and that of your children.

Mr Phill Kapitanow, Principal

## A Christmas Blessing

May love come alive within your heart  
As Christmas time draws near.  
May hope fill each room you decorate  
And bring joy to those you hold dear.  
May peace be before you at every meal  
And faith ring through every song.  
For Christ is alive, the light of the world  
May he bless you all season long.

[www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com)

## REC Blog

### YEAR 6 GRADUATION THANKSGIVING MASS

On Tuesday we celebrated seven years of Primary school education at St Bernadette's Primary school with our graduating Year Six students. We thank our Lord for the many blessings He has given us and we thank our parents and guardians for all the love and guidance they have provided. The celebration Mass was lovely and the students did a marvellous job. I would like to thank Father Andrew, the teachers and support staff for all their help in preparing today's special event.



### PINK SUNDAY - 17TH DEC

Just a friendly reminder that the students have been creating their baby Jesus craft to bring to this Pink Sunday's Mass. Father Andrew will offer a special blessing for your child's religious craft. We extend this invitation to our school community on behalf of the Parish.



### HOLIDAY WELL WISHES

Thank you to our wonderful St Bernadette's Community. It has been a huge year for us all, however we are blessed to know that God's spirit continues to prosper in each of us. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Blessed Happy Year. May you take time to pause and reflect on the year and reconnect with your family and friends.

Merry Christmas, with Blessings,  
Mrs Mabellynn Buenaventura (REC)



# WELCOME



## 'Learning and Fun in Our Garden'

As the school year winds down, the festive season goes into full swing and without realising it a different sort of treadmill takes over ... for a wonderful reflection on *"The Gift of Time"* go into the City and pause for a while as you view the Christmas Light Show at St Mary's Cathedral ... it is interesting to observe that the little girl in *red*, ends up in a beautiful garden, to show adults a simple and easy way to de-stress! As students at St Bernadette's know, the garden is the place to be, anytime of the year! [www.lightsofchristmas.com.au](http://www.lightsofchristmas.com.au)



\*To be part of the learning and fun make contact via: [claresgarden118@gmail.com](mailto:claresgarden118@gmail.com) and visit <http://kitchengardensinschools.blogspot.com> or the school office on 8869 6400 or [stbernadetteslpark@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stbernadetteslpark@parra.catholic.edu.au) Please see our website [www.stbernadetteslalorpark.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stbernadetteslalorpark.parra.catholic.edu.au) for more photos from the garden

## School Zones Reminder

A reminder to all our parents ahead of the Christmas holiday break at the end of Term 4 that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families.

School zones operate on all gazetted schools days, which are all days the school is open, **even pupil free days.**

It is recommended that this advice is provided for the break at the end of Term 4. Most NSW Catholic schools school zones operate as normal until (and include) Tuesday 19 December 2017 and resume on Monday 29 January 2017. Note: even though some schools will elect to have some of these days as pupil free days, **school zones will be in operation on all gazetted school days**, whether students are present or not.



## Student Sporting Achievement

Jayden Jenkins (Stage 3 White) received a Sporting Excellence Award for making 2 Mackillop teams at the Parramatta Diocese Primary Sports Awards held on 29th November.

Congratulation to Jayden for his fabulous effort.



## Birthdays

**Happy Birthday to the following students who have had a birthday recently or will have a birthday over the school holidays.**

Eva Wagenknecht,  
Hayden Rodewald,  
Duom Acuoth,  
Manas Idumalla,  
Asher Boustani,  
Caleb Palafox,  
David Atie,  
Stella Cragg, Emma Attard, Bree Maycock,  
Caitlin McNamara,  
Aiden McCarthy, Vivian Lee, Caleb Perkins



## Drinks on the Lawn!

Please join us for Christmas drinks and snacks on our front lawn.

When: Friday the 15th of December

Time: Anytime from 6pm

Where: The Mordini's front lawn –

[2 Lawson Street Lalor Park](#)

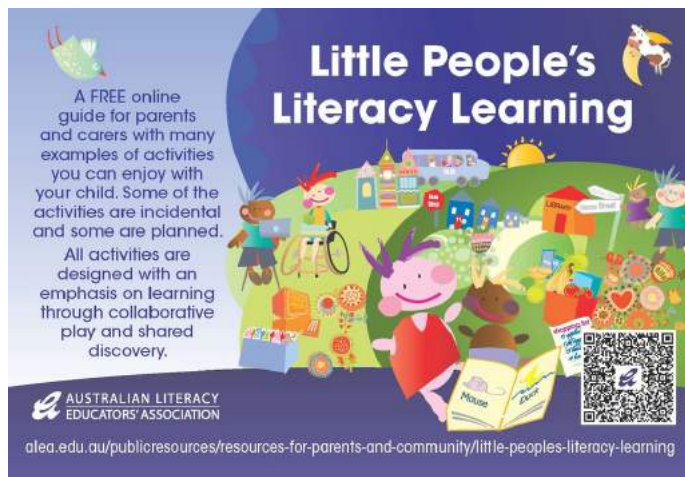
Please bring a drink (and a picnic chair might also be handy!)

All welcome!



## School Holiday Literacy Learning

During the school holidays it is important for children to rest their weary minds from school work and school routine. However, it is important to keep students' minds active as well. Below is link to a parent site from the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA) .



There are ideas for incidental and fun activities that you can do with your children. Click on the link below and it will take you to the parent modules that are full of fun and inexpensive ways to keep those young brains active.

<https://www.alea.edu.au/publicresources/resources-for-parents-and-community/little-peoples-literacy-learning>

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting your children at home with their Literacy Learning and I wish you a happy and blessed christmas. I look forward to working with you during 2018.

Lorraine Maher, Literacy Leader

## DIGITAL CHILD SAFETY HANDBOOK – SUMMER EDITION 2017/18

Over the last 5 years many children and parents would have received hard copies of the *NSW Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook*. This valuable safety resource is now available in digital format with expanded safety and content videos. The **summer edition** of this valuable safety resource is now valuable online with updated safety content.

All parents are urged to download this handbook and discuss the safety content with your children.

The safety content will be updated each July and January and is now available across 3 digital platforms.

[Digital Handbook](#)

[IOS App/Android App](#)

[childsafetyhub.com.au](http://childsafetyhub.com.au)



## School Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all students who participated in this year's swimming carnival. The day was filled with much cheering, encouragement and students challenging themselves for personal bests. A huge thank you to all the parent helpers who assisted on the day. This help really made a difference to the success of the carnival and we were able to run efficiently and finish with quite a lot of time to spare.

All teams completed well and showed great sportsmanship. Congratulations to **Leonard** who came out as a winning house colour with a total of 225 points.

Congratulations are also in order for the following age champions and runner-ups:

Junior Boys Champion: Domenic Gallagher

Junior Boys Runner-up: Matthew Yaacoub

Junior Girls Champion: Ella O'Shea

Junior Girls Runner-up: Vanessa Menon

11 Yrs Boys Champion: Mason Graham

11 Yrs Boys Runner-up: Harrison Kedde

11 Yrs Girls Champion: Nevaeh Campbell

11 Yrs Girls Runner-up: Lena Efstathiou

Senior Boys Champion: Jayden Jenkins

Senior Boys Runner-up: Aiden McCarthy

Senior Girls Champion: Caitlin McNamara

Senior Girls Runner-up: Hayden Rodewald

Mr Stennett, Acting Assistant Principal



## Water Fun Day

On Wednesday our Early Stage 1 and some Stage 1 students had barrels of fun at our Water Fun Day at school.

We played on the water slide, had a variety of water fun relays, got sprayed with the hose and ate our pizza lunch. We had lots of fun.





## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(Preparation for Christmas)

### 1st Rite

Saturday 16 December at 9.30am—10.30am and  
4.30pm —5.30pm

During Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 19 December at 9.30am—10.30am

During Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 21 December at 9.30am—10.30am

During Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday 24 December— Christmas Eve

6.30pm Children & Parish Family, every child is invited to  
dress as a Shepherd, Angel, King, Mary, Joseph

8.30pm Youth & Parish Family Mass

11.30pm Christmas Carols

Midnight Parish Family Mass

Sunday 25 December-Christmas Day

9.00am Parish Family Mass

Monday 26 December

(NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE BOXING DAY)



## Blacktown School Holiday Guide



Each quarter Blacktown City Council produces a School Holiday Guide (SHG) that outlines the school holiday programs available in Blacktown City for young people.

The SHG is a comprehensive listing of all the fun and exciting activities on offer at Council's facilities/venues as well as some great programs offered by local providers from around Blacktown City these coming school holidays.

The majority of Council activities are free of charge however many do require advance booking.

We are trying something new, and have developed a digital more interactive guide. Please find the guide here:

<https://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/shg>.

The guide can be viewed on all digital devices and has the ability to be downloaded as a PDF should parents wish to print it out.

# DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS:



## School Uniform Shop - School Locker -



The School Locker is proud to partner with  
St Bernadette's Primary School

### The School Locker

Our goal is to provide great shopping experiences for families and our retail stores are centered around a single great idea: one store with everything you need for school.

*Working in partnership with your school.*

#### St Bernadette's Primary School Uniform Shop

**Address:** 18 Wheeler Street  
Lalor Park NSW 2147

**Uniform Shop Operator:** Mrs Gallagher

**Trading Hours during School Term:**

Wednesday: 8:30am - 10:30am

**St Bernadette's Primary School uniform range is available online at:**

**[www.theschoollocker.com.au](http://www.theschoollocker.com.au)**

#### Payment options

The School Locker accepts cash, EFTPOS, Visa, MasterCard, Latitude finance, interest free and American Express.

#### Online ordering

Products are available for purchase online at our website: [www.theschoollocker.com.au](http://www.theschoollocker.com.au). From our website you may choose to have your order shipped to you, or you may collect your order from the campus store.

#### School shoes

Great quality school shoes are available at St Bernadette's Primary School uniform shop and online - in styles that have been approved by the school.

The School Locker recommends that school shoes are fitted several weeks before the school year commences. It is important to allow enough time for your child to wear in, and feel comfortable in, their new school shoes before the first day of school.

#### Everything for school in one store: uniforms, footwear, technology, music, sport and stationery!

A wide range of technology devices, musical instruments, sports equipment and stationery is also available for purchase from the retail store in Liverpool and online.

**Address:** The School Locker  
The Grove Homemaker Centre,  
2-18 Orange Grove Road  
Liverpool NSW 2170

**Telephone:** 02 8796 2100

the  
**School Locker**

### 2018 Uniform Shop Trading Hours

Monday 29th January – 10am – 2pm (SDD)

Tuesday 30th January – 8:30am – 10:30am

Wednesday 31st January – 8:30am – 10:30am (Yrs 1-6 Commence)

Thursday 1st February – 8:30am – 10:30am (Kindergarten Commence)

Note:

Normal trading hours (Wednesday: 8:30am - 10:30am)

will resume week 2





## St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park

Parish Priest:	Fr Andrew Robinson	Secretary:	Mrs Bev Baxter
Office Hours:	Tues, Thurs & Fri 9am to 4pm	Telephone:	9672 4037
Email:	admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au	Fax:	9671 5377
Web Page:	<a href="http://www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au">www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au</a>		

### Mass Times at St Bernadette's Parish

**Mass:** Saturday Vigil 6pm; Sun 8:30am & 10:00am

**Children's Liturgy** - Sat 6pm; Sun 10am except school holidays and at First Communion times.

Blessings at all Masses for children.

**Youth Mass** at 6pm Vigil Mass on 4th Saturday of the month.

**Weekday Masses:** Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8.45am

Wednesday 7pm Exposition, Devotions to Mary Immaculate and St Bernadette. Mass at 7:30pm

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 8:15am-8:45am

Saturday 9.30am to 10.30am and 4.30pm – 5.30pm. First Saturday of the Month 8:30am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 9.30am – 10.30am & 4.30pm – 5.30pm

**NB: No reconciliation in the morning on the First Saturday of the month**

### The Hope of a New Beginning! Gospel in Life

Do you remember your first day of school? For some people new beginnings represent opportunities and are full of adventure. For others, change is difficult and is associated with fear and anxiety. Some changes are chosen. For example, a new school, a new job, a move of house. Others are forced upon one by circumstances: redundancy, death, becoming a refugee, seeking asylum from those who seek to punish and kill. Not even the Church is free from change today. Many dioceses are discussing the changes of Mass times, perhaps the clustering or amalgamation of parishes, maybe even celebrating Sunday with a liturgy in the absence of a priest. What seemed impossible in the past is now being discussed. The old certainties are disappearing. Whilst some may see opportunities in the new situation, others are fearful and seek security.

Change is always difficult, even when it is chosen. Forced change is painful and shatters life. It may take a long time to recover. Refugees and asylum seekers, the victims of warfare and conflict, did not choose their situation. It happened, and now they must carry the pain of it. Women or men who have been made redundant know the pain of forced change, which has dramatically altered their lives, relationships and financial situations. Life is often unpredictable and we long for some stability and order in the midst of confusion. In a situation of change it can be difficult to remain hopeful, and God can seem very distant and uncaring. People ask, 'Why is God silent?' or 'Why did this happen to me?'

To trust God's providence requires great faith. The disciples who knew Jesus in the flesh struggled to believe in him. Many people pray, 'Lord, I believe: help my unbelief'. One should not lose heart if doubt persists. It can be a period for deepening faith. The path to becoming a friend of God needs time; different people are at different stages of the journey. God is gentle and does not rush persons but allows each to respond in her or his own time. God works in God's own time in ways that are deeply mysterious.

John, by the river Jordan:

#### **Calls us to reflect carefully and to repent**

John, by the river Jordan:

#### **Calls us to stand beside the confused and the unfulfilled ones and to give them purpose**

John, by the river Jordan:

#### **Calls us to acknowledge the graceful influence of Jesus Christ and to renew our discipleship. Amen.**

Weekly Parable from E-News