



St Bernadette's Parish School, Lalor Park

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19th July 2017

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 1

Principal's Message

Welcome Back

We have all returned feeling well rested and ready for the next ten weeks ahead. Term 3 is a crucial time in the teaching calendar. During this term many students will start to put more challenging concepts together forming links to prior learning and start to achieve more stage specific outcomes. Learning all of a sudden starts to come on a lot more quickly. Students will be set new challenges and asked to achieve and demonstrate higher standards.

We return this term to completed learning spaces. Our Learning spaces have had all of the new furniture installed and all of the rooms have been painted adding a fresh new look to the learning spaces. Your children deserve to come to a place that not only offers engaging learning opportunities but provides spaces that we can all be proud of.

This term will see an escalation in preparations for the school fete. The school fete is a significant event in the life of the school. However, it doesn't just happen. There is a small group of parents working away to make this event happen and they desperately need your support. This term you will be asked to donate drinks to be sold at the fete. This has always been a hugely successful drive in previous years. I urge you all to support the parent group by donating when asked and volunteering time. Our last two donation drives have not resulted in a lot of community support. This is disappointing as the fete is a major fundraiser which in turn has supplied a lot of resources for the school including technology, shade clothes and furniture. The fete needs all of our support to make it a success be it through donations and time. The fete is an opportunity to showcase our fantastic school community.

Professional Learning

Mr Stennett has attended two days of professional learning targeting how we lead and progress literacy and numeracy at St Bernadette's. This learning will assist Mr Stennett to build teacher ability to refine their teaching skills.

Rigorous Project Based Learning by Design

Mr Stennett and myself have been invited to attend three days of professional learning this week to explore current educational research concerning PBL to expand our knowledge of how students learn best. We will learn an array of teaching and learning strategies for use within PBL environments.

Agile Learning

St Bernadette's classrooms were transformed into agile learning environments in 2009 as part of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) an Australian government program.

According to Schoolnews.com.au,

An **agile learning** environment is an educational playground that is intentionally designed to be adjustable, exchangeable and moveable. The **learning space** is designed to support idea generation, collaboration and experimentation.

Over the last eight years both former and current staff have refined their use of the learning spaces in order to improve student learning. Reflecting and altering approaches to teaching is not new. Teachers have always and always will reflect on their classroom environment and how it can be altered to better facilitate learning. In fact if teachers were to remain stagnate and change nothing student learning would be compromised.

Agile Learning spaces improve flexibility within a learning space. They allow teachers to alter the way they teach, establish groupings, establish work areas or improve use of resources such as technology. Flexibility means choice over learning conditions that can be altered to suit the needs of a particular group.

Pre 2010 teachers changed their spaces constantly. They moved desks around to form different grouping, moved furniture to create different work areas, created technology hubs or Literacy areas. Moving an environment around to suit the learners needs is not new and has been done at St Bernadette's since the school's inception.

In 2017 our understanding of flexibility has evolved. Our learning spaces are staged as they were in 2009 but now we have the space to effect change in learning.

During the holidays all of our spaces were fitted with the remaining new furniture and painted. This completes a planned upgrade to the school's facilities. Past Principal, Liz Devlin and myself have worked hard to ensure the school was able to provide these upgrades to the learning spaces. This has been a five year planning process. The furniture equips the teachers to make better use of the learning environment and aesthetically improves the look and mood of our spaces.

The school is well placed to continue to evolve and improve learning. That is our job. The roll out of Project Based Learning continues to be implemented across the school. Stage Two and Three lead this initiative along with our Science Team. However, this is not new. Project Based Learning (PBL) is a form of Inquiry Learning which the teachers have been utilising since 2010 in all learning spaces. Our new focus has enabled us to work within a system wide approach utilising additional training resources for teachers. The outcome is student learning.

Literacy Instruction at St Bernadette's

Effective literacy teaching is fundamental to the work we do at St Bernadette's. Over many years the staff have worked to improve literacy standards across the school. In 2017 we continue this work, not by changing, but constantly refining the work that we do.

To improve at something, one must continually practice, reflect and refine what is being done. Teaching is no different. It requires plenty of practice and lots of opportunities to reflect and refine. We achieve this by providing literacy mentors for staff, conducting Learning Walks followed by specific feedback, providing professional learning opportunities for staff, conducting Case Management meetings and having a focused Leadership Team that takes every opportunity as an opportunity to refine and improve.

In 2017 there have been no dramatic changes to teaching literacy across the school. It continues as it has for the last six years when our school introduced the diocesan approach to teaching literacy. Integration with Project Based Learning is an element of our approach to teaching literacy and has been standard practice for many years.

The diocesan approach to literacy instruction is to use a balanced approach. This means that an adequate amount of time is dedicated to all parts of literacy instruction. At St Bernadette's each class does two hours of focused literacy instruction a day. This is above the diocesan prescribed one hour and forty minutes. The teaching block is divided into reading and writing and has shared, small group and independent components.

Improving literacy standards requires the staff to constantly improve their teaching practice. We are achieving this at St Bernadette's by adhering to a model of instruction that works.

Winter Uniform – Term 3

All students **MUST** be in full school uniform for Term 3. Notes will be coming home from the Principal to anyone not in complete school uniform.

This includes the following:

Girls:

Light blue long sleeve shirt
Navy trousers or culottes
Black (opaque) tights
Black shoes
Navy school jumper (optional)
School sports jacket

Boys:

Light blue long sleeve shirt
Navy trousers
Navy ankle socks
Black shoes
Navy school jumper (optional)
School sports jacket



Thank you for your co-operation.

News from the Library – Week 1

Premiers Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Caleb P (stage 1), Annabel Z (Stage 1), Ella O (Stage 2) and Cate A (Stage 3) for completing the Premier's Reading Challenge for 2017. Well done!

All students who complete the Premiers Reading Challenge will go in the draw to win some great prizes during Book Week in Week 7.

Just a reminder that the Premier's Reading Challenge closes on Friday 25th August 2017. There's still plenty of time to complete the challenge!

Book Week 2017

Book Week 2017 at St Bernadette's will take place in Week 7 (28th Aug-1st September).

The Theme is **Escape to Everywhere**.

During the students will be participating in a book parade, Musical/Performance by *Perform Educational Musicals*, prize presentations and many other activities. There will be fun competitions for all students.

We will also be holding the **Scholastic Book Fair** during the week for students and their families to come to the library to purchase new books at great prices.

Watch this space for more information about Book Week in the coming weeks.

Thank you,

Monique O'Brien (Teacher Librarian)



St Bernadette's Primary School Lalor Park

invites you to join us to celebrate
Seniors and Grandparents Day

on

Wednesday 26th July for the following:

10:00am Liturgy (Parish Hall)

10:30am Early Picnic Recess

11:30am Open Classrooms

Cake stall supplied by Year 6 students.

All cakes for purchase at a cost of \$1.00 - \$1.50

Proceeds go towards Year 6 Fun Day....

All Welcome

Diary Dates

TERM 3

JULY

- 21st Stage 2 Excursion – The Rocks
25th Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day
23rd Youth Group 6pm-7.30pm
26th Grandparents Day – All Welcome

AUGUST

- 2nd Stage 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Gala Day
18th Staff Development Day – NO SCHOOL
21st School Fees Due
Life Ed visits school for students
28th Book Week – Details to be confirmed

Please note any new dates in BOLD. Thank you

Sport Days – Term 3

- Early Stage 1 - Tuesday and Friday
Stage 1 - Monday and Friday
Stage 2 - Wednesday and Thursday
Stage 3 - Monday and Wednesday

Full sports uniform must be worn on these days.



School Fees

Term 3 School Fees statements will be posted by the Catholic Education Office this week.

Term 3 School Fees are due on the 21st August 2017.

Parents wishing to make a payment plan, or are in financial difficulty, are asked to contact the school office.

Birthdays

Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday during July so far.



Christina Kuot
Joseph Flaviano
Ronan Longhurst
Matthew Yaacoub
Hayden Auzner

Chrisoula Kehagias
Mariska Alemao
Georgia Nash
Paul Stowers
Lena Efstathiou

Arielle McDonald
Juaj Nyok
Sofia Spyrou
Samuel Gashaw

Sebastian Sakr
Sanika Kulkarni
Liam McMulty
Emmanuel koko

St Bernadette's Enrolments

Enrolment applications are now available at the school office. Your child **may be** eligible to enrol in Kindergarten if he/she turns 5 by 31 July 2018.

You will be given an Enrolment Package which will detail enrolment requirements. Please return enrolment forms as soon as possible.

Thank you

AUSTRALIA'S YOUTH PRESENTS

A SELF DEFENCE KARATE

For boys and girls

Ages 5 – 16

In Sydney Since 1994

AND SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM

Website - karate-kids.com.au

DEVELOP SELF CONFIDENCE

INSTRUCTORS TRAINED SPECIFICALLY FOR TEACHING CHILDREN AND TEENS

IMPROVE CONCENTRATION

SELF DEFENCE ONLY IS TAUGHT

BUILD COORDINATION

CLASSES DIVIDED BY AGE AND EXPERIENCE

BUILD SELF ESTEEM

FROM BEGINNER TO BLACK BELT

IMPROVE STUDIES

MAKE FRIENDS



Only \$14.00 Per Week
With a \$2.00 Rego per term
No Extra Grading Fees!

INSTRUCTOR IS A KARATE CHAMPION AND ISKA INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Location: Kings Langley Public School,
Isaac Smith Pde., Kings Langley

Classes are every Wednesday for 9 Weeks (Every School Term)

New and Returning Registration: Weds., 26 July, 2017

New Students can also join on: Wednesdays, 2 Aug., 9 Aug.

New and Returning
Students
Ages 5-8
Class Time 4:00 to 4:40PM

New Students
Ages 9-16
and Returning Students
Class Time 4:45 to 5:25PM

Returning Students please see website at www.karate-kids.com.au for class times.

REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO THE THIRD WEEK OF TERM. NO PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY, JUST TURN UP 10 TO 15 MINUTES BEFORE CLASS TIME ABOVE IF POSSIBLE..... SEE YOU THERE!
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT MATT KLEIN ON 9904-5667



St Bernadette's Parent Group School and Parish Fete 21st October 2017

COLLECTION DAYS

To assist your planning the following is our calendar for collections:

- July** Soft drinks/water for the drink stall
- August** Bags of lollies/chocolates, Raffle tickets sent out
- September** Baskets sent out
- October** Cake Plate, Final Collections for:
Raffle Tickets, Baskets, Cakes etc.

Boxes will be placed in each classroom for your child place their donated items. A note will be sent out for each collection.

**To volunteer to help at our fete please
contact Zeina Yaacoub 0411 185 121**

19 July-31 August 2017 Drinks Collection

Its Competition time!!!! We are requesting families to donate cans of soft drink (375ml) and bottles of water (600ml) to be sold at the drinks stall at the fete. We would like all families to donate and the class which collects the most cans/bottles at the end of the collection period will win a pizza lunch!!!!



CommonwealthBank



School banking will commence
tomorrow for all students



BOOK WEEK
at St Bernadette's
Week 7

Monday 28th August - Friday 1st September
Details sent home soon
Lots happening



'Learning and Fun in Our Garden'

Whether it is making and eating *Haloumi and Tomato Salad*, raking those even present leaves, delighting in watering the plants, or measuring the welcome rain ... an experience of *'hands-on learning'* is guaranteed to put a smile on the faces of students of all ages!



**Learning and Fun* will return in Week 5 ... meanwhile, enjoy reading about *'The Story of Wool'* as told by the Environment Team!

To be part of the learning and fun make contact via: claresgarden118@gmail.com and visit <http://kitchengardenschools.blogspot.com> or the school office on 96223535 or stbernadettespark@parra.catholic.edu.au

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