



## St Bernadette's Parish School, Lalor Park

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**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)

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 3

### From the Principal

#### Student Attendance

We started this year with an ambitious goal of achieving 93% student attendance. We are currently achieving 89% student achievement, 1% point below the diocese target and 4% points below our own school target.

To date much has been achieved at St Bernadette's to enable positive student attendance. We continue to improve our attendance rate knowing that every day a student spends at school makes a positive contribution to her/his educational outcomes.

This week I have turned my attention to addressing a growing concern around Partial Absences. Whilst we accept that at times Partial Absences are unavoidable they do need to be kept at a low level. Students who miss parts of the day may miss vital elements in a learning path. For example students from infants who are late in the morning will typically miss parts of the literacy instruction for that day.

We understand that at times appointments for a specialist and the like are unavoidable, but these need to be planned and if at all possible occur outside of school hours. Lateness to school is also an ongoing concern. Working through lateness issues is a priority for parents, children and staff.

This week we will send out letters that identify students with high Partial Absences. The notes help parents to realise that this is a concern and that more attention needs to be made on minimising partial absences.

The school is here to help. If you are experiencing ongoing difficulties or challenges around partial absences or school attendance please come and meet with myself or another suitable member of staff.

#### The Right questions to Ask

Asking the right questions after the school day are important if you want to hear more than, 'It was okay', or 'Good'. Having young children myself I realise the need to ask questions that engage my boys in conversation and allow them to talk about the good things that happen each day. Too often we ask closed questions like, 'How was your day?' and we get the same old answers that often make us mad. So the challenge is to ask different questions that will get a different response.

Positive questions will allow parents to get a deeper understanding of the day their child has experienced. And once the conversation begins it will be free flowing giving parents all kinds of insights into the regular school day.

I recently found an article that listed different questions you could try. Why not choose a few and give them a go.

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today?
2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
3. If you could choose, who would you like to sit by in class?
4. Where is the coolest place at the school?
5. Tell me a weird word that you heard today. (Or something weird that someone said.)
6. If I called your teacher tonight, what would she tell me about you?
7. How did you help somebody today?
8. How did somebody help you today?
9. Tell me one thing that you learned today.

## From the Principal continued.....

10. When were you the happiest today?
11. When were you bored today?
12. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed someone up, who would you want them to take?
13. Who would you like to play with at recess that you've never played with before?
14. Tell me something good that happened today.
15. What word did your teacher say most today?
16. What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
17. What do you think you should do/learn less of at school?
18. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
19. Where do you play the most at recess?
20. Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
21. What was your favourite part of lunch?
22. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?
23. If you could switch seats with anyone in the class, who would you trade with? Why?
24. Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today at school.

([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/liz-evans/25-ways-to-ask-your-kids-so-how-was-school-today-without-asking-them-so-how-was-school-today\\_b\\_5738338.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/liz-evans/25-ways-to-ask-your-kids-so-how-was-school-today-without-asking-them-so-how-was-school-today_b_5738338.html))

### Early Drop Off

Recently the staff have brought to my attention the amount of children who arrive early to school. Whilst we recognise that this is due to family obligations such as work and sibling drop offs it is important that parents are aware that there is no morning supervision until 8.30am.

Whilst the school environment is safe, children without supervision are vulnerable to,

- Getting injured
- Leaving the school grounds
- Traffic within the car park and surrounds
- Being approached by non school staff
- Being engaged in activities that are inappropriate

For this reason all children arriving to school should be seated on the silver seats within the second gate. If you need to drop your children off early this is done with the understanding that there is no supervision and your child/children are left to manage themselves.

If you do need to drop your child/children off early could you discuss expectations with your child/children including,

- The designated seating area
- Staying in the designated area
- Appropriate play

Whilst I understand that early drop may be needed for some families I would request that you investigate other alternatives if this is to become your normal routine. Alternatives may include family and friend assistance or the onsite OOSH service.

### Professional Learning

Project Based Learning - Foundations

This Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Ms Barrak, Mr Cowan, Mrs Galea, Mrs O'Brien and Mr Kapitanow will attend Foundation Training. The course will help teachers to understand how a Project Based Unit is structured and the need to ensure units are learning focused.

Project Based Learning - Advanced

Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - Miss Mortimer, Ms Goodchild, Mrs McDonald and Mr Stennett will attend the advanced course for PBL. The course will help to deepen the Stage 3 team's understanding and implementation of PBL.

NAPLAN Online

Last Thursday Mr Cowan and Mrs McDonald attended training to help prepare the school for the trial NAPLAN online assessment which will be conducted later this term. This is a trial of the technology and not an official NAPLAN assessment.

Ann D Clark Lecture

Most of the staff attended the Ann D Clark lecture last night. The lecture presents current theory and innovation in education. This year Pasi Sahlberg presented the lecture.

## From the Principal continued.....

### Homework

As a part of our ongoing discussion about the all things homework at St Bernadette's I felt it would be good to start by sharing some information available on the internet for parents to read.

Our first article, *The Great Homework Debate*, is an easy to read article that discusses the benefits of homework, summaries what various education departments believe and offers the various opinions of parents.

Be open to new ideas and read the article. Let this reading help to guide your evolving opinion. The article can be found at,

<http://www.kidspot.com.au/school/primary/homework/the-great-homework-debate/news-story/1a16b9d962f507c4b84aff89b977b8c3?>

If you don't have access to the internet please let the office know and a copy will be made available.

Mr Phill Kapitanow  
Acting Principal

## Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards recently.

First Name	Last Name	Scholastic Year	Homeroom	Award Description
David	Atie	K	EARLY ST1B	Bronze award
David	Atie	K	EARLY ST1B	Learning Excellence Award
Lucas	Mansour	K	EARLY ST1B	Bronze award
Lucas	Mansour	K	EARLY ST1B	Learning Excellence Award
Ashton	Gardiner	K	EARLY ST1G	Bronze award
Ashton	Gardiner	K	EARLY ST1G	Learning Excellence Award
Ella	Quinlan	K	EARLY ST1G	Bronze award
Ella	Quinlan	K	EARLY ST1G	Learning Excellence Award
Athalya	Alemao	4	STAGE 2G	Bronze award
Athalya	Alemao	4	STAGE 2G	Learning Excellence Award
Janaya	Buhagiar	4	STAGE 2G	Learning Excellence Award
Sophie	Angallo	3	STAGE 2W	Learning Excellence Award
Oscar	Sweeney	3	STAGE 2W	Learning Excellence Award
Sarah	Justin Wani	5	STAGE 3B	Learning Excellence Award
Harrison	Gardiner	6	STAGE 3B	Bronze award
Harrison	Gardiner	6	STAGE 3B	Learning Excellence Award
Moses	Madeni	5	STAGE 3G	Learning Excellence Award
Hane	Koko	6	STAGE 3G	Learning Excellence Award

## Year 6 Fun Day Fundraising

Dear parents and guardians

The library team are doing a skittles guessing competition, to raise money for the year 6 fun day.

It is \$1.50 for 3 guesses, \$2 for five and 50c for 1.

This will be held in week 6 on Wednesday and Friday during recess at play time.

Hope you can encourage your children/child to enter into the competition to win a jar of skittles and help the year 6 raise money for their fun day.

Thank-you!



## From our REC

Dear parents, guardians and friends,

The Sunday Gospel shared comes from Matthew; 13:44-46, titled;

“He sells everything he owns and buys the field”. The words of the Gospel reads, ‘Jesus said to the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.’

On reflecting on the Gospel, the Gospel of Matthew seeks to teach us about the kingdom of heaven and how this destination is a treasure in our heart and soul. It is the honour of obtaining this treasure that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest appreciation draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our deepest hopes. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. God gives it to us. All we have to do is accept it and continue the work of our Lord.

Have a blessed week everyone.

Mrs Mabellynn Buenaventura  
(Religious Education Co-ordinator).

## IMPORTANT Information

The following bus will have a slight change in time effective as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017. Please be aware of the change.



### School Travel Advice

For trip planning visit [www.transportnsw.info](http://www.transportnsw.info) or call 131 500.

For current Hillsbus school and route services visit [www.cdcbus.com.au](http://www.cdcbus.com.au) or call 02 8889 7000.

Conditions of Carriage: Students must have a valid Opal card, term pass or pay a cash fare. Students must tap on and off every trip. Further details about the SSTS are available at: [www.transportnsw.info](http://www.transportnsw.info)

Key: L> Bus turns left; R> Bus turns right

## ST BERNADETTE'S PS LALOR PARK

Bell Times

Morning: 08:55

Afternoon: 15:15

Effective 31/07/2017

### MORNING BUSES

Route	Time	Bus Route
8032	08:31	EX JOSEPH BANKS DR AFTER READING AVE via Joseph Banks, L>Whitby, R>James Cook Dr, L>Ravenhill, L>Issac Smith, R>Keppel, L>Sutherland, R>Parkinson, L>Capricorn, R>Whitby, R>Vardys, L>Heffron, R>Northcott, L>Wheeler to school



## Woolworths Earn & Learn Program

This year we will again be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn Program. This program is based on the wide range of education resources available when points are redeemed. When you shop at a Woolworths store you will receive stickers at the checkout and place them on the sticker card you will receive from Woolworths. There will be one sticker for every \$10 you spend in store (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards or purchases made through Woolworths online or at Caltex Woolworths co-branded fuel outlets). Once the sticker cards are full they can be sent into school. The program begins on **26<sup>th</sup> July and closes on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**. With your participation the school benefits from a choice of more than 7,000 educational resources including library books, classroom equipment, art & craft materials and much more. We ask you to get behind this great initiative and ask your family, friends, neighbours anyone you know to support our school. **St Bernadette's has a box in the school office and at Woolworths Kings Langley where you can place your stickers. Thank you**

# Diary Dates

## TERM 3

### AUGUST

- 9<sup>th</sup> Voice Of youth – Year 6
- 11<sup>th</sup> Early Stage 1 Farm Excursion
- 13<sup>th</sup> Youth Group
- 15<sup>th</sup> Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival
- 17<sup>th</sup> No Student Banking
- 18<sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day – NO SCHOOL
- 21<sup>st</sup> School Fees Due
- Life Ed visits school for students
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Netball Gala Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Skittles Guessing Competition
- 25<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Athletics Carnival
- Skittles Guessing Competition
- 28<sup>th</sup> Book Week – Details to be confirmed
- 31<sup>st</sup> Father's Day BBQ breakfast 7.45am
- Father's Day Craft Stall

### SEPTEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup> School Disco

## St Bernadette's Enrolments

**IMPORTANT  
NOTICE**

We are currently conducting enrolment interviews. If you know of any current parents who may have children due to commence school next year, please ask them to see the school office for an enrolment package.

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.

## SCHOOL DISCO



**FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER  
DETAILS COMING HOME TODAY**



Please be reminded that the Skoolbag App is no longer used for absent notes. All parents of students who are absent from school will receive a text message from the school office. Please respond to this message as soon as you can.  
Thank you



**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY  
TERM 3  
FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017  
THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL ON THIS  
DAY. THANK YOU**

### Birthdays

Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday recently.



Cruz Fuda  
Deborah Tluang  
Ella O'Shea

Seedorf Lado  
Daniel Raad  
Bronte Fitzroy

### School Fees

Term 3 School Fees statements have been posted by the Catholic Education Office.

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.



**BOOK WEEK at St Bernadette's  
Week 7**

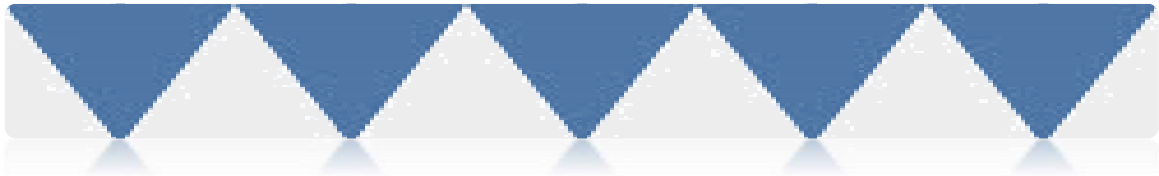
**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
Details sent home soon**



**Fete**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017**





## St Bernadette's Parent Group School and Parish Fete 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017

### COLLECTION DAYS

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

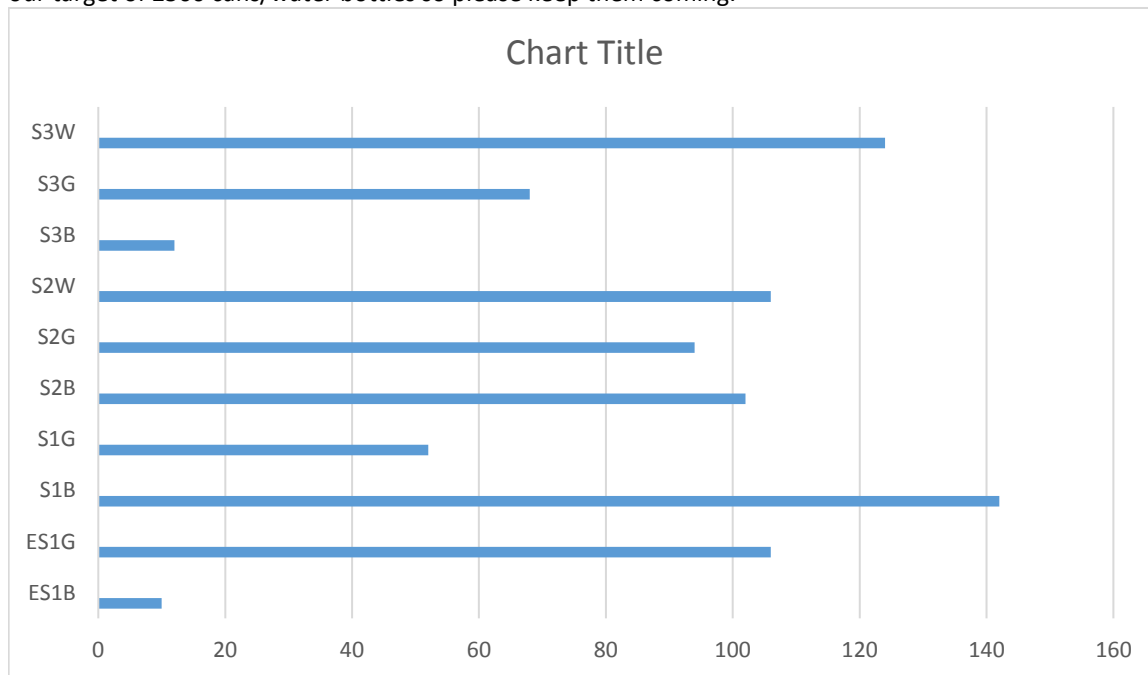
<b>July</b>	Soft drinks/water for the drink stall
<b>August</b>	Bags of lollies/chocolates, Raffle tickets sent out
<b>September</b>	Baskets sent out
<b>October</b>	Cake Plate, Final Collections for: Raffle Tickets, Baskets, Cakes etc.

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**

### Fete Update

July/August collection of cans & water bottle is well underway with S1B currently in the lead. We have a long way to go to reach our target of 2500 cans/water bottles so please keep them coming.



Thank you to those who have sent in their volunteer slips if you have not yet sent them in please do so ASAP.

A reminder that white elephant can be dropped off from 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017 at 9am in front of the St Joseph's centre. All items must be boxed and clearly marked with its contents, or it will not be accepted.

We are very excited to announce that the P.Jamas The Clown will be visiting our fete. She will be performing one of her shows at 11am and entertain the kids with balloon sculptures so we would love to see a big crowd watching her.

If you wish to discuss anything with regards to the fete please do not hesitate to contact me on 0411185121.

**Zeina Yaacoub  
Fete Co-Ordinator**

# P. Jamas The Clown



P. Jamas is one of Sydney's most stylish and zesty clowns. Whatever your fun filled function P. Jamas is ready to put on a bright and sparky performance appealing to all ages, not just the kids.

We are very excited to announce that P. Jamas The Clown will be visiting our fete. She will be performing one of her shows at 11am and entertain the kids with balloon sculptures so we would love to see a big crowd watching her.



## CANTEEN CORNER



Dear Mums, Dads, Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, Guardians

To continue to run our canteen 3 days a week we are in need of more volunteers. With currently 16 volunteers & 60 shifts to fill each term it is becoming a big ask of our mums each term. Some of our Mums understandably can only manage 1 shift per term which really stretches the rest of our volunteers to their limits. Our school canteen is solely volunteer run & we are very lucky to still have this service for our children to enjoy. All profits are put back into our school, which in turn benefits our children.

So please if you can spare even just 1 day a term contact me by email [sbcanteen@gmail.com](mailto:sbcanteen@gmail.com) or send your details via the school office. If you have friends throughout the school get them on board & make a social day of it. You could actually enjoy yourself & I guarantee your kids will love seeing you to.

**Please note: By law no younger children are allowed into the canteen.**



Thank you  
Bree Buhagiar – Parent Group

## 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  
Fax: 9671 5377  
Email: [admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au)  
Web Page: [www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](http://www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au)

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 PEARL OF WISDOM!

Gospel in Life

Once there was a teacher who desired to make progress in his career and to climb the social ladder. He worked very hard. In fact, his work was his life. He put his best hours and his best efforts into it. He had little time to appreciate his family, and even less for the enjoyment of life. It was clear to everyone where his treasure was.

But then he had a heart attack. He was taken to hospital where he lay for days, drifting in and out of consciousness, and not knowing whether he would live or die. During moments of lucidity he saw these shadowy figures by his bedside. One day those figures came into focus and he immediately recognised them. They were his wife and children who visited him faithfully every day and spent hours at his bedside.

At that moment he saw where his true treasure lay - it lay in his family, his home, in the gift of life, and of course in God. He saw how foolish he had been up to now. And he prayed with all his heart: 'Lord, give me back my life, and I'll be happy'. And he resolved that if he got well, he would turn his priorities upside down.

He made a full recovery. The day he walked out of hospital he was deliriously happy. Everything had been given back to him. Through that painful experience he acquired much wisdom. Prior to this, he was completely focussed on himself and his career. Now he decided to open himself to others and to work for them. And he was happier than he had ever been in his life.

All of us are searchers and treasure-hunters in the sense that we are looking for happiness. The goal is legitimate, but it may be that (like that teacher) we are looking in the wrong place. Jesus said, 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be too'.

So, if we want to know what our treasure is, all we have to do is ask ourselves where our heart is. What is it that we love, that we pursue with all our hearts? There lies our treasure.

The wisdom we are talking about here is not the same as worldly wisdom. It is something deeper and very much more precious. It means knowing what is truly important in life. It means being able to see life from God's point of view, and being able to live the way God wants us to live. If we don't have that, then no matter how many possessions we have, or how successful we are, we will not be happy.

Wisdom is the pearl of great price. Once found, no one can rob us of it.

*Weekly Parable from E-News*

**HEALING MASS** Mass with the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated next Saturday **5th August** at 9.00am. Rosary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 8.30am. You are invited to stay and enjoy a cuppa afterwards. **Please bring a small plate of food cut into slices to share.** Next Saturday we gather to receive further healing from the Lord for body, mind, Spirit. We would be grateful if you could let Fr. Andrew or the Parish Office know of any sick parishioners.

### **DATE CLAIMER - PARISH RETREAT DAY**

**See posters** around the Church and at the front entrance of the Church.

**DATE:** Saturday 2nd September 2017

**WHERE:** St Joseph's Baulkham Hills

**START:** 9.30am **FINISH:** 3.30pm

**DIRECTED BY:** Sr Mary Baker RSJ

**THEME OF RETREAT:** Who are you Lord? A Journey in Prayer

**COST:** \$35 per person. \$15 deposit on registration

**IN AN ENVELOPE PLEASE PLACE REGISTRATION SLIP AND DEPOSIT IN THE BOX OUTSIDE THE CHURCH**