



St Bernadette's Parish School, Lalor Park  
18 Wheeler Street (PO Box 4161)  
Lalor Park, NSW 2147  
Phone: 8869 6400

# Newsletter

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

2020 Term 4 Week 9

## Principal's Message

What a year! The 2020 school year is nearly complete. It's been a challenging year for all. COVID-19 has certainly left its mark and 2020 will be one like no other! I think the collective thought is that 2021 has to be a better year.

And yet as I write this I reflect on many of the positive aspects of 2021. Sure lots of our regular activities were impacted and may change into the future. We have learnt a lot about our capabilities when faced with adversity. I'm extremely proud of how our community handled the lock down. It's a distant memory now and hopefully one that we never have to revisit, but we did a fantastic job collectively as we developed processes and procedures to keep learning happening. The result is that student learning progress continued. We have worked hard this year to minimise the ongoing effects of the lock down. We have done this by knowing our learners and attending to their needs as best we can.

Children are largely resilient and through all the changes they have found a way to keep plugging on. The restrictions have almost become their norm. This is sad and a little unsettling to think! Imagine a cohort of kindy children who really haven't experienced normal school life and yet they continue on. Having said this I don't believe we should ever underestimate the emotional effects of COVID-19 on our children and ourselves.

This Christmas break I hope you have the time to focus on family and friends. I trust you will find the time to rest and do some of things you love individually and as a family unit. I also pray that you will find the time to connect with God. In a world that seems so lost and challenged at the moment, I hope you find the time to pause, go to mass or listen to mass online, pray and be thankful as we live in a great country!

I would like to pay a final tribute to some of our leaving staff, Mr Crothers, Mrs Huntington, Mrs Park, Ms Fajloun, Ms Edwards and Mrs Bonilla. St Bernadette's is a small community where we all come to know and respect each other. These staff have worked tirelessly to make St Bernadette's the best it can be. They have worked with us to create a culture we can all be proud of and we thank them for their dedication and efforts.

A special mention regarding the outstanding leadership that Mr Crothers has provided to the school community in his 3 years at St Bernadette's as Assistant Principal. Mr Crothers is highly professional and has worked tirelessly to support staff, students and parents in their educational journey. He is a highly skilled operator who is wished the best as he and his family embark on their new adventure in Queensland.

Finally a huge thankyou to the members of the Parent Group who go out of their way to support the students of St Bernadette's. Your devotion to the school is noticed and greatly appreciated. On behalf of the school community I thank you for your ongoing support.

Be safe these holidays and we look forward to seeing you all in 2021!

## 2021 School Captains

This week the process of selecting next year's School Captains was completed. I would like to thank all the students who so courageously wrote and presented a speech that outlined their intention to be considered as school captain.

Unfortunately there can only be two school captains. This makes my job extremely difficult knowing that some children's hopes and dreams will not turn out. I deliver the message on behalf of the student and staff community and oversee proceedings to ensure it is fair and just.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Abigail and Caleb in Year 5 have been voted by their peers and staff to represent our community as School Captains in 2021. I extend my congratulations to them both!

### Reports

In previous newsletters I have explained a shift in the language used to express student learning progress. As of this Semester we will no longer use an A to E grade scale. We will still report using a five point scale but the language used will be more reflective of student feedback.

In years 1 - 6 we will use the following five point scale;

Working Deeply  
Working Beyond  
Working At  
Working Towards  
Working with Assistance

Kindergarten will use the following 3 point scale;

Working Beyond  
Working At  
Working Towards

Effort will be reported on a four point scale being;

Outstanding  
Very Good  
Satisfactory  
Improvement Needed

We believe this is a positive change in reporting language that is more age appropriate.

Additionally, students will only have Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards acknowledged on semester reports. Not every student receives such awards. Students need to earn a predetermined amount of Learning Excellence Awards to progress through the levels. This usually takes several years. This is done to ensure awards are highly valued.

COVID-19 has impacted the amount of activities that students would participate in. This is reflected on reports where Further School Involvement is limited.

Lastly, this semester student reports will be signed by all teaching staff present in the learning space. This acknowledges that students work in agile learning spaces where they are taught by a variety of staff depending on learning needs.

### 2021 Classes

It is envisaged that students will be informed of 2021 teachers and classes next Monday. Although this is important to many students and families it is worth remembering that at St Bernadette's students learn in agile learning spaces where they learn with and from a variety of staff beyond their home teacher. In this way we are better able to meet the learning needs of students.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Phill Kapitanow  
Principal



### Message from our REC

Dear Parents, Guardians, caregivers and friends,  
As we come to the end of 2020, I would like to extend my gratitude to all our families and friends. Your love, support and faith in what we do at St Bernadette's is greatly appreciated, particularly with the uniqueness that 2020 has brought on us all.

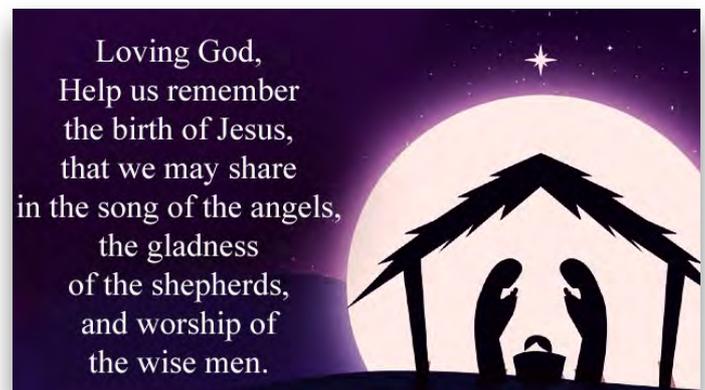
Next week our school community will farewell our Year Six students. This day will highlight a significant chapter in their early years education and open a new and exciting chapter. We pray that each of our students and families continue to be blessed with Gods love and grace.

Thank you to the Parish Sacramental team for guiding our families and students throughout the Sacramental program. You have prepared and organised such beautiful sessions – for this we are thankful for your time and support. To Father Andrew – thank you for always sharing your spiritual guidance and endless support in all that we do. Our students are truly blessed to witness Christ through your celebrations and presence at school.

Finally, I wish everyone a joyful Merry Christmas. As we become busy with the organisation of family gatherings, let us make time to remember that Christmas is a time where we rejoice in the gift of Christ. I offer a spiritual challenge to everyone this Christmas! Pause and take a minute to find Christ in the most unexpected places of our world and share your blessings with them. Whether it is time to stop and have a chat with someone new, offering peace, or helping someone in need. Let the spirit of Christ and his love wrap those that surround us. Merry Christmas to all our wonderful families and students and thank you so much for your love and support. I look forward to 2021.

With love and Blessings.

Mrs Mabellynn Buenaventura. (REC)



Loving God,  
Help us remember  
the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share  
in the song of the angels,  
the gladness  
of the shepherds,  
and worship of  
the wise men.



Last day for EFTPOS transactions for the year in the School Office will be Friday 11th December. There will be no receipting after this date.

Thank you



### School Requirements for 2021

# BACK TO SCHOOL



A note will be going home with your child next week with a list of the school requirements for 2021.

The lists will also be available on the website at the beginning of 2021.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Win a **GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK**

Competition closes at 5pm on 2 February 2020. Terms and conditions apply.



These summer holidays, Mr Greg Whitby (Executive Director CEDP) is again launching the Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel.

Taking part in the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is easy! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two Chromebooks or one of 30 runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30. Students can enter online by visiting the CEDP website.

Entries open on 23 November 2020 and close at 5:00pm on 1 February 2021. Terms and Conditions can be found here.

This year we are introducing Student Reading Ambassadors for the challenge. The role of the Student Reading Ambassador is to creatively encourage their peers to participate and enter the competition. Schools are then invited to nominate one outstanding Student Reading Ambassador for one of 10 prizes (each prize is a \$30 gift voucher).

The Summer holidays are a great chance to read! Good Luck!

### PBS4L Newsletter



PBS4L fortnightly focus:

We are SAFE when we can be in the right place at the right time.

It is important that the students are safe by being in the right place at the right time. This is during class time in all the learning spaces and when they are on the playground.

The students need to stay in bounds play areas at break times as well as stay with the teacher during class times.

We encourage students and families to continue showing their understanding of our focus by showing what this looks like and sounds like at home



## Literacy News with Mrs Maher



As our school year draws to a close, I would like to thank all of you for the support you have given your children over what has been a challenging year. Many times parents are told that they are their child's first teacher, this year however, you were called upon to be your child's everyday teacher with the guidance of our very dedicated teachers.

The students at St Bernadette's have worked hard this year and have made some very pleasing gains with their Literacy learning.

The long summer break is drawing near and whilst it is important for students to have a rest and enjoy their holiday time, there are fun things to do to keep their Literacy Learning ongoing.

Using the soundwaves phonics program over the holiday to play games and review the graphemes and phonemes covered over the year is a great way to keep the spelling learning ongoing, so that skills and concepts aren't forgotten.

Reading recipes and cooking with your children is a fun way to read for a purpose and put math concepts into practice in a real life situation. Cooking together is loads of fun too!!

Visiting the local library is free for story times and borrowing a wide range of texts. It's an excursion out of the house too!

Encouraging your children to write letters to relatives and friends is a great way to write for a purpose and loads of fun and excitement when there is a letter in the mail for your child. This could involve a trip to the post office.

Writing shopping lists together, visiting museums, going to the movies, plays, beaches, lakes, parks all contribute to giving children real life fun experiences that they can draw upon when reading and writing.

Summer reading is very important to prevent learning loss over the break. Reading just five books over the break can help prevent summer reading loss and contributes to improving student's vocabulary, sentence structure and love of reading. Books for christmas presents can help encourage a love of reading with some great books on sale at the moment.



The PM online book subscription will still be available to all students in Kindergarten to Year 2 and select students from across the school. Students in Years 3 to Year 6 have been given copies of The School Magazine that they can read during the holidays too.



Thank you for all your support this year and enjoy a happy and blessed Christmas with your family and friends.

See you in 2021

Lorraine Maher

## Dates For Your Diary

### December

- 11th Last day of receipting in the school office  
Year 6 Big Fun Day In
- 15th Year 6 Graduation Mass 12 noon  
Lunch for Year 6 and Parents after Mass  
Year 6 Dinner Dance 6.30pm-9.30pm
- 16th Last day for Students  
2-3pm Tissues and Champagne for Year 6 Parents in the Parish Hall

### January

- 28th School Locker Open 8.30am-12.30pm  
MAI Interviews
- 29th Year 1 to 6 Commence

### February

- 1st Kindergarten Commence



## News Items from all of our Teaching Groups

Leading up to the newsletter each fortnight we will be uploading news items to our website. These news items will showcase work from all of our class stage groups, Literacy, Numeracy, Sport and Health, Science, Creative Arts, Library, Bluey's Patch and Let's Cook and Create. Click on the link below to be taken to our website where you can view all of these news items and see lots of photos in our galleries. **Handy Hint:** Press your back arrow ← to come back to the newsletter



[View our News items](#)



Merry  
Christmas



[f St Bernadette's Official Facebook Page](#)

[St Bernadette's School Office](#)

[School Photo Gallery](#)

[St Bernadette's Parent Group](#)

[St Bernadette's Canteen](#)



**The School Locker is proud to be working in partnership with St Bernadette's Primary School**

## St Bernadette's Primary School Uniform Shop

We aim to provide your school community with excellent service, quality products and a wider product range than you would usually expect to find in a school uniform shop.

### Trading Hours During School Term

Wednesday 8:30am - 10:30am

### Uniform Shop Details

18 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park  
Contact: Jenni Gallagher  
Email: [StBernadettesPS@theschoollocker.com.au](mailto:StBernadettesPS@theschoollocker.com.au)

### Extended Trading Hours

Thursday 28th January 2021 8:30am - 12:30pm



## The School Locker Liverpool

Visit The School Locker Liverpool and discover a convenient one-stop-shop for school footwear, stationery, technology, musical instruments and sports equipment. Mac1 Service is also in-store and provides Apple Authorised repairs for all Apple devices.

### Store Details

The Grove Homemaker Centre  
2-18 Orange Grove Rd, Liverpool

Phone: 02 8796 2100

Monday to Wednesday & Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday 9:00am - 7:00pm

Saturday & Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm

## Shop online at [theschoollocker.com.au](http://theschoollocker.com.au)

Products are available for purchase online from The School Locker website. You can choose to have your order shipped directly to you or you can collect it from the school uniform shop during trading hours.

Join The School Locker Student Advantage Program to access special pricing and generate revenue for your school with every purchase you make in any of our stores. Set up your membership online at [theschoollocker.com.au/customer/account/](http://theschoollocker.com.au/customer/account/)

**the School Locker**

**Mac 1 Service**

unlock their potential.



# Summer Holiday Club



Give your child an EPIC Summer with **Holiday Club**.

Children across Australia have shown their bravery and resilience this year, and Holiday Club is making sure that they have the best school holidays with a jam-packed Summer program. Come on an exciting off-site adventure, experience something new when we're visited by special guests or get into project-based fun – there's fun for everyone.

Plus, we've enhanced our safety and hygiene measures, so you can have peace of mind knowing your children can focus on having fun.

Check out some of the experiences that are happening this Summer, exclusive to Holiday Club:



### Science is Magic

Get in the know when we learn all about magic, and the science behind it.

These cool experiments will teach you all the *tricks* of the trade.



### Visionary Creations

As we head into 2021, let's set some goals and get our creative energy flowing when we make vision boards. Plus, we're making snap bands for you and your friends.



### Cinema Animated

Learn all about strobing images and animation by making your very own zootrope – a pre-film animation device that produces motion via illusion!

**Book now.** To find out when these activities are on during the school holidays and to find your nearest service, visit: [www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs](http://www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs).

We look forward to seeing you at **Holiday Club**.

The Camp Australia Team



HOLIDAY CLUB

# ST BERNADETTE'S

Where We Learn and Grow Together

## 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: [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 Church** - 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**

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Thursday 24 December—Christmas Eve

6.30pm Parish Family Mass (112 People) No Children's Mass

8.30pm Parish Family Mass (112 People)

Midnight Parish Family Mass (112 People)

### Friday 25 December - Christmas Day

9.00am Parish Family Mass (112 People)

### Saturday 26 December— Boxing Day No Morning Mass or Reconciliation

4.30pm-5.30pm, Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6.00pm Vigil Mass

### Sunday 27 December (Holy Family) 8.30am and 10.00am

### Tuesday 29 December

8.15am Rosary and Adoration

8.45am Communion Service

### Wednesday 30 December NO DEVOTIONS OR MASS

### Thursday 31 December (New Year's Eve)

8.15am Rosary and Adoration

8.45am Communion Service

### Friday 1 January (New Year's Day)

8.15am Rosary and Adoration

8.45am Mass

### Saturday 2 January Normal Mass & Reconciliation Times

### Sunday 3 January Normal Mass & Reconciliation Times

## GOSPEL

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ'. 'Well then' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered 'No'. So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: A voice that cries in the wilderness: make a straight way for the Lord'. Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah and not the Prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap'. This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising. (John 1: 6—8: 19-28)