



Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee

Newsletter No. 2
Wednesday 14th February 2024

Dear Families,

It is with great excitement and pride that I share our new and updated website, with you- <https://www.bsweribeenth.catholic.edu.au/>. This is the collective work of all – the students, staff and families at Bethany. When we had our photo shoot day, last October, you the families welcomed the photographers, dressed your children in correct uniform and participated in the many photos taken. The students and staff were their natural selves- enthusiastic to demonstrate their learning in the spaces and outdoors. A special thank you to Kate Flanders for all her work behind the scenes getting the school, staff, students and me prepared for the day. A big THANK YOU to all and a big CONGRATULATIONS to all. I am sure you will be as delighted as I am with it. We are currently in the final stages of organising our Facebook/Instagram page, to showcase student learning across the school in real time. Operoo and SMS will continue to be our communication to families re events, excursions and newsletters. We are also beginning to explore an electronic newsletter, so stay tuned.

A few reminders to all:

1. The parking areas along Redford Street and Thames Boulevard are Drop Off Zones ONLY, in the morning and as such the expectation is that students are dropped off and parents then drive off. If you want to park your car and walk your child to their class you are very welcome and must park in the school Car Park or walk to school. Thank you for your understanding of this.
2. All families who wish to volunteer at the school need to list Bethany Catholic Primary School as a school they volunteer at on the [Working With Children Check](#) site. The school then receives a Department of Justice letter validating the check. Until the school receives this document families/parents will be unable to volunteer or help. As we have swimming in the next few weeks you may like to complete this.
3. We have our Prep Enrolment 2025 Information Session on **Thursday 29th February at 9:30am and 6:00pm**. Existing families may also like to attend if they have a child entering school for 2025.
4. NAPLAN takes place for Year 3 and Year 5 from Wednesday 13th March up until Monday 25th March. More information will follow soon for these students and their families.
5. Please note the date change for the Family Eucharist Night. This will now be on **Wednesday 1st May at 6:45pm**



It was lovely to see so many of you at Ash Wednesday Mass today.

Thank you for your continued support. Take care. God bless

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Joanne Webster
Principal

Prayer:

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day on which Catholics traditionally resist eating between meals (fasting) and avoid eating meat (abstaining). Many Catholics also attend Mass or have special prayer liturgies. Lent is a forty day period preparation for Easter. It reminds us of the forty-days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before he took up his ministry. During this time, he fasted and prayed. Lent is a time of self-denial and prayer for us as well. During this period, we are called to focus on becoming closer to Jesus by praying a little more, doing good deeds for others, going without something we like and giving generously to others in need. Ash Wednesday is a good time for us to think about what we can do to grow closer to Jesus over the next weeks.



Gracious God, today begins a period of inner reflection and examination.

The days stretch before me and invite me inward to that silent, holy space that holds your Spirit.

This special time beckons me to see my life through Christ's eyes and the truth and reality of your love incarnate.

Give me the grace to enter the space of these days with anticipation of our meeting.

And, when I open my soul to your presence, let your loving kindness flow over me and seep into the pockets of my heart.

I ask this for the sake of your love.

Amen

Staff News

Last week we welcomed Georgie Beth Davitt, a baby to Jess Kerlin and Callum, born on 7th February at 12:06pm- 3.35kg. We congratulate and wish them all the best. God Bless.

School News

Swimming Program 2024

The Year 5/6 students have embraced the Swimming Program this week. Years 1-4 have received their Operoo about their swimming times for Week 5. Please ensure you have read and given permission. Exploration will receive their Operoo at the end of this week.

DATES	YEAR	TIMES
Week 5 Monday 26 Feb. – Friday 1 st March	3 & 4	9:30 - 11:45 3 lesson times
Week 5 Monday 26 Feb. – Friday 1 st March	1 & 2	12:00 - 2:15 3 lesson times
Week 6 Monday 4 – Friday 8 March	Prep	12:00 -1:30 2 Lesson times

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Swim & survive is a comprehensive swimming and water safety program, which seeks to encourage the development of swimming and water safety skills of children to prevent drowning and to increase their participation in safe aquatic activities. Further information will be provided shortly.

District Swimming Carnival Year 3 – 6

The District Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 21st February. Information for students attending will go home at the end of this week.

Year 5/6 Incursion

On Friday the 9th of February, La Trobe University came to the Leadership Centre and we explored liquids, gases, solids and plasma.

In this experiment we looked at the plasma ball. The plasma inside is trying to escape, but it can't because there is glass surrounding it. We put a light bulb near the plasma light and the bulb turned on.

By Isabel – Chisholm

On 9/2/2024, we had an incursion that looked at states of matter. La Trobe University came to our school. We got to complete many experiments. In one particular experiment we were making a rocket to launch off. It needed a Alka-Seltzer tablet and water and when we put them together there was pressure inside a capsule, causing an explosion. I had a great time and I learnt a lot about science that I didn't know before. By Lucille - Chisholm



On Thursday the 8th of February me and my class Teresa Hub had an Inquiry Incursion. We learnt a variety of different science and chemistry information. We experienced thrilling experiments like when I added Alka-Seltzer to water and it exploded like a rocket to the roof because of the chemical reaction!

There were multiple other experiments that we did but the most fun was playing with the non-Newtonian fluid named Oobleck as it was slimy when no pressure is applied but when you apply the pressure it becomes very solid almost like a rock. After that towards the end of the lesson I saw something quite incredible. I saw a plasma ball that was able to light up a light bulb.

All in all it was a great experience and I would like to have another one like it sometime.

Ifechukwu - Teresa



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Prep Beginning of the Year Liturgy

Last Friday, the Exploration Centre students participated in a special beginning of the year liturgy. They were introduced to why we pray and practised praying reverently. They explored the special objects (cross, Bible, candle, prayer cloth) and symbols on their hub prayer tables. We were very proud of the way our new students participated so calmly in their very first whole centre liturgy.



Safer Internet Day 2024 – Connect, Reflect, Protect

On Tuesday February 6 the students engaged in various discussions and learning activities to celebrate Safer Internet Day.

Safer Internet Day is a global initiative to raise awareness of online safety issues. The eSafety Commissioner leads the initiative in Australia and we help educate our students about online safety risks, like online abuse, how to be safe online and where to go for help.

This Safer Internet Day encourages us all to take three simple actions when approaching online safety: **Connect. Reflect. Protect.**

Connect safely by keeping apps and devices secure and reviewing your privacy settings regularly.

Reflect on how your actions online may affect others or your safety.

Protect yourself and others by visiting [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au) to find out how to stay safe online and report online abuse.

Students revisited their ICT User Agreement with their teachers and discussed ways to use technology safely both at school and at home. These agreements have been sent home via Operoo for F-2 and on paper for 3-6. Please read the user agreement with your child, sign and return ASAP.



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For Parents/Carers:

The eSafety Commissioner provides free termly webinars for parents and carers. Term 1 webinars are based on the following topics.

- eSafety 101: How eSafety can help
- Understanding how to support your child with online gaming
- Understanding parental controls to safeguard your child
- Online safety and social media: TikTok, YouTube and Instagram

For the eSafety parent/carer webinars register at: [eSafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)
[eSafety webinars](#)

Positive Behaviour for Learning PBL

It is exciting to enter our third year of teaching positive behaviours and routines to our students.

If you have been wandering around our school grounds over the past week or in the office area, you may have noticed our new PBL signage. These signs help our learning become more visible and serve as a reminder to all that everyone is aiming to be safe, respectful and responsible every day at Bethany.

If you would like a copy of the Matrix to use with your children at home, please ask them to see Carin for a copy.



The Resilience Project

This year, Bethany Catholic Primary School has partnered with The Resilience Project (TRP) to support students to develop their mental health and wellbeing. Staff have recently engaged in professional development opportunities and are excited about integrating The Resilience Project into their daily practices in order to support all students in our community. In the coming weeks, The Resilience Project will be launched across Centres where students will develop daily practices centred around the four key concepts of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness and Emotional Literacy (GEM+EL). These lessons may include video snippets, GEM chats,



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writing in student journals or other fun activities. Students will be encouraged to share personal anecdotes and stories, identify self-care practices that work for them and build upon their emotional literacy so that they can label their emotions.

We have a new banner for our school that identifies our partnership with the Resilience Project, so keep an eye out for it!

Family News

Happy Families

We continue to subscribe to Happy Families. A resource that is available to you to engage in various articles on parenting and raising children. Many of the articles are only a short read over a cuppa. This week's article is: **Play is Declining and so in Mental Health**. This article aligns nicely with the Resilience Project and highlights the importance of play in our children's lives. Enjoy the read.

You can access the website at <https://schools.happyfamilies.com.au/login> and the password is happybcps

Assemblies:

Assemblies are held on Mondays, generally fortnightly at 2:25pm. Please find the Assembly Schedule.

All families are invited to attend. These are generally held on the basketball court or in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

ASSEMBLIES - 2024								
	TERM 1		TERM 2		TERM 3		TERM 4	
WEEK	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS
1			15 APRIL		15 JULY		7 OCTOBER	
2	5 FEBRUARY	Principal - JOANNE	22 APRIL	Year 5/6 Kolbe/Mandela	22 JULY	Year 6 Teresa/Little	14 OCTOBER	Year 5 Chisholm/MacKillop
3	12 FEBRUARY		29 APRIL		29 JULY		21 OCTOBER	
4	19 FEBRUARY	PBL	6 MAY	Year 2 Gold / Violet	6 AUGUST	Year 2 Indigo/Blue	28 OCTOBER	Prep Sky/Ocean
5	26 FEBRUARY		14 MAY		13 AUGUST		4 NOVEMBER	
6	4 MARCH	Leadership Assembly	20 MAY	Year 3 Werribee/Yarra	19 AUGUST	Year 4 Jordan/Sepik	11 NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY- Leadership Centre
7	11 MARCH	HOLIDAY	27 MAY		26 AUGUST		18 NOVEMBER	
8	18 MARCH	Year 1 Red/Orange	3 JUNE	Year 1 Yellow/Green	2 SEPTEMBER	Prep Earth/Star	25 NOVEMBER	Year 3/4 Todd/Murray
9	25 MARCH		10 JUNE	HOLIDAY	10 SEPTEMBER		2 DECEMBER	PP DAY
10			17 JUNE	PE / Art	16 SEPTEMBER	BOITE/Italian	Thurs 12 DECEMBER	End of Year Assembly JOANNE
11			24 JUNE				16 Dec	

Learning at Home (Homework)

On Tuesday 13th February we will begin **Learning at Home** (homework) across the school. The learning tasks provided will complement and reinforce classroom learning, whilst assisting students

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to develop positive study habits and time management skills. The tasks will aim to support, consolidate or at times extend skills previously practised.

Learning tasks will be sent out every Tuesday and returned the following Monday for corrections and feedback from P-6. Overall, Learning at Home will consist of English and Mathematics tasks, and may also include tasks from other curriculum areas too.

The following time allocations per night are:

Exploration – 10 minutes

Discovery – 15 minutes

Bridging – 20 minutes

Leadership – 30 minutes

Matters Financial

Student Levies

All student levies (\$395.00 per student) are expected to be finalised by **Friday, 2nd February**. Payment can be made over the phone by credit card or in person between 8.30am – 4:00pm.

Health Care Card Holders (CSEF)

Parents who hold a Health Care Card that is current on 30th January, 2023 may be eligible for the CSEF. This grant offers \$125 per student. The payment is made directly to the school and as such would offset \$150.00 of the student fee.

Families with a Health Care Card are asked to make an application for the Sport / Excursion grant on either at the beginning of the school year. It is important that you have your Health Care Card with you when making an application. Successful applicants will then only need to pay \$245.00 per student fee.

If you received this payment in 2023 you do not need to reapply. You will automatically receive this payment if your Health Care Card is still valid.

Concessional Fee Policy

The concessional fee policy was introduced to support families struggling to pay school fees. Concessional school fees are available to any family that meets the below eligibility criteria:

- Holding a valid HCC and eligible for CSEF
- Experiencing severe financial hardship
- Holding a DVA Gold Card
- Identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard
- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage

You will also be required to complete a form as a part of the process to determine eligibility. Should you wish further information re this funding or if you have questions as to whether you are eligible, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to Joanne Webster.

First Instalment School Fee

If you opted to by your school fees by three instalments, the first instalment **\$590.00** was due by **Friday 9th February**.

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Parent in Partnership and School Advisory Council

Parent in Partnership Meetings for the 2024 will be held on the following dates and times:

Wednesday 21st February at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre

Wednesday 13th March at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 17th April at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre

Wednesday 22nd May at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 31st July at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre

Wednesday 21st August at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 16th October at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre

Wednesday 20th November at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

School Advisory Council Meetings will be held on:

Wednesday 6th March – 6:45pm – 8:15pm

Wednesday 15th May – 6:45pm – 8:15pm

Wednesday 14th August – 6:45pm – 8:15pm

Wednesday 6th November – 6:45pm – 8:15pm

Important Dates-

2024 Dates

February

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February – Year 5/6 swimming program

Tuesday 13th February – Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday Mass 2:00pm

Wednesday 14th February – NO SCHOOL for Prep students

Monday 19th February – PBL Assembly 2:25pm in the hall

Wednesday 21st February – Truganina District Swimming sports

Wednesday 21st February – NO SCHOOL for Prep students

Monday 26th February – Friday 1st March – Year 3/4 swimming program AM

Monday 26th February – Friday 1st March – Year 1/2 swimming program PM

Tuesday 27th February – Truganina District Summer Gala Day – Year 5/6

Thursday 29th February – 2025 Prep Information sessions: 9:30am & 6:00pm

March

Monday 4th – Friday 8th March - Year Prep swimming program

Monday 4th March – Leadership Assembly 2:25pm

Wednesday 6th March – Division swimming

Wednesday 6th March – School Open Night

Monday 11th March – Labour Day Holiday

Monday 11th – Friday 15th March – Catholic Education Week

Monday 18th March – Assembly 2:25pm (Red & Orange Hubs)

Wednesday 20th – Friday 22nd March – Leadership Centre Camp Adanac

Monday 25th March – Bethany Day

Thursday 28th March – Last Day Term 1 – students finish at **12:30pm**

Friday 29th March – Good Friday

Last day of Term 1: Thursday 28th March at 12:30pm

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April

Monday 15th April – Term 2 begins – 8:45 am start

Thursday 18th April - Athletics Carnival

Friday 19th April – Legacy ANZAC Service (School Leaders)

Monday 22nd April - Assembly 2:25pm (Kolbe & Mandela Hubs)

Wednesday 24 April – School Photo Day

Thursday 25 April – ANZAC Day holiday

School Closures for 2024

The following dates are school closure days for 2024. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES:**

Thursday 27th June- Learning Conversations

Monday 15th July – Professional Learning Conference

Tuesday 16th July – Professional Learning Conference

Monday 4th November – Assessment & Report Writing

Monday 2nd December – 2025 Planning Day

Public Holidays for 2024

Monday 11th March – Labor Day Public Holiday

Friday 29th March – Good Friday

Thursday 25th April – ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Monday 10th June – King's Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 5th November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Sacrament Dates 2024 PLEASE MARK IN YOUR DIARIES

First Communion – Year 4 Thursday 13th June 5:00pm and 7:00pm at St Andrew's Church

Confirmation – Year 6 Thursday 8th August 5:00pm and 7:00pm in the Bethany School Hall

First Reconciliation – Year 3 Wednesday 30th October 5:00pm and 7:00pm in St Andrew's Church

Family Nights for Sacraments 2024

Eucharist Family Night- Year 4 students and parents/carers- Wednesday 1st May 6:45pm School Hall **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

Confirmation Family Night – Year 6 students and parents/carers –Wednesday 24th July 6:45pm School Hall

Reconciliation Family Night – Year 3 students and parents/carers –Wednesday 16th October 6:45pm School Hall

All students and families celebrating these sacraments are required to attend.

LUNCH ORDER PRICELIST 2024

HOT FOOD	
Party Pies	\$2.00
Sausage Rolls	\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce	\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce & Cheese	\$6.00
Schnitzel Sandwich	\$6.50
Schnitzel Sandwich with Lettuce & Mayo	\$7.00
Extras: Sauce	\$0.20
Mustard	\$0.20
Paper Bag	\$0.20

CAKES	
Iced Donuts	\$1.20
Cinnamon Donuts	\$1.00
Jam Donuts	\$3.00
Chocolate Jam Donuts	\$3.50
Croissant	\$3.00
Lamington	\$4.00
Apple Cake	\$4.50
Mini Mud Cake	\$4.50
Hedgehog	\$4.50
Muffin (Chocolate Chip & Blueberry)	\$4.50
Happy Face/Neenish Tart	\$3.50

DRINKS	
Prima (Orange or Apple)	\$2.50
Prima (Apple & Raspberry)	\$2.50
Kids Milk (Chocolate or Strawberry)	\$3.00

SANDWICHES	
Ham or Chicken	\$4.00
Ham or Chicken & Cheese	\$5.50
Ham or Chicken, Cheese & Salad	\$7.50
Cheese & Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber & Carrot)	\$7.50
Cheese & Bacon Roll	\$2.00
Cheese Roll	\$1.80
Cheese & Vegemite Scroll	\$4.00

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