

Dear Families,

This week we begin our Pre-Prep transitions for our Prep 2025 students. Partnerships and relationships are key to the success of all students and families and these visits give all the opportunity to begin to establish these. These transitions also give our new students, and new families the chance to begin to familiarise themselves with our school and get to know members of the community that will walk the journey with them for the next 7 years. Many of our existing families will also be there to support and guide, and for this we are grateful.

Last Wednesday we had our Reconciliation family evening with Maria Forde who shared with our Year 3 students and families the significance of the sacrament through music, ritual, prayer, and scripture. The students were very active and animated in their responses to Maria's questions. We thank all families for your ongoing support in your child's faith formation. Our Year 3 students celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation next Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 5:00pm at St Andrew's Church. We keep these students in our prayers as they receive the beautiful sacrament of healing and forgiveness through God's great love and mercy.

A reminder that all students **must** wear a school sunhat when outdoors and all students must wear full summer uniform from **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October**.

A school closure will take place on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**, as a Professional Practice Day for teachers. The Melbourne Cup Public Holiday is on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**. **The school will be closed on both of these days**. Students return to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 8:45am.

As we have members leaving our School Advisory Council (SAC) at the conclusion of this year, we are looking for parents/carers interested in being a member of the School Advisory Council for 2025. The School Advisory Council offers consultation and advice to the Principal on matters such as; buildings, master plan, enrolments, school vision and mission, Catholic ethos, and school policies. The SAC meets 4 -5 times a year. If you are interested in being a part of this please email [principal@bswerribeenth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@bswerribeenth.catholic.edu.au), to express an interest by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. Many thanks.

*Get Active Kids* is a government initiative that offers families the opportunity to claim up to \$200 per child for their sporting commitments. The flyer has been attached should you be eligible to apply.

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

Joanne Webster  
Principal

## Prayer

Our prayer this week is for our students celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You may like to pray this with your family leading up to this sacrament.

Loving God, help us to pray for all Year 3 students celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation  
You love us all totally and unconditionally.

Help us to encourage our Year 3 students to grow in love

and to learn how to say sorry, knowing that You always forgive.

Give them the courage to pray and to share our faith, as we journey together.

We ask this through Christ our Lord

Amen

## School News

### SRC Events for Terms 4 – Bethany's Got Talent

# Bethany's Got Talent



## Talent



Talents: Dancing, Singing, Jokes, Magic,  
and many more

Individual or Small Groups

Week 2: **Nominate** and **rehearse** at home

Week 3: **Perform for the hub** with teacher and SRC  
judging

Week 4: **Semi Final** - in your centre



Week 6: **Years 3 - 6 Grand Final**  
Thursday 14th November 2 - 3pm

Week 7: **Years P - 2 Grand Final**  
Monday 18th November 2 - 3pm



The SRC event for all students for Term 4 is Bethany's Got Talent.

This is an opportunity for students to showcase their talents as performers, be it singing, dancing, playing an instrument, telling jokes or performing magic tricks.

An outline of the timeline for this event is showcased here. All families are invited to our Grand Finals on the following dates in the school Hall.

We look forward to you joining us to celebrate the talent we have here at Bethany!

## St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal - Free Dress Friday, November 8th

The cost-of-living increases are pushing tens of thousands of Aussie families over the edge, into poverty and risk of homelessness. They desperately need support to put food on the table, keep the lights on and keep a roof over their heads. Will you please help?

The St Vincent De Paul Society along with St Andrew's Parish have begun preparation for their Christmas appeal.

We are inviting children to wear casual clothes on "Free Dress Friday", November 8th. Please bring a gold coin donation to school on that day to support the Christmas Appeal.

## Positive Behaviour for Learning

During their recent Inquiry incursion 'Forces in Motion', the Bridging Centre students demonstrated our school's PBL values of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. This enabled them to engage in the exciting learning opportunities and activities offered by Swinburne University's 'PrimeSci!'



Being Safe by moving around calmly and quietly.

Being Respectful by listening to the speaker and following directions promptly.

Being Responsible by looking after equipment carefully.

## Positive Behaviour for Learning School Wide Expectations



*Let Learners Learn and Teachers Teach*

	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Learning Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself</li> <li>Line up and walk calmly and quietly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use kind words and actions</li> <li>Use whole body listening</li> <li>Follow directions promptly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look after self, others and equipment</li> <li>Be a responsible learner</li> </ul>
Outside Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>Use spaces and equipment correctly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use kind words and actions</li> <li>Be a good sport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look after self, others and equipment</li> <li>Wear correct uniform</li> <li>Be on time &amp; walk promptly to line up</li> </ul>

UPDATED JAN 2024



## The Resilient Project - Digital Detox - Benefits to Unplugging from Technology

Digital devices are everywhere and fulfill a lot of our everyday needs - from checking the weather and the news, to school and homework, to communicating with others - making it hard to balance unplugging from technology and engaging with it. Teens in particular may find it difficult to disconnect because, as digital natives, they have always had digital technology in their lives.

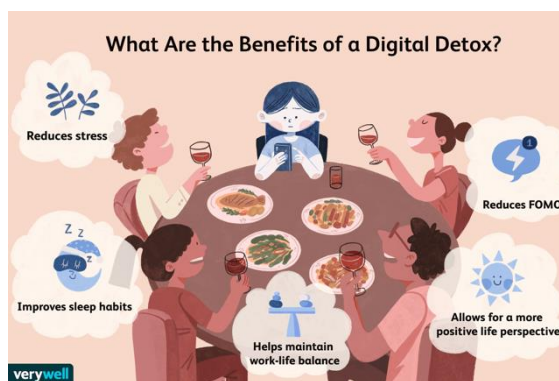
All students attending Bethany Primary School have the right to feel safe. The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility of all within our school.

Screens aren't necessarily a bad thing - they're often a requirement for school or work. They can be portals to learning, discovery and greater connection with people around the world. But excessive screen time can lead to screen addiction and may cause mental health concerns like anxiety, depression, social isolation and difficulty controlling technology use. However, there are a number of potential benefits to unplugging from technology:

- improves sleep
- boosts productivity
- reduces stress and anxiety
- improves physical health
- building stronger relationships with others and the natural world
- helps battle FOMO (fear of missing out)
- encourages creativity
- fosters emotional intelligence
- calms the mind
- helps us all focus on the RIGHT NOW.

With a few practical tips, children and their parents can strike a balance between unplugging and engaging with their phones and devices. These may include:

- setting boundaries
- finding alternative activities
- using apps to limit screen time
- creating accountability
- starting small.



Sources:

<https://www.weareteachers.com/brain-benefits-of-unplugging/>

<https://raleighinternational.org/blog/benefits-of-disconnecting-from-technology/>

<https://www.bgca.org/news-stories/2024/February/supporting-digital-wellbeing-8-ways-to-help-teens-unplug-from-technology/>

## Happy Families

We all know that life can sometimes throw us curve balls from time to time. This week's 'Happy Families' article, '**15 Ways to Raise Kids Who Bounce Back - No Fluff, Just Grit**', reminds us that building resilience is an ongoing process. It's about nurturing a positive mindset. So... be patient, be present, and most importantly, be the safe harbour your child needs to navigate life's choppy waters. Enjoy the read.

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

## Child Safety Update



Staff at Bethany ensure that physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed (Child Safety Standard 9). Ongoing considerations are made when students are learning in different spaces around the school, playing with their friends outside, and when accessing resources and information on their school devices. Staff on yard duty are always vigilant when supervising students during breaks by wearing their orange vests, carrying a First Aid bag and watching for potential dangers, such as broken fence panels and tripping hazards. Students also access 'Inform & Empower' each term, a digital safety and wellbeing resource, where they are provided with knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe in the digital landscape. This standard is also embedded into our PBL Matrix as the core value, 'Be Safe'.

### Mission Month

The Social Justice leaders have begun preparing for 'Mission Month' in October. After attending the 'Kids View' conference earlier this year, they have learnt about issues facing homeless children and youth in the Philippines and around the world. They will be running a stall to raise money for 'Bahay Tuluyan', a charity which provides vulnerable children with housing and training for future employment opportunities. Families can support their efforts by sending gold coins to school for students to buy items from their stall.

### 2024 Whole School and Level Masses

Celebrating Mass provides students with the opportunity to experience their faith as they encounter Christ at this momentous meeting point.

Mass is celebrated in the school hall and all families are welcome.

Please find Masses for Term 4:

Term 4
<b>Saturday 9th November</b> 6pm <b>Community Mass</b> St Andrew's
<b>Thursday 14th November</b> at 10am <b>Level Mass:</b> Years 2 and Years 4
<b>Thursday 28th November</b> at 10am <b>Whole School Mass</b>

## Family News

### Key Enrolment Dates for Year 5 2025 beginning Secondary School in 2027

If you wish to enrol your child in a Catholic Secondary School beginning in 2027, please observe the following dates.

- Tuesday 28 January 2025 – Applications will open for students commencing Year 7 in 2027.
- Friday 15 August 2025 – Applications will close.
- Friday 17 October 2025 – Offers will be posted to prospective 2027 Year 7 applicants.
- Friday 7 November 2025 – Final date for parents/carers to accept an offer made by a school.

If you require any further information, please see Sheree or Elaine.

### Assemblies:

Assemblies are held on Mondays, fortnightly at 2:25pm. Please see 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.

TERM 4	
DATE	HUBS
7 OCTOBER	
14 OCTOBER	Year 6 Teresa/Little (Art)
21 OCTOBER	
28 OCTOBER	Prep Sky/Ocean
4 NOVEMBER	
11 NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY- Leadership Centre
18 NOVEMBER	
25 NOVEMBER	Year 3/4 Todd/Murray
2 DECEMBER	PP DAY
Thurs 12 DECEMBER	End of Year Assembly JOANNE

## Matters Financial

### All School Fees are now due

Please see Joanne Webster if you are having difficulty paying.

### 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.

## Parent in Partnership and School Advisory Council

**Parent in Partnership Meetings for the 2024** will be held on the following dates and times:  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November – 6:00pm

**School Advisory Council Meetings** will be held on:  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – 6:45pm

### Important Dates –

#### October

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Pre-Prep Transition Day 1  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Mission Friday  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Bethany's Got Talent Semi Finals in Centres  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Assembly 2:25pm (Sky & Ocean)  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Discovery Centre Year 1 Excursion – Werribee Mansion  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Discovery Centre Year 2 Excursion – Werribee Mansion  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October – First Reconciliation 5:00pm in St Andrew's Church  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Pre-Prep Transition Day 2

#### November

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – School Closure: Assessment & Report Writing**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Exploration Centre, Fairy Tale Fiasco Incursion  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Free Dress Friday gold coin donation for St Vincent De Paul **New**  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Community Mass at St Andrew's 6:00pm  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day Assembly 2:25pm (Leadership Centre)  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Dental Van  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Years 2 & 4 Level Mass 10:00am School Hall  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Leadership Centre Maps and Mayhem Incursion  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Year 3-6 Bethany's Got Talent Grand Final 2:00pm **Updated**  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Leadership Centre Maps and Mayhem Incursion  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Prep -2 Bethany's Got Talent Grand Final 2:00pm **Updated**  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Whole School Mass 10:00am School Hall

#### December

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – School Closure, 2025 Planning Day  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Whole School Orientation Day  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Family Event 6 – 8pm **Information to follow soon**  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Year 6 Graduation 6 – 7:30pm  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Final School Assembly  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Year 6 Graduation Excursion and **last day for Year 6 students**  
**Updated**  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – **Last Day Term 4 Prep to Year 5** – students finish at **12:30pm**

#### School Closures for 2024

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

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Assessment & Report Writing  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – 2025 Planning Day

#### Public Holidays for 2024

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

#### Sacrament Dates 2024 PLEASE MARK IN YOUR DIARIES

**First Reconciliation** – Year 3 Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 5:00pm in St Andrew's Church

## 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