



Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee

Newsletter No. 8
Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Dear Families,

We are now at the half way mark of what is always a busy term with report writing and all that goes with this. Throughout this time students continue to be provided with learning opportunities in the hubs, in the specialist classes and in the many incursions, excursions and sporting events experienced.

Our teaching staff have been diligently writing reports to celebrate the learning progress students have made across the last 16 weeks of school. I will have the opportunity to begin to read these in the next week or so and always enjoy noting the progress, effort and achievements students have made in their learning across the school. Learning Conversations will take place in the last week of school and these provide the students, the families and the teachers with the time and opportunity to review and affirm their growth, however this may look. An Operoo was emailed to all families last Friday, to request a conversation about your child's/children's report. Please complete at your earliest convenience.

Whilst Mother's Day seemed to be weeks ago, I feel compelled to mention the great success this was for our mothers and/or significant women in our children's lives. We had well over 700 in attendance and all very much enjoyed the celebration. Thank you to all the mothers and students who attended on the day, and to all the staff for their contribution on the day to make this such a success. A big thank you to our Parent in Partnership team, who manned the Mother's Day stall and our school leaders who helped. A whole school team effort in both instances, continuing to grow 'community' here at Bethany. Very grateful to all. We look forward to our Father's Day breakfast later in the year and all this brings to our community.

Our whole school Mass – Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians is celebrated on **Friday 24th May at 10am in the school hall**. Please know you are all welcome. We will provide 'Fellowship' following this Mass, with a morning tea prepared by our students and Kate from our Community Kitchen. We look forward to seeing you all there.

I would like to also make you aware of the Allan Labor Government's announcement regarding the \$400 School Saving Bonus for all school students in government schools regardless of income, but only for Health Care Card holders in Catholic schools. This is deeply unfair.

We believe the payment should be means tested for all students or apply to all students.

It should not be based on which school you attend. This policy punishes families for choosing to send their children to a Catholic school.

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.

Our school, Bethany Catholic Primary School and the peak body, the Victorian Catholic Education Authority, are working hard to oppose this policy and we need your help. We need to show the Victorian Government that punishing families who choose a Catholic school is unacceptable. Please consider contacting your local Member of Parliament to express your concern. Our school's local MP is Tim Pallas and he can be contacted by emailing tim.pallas@parliament.vic.gov.au

Template letters are available to assist you with making your voice heard. Please find it here. [Template letter to MP](#). Thank you for your time in reading this and for advocating for your family and our school.

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

Joanne Webster
Principal

Prayer:

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost-when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles. They were able to speak in diverse languages, and this enabled people from different nations to comprehend the gospel's message. This occurrence marked the inception of the Church, and it led to the conversion of thousands of individuals.

God, quiet my heart and head so,
I can be mindful of the gift of the Holy Spirit in my life.
In the voices of others, may I discern Your voice.
In the actions of others, may I recognize Your love.
In moments of stress, may I feel the peace that Your spirit brings.
Amen.

School News

Child Safety Update

There are eleven Child Safe Standards that guide schools with deliberate actions to keep all our students safe. Each newsletter we will share with you one of these Standards and how we are implementing it here at Bethany.



Standard 1

Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued

This Standard is about students having the ability to express their culture and feel included:

- We educate all students through our Inquiry approach, by including an Aboriginal perspective as well as ensuring all diverse backgrounds are acknowledged in our learning.

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- At assemblies we include the Acknowledgment to Country to demonstrate respect.
- We made a conscious decision to purchase Indigenous crosses for all classrooms linking culture, identity and faith.
- We use the Message Stick, as a powerful symbol to gesture the willingness of both cultures to accept the Word and the coming together of the peoples of different cultures to worship the Creator. The message stick is often brought forward in the entrance procession in our Masses. The message stick is a means of communication, and so it accompanies the Word of God that is proclaimed and received.
- We have and have had Indigenous themed incursions for students to deepen our understanding and continue to build respect and value of all.

Positive Behaviour for Learning PBL

The Prep students have recently applied their learning of what it means to **'Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible'** outside of Bethany, while on their 'Animal Land' farm excursion. The students were able to action **'Be Safe'** by walking around the farm in their line order.



The Prep students used whole body listening and eyes on the speaker when listening to the farmers, demonstrating their knowledge of **'Be Respectful'**.



The students followed farm expectations set by the farmers, particularly when approaching the farm animals, showing they could **'Be Responsible'**.

The Resilience Project

Mindfulness is our ability to be calm and present at any given moment. We practise this through slowing down and concentrating on one thing at a time. "When students learn mindfulness, they are equipped to manage stressful situations by acknowledging their emotions and making good decisions" ([Empower Education, 2020](#)).

Studies reveal that mindful breathing and other mindfulness practices are effective methods for increasing positive emotions, focus, memory, attention, and compassion, while decreasing stress and negative emotions ([Calm, 2023](#); [Empower Education, 2020](#)).

Some of the benefits experienced from practising mindfulness on a regular basis includes:

1. Emotional regulation (*Ability to self-regulate & reduce irritation*);
2. Focus and concentration (*Increased focus and attention & greater concentration*);
3. Stress reduction (*Reduced stress and anxiety*);
4. Enhanced self-awareness and empathy (*Increased empathy*);
5. Improved sleep (*Better sleep*);

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6. Increased resilience (*Increased kindness & compassion*); and,

7. Overall wellbeing (*Harmony within your home*).

There are a number of apps that you can access and engage with as a family to promote the ongoing implementation of mindfulness practices throughout your daily lives. Some of these include the TRP app, Smiling Mind, Breath+, Headspace, Unplug and Calm (this one has a cost involved). Which app might you try with your family this week?

Zander (Yarra Hub)



Smiling Mind



Breath +



Headspace



Unplug



Calm

Whole School and Level Masses

2024 MASSES and LITURGIES

Celebrating Holy Mass provides the students 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 most welcome to attend.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
<p>Wednesday 14th February 2pm Whole School Mass: Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>Saturday 27th April 6pm Community Mass St Andrew's</p> <p>Thursday 9th May at 10 am Level Mass: Years 1 and Years 6</p> <p>Friday 24th May at 10 am Whole School Mass: Our Lady Help of Christians</p>	<p>Friday 26th July at 10 am Whole School Mass: Sts Mary, Martha and Lazarus (Feast on Mon 29/7)</p> <p>Thursday 22nd August at 10am Level Mass: Years 3 and Years 5</p> <p>Thursday 12th September at 10am Level Mass: Preps</p>	<p>Saturday 19th October 6pm Community Mass St Andrew's</p> <p>Thursday 14th November at 10am Level Mass: Years 2 and Years 4</p> <p>Thursday 28th November at 10am Whole School Mass</p>

Family News

Happy Families

How often do you think - My Child Won't Listen? It is one of the most common complaints heard from parents about their children. But guess what? They are listening. They're just not complying! This week's

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Happy Families article is 'When My Child Won't Listen' and it gives you seven easy pointers to consider when giving an instruction to your child and ensuring they are complying as well as listening. We hope you trial some of these and you have success. Enjoy the learning

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. The next Assembly is on June 3rd and Yellow and Green will be hosting this.

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	5 AUGUST	Year 2 Indigo/Blue	28 OCTOBER	Prep Sky/Ocean
5	26 FEBRUARY		14 MAY		12 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	

Matters Financial

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:

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- 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.

Second Instalment School Fee

If you opted to pay your school fees by three instalments, the second instalment of **\$590.00** was due by **Friday 19th April**.

School Fee – Full Payment

If you opted to pay your school fees in full, payment was **due last Friday 17th May**.

Shop for your School Campaign 2024 – Pacific Werribee

Bethany is participating in Pacific Werribee's "Shop for Your School Campaign" which began on **Thursday 16th May, 2024** and runs until **Wednesday 26th June 2024**.

All you have to do is shop at any participating store centre-wide and upload your receipts to help our school for a chance to win a share of \$30,000. Gain double points when you shop fresh food.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support and have some important information for you to note.

The leader board is up, located in front of Woolworths, this leaderboard will be updated weekly every Thursday morning for you to see how Bethany is tracking.

You can also find the live leaderboard that is updated as receipts are entered <https://www.pacificwerribeeschoolwin.com.au/home>

Just a few key things to remember:

- **Its bigger and better!**

This year you can enter receipts from stores centre wide. So next time you shop for your new school shoes, have brunch at Coffee Club, or buys a gift from Target you can enter the receipts for Bethany.

- Find the participating stores attached and on the website.
- Excludes travel money exchange, banks, eyecare, ear care and insurance retailers.

- **Double the points will be entered when you shop fresh food.**

- Fresh food retailers include Aldi, Bakers Delight, Breadtop, Coles, Ferguson Plarre Bakehouse, Global Meats & Groceries, MarketPlace Fresh, Pacific Asian Supermarket, Pretty's Prime Cuts, R&V Spice Bazaar, Fish Pier and Woolworths.

- **Customers can win a \$200 gift card.**

Every time customers enter their receipts; they go in the draw to win a \$200 gift card. Each week "Shop for Your School" are giving away a \$200 dining gift cards, \$200 fashion gift card and \$200 fresh food gift card.

- **A bonus \$20 towards your next shop!** For week 1 & 2 they are giving returning customers the chance to claim a \$20 gift card. They can find information here [Shop for your school 20 \(qicre.com\)](https://www.pacificwerribeeschoolwin.com.au/home)

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Campaign Websites:

<https://pacificwerribee.qicre.com/Campaigns/2024/Shop-for-your-school-2024>

Enter your receipts and find out more on weekly giveaways:

<https://pacificwerribee.qicre.com/Promotions/Shop-for-your-school>

Register and see live leaderboard:

<https://www.pacificwerribeeschoolwin.com.au/home>

You will find a flyer attached to this newsletter with more information.

Parent in Partnership and School Advisory Council

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

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 22nd May at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 14th August – 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 6th November – 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Important Dates-

2024 Dates

May

Wednesday 22nd May – Parents in Partnership and SAC 6:45pm

Friday 24th May – Whole School Mass – Our Lady Help of Christians 10:00am School Hall

Monday 27th May – Exploration – Henny Penny Egg Hatching

Tuesday 28th May – Division Cross Country

June

Monday 3rd June – Assembly 2:25pm (Yellow & Green Hubs)

Monday 3rd June – Social Justice Leaders – Kids view Conference

Thursday 6th June – Reconciliation for First Eucharist students

Friday 7th June- First Eucharist students visit St Andrew's Church

Monday 10th June – King's Birthday Holiday

Thursday 13th June – First Eucharist 5pm & 7pm at St. Andrew's Church

Friday 14th June – Winter Gala Day

Monday 17th June – Assembly 2:25pm (PE & Art)

Tuesday 25th June – School Reports home via Parent Portal

Thursday 27th June – Learning Conversations – **School closure**

Friday 28th June – Last Day Term 2 – students finish at **12:30pm**

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July

Monday 15th July – School Closure

Tuesday 16th July – School Closure

Wednesday 17th July Term 3 Begins – 8:45am start

Monday 22nd July – Assembly 2:25pm (Teresa & Little Hubs)

Wednesday 24th July – Confirmation Family Evening 6:445pm School Hall

Friday 26th July – Whole School Mass: Mary, Martha & Lazarus 10:00am School Hall

Monday 29th July – Bethany Feast Day

Wednesday 31st July – VIS Leadership Excursion

Wednesday 31st July – Parents in Partnership 1:30pm

August

Thursday 1st August – Truganina District Athletics

Thursday 1st August – Bishop Visit – Confirmation candidates

Friday 2nd August – VIS Leadership Excursion

Monday 5th August – Assembly 2:25pm (Indigo & Blue Hubs)

Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th August – Year 4 Camp – Lady Northcote

Wednesday 7th August – VIS Leadership Excursion

Thursday 8th August – Year 6 Confirmation 5:00pm & 7:00pm School Hall

Monday 12th August- Bridging Centre- History Box Incursion

Monday 19th August – Assembly 2:25pm (Jordan & Sepik Hubs)

Wednesday 14th August – School Advisory Council – 6:45pm

Wednesday 21st August – Parents in Partnership 6:45pm

Thursday 22nd August – Year 3 & Year 5 Level Mass 10:00am School Hall

Thursday 29th August – 7:45am Father's Day Breakfast.

Friday 30th August – Father's Day Stall

September

Sunday 1st September – Father's Day

Monday 2nd September – Assembly 2:25pm (Earth & Star Hubs)

Tuesday 10th September – Division Athletics

Thursday 12th September – Year Prep Level Mass 10:00am School Hall

Monday 16th September – Assembly 2:25pm (Boite & Italian

Thursday 19th September – Year 3 Camp; Sleep over at school

Friday 20th September – Last Day Term 3 – students finish at **12:30pm**

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 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

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Family Nights for Sacraments 2024

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.

Camp Dates **NEW**

Year 4 – Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th August – Lady Northcote Camp, Bacchus Marsh

Year 3 – Thursday 19th September – School Sleep Over

Year 1 & 2 – Term 4 – Monday 21st October – Afternoon Tea & Kaboom, Year 2 – Afternoon Tea,
Kaboom, Disco & Dinner

Year Prep – Thursday 22nd August – Breakfast in Pyjamas

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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