

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

Dear Parents & Guardians

I am writing to update you with respect to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Our first priority at Bethany is the health and safety of our school community. I want to reassure you that the school is well-prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak.

Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with our Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan.

Bethany's Critical Incident Team:

Team Leaders - Helen Kelly (H)
Marlene Monahan
Gemma Gowland

Committee - Loretta Freeman
Kate Flanders
Michael Gowland.

We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- **Exercise good judgement by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason;**
- **Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe;**
- **Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with their school and teachers.**

Resources to assist parents when talking to their children about COVID 19

- School TV.Me Michael Carr Gregg
https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus
- A book for junior children with a simple explanation about the COVID 19
www.mindheart.co/descargables
- Talking to Children about COVID 19 - A Parent resource
[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on their website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

You can also find information about Catholic education's response at <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>

Optional Parent Briefings

Members of our School Critical Incident Team will hold optional parent briefing sessions on Monday 16th March and Tuesday 17th March at 8.50 am and 2.45 pm.

Parent briefings will be held in the school hall. The situation is evolving and the briefings are to share any new information that unfolds and to endeavour to answer any of your questions.

New information will be communicated to all parents.

Any new information given to us by the Health Department and Catholic Education Office will be forwarded to families via CareMonkey.

Moment by Moment

We all know that this situation is constantly changing.

The school will ensure that we are completely transparent with all official information received.

At this point in time there are no confirmed outbreaks of the virus within the Bethany School community.

In terms of reporting confirmed outbreaks within the school setting we will be completely transparent with the community and in every confirmed case the Health Department will advise us re the protocol to be followed.

Family Responsibilities – Non Attendance at School

If your children are unwell, even with a cold we ask that you keep them at home.

We appreciate that individual families will have their own opinions and views re the best way to manage this pandemic situation. We respect your opinions and any decisions you take as a family. Should you choose to keep your children away from school we understand however we ask that you ring the school absentee line and notify us of this decision accordingly.

Communication and clarity around all decisions will assist everyone.

Cancellation of Events

As you would appreciate, the decision to cancel events has not been made lightly and has been made after consultation with the Catholic Education Office and State Government Authorities.

Bethany Festival

As families will understand the Bethany Festival has been cancelled.

NO BETHANY FESTIVAL

Yr 1/2 Excursion

The excursion to the Arts Centre has been cancelled.

NO YR 1/2 EXCURSION AT THIS STAGE

No Deli

Students will not be able to purchase Deli lunches on a Monday till further notice. It is important that students bring their lunch from home EVERY day until further notice.

NO MONDAY DELI

No Icy Poles

Sale of icy poles has now ceased until further notice.

NO THURSDAY ICY POLES

Assembly March 26th

Only students from the Bridging Centre will attend this assembly.

We will keep you updated as things change.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact School Leaders should you have any concerns.

Thank you for your support as we work to keep our students safe.

Marlene Monahan
Principal



Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee North

Newsletter No. 4 2020

Dear Parents,

Raffle Tickets

If you have not returned your Bethany raffle tickets it is most important that you do so by **tomorrow, Tuesday March 17th at the latest.**

Celebrating 25 Years

As many families are aware, this year our school celebrates our 25th anniversary. To this end a year of celebrations will be held.

1. Our celebration will also mark an annual 'Bethany Day'. This feast will be acknowledged on the 29th of July each year. The feast of Martha and Mary who are significant people in the scripture account of Bethany.

The Bethany Story

Now as they went on their way,
He entered a certain village,
Where a woman named Martha
Welcomed him into her home.

She had a sister named Mary,
Who sat at the Lord's feet
And listened to what he was saying.

But Martha was distracted by her many tasks
So she came to him and asked,
"Lord, do you not care that my sister

*Our School
Vision:
"Creating
authentic
relationships for
successful living
within a
Catholic
tradition."*

*Bethany Catholic
Primary School is
committed to the
safety, wellbeing
and protection of
all children in our
care.*

Has left me to do all the work by myself?
Tell her then to help me.”

But the Lord answered her,
“Martha, Martha, you are worried
and distracted by many things;
There is need of only one thing.
Mary has chosen the better part,
Which will not be taken away from her.”
(Luke 10:38-42)

The annual Bethany Day will be celebrated each year as a fun day for all students.

2. A school assembly throughout the year will also focus on celebrating our 25 years.
3. The stain glass windows at the front entrance of the school will be completed marking the great achievements of our celebrated journey.

Chicken Pox

While we understand our community are concerned about COVID-19 at this time please be aware that there are currently some cases of chicken pox within our school community.

Prep Enrolment 2021

It is most important that no child from an existing family miss out. HOWEVER YOU NEED TO APPLY NOW!

If you require an enrolment form please phone the school on 9742 9800, call into the school office or complete the form at the end of this newsletter.

Assembly – Thursday, 26th March

Next week’s assembly will be led by students from Murray Hub and our Year 4s. The assembly will be held in the school hall at 9.00 a.m. Only the Centre involved in this assembly will be present – only students from the Bridging Centre. There will be a repeat of this assembly later in the year.

Winter Uniform

During the first three weeks of Term 2, students may choose to wear either full summer uniform or full winter uniform. As from **Monday, 4th May** all students are to wear their full winter uniform until further notice. We recommend that you check your child has all the items for the full winter uniform and that they fit and are clearly named. New items of uniform can be purchased from Rushfords Schoolwear in Werribee.

Second Hand Winter Uniform Sale

A sale of second hand winter uniform items is scheduled for **Wednesday, 29th April and Thursday, 30th April.**

We welcome items that you wish to sell. All items are to be clean and clearly priced and labelled with family name and eldest child's hub. Only Bethany school items can be offered for sale.

Please **DO NOT** send items to school until **Monday, 27th April.**

Please note that this is a **WINTER SALE ONLY.** A summer sale will be held later this year.

School Fees

By the end of this term we are hopeful that all Student Fees (\$365 per student) and First Instalment School Fees (\$535) will have been finalised.

As every family signed their intention to pay school fees, it is expected that such payments be honoured.

Should any family experience financial difficulty, rest assured that your trusting communication will always be met with confidentiality and compassion.

However, it is unacceptable not to communicate such difficulties with us. We are always deeply grateful when families trust us with their difficulties and also greatly appreciate the majority of families who pay fees on time.

Prior Notice – To those families paying their School Fee (\$1600) by instalments, please note that the second instalment of \$535 is due by Friday, April 24th (Term 2, Week 2).

Sports Carnival

We appreciate that students love their sport and as a school we work hard to promote as many sporting opportunities as possible for all Centres. We were disappointed our 2020 carnival did not go ahead.

In week 4 of term 2 we will share information regarding a way forward for 2020. In the meantime students are enjoying their daily physical education and the Discovery Centre have loved their AFL clinics.

Last Day of Term 1

The last day of Term 1 is **Friday, 27th March.** **On this day all students will finish school at 12.30 p.m.** Please let your carers know of this early finish time.

Students are expected to attend, however if a parent chooses not to send a student to school then the school must be notified.

- If you know prior to the day that your child/ren will be away from school please complete the absence note at the end of this Newsletter. OR

- If your child wakes up unwell on March 27th and is unable to attend school, please phone the school **before 8.30am** and leave a message on the absentee line.

Term 2 begins at 8.40 a.m. on Tuesday, 14th April. Please note that Monday, 13th April is Easter Monday.

End of Term Working Bee

As is our tradition, we hold a working bee at the end of each term. This term's working bee is scheduled for **Thursday, 26th March 3.00 – 5.30 p.m.**

This working bee enables us to keep the school in “tip top” condition and also enables us to continue to build a strong sense of community.

The school supports the working bee by providing childcare in the hall for Bethany students. The childcare is offered from 3.00 - 4.00 p.m.

The tasks at the working bee include dusting, cleaning tables, vacuuming the areas, etc. Generally we ask families to donate 30 - 40 minutes of time. Please return the slip below to the Admin Centre Office if you are able to assist us.



MacKillop College Tours

Thursday 26th March 2020, Thursday 18th June and Wednesday 16th September 2020.

To make a booking, please use this link (numbers are limited)

<https://www.trybooking.com/BIYTO>

St Andrews Parish News

The Relics of St Therese of Lisieux (St. Therese of Child Jesus) and her parents. Ss Zelis & Louis Martin will be in our Church from Tuesday 7th April at 1.30pm to Wednesday 8th April at 10am. Please take advantage of this special privilege of a once in a lifetime opportunity for ourselves and our parish. More details to follow.

Please return to school:

✂*****

Prep Enrolment 2021

Parent Name: _____ **Eldest Child's Hub** _____

I would like to enrol my child into Bethany for Prep 2021. Please send home an enrolment application pack.

Prep 2021 Child's Name: _____

✂*****

End of Term Working Bee

Name: _____ **Eldest Child's Hub:** _____

I am able to assist with the working bee on Thursday, 26th March at the following time:

- 3.15 – 4.00 p.m.
- 4.00 – 4.45 p.m.
- 4.45 – 5.30 p.m.

End of Term Attendance

The school term ends at 12.30pm on Friday, 27th March

All students are expected to attend school on the morning of 27th March

Non attendance

If parents are aware prior to the last day that their child **will not** be at school on the morning of March 27th it is **most important** that we receive advance notification as it is now a **Government requirement** that parents communicate with the school regarding absenteeism. Please complete and return the absence form below to your eldest child's hub teacher.

Unexpected absence form school

If your child wakes up unwell on March 27th and is unable to attend school, please phone the school **before 8.30am** and leave a message on the absentee line.

✂ *****

Last Day of Term Absent From School

Family Name: _____

Student Name: _____ Hub: _____

My child/ren will be absent from school on: March 27th 2020 due to: (please select)

- Illness
- Medical appointment
- Personal or Family reasons
- Other

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

All students are expected to attend school on the morning of March 27th

QUANTIN BINNAH VACATION CARE PROGRAMS

**Quantin Binnah
Corpus Christi**

**Vacation
Care
Program
s**

**Quantin
Binnah
6:30am to
6:00pm \$65**



Vacation Care Program Term 1 2020

Monday 30 th March	Tuesday 31 st March	Wednesday 1 st April	Thursday 2 nd April	Friday 3 rd April
 Professor Bunsen Science <small>Excursion</small>	 Werribee Village Cinema <small>Excursion to the cinemas at Pacific Werribee</small>	 Green Thumb Fun <small>Plant your own assorted Veggie! Excursion</small>	 Toonworld Education <small>Stop Motion Animation Workshop Excursion</small>	 Melbourne Museum <small>Director Walk, Self Guiding, Foot People! Excursion</small>
Monday 6 th April	Tuesday 7 th April	Wednesday 8 th April	Thursday 9 th April	Friday 10 th April
 Wyndham Chess Club Comes to Us <small>Excursion</small>	 Werribee Village Cinema <small>Excursion to the cinemas at Pacific Werribee</small>	 Easter Bonnet Parade <small>Make and decorate your own Easter Bonnet Excursion</small>	 Werribee Park Mansion <small>Easter Egg Hunt Excursion to the Werribee Park Mansion from 10am and Easter Egg Hunt!</small>	 Good Friday <small>Public Holiday All Centers Closed</small>

Quantin Binnah and Corpus Christi

***see terms and conditions online**

**Corpus
Christi
6:30am to
6:00pm \$65
6:30am to
6:30pm \$69**

**Childcare
Subsidy
Applies
Call DHS on 13
61 50**

Applications for Term 1 Vacation Care Available Online Now

Please go to the following address to apply online:

https://www.smartcentral.net/v2/service_profile/show/267

Please select the desired program (Quantin Binnah or Corpus Christi) from the list to begin your application.