



# Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee North

## Principal Message- Joanne Webster

Newsletter No. 14  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Families,

Today marks the first day of Spring, confirmed by the blossoms on the trees in the beautiful gardens at Bethany. Spring always reminds me of new life and the warmth of days to come, and I hope and pray that this too will signal hope for each of us, of better days to come.

Thank you for the feedback you have shared with the school, to support and enhance the experience of the students during onsite and remote learning. The new timetable and the Art Packs have certainly supported the students to connect more, to learn with the teachers and to express their creativity. This photo of Scarlett Pepi (Teresa Hub) and her little sister, reflects the enjoyment and creativity the art packs have provided.



Last week, we all enjoyed Wellbeing Wednesday. Some photos of the onsite school leaders and how they led the day. Parents of students offsite also spoke about the positive impact this had on their children and their families. And so, **another Wellbeing Day has been scheduled for students for next Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September.** This day is to give students a break from the daily Googlemeets and online learning, and to engage in activities to support their wellbeing. For students learning remotely, educators in hubs will communicate wellbeing tasks and how students may engage with these. The wellbeing tasks will be posted on See Saw or GoogleMeet **on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

The hub connects in the afternoon have also been a source of fun for all. Below is a photo of Ocean Hub at their afternoon hub.



### *COVID-19 Update*

We all heard on Sunday that the current lockdown will be extended beyond Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The Victorian State Government has confirmed today that students will not return to onsite learning in Term 3. We all look forward to their announcement about the plan for term 4.

### *Updated Sacrament Dates*

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 6:20pm and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 6:20pm. Further details as to how this will look will be communicated next term. Please pencil in these dates.

The new date for the **Sacrament of Eucharist** is Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Further details as to how this will look will be communicated next term. Please pencil in these dates.

### *NAPLAN Results*

NAPLAN results have now arrived at the school. We will mail these to all families of Year 3 and Year 5 students on Monday. Please remember these are but one form of evidence collected by the school to determine your child's progress.

### *School Advisory Council*

At the request of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) board, our governing body, Bethany Primary School is establishing a School Advisory Council to support the Principal, Parish Priest and leadership team of the school.

No particular expertise is required except a desire to represent and give voice to the parent body in advising the Principal about important matters particularly related to the school's ongoing desire to provide the best possible education for our children.

The expectations of a parent would be attending meetings twice a term.

Therefore, we are calling on you to **express your interest** in being part of the School Advisory Council. If you are a member of this parish or have children in the school, and wish to be part of this exciting development in our school, we would welcome your application in writing to Joanne Webster, Principal by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**.

### *Sunsmart Policy*

As a part of the Sunsmart Policy, students will need to wear a sunhat from 1<sup>st</sup> September. This is to protect them from the sun. Students may bring sunscreen to school to apply if needed.

### **Prayer**

This Sunday we celebrate Father's Day. On behalf of all the Bethany school community, we wish all fathers, grandfathers, uncles or father like figures in the student's lives, a day filled with much love and joy.

A blessing for all fathers.

Heavenly Father,  
you entrusted your Son Jesus,  
the child of Mary  
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.  
Bless all fathers  
As they care for their families,  
Give them strength and wisdom,  
Tenderness and patience:  
Support them in the work they have to do,  
Protecting those who look to them,  
As we look to you for love and salvation,  
Through Jesus Christ our rock and defender.

Amen

## School News

### School Dental Visit

School Dental Initiative during the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> September.

If you have any queries regarding this service please call the team at Australian Dental Health on 93239607. Postponed until further notice.

### National eSmart Week 2021

National eSmart Week is a week where schools, libraries, workplaces and community groups come together to promote the safe, smart and responsible use of technologies and positive online connections.

This year's National eSmart Week runs from **September 6-12**. The theme of this year's week is **Responsible Action**. By taking responsibility for our actions, we can all play a part in creating a safer environment online and offline. It also helps create awareness, ideas and solutions for community education on issues of cyber safety, bullying and wellbeing.



This year, more than 1000 organisations from all around Australia are taking part in National eSmart Week. Together we can embrace the best of digital technologies, raise awareness about cyber safety and help educate and empower all Australians to be smart, safe and responsible both online and offline.

Being a part of National eSmart Week 2021 means we can celebrate all the great things we are doing together in terms of the promotion of positive, respectful and productive relationships, cyber safety and our visible wellbeing approach.

This year, as a school we will celebrate eSmart Week through our remote learning program. Across the school, students from Year Prep to Year 6 will participate in activities covering a range of cyber safety topics such as using ICT safely, screen time, digital etiquette, being an upstander not a bystander and identifying safe and child appropriate websites.

Students will also take part in storytime live sessions, learning to be responsible when gaming online and support students as they create a digital footprint. These issues will be discussed over the course of the week in our Zoom meetings and Google Meets.

Some questions to think about and discuss with your child each day during eSmart week.

- Do you respect others and only say what you would say to someone's face?
- Is your time between screens and other activities well balanced?
- Do you use strong privacy settings and passwords and use these regularly?
- Do your parents know the passwords to your computer and games you play?
- Do you charge your device- Chromebook or iPad in a central place in the house- such as the kitchen or living room?
- Do you get consent before sharing an image or video of another person?
- Have you secured your digital lifestyle with the right software and settings?
- Have you signed up to online games or sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok but you are under the age of 13?

There are 10 top Cyber safety tips. Each newsletter, we communicate 2 tips.

1. **Use tech to make life better**

We can use technology to learn things, create things, connect with friends and family, reach out to people who are having a hard time, enjoy great entertainment, and even boost our fitness and mental health. Or we can use tech to make ourselves and other people feel lousy. Which would you rather do?

2. **Keep your balance**

Technology is incredible. Gaming, networking, apps ... online shopping! But relying too much on tech can mess with your sleep and make you feel exhausted, stressed or lonely. Make time for the other things that matter to you: family meals, playing with pets, kicking a ball around, reading, cooking, art or just sitting out in the sunshine.

## Parent News

### Secondary School Enrolment Dates

The key enrolment dates for students in Year 5 in 2022 who will be starting Year 7 in 2024 in Catholic Secondary Schools have been made.

28 January 2022 - Applications open

19<sup>th</sup> August 2022 – Applications close

21 October 2022 – Offers will be posted to prospective Year 7 applicants

11 November 2022 – Final date for parents/carers to accept an offer

### Operoo

As a school the use of Operoo and email for all communication is becoming more frequent, especially with offsite learning. **Could all families please ensure all current contact details, mobile numbers, work phone numbers and emergency phone numbers are listed on Operoo.** We thank you in advance for your support with this.

### School Fees

All Student Fees and all School Fees should now be in the process of being finalised unless you have a personal plan in place with the Principal.

This fortnight also marks the final direct debit payments for 2021.

Should any family experience financial difficulty, please rest assured that your trusting communication will always be met with confidentiality and compassion. We are always grateful when families trust us with their difficulties and also greatly appreciate the majority of families who pay fees on time.

If you are yet to finalise your school fee payments, we trust that you will do so by the end of next week. Due to current restrictions please phone the Admin Centre Office on 9742 9800 to make payment over the phone.

### Working with Children Check – Department of Justice Letter

All adults who support the school, with volunteer work are required to have a Working with Children Check (WWCC). All parents or adults supporting the school, **must have Bethany listed** as an organisation they volunteer at, as a part of the application process. If you have a WWCC, please logon to the website <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> and ensure you have listed Bethany as a school you volunteer at. **This generates a letter from the Department of Justice** that is sent directly to the school permitting you to volunteer on the premises or to attend excursions etc. Unfortunately, without this letter, you will not be able to volunteer at the school. If you are unsure as to whether the school has a copy of the letter from the Department of Justice, please feel free to call the Admin Centre to check.

## Important Dates

### September

13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – Dental Visits Week postponed

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Wellbeing Day – Screen Free activities

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Last day of Term 3. **All students finish at 12.30pm.**

### October

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – First Day of Term 4. Learning begins at 8.50am for all students.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - Sacrament of Confirmation at 6:20pm in the School Hall.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> - Sacrament of Confirmation at 6:20pm in the School Hall.

### November

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - Sacrament of First Eucharist - at 1:00pm and 3:00pm.

### School Closures for 2021

The following dates are school closure days for 2021. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES**

- **Monday November 1<sup>st</sup>** (Monday before Cup Day) Assessment and Report writing
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**- End of Year Professional Development days

### End of the 2021 School Year

Last day for Year 6 students will be Monday December 13<sup>th</sup> at **3.00pm.**

Last day for Year Prep – Year 5 students will be Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at **12:30pm.**

### Sacrament Dates

**Sacrament of Confirmation: Year 6** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 6:20pm and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 6:20pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation Year 3** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 6:00pm and 7:30pm in the Bethany School Hall

**Sacrament of Eucharist Year 4** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 1:00pm and 3:00pm