



# Bethany Catholic Primary School *Werribee North*

## Principal Message- Joanne Webster

Newsletter No. 15  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Families,

What a term! Onsite learning for all students, remote learning, back to onsite then in the last 6 weeks remote learning. I am so very grateful to you all for your continued partnership with the school in the learning, in the teaching and in our living. I am appreciative of the juggling act this has created for so many of you- working from home and supporting your children to learn. As a school we have worked hard to be available to the students and you the families to ensure the learning continued as best as possible. There is no doubt in my mind, that face-to-face education for primary school students is ideally the best model. We as a school have missed our students, your children- their voices, their laughter, their joyous squeals, and sometimes not so joyous squeals. We miss their energy, enthusiasm and excitement for all that is new and not so new and the sense of 'life' and 'living' they bring to the school. I hope and pray that next term we will all return to onsite learning and teaching.

**Term 4 will resume on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 8:50am. Whether this is onsite or remote is yet to be determined. We will inform you of this through Operoo, once known.**

You will be aware by now, that the Department of Health, after further investigation, of the concerned positive case have determined that the student was not at school during the infectious period. This means the school is no longer a Tier 1 site and has reopened today.

We are grateful to all the onsite students and their families as well as the onsite staff and their families for co-operating with the school, Department of Health and Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic School's advice. Your patience has been exemplary at a time when so much uncertainty and advice was absent from the Department of Health.

As the term ends, I pray that you all have some time to rest, re-energise and enjoy the spring weather. We have much to be grateful for, in a time when uncertainty prevails. I pray you find this in your lives, and are blessed with God's love, peace and mercy today and tomorrow.

### **Prayer for the Holidays**

We thank you Lord, for this term.

For the challenges, the successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt.

Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends.

Give us strength and courage to do what is right: to be witnesses of our faith.

Help us to be a practical Christian these holidays,

to appreciate what others, do for us, to give time and effort to help others.

To be peacemakers in our family.

Keep us safe in our activities;

give us good rest and good fun.

Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term.

We thank you for our students, the families and each other.

And a community that cares for us.

May we always be conscious of you in our lives.



Amen

## Student News

### Exploration Centre Incursion

On Friday the 3rd of September, many of our Foundation students participated in a Science Incursion. A Melbourne based education company 'Mad About Science' provided an engaging and live online show for our students in which the world of science was brought to life through the exploration of Chemical and Physical Sciences. This was a wonderful opportunity for our student's current Inquiry learning to be complemented and enhanced through viewing the scientific method in action.

### Discovery Centre Incursion

Last week, the Discovery Centre students participated in an incursion focusing on Marine Life. During our Inquiry Unit the students have been learning about different environments and habitats. Xavier Morello, from Wildlife Xposure, worked with the students, during live and interactive zoom sessions, teaching the students about sea creatures such as the seahorse, the blue ringed octopus, sea stars and Port Jackson sharks.

As the sessions were interactive, the students were able to ask Xavier questions and share their understandings. Here is some of the feedback and responses from some of our students.

*I liked it when Xavier woke up the blue ringed octopus. He got mad and he changed colours from black spots to blue. He had 8 legs, 3 hearts and 9 brains! Jamie Randello (Indigo)*

*My favourite animal was the spider crab. I loved that it had 10 legs and that it looked like a spider. I also liked that spider crabs sometimes huddle up in big groups of a thousand! Xavier showed us the huge helmet snail shell and told us a fact about how the animal inside shoots out a poisonous tube to protect itself. Jacob Montgomery (Orange)*

*I learnt that the puffer fish can puff up and spikes come around them. Oliver Dimasi (Blue)*

*I liked watching the hermit crab move. When Xavier held it, it went back into his shell. It was a light, bright red colour. The sea cucumber has spikes so that no other animals can eat him. I thought it was funny when we saw the puffer fish when it was blown up and it had a little smile! Bentli Cordwell (Indigo)*



### **Bridging Centre Incursion**

The Bridging Centre incursion was run by Wildlife Xposure. This linked to our Inquiry learning, with students learning about animal behaviours, adaptations and habitats. The students also learnt about the concept of extinction and how they can play their part in helping save our wildlife. Many animals got up close and personal to the camera, giving those watching a very detailed and interesting viewing experience! The students' eyes lit up as they met various native animals. Have a read below of what two of our students thought of the experience.

*I thought the Incursion was great. He taught us a bunch of things that I personally found interesting. I liked when he showed us the pythons and that he told us how many breeds of snakes we have. It was good how he taught us how to save our animals and why they are good for Australia. It was amazing learning about our native animals. Darcie Mitchell*

*I really enjoyed the incursion, because I learnt so much more about lots of different types of mammals and reptiles, and I got to see lots of different and interesting animals during that time! My personal favourite animal adaptations we learnt about are the frog's adaptations. Frogs change from a tadpole when they are born, to a frog when they're older. Also, frogs can change from green shades of colour to some brown shades of colour for a disguise. My favourite part about the incursion was when the rainbow parrot could flip upside down and still stand like a normal parrot would. Terry Gauci*



### **Leadership Centre Incursion**

On Monday students from the Leadership Centre participated in an online incursion looking at adaptations on animals. This is an extension of the biological science inquiry unit on "Living Things Adapting to their Environment".

This incursion looked at the Western Lowland Gorillas and how mining is destroying their environment. It looked at the minerals that came from the mine and how they are used to make electronic devices. These devices are very important and necessary in our lives, so how can we help? If we recycle our old mobile devices then they can be reused and recycled which will slow down the amount of mining needed and therefore hopefully save some of the gorillas' natural environment.



### **Wellbeing Day**

Last Friday our students enjoyed the opportunity to be free of google meets and zoom meetings. The students onsite engaged in a tabloid sports session rotating through balance, gross motor and cardio activities, a visual arts session, where they shared their talents to create an art piece that represented the ocean, earth and sky and then relaxed with a movie in the afternoon.



## Staff News

Claudia Concannon will be leaving at the end of this term to return to her homeland of Ireland. Elaine Scanlon will take the lead educator role for Kolbe Hub. We wish Claudia a safe journey home. Zac Latham will leave Bethany at the end of this term. Zac has taken up a position with Synthesis School, a US company, providing eSports learning and competitions. Hang Cao will take on the lead educator role for MacKillop Hub. We thank both Claudia and Zac for their contributions to the Bethany School Community and wish them all the best in their future endeavours

We would also like to congratulate Erica Aclan and her partner Alvin on the birth of Kaiya Thérèse Aclan. Born on Father's Day, the 5th of September at 11:03am. Blessings to Erica and her family at this time.

## School News

### Updated Sacrament Dates

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** is scheduled for 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 **Sacrament of Eucharist** is now scheduled for 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 this date.

### NAPLAN Results

NAPLAN results have now been mailed to all families of Year 3 and Year 5 students. Please remember these are but one form of evidence collected by the school to determine your child's progress.

### 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.

## 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

## Summer Uniform

Full summer uniforms are required for Term 4 for all students onsite. Please check all your summer uniforms and have your children try them on to ensure they are ready for a return to school. It is also very helpful when items are clearly named so if lost can be returned.

## Summer Uniform

Dress or Short Sleeve Gold Polo Shirt with Navy Shorts  
White Short Socks with dress  
Navy socks with navy shorts  
Royal Blue Windcheater / Zip Jacket  
Navy Legionnaire Hat  
Black School Shoes

Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer our usual second-hand uniform sale for summer uniform sales. Uniform items may be purchased online or by phone from Rushford's Uniforms Werribee Store, [Shop 1/13 Barnes Place, Werribee Vic 3030](#)

Web: <https://www.noone.com.au/school/bethany-catholic-primary-school>

## Contact Details

Phone: [03 9741 3211](tel:0397413211)

Email: [rushfords@noone.com.au](mailto:rushfords@noone.com.au)

Due to Stage 4 Covid-19 restrictions, the Rushfords/Werribee store will be manned for contactless click and collect or phone orders only, in compliance with government guidelines. A sizing guide for our Bethany uniform items is available on the Rushford's website and their staff are available to assist with sizing questions.

## 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.

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 contact the Admin Centre Office this week on 9742 9800 to either finalise your account or speak with Joanne.

## Important Dates

### September

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

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

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – School Closure Day (Monday before Cup Day) Assessment and Report writing

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – No school – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

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