



Bethany Catholic Primary School *Werribee North*

Principal Message- Joanne Webster

Newsletter No. 20
Wednesday 8th December, 2021

Dear Families,

One can only begin the final school newsletter with a big THANK YOU, to all: - the students for their perseverance and continued diligence throughout what I would say was a rather challenging year; to you the parents for your continued commitment and support of your children and the school in the learning and the living; to the administration and maintenance team, to the teachers and school leaders, for your capacity to demonstrate flexibility, endurance and commitment to all. It certainly takes "...a village to raise a child", and this year is evidence of this beautiful quote, so much a part of our life and living here at Bethany, being realised. Very grateful to you all.

Orientation Day took place yesterday for all students- our Preps for 2022, our current Preps to Year 5 and new students to the school from Year 1 to Year 6 for 2022. This day is always filled with both excitement and apprehension, for all. Overall, a successful day.

A list of the 2022 School Staff for next year is outlined below. As a school, and after much feedback from you the families, the students and the staff, in the survey collected earlier in the year, a Renewal of Leadership has been undertaken and as part of the process, we will have two Deputy Principals, both of whom are new to our school- Rita Krnac and Carin Van Mourik, beginning next year. We will also have Domain and Centre Leaders in place to have an increased focus on learning and teaching as well as wellbeing, and have introduced Specialist Teachers in Physical Education, Music, STEM/Digital Literacies, Social and Emotional learning, Science and Visual Arts. We will also be introducing Learning Assistants across the school, in an endeavour to provide greater support to the diversity of students we learn and live with. You will also notice an additional Prep and Year 3 / 4 Class, this is in an endeavour to keep numbers in classes low.

On the weekend, I was invited to Fr. Frank Buhagiar's Golden Jubilee Celebration. It was a celebration of his 50 years of pastoral ministry, as an assistant priest, and Parish Priest -18 years of it spent in the Parish of St Andrew's. You will know him better than I, and so what I may write here will only be a snapshot of the person of Jesus you would know him to be, and his enormous contribution to all the schools in the St Andrew's Parish, and more importantly here at Bethany. In the homily, Fr Joseph Caddy, spoke of Fr. Frank's great love of God, and his family and of his great work and generosity towards all, especially migrants to Australia. Fr Frank, was a visionary and a man of action, establishing Catholic schools, ensuring a Catholic education was available to a growing Werribee. He was made a Pastor Emeritus in 2018, This is an honorary title bestowed upon one who has retired as a way of honouring the individual's service to the church. For those of us who know him well, or for those who may only have encountered him on some occasions, will know that his empathy and compassion towards all is significant. On the bookmark gifted to those who attended was a beautiful quote from St Teresa of Avila (Spain) which very much captured

the essence of Fr. Frank's being and doing and may be translated into our own being and doing. I thought I would share this with you as our prayer, as we continue to journey through Advent- a time of hope, faith, and joy- knowing Christ lives in and through us.

Prayer

Christ has no body but yours
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which
He walks to do good.
Yours are the hands, with which
He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body,
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

St Teresa Avila



Student News

End of the 2021 School Year

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

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

Please let your carers know of these finishing times.

Boite Choir Reflection

By Deandra Macuto & Ashleigh Molloy-Angwin Year 4, Bridging Centre

This year, we were part of the Boite School Chorus. Year 4s were invited to audition for this special choir. We practised at Abbotsford Convent with our teacher Trish, students from other schools and the choir directors Stella Savy and Kofi Kunkpe.

The music theme for 2021 was "Akoma" which means the heart, a symbol of patience and tolerance. We learned songs from Ghana in the Twi and Fante languages. One of the songs was called "Kye Kye Kule". It is a call and response song with actions, which is sung across Africa. The

other song from the Asanta people was called "Pete Pete". Pete means vulture. The song also talks about fufu and palm nut soup which are traditional Ghanaian foods.

Our favourite part of being in Boite was that we got to look into a different language. We also liked socialising with others in the choir and singing together.



Year 6 Confirmation Reflections

Natalie Bilston

I felt nervous and excited at the same time during my Confirmation. Now that I'm confirmed, I have learnt to be more like Saint Rose of Lima, my heavenly mentor.

Sienna Hanley

I honestly loved my confirmation! After being confirmed, I felt so close to God and my heavenly mentor, Saint Cecilia, who I pray to everyday.

Myles Gatt

It was wonderful to have my family with me when I was being confirmed. Though I was a little nervous, it was the best thing as I felt like I was growing up and being an adult in the Catholic community.

Georgia Napiza

The Confirmation service was one I know I would never forget. From the moment I heard the music,



my nervousness started to soar, however my family reassured me everything would be fine. It was such a privilege to read the first reading. The homily offered by Father Albert was meaningful and thoughtful for the occasion. During the renewal of the Baptismal promises, I knew for certain of my decision to be confirmed, and when I was anointed with the Holy oil of Chrism, I was filled with pride and I also felt calm because of the supporting hand of my sponsor. This was a very special time and it was wonderful to celebrate this amazing experience with my family.

Advent Prayer- Bridging Centre

Our Advent Prayer Time

We started by sitting on the stairs holding our symbols and singing "Emmanuel God with us". Then we brought the symbols forward on the table. The symbols were the purple cloth, the wreath, the candle, the star, the crown, the stable, the shepherd's crook and the angel. During the prayer time it was peaceful and was a time to reflect on the nativity story. All the lights were off and it was very quiet. Three people were chosen to read the advent calendar actions. The people reading the responses were Gianna, Harvey and Katia. While we were reading it was calm and silent. After that Loretta finished the prayer time off with "Emmanuel God with us". This was a time to reflect on Jesus before returning back to our hubs.
Harvey Wheelahan and Joshua Bilston (Yarra Hub)

The Advent Prayer Time

During the Advent prayer time it was very quiet to begin with. It was an opportunity for me to bring the white candle into the prayer time. I was nervous because I had to bring the lit candle but it was fun when you could sing the songs. Giana, Harvey and I read the daily Advent calendar that had actions to try and do through the day. I read the Service action which told us to think of something to do for our family. Giana, Harvey, Josh, Noah P, Porsche, Poppy brought the symbols to set up the prayer space. It was lovely. It was so calming and it was very nice to be listened to by the kids and teachers.

Katia Kurenysheva (Yarra Hub)



2021 Victorian Schools Garden Awards

This week we received the wonderful news that our entry into the 2021 Victorian Schools Garden Awards had been selected as a North Western Regional winner. Our entry was based on the way we used the garden space during lockdown as an opportunity to engage in cross-age wellbeing sessions with students learning onsite. In recognition of our efforts, we received a garden voucher for \$350.00 so that we can continue to develop our garden program into 2022.

School News

Staff 2022

With great excitement I announce the Bethany School Staff for 2022

School Leaders

Principal – Joanne Webster

Deputy Principal Learning, Teaching and Innovation – Rita Krnac (previously Learning and Teaching Leader at Mary MacKillop of the Cross, Keilor Downs)



Deputy Principal Wellbeing, Diversity and Engagement – Carin Van Mourik (previously Deputy Principal of St Francis Xavier School, Corio)
Catholic Identity and Faith Leader- Loretta Freeman
P-2 Literacy and Discovery Centre Leader- Michael Gowland
3-6 Literacy Leader and Bridging Centre Leader – Kirrily Wallis
P-2 Mathematics and Exploration Centre Leader – Kim Kennedy
3-6 Mathematics and Leadership Centre Leader – Sheree Hegarty
eLearning Leader and Discovery Centre Leader- Katrina Flanders
eLearning Leader and Leadership Centre Leader – Hang Cao
Student Diversity Leader – Helen Murray
Student Diversity Leader and Bridging Centre Leader – Elaine Dunne
Arts Leader – Genevieve Murray
Family Engagement in Learning Leader – Amanda Defina

Exploration Centre

Prep Red- Tanya Flores
Prep Blue- Lisa Dolin/Andrea Alfredini
Prep Green- Mariela Aparo/Hayley Fenech
Prep Yellow – Simon Beraldo
Co Teachers – Karen Aston/ Hayley Fenech

Discovery Centre

Indigo Hub – Tegan Beech
Orange Hub – Kristy Varenica and Maree Day
Red Hub – Natalie Little
Green Hub – Sarah Walsh
Blue Hub – Emily Navarro
Yellow Hub – Justin Jones
Co Teachers- Amanda Defina, Maree Day

Bridging Centre

Yarra Hub – Cassandra Hockley
Werribee Hub – Jessica Kerlin (new teacher- experienced teacher from Holy Eucharist, St Albans)
Todd Hub – Kym Young and Genevieve Murray
Jordan Hub – Julius Prack
Sepik Hub – Vicki Benson
Murray Hub- Leanne Rotin/Patricia Hollenbach
Tiber Hub – Elaine Scanlon
Co Teacher- Genevieve Murray

Leadership Centre

Kolbe Hub – Steven Giammario (new teacher- experienced teacher from Resurrection, St Albans)
Mandela Hub – Helena O'Connor
MacKillop Hub – Marilyn Gerace
Little Hub – Catherine Wills (new teacher- experienced teacher from St Monica's Footscray)
Chisholm Hub – Kate Hockley/ Marijana Jerkovic
Teresa Hub – Emma Bonnano
Co teachers- Ashlea Hudson, Josephine Allison

Specialist Teachers

Visual Arts- Josephine Allison and Genevieve Murray
Physical Education – Connor Brien (new teacher) and Veronica Spencer
STEM/Digital Literacies – Hang Cao
Music – Hannah Coleman - new teacher
Science – Lisa Gloster
Social and Emotional Learning- Natasha D'Cunha

Italian Language Assistant

Claudia Pesolilla

Learning Assistants

Johanna Hennessy

Daniel Wilson

Jenna Sheedy

Wendy Grima

Trudi Ragusa

Paula Marino

Logan Roache

Joanne Hornstra

Elizabeth Pistone

Veronica Wren

Kim Williams

Administration

Kylie Scott - Finance

Mary Semaan- Principal Personal Assistant

Joanne McNabb – Payroll, HR and Finance

Nicole Marinaro – Administration Front Office

Lea Arida – First Aid Administration and Resource Centre Manager

Maintenance and Facilities

Brendan Byrne- Facility Manager

Michael Byrne- Gardener

Emmanuel Vasquez – Cleaner and Grounds Assistant

The following staff will leave Bethany at the conclusion of 2021. We thank them for their contributions over the many years they have served the Bethany school community and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. God bless you all.

Gemma Gowland to Holy Cross, Mickleham as Deputy Principal.

Vanessa Machado to Emmaus, Sydneham as Deputy Principal.

Kathryn Camilleri to Emmaus, Sydneham as Classroom teacher and Year 1 and 2 Co- Ordinator.

Alexandra Williams to St Brigids in Gisborne

Maria Crawley to St Joseph's in Elsternwick

Amy Freeman to St Joseph's in Werribee.

Melanie Foulkes will retire at the end of this year.

Claire Neville returns home to Ireland

Emily Orr moves to Western Australia

Alessia Abraham will travel overseas

Semester 2 Reports

On **Friday 10th December**, the student reports for Semester 2 will come home in your child's bag. It is important to celebrate and affirm the achievements made by your child this year and share together the opportunities for future learning.

The reports for this semester will look different to last semester due to time spent engaged in online learning. I would ask you to appreciate that due to remote learning the curriculum content on which we report has been reduced. Teachers have used a broad evidence-base to make their own balanced assessments of your child's progress. Such evidence includes student-led conversations and teacher observations, Semester 2 assessments, notes and work samples.

In this context, your child's report will look different. In line with government requirements, this report will provide:

- for English, Mathematics and Religious Education:
 - student achievement information represented on a continuum of learning
 - progress made since the last time these curriculum areas were reported on a five-point scale.
- a general comment describing your child's achievement across the semester.

I thank you for understanding the variations in this Semester 2 report, as impacted by the change in learning environments this semester, and the approach our school has taken.

Please keep your child's report in a safe place as it will be needed when enrolling your child in high school.

Sacrament Dates 2022

The following dates listed below have now been confirmed for 2022. Please place in your diaries.

Year 5 First Eucharist - Sunday 20th March 1pm and 3pm

Year 4 First Eucharist - Sunday 19th June 1pm and 3pm

Year 6 Confirmation - Thursday 11th August and Friday 12th August 6.20pm

Year 3 First Reconciliation - Thursday 27th October 6pm and 7.30pm

Year 6 Graduation - Monday 12th December

School Devices

All school devices, iPads, Chromebooks and chargers are now to be returned to school, so we can prepare them for the 2022 school year. We thank you in advance for this.

Important Dates

December

Wednesday December 8th – Year 6 Graduation, 6.20pm in the School Hall

Monday 13th – Year 6 last day. All Year 6 students finish at 3pm

Wednesday 15th – Prep to Year 5 last day. Finish at 12:30pm

School Closures for 2021

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

Thursday 16th and Friday 17th December End of Year Professional Development days. School office closed

Return to School 2022 Dates

January

Friday 28th – No school. Professional Learning Day for staff. School office closed.

Monday 31st – No school. Professional Learning Day for staff. School office opens 8am.

February

Tuesday 1st - Year 1 to Year 6 will begin school at 8.50am. 3pm finish all students.

Tuesday 1st – Student Fee of \$365 per student due by today.

Wednesday 2nd - Prep 2022 students will begin school at 8.50am. 3pm finish for all students.

Wednesday 9th - NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS

Wednesday 16th - NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS

Wednesday 23rd - NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS