

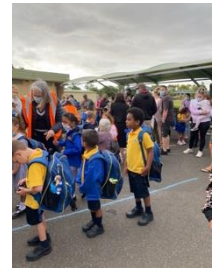


Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee

Dear Families

Newsletter No. 2 2022
Wednesday 16th February,

I begin the newsletter today thanking you for the positive start we have had to the 2022 School Year. Your work preparing your children, supporting the school with the transition back to school and assisting with the Covid 19 plan and practices has contributed to this immensely. A big congratulations to our newest members of the Bethany community our Prep students. They have transitioned to school well and we are enjoying their excitement at being at school for the most part. Thank you also to the Bethany School staff, who continue to show their commitment to your children and to you as we begin the school year. Very grateful to all.



This year the school, has three priorities: School Review, Positive Behaviours for Learning and a continued focus on Learning and Teaching. The School Review, will occur in the first four weeks of Term 3, and has two parts to it: compliance and improvement. Compliance means the school must show it can meet the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in both policies and procedures and child safety. The second part is improvement. The school undertakes a process of evaluation, looking to identify strengths and areas of opportunity. The school community- staff, students and families will be invited to be a part of the 'improvement' component of school review.

Staff at Bethany had a whole school Professional Learning Day on the 28 January where Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) was introduced to all staff. Jane Bennet, a consultant from MACS and Carin van Mourik, Deputy Principal Diversity, Wellbeing and Engagement, both lead and supported staff with this learning. PBL is a whole school evidence-based framework to create a positive school environment using proactive strategies for defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviours. Students will be taught routines that will become the expected way, actively promoting positive behaviours. Staff are currently working on a matrix that will outline the Bethany expectations of *Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible*. Students then will be taught what the expectations look like. Students so far have been responding to *Be Respectful* and in classes have learnt about using kind words and next week will look at using an appropriate inside voice. This will have a significant impact on student wellbeing, bringing the gospel of Jesus to life in our words and actions and in the learning and teaching.

Learning and Teaching- increased time for this, analysing student data to inform learning and teaching practices and sequences of learning and the introduction of Domain leaders in key areas of English and Mathematics to build the capacity of all, demonstrates the school's commitment to the continued growth of student outcomes.

This year we begin our Camp Program. We begin the Camp Program for our Leadership Centre (Year 5 and 6) on Wednesday 23rd March to Friday 25th March. The students will go to CYC Adanac in the Yarra Junction. Our Year 4 Camp will be held on Wednesday 2nd to Thursday 3rd November at Camp Sunnystones. The Year 3 Camp will be held on Thursday 15th September at 7:00pm and will be an overnight stay at the School. Our Prep- breakfast camp and Year 1 and 2 Teddy Bear's Picnic and Dinner at School Camp will be in Term 4.

This year we will be introducing Leadership roles at Bethany. We introduce School Captains and School Vice Captains, House Captains and Vice Captains and the Social Justice Leaders. The roles will be elected by the students and our Year 6 and Year 5 students will be the recipients. A process will be undertaken by the students in the Leadership Centre to elect these significant leaders in our school. Next year we plan to introduce a Student Representative Council, across the school- Year 1 to Year 6 to further continue to give student's greater voice and agency at Bethany, The Leadership Assembly has been scheduled for 3rd March at 9:00am. This will be a whole school assembly which we hope to hold outdoors.

We will also launch our School Houses prior to our Athletics Day. This will be held on Friday 4th March. All students will wear their sports uniform and house colours on this day. This day will also be spent celebrating and embracing our Bethany story of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. More information to come.

Our newly refurbished Resource Centre (Library) has been installed on Friday. We now have the job of placing the books on the shelves and getting it set up, so that students may come and read and borrow books. We are very excited by the outcome so far.



As you can see an exciting term of learning, teaching and living. We look forward to sharing this with you. We also have a resident bunny that has made Bethany their home. I'm sure the children have stories to tell about this.

Take care. God bless

Joanne Webster
Principal



As this week began with Valentine's Day- a prayer in thanks for love

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for love and helping me love my family.
Help me show love to everyone around me.
Thank you, Jesus, that you showed us what love is.
Amen

Staff News

Introducing Staff for 2022

Joanne Webster	Principal
Rita Krnac	Deputy Principal - Learning, Teaching & Innovation
Carin van Mourik	Deputy Principal - Wellbeing Diversity & Engagement
Loretta Freeman	Catholic Identity & Mission Leader
Michael Gowland	Literacy P-2 & Discovery Centre Leader
Kirily Wallis	Literacy 3-6 & Bridging Centre Leader
Kim Kennedy	Mathematics P-2 & Exploration Centre Leader
Sheree Hegarty	Mathematics 3-6 & Leadership Centre Leader
Katrina Flanders	eLearning & Discovery Centre Leader
Mong Hang Cao	eLearning Leader & Leadership Centre Leader
Helen Murray	Student Diversity Leader
Elaine Dunne	Student Diversity & Bridging Centre Leader
Amanda Defina	Family Engagement in Learning Leader
Genevieve Murray	Arts Leader

Exploration Centre – Prep

Tanya Flores	Star Hub
Lisa Dolin/ Andrea Alfredini	Sky Hub
Simon Beraldo	Earth Hub
Mariela Aparo	Ocean Hub
Karen Aston	

Discovery Centre – Year 1/2

Sarah Walsh	Green Hub
Natalie-Jayne Little	Red Hub
Kristy Varenica/ Maree Day	Orange Hub
Justin Jones	Yellow Hub
Emily Navarro	Blue Hub
Tegan Beech	Indigo Hub
Amanda Defina	

Bridging Centre – Year 3/4

Jessica Kerlin	Werribee Hub
Cassandra Hockley	Yarra Hub
Leanne Rotin/Patricia Hollenbach	Murray Hub
Kym Young/Genevieve Murray	Todd Hub
Vicki Benson	Sepik Hub
Julius Prack	Jordan Hub
Elaine Scanlon	Tiber Hub

Leadership Centre – Year 5/6

Emma-Maree Bonanno	Teresa Hub
Catherine Wills	Little Hub
Steven Giammaro	Kolbe Hub
Helena O'Connor	Mandela Hub
Marilyn Gerace	MacKillop Hub
Kathleen Hockley/ Marijana Jerkovic	Chisholm Hub
Josephine Allison	
Ashlea Hudson	

Specialist Teachers

Josephine Allison
Genevieve Murray
Connor Brien
Veronica Spencer
Mong Hang Cao
Hannah Coleman
Lisa Gloster
Natasha D'Cunha
Claudia Pesolilla

Visual Arts
Visual Arts
Physical Education
Physical Education
STEM& Digital Literacies
Music
Science
Social & Emotional Learning
Italian Language Assistant

Learning Assistants

Trudi Ragusa
Jenna Sheedy
Kim William
Logan Roache
Veronica Wren
Wendy Grima
Paula Marino
Elizabeth Pistone
Johanna Hennessy
Joanne Hornstra
Daniel Wilson

Exploration Centre
Exploration Centre
Exploration Centre
Discovery Centre
Discovery Centre
Bridging Centre
Bridging Centre
Bridging Centre
Leadership Centre
Leadership Centre
Leadership Centre

Administration

Lea Arida
Joanne McNabb
Kylie Scott
Mary Semaan

First Aid Administration & Resource Centre Manager
Payroll, HR & Finance
Finance
Principal PA

Maintenance & Facilities

Brendan Byrne
Michael Byrne
Emmanuel Vasquez

Facility Manager
Gardener
Cleaner/Grounds Assistant

School Athletics Carnival

At this point in time, we hope to proceed with our Athletics Carnival scheduled for Monday 21st March. The learning and teaching in Physical Education has a focus on this. You may like to mark this date in your diary.

Interschool Swimming Carnival

The Interschool Swimming Carnival will take place next week on Wednesday 23rd February. Yesterday, Tuesday 15th February about 40 students from Grades 3 – 6 competed in the Bethany Swimming Trials at the Werribee Outdoor Pool. They competed in 50m freestyle, backstroke, breast stroke and butterfly. All trial races were timed and the fastest swimmers will now represent Bethany at the Truganina District Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 23rd February. We thank all the students who tried out and we will keep the community updated as the students progress to the next level.

Ashton Scholastic Bookclub

In an endeavour to continue to build the student's love of reading the school will continue to use Ashton Scholastic Bookclub. Ashton Scholastic sells a wide variety of books for children, selecting them according to age appropriateness. Catalogues will be sent home with each student today, and there is no obligation to purchase. Parents may purchase online. **All orders must be completed by Monday 21st February.** Books will be delivered to the school.

Sacrament Dates for 2022

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

Year 4 First Eucharist – June, dates to be confirmed soon.

Year 6 Confirmation - Thurs 11th August and Fri 12th August 6.20pm

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

Dates for family sacrament evenings facilitated by Viv Adamko.

Thurs 26th May 6.30pm – Eucharist focus

Thurs 16th June 6.30pm – Confirmation focus

Thurs 13th October 6.30pm - Reconciliation focus

Dates for Reconciliation prior to receiving the Sacraments.

Thurs 10th March 9.30am Reconciliation Year 5 prior to First Eucharist

Thurs 2nd June 9.30am Reconciliation Year 4 prior to First Eucharist

Fri 29th July 9.30am Reconciliation Year 6 prior to Confirmation

Parent News

Prep Enrolment 2023 - Existing Bethany Families Only

Families wishing to enrol a child at Bethany in 2023 are asked to return the slip at the end of this newsletter and an enrolment pack will be sent home on **Monday 1st March, 2022.** This invitation to enrol is only for parents with children already attending Bethany. Do not miss out on a 2023 Prep placement.

Prep Enrolment 2023 - Families NOT already at Bethany

Families wishing to enrol a child at Bethany for the first time in 2023 are welcome to enquire from **Monday, 1st March.**

Sunsmart Policy

As a part of the Sunsmart Policy, students will need to wear a sunhat. This is to protect them from the sun. Students may bring sunscreen to school to apply if needed. The school will no longer provide loan hats for hygiene reasons. Students without a hat will need to sit in the shaded part of the school.

Level Newsletters

Level Newsletters went home on Friday **via Operoo**. These newsletters, inform families of the learning and teaching for the term, as well as give you contact details of staff in your child's centre. Please be reminded when emailing staff, that a 48 hour turn around is the expectation, with the exception of weekends- this could be longer. If it is a matter of urgency, please call Admin and make a time to discuss with the teacher.

Covid 19 Positive or Close Contact

We thank all families for their continued response to and informing of Covid 19 Positive students as well as Close contacts. The school will endeavour to provide learning for students during their absence. Please understand teachers and leaders are in the act of teaching throughout the day, and will attempt to contact you within 48hours of notification. The learning will be digital. **No remote learning will be given to students outside of this exception.** We are in the process of streamlining this procedure, so I ask you in advance for your patience with this.

Sub- committee Dates

As we begin the new year I thank the Sub Committee members from 2021 for their continued support in 2022. The dates for this term's meetings are Wednesday 23rd February at 1:30pm and Wednesday 30th March at 6:45.

School Advisory Council

Last year I asked for expressions of interest for the School Advisory Council. I thank those who expressed an interest and continue to hold their expressions. As this is a new year and the School Advisory Council has not yet been established and there were limited expressions I am communicating this once more in the event that others may show an interest. The School Advisory Council advises the Principal on important matters and may be a support to the Principal and Leadership of the school in their decision-making process. In many ways we have emphasised the importance of parents and guardians being involved in partnering with the school and the way this helps your children in their education.

As Principal of the school, I very much value the support and advice offered by the members of the Council on such matters as:

- The Religious Education Program
- Curriculum
- Enrolments and enrolment policy
- School resources
- Improvements in the school
- Annual Report to the School Community
- Family Partnerships

These are just some of the ways a School Advisory Council can give advice to the Principal and Leadership in the school- there are many other areas as well. I am excited by the idea of having a School Advisory Council, which will replace the School Community Group, and hope many of you will also see this as another chance to support this school and your children.

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 4th March** at principal@bswerribeenth.catholic.edu.au

Matters Financial

Student Levies

All student levies (\$365 per student) were expected to be finalised by **Wednesday, 2nd February**. Payment can be made over the phone by credit card or in person between 8.30am – 4pm. Thank you to those who have paid. This is now overdue.

Health Care Card Holders (CSEF)

Parents who hold a Health Care Card that is current on 31st January, 2022 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 \$125 of the student fee.

Families with a Health Care Card are asked to make an application for the Sport / Excursion grant 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 \$240 per student fee.

If you received this payment in 2021 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 has been introduced to support families struggling to pay school fees. Concessional school fees are available to any family that meets the below eligibility criteria:

- 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.

First Instalment School Fee

If you opted to pay by your school fees by three instalments, the first instalment **\$550.00 was due by Thursday 10th February**. We thank those families who have paid. This instalment is now overdue.

Important Dates

February

Wednesday 16th – NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS

Wednesday 23rd – NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS

Wednesday 23rd – Interschool Swimming Carnival

Monday 28th – Prep students return to school on Wednesdays. Full week

March

Tuesday 1st March Prep 2023 Enrolment Information Night- 6:45pm School Hall
Wednesday 2nd – Ash Wednesday
Thursday 3rd 9:00am – Leadership Assembly
Friday 4th- Bethany Day- Launch of Houses and Celebration of the Story of Bethany- Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Monday 14th March- PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Wednesday 16th – School Open Night – **note change of date-**
Sunday 20th – Year 5 Eucharist
Monday 21st – School Athletics Carnival
Wednesday 23rd-25th March - Year 5 and 6 Camp - CYC Adanac

April

Friday 8th April- End of Term 1- 12:30pm Finish: Casual Clothes Day for students

School Closures for 2022

The following dates are school closure days for 2022. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES:**

Tuesday 26th April – Professional Learning Conference: School Review
Wednesday 27th April – Professional Learning Conference
Thursday 23rd June – Learning Conversations
Friday 24th June – Professional Learning: Positive Behaviours For Learning
Monday 31st October – Assessment & Report Writing
Monday 5th December – 2023 Planning Day

Public Holidays for 2022

Monday 14th March – Labor Day Public Holiday
Monday 25th April – ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Monday 13th June – Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 1st November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Prep Enrolment 2023

I would like to enrol my child into Bethany for Prep 2023. Please send home an enrolment application pack on Monday 1st March.

Prep 2023 Child’s Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Eldest Child’s Hub: _____



Bethany Catholic Primary School

80 Thames Blvd, Werribee

Prep 2023



**Information
Night for
Enrolment
Tues 1st
March
6.45pm**

Call 9742 9800

principal@bswerribeenth.catholic.edu.au

www.bswerribeenth.catholic.edu.au