



Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee

Newsletter No. 3
Wednesday 2nd March, 2022

Dear Families,

As we enter the month of March and season of Lent, we celebrate and give thanks for the great start we have had to the 2022 school year. The Preps are now here every day; exploring and discovering the many aspects of school life... learning time, play time, time for eating, time for listening and speaking, and most importantly time spent learning to make new friends. We thank their families, teachers and the whole school community for making them feel welcome. We are grateful to you all for your continued response to Covid 19 in the reporting of positive and close contacts and in your continued partnership and resilience throughout this challenging time. Rapid Antigen Tests have been promised by the government for students for the next two weeks. Unfortunately, we have not received these as yet. Once we have them, we will distribute to each student, at the end of the day, and they will be found in their bags. There will be no need to collect from the office. We will Operoo and SMS when these go home with the students.

Today marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday signifies the beginning of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. The 'wilderness' in Jerusalem is the desert-an open, barren land with little or no water. Here Jesus was exposed to the elements- oppressive heat in the day, cold in the night, wind, dust and thunderstorms. You may well ask what is the significance of this for us today?

A couple of years ago I was fortunate enough to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where we spent time in the 'wilderness'. What struck me during this time were two things; the sense of wonder and awe at the magnificence of God's creation mingled with the sense of harshness within this magnificent creation. It supported me to draw an analogy of the life of Jesus, God made human, to our own lives. Jesus was exposed to the beauty and harshness of the 'wilderness', not dissimilar to our own journey in life. At times we are struck by the sheer beauty of life, and all it offers to us and yet there are times of sadness, grief, loss...the harsh reality of life.

The significance of the Jesus' time for us in the wilderness, demonstrates the strength of God's love for us. Jesus prayed to God. God walked with Jesus and at times carried him in the palm of his hands. God's great love for us is reimagined in this story. God walks with us and at times carries us in



the palm of his hand during our joys and times of adversity. The Holy Spirit present to Jesus at this time, through the gifts of fortitude and piety, are examples that during lent - a time of prayer, almsgiving and fasting, we too may spend devoted time with God in prayer; supporting us to hear his voice, to do his will and to live the gospels.

We keep the people of Ukraine in our prayers, may we pray for peace. We also keep our own people here in North NSW and Queensland, where floods are devastating their homes and lives. May God walk with them at this time.

And so, we pray...

Prayer:

Gracious and loving God,
As we begin our Lenten season
may we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.
May we see with his eyes those who are rejected and abandoned,
and act with love and acceptance.
May we hear with his ears the cries of those who are in pain and sorrow,
and listen with compassion and understanding.
May we love with his heart those who are different and challenging
and show to them the face of Christ.
Amen.

Take care. God bless

Joanne Webster
Principal

Student News

Interschool Swimming Carnival

We thank the students who represented Bethany Primary School last Wednesday on both their individual and team efforts, which led to Bethany winning the carnival. A few of the students' reflection of the day are posted here.



Olivia Humphries

Bethany competed in the Tarneit and Truganina District Swimming Carnival on Wednesday the 23rd of February 2022. 28 students participated and all the kids swam well. There were a lot of events that the students participated in and everyone gave it their best shot. We also had parents and guardians with our teachers who were very supportive, cheering for all the students who were swimming. Every single student did their best and tried very hard and all that paid off because Bethany won

the aggregate score for 2 years in a row. Twenty students will now represent Bethany at the Wyndham Swimming Carnival on 16th March.

Zac Peacock

The swimming carnival was fun but very tiring as I was in lots of races. All schools were very encouraging of each other and said "Good job," after we tried our best in every race.

Jillian Tennyson

At the Swimming Carnival I raced in the backstroke and I tried my best. It was a long hard race and it was lots of fun.

April Hollingsworth

On the day of the swimming carnival, I raced in the freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke as well as the freestyle relay with Katia, Tiara and Alleira and won first place. Everybody had so much fun therefore we are looking forward to the next swimming carnival.

Katia Kurenysheva

I went to the swimming carnival and I competed in the freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and the freestyle relay. You can win ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and every person who swims gets points for the school team. Bethany won the shield with 201 points due to our great teamwork.

Leadership Assembly Thursday 3rd March 9:00am

On Thursday 3rd March, the Leadership Assembly will be held on the Basketball Court at 9am. This assembly will acknowledge and celebrate our Year 6s continued leadership in the Leadership Centre and throughout the school. It will also be the time to announce our School Captains and Vice Captains, School House Captains and School House Vice Captains, and present them with their school badges. Families are invited to attend if they are double vaccinated. For those not able to attend for this reason, a video of the assembly will be made available after the event. We will be required to check your vaccination status on this day, in line with our Covid 19 Safe Plan and State Government requirements. As always, I thank you for your continued support and understanding of this.

Bethany Day Friday 4th March

On Friday 4th March 2022, all Bethany students will celebrate Bethany Day. This day will enable students to experience the story of Bethany- Mary, Martha and Lazarus- the scripture, and the tradition embedded in our faith. It will also be an opportunity to launch our Bethany School Houses. The day will begin with the House Captains and House Vice Captains launching the four Bethany Sports Houses; Waratah - red, Jacaranda - blue, Wattle - yellow and Conifer - green.

Students are to wear their sports uniform and house colour t-shirt on this day.

Italian Language Learning This week we begin our Italian Language Learning in all the hubs. The program known as Teachers as Co-Learners (TLC), uses the model of frequency to teach functional language and conversational language. The students engage in 15 minutes of Italian language daily, with a 15 minute language lesson with Signoria Claudia each week. Each week the students learn 5 words and gestures. This week's 5 words are:

Buongiorno - *Good morning*

Grazie - *Thank you*

Prego - *You're welcome*

Per favore - *Please*

Arrivederci - *Goodbye*

You may like to try this with your children at home!!

Shrove Tuesday

Yesterday as a part of our Religious Education learning and English learning the students made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday marks the last day before Ash Wednesday. As Lent is traditionally a time of fasting, Christians would rid their pantry of flour, eggs and other sweet items for Lent. The students certainly were engaged in the experience and the smell of pancakes cooking across the school was wonderful. Pictures taken by Ayla Spiteri and Kayla Aban- Todd Hub.



Camp Adanac: Year 5 and 6 March 23rd-25th

We begin the Camp Program for our Leadership Centre (Years 5 and 6) on Wednesday 23rd March to Friday 25th March. The students will go to CYC Adanac in the Yarra Junction. All permission slips, medical information and code of conducts were sent home last week. We will hold a meeting after school regarding this for all parents of Year 5 and 6 students who would like to hear and know more. A camp meeting will be held for interested parents on Monday 8th March at 4:00pm in the Leadership Centre. Parents will need to be double vaccinated to participate. If you are not vaccinated, and would like information please call Administration and we will call you. Thank you for your understanding.

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. A note will be Operooed to families shortly, requesting permission and help. Families assisting will need to be double vaccinated.

Ashton Scholastic Bookclub

Thank you for your response to bookclub. Orders will be distributed once they arrive.

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 6.45pm - Confirmation focus

Thurs 4th August 6.45pm - Eucharist focus

Thurs 13th October 6.45pm - Reconciliation focus

Parent News

Nut Free School

A reminder to all families, that Bethany Primary School is a nut free school, due to the increasing numbers of anaphylactic students- who have allergies to nuts. I ask you to refrain from sending Nutella or peanut butter sandwiches etc with your children, in an effort to keep all students at Bethany safe.

Students Riding Bikes or Scooters to School

Over the last week we have noticed students riding or scooting to school or home without helmets. This is not only a safety issue but a legal requirement. Students **MUST** wear helmets when riding bikes or scooters to school. I thank you for your continued co-operation with this.

Drop Off Zone

A reminder to all that the Thames Street Drop Off Zone is a drop off zone only. If you wish to park your car and take your child into school, please use the school Car Park. There are many available parks there.

Sub Committee

The next Sub Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th March at 6:45pm. The Sub Committee are looking to organise dates for Second Hand Uniform purchasing and other events related to service, hospitality and fundraising.

Dates for the remainder of the year are:

Wednesday 4th May 1:30pm

Wednesday 1st June 6:45pm

Wednesday 20th July 1:30pm

Wednesday 17th August 6:45pm

Wednesday 12th October 1:30pm

Wednesday 9th November 6:45pm

We continue to thank our families who contribute to this committee.

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 regarding 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.

Important Dates

March

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 – **further information to be sent home later this week**

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

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Prep Enrolment 2023

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

Prep 2023 Child's Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Eldest Child's Hub: _____