



Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee

Newsletter No. 21
Wednesday 14th December, 2022

Dear Families,

As the 2022 school year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the school community for their commitment to their children's learning throughout this year. Your support, participation and contribution to each other, to the children and to our community at large is greatly appreciated.

Today, the students bring home their school reports, detailing their achievements, progress and future learning. This is an opportunity for you to sit with your child to celebrate their growth this year as a learner.

We also celebrated Year 6 Graduation on Monday. The evening was filled with much joy, excitement and inspiration. Our Year 6 students have led Bethany with great energy, enthusiasm, compassion, passion and generosity. We are filled with pride as we embrace the young people they have become and we are filled with hope for the good they will do in the world, as they continue to be the best people they can be. On behalf of the school community, I want to take this opportunity to encourage them in whatever they choose to do in the future. Well done Year 6s!



In the Pope's latest Apostolic Letter, he discusses the importance of the Nativity Scene. He writes:

The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realise that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him (n. 1).

All students attending Bethany Primary School have the right to feel safe. The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility of all within our school.

Pope Francis encourages all of us to continue the custom of preparing the nativity scene in the lead-up to Christmas, not only in the home but also 'in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares'.

'The Christmas nativity scene speaks to us of the love of God,' writes Pope Francis, 'the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition' (n. 10).

By encouraging our reflection on the Nativity scene, the Pope is encouraging us to bear witness to the love of Christ in all the ways we care for others, especially the poor and marginalised, and promote justice and peace.

May the peace and joy of the Christ child, be with you and your family this Christmas. May God bless you all. Thank you.



Prayer for the end of the School Year- Constructed by Sepik Hub

Loving God,

You are our guiding light and our model of faith.

Thank You for being alongside us in our communities, loving and guiding us each day throughout 2022.

Thank You for listening to all our prayers this year. When You are by our side we can't go wrong. Thank You for the good times and the challenging times in our lives. Even though we cannot see you, we still have faith in you.

We are grateful that You helped us grow our friendships, teachers and family circles. Thank You for helping us learn better and more every day. When we believe more in faith, we will grow stronger next year in our new hubs and our communities. Thank You for helping us focus and learn while we were in Sepik hub and the Bridging Centre. Thank you for helping all students to focus and learn. Thank You for nourishing our bodies with your loving ways. Please continue to help us as our work evolves on our continuing journey.

We ask You to help us to continue to explore and sustain the wonderful world around us in 2023 and to help us to be grateful for the many treasures we possess.

We pray that You will be with us and help us be more successful in our new environments. Continue to be with us in hard times and help us grow stronger. Please be with us no matter what happens throughout our lives. In the future we pray that You will continue to keep helping others like You have helped us when we were struggling. Continue to help our chickens and pets around us.

Amen

Joanne Webster
Principal

School News

Prep to Year 5 – Last of school – Friday 16th December at 12.30pm finish

To celebrate a successful year of learning and living, students may wear casual clothes on the last day of school – Friday 16th December. Students will also be given an Icy pole on this day to celebrate their success. **NO LUNCH ORDERS on this day.**

Student News

Advent - a time of prayer and preparation for the birth of Jesus.

The past few weeks have seen many beautiful Advent prayer times celebrated throughout each Centre. Students have reflected on the four candles of Advent and tried each day to live the love, joy, peace and hope of Advent in their lives.

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I put the star on the Jesse tree and I felt happy for God's big family. **Ollie Stooke (Earth Hub)**

I like the singing and praying, it is very calm. **Ayce Lewis (Blue Hub)**

The tree is Jesus' family tree. **Ryan Smith-Thompson (Earth Hub)**

I like the peacefulness at our prayer time. **Sacha Velinos (Yellow) Hub)**

I like all the prayers, they make me happy because they remind me of Jesus. **Phoenix Chadima (Indigo Hub)**



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Reflections

It made me feel calm, happy. I got to encounter Jesus. I got to pray and talk to Him. **Terry G (Kolbe Hub)**

It was a reverent place. It was good to reconnect with Jesus again. **Liam W (Kolbe Hub)**

During the prayer time I felt peaceful and calm. I thought it was a great place to be peaceful and connect with God. **Addison A (MacKillop Hub)**

During the prayer time, I felt very calm. When Father Anton was talking, everything touched my heart. I felt blessed, and when it was time for us to pray, I thanked God for everything He has done for me, like giving me the best parents I could ever ask for and my family members. I also prayed for my teacher Emma, who is always kind and respectful to everyone. **Akia A (Teresa Hub)**



Hoop Time

On Monday 21st November, 21 students from the Bridging had the exciting opportunity to represent Bethany at the Hoop Time State Finals in Dandenong. After an early start on the bus to ensure we arrived on time, the boys' and girls' teams played four pool games each. Up against some very impressive competition, our students tried their very best and showed great sportsmanship on and off the court. Unfortunately, the results did not go our way until the consolation finals, where the boys won their game, and the girls won by forfeit. Great job, everyone! After the games, there was a parade of all the teams that made it to the State Final. Here they explained that the teams competing on the day were in the Top 20 in the state. Out of 300 boys teams and 189 girls teams, we were part of the Top 20, and the students should be very proud of their achievements. It was a great experience for all, and they now have a shiny new basketball and t-shirt to remember it by!



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Italian Christmas Cards

To celebrate our year of learning Italian we have made beautiful Italian Christmas cards. Students really enjoyed making their cards and practising the Italian Christmas language.

Students from the Exploration Centre and Discovery Centre had a chance to trace Italian words like **BUON NATALE** (Merry Christmas) and **L'ALBERO DI NATALE** (the Christmas tree). They also enjoyed painting Christmas trees with Claudia. Students from the Bridging Centre and Leadership Centre made amazing Christmas cards and had a chance to go through some Italian words that we have learnt during the year. Buon Natale a tutti.



Final Assembly

We celebrated our final assembly today. For those families unable to attend, please find it here for viewing. <https://youtu.be/hbcwT11gTSl>

Parent News –

Parent in Partnership 2023 Dates **NEW**

We would like to thank all the parents who have expressed an interest in the Parent in Partnership for 2023. After examining all the responses the most popular day was Wednesday and both the 1:30pm timeslot and 6:45pm timeslots were also popular.

The dates and times for all meetings in 2023 are:

- Wednesday 15th February- 1:30pm
- Wednesday 15th March- 6:45pm
- Wednesday 26th April- 1:30pm
- Wednesday 31st May- 6:45pm
- Wednesday 26th July – 1:30pm
- Wednesday 16th August- 6:45pm
- Wednesday 18th October-1:30pm
- Wednesday 22nd November – 6:45pm

Please pencil these dates into your diaries.

School Advisory Council 2023 Dates **NEW**

The dates and times for the School Advisory Council for 2023 are:

- Wednesday 8th March 6:45pm
- Wednesday 7th June 6:45pm
- Wednesday 23rd August 6:45pm
- Wednesday 15th November 6:45pm

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Staff 2023

School Leaders

Principal – Joanne Webster
Deputy Principal Learning, Teaching and Innovation – Rita Krnac
Deputy Principal Wellbeing, Diversity and Engagement – Carin van Mourik
Catholic Identity and Faith Leader and Discovery Centre Leader- Loretta Freeman
P-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 Hegerty
eLearning Leader and Discovery Centre Leader- Katrina Flanders
eLearning Leader and Leadership Centre Leader – Mong Hang Cau
Student Diversity Leader and Bridging Centre Leader – Elaine Dunne
Arts Leader – Genevieve Murray
Family Engagement in Learning Leader – Amanda Defina

Exploration Centre

Prep Wombat- Earth Hub- Tegan Beech
Prep Emu-Ocean Hub- Kristen Baldassarro (Graduate teacher)
Prep Koala- Sky Hub - Lisa Dolin/Mariela Aparo
Prep Kangaroo- Anna Duong (new teacher from Corpus Christi, Werribee)
Learning Enhancement Teachers – Andrea Alfredini, Mariela Aparo, Amanda Defina, Maree Day

Discovery Centre

Indigo Hub – Emily Navaro
Green Hub – Kristy Valencia and Maree Dempsey
Red Hub – Venessa Herbert (new teacher from St Mary of the Cross, Point Cook)
Orange Hub- Catherine Wills
Blue Hub – Cassandra Hockley
Yellow Hub – Tanya Flores/Sarah Walsh
Learning Enhancement Teachers- Amanda Defina, Maree Dempsey, Andrea Alfredini, Mariela Aparo

Bridging Centre

Yarra Hub – Leanne Rotin/ Hayley Fenech
Werribee Hub – Jessica Kerlin
Todd Hub – Maddison Domeney
Jordan Hub – Julius Prack
Sepik Hub – Simon Beraldo
Murray Hub- Kym Young and Genevieve Murray
Learning Enhancement Teachers - Genevieve Murray, Trish Hollenbach, Kate Hockley

Leadership Centre

Kolbe Hub – Steven Giammario
Mandela Hub – Natalie- Jayne Little
MacKillop Hub – Marilyn Gerace
Little Hub – Brenton Payne (new teacher from St Monica's Footscray.)
Chisholm Hub – Helena O'Connor
Teresa Hub – Emma Bonnano
Learning Enhancement Teachers- Ashlea Hudson, Kate Hockley

Specialist Teachers

Visual Arts- Josephine Allison and Genevieve Murray
Physical Education – Connor Brien and Veronica Spencer
STEM/Digital Literacies – Ashlea Hudson
Music – Trish Hollenbach
Social and Emotional Learning-Natasha D' Cunha
3-6 Kitchen Garden- Kate Hockley

Italian Language Assistant

Claudia Pesolilla

Learning Assistants

Johanna Hennessy
Jennae Sheedy (returning)
Wendy Grima
Paula Marino
Joanne Hornstra
Elisabeth Pistone
Veronica Wren
Kim Williams
Kim Steve
Jessy Allison
Naomi Wattle
Gillian Aldecoft
Nathan Wade (new)

Administration

Kylie Scott - Finance
Mary Semaan- Principal Personal Assistant
Joanne McNabb – Payroll, HR and Finance
Jelena Ford– Administration Front Office
Lea Arides/Michelle Dimasi – First Aid Administration and Resource Centre Manager

Maintenance and Facilities

Brendan Byrne- Facility Manager/Gardner
Emmanuel Vasquez – Cleaner and Grounds Assistant

LSL 2023

Vicki Benson will take LSL for the duration of 2022.

The following staff will leave Bethany at the conclusion of 2022. 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.

Justin Jones- St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, Ballarat
Lisa Gloster- CRT work closer to home
Hannah Coleman to Heathdale Christian College
Daniel Wilson- PE teacher at Roxburgh Park Secondary College
Trudi Ragusa- Learning Assistant Westbourne Grammar
Logan Roache- travel overseas
Michael Bryne- Emmaus Catholic Primary School
Karen Aston – St Catherine of Sienna, Armstrong Creek

Important Dates

December

Wednesday 14th December; Reports go home

Thursday 15th December: Last day for Year 6 Students

Friday 16th December: Last day of School Year for Years P-5 Students

Last Day of School Year 2022

The last day of 2022 school year for students will be:

Thursday 15th December: Year 6 students finish at 3.00pm

Friday 16th December: Prep - Year 5 students finish at 12.30pm

2023 DATES **NEW**

January

Friday 27th January – No school. Professional Learning Day for staff.

Monday 30th January – No school. Professional Learning Day for staff.

Tuesday 31st January – No school. Professional Learning Day for staff.

February

Wednesday 1st February – Year 1 to Year 6 will begin school at 8.40am. 3pm finish all students.

Wednesday 1st February – Student Fee of \$380 per student due by today.

Thursday 2nd February – Prep 2023 students will begin school at 8.40am. 3pm finish for all students.

Wednesday 8th February – NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS

Wednesday 15th February – NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS

Wednesday 22nd February – NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS