



Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee

Newsletter No. 2
Wednesday 15th February 2023

Dear Families,

Last week we had our very first full week of school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students for their enthusiasm and diligence to their learning and for living the gospels in their kindness and thoughtfulness towards each other in the learning spaces and on the yard. A big thank you to all the families for their continued support of their children and our school. Thank you to our staff for their individual and collective organisation, commitment and diligence to make this new year a success for our school community.

At our Leadership Assembly on Monday 20th February, we will introduce our Student School Leaders- School Captains, School Vice Captains, School House Captains and School Vice House Captains. Throughout this week these students have been writing their speeches, as they nominate themselves for these key school leadership positions. Our Student School Leaders, lead and represent our school in many ways. They have a variety of roles and may attend Catholic Education Week, lead the announcing of our School Achievement Awards at Assemblies, launch our Bethany Day, as well as meet regularly with myself and other leaders, to consider ways to give greater student voice and agency, as well as looking to build connection throughout the school with special school events.

In the coming weeks we will also introduce our Social Justice Leaders. New this year, and to continue to give all students a voice across the school, we have members representing each hub through our School Representative Council(SRC) from Years 1 to 6.

Next Wednesday 22nd February is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent- a time for fasting, almsgiving and prayer. **As a whole school we will celebrate Mass at 10am in the School Hall.** We welcome all families to this.



On Thursday 23 February, we have Bethany Day. On this day, we celebrate our patron saints- Mary, Martha and Lazarus and launch our School Houses. The students will be grouped across the school in multi-ages for this event, and parents will be invited to attend and share lunch or snack with students. More information regarding this will be sent home tomorrow, Thursday 16th February.

We are also in the process of considering a social media app to share the learning and teaching happening. An eform will be distributed on Friday 17th February, asking you to nominate your preference for this- eg facebook, Instagram, twitter. We will of course only choose one. We look forward to tallying your responses and putting this in place.

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.

Thank you for your continued support. Take care. God bless

Joanne Webster
Principal

Prayer:

This week we pray for the Turkish and Syrian people, who have suffered major loss and destruction as a result of the devastating earthquake.

God of mercy,
We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria
following the recent earthquakes.
We mourn the death and destruction
and pray for those who have died and those who grieve.
We hold in our hearts those who are injured,
and those who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and homes.
Sustain and guide all responding to this disaster.
Grant those affected, courage and resilience,
as they rebuild their lives and communities.
Inspire us to unite in solidarity,
acting swiftly and generously,
so that help may reach all who need it.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.
Amen.

Student News

Exploration Centre Prayer Liturgy

The Exploration Centre held a prayer Liturgy for all students to experience what it 'feels, looks and sounds' like when we are praying. Throughout the liturgy, teachers explained that prayer is the special way that we speak and listen to God and that being in the prayer space helps us to calm down, sit quietly and get ready to be in God's presence.

Students were introduced to all the symbols that are needed when setting up a prayer space within their hubs. There were the different coloured cloths we use at different times of the liturgical calendar, a children's bible, a candle and a hand painted unique and individual cross that has been made by an Indigenous Community in the NT.

We finished the liturgy with a lovely prayer to support all the students as they embark on their new school journey. You may like to view this. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qedAOFaYdkw>

Dear God,
Thank you for your gift of love.
Thank you for my family.
Thank you for all my new school friends at Bethany.
Please help me to be brave
and to always have a smile on my face,
especially on the days
when I am finding school hard.
Amen



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Leadership Centre Excursion to the Immigration Museum

On the 7th of February, the Year 5s and 6s went to the Immigration Museum. There was a lot to see. The first activity that we did was learning all about people that were immigrants and why they came to live in Australia. All of the people who we learnt about were from different years. The years were the 1850's, 1890's, 1970's and the 2000's. Everyone there learnt about a different person and their story about moving to Australia. Once we finished learning about all of the different people's stories, we went to explore. Firstly, we watched a movie about tragic things that happened in different countries. After we finished watching the movie we went to the royal exhibition. It was about the Queen, Prince Charles III and Princess Diana. Another mini exhibition that we saw was all different people that came to Australia and the reasons, as well as their backstory. I learnt about Setsutarō Hasegawa. He came from Japan. The last room that we visited was the customs room. The customs room was used to check if things were legal here in Australia. I learnt so much at the Immigration Museum. **Darcie Mitchell, Teresa** .



I am thinking about how sad it would be to leave their families. **Alexia Mandela**
I would like to know more about these immigrants and would like to know why they came here. **Eva Mandela**
I saw lots of stories and videos of people getting interviewed and not being able to come to Australia. Now I wonder what would happen if I was an immigrant and would I get into Australia? What problems might I face with people and living here? **April Mandela**

I would like to research the differences between entering Australia now and then. **Lucas Mandela**
Before I went to the museum, I thought that immigrants were people who weren't happy with their country. Now I want to know more about why some immigrants move to Australia. **Yoni Mandela**

I liked going to museums because I liked learning about the immigrants of Australia. I especially liked that we got a worksheet called a passport to make our time there more interesting. And I also liked the work at the start. **Mila Mandela**



School News

District Swimming Carnival Year 3 - 6

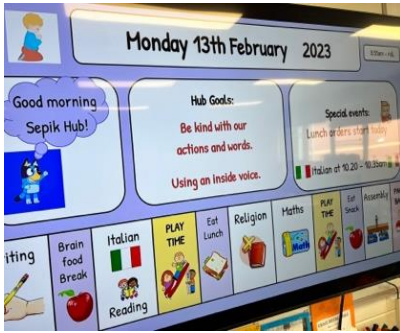
The District Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 22nd February. Try outs for these will be held on Friday 17th February from 7:15 – 8:15am. Information regarding this was sent out last week.

NAPLAN 2023

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading Conventions of Language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. Naplan is completed online and this means from **Wednesday 15 March - Monday 27 March** students in Year 3 and 5 will undertake all NAPLAN tests. More information will be sent to families closer to the date.

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Positive Behaviour for Learning PBL



From Bridging Centre:

Students have started well with establishing safe, respectful and responsible routines. Some students from the Bridging centre have shared some learning:

We demonstrate whole body listening and are responsible with our belongings. - **Gracia**

We move around the school safely and sensibly. **Tyrone, Jaden and Deng**

We use kind words and actions. **Bentli, Paytyn, Lucy and Lexi**



From Leadership Centre:



PBL stands for positive behaviour for learning, when we have a positive attitude it would help us work better and accomplish work goals. We have three expectations for positive behaviour for learning, such as being safe, being respectful and being responsible. As we learn the PBL expectations it will help us have a better attitude towards our peers and teachers and our learning. **Tsion Abebe Little**

At Bethany, we have three PBL expectations, Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. These expectations help us to create a positive behaviour and attitude. When we follow the expectations, they form positive behaviours and create a better learning environment towards us and our peers. 'PBL' stands for, 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' when we use the expectations, we allow our peers to learn, create positive behaviours and attitudes. This is why at Bethany we follow our three PBL expectations for a positive behaviour and learning environment. - **Arseama Habte Little**

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Cyber Safety – Connect, Reflect, Protect



On Tuesday February 7 the students from Prep- 6 engaged in various learning activities to celebrate Safer Internet Day.

Students in the Exploration and Discovery Centres learnt about ways they can be safe online both at school and at home. They learnt:

- We show respect: we are kind and caring to others.
- We trust our feelings: we ask for help when something doesn't feel right.
- We are responsible: we protect our own personal information.
- We investigate: we question what we see, hear and do online

Some of the student responses from Safer Internet Day were:

"I learnt that I should not take my ipad to bed with me." **Hayden**

"I learnt that it is really important to be safe online and not to share my personal information or passwords with anyone." **Eadie**

"I learnt that I should only use my ipad in shared spaces and not in my bedroom." **Thalia**

"I learnt that you should always ask an adult before you download a game." **Jaxson**

Students in the Bridging and Leadership Centres participated in an online virtual classroom webinar on Cyberbullying. The webinar explored ways that students can connect online safely and mindfully to protect themselves and others.

At the end of the webinar students were able to:

- identify how to connect online safely
- reflect on how connections, posts and comments can affect themselves and others
- develop ways to protect themselves using settings, help seeking and reporting strategies.

"Last Thursday we participated in a Cyber Safety webinar. There were three levels that we had to complete. The first level was Connect, the second was Reflect and the third was Protect. In each task we had to answer questions about what we had learnt in each level. The webinar was engaging and taught us a lot of things. **Ekaterina Kurenysheva. Angel Salim**

Help Needed

We have purchased new prayer cloths for each of the hubs and was hoping we had a seamstress in the community who could edge our cloths. If you are able to assist, could you please contact Admin on 97429800. Thank you in advance for your generosity of time.

Book Borrowing- Resource Centre-Updated

Library borrowing will begin in Week 5, Monday 20th February. All students require a library bag to transport books to and from school. Hub teachers will let you know borrowing days in the level newsletter out soon. Again this year if there are any parents who could assist with book covering, returning of the books etc, please contact Admin on 97429800.

Assemblies: Updated

Assemblies are held on Mondays, generally fortnightly at 2:25pm. Please find the Assembly Schedule.

All families are invited to attend. These are generally held on the basketball court or in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Next Monday 20th February we will have our Leadership Assembly. This will begin at 2: 15pm.

THIS HAS BEEN AN UPDATED. Please check dates.

ASSEMBLIES - 2023								
	TERM 1		TERM 2		TERM 3		TERM 4	
WEEK	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS
1			24 APRIL		10 JULY		2 OCTOBER	
2	30 JANUARY		1 MAY	LITTLE/CHIS	17 JULY	KOLBE/MAN	9 OCTOBER	RED/GREEN
3	6 FEBRUARY		8 MAY		24 JULY		16 OCTOBER	
4	13 FEBRUARY	Principal- JOANNE	15 MAY	MURR/JORD	31 JULY	SEPIK/TODD	23 OCTOBER	PE/ART
5	20 FEBRUARY	Leadership Assembly	22 MAY		7 AUGUST		30 OCTOBER	
6	27 FEBRUARY		29 MAY	YELL/ORAN	14 AUGUST	SKY / STAR	6 NOVEMBER	PP DAY
7	6 MARCH	SOCIAL JUSTICE/LENTE N APPEAL	5 JUNE		21 AUGUST		13 NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY- Leadership Centre
8	13 MARCH	HOLIDAY	12 JUNE	HOLIDAY	28 AUGUST	BLUE/INDIGO	20 NOVEMBER	
9	20 MARCH	WERR/YARRA	19 JUNE	PBL	4 SEPTEMBER		27 NOVEMBER	EARTH/OCEA
10	27 MARCH				11 SEPTEMBER	ITALIAN/MUSIC	4 DECEMBER	PP DAY
11	3 APRIL	TERESA/MAC					Tues 12 DECEMBER	End of Year Assembly JOANNE

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Matters Financial

Student Levies

All student levies (\$380 per student) were expected to be finalised by **Wednesday, 8th February**. Payment can be made over the phone by credit card or in person in the Admin office between 8.30am – 4:00pm.

Health Care Card Holders (CSEF)

Parents who hold a Health Care Card that is current on 30th January, 2023 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 on either 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 \$255 per student fee.

If you received this payment in 2022 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 was 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 by your school fees by three instalments, the first instalment **\$570.00** was due by **Thursday 9th February**.

Parent in Partnership and School Advisory Council

Parent in Partnership Meetings for the 2023 will be held on the following dates and times:

Wednesday 15th February at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre

Wednesday 15th March at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 26th April at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre

Wednesday 31st May at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 26th July at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre

Wednesday 16th August at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 18th October at 1:30pm in the Bethany Resource Centre

Wednesday 22nd November at 6:45pm in the Staffroom

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School Advisory Council Meetings will be held on:

Wednesday 8th March – 6:45pm – 8:15pm

Wednesday 7th June – 6:45pm – 8:15pm

Wednesday 23rd August – 6:45pm – 8:15pm

Wednesday 15th November – 6:45pm – 8:15pm

Important Dates –

February

Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February – Swimming (Leadership Centre)

Wednesday 15th February – Parent in Partnership Meeting 1:30pm

Monday 20th February – Assembly 2:25pm (Leadership)

Friday 17th February – 7:15 - 8:15am Swimming trials

Wednesday 22nd February – 10:00am Ash Wednesday, Whole School Liturgy – Parents welcome

Wednesday 22nd February- District Swimming Carnival Years 3-6

Tuesday 28th February – Prep 2024 Information/Open Night 6:00pm

March

Friday 3rd March – School Photos- Full summer uniform

Monday 6th March – Assembly 2:25pm (Social Justice/Lenten Appeal)

Monday 6th March – Friday 10th March – Swimming (Bridging Centre)

Tuesday 7th March – School Open Night 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Wednesday 8th March – SAC Meeting 6:45pm

Wednesday 15th March – Monday 27th March NAPLAN

Wednesday 15th March – Parent In Partnership Meeting 6:45pm

Monday 20th March – Assembly 2:25pm (Werribee & Yarra Hubs)

Monday 27th March – Friday 31st March – Swimming (Exploration & Discovery Centres)

April

Monday 3rd April – Assembly 2:25pm (Teresa & MacKillop Hubs)

Thursday 6th April – Last Day Term 1 – students finish at 12:30pm

School Closures for 2023

The following dates are school closure days for 2023. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES:**

Monday 10th July – Professional Learning Conference

Tuesday 11th July – Professional Learning Conference

Wednesday 12th July – Learning Conversations

Monday 6th November – Assessment & Report Writing

Monday 4th December – 2024 Planning Day

Last day of Term 1: Thursday 6th April at 12:30pm

Public Holidays for 2023

Monday 13th March – Labor Day Public Holiday

Friday 7th April – Good Friday

Tuesday 25th April – ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Monday 12th June – King's Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 7th November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

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Sacrament Dates 2023

First Communion – Year 4 Friday 16th June 5:30pm and 7:30pm at St Andrew's Church

Confirmation – Year 6 Wednesday 6th September 5:30pm and 7:30pm in the Bethany school Hall

First Reconciliation – Year 3 Thursday 26th October 6:00pm and 7:30pm in St Andrew's Church

Family Nights for Sacraments 2023

Eucharist Family Night – Year 4 students and parents/carers – Thursday 25th May 6:45pm School Hall

Confirmation Family Night – Year 6 students and parents/carers – Thursday 20th July 6:45pm School Hall

Reconciliation Family Night – Year 3 students and parents/carers – Thursday 12th October 6:45pm School Hall

All students and families celebrating these sacraments are required to attend.