

BETHANY'S NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 15/12/2017 TERM 4 - WEEK 10



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



It's the most wonderful time of the year!!!

Dear Bethany Parents and Carers,

As another school year draws to a close we would like to take this opportunity to thank all students, families, friends and extended families who have in some way assisted us in making this a successful year of teaching and learning.

As new arrivals to the Bethany Community we too have had many learning opportunities, all of which would not have been possible without the support of parents and staff. Thank you sincerely for your engagement, contributions, feedback and words of affirmation. We look to 2018 with excitement about our continued journey together.

As we break for the Christmas season, it is easy to get lost in the frenzy of ticking of Christmas lists, grocery shopping for the festivities and writing cards for loved ones near and far. We urge you to take a few minutes, even if it's in the reading of this Newsletter, to pause and reflect on the meaning of Christmas. Spare a thought for those who do not have the money to spend on Christmas presents, others who are saddened by the absence of loved ones and for the many who will spend Christmas not in a home but somewhere they do not even know yet.

Let us remember that Christmas is intended to be a time of great joy for ALL. Some two thousand years ago a great gift was given to us all. A child who would give us renewed strength and teach us to love abundantly. The child Jesus reminds us to put others before ourselves this Christmas, to gather in prayer at mass and give thanks for the abundance of blessings received throughout the year and above all to show love to all those we encounter by word and deed.

On behalf of the Bethany Community, we would like to wish all families in our school, a Holy and Blessed Christmas. May your burdens be lightened, your faith strengthened and miracles surround you this season.

Peace and Joy,
Cheryl Brown
Principal

Pascale Joseph
Assistant Principal

Important Dates

Monday, 29th January, 2018

Pupil Free Day

Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAI)

Appointments commence 11:00am K- 6

Tuesday, 30th January, 2018

Pupil Free Day

Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAI)

Appointments K - 6

Wednesday, 31st January 2018

Year 1- 6 students return to school

K - 6 MAI Appointments 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Thursday, 1st February, 2018

8:30 - 2:40pm Kindergarten students begin

Kindergarten School Times for Weeks 1 –5 will be 8:30am to 2:40pm

Voices of our Year 6 Graduates

Hi, I'm Kyla and whilst I have been at Bethany , I have experienced many things. From Mrs Mulkern in KB, to Miss Cefai in 6W and all the teachers in between. They always encouraged me to learn new things. They have all helped me to become who I am today, a future highschool student. So today I have been given the opportunity, in front of the whole school to say thank you, for everything you have done. I have also created many lifelong memories, with teachers and friends. I was finally in year six and couldn't wait to be paired up with a kindergarten buddy. I was so pleased when I got my buddy, Lara D'agostino.

This school has provided me with so many opportunities. It has help me do sports from soccer to netball to a 3 kilometre run. From school, to zone, to , to diocesean level. Last year I finally reached my goal as swimming age champion for the 11 year age group. That's a memory I will never forget. I have made so many lifelong friendships and achieved so many goals. As I go into highschool I am looking forward to meeting new friends and setting new goals and challenges for myself.

Voices of our Year 6 Graduates

As my years at Bethany have come to an end, I have taken some time to reflect on all of the exciting, fun and challenging things I have experienced throughout these past seven years. From my first day of Kindy to now, I have realised how lucky I am to be able to attend Bethany. I have had so many different learning opportunities throughout my time at Bethany such as PBL 'S, Voice of youth and much more. Along with all of the opportunities I have received as a Bethany student, I have also created so many unforgettable memories especially in my Primary years. I've been on school camps, gone to athletics carnivals, taken part in many excursions and I have had the chance to have a Kinder and Yr 1 buddy. I've loved my time at Bethany and I am so grateful for everything that I have been able to do as a student here. Thankyou friends and teachers for the best seven years here at Bethany! I wish the rest of Year 6 luck in the future. Thankyou!

Before I came to Bethany in 2015, I didn't have a clue of what to expect, at first I was scared, nervous and devastated of leaving friends that I had grown so close to, although things do change, things must change otherwise the road ahead won't be that smooth. Two years ago, it was my very first day at Bethany. WOW! It was amazing the peers in my new class were so caring and inviting, there is nothing more I could have wanted but to be instantly taken into a new community. At first I was struggling to keep up with the level of learning but thanks to the lovely teachers I have had in the past years up to now I have been guided to being able to challenge myself that one step further. In my experience at Bethany I have noticed a change in my confidence, learning and socializing skills. If it weren't for Bethany I would be nowhere near the level I am at today. For this I am most truly grateful. What I have also experienced at Bethany is how compassionate and inviting most of the children are, how if you have no one to play with or associate there so many other children who will without question invite you to join them. Over the years at Bethany I have been fulfilled with hope, faith and love. So it is my pleasure to say thank you Bethany. Thank you.



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MASS TIMES	DATE	NO MASS
5:00am & 5:30pm	<i>Saturday 16 December</i>	9:00am Mass
5:00am & 9:30am	<i>Sunday 17 December</i>	7:30am Mass
5:00am	<i>Monday 18 December</i>	* * * * *
5:00am	<i>Tuesday 19 December</i>	9:00am Mass
5:00am & 7:00pm	<i>Wednesday 20 December</i>	* * * * *
5:00am	<i>Thursday 21 December</i>	9:00am Mass
5:00am	<i>Friday 22 December</i>	9:00am Mass
5:00am & 5:30pm	<i>Saturday 23 December</i>	9:00am Mass
5:00am & 9:30am	<i>Sunday 24 December</i>	7:30am Mass

MASS TIMES	CHRISTMAS MASSES	
7:00pm <i>carols from 6:30pm</i>	<i>Sunday 24 December</i> <i>The children are invited to dress as a Nativity character for the 7:00pm Children's Mass</i>	
9:30pm <i>carols from 9:00pm</i>		
Midnight <i>carols from 11:30pm</i>	<i>Monday 25 December</i> <i>Supper or morning tea will be provided after each Christmas Mass to celebrate the birth of Jesus.</i>	
9:30am <i>carols from 9:00am</i>		

BUS APPLICATIONS

Applications for 2018 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) and Term Bus Pass (TBP) travel entitlements are now open.

In coming days students who hold an SSTS entitlement and are changing grade bands i.e. going from year 2 to 3 or year 6 to 7 and changing school, and students whose entitlement was approved under a medical condition, will receive notification by email or post informing them of the pending expiry of their entitlement. TBP holders will also receive notification.

Students enquiring about pending cancellation should be advised to go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails> to update details/make application for next year's entitlement.

Application needs to be made before 31 December 2017 to ensure their entitlement is updated and their current card is not cancelled. If application is made after the expiry of their entitlement (31 December) the system will automatically cancel their card and a new one will need to be issued.

Please note: Students who are changing grade band and are remaining at the same school will not receive notification and do not need to reapply (the system now automatically validates a student's on-going eligibility if at the same school and going from infants to primary or primary to secondary). Where a student meets the new eligibility the system will automatically update their entitlement and card.

Students in the Opal area applying for a SSTS or TBP entitlement for the first time will receive their card (posted to the nominated address) a week or two before the commencement of 2018 classes. Please let students know new cards for 2018 are not posted in 2017 or during the Christmas / New Year period.

Students residing in Rural and Regional (R&R) areas are expected to receive their new travel pass at the commencement of the New School Year. **Note:** not all R&R operators issue passes (often in smaller communities where the student is known a pass is not issued).

Concessions

Email: Student@transport.nsw.gov.au



Transport