

# Bethany Catholic Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



Term 4 | Week 10 | Thursday, 14th December, 2023

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Families,

The last fortnight of the school year has been an incredibly busy, joyful and fulfilling time for our school community in so many ways. At this point of the school cycle, a number of special events stand out as ones to appreciate and savour as we conclude 2023:

- The School Christmas Concert
- Year 6 Whole School Graduation Mass, Ceremony, Social Dinner, Fun Day & Guard of Honour
- The Annual School Awards Presentation

It is events such as these that are important markers in the lives of the children and the school. They allow us to celebrate success because we have achieved a goal, or passed a milestone. They also allow us to reflect on disappointments and mistakes because we know they provide an opportunity for learning and growth. And they allow us to aspire to be better than we were before. They enrich and inspire our students, staff and parents to continue to strive for excellence and contribute in a meaningful way to all that we are called to do at Bethany.

As the school year draws to a close I take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed in countless ways this year to making this Catholic school a place where we encounter Christ each day.

I would like to acknowledge the generous contribution of the first educators of our students - our parents & carers. Thank you for your trust and support in our common endeavour to nurture and form our students.

My immense gratitude to our Parish Priest, Father Suresh for his unstinting pastoral leadership and care of our school. Finally to the leadership team and entire staff for their commitment, energy and professionalism in their vocation as co-educators of OUR children.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

May the Christ child be present in your hearts and homes this Christmas and may His abundant graces be with your families.

Wishing you a holy, safe and happy Christmas - Buon Natale!

Sergio Rosato  
Principal



### **Annual Presentation Assembly**

The ceremony yesterday acknowledged the many students who this year have distinguished themselves in a variety of areas of school life.

In my principal's address I spoke to the students on the subject of dreams. Not the kind they have while they are sleeping but the kind that allows them to imagine what might be possible. Dreaming allows us to imagine different ways of doing things or a different way of thinking or being – it's where many great inventions, ideas, pieces of art and music have begun. Without a dream **Nelson Mandela** never would have brought South Africa together. Without a dream **Martin Luther King** would never have brought people to an understanding that all people are equal. Without a dream **St Mary of the Cross** would never have opened schools for poor children.

I shared with the students a book I'd read recently about a young American University Professor called **Randy Pausch**. A few years ago, the science professor stepped in front of an audience of 400 of his students to deliver his last lecture called "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams."

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

It was a remarkable speech because he spoke to his students about how important it is to dream and how amazing it feels to know you are working towards achieving your dreams. It was called **the last lecture** because Professor Pausch was seriously ill. Despite this, his last lecture was not sad but filled with passion, enthusiasm and fun.

Professor Pausch went through his childhood dream list. These were the 5 dreams that he imagined as a child:

1. Being able to experience zero gravity like the astronauts.
2. Playing in the National Football League.
3. Writing an article in the World Book Encyclopedia. (These were a set of books that people had to find information before google)
4. Being one of the guys who won the big stuffed animals in the amusement park.
5. Being Captain Kirk from Star Trek

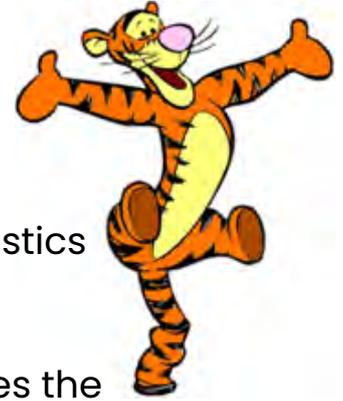
Now these were some pretty big dreams and as you can imagine, there were some pretty big obstacles he had to overcome if he was going to achieve these dreams.

He said that things that are hard to achieve are like brick walls. These brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out but are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something – in other words we have to persevere and put in effort in order to achieve the things we want.

He told his students that he went on to attain almost all of those dreams, but not always exactly in the way he had imagined. He encouraged his students to cherish people rather than things as people are much more important than material objects.

He explained that even if you don't achieve your dreams entirely you still get a lot out of life by trying for it – really important things like teamwork, humility, sportsmanship & perseverance.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED



He challenged his students to be like the character **Tigger** in Winnie the Pooh – positive, enthusiastic, always full of bounce and optimism – because these are the characteristics that can break down brick walls.

And he warned them not to be like **Eeyore**, who always sees the negative and is full of doom and gloom – these are the characteristics that make you crash into the brick wall!

To finish his lecture the Professor listed 4 pieces of life advice that he recommended for his students.

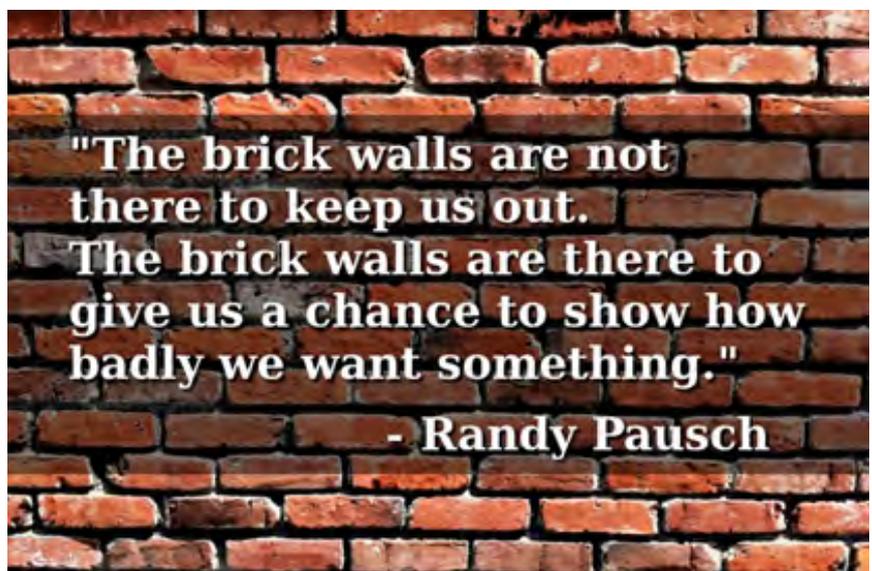
1. **Tell the truth**
2. **Show gratitude** – say and show thanks to people
3. **Everyone has a good side** – sometimes it takes a long time for them to show it – but everyone has one, so be patient.
4. **Apologise properly and sincerely** when you make a mistake. (And **everyone** makes mistakes) He pointed out that an apology should have 3 essential parts:

First part, saying "I'm sorry", followed by, "It's my fault" and then thinking, "How do I make it right?"

In other words if you live properly with some solid guiding principles then your dreams will become much more achievable.

We congratulate ALL who we acknowledged during the presentation ceremony for academic achievement and effort in learning. We also congratulate all those who act each day to live out our school motto – In Christ we love and serve.

Sergio Rosato  
Principal



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

### Staff News

As the school year comes to a close we acknowledge the following staff members who are leaving our school. We honour each one of these educators for their vocational service to the children of the Bethany community and wish each of them every success and blessing in their future endeavours.

- Joanne Staunton – retiring after 27 years of service to Bethany.
- David Pospischil – 10 years service to Bethany moving to the Sydney Archdiocese.
- Leeanne Croxen – 10 years service to Bethany appointed to teach/lead in a DET school.
- Isabelle Van Der Zee – 8 years service to Bethany moving to the Diocese of Broken Bay.
- Bryce Medlen – 3 years service to Bethany moving to teach in DET schools and further study.
- Nichola Glazebok – 6 years service to Bethany moving to teach in the independent sector.
- Fiona Wrighton – 5 years service to Bethany remaining in the Catholic sector.
- Brooke Perkins – Year 2 this term appointed to teach in a DET school.
- Elizabeth Rennie – 5 years service to Bethany appointed to teach in a DET school.
- Megan Rook – 2 years service at Bethany appointed to another school in the Diocese of Parramatta.



## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another remarkable year at Bethany, it's with hearts full of gratitude that we reflect on the beautiful journey we've shared together. This year, more than ever, your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our success in nurturing the minds and souls of our beloved students.

Your partnership in your child's educational voyage has been nothing short of inspiring. From encouraging words to lending a helping hand at school events, your involvement has woven a tapestry of support that extends far beyond the classroom walls. Your dedication to your child's growth has made an immeasurable impact on their journey.

The teachings of this year have not only revolved around academics but have also encompassed values of kindness, empathy, and faith. It's in these teachings that we find the true essence of Christmas—a time for reflection, gratitude, and most importantly, togetherness.

As we bid farewell to this year and eagerly anticipate the blessings of the festive season, we extend our warmest wishes to each and every one of you. May the joy of this season fill your hearts and homes with love, peace, and harmony. May the spirit of Christmas be a beacon of hope, guiding you through the coming year, showering you with grace, and strengthening the bonds that unite us.

Remember, the doors of Bethany always remain open, not merely as a place of education but as a haven where the spirit of community thrives. Together, let's continue nurturing the seeds of knowledge, compassion, and faith in our children.

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of being part of your child's educational journey. May the blessings of Christmas be abundant in your lives, and may the New Year bring forth countless opportunities for growth, joy, and fulfilment.

With heartfelt appreciation and warmest regards,

Rebecca Lloyd  
Assistant Principal

# LIBRARY



Thank you to the families who have returned library books so they could be organised ready for 2024. However, there are still many outstanding library books. If you find them tonight, please return them tomorrow or if you locate them during the summer break, please return them at the beginning of the new school year.

*Thank You*

to the many Mums who helped this year with covering books for our library. There were thousands of new fiction, nonfiction and readers covered in contact and this would not have been possible without your help.

*Thank You*

to the parents and community members who volunteered in the library throughout the year moving furniture for events and sorting and organising resources. You are quiet achievers who so graciously give your time and energy.

*Thank You*

to our 32 Library Monitors who have served the Bethany school community so diligently this year. Our library is a busy place and you have always been willing to scan, shelve, clean, organise and help out younger students. Your assistance this year has been appreciated by staff, students and especially Mrs Emmett.

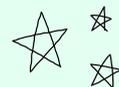


**LIBRARY MONITORS 2023 AT THEIR END OF YEAR CELEBRATION**

# CURRICULUM

## Learning at **BETHANY**

### YEAR 3



Year 3 students recently delved into the captivating world of electrostatic forces, utilising their newfound knowledge to make ghosts dance! Guided by their teachers, these young scientists engaged in hands-on experiments, mastering the manipulation of electrical charges to create mesmerising spectacles. This thrilling project not only sparked their curiosity in science but also nurtured teamwork and critical thinking skills, showcasing their boundless creativity and enthusiasm for exploration.



### YEAR 6

Year 6 students receiving their Premier's Reading Challenge Awards



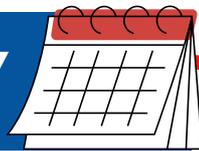
# CURRICULUM CONTINUED



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT



# DATES FOR THE DIARY



<b>15th December</b>	Motiv8 Year 6 Last Day Term 4 - K-6
<b>30th January</b>	Professional Learning Day
<b>31st January</b>	Professional Learning Day
<b>1st February</b>	First day Term 1 - Years 1-6
<b>2nd February</b>	First day Kindergarten - Finish time 2:30pm





## Recent Compass Notifications



<b>15/12/2023</b>	2024 Years 1 - 6 Classroom Requirements
<b>14/12/2023</b>	New Canteen Operators 2024
<b>14/12/2023</b>	Permission - PG Film Tomorrow
<b>14/12/2023</b>	Christmas Movie - PG Rated
<b>14/12/2023</b>	Year 6 Leaving Families
<b>13/12/2023</b>	St Padre Pio Advent and Christmas Celebrations
<b>12/12/2023</b>	1 Red Classroom Teacher
<b>08/12/2023</b>	Semester 2 Compass Reports
<b>07/12/2023</b>	Bethany Primary School Canteen Operator 2024
<b>07/12/2023</b>	Mufti Day - Monday 11th December - 6W
<b>05/12/2023</b>	LAST DAY FOR PAYMENTS AND PURCHASES 2023
<b>05/12/2023</b>	Clothing Pool closed in Week 10



# Safe RESPECTFUL Learner

## Bethany's PBS4L Purpose Statement:

Our purpose is to create a safe, respectful learning environment for students who love and serve Christ. We nurture students who are responsible and valued members for our Bethany school community.



- We keep our hands and feet to our self
- We move safely and calmly
- We are in the right place at the right time
- We use equipment and belongings safely
- We follow instructions



- We use active listening and follow instructions
- We care for and respect each other
- We care for our environment
- We wear our uniform with pride



- We try our best in everything we do
- We demonstrate perseverance and resilience
- We ask questions and take risks
- We work collaboratively

# PADRE PIO PARISH

## ST PADRE PIO PARISH

Telephone: (02) 4789 2232 Web: [www.padrepio.org.au](http://www.padrepio.org.au)  
34 - 38 William Howell Drive (PO Box 8037), GLENMORE PARK

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

*You are cordially invited to join Fr. Suresh & the St. Padre Pio Parish Catholic Community at Christmas celebrations.*

### NINE DAY CHRISTMAS NOVENA – ROOSTER MASSES

**Saturday 16 December 9:00am Vigil Mass 5:30pm**

**Sunday 17 December 8:00am**

(Novena & Sunday Mass), 10:00am (Sunday Mass)

**Monday 18 December – Friday 22 December 5:00am**

**Saturday 23 December 9:00am, Vigil Mass 5:30pm**

**Sunday 24 December 8:00am**

(Novena & Sunday Mass), 10:00am (Sunday Mass)

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

**Children's Mass Sunday 24 December**

5:30pm Carols - 6:00pm Mass

*The children are invited to dress as a nativity character for this Mass*

**Family Mass Sunday 24 December**

8:00pm Carols - 8:30pm Mass

**Solemn Mass Monday 25 December**

11:30pm Carols - 12:00am Mass

**Christmas Day Mass Monday 25 December**

7:30am Carols 8:00am Mass

9:30am Carols 10:00am Mass

