Our Bethany Village

2012 - 'Celebrating the Gift of The Word and the Gift of Words.'

Catholic Schools Week

Next Friday should be a very special celebration and hopefully all of our mums can attend. We promise to get you away at a reasonable time for all the other commitments you have. It is so important to celebrate motherhood and the vital role you play in everyone’s life.

Catholic Schools Week was a chance to acknowledge the amazing things happening in our Penrith Catholic Schools. We have 7 in this district - Corpus Christi Cranebrook, St Joseph’s Kingswood, St Nicholas of Myra Penrith, Our Lady of the Way Emu Plains, Mary MacKillop Penrith South, Bethany and Holy Family at Luddenham.

All are doing fantastic things with learning and have many great successes to celebrate. We have outstanding Catholic secondary schools to complete the children’s K-12 education. Each of them: Caroline Chisholm College Glenmore Park, St Dominics’s Kingswood, McCarthy College Emu Plains and Xavier at Llandilo provide an excellent education and marvellous facilities.

Our Catholic school communities in the Penrith area are thriving and we can only celebrate their many achievements and successes.

This week we celebrated our great school Bethany. We asked the students what they liked most about Bethany.

Following are some of their responses:

• I get to play sports and I love running around. Thomas 4W
• I can spend time with my classmates and friends and I get to meet new people. Emily 3W
• My favourite time at Bethany is the Fun Fair because of all the fun rides. Bella 3B
• My favourite thing at Bethany is the teachers and my best friends. Bayley 3B
• My favourite time at Bethany was when I represented our school for Netball. Maddie 6W
• My favourite time at Bethany is when I first came to the school. I was sure that I would make friends with other people and I did! Montana 2B
• I like doing experiments with Mr Kelly. Emily 5W

A reading from Luke 10: Verse 27

And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.”

Our social skill this week was ‘Taking pride in our school’. We are so fortunate to have a school community united by our faith. We have beautiful grounds and buildings and wonderful resources. We have the best teachers. We are proud of our school and the people in it. Dear God, please help us all to care for our school and to welcome everyone who enters it. Amen.

Mothers Day Celebrations

NEXT FRIDAY 7.30-9.45am

With so many of our mums with work commitments, we plan to party early on Friday so you can still get away as soon as possible.

From 7.30am onwards, please join us at the canteen area for a simple breakfast of toast, muffins, croissants and other yummy things. We are hoping for a number of dads to help on the morning as a special treat to our mums.

From 8am onwards, classrooms and library will be open for you to spend time wandering with your children. Why not check out the library and other grades also. At 8.45am, we gather in the Padre Pio Church for a special liturgy to celebrate motherhood and the unique role mums play in our lives.

Bring grandma, foster mums, step mums, grandmas . . . .

WEEK 3  ‘Listening carefully to others’

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**Coming Events**

**WEEK 3**

- **Tuesday, May 8**
  - Mothers Day Stall
  - 7.30pm Parent Association Meeting
    ALL WELCOME!

- **Friday, May 11**
  - Mothers Day Celebrations
    Breakfast from 7.30am

- **Sunday, May 13**
  - **HAPPY MOTHERS DAY TO ALL OF OUR BETHANY MUMS**

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**Parish Mass Times**

Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, Bishop of Parramatta will be celebrating the Padre Pio Masses on Saturday Evening 5.30pm, Sunday 7.30am and 9.00am this weekend. For all other Mass times please contact Trish from Wednesday 9th May on 4737 9735. Thankyou

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**Parents and Friends Meeting**

**WHEN:** Next Tuesday 8th May  
**WHERE:** Bethany Library 7.30pm

We hope you can join us as we discuss the issues associated with our beautiful school.

This meeting hopes to discuss the emotional needs of our children - their safety and security, their need for acceptance and to be valued and their need to be loved and supported.

The school complements what you do in the home and we will talk about student management, bullying and other programs/procedures we undertake to assist the wellbeing and welfare of all in the school community.

It should be an interesting topic along with updates on various topics, such as the school uniform, canteen and fun fair.

**We will be having a vote on a new school sport outfit, so you need to be there!**

Hope you will join us.

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**Mark Taylor Shield**

Last Wednesday our cricketers competed against Trinity Primary School, Kemps Creek. The visitors were too good on the day but we played with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship. Thanks again to Simon Mallun for assisting our cricketers again this year.

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**Bug Bethany**

Bug Bethany was a great success, a big thank you to everyone who dressed up. Please log onto: [www.penrithpress.com.au](http://www.penrithpress.com.au) and see more photos under the photo tab.

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**Cross Country**

On Tuesday we had many students from Bethany running at the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival held at Eastern Creek. All children put in an amazing effort and should be very proud of their race.

A special mention to the following students; Monique Quirk who placed 1st in her age division, Alecia Myles placed 2nd and Elle Cruzado placed 5th. These three girls will representing Parramatta at the NSW Catholic Primary Cross country championship on the 15th of June. We wish them all the best!
### Congratulations to the following students of the week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student of the Week</th>
<th>Social Skill Award</th>
<th>Mental Computation Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KB</td>
<td>Timothy Karlsen</td>
<td>Lachlan Ebejer</td>
<td>Jack Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Mitchell Hayes</td>
<td>Jessica Walker</td>
<td>Layla Almer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Isobel Herrera—Benitez</td>
<td>Tahlia Tanti</td>
<td>Sebastian Berg</td>
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<tr>
<td>KW</td>
<td>Eva Buterin</td>
<td>Madison Wickens</td>
<td>Logan Carrig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Joel Refalo</td>
<td>Liam Coburn</td>
<td>Kate Rennie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Olivia Martin</td>
<td>Emma Banister</td>
<td>Ella Peto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Billy Thompson</td>
<td>Alysha Finn</td>
<td>Connor Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Noah Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Montana Dexter</td>
<td>Vanessa Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Marley Gallagher</td>
<td>Paris Myburgh</td>
<td>Zachary Lawler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2W</td>
<td>Mikayla Vella</td>
<td>Jake Hedges</td>
<td>Nancy Ngoyi-Ngonya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Tiana Graber</td>
<td>James Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Callan Kean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3R</td>
<td>Aidan Curry</td>
<td>Amy Stanley</td>
<td>Hayden Carlson</td>
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<tr>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Ethan Cahill</td>
<td>Joel Harris</td>
<td>Leeanne Yao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Alison Coutino</td>
<td>Mark-Colin Lyster</td>
<td>Abbey–Jane Camilleri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Aidan Lonard</td>
<td>Caeta Vernon-Wright</td>
<td>Luke Pannone</td>
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<tr>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Olivia Searle</td>
<td>Evan Martin</td>
<td>Taelah Tabone</td>
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<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Tanner Wilson</td>
<td>Maddison Ware</td>
<td>Bailey King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5R</td>
<td>Rachelle Ellis</td>
<td>Monique Quirk</td>
<td>Lucas Canda</td>
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<tr>
<td>5W</td>
<td>Aashley Saji</td>
<td>Cairon Gleeson</td>
<td>Tony Kolak</td>
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<td>6B</td>
<td>Richmond Toh</td>
<td>Isabelle Kitchener</td>
<td>Chaise Vassallo</td>
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<tr>
<td>6R</td>
<td>Natasha Phan</td>
<td>Lachlan Trimboli</td>
<td>Samuel Chok</td>
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<tr>
<td>6W</td>
<td>Marco Grimaldi</td>
<td>Quincy Hayward</td>
<td>Alecia Myles</td>
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### Career Workshops

Always wanted to do something else? Uncover real options and the knowledge of how to pursue them.

Great people face rejections every day because they use traditional job—search methods, rather than answering “WIIFM?” Our straightforward steps will give your rejections WOW and convert your interviews to job offers. With our tools you will be able to prepare well, every time.

We’re about to run a short series of workshops in Glenmore Park. We also offer 1:1 coaching, we can craft a resume for you, have DIY options and even a FREE 10-DAY RESUME BOOSTER COURSE via email.

Contact Catherine for more info on 0414 905 006 or visit our website [www.cnconsulting.com.au](http://www.cnconsulting.com.au)

10% discount when you mention this notice

### CANTEEN ROSTER - Week 3

**LUNCH ORDERS AVAILABLE WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Monday 07/05</th>
<th>Tuesday 08/05</th>
<th>Wednesday 09/05</th>
<th>Thursday 10/05</th>
<th>Friday 11/05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Stoll</td>
<td>Melissa Jayachandran</td>
<td>Renee Ellison</td>
<td>Amanda Morgan</td>
<td>Christine Werner</td>
<td>Cynthia Woolcott</td>
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<td>Kerri Richardson</td>
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It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absenteeists.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Auntie is coming to visit!”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.