Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Bethany,

Welcome to Week 7. Today’s newsletter was postponed on Friday due to Week 6 being a very busy week for all. The majority of the staff was engaged in a number of activities on Friday to support students and parents. I wish to thank you for your patience and support of our school.

Last week was action packed. Here are a few items for your information:-

On Monday evening, Ms Joseph and myself attended the Parent Representative Council meeting at St John XXIII School, Stanhope Gardens with the guest speaker, Dr Justin Coulson. It was wonderful to see so many Bethany parents attending as well. Justin talked about the 9 ways to a Resilient Child.

On Monday, Senior Constable Tracey Gallen, Youth Liaison Officer, from Penrith Police, visited our Stage 3 students to talk about Cyberbullying. Tracey returned today to talk to the Stage 2 students on the same topic.

On Wednesday, I attended a Police and School Principals Forum at Penrith Police Station. The forum is aimed at improving communication between Police and School Principals in the Penrith Local Area Command.


Throughout the week, Year 1 students attended an excursion to Warragamba Dam. I was privileged to attend the Friday excursion event with Year 1 White and Ms McCarry. The students, parents and teachers thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The excursion was very comprehensive in identifying the purpose of the dam, and the facilitator was very good in delivering the information in an interesting way which captured the students interest and enthusiasm.
On Friday, the Bethany Athletics Carnival was held and all the teachers, students and parents contributed in making the day a very successful event.

Thank you to all staff and parents for helping the students to share their gifts and talents throughout the day in numerous sporting events.

Semester 1 Reports:
At the end of this term you will receive your child’s Semester 1 Report (Half Yearly Report). At the moment the teachers are working hard finalising their grades and writing comments for the report. Last year, the end of year report was in a different format for the first time in a number of years. This year we continue using the new format and have made a few changes. Comments for English and Mathematics will be more specific and in point form. The comments will show what your child can do and what your child is learning to do, to improve their grades. There will be a General Comment indicating other important information about your child.

What is the A to E grade scale?

- The A to E grade scale summarises the standard (or quality) of achievement associated with each grade. The scale describes:
  - The depth of knowledge and understanding and the range of skills that students working at that standard typically show. Grades are given for individual achievement. Students will get the grade that best matches the standard of their achievement. Teachers are not limited to set numbers of each grade within their class or school. Grades are one aspect of school reporting to parents. Other important tools include:
    - Teacher comments
    - Parent-teacher interviews and information about student effort and application.

You are encouraged to make an appointment for your Parent/Teacher interview. The raisingchildren.net.au website (the Australian parenting website) advises the following to parents:-

Parent-teacher interviews at primary school: the basics
Throughout your child’s time in primary school, you’ll be invited to attend parent-teacher interviews, usually once or twice a year.

These interviews are usually just short meetings – about 10-15 minutes – between you and your child’s teacher or teachers. Every parent is invited to attend at least one interview a year. At some schools, children also take part in interviews. Being invited to a parent-teacher interview doesn’t mean there’s a problem with your child’s progress.
Interviews might be held during school hours, before or after school, or in the evening. Your child will usually bring a note home that outlines the available times. Some schools use an online booking system. It’s good to make a time when both parents can go along, if you can. If you can’t manage any of the available times, you could call the school to arrange another time.

It’s important to be on time for parent-teacher interviews. But be aware that teachers might be running late because previous interviews have run over time.

Why it’s worth going to parent-teacher interviews
Parent-teacher interviews give you a great opportunity to:

- Learn more about your child’s academic, emotional and social development
- Meet and get to know your child’s teachers
- Help your child’s teachers understand more about your child
- Make plans with the teacher about how you can both support your child
- Build a relationship with your child’s school

If you don’t have any particular concerns, you might wonder whether it’s worth going to parent-teacher interviews. But going along is one way to show your child that you’re interested in his/her learning and what’s happening for him/her at school.

Of course, if you do have concerns, it’s a chance for you to raise them with your child’s teacher if you haven’t done that already.

If you have any questions or concerns about school matters, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Joseph or myself. It’s best to ask questions rather than wonder or seek information from different sources.

At Bethany, we encourage parents to: firstly, talk to your child’s classroom teacher the stage coordinator are available if you require additional support.

⇒ Kindergarten, Year 1 & 2 – Mrs Catherine Baldacchino
⇒ Years 3 & 4 – Mrs Jodie Donlan
⇒ Years 5 & 6 – Mrs Alison Tredinnick
⇒ Ms Joseph, Assistant Principal & Mrs Cheryl Brown, Principal are available to parents if questions and/or concerns need further exploration.

We all welcome you to contact us and clarify your questions and concerns.

God Bless and be safe,
Cheryl Brown
Principal
Well done on the following classes who received 100% attendance this week:
2W, 5B, 5W, 6B, 6R, KR, 4B

School attendance 85.7%

A day here or there doesn’t seem like much but absences add up 2 days a month adds up to 4 weeks a year / 20 days a year which is over one year of lost learning.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

PIANO LESSONS

Piano Lessons with Nat

Want to learn piano?
I can teach you and your children with tailored practical lessons catered for beginners of all ages
30 min lessons available locally in Mulgoa after school
Experienced AMEB grade 7 pianist with over 12 years playing
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