

BETHANY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 1ST JUNE TERM 2 - WEEK 5



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Bethany,

You have been invited to complete the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey which is an important part of our school evaluation and planning process. The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. You can access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device using the following link:

<https://www.tellthemfromme.com/wwwf7>

Currently we have a **23.8% response rate** from our parent community. When we analyse the data we would love to know it was representative of the voice of our collective community.

We value the role of parents and carers within our school community and would greatly appreciate your feedback. **The survey closes today at 5pm, Monday 4 June. You still have time to complete the survey before 5:00 pm.**

Last week, the Year 6 teachers, Mrs Vincent, Mrs Battaglia, Mrs Gibson, Mr Green, Miss Samy and myself attended the Year 6 Canberra Excursion. It was an action packed tour, including Parliament House, War Memorial, Questacon, Australian Institute of Sport and the Australian Mint, to name a few. All Bethany students were respectful throughout the excursion and the Bethany staff thoroughly enjoyed being with our students on their adventure to Canberra. A very special thank you to the Bethany staff and their families for giving up their personal time so our students could attend the Canberra Excursion.

Congratulations to the Bethany School Leadership team for presenting the progressive updates of our school goals at the CEDP System Action Plan meeting on last Monday, 28th June, 2018.

2018 IMPLEMENTATION GOALS FOR BETHANY:

RE: For all students to increase their existing knowledge of the spiritual sense using sacred scriptures with a focus on Sacraments and Jesus.

NUMERACY: For all students to improve their ability to solve multi-step problems using a variety of strategies that focus on communication, problem solving and reasoning

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

LITERACY:

For all students to demonstrate improved comprehension with a focus on knowledge about language.

A very special thank you to Mrs Baldacchino, Mrs Biordi and Mrs Donlan for sharing our school's data on monitoring the above school goals. The purpose of the meeting was to:

Demonstrate the achievement to date with specific evidence provided to support this assessment

Provide the opportunity to problem solve the next steps of the journey through an appropriate process.

The evidence collected for the presentation is drawn from planned assessment of teaching and learning provided by all Bethany teachers and students. Well done to our team of teachers and the student community.

On Friday, 8th June, I will be starting my long service leave and will be returning on Monday, Week 1 of Term 3. My husband and I have planned a wonderful trip where we will be seeing new places and attending the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) conference in Chicago. ISTE is a non-profit organisation that works with the global education community to accelerate the use of technology to solve tough problems and inspire innovation.

The ISTE Conference & Expo is recognized globally as the most comprehensive educational technology conference in the world. For more than three decades, educators and education leaders have gathered at the ISTE conference to engage in hands-on learning, exchange ideas and network with like-minded thinkers seeking to transform learning and teaching.

While I am on leave, Miss Joseph will be Acting Principal, Mrs Cignarella will be Acting Assistant Principal and Mrs Catherine Baldacchino will be Acting Religious Education Coordinator (REC).

In closing, I wish everyone a safe and relaxing time during the July holidays. I will keep Bethany in my prayers while I am away, and know that the school staff and leadership continue to support you and your child every day, in their learning.

God Bless

In Christ we love and serve.

Cheryl Brown

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Parent-Teacher Interviews Term 2, Week 10

It is that time of the year where, assessments are collated, professional discussions are had among grade teams and reports are being written for Semester 1. In the coming weeks parents will receive communication regarding the end of term Parent-Teacher Interviews. Our interview week will be as per previous years, Week 10 Term 2. Over the course of that week, parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet with their child's classroom teacher to discuss the report, their progress and set some goals for the remainder of the year. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews. Teacher availabilities will be sent home and online bookings can take place after that. On Wednesday of Week 10, June 4th, the Parent-Teacher interviews will be until 8pm. This will provide parents some time-slots after the 5pm usual finish. We look forward to the open dialogue between parents and teachers.

Parent/School Communication:

Good communication between home and school is pivotal to our working relationship. It is in working together that we can ensure quality teaching and learning experiences for all students. Teachers, leadership, and namely the Assistant Principal and Principal work as instructional leaders in the context of our school. This means that as much time as possible is spent in the classroom working collaboratively with colleagues to improve practice, implement new pedagogies and ensure success for every learner.

Every child is important and we understand that on occasions parents and carers may need to communicate new information, whether it be a concern or some good news, to us. As a school we strive to ensure that these matters are heard and responded to in a timely manner. In this way the school can follow up concerns and where necessary, a resolution reached for all parties.

In order to maintain good communication and effective teaching and learning simultaneously, we encourage all parents and carers to follow the below process if they need to speak to anyone.

Your first port of contact should always be to make an appointment with your child's classroom teacher. This is followed by the Stage Coordinator (ES1/S1 - Mrs Biordi, S2 - Mrs Baldacchino and S3 - Mrs Jodie Donlan) Should you need to discuss matters beyond these persons, please then contact Miss Joseph or Mrs Brown, keeping in mind that they too carry teaching loads and work in the classrooms.

Appointments can be made by phone through the office, sent in an email at:

bethany@parra.catholic.edu.au

We thank you for working alongside us.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 12th June	Year 1 White Science Excursion - Warragamba Dam
Friday 15th June	Year 1 Red Science Excursion - Warragamba Dam
Friday 15th June	Celebration Assembly - Year 3
Friday 15th June	NSWCPSCCC Cross Country Eastern Creek
Friday 15th June	Bethany Winter Sleepout—Pyjama Day
Tuesday 19th June	Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day
Friday 22nd June	Year 1 Blue Science Excursion - Warragamba Dam
Friday 22nd June	Sacred Heart Mass - 9am





RE - Mrs Cignarella



On Monday members of the Bethany Leadership team presented at the Term 2 Cluster Action Plan meeting at Corpus Christi Primary School, Cranebrook. Mrs Biordi presented the Religious Education data on my behalf while I was away at Year 6 Camp. Other schools present were representatives from Mary MacKillop Primary School, South Penrith and St. Joseph's Primary School in Kingswood.

Mrs Biordi presented data and work samples from Term 1 in relation to the Religious Literacy Assessment (RLA) task that all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 undertook for the Lenten units. This was an opportunity to showcase the wonderful work being done in Religious Education at Bethany, as well as to receive valuable feedback on ways

to further improve the teachers' and students' learnings for the remainder of the year, in relation to our RE goal.

Present for the day to also offer feedback to all schools in relation to Religious Education were Mr Gavin Hayes, Bethany's CEDP Learning Leader and Amanda Bentley, our CEDP Mission Leader of Learning. Both Gavin and Amanda commended Bethany for the quality level of data collection and analysis across the school from Kindergarten to Year 6. They were also impressed how the School's recent staff development day addressed aspects of the school goal: For all students to increase their existing knowledge of the Spiritual Sense using sacred scriptures with a focus on Sacraments and Jesus.

The Action Plan meetings include an opportunity for all the Leaders to undertake an instructional walk around the hosting school's classes to see 'evidence' in action, and again to offer the school valuable feedback and feedforward on ways to improve classroom practice. The leaders of each school present had the opportunity to ask the students across the grades the 5 Learning Questions: What are you learning? How are you doing it? How do you know? How can you improve? Where do you go for help? These are the same learning questions we use at Bethany to ensure students are engaging in deep learning.

The baseline data used for developing our 2018 Religious Education school goal indicated that we were performing above the Dioceses in all Key Concepts, however, the key concepts of Sacraments and Jesus were areas we decided we would like to develop further at Bethany. We presented the whole school's pre and post test data for the Lenten units. The data showed there was significant growth from pre-testing to post-testing. This indicates that our visible learning approach of utilising Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, and feedback and feedforward in Religious Education has resulted in significant growth for most students.

RE Continued- Mrs Cignarella

At present, the teachers are finalising the assessment tasks, rubrics and teaching and learning pathways for their students' next RLA, which will begin with a pre-test of three key questions for all grades next week.

Your child will be formally assessed with the post test some time in week 10. The data from these units will provide me and my RE Professional Learning Community of teachers at Bethany with valuable information in relation to our school goal.

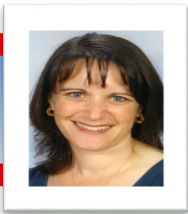
Kindergarten	A Community Which Celebrates God's Love - <i>Jesus concept</i>
Year 1	Stories of Jesus - <i>Jesus concept</i>
Year 2	The Pentecost - <i>Jesus concept</i>
Year 3	Sacraments of Initiation - <i>Sacrament concept</i>
Year 4	Eucharist: The Structure of the Mass - <i>Sacrament concept</i>
Year 5	Confirmation: A Gift of the Spirit - <i>Sacrament concept</i>
Year 6	Heroes of God - <i>Jesus concept</i>

How can I help my child with their next RLA unit?

- Talk to them about the sacraments
- Discuss how Jesus is a part of our everyday lives through prayer
- Talk about the main scripture from your child's unit of work (ask your child which Scripture they are learning)
- Identify the main message from that scripture and how they can relate that to their own lives.

I am looking forward to working with the teachers and students in developing a greater articulation of the Catholic faith with a particular focus on Sacraments and Jesus.

In Christ we love and serve



LITERACY - Mrs Baldacchino

In the last edition of the newsletter, we acknowledged two Bethany students who were finalists in the Write4Fun competition.

The following is a list of Bethany students who also participated in the competition and have been acknowledged for their entries. Some of their writing will be published by the Write4fun organisers in their annual publication:

Joe Caruso
Cooper Horne
Olivia Jurcic
Mia Lazare
Sonny Maviglia
Jeremy Carlson
Matthew Hamilton
Sara Malinowsky

Charisse Maron
Georgia Dudley
Claire Bampton
Eva Fanucchi
Abbey Kemp
Ava Hughes
Arok Dau
Zara Harris

Congratulations to all participants.





NUMERACY- Mrs Dowlan

On Monday of this week I had the pleasure of attending what is known as the 'Cluster Action Plan' meeting. This meeting brings together four schools in the area: St Mary of the Cross MacKillop South Penrith, Corpus Christi Cranebrook, St Joseph's Kingswood and of course Bethany.

This meeting is an opportunity for each of the schools to present their 2018 goals in regard to Religious Education, Literacy and Numeracy and how each of the schools are implementing practices to achieve the goals.

When speaking to the numeracy leaders of other schools I managed to share much of the professional learning that staff at Bethany have been undertaking in regards to 'working mathematically' and problem-solving. We spent some time analysing student 'problem of the week' samples and ways that we at Bethany can track student progress in this area. Baseline work samples were collected in Week 9 of Term 1 and this week sees the next formal collection of these samples for comparison. Once this data is finalised I intend on sharing it with the Bethany community.

Positive feedback that I received on the day included:

- Excellent choice of goal based on the various forms of data collected in 2017
- Thoroughly planned professional learning experiences for staff to build their capacity in assisting students in achieving the goal
- Evidence of teaching programs that include working mathematically in the success criteria
- 'Problem of the Week' being implemented across the school that teachers teach to and then assess in Weeks 5 and 9
- Students being able to self and peer assess themselves using the 3 point rubric
- Greater accuracy when reporting to parents on this strand of mathematics

We are on a wonderful, exciting journey here at Bethany and are pleased that all of this hard work is paying off for teachers and students alike.



SPORT - Mrs Dowlan

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The 24th May saw years 2-6 attend Bethany's Annual Athletics Carnival at Blair Oval, St Marys. We were truly blessed with a magnificent sunny day, making it great for competitors and spectators alike.

Students travelled by bus arriving from 9am. The day started with our 800m events and then moved onto the rotational activities.

Next newsletter I will have collated more of the results, so stay tuned for some of the terrific individual results and the announcement of our representative team that will be going to Zone in Term 3.



The house results for the day were as follows:

RED - 236 points
GOLD - 232 points
BLUE - 190 points
GREEN - 167 points

A special thanks to all the parents and grandparents who acted as officials on the day, particularly Mr Chris Watt, one of our grandad's who is a Little Athletics Official, and Mrs Nicole Quirk who has assisted with this event for over 10 years. With her youngest off to high school next year she will be sadly missed. (I still will be asking her though!!!) I'd also like to wish Chris a speedy recovery.

A very big thank you to Mrs Gibson who worked with me at an administration level. Organising the program of events and placing all the students in heats is a massive task.

STAGE 3 BOYS AND STAGE 2 GIRLS AND BOYS SOCCER TRIALS

These trials will be held next week and the week after. Students are required to wear runners or their boots and be wearing shin pads for these trials.



SPORT Continued- Mrs Donlan

STAGE 3 GIRLS SOCCER



The girls from year 5 represented Bethany on Tuesday of this week. They played a number of matches (six in total), managing 2 draws on the day.

Thank you to Mr Malinowsky who assisted Mrs Manoukian on the day.



Infants Tabloid Carnival

The Infants Tabloid Carnival was held on Tuesday of last week. This was to introduce our Kindergarten and Year 1 students to the athletics carnival in a fun environment. The day went well and all reports were that it was organised well and the students had a great time. We would like to say a special thank you to our amazing parents that helped assist on the day. Without your help the day would not have been able to run as smoothly!



OTHER NEWS

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☆ [Do you have a child interested in ART?](#) ☆

☆ At my dynamic art classes, students will ☆
☆ make 2D and 3D artworks using a range of ☆
☆ materials and become inspired by art his- ☆
☆ tory. ☆

☆ Afternoon lessons on Monday, Wednes- ☆
☆ day, & Thursday or Saturday morning. ☆
☆ \$160 for 8 weeks. Suit ages 6-12. Tuition ☆
☆ includes materials and a visual diary. Lo- ☆
☆ cated in Emu Plains. ☆

☆

☆

☆ **REACH** ☆
☆ **FOR THE** ☆
☆ **STARS** ☆

☆ **Contact:** ☆
☆ **Na'ama Atzmon-Simon** ☆
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