

BETHANY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 29th June TERM 2 - WEEK 9



ACTING PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Bethany Parents and Carers,

Last Friday, all students across Kindergarten to Year 6 received their Semester 1 Report for 2018. The purpose of the report is to clearly communicate your child's current achievement and progress over the course of this first half of the year. Although parents are invited to discuss their child's learning with the classroom teacher throughout the school year, this formalised report process allows teachers with the opportunity to report on students' academic achievement according to NESA's A to E grading scales.

As presented at Wednesday night's P&F Meeting, the A to E grade scale summarises the standard 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.

Teachers have the responsibility of making professional on-balance judgement to decide which grade best matches the standards your child has achieved. Information on a student's achievement that is collected during the course of learning, as well as formal and informal assessments are used to allocate grades. Data collected over time and in different situations is used to assign students their grades.

We trust that following the distribution of reports to all families last week, parents and carers have sat with their child to discuss their report. We encourage you to use the comments provided, effort grades and learning behaviours to expand on your conversations with your child about their learning. Of key importance, is the fact that this conversation be about your child, and your child alone. With this in mind, you will be better equipped to set tailored, realistic goals for your child for the remainder of the year.

Grades however, are just one aspect of school reporting to parents. Another valuable form of reporting are Parent Teacher Interviews. As a school we strongly encourage parents to be actively involved in their child's learning, progress and successes. Parent attendance at these interviews supports the theory that greater parent involvement leads to higher student achievement. Teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss and work with you to support your child's learning.

We look forward to closing Term 2 with these Parent Teacher Interviews where new goals will be set for a rigorous Term 3.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their ongoing support over the course of this semester. Safe travels to all who are leaving the city, the state or the country this holiday period.

Happy holidays to all,
Pascale Joseph
Acting Principal

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Absences and Partial Absences:

Please note that the following protocols will be set in place starting Week 1 Term 3. The guidelines below come from the CEDP Student Attendance Procedures.

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Explaining the absences of their children from school promptly in written form to the school **within seven days from the first day of any period of absence.**

Different to procedures previously in place, after this seven day period, absences will be marked as unexplained. The office will be minimising reminders to the above timeframes, although reasonable measures will be taken to contact parents/carers concerning an unexplained absence.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Following up on students with unexplained absences or emerging absenteeism.
- Seeking explanation from parents/carers regarding unexplained full day or part day absences.

Key points to remember:

A) If using Skoolbag to log an absentee note, the note goes through to the office, where it is printed and then submitted to the classroom teacher. If despite logging an absent note, you receive a reminder notice, please contact the classroom teacher in order to have this rectified.

B) Students who are representing the school at Gala days and other school events are considered to be on a Sports Roll and will be marked by the classroom teacher as being on School Business. This will not be counted as an absent day for roll purposes. However, if your child is accompanying a sibling to a Gala day but not actually competing, they will be marked as absent.

C) Part/Partial Absences are registered at the front office. Whether leaving school early or arriving late, students must be logged by an adult and a reason provided for the part absence. Teacher and office staff will be seeking explanations for part absences within reasonable timeframes.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 29th June	Sacrament of Confirmation - 7:00 pm
Sunday 1st July	Padro Pio Children's Mass - 9:30 am
Monday 2nd - Friday 6th July	Parent Teacher Interviews
Monday 2nd July	Munch 'n Crunch - Recess
Tuesday 3rd July	Year 5 PBL Presentation
Friday 27th July	Mid Winter Family Carnival
Sunday 29th July	Thanksgiving Mass
Friday 3rd August	Grandparents' Day





RE - MRS BALDACCHINO

The children's mass at Padre Pio this coming Sunday, July 1, will be led by Years 2 and 4. You are invited to celebrate the Eucharist with these children. You do not have to have a child in one of these grades to attend this mass.

Last Friday, 22 June and this Friday 29 June, students from Bethany received/ will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Confirmation. We congratulate them as we pray:

'Creator Spirit, strengthen these children with your gifts of grace, to love and serve as disciples of Christ. Grant that they may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Fill them with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness. Amen'



Sunday July 1 has been designated as 2018 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. This precedes NAIDOC Week which will be held nationally from Sunday July 8 to Sunday July 15. The theme for these events is 'Because of her, we can!' which acknowledges the contribution women have and continue to make to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It relates to Pope Francis' recent decision to institute a new feast (to be known as a memorial) of 'the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church' to be celebrated each year on the Monday after Pentecost.



Indigenous families form a part of our Bethany community. The students at Bethany learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly during history lessons. Prior to our school assemblies, our students pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land through an acknowledgement of country. We raise the Aboriginal flag along with the Australian flag at our Monday morning assemblies.

We will acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday and NAIDOC week during our morning assembly on Monday in week 10.



LITERACY - Mrs Baldacchino

Did you know:

“English sounds and the letters in words have a one-to-one match only about 12% of the time. We have 44 distinct sounds in English but only 26 letters, so letters have to do extra work to represent those additional sounds. The 44 sounds of English can be represented by hundreds and hundreds of letter combinations. In fact there are more than 1200 possible letter combinations to represent those 44 sounds.” Adoniou (2016)

Here is a common spelling rule to help problem solve words when reading and writing:

When a vowel is followed by a double consonant in a two or more syllable word, the vowel makes a short sound, e.g. apple, mess, little, supper, bottle, tommorrow.



NUMERACY - Mrs Dowlan

As mentioned in the last newsletter, a number of staff have attended numeracy professional learning days that have been organised by CEDP. We heard from Mrs Biordi about the K-2 Numeracy Days in the last newsletter, however more recently some primary staff members attended a day with Professor Peter Sullivan from Monash University who is working with the CEDP in supporting teachers to 'EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL OF USING CHALLENGING MATHEMATICAL TASKS'.

His theory suggests:

Challenge is important:

- To build networks of ideas it is necessary to process different concepts simultaneously, comparing and contrasting concepts and considering their use in different contexts.
- Learning will be more robust if students connect ideas together for themselves, and determine their own strategies for solving problems, rather than following instructions they have been given.
- The proposition is that students will learn mathematics best if they engage in building connections between mathematical ideas for themselves (prior to instruction from the teacher) at the start of a sequence of learning rather than at the end.

Therefore, teachers will:

- communicate to students that this type of learning will require persistence on their part
- pose problems that the students do not yet know how to solve and support them in finding a solution.

What are challenging tasks?

Challenging tasks require students to:

- plan their approach, especially sequencing more than one step
- process multiple pieces of information, with an expectation that they make connections between those pieces, and see concepts in new ways
- choose their own strategies, goals, and level of accessing the task (you may have heard the terms 'enabling' and 'extending')
- spend time on the task and record their thinking
- explain their strategies and justify their thinking to the teacher and other students.

NUMERACY CONTINUED

Why is persistence important?

Important mathematical ideas are complex and it is not possible to engage with those ideas without sustained thinking. Students gain satisfaction from the act of overcoming challenge, and this satisfaction leads to improved self-concept.

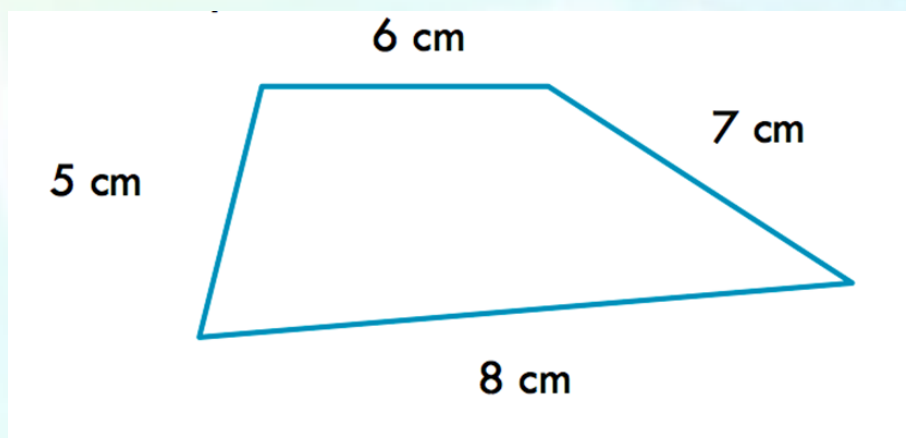
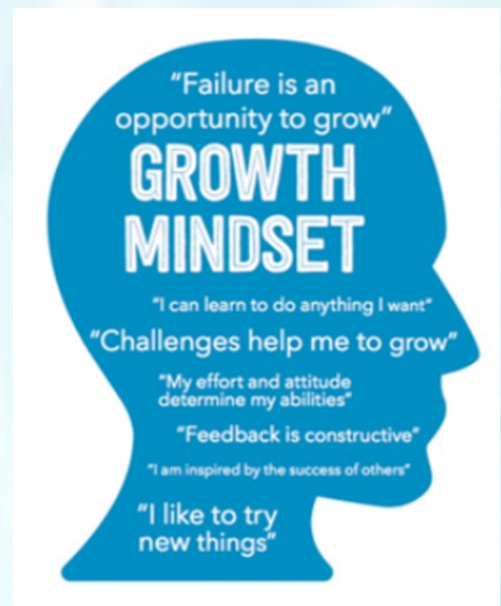
Challenge also contributes to brain development and growth. When confronted by a task that requires them to make decisions on the solution type and solution strategy, the expectation is that the students do not appeal to the teacher for direction but seek to solve the task for themselves especially when the solution is not clear. Teachers are encouraged to communicate with students about the benefits of persisting and to affirm persistence when they identify it.

This affirms previous professional learning staff have been engaged in 'growth mindsets'.

Students with a growth mindset believe they can get smarter by trying hard. Such students:

- **tend to have a resilient response to failure;**
- **remain focused on mastering skills and knowledge even when challenged;**
- **do not see failure as an indictment on themselves; and**
- **believe that effort leads to success.**

Here is a task suggested for students in year 4 and up that we worked on. It definitely was a challenge and took some persistence to solve. Important to note is that with so many of these challenging questions there is more than one answer.



Draw a single straight line to make two quadrilaterals with the same perimeter.



SPORT - Mrs Dowlan

NSWCPSCC - CROSS COUNTRY

As mentioned in the last newsletter eight students represented MacKillop at the NSW Combined Primary Schools Cross Country Championships at Blacktown Motor Park. They each performed well and here is a photo from the day.



METROPOLITAN DRESSAGE GAMES

Ashleigh Gotzmann in year 6 represented the Nepean RDA centre in the Metropolitan Dressage games at the RDA "Tall Timbers" centre in Box Hill on Sunday 24th June. Riders from Nepean, Richmond, Tall Timbers, Blaxland and Ryde participated in the day. The horse she rode was called "Moe". He is a draft horse cross.

Ashleigh came first in her age division. Congratulations Ashleigh!!!!



SPORT Continued- Mrs Donlan

STAGE 3 SOCCER GALA DAY



On Tuesday 19th June the rain held out long enough on the day for our stage 3 boys team to play four matches. They won each game, showing exceptional skills and were overall winners of their division. They received their medals on the day, however on Monday of week 10 at the morning assembly the players will be presented with their medals and certificates in front of the wider school community.

STAGE 2 BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER GALA DAY

Earlier this week on Tuesday, Bethany was represented by two teams, a boys and girls team at the Stage 2 Gala Day at Jamison Oval. We were much luckier than the stage 3 boys. It was a magnificent sunny day making it a great day for players and spectators alike.

The girls team were undefeated winning four of their matches convincingly and draws in their other games. This saw them finish the day in overall second position. They displayed great skill and sportsmanship on the day and did Bethany very proud.



SPORT CONTINUED- Mrs Donlan

The girls who played were:

Amelia Wood
Katrina Tornatore
Tiana Vella
Gracy Thompson

Paige Lockard
Callie Vincent
Charli Kassouf
Eva Sudulic

Lily Stoll
Zoe Parkinson
Chloe Sylvester
Erica Maviglia

The boys team finished 4th overall. In the seven matches they played they won 2, lost 3 and had 2 draws. They too played with great sportsmanship and showed some great skill in the games.

The boys who played on the day were:

Cooper Ranieri
Charbel Issa
Isaac Hardy
Nathan Leary
Jackson Cooney
Christian Vella

Regan Allardice
Lincon Daines
Hayden Finn
Riley Sercombe
Bronx Bloom
Alessandro Siracusa



NETBALL TRIALS

The Annual St Nic's Netball Gala day is in August (Term 3 Tues 28th), so this week Mrs Inskip trialled girls aged 8 & 9 (this year) who were interested in trying out. The following girls will be representing Bethany:

8 Year Old Girls

Isabel Forsyth
Brooklyn Blattman
Mackenzie Good
Carly Pollicina

Isabella Campo
Madelynne Webb
Gabriella Oxford

Hollie Burston
Emerie Gal
Alycia Ngoyimasengo

9 Year Old Girls

Tahlia Tadros
Zoey Lazare
Sara Campo
Charlotte McLean

Grace Donnelly
Emily Hind-Spiteri
Chloe Sylvester

Melissa Bourke
Callie Vincent
Josie Marie Oxford

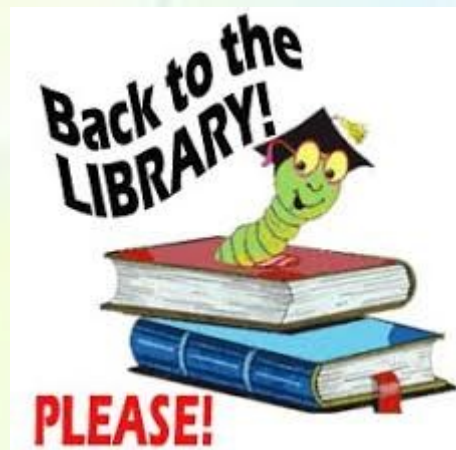
10 Year Old Girls

Due to wet weather and limited access to the courts, the 10 year old team is still to be finalised at the time of this newsletter going to print.

Trials will be held in Week 1 of Term 3 for the 11's and 12/13's teams. The girls who are successful in making these teams will be informed at the time and their names will be published in the first newsletter for Term 3. Permission notes will go out after all teams have been selected in Term 3.

LIBRARY NEWS

There will be no borrowing from the library during Week 10. Could all overdue books please be returned to the library next week.



COMMUNITY

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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 history. ☆

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

☆

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☆ **Contact:** ☆

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REACH
FOR THE
STARS

