



# BETHANY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 30th November 2018 TERM 4 WEEK 7



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Remember this little rhyme?

*"Two men look out from prison bars; one sees mud, the other sees stars." Author Unknown*

Here's another version of it:

*"Two salesmen were sent to Africa by a shoemaking company to investigate and report back on market potential. The first salesman reported, "There is no potential there; nobody wears shoes!" The second salesman reported, "There is immense potential there; nobody wears shoes!"*

How important it is, that we teach our children to have a positive attitude to life and to be optimistic about themselves; life will be fulfilling, because they were able to develop their abilities by having self confidence.

We all know from experience that what we believe about ourselves affects the way we act. Our children are likely to become the sorts of people they believe others believe them to be. As parents, we are the main influence in the development of self-belief within our children. What we say, either positive or negative, can have a long lasting effect on our children, because they believe us. "Careful the things you say. Children will listen." Stephen Sondheim.

Our children's belief in their own ability to do things is of great influence on their motivation, perseverance and success. Self belief can motivate our children more than their actual skill level. If they truly believe they can succeed at a test or write a poem, they may be more likely to achieve it than other children who have better ability, but who don't believe they can achieve it. The more our children believe they can do, the more likely they are to generalise that self belief to other areas of their life. They then believe they have the ability to attempt, persevere and succeed in a whole range of activities.

Self-belief is about being aware of and valuing your true self. It is not about how others see you or how you think others see you. Self-belief is different from self-esteem because self-esteem generally means how you feel about yourself in comparison to others and so can fluctuate according to circumstance. Self-belief is more like an inner light that comes from within you. It is not about how we behave on the outside but rather about our inner feelings and how they make us optimistic about life. "Promise yourself to live in the belief that the whole world is on your side, so long as you are true to the best that is in you."

Christian Larson.

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Parents can help children to believe in their own ability by teaching them to take the initiative to make things happen, instead of waiting for them to happen. Likewise, parents can help children to be proactive by helping them – not telling them – to think about options and solutions instead of problems and barriers. “Your mind can think of only one thought at a time; make it a positive one.” Author Unknown.

When we, as adults, evaluate our lives, we are more likely to regret challenges we did not confront, risks we did not take and contests we did not enter as a result of self doubt or lack of self-belief. We are less likely to regret actions we took as a result of innovative self-belief or being too optimistic or even foolish. At least we made the attempt and knew the result.

So, we need to believe in our children's potential, like the second salesman believed in the company's potential. We need to inspire them to self-belief: “After all, good habits are as hard to break as bad habits.” Frank Pajares.

Peace and Best Wishes.

Mrs Cheryl Brown  
Principal

## **Farewell to Mrs Michelle White**

After 18 years of teaching at Bethany, Mrs Michelle White has been appointed as a Learning Support Teacher at St Justin's, Oran Park. During her time as a classroom teacher, Mrs White has been a dedicated teacher to all her students. Michelle has been a quiet achiever during her time at Bethany. She has made herself available to meet with parents at all times, and has truly embodied our school motto of '*In Christ We Love and Serve*'. We thank her for sharing her gifts and talents over the last 18 years and wish her the very best for the future.



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

## **2019 Staffing**

Bethany's staffing is currently being finalised for 2019, there are still a number of appointments to be confirmed. Please note that staffing allocations cannot be fully confirmed until later in December. On the 17th December between 9:00 am and 10:00 am all students will be promoted to their 2019 classes.

## **Class placements for students**

While staffing is being confirmed, we are also forming the student classes for 2019. To form three balanced classes for every grade is a complex task and teachers have been working on this very important task for some time. I ask parents to trust the decisions made in grouping students, as I trust if there has been a problem and/or concern regarding a child's needs this would have already been conveyed to teachers during the year. The teachers have a wealth of knowledge of all children and the various dynamics that are formed in student peer groups. They use this knowledge to place your child in the best class group possible.

If you have a significant circumstance, not including friendship requests, please write a **letter to your child's classroom teacher (no emails please)** so they can consider the needs of your child. It will be reviewed in light of the grade grouping processes and there is no guarantee requests will be granted.

## **Semester 2 School Reports**

The 2018 Semester 2 School Reports will be going home with students on Friday 7th December, 2018. When reporting, it is our aim to clearly show your child's progress and achievement in all curriculum areas. If you wish to make an appointment with your child's teacher please contact the school office.

## **School Leavers**

We are planning for the 2019 school year and to help us with this, please let the office know if your family will not be continuing at Bethany Catholic Primary in 2019. A reminder to families that a term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing **MUST** be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during the term for the next term and where appropriate notice has been received, a pro rata credit will be calculated. Where a term's notice has not been given to the Principal, the term's school fees will be charged for your child/children.

## **Use of Student Photographs**

The school respects families' wishes to use or not use photos of their children in publications that are either electronic or on paper. The permission to use photos continues from the previous year and will remain in place unless the family advises the school otherwise. If you do not wish the school to use your child's photo in any publication, please let the school know in writing.

# Important Dates

## 2018

Sunday 2nd December	Padre Pio Children's Mass - 9:30am
Thursday 6th December	Twilight Swimming Carnival Ripples Leisure Centre, Penrith - 6:30pm (for 7pm start)
Tuesday 11th December	Year 6 Graduation Mass 5:30pm followed by Presentation in school hall - 5:30pm
Thursday 13th December	Thanksgiving Mass - 9:00 am
Friday 14th December	Bethany School and Parish Christmas Carols - 6:15 pm
Monday 17th December	Year 6 Fun Day
Tuesday 18th December	Year 6 Social 6:00pm - 8:30pm
Wednesday 19th December	Students' last day of school
Thursday 20th December	Staff Development day

## 2019

Tuesday 29th January	Staff Development day MAI Testing Year 1 - 6
Wednesday 30th January	Staff Development day MAI Testing Year 1 - 6
Thursday 31st January	Year 1 - 6 students return Kinder MAI Testing
Friday 1st February	Kinder MAI Testing
Monday 4th February	Kindergarten first day of school



## RE - Mrs Baldacchino

This weekend we mark the beginning of the Advent season and a new liturgical year in the church known as Year C. Advent is the liturgical season of four weeks devoted to preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. This first Sunday of Advent will be marked by many families putting up their Christmas tree and other decorations. This is a visible way that we can be seen to prepare for Christmas.

### Christmas Tree Celebration



Yesterday, a Skoolbag alert went out to inform the Bethany community of the Christmas Tree Celebration which culminates on the last day of the school year for students (December 19). This celebration is yet another way that our Bethany students can actively prepare for the coming Christmas season. During this celebration, the students will be asked to pray for someone in their class. Students will discover who their person is next week. Students are asked to purchase a small gift for their peer to the value of \$5. These gifts will be exchanged on the last day of school. Games and activities will also be a feature of this last day.

### Christmas Concert

Our Christmas celebrations this year will be a joint Carols evening with the Padre Pio community.

**When:** Friday 14th December, 2018

**Where:** Bethany Catholic Primary School

**Time:** Carols begin at 6:30pm. **Students are asked to be at school by 6:15pm**

The students are asked to wear a white t-shirt to the carols evening with their navy sports shorts and white joggers. Tinsel, reindeer antlers, a Santa or elf hat may be worn on the head.

Each grade has a Christmas Carol that they have been practicing and will perform on the night. We will also hear from our Bethany Choir, the Bethany Band, Padre Pio Children's Choir, Youth For Christ Choir and Pio's Voices Choir. A special visit from Santa is also expected.

The Padre Pio hospitality team will be selling a BBQ sausage sizzle on the night and the canteen will be open for drinks, slushies, ice blocks and tea/coffee.

Please note that parking in the parish car park on this night will be limited.

### Hamper Donations

A huge thank you is extended to all who have so generously contributed grocery items to the St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) hamper appeal. The baskets in each classroom are already quite full with some overflowing. Your generosity will be gratefully appreciated by families in our community who are less fortunate. These hampers will be collected by the SVdP society this coming Wednesday 5th December, and will be distributed the following weekend.



### Thanksgiving Mass

Our end of year Thanksgiving Mass will be held on Thursday 13th December at 9am at Padre Pio Church. Please join our community in celebrating the achievements of our students this year.



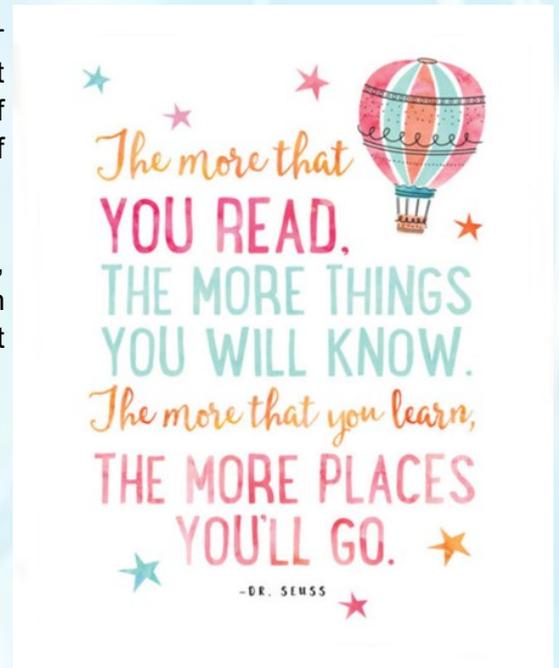
# LITERACY - Miss Vella & Mrs Inskip



## Online Reading

Reading for pleasure is a great way to relax and allow your imagination to run wild. With technology readily available and at the tip of our fingertips, reading online through the use of eBooks is a fantastic way to promote a love and enjoyment of reading.

Bethany has access to a plethora of online reading material, including audiobooks and eBooks. These wonderful books can be accessed through an online eLibrary provided by CEDP just by using your child's usual school login details.





# NUMERACY - Mrs Dowlan

## Mathematics Assessment Interview

Number Domains

### 2019

At the start of each school year all students at Bethany are required to take part in a Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI). A parent or adult is required to bring their child for a period of approximately 30-45 mins. During this time the student will work with the teacher (one-on-one) to provide an insight into their mathematical ability.

The process for booking this interview time is through our online system. A letter will be sent home in the next fortnight which will explain how to book an interview.

Teachers will conduct these interviews on:

- ◆ 29th and 30th of January, 2019 for students in years 1-6
- ◆ Kindergarten 2019 students on the 31st January and 1st February

### So what is the MAI?



The MAI was developed from an extensive Australian research base of 30,000 interviews from the Early Years Numeracy Research Project (1999-2001) conducted by the Australian Catholic University and Monash University.

The MAI consists of four number domains and five measurement domains. It is current practice in the Diocese of Parramatta for class teachers K-6 to complete the four number domains on each student at the beginning of the school year.

The data based on achievement of 'on the way growth points' is useful because it helps teachers:

- ◆ Understand how children learn;
- ◆ Assess and monitor children's growth in understanding;
- ◆ Identify children who are at risk;
- ◆ Identify the zone of proximal development (ZPD) in children's learning;
- ◆ Plan & target teaching so that teachers can identify the experiences that will most effectively help children achieve the next growth point in their mathematical learning.



*Be on the lookout over the next fortnight for the online booking information.*



## SPORT - Mr Pospischil

Last Thursday, 22nd November students and parents travelled to Manly to play the semi-final of the Mark Taylor Shield, a competition for Catholic Schools across NSW. Our team faced a red hot St Augustine's Team of Brookvale. We lost this game, however, our team displayed great cricket skills and determination throughout the competition.

We only had four players who play cricket and the rest of our team was made up of non cricketers who you could not pick, as they all played outstandingly. A big thank you to our parents who transported our team to their venues.

Congratulations to the Bethany team on making it so far in the competition. Our team consisted of:

James Lennox

Oliver Dempsey

Alyssa Tagudin

Ryan Culbert

Ivan Sudulic

Sonny Maviglia

Mitchell Hayes

Campbell Kean

Brodie Dempsey

Matthew Hamilton

Karlo Sudalic

Bradley Farlow

Tristan Scott

Jackson Gately





# LIBRARY - Mrs Liepa

## Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is back on for 2019, with great prizes for students.

Please see the flyer below for information on how to enter, or visit:

<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge>

Students can read either print or digital books for this challenge, so remind them while they are on holidays that they have access to our great eBooks, audiobooks and read alongs via Overdrive, or eBooks via Wheelers (See guide on the following page).

Entries close on 4th February 2019.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

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MINI**

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of four iPad minis. The more books you read, the more chances you have to win. Enter online [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)

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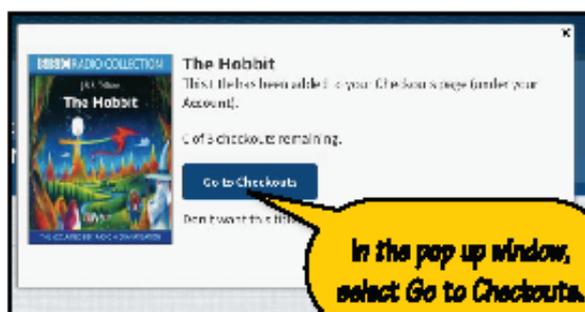
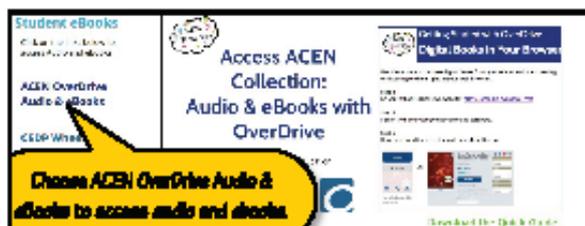
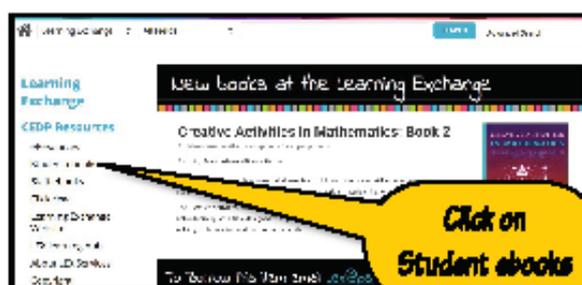
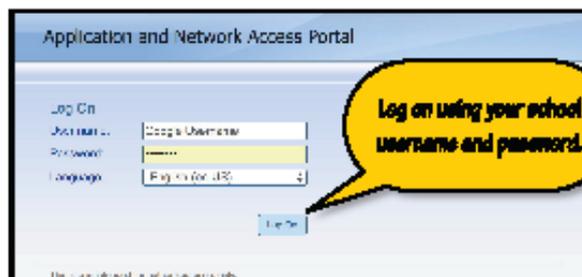
**Entries close at 5pm on 4 February 2019**

Terms and Conditions apply

@CatholicEdParra catholicedparra

# LIBRARY, continued

## Student Guide for ACEN OverDrive eBooks & Audio



Remember to check with your parents and teachers if you think a book is right for you. You are allowed to borrow 3 books at a time for a few weeks.

## LIBRARY, continued

It's that time of year! Start looking for those missing Library books and Class Readers.

Check under the bed, in the car, maybe at Grandma's, on your bookshelf or they could still be in your school bag.

Please return to school as soon as possible. These books are expensive to replace!



# St Padre Pio Parish

## ST PADRE PIO PARISH GINGERBREAD HOUSE NIGHT

Please join us for a fun night of friendship and laughter as you make a gingerbread house to share with your family & friends over Christmas.



**COST: \$26.00 (\$30.00 Gluten Free – 12 ordered)**  
(Includes gingerbread kit, tea/coffee & refreshments)

Please bring all lollies for decorating your house together with dessert or tablespoon, knives, scissors, pins (to hold house together while icing sets) and any other utensils you wish to bring including bowls (or zip lock bags) & food colouring if you wish to tint your icing.

*This night is for anyone from Year 5 at primary school onwards*

Kits can also be ordered separately for collection  
Gingerbread Houses - \$24.00/Gluten Free \$28.00  
Star Tree - \$10.00/Gluten Free \$11.00 (2 ordered)  
Triangle Tree - \$14.00/Gluten Free \$16.00 (2 ordered)  
Nativity Kit - \$26.00/Gluten Free \$30.00 (1 ordered)

Date: 12 December 2018  
Time: 7.00 p.m.  
Venue: Bethany/Parish Hall  
RSVP & Payment by:  
5 December 2018

(Payment can be made via Parish website)

Enquiries: Please call Therese Baker on [0419448941](tel:0419448941)/[terrybaker@iprimus.com.au](mailto:terrybaker@iprimus.com.au)

# Community



## GymbaROO – Flying Fox Classes

for School Age Children – 5 to 10 Years  
A motor based program that will assist your child maximise their learning potential

### Key Learning Outcomes

- Automaticity of key motor skills
- Excellent balance & coordination
- Swings smoothly across the monkey bars
- Works well with peers
- Enjoys reading
- Good visual & auditory memory
- Starts to think creatively
- Concentrates without tiring easily
- Follows a complex pattern of taps or beats to music
- Able to follow a sequence of 6-8 instructions
- Is motivated and enjoys learning
- Can filter distractions, prioritise tasks and achieve goals



**Enrol Now for Term 1**  
**Give your child a positive start to 2019**

**GymbaROO – Sydney West**

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