

# BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term: 1 | Week: 4 | Friday, 19th February, 2021

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Families,

On Wednesday we began our **40 day Lenten journey** by attending parish mass celebrated by Father Suresh along with members of the St Padre Pio community. The Italian word for "Lent" is "**Quaresima**" from the word "**quaranta**" for the number forty - the number used biblically for a period of penance or cleansing. The word "**quarantine**" comes from the same word origin.

The ashes used on **Ash Wednesday**, made by burning last year's palm branches, symbolise our beginning and our ending and challenge us to translate our intentions and prayers into **real deeds of love, service and compassion** during this **40 day period**.

We can certainly relate to the use of ashes as a sacred symbol of this liturgical season in our Australian context. The dead, burnt wood and the cold, grey ashes left behind following the devastation of a **bushfire** also contain within it the material and conditions for new seeds to germinate and for **new life** to grow after all seems destroyed.



Lent provides us with the conditions and the time to **renew** and **deepen** our **relationship** with God by stripping away some of the clutter in our spiritual lives. We can do this by emulating the example of Christ - by **fasting, giving and praying**. Jesus also tells us that giving, praying and fasting should not be self-seeking or boastful but rather motivated by **humility** and **selflessness**:

**But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.** Mt 6:16-18)

The lesson that Jesus teaches us through Lent is that our lives (like His on earth) will have periods of struggle, desolation and challenge. It is particularly during these times of personal struggle and desolation that God is closest to us.

Lent is ultimately a time to become **less self-centred** and to turn our **gaze** back to God who loves us **unconditionally**.

Until next time,

Sergio Rosato  
Principal



# BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

Our school motto and the **Positive Behaviours for Learning** framework (PBS4L) seeks to enculturate our students to develop healthy, respectful and reciprocal **relationships** as modelled by Christ.

Recognising students for qualities such as **effort, service** and **positive behaviours** seeks to **improve** student **motivation** and **engagement** as well as fostering a **culture of learning**, focussed on **improvement**.

Following **discussion** and **discernment** by the School Leadership Team and previous **feedback** from our parental community through surveys and focus groups, it has been decided that we will initiate a system of student recognition awards.

These awards are intended to complement currently used class-based awards and feedback processes as well as PBS4L incentive practices (such as Paw awards).



Paw Awards



# BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

### 1. Class Effort in Learning Awards

The award will be based on:

Student effort and improvement in learning, goal achievement, application of learning dispositions such as persistence, motivation, problem-solving or thinking skills.

- Teachers will select **four students from their class** as recipients for an **Effort in Learning Award**. These Awards will be presented to students twice per term during school assembly.
- Teachers of **Music, Sport and Italian** will nominate **four students - one student per stage** - to receive an **Effort in Learning Award** for each of these co-curricular activities.
- Each student will receive **at least one** Effort in Learning Award during the course of a school year.
- The recipients of these awards will be published in the school Newsletter and photos placed on the School's FaceBook page.

### 2. In Christ We Love and Serve Award - for living out our school motto

This award will be based on:

Students who give witness to our school motto through word and action and whose service towards others goes above and beyond.

- Any member of our school community - staff, students, parents or parishioners may nominate a student to be considered for this award.
- Nominations will need to be in writing to the Principal, Assistant Principal or Religious Education Coordinator.
- These Awards will be presented during assemblies held twice per term.
- The recipients of these awards will be published in the school Newsletter and photos placed on the School's Facebook page.

### 3. Principal's & Assistant Principal's Morning Tea

Nominations to this morning tea will be based on:

Student effort and improvement with their learning. Students nominated to attend the morning tea may not necessarily have received a class Effort in Learning Award.

- Each class teacher will nominate two students from their class to attend the morning tea.
- Specialist teachers for Music, Italian and Sport will nominate two students from any grade to attend for their effort in each of these areas.
- Morning Teas will take place once in Terms 1, 2 and 3.
- The recipients of these awards will be published in the school Newsletter and photos placed on the School's Facebook page.

# BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

### 4. Annual End of Year Awards

Each class teacher will nominate one student from their class to receive an award in each of the following categories:

#### Living Out the School Motto Award - In Christ We Love And Serve

This award will be based on recognising students who:

exemplify Christian qualities in an outstanding way and truly live out our school motto through selflessness, empathy and service towards others.

#### Outstanding Effort in Learning Award

This award will be based on recognising students who:

demonstrate an outstanding approach to their studies, by their positive attitude towards their learning and their persistent effort throughout the year.

#### Excellence in Learning Award

This award will be based on recognising students who:

demonstrate consistent application to, and high achievement in, their overall learning.

#### Outstanding Effort and Achievement in Italian/Music/Sport

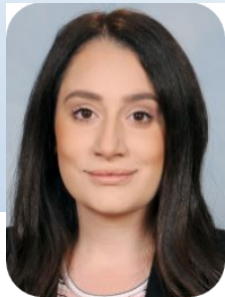
This award will be based on recognising students who:

have attained excellent results and demonstrated an outstanding effort in Italian, Music or Sport. One student per Stage will be nominated by the teacher of Italian, Music and Sport to receive this award.

- Our Effort in Learning Awards Assemblies will be held this Term in Week 6 and Week 10.







# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



## “...Do not worry about tomorrow...” Matthew 6:24-34

There is a well known story about a teacher putting rocks in a jar until no more would fit. He asks the class whether the jar is full and the class reply “yes”. The teacher then pours fine gravel into the jar, which flows around the rocks and fills the spaces between them. Again, he asks “Is the jar full?” and the class says “yes”. Then the teacher pours sand into the jar which occupies the even smaller spaces between the gravel. Again, the class says it is full. Lastly the teacher pours water into the jar, filling the invisible spaces between the sand, gravel and rocks. The teacher points out to the class that if the jar had been filled first with the gravel, sand and water there would have been no room for the rocks.



The point of this story is that if we fill our lives with lots of “small stuff”, the things that are trivial, then there is no room for the big things, the things which really matter. This is very similar to the message we hear in the Gospel where Jesus asks us to get our priorities right. We definitely do need clothes and food, but they are just the sand and the gravel component compared to setting our hearts on following Jesus and seeking His kingdom. Once these big things are in the right place in our priorities they shape our lives, and the small things fit around them rather than dominating our lives.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent – a time in our Church when we strive to renew our hearts and live as God wants us to live, in the Spirit of Jesus. We receive ashes, often on our forehead, in the sign of a cross. This reminds us to follow Jesus and **turn our hearts to God**. The cross of ashes tells friends and neighbours that we know we are not perfect. We tell God and each other that we are sorry and we want to be more like Jesus.

Ash Wednesday also signifies the beginning of Lent. Lent lasts for forty days. For forty days we become more aware of the needs of people around us. We try to do good deeds for others to make their lives easier. Lent is a special time to prepare ourselves to fully celebrate the great feast of Easter. By thinking about our lives and making changes, with God’s help, we can become better people.

The theme for Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion this year challenges us to “Aspire not to Have More, but to Be More”. It promotes simple actions we can all take to “be More” for our world. During Lent we will engage as a school community in fundraising for Caritas. (More details to follow).

*Father in Heaven,*

*We pray that during this time of Lent we will try to turn our hearts in love and kindness to you, by doing good to those around us, so that we may become more like Jesus, your Son. May this season of repentance, bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and the gift of your light. Help me to be grateful for the promise of today and have faith that you will provide all I need for the future. Please be with us as we begin our Lenten journey.*

*Grant this through Christ our Lord.*

Blessings for a wonderful week,

Rebecca LLOYD REC

# SPORT



## SWIMMING AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students. These are the results of our [Bethany Swimming Carnival](#) held at the end of last year.

### JUNIOR GIRLS CHAMPION:

Age Champion - Addison (5B)  
Runner up - Isabella (5R)

### 11 YEARS GIRLS CHAMPION:

Age Champion - Mikaela (5W)

### SENIOR GIRLS CHAMPION:

Age Champion - Charlotte (6W)  
Equal Runner up - Alyssa (6R)  
Equal Runner up - Emilee (6R)

### JUNIOR BOYS CHAMPION:

Champion - Brody (4B)  
Runner up - Jude (4R)

### 11 YEARS BOYS CHAMPION:

Age Champion - Bradley (5R)  
Runner up - Xavier (5R)

### SENIOR GIRLS MULTI-CLASS CHAMPION:

Age  
Matilda (6W)

### SENIOR BOYS CHAMPION:

Age Champion - Ashton (6B)  
Runner up - Xavier (6R)

### HIGHEST POINT SCORES:

8 year girls - Charlotte (2B)  
9 year boys - Brody (4B)  
11 year girls - Mikaela (5W)  
12 year boys - Ashton (6B)

8 year boys - Nikola (3R)  
10 year girls - Addison (5B)  
11 year boys - Bradley (5R)

9 year girls - Ivy (4W)  
10 year boys - Jude (4R)  
12 year girls - Charlotte (6W)

## NEPEAN ZONE SWIMMING

Well done to all our swimmers who represented Bethany at the Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival on Monday. It was wonderful to be able to watch your races and see some personal bests achieved.

I would like to thank Mrs Gibson for fulfilling our duty for the day.

## MACKILLOP TEAM TRIALS

Best of luck to Mia (5R) who will be representing the Parramatta Diocese in Basketball and Eva (6B) in Tennis. Mia and Eva will be trialling to make the Mackillop teams on Friday 26th February in Wollongong.

Go Girls!!



**Mrs Neilly**

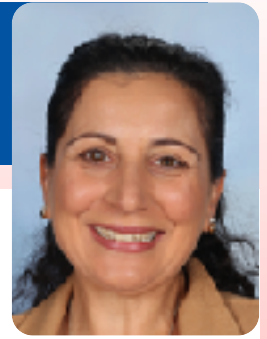


# CELEBRATING OUR SWIMMERS



## CHAMPIONS!!

# LIBRARY



We at Bethany are very proud of our library, which is well stocked with a wonderful selection of books for our readers. All students have the opportunity to borrow a number of books from the library each week. Students get to visit the Library at lunch time and enjoy a vast variety of STEM activities.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
K BLUE	K RED	K WHITE
YEAR 5	YEAR 3	YEAR 2
YEAR 1	6 BLUE	YEAR 4
6 WHITE		
6 RED		

Library borrowing is an important part of the school week, this time allows students to engage with a diverse range of books to extend their imagination and develop a lifelong love of reading.

All children are encouraged to borrow books to read both at school and at home. The children, with the help of parents, need to remember to bring along their library bag so they can borrow books for the week.

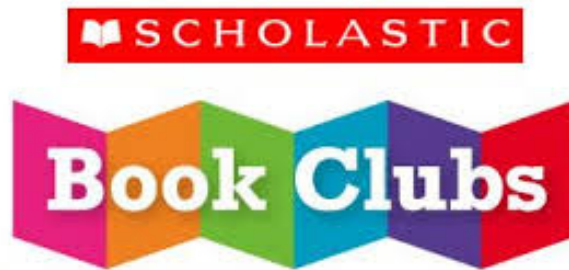
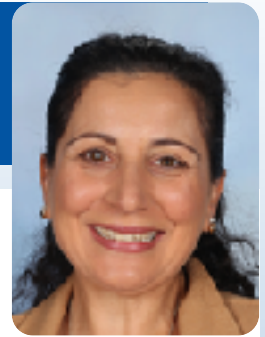
With the encouragement of parents and teachers, children have the best chance to foster a love of literature and reading.

Library lunch time fun....





# LIBRARY, CONT



Every Child Deserves a Good Book

## Issue 1 -Orders Close Friday 19th February 2021

The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of books and the joy and benefits of independent reading for fun. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school.

Our school is participating in Scholastic Book Club this year. Once a term, during the school year, I will send home a Club catalogue with a different selection of books offered for all ages.

You'll find award-winning books and bestsellers, as well as old and new favourites. I recommend them because the books span a wide range of children's reading levels and interests and because they are inexpensive (some books cost as little as \$2).

It is easy to order. The [Book Club LOOP platform](https://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) for parents allows you to pay by credit card. Your child's order is submitted directly to school safe and sound and the books will be delivered to class. You can place your child's order at [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](https://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or using the LOOP app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

Owning your own books is something special! I hope that you will encourage your child to order books this year. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our school, however there is never any obligation to order. I know of no better way to encourage reading than to allow children to choose the books they want to read.

Happy Reading

Mrs Liepa

How to order on the  
**Book Club** platform  
[bookclubs.scholastic.com.au](https://bookclubs.scholastic.com.au)

**LOG-IN**  
On initial log in each year, you will need to complete the Wizard.

- 1 Select your **ISSUE**
- 2 Click on the **ORDER** tab
- 3 Select your **CLASS**
- 4 Select **STUDENT** or add a student  
Add their name, Repeat 3 + 4 until all the orders are entered.
- 5 Choose payment type.  
When done, click **NEXT**  
If applicable, click **USE VOUCHERS/REWARDS**  
or click **PAYMENT SUMMARY**
- 6 **SUBMIT ORDER**  
Remember Submit your **LOOP** orders at the same time so all books arrive together.

**SCHOLASTIC**

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

<b>Tuesday 23rd February</b>	2021 Parra AFL Trials - Quakers Hill 11am - 2pm
<b>Wednesday 24th February</b>	2021 Parra Football Trials - Kellyville - Boys 8:30am - Girls 1:30pm
<b>Thursday 25th February</b>	SRC Leadership Day
<b>Friday 26th February</b>	MACKILLOP TRIALS FOR TENNIS AND BASKETBALL in Wollongong
<b>Monday 1st March</b>	2021 Parra Netball Trials - Windsor 12:00pm
<b>Tuesday 2nd March</b>	2021 Parra Rugby League Trials - Ponds - 9:30am
<b>Monday 8th March</b>	Catholic School's Week
<b>Monday 8th March</b>	Bethany Open Day 9:30am - 10:30am
<b>Monday 8th March</b>	2021 Parra Team Hockey Trials - Kingswood 4:00pm
<b>Tuesday 9th March</b>	Diocesan Swimming Carnival - Blacktown
<b>Wednesday 10th March</b>	Bethany Open Day 9:30am - 10:30am and 1:45pm - 2:30pm
<b>Friday 19th March</b>	2021 Parra Team Cricket Trials - Penrith
<b>Monday 22nd March</b>	NSWCPS Swimming - SOPAC
<b>Wednesday 24th March</b>	2021 Parra Team Touch Trials - St Marys 4:00pm
<b>Friday 26th March</b>	MACKILLOP AFL Trials - Wagga



# Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2022 and grades 1-6

We are accepting Enrolments now for 2022 Kindergarten children.

We have limited places available for grades 1-6.

**Our Open Day Tours will take place on the**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 9:30am – 10:30am**

**10<sup>th</sup> March 9:30am – 10:30am & 1:45pm – 2:30pm**

**Please book online at <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>**

**Event code: 5dqha**

Bethany Catholic Primary School **nurtures** and **celebrates** the **uniqueness** of each child and prepares them for tomorrow's world.

The school offers a wide range of **curricular & co-curricular learning opportunities** including specialist instruction in the areas such as music, sport, library and Italian as a second language.

Our motto, *In Christ we love and serve*, reflects the principles and values of our unique learning community.





# COMMUNICATION

The following information has been advised via the SkoolBag App:

18/02/21	Letter to Kindergarten Blue Parents
16/02/21	4 RED Families
15/02/21	Kindergarten Newsletter
10/02/21	Scholastic Book Club
	School Enrolment Day Tours COVID Advice
9/02/21	Kindergarten Enrolments 2022
	Sports News Update
8/02/21	E Safety Resources to Help Parents
	Guitar Club cancelled until further notice
5/02/21	No Cash Transactions



# OTHER NEWS

## ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

We wish to remind you, for the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff, **animals are not permitted on school premises** (with the exception of service dogs).

## ATTENDANCE



## 2021 SCHOOL FEES

**2021 Instalment 1 School Fees Statements** have been sent by CEDP. If you have not received your statement by Monday 22nd February 2021, please contact Wendy Vincent 02 4723 3700.

If you are experiencing any financial difficulties please send an email to:

**bthy-glmpfees@parra.catholic.edu.au**

Thank you

# OTHER NEWS

eSafetyparents

## Your child's first smartphone – are they old enough?

Children often have access to devices, including smartphones, from a very young age. Whether it's watching their favourite program through streaming services on your phone, using educational apps or simply viewing photos with you and the family, they are engaging with devices in one form or another.

### But when is my child old enough to be given their own mobile phone?

In 2012, the Australian Bureau of Statistics revealed children as young as five years old owned a mobile phone – two percent of children aged between five and eight years old, and 28 percent for children aged five to 14 years. This figure is likely to be higher now!

For many parents and carers, five years old would seem too young. For others, it might offer them peace of mind and security to know they can keep in touch with their child—especially in an emergency.

The right age for your child will depend on their level of maturity. It's worth asking yourself the following questions before handing over a digital device.

- Does my child have a good sense of responsibility?
- Are they able to stick to the rules?
- Do they show a good understanding of actions and consequences?
- Do they come to me or another trusted adult when they are distressed or encounter problems?



For younger children it's best to start with a mobile phone without internet access, and introduce a smartphone when they demonstrate an appropriate level of maturity. Some younger children might argue that they are ready for a smartphone, especially if their friends already have one. But it's worth holding out until you feel confident that your child is mature enough.

### My child has their first smartphone – now what?

When your child receives their first smartphone it's a great opportunity to instill safe online behaviours early on, so they can carry these skills through to their teens and beyond.

Here are some tips for getting them on board with good online habits.

#### Establish rules at the outset with clear boundaries

Talk about expectations and the consequences for not meeting these rules. Depending on the age of your child, you might want to set up a written signed agreement which lists the rules.

Here are some you may want to agree on:

- No phones after a certain time (i.e. 8.00 pm) – unless in an emergency.
- Keep to daily screen time limits (i.e. 1 hour per school night).
- Family time is a no-phone zone (i.e. dinner).



# COMMUNITY

## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



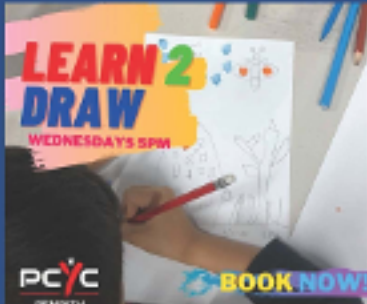
**GYMNASTICS**

Gymnastics is for everyone! With a range of programs devised to help develop incredible skills for fitness, performance, competition or just to challenge yourself.



**BOXING, JUDO & MUAY THAI**

We offer a range of boxing, Judo & Muay Thai classes, these programs revolve around fun, fitness and friends and caters for beginners to advanced levels.



**LEARN 2 DRAW**  
WEDNESDAYS 5PM

Do you want to learn how to draw but don't know where to start? Students enrolled in this class will learn the basics of drawing, step-by-step, to create masterpieces.



## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



**BASKETBALL & MULTI-SPORT**

The perfect class to learn how to play sport. These classes will help children develop the fundamentals and skills of the sport. These classes are designed for young people that have never played a sport before and would prefer to ease their way into it.



**GYM + FITNESS**

Our Gym - this one is for the parents! while your child is enjoying a program you can use our gym starting from \$10 for a casual session, or \$11.50 p/wk for unlimited access!

## HOW TO FIND OUR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOK:

In the club: Come into the club and make your bookings.  
Our address is 100 Station Street Penrith NSW 2750  
Online: Visit [www.pcycnsw.org.au/penrith](http://www.pcycnsw.org.au/penrith) and fill in the booking form.  
Phone: Contact us on 02 4732 1755.  
Email: [penrith@pcycnsw.org.au](mailto:penrith@pcycnsw.org.au)

\*PCYC membership required before booking can be completed\*



★ 2021 ACTIVE & CREATIVE VOUCHERS CAN BE USED FOR THESE PROGRAMS ★



# COMMUNITY



## NSW PARENT/CARER ONLINE WORKSHOP



Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young people on the autism spectrum, from across New South Wales.

This online workshop is for parents, full-time carers and grandparents. Join other families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school partnership.

During the online workshop, we will cover three topics:

- diversity of autism
- understanding behaviour
- working together with your child's school

Location:  
New South Wales  
via zoom online

Date:  
Wednesday 24th February 2021

Time:  
Wed 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM (AEDT)



For more information and to register, visit [www.ppnsd.net/partnerships.com.au](http://www.ppnsd.net/partnerships.com.au) or contact Alison Macrae [alisonm@ppnsd.net.au](mailto:alisonm@ppnsd.net.au)



## NSW PARENT/CARER ONLINE WORKSHOP



Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young people on the autism spectrum, from across New South Wales.

During the online workshops, we will cover four topics:

- diversity of autism
- working together with your child's school
- understanding sensory processing
- understanding behaviour

These workshops are part of a series of sessions but you can choose if you would like to register for each session or just the individual ones you are able to join.

Please note that this is not a webinar but is an online workshop where we will work collaboratively together online across the sessions.

Location:  
NEW SOUTH WALES  
via zoom online

Dates & Times (AEDT):

<b>Diversity of Autism</b>	<b>Sensory Processing</b>
Tues 2 Feb, 2021 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Tues 9 Feb, 2021 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

<b>Understanding Behaviour</b>	<b>Working Together</b>
Tues 16 Feb, 2021 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM	Tues 23 Feb, 2021 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



For more information and to register, visit [www.ppnsd.net/partnerships.com.au](http://www.ppnsd.net/partnerships.com.au) or contact Rachael Dikken [rachael@ppnsd.net.au](mailto:rachael@ppnsd.net.au)

# OPEN DAYS



## Catherine McAuley Westmead Enrolling Now for Year 7 2022



Enrolment applications for Year 7 2022 (First Round Offers) are due by Friday, 19th March 2021. Enrolment packs are available at your primary school office or by visiting the Catherine McAuley Westmead website.

The School Open Afternoon scheduled for Wednesday, 10th March 2021 has been cancelled. Instead the school is offering small group school tours over a number of days in early March. Book a place on a school tour by visiting the school website under Enrolment/Visit Our School.

Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead | [www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au) | Telephone: 9849 9100



## ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE **2021 OPEN DAY** SUNDAY, 7 MARCH

BOOK ONLINE FOR YOUR  
GUIDED TOUR

College tours will commence at 9.30am

ONLINE BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

[www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au)

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Ringswood NSW 2112.  
All enrolment enquiries phone 02 4781 1933  
or email [info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au)

