

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term: 2 | Week 4 | Friday 14th May, 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

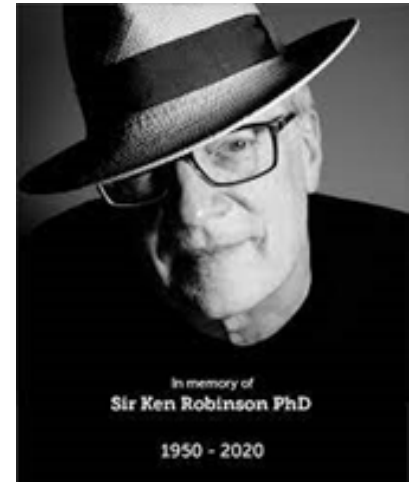


Dear Bethany Families,

In his book [The Element](#) (How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything) Sir Ken Robinson draws on the stories of a number of people to show how they came to recognise their talents, passions and creative potential.

Amongst the many personal stories Robinson recounts in [The Element](#) is that of **Gillian**, an eight year old. Gillian wasn't thriving at school and her school, parents and teachers were concerned about her progress. Worried, Gillian's mother took her to a psychologist for assessment. The psychologist asked her about the difficulties Gillian was having at school. Eventually the psychologist and Gillian's mother stopped talking. He explained to Gillian that he needed to speak to her mother privately.

He told her that they would need to leave the room for a few minutes and not to worry. As the psychologist left the room he turned on the radio in his office. As soon as they were in the corridor outside the room, the psychologist motioned to Gillian's mother to look through the viewing window. Almost immediately the little girl was on her feet, moving around to the music – joyfully, gracefully and naturally. The psychologist turned to Gillian's mother and suggested that her daughter wasn't in need of "treatment" or a program; rather, she was a dancer. He recommended that Gillian's mother enrolled her daughter into a dance school.



Gillian's mother took the doctor's advice and Gillian started attending dance class every week. Eventually she auditioned for the Royal Ballet School and went on to choreograph some of the most successful musical theatre with Andrew Lloyd Webber. The visit to the doctor and Gillian's mother's wise decision in effect was able to direct **Dame Gillian Lynne** to her passion and aptitude.



Ken Robinson uses this and other real-life stories of people including **Vidal Sassoon**, **Arianna Huffington** and **Matt Groening**, who have recognised their unique talents and made a successful living doing what they love to make a number of salient points about the true purpose of education.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

He argues that intelligence is diverse, dynamic, and distinct. There are numerous kinds of intelligence - linguistic, musical, mathematical, spatial, kinaesthetic, interpersonal, and intra-personal. Intelligence is dynamic; it does not follow a linear pattern. And it is distinctive; it is as unique as a fingerprint.

Education then, cannot be one size fits all but needs to be balanced and holistic encompassing all subjects in an interrelated manner. Sir Ken argues against the traditional hierarchy of subject disciplines. Rather he makes the case that in a dynamically changing world all disciplines are important and that creative thought is to be encouraged in all subjects – not just those that we traditionally see as creative in nature.

This week our Year 3 & 5 students will sit the National Assessment Program **NAPLAN**. This test provides parents, teachers and schools with useful data about student progress in two subject areas - Numeracy and Literacy. Whilst useful, the information gained from these tests is one measure relating to aspects of numeracy and literacy on one day of a child's life. In other words they should never be equated to the sum total of a balanced, challenging, motivating, creative and inspiring educational experience.

As parents and teachers we must never underestimate what our students are capable of achieving and becoming in their lives through their passion, effort and creativity.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead.

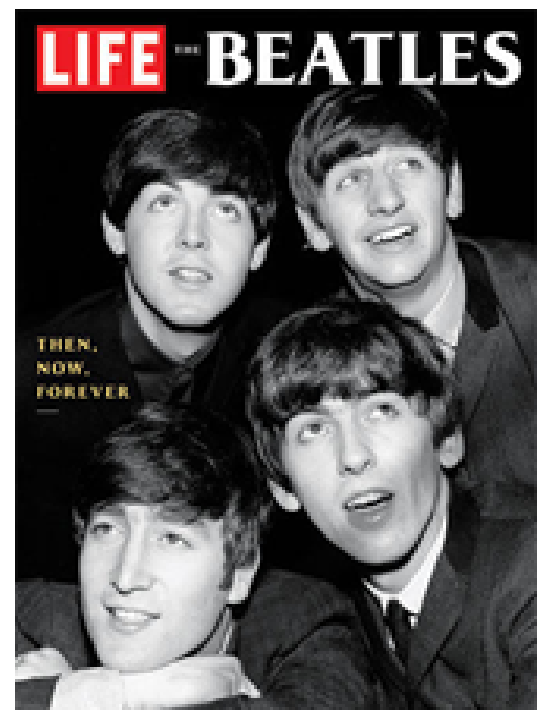
Sergio Rosato

Footnote: Paul McCartney and George Harrison went through the same school without anyone noticing that they had musical talent. McCartney even applied to join the choir but was turned down because the choir teacher thought he wasn't good enough! It's incredible to think that the creative talent of half the Beatles was not at all recognised or encouraged whilst they were at school.

Sadly, Sir Ken Robinson passed away in August 2020 after a short illness.

<https://youtu.be/FLbXrNGVxfE>

<http://sirkenrobinson.com/>



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Compass Reports & Bethany Learning Conferences

In previous years our Student Progress Reports have been created in a platform known as FACES. In light of system changes at CEDP and the closure of the FACES platform, schools throughout the Diocese of Parramatta are moving to Compass Reporting.

Compass is the current school system for our enrolments. This semester's Student Progress Reports will be created via Compass.

What does this mean for me?

- The appearance of the report will look different to its previous format
- The Year 1-6 Reports will no longer consist of an A-E scale but will maintain a 5 point scale.
- The new Student Progress reports for students in Years 1 - 6 will have the following wording for **GRADES**:
 - Outstanding Achievement
 - High Achievement
 - Sound Achievement
 - Basic Achievement
 - Experiencing Difficulty
- The new Student Progress reports for students in Years 1 - 6 will have the following wording for **EFFORT**:

Consistent

Usually

Sometimes

Rarely

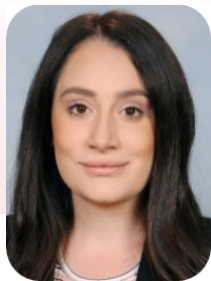
- More details will be provided about **Student Attendance**.

Our **Student Progress Reports** will be sent home on **Wednesday 23rd June (Week 10)**.

Bethany Learning Conferences

Bethany Learning Conferences will be held in **Weeks 9 and 10 of Term 2** (Tuesday 15th - Friday 18th June & Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd June). These will be held face to face. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with their child's teacher to discuss their progress, as well as set learning goals for Semester 2.

Miss Joseph



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



“for we know that things can change”

Pope Francis writes many Encyclicals. An encyclical is a pastoral letter addressed by the Pope to the whole church. Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si* is a worldwide wake up call to help humanity understand the destruction that man is rendering to the environment and his fellow man. While addressing the environment directly, the document's scope is broader in many ways as it looks at not only man's effect on the environment, but also the many philosophical, theological, and cultural causes that threaten the relationships of man to nature and man to each other in various circumstances.

This document is in many ways the epitome of Pope Francis. It is an unexpected topic. It presents Gospel truths. And, it provides a challenge for every believer (and non-believers too).

Laudato Si is Pope Francis' Encyclical on the environment or more formally – On Care for Our Common Home. *Laudato Si* means “Praise be to you” which is the first line of a canticle by St. Francis that praises God with all of his creation.

From the outset, Pope Francis states the goal of the document: “In this Encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home” (#3).

The goal of the dialogue: “I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation that includes everyone, since the environment challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all” (#14).

The above is at the heart of the document, but Pope Francis also has a very striking call to conversion for those in the Church as well.

“The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an ‘ecological conversion’, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience” (#217).

No matter who you are or where you find yourself in relation to protecting the environment, Pope Francis has this message for you: “I invite all to embrace with open hearts this Encyclical which is in line with the Church's social doctrine” (General Audience, June 17, 2015).

Pope Francis wrote this encyclical in 2015 and during the week of 16th - 25th May we will celebrate *Laudato Si* Week. This week will be a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion. I invite you to pray the *Laudato Si* prayer in your homes with your families.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONT'D



Sunday Children's Mass

Thank you so much for your ongoing support with our Sunday Children's Masses. They have been a huge success and it is so beautiful to watch the children participate in the Mass so reverently and with such pride.

Our next Sunday Children's Mass will be held on Sunday 6th June at 10am. Year 1 and Year 5 will be leading this Mass. We hope you can join us for a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist.

Parish Mass

Year 3 will attend Parish Mass on Friday 21st May at 9am.

Year 2 will attend Parish Mass on Friday 28th May at 9am.

Year 1 will attend Parish Mass on Friday 4th June at 9am.

You are more than welcome to join the children for these Masses with the parish community.

Pentecost Liturgy

On Wednesday 26th May we will be celebrating Pentecost with a whole school liturgy in the hall at 12 noon. We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for this celebration. Children are invited to come dressed in mufti in pentecost colours such as red, orange or yellow. Please join us for a picnic lunch from 12.45 - 1.45pm following the Liturgy.

Blessings for a wonderful week,
Rebecca Lloyd REC

Mrs Lloyd

SPORT



DIOCESAN CROSS COUNTRY

Last Tuesday, the Bethany Diocesan Cross Country team braved the weather and ran a gruelling 2km and 3km run.

I would like to congratulate all our students on their behaviour on the day.

Thank you to our parent helpers: Mrs Okulicz, Mrs McElroy, Mrs Coburn and Mrs Baker. I really appreciated you giving up your time for us.

Thank you to Mrs Gibson and Mrs Galea for fulfilling our various roles on the day!



A special mention goes to :

Eva Sudulic (Yr6) who came 2nd and Dominic Antecki (Yr5) who came 4th in their races. They will be competing at the next level in June at the NSW Catholic Primary School Cross Country Carnival. Good luck and keep up the training!



SPORT NEWS CONT'D

NRL WORKSHOP

Last Friday, Stage 3 students took part in a 1 hour NRL workshop that focused on RESPECT. They looked at the term respect, what it means and what it looks like in relationships in general and a game situation. I hope the students benefited from this experience!



ATHLETICS CARNIVAL (Years 2 - 6) BLAIR ATHLETICS OVAL - CREEK RD, ST MARYS

The Years 2 - 6 Bethany Athletics carnival will be on Wednesday 19th May. Please refer to the note that was sent home on Tuesday 4th May for further details.

Looking forward to it!

LIBRARY



National Simultaneous Storytime 2021

Every year a picture book, by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously at thousands of venues across the country. In 2020, there were 1,297,000 participants at over 14,000 locations.

This year's event is unique!

Give me some Space! by Philip Bunting will be read by NASA Astronaut Dr Shannon Walker from the International Space Station where she is currently the Commander.

Kindergarten and Year 1 will be participating in this event next Wednesday 19th May. Other classes will link in to the space station reading at another time during the week.

Be sure to ask your children about this unique event. It is a great opportunity to talk about the value of reading for pleasure and the wonder of science, space travel and God's amazing creation.



NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2021

Across NSW children are enthusiastically reading books as part of the Premier's challenge to them : **to read, for pleasure, 20 books by 20th August!**

Many Bethany students in Years 3-6 have started reading and all are being encouraged to accept the challenge. Each student will be given a username and password and will be shown how they can log the books they have read.

K-2 will be reading 30 books with their teachers and during their library time.

Visit <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html#> to find out more.

Mrs Emmett

DATES FOR THE DIARY

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 18th May | Girls Hockey - Unanderra |
| Tuesday 18th May | CARES - 4W |
| Wednesday 19th May | Bethany Athletics Carnival (Years 2 - 6) |
| Wednesday 19th May | Girls Hockey - Unanderra |
| Thursday 20th May | Girls Hockey - Unanderra |
| Friday 21st May | Effort in Learning Assemblies 1:45pm - 2:45pm |
| Tuesday 25th May | Boys Hockey - Newcastle |
| Tuesday 25th May | CARES - 4R |
| Wednesday 26th May | Boys Hockey - Newcastle |
| Wednesday 26th May | CARES - 5R |
| Wednesday 26th May | Pentecost Whole School Liturgy - Mufti (Pentecost Colours) |
| Thursday 27th May | Boys Hockey - Newcastle |
| Thursday 27th May | CARES - 5B |
| Friday 28th May | Mackillop Touch Trials - All day |
| Tuesday 1st June | CARES - 4B |
| Tuesday 1st June | Girls Basketball - Cambridge Park |
| Tuesday 1st June | 11's Rugby League - Kiama |
| Wednesday 2nd June | Girls Basketball - Cambridge Park |
| Wednesday 2nd June | 11's Rugby League - Kiama |
| Thursday 3rd June | Girls Basketball - Cambridge Park |
| Thursday 3rd June | Rugby League - Kiama |
| Tuesday 8th June | NSWCPSCCC Cross Country - Eastern Creek |
| Thursday 10th June | Mackillop Softball Trials - Panania |

COMMUNICATION

The following information has been advised via the SkoolBag App:

- 13/5/21 Red, White and Blue Mufi Day Reminder
- 12/5/21 Feast of the Ascension Mass
- 7/5/21 Wet Weather Dismissal
- Effort in Learning Assemblies
- Revised Dismissal Procedures
- 5/5/21 Lost Property
- Athletics Carnival - Years 2-6 - 19th May 2021
- 4/5/21 Library borrowing days.
- NAPLAN 2021 Year 3 & Year 5

