

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term: 1 | Week 3 | Friday, 11th February 2022

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Families,

A warm **welcome** back to the 2022 school year! A special welcome to the Bethany Community and to all new families from Kindergarten to Year 6.

One of the memorable events of this summer has been the presence of **Ash Barty** in the Australian Open. Although her tennis playing skills and competitive nature were impressive it was her sense of **perspective** and **humility** that shone through.

Throughout her victory speech she concentrated on expressing **appreciation** and **love** for her parents, extended family, coaching team, friends and those who had encouraged her along her path.

She went on to say that for her the sport of tennis is more about **making memories** and **celebrating the journey**, appreciating the **"small things"** rather than just focussing on winning and the trophies.

So what has helped to **form** Ash Barty into such a **well-balanced person, incredible sportsperson** and **wonderful role model**?

Her **parents** and extended **family**?

Her **community** in Queensland where she was raised?

Her **teachers** at Woodcrest State College where she went to **school**?

Her **coaches**?

Her **friends**?

Her **joys**?

Her **struggles**?

Her **wins**?

Her **losses**?

Most likely all of these and more.

As parents and teachers we aspire for our children **to grow** to be **"good people"** above all else. Ash Barty's story reminds us that the road is not always perfect nor a smooth straight path - it can't be!

One of the greatest gifts we can give our young is to teach them **perspective** and **empathy** rather than **reaction**. One excellent way to teach perspective is through the beauty of books and stories.

Ash Barty has shown the world that **perspective** and **humility** can not only make a great sportsperson but also a **"good person"**.

Go gently,

Sergio Rosato
Principal



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Morning Drop Off & Afternoon Dismissal Update

We thank our community for your patience, understanding and support as we have worked to fine tune our morning drop off and afternoon dismissal procedures this week.

These procedures were largely in place on our return from remote learning during Term 3 last year after the COVID lockdown.

The aim of these procedures is not only to assist with maintaining physical distancing but also to safely and effectively manage the traffic movement and pedestrian safety on this unique and challenging site.

Morning Drop Off

1. Students enter the school either via **Gate 1** (near the office) or **Gate 2** (near the hall)
2. *Kiss and Drop* is supervised from 8am - 8:30am

Parents should remain in their cars for this to enable vehicles to move efficiently through the Kiss & Drop bay and maintain traffic flow.

Afternoon Pick Up

The procedures currently allow for students to be dismissed and collected in a staggered and dispersed way as follows:

- **2:30pm: Kindergarten** (collection inside Welcome Garden)
- **2:45pm: Grades K - 2 plus siblings** via the Dismissal Points
- **3pm: Grades 3-6** via the Dismissal Points

The Dismissal Points are:

1. *Kiss and Ride* via the school/parish car park
 - **vehicles should not be parked in the Kiss & Ride bay before 2:30PM**
 - **Family names displayed on passenger side window visor**
2. *Street Pick Up* via vehicles on William Howell Drive
 - **Family names displayed on passenger side window visor**
3. *Parent Pick Up* from Corner of Morrison Street
4. Buses, Walkers & COSHC

All afternoon Dismissal Points are supervised by school staff.

We are grateful for the expert assistance of the local police for their advice in helping to ensure that our procedures are safe and as efficient as possible.

An aspect identified by Police whilst on site is the need to maintain vehicular flow through roundabouts at all times. This aspect has improved as the week has progressed and this in turn has assisted traffic to flow more effectively.

We are grateful to the local police for their ongoing support and thank you for your patience and good will as we work together for the common good.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another exciting year of learning at Bethany! A very special welcome to all our new Kindergarten families as well as many other new families joining our community in 2022.

I was extremely proud to see lots of our students displaying many of our *Learner Dispositions* upon their return to school.

As parents dropped their children off for the Mathematical Assessment Interviews, children got out of their cars with **confidence** and walked to their new classroom to meet their new teacher. Some of these children had never even stepped foot into the school before!

When our Kindergarten children commenced school last week for the first time they demonstrated great **resilience** as they waved goodbye to their parents with a smile, eager to commence their learning journey.

Older siblings have been holding their younger sibling's hand, showing tremendous **responsibility** while helping them with their school bags and guiding them to their classrooms.

Our Year 6 leaders have been carrying out their roles with **enthusiasm** each and every day.

During my visits to classrooms I have noticed children practising their Student Representative Council member election speeches with great **determination**.

I have observed students working **collaboratively** in groups and actively engaging in various tasks with **persistence** and great **problem solving** skills.

It brings me such joy as a teacher and leader to see these skills develop in our students who are so **curious** about the world around them. These skills, dispositions and attitudes will set them up as successful, future oriented, lifelong learners.

Go gently,

Rebecca Lloyd

Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BETHANY

The following statement comes from the Bethany Parent Handbook under the title of 'Spiritual Life of the School':

An integrated Religious Education Program is implemented throughout the school. The support and involvement of parents is encouraged.

In line with other Diocesan schools, Bethany has followed the Religious Education Program **"Sharing Our Story"**, a curriculum developed by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. Since 2019, Bethany staff have been trialling a new draft Religious Education curriculum for the Parramatta Diocese. This trial is currently paused for further review. During this time, teaching programs will follow outcomes from the Sharing Our Story Curriculum.

Meaningful lessons in Religious Education are part of the school day and Gospel values and attitudes permeate all aspects of school life.

Children have the opportunity to celebrate liturgies, which reflect the liturgical seasons and the life of the school. They also participate in Reconciliation and prayer times as part of the school day.

Whole school masses open and close each year, with significant events in the life of the school or parish also being celebrated in this way. At *Bethany*, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation are parish-based Sacraments and these programs are supported by the teaching of Religious Education at school and through the Learning Cycles of the RE Curriculum. Baptism for students can be arranged by contacting the church.

The whole school community says the Angelus every day at 12.00 pm. The Angelus is included in this booklet.

Bethany's school community supports a variety of social justice initiatives, supporting the missionary activity of the Catholic Church through raising awareness of the activities and fundraising to support organisations e.g. Caritas' Project Compassion, Catholic Mission and St Vincent De Paul.

Celebration of life experiences and special events are conducted through class liturgies and masses in the parish church, school hall and classrooms.

Each grade has begun their Learning Cycles for Term One. The following is an overview of the Focus Question that each grade will base their learning on in Religious Education:

Kindergarten - How is Jesus A Friend Who Loves Us?

Year One - How am I a unique person who is loved by God?

Year Two - How can we look after our world?

Year Three - What is a Sacrament?

Year Four - How do we build a Covenant Relationship with God?

Year Five - How is God revealed to us through Jesus?

Year Six - In which ways does God offer us hope for our world?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONT'D

WHAT IS A BETHANY 'RE ANGEL'?

An RE Angel is a student from Years 3 - 6 who assists in the preparation of Religious Education and Social Justice events at Bethany.

There is one RE Angel chosen from each Year 3 - 6 class.

An RE Angel is someone who models special qualities. These qualities include:

- being a **Caring** person who can offer support to others who they see might be struggling.
- being **Respectful** to others by accepting that other people have different opinions, talents and abilities.
- being a **proud Bethany student** who strives to live out the school motto: In Christ we love and Serve.
- being **Respectful** about the faith beliefs and experiences of others just as Jesus did.
- being **Honest**.
- being a **Prayerful** individual who understands that praying is an important part of daily life at Bethany.
- being **Reverent** during liturgies, Masses and prayer times.

If you believe that you have the qualities to be an RE Angel, you are invited to write an Expression of Interest (of no more than one page in length) to Mrs Baldacchino explaining why you are the best person for this role. (Note: you will be writing a Persuasive Text!)

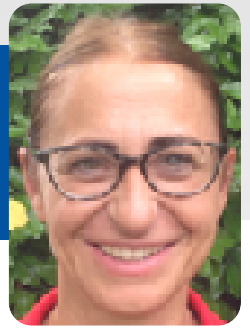
If you have been an RE Angel previously, you are most welcome to apply again in 2022.

Expressions of Interest are due no later than **Monday 14th February, 2022.**



Mrs Baldacchino

SPORT



Nepean Zone Swimming Team

Congratulations to the following students who will be swimming at the Nepean Zone Carnival on Thursday, 24th February:

Lucas Okulicz

Mateo Tangata-Toa

Emma Wallis

Owen McDonagh

Jayda Finn

Ana Stojanovic

Harlow Pollock

Angelika Nikolovski

Ivy Szczepanski

Lola White

Jude Dunn

Caleb Commerford

Nikola Marakovic

Alexander Holy

Charlotte Lawford

Zara Swadling

Addison Finnimore

Georgina Brown

Charlotte Okulicz

Anna Coburn

Heidi Lloyd

Brody Willmott

Bradly Tanti

Benjamin Kyle

Sierra Ryan

Zane Duncan

Charlie Jare

Marco Cavina

Georgia Gately

Good Luck in the pool, Bethany !

Brody Willmott - BMX news

Over the break, Brody competed at the National BMX Championships and came away with a 2nd in Australia for the 9 year old boys!

Congratulations Brody for an awesome achievement!



Matilda Mobbs - ex student



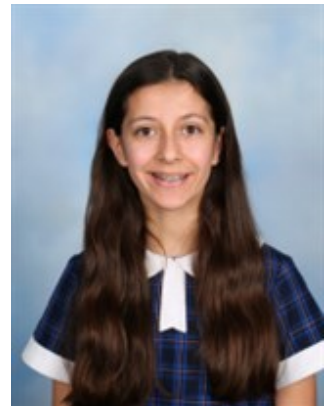
At the end of last year, Penrith Valley Sports Foundation awarded Matilda the All Abilities Award for 2021 for making the NSW Primary School Swim team and for breaking a 16 year old swimming record. She is currently the Multi class S8 400m freestyle NSW record holder .

Bethany would like to congratulate Matilda for her amazing achievement and wish her all the best this year with her training!



Basketball News

Congratulations to Mia Ferris of Year 6 who trialed and qualified for the Parramatta Diocesan Basketball team. She will be playing at the Mackillop trials in Wollongong on the 25th February. Good Luck Mia!



LIBRARY

Bethany Library Class Visits 2022

Each week classes visit the library to borrow for classroom and home reading.

Students who brought their library bags to school this week were issued with their new Bethany Library Cards. Please encourage students to bring their bag on their library day so they can take home the books they choose to borrow.

Library bags keep books safe, clean and dry on the journey from school to home.

Year 6 - Wednesday

Year 5 - Thursday

Year 4 - Thursday

Year 3 - Tuesday

Year 2 - Wednesday

Year 1 - Tuesday

Kinder Red - Tuesday

Kinder White - Wednesday

Kinder Blue - Thursday



Scholastic Book Club



Twice a term **Scholastic Book Club** catalogues will be sent home. These offer a wide selection of books for students from K-6.

Many families from our school take the opportunity to buy books from the catalogues but there is never any obligation to purchase.

Cash payments cannot be received at our school but Scholastic's online LOOP payment system enables families to make payments by credit card. Visit

[scholastic.com.au/LOOP](https://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

Following the closing date, book orders are delivered to school and then sent home with students.

Catalogue 1 for 2022 was sent home this week. **The closing date for LOOP orders is Wednesday 16th February.**

Lesley Emmett

Bethany Library Assistant

Mrs Emmett

DATES FOR THE DIARY

16/02/2022	Parra AFL Trials - Rouse Hill 12:00pm-3:00pm Parra Touch Trials - ST Marys 4:00pm
24/02/2022	Nepean Zone Swimming carnival - Glenbrook pools
25/02/2022	MACKILLOP Bball and Tennis Wollongong
03/03/2022	Leadership Day SRC only
07/03/2022	Parra Netball trials - Windsor- 12pm
09/03/2022	Parra Rugby League trials - Ponds 9am
11/03/2022	Diocesan Swimming Carnival - Blacktown
14/03/2022	Parra Hockey trials- Kingswood 4pm
15/03/2022	Parra Football trials- Kellyville boys- 8:30am - girls- 1:30pm
18/03/2022	MACKILLOP Touch trials
22/03/2022	NSWCPS Swimming- SOPAC
25/03/2022	MACKILLOP AFL trials - Wagga

COMMUNICATION

The following information has been advised via the SkoolBag App:

11/02/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 9th and 10th February - Year 5.
11/02/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 9th and 10th February - Year 6.
11/02/2022	ICT Guidlines Agreement and Letter of Introduction Notes.
11/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 9th and 10th February - Kindergarten.
11/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 9th and 10th February - Year 6.
10/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 8th and 9th February - Year 6.
10/02/2022	Sport Information - AFL Clinic & Auskick.
10/02/2022	Sport Information.
09/02/2022	SEESAW Application.
09/02/2022	Rapid Antigen Tests - Collection of Kits.
09/02/2022	Parent Communication for 2W - Week 3.
09/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 7th and 8th February - Kindergarten.
09/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 7th and 8th February - Year 5.
09/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 7th and 8th February - Year 6.
08/02/2022	Fine Tuning Morning Drop Off & Afternoon Pick up .
08/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 7th February - New Case - Year 5.
08/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 3rd and 4th February - Year 1.
08/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 3rd and 4th February - Year 5 .
08/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 7th February - Year 3.
07/02/2022	Books covered.
07/02/2022	Updated Afternoon Dismissal Procedures 7th February 2022.
07/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th February - Year 3.
07/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 1st to 4th February - Year 1.
07/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 1st, 3rd and 4th February - Year 5.
07/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 3rd and 4th February - Kindergarten.
04/02/2022	COVID-19 Postive Case Notification - 2 February - Year 5.
04/02/2022	Parent Communication for 5B Week 3.
04/02/2022	Bethany Library Class Visits.
03/02/2022	Student Representative Council (SRC).
03/02/2022	Afternoon Dismissal Reminders.
03/02/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification 1st and 2nd February - Year 6.
03/02/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification 1st and 2nd February - Kindergarten.
02/02/2022	2022 Kindergarten classes.
02/02/2022	Staggered Afternoon Pick Up Times - Reminder.
01/02/2022	Year 6 Sports Shirt.
01/02/2022	St Padre Pio Parish Sacrament of Reconciliation - Years 3, 4, 5 & 6.

COMMUNICATION

01/02/2022	Staggered Afternoon Dismissal Procedure and Pickup points.
01/02/2022	2022 Mode of Afternoon School Travel.
01/02/2022	Skoolbag information to be updated - GROUPS.
31/01/2022	Parent Communication for 5B - Week 2.
31/01/2022	Parent Communication for 3W - Week 2.
31/01/2022	School Canteen Open Tuesday 1st February.

ATTENDANCE

CEDP promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify their school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within **7 days** from the first day of any period of absence.

Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. SMS: click on the link that will be sent to parents via SMS if their child is absent
2. Email the school at bethany@parra.catholic.edu.au
3. Telephone the school office on 4723 3700
4. Note sent with your child

Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on the student's record. **The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received within the 7 day timeframe.**

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- student is a close contact of Covid-19 and required to isolate
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfil this legal responsibility.

The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for schools. Parents need to know if their child isn't at school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in school.

What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within 7 days
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details so that you can receive attendance information about your child.

every learner every day 

OTHER MATTERS

SKOOLBAG, QKR APPS & MUNCH MONITOR ONLINE ACCOUNT

Please update your child's year level in the Skoolbag and QKR apps. This will ensure that all communication from the school is received and payments made correctly. The canteen has also asked that parents visit the Munch Monitor website to update their child's class for this year. Thank you.

REMINDER

To minimise interruption to important learning time, please check that your child/children have packed recess, a drink bottle, lunch and the books that are required for their school day before they leave home.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

Please ensure that the school has the correct afternoon dismissal information for your child. If you need to make a change to the dismissal arrangements for your child due to unforeseen circumstances please notify the School office by 2:00pm.

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS

If your child is on a Medical Action Plan, could you please take the time to check that it is still valid.

Medical Action Plans are valid for 12 months. A visit to the doctor may be required if your child's plan is approaching the end of its validity.

We would appreciate it if updated Action Plans be sent to us via the school email or sent with your child.

Thank you
Bethany Office

SCHOOL FEES

School fees will be sent via CEDP on 18/2/2022, if not received by 25/2/2022 please call the Bethany Office. Thank you

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

Jack Castle 6B is taking part in the World's Greatest Shave to help beat blood cancer. Jack has nominated Friday 18/03/2022 for the day that the shave takes place.

If you wish to sponsor Jack, please click on the link:

<https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registant/FundraisingPage.aspx?RegistrationID=849280>

GOOD LUCK JACK!!

A fundraising poster for the World's Greatest Shave. The poster features a central blue circle with the text "Jack Castle is shaving" and "The big day is on 18.03.2022". Above this, it says "It's my mission to raise \$1000". In the top right corner, there is a logo for "WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE". In the bottom left, there is a QR code with the text "Sponsor me! Scan the QR code with your phone. You'll land on my fundraising page to make a quick and easy donation!". In the bottom right, there is a section titled "Details of my mission" with a personal message from Jack Castle. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook and Instagram, a search bar with "World's Greatest Shave", and the "Leukaemia Foundation" logo.

It's my mission to raise
\$1000

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

**Jack Castle
is
shaving**

The big day is on
18.03.2022

Sponsor me!
Scan the QR code with your phone. You'll land on my fundraising page to make a quick and easy donation!

Details of my mission
Hi! My name is Jack Castle and I am a 6B student at Leukaemia Foundation. I have been growing my moustache since Lockdown in 2020 and I am now ready to shave it off for a great cause.
Please Donate!

Leukaemia Foundation