

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Term: 1 | Week 9 | Friday, 25th March, 2022

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Bethany Families,

Last week we celebrated the feasts of two important saints - **Patrick & Joseph** and we find ourselves this week celebrating **The Annunciation** which occurs exactly nine months before Christmas.

I have always wondered about the occurrence of these three feast days happening smack dab in the middle of the austerity and quietness of **Lent**.

They are in essence stand-alone feasts that provide a kind of brief **interlude** during the Lenten season but like many things in our faith tradition have connections to the mission of Christ.

For us in Australia, the solemnity of **Saint Patrick** points not only to his patronage of the people of Ireland but also to the extensive Irish legacy throughout the world including in Australia.

As far as the importance of solemnities is concerned, St Joseph's probably outranks St Patrick's (particularly if you are Italian). **Saint Joseph** is regarded universally as the archetype of the ideal father and the spouse of Christ's mother, Our Lady.

In Italy, **Father's Day** (la festa del papa) coincides with the **Feast of St. Joseph**. It is also interesting that the Feast of St Joseph occurs a week prior to that of The Annunciation.

The solemnity of The Annunciation which we celebrate today, commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary, during which Mary's response was, "Yes".

This year Pope Francis has announced that on the Feast of the Annunciation he will consecrate **Russia** together with **Ukraine** to the *Immaculate Heart of Mary*.

This **consecration** or setting aside for a holy purpose is meant as a prayer for all those affected by the destructive and fathomable war in Ukraine. It is a **prayer for peace** through the intercession of Our Lady and in communion with the Church throughout the world including ours in Australia.

Today at noon, in solidarity with the people of Ukraine our school community joined this prayer during the reciting of the Angelus.

May the leaders of the world's nations continue to seek peaceful resolutions to conflict for the sake of all people - we ask this through the *Immaculate Heart of Mary*. Amen.

Go gently,
Sergio Rosato
Principal



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

SRC Induction Ceremony 2022

Last Thursday we came together as a community with Father Chinonye, families, staff and students to induct our Student Representative Council for 2022.

In doing so we continue an important tradition at Bethany as the responsibility of student servant leadership is passed to another group of students.

During the beautiful and meaningful ceremony, each student representative was called by name and pinned with their SRC badge by their parents.

The students who have been called by their peers to hold this role each have their own particular attributes which God has given them.

As a community we all look to the person of Jesus Christ as our role model of servant leadership. Jesus was an incredible servant leader. He always looked to serve those who were the most in need. The unpopular, the unloved, the left out, the poor, the lost, the sick. Jesus led by his words and teachings BUT always backed this up by his actions.

We thank God for the unique gifts that each of our SRC students bring to this important role and acknowledge their parents and teachers for their service in helping to form them and teach them to this point.

It also gives us an opportunity to focus on the qualities we all should be aiming for as we strive to live out our school motto: In ***Christ we love and Serve*** each day with one another.

May God bless our 2022 Student Representative Council this year in ways He knows best.

Sergio Rosato

Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL 2022			
	BLUE	WHITE	RED
Kindergarten	Mila Friggieri	<u>Michaela Finn</u>	Quinn
Year 1	Sienna <u>Pantelas</u>	Hope <u>Maguire</u>	Elsie Bailey
Year 2	Owen <u>McDonagh</u>	<u>Pippa</u> Briggs	Roman Richards
Year 3	Olivia <u>Langmack</u>	<u>Niamh</u> Carroll	<u>Mylee Watene-Zelezniak</u>
Year 4	Alex <u>Micallef</u>	Willow Briggs	Audrey <u>McDonagh</u>
Year 5	Charlotte <u>Gobraiel</u>	Mia <u>Attrill</u>	Amelia <u>Rubelj</u>
Year 6 Representative 1	Mia Ferris	<u>Anabelle</u> Contractor	Emma Wallis
Year 6 Representative 2	<u>Angelmary</u> Joseph	Laura <u>Whitton</u>	<u>Callum Daggar</u>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Carers,

Speaking to your child about their day at school can sometimes be like pulling teeth!

Parent: "Did you have a good day?" Child: "Yes."

Parent: "What did you do today?" Child: "Nothing."

As parents many would probably relate to this type of conversation at different times with our children after school. Getting children to share what they have learnt at school can be challenging. Choosing the right time to engage in this type of conversation is often the key. Sometimes it is best to give children some breathing space when they first get home to switch out of school mode. Families may consider asking about a few specific things but phrased in a more open-ended way.

The following are some examples of specific, but open-ended conversation starters you might like to try. Remember one or two conversation starters at a time is plenty.

1. *What surprised you today?*
2. *What was the best question you asked today?*
3. *Tell me about the best part of your day.*
4. *What was the hardest thing you did today?*
5. *What was something different that happened today?*
6. *What made you laugh?*
7. *What games did you play with your friends?*
8. *Did you see anyone do anything really kind today?*
9. *Tell me about what you read in class.*
10. *What are you looking forward to tomorrow?*
11. *What did you learn about in Music/Sport/Italian/Library?*
12. *What's something your teacher said to you today that made you think?*
13. *If you could change one thing that happened today, what would it be?*
14. *Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?*
15. *What was one thing you did today that made you proud?*
16. *Tell me about something that made you change your mind today.*
17. *What would you like to do differently tomorrow?*

Finally try to avoid making this conversation appear like an interrogation. That can sometimes happen when an adult asks all the questions, and the child does all the answering. Make it more like a two-way conversation by first sharing something you've learnt or found funny today for instance. It might take a little time, but this approach will help you to have much richer and natural conversations with your child.

Taking an interest in your child's school life is important, but this needs to be balanced with conversation about their interests, plans, passions, family life, anecdotes and current events.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

NAPLAN

Each year in May our Bethany students in Years 3 and 5 sit the National Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (NAPLAN). This is the only national assessment which all Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

The NAPLAN tests will be completed online except for the Year 3 Writing test which will be completed on paper. Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

If your child is absent from school on NAPLAN days it will be arranged, where possible, for them to complete the missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best.

Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Students in Years 3 and Year 5 have had a practice at school this week to ensure that they are familiar with the types of questions in the tests.

Go gently,

Rebecca Lloyd

Assistant Principal



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Over the past two weeks we have celebrated three significant feast days/ solemnities in our classrooms in the form of class liturgies. The first was Saint Patrick (17th March), followed by Saint Joseph (19th March but celebrated in classrooms on 18th March).



Today we celebrated the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord with a class liturgy. This feast day is exactly nine months before Christmas and marks the acceptance of Mary to God's call, to be the mother of Jesus. Whilst Mary is Jesus' mother, she is also our mother. She is the greatest of all saints. Mary did one simple thing - she listened to God's call and said 'Yes'. One of the reflection questions that our students were asked to consider during today's liturgy was "How can I follow Mary's example and say 'Yes' to God?"

This image of The Annunciation is from a photograph that I took of a series of mosaics depicting the joyful mysteries of the Rosary. These are located outside of Ta' Pinu Church in Gozo, Malta. The image reflects how Mary listened to the angel's message. We can only imagine some of the confusion she must have experienced at the time.

Flood Disaster Appeal

An update on the Flood Disaster Appeal Saint Patrick's Day Mufti which was held last Thursday. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the victims of the recent floods. The Bethany community has raised in excess of \$1600!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONT'D

A Prayer to the Creator (A Prayer for Peace)

This prayer is from Pope Francis' encyclical Fratelli Tutti, which was published on 4 October 2020. It has been adapted by Caritas Australia for a Prayer Service for Primary children.

*God of our human family,
you make each person as special and important as the next:
fill our hearts with love for every human being
and inspire us to dream of meeting each other anew,
so that we can talk and listen and make the world
a fair and peaceful home for everyone.
Help us create a common life that is healthy
and a world we can all be proud of,
a world without hunger, need, cruelty and fighting.
May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognise the goodness and beauty
you have put in each of us
and, from there, come together
to share life and dreams in common.
Amen.*



SPORT



It has been a busy couple of weeks with many students participating in a variety of sporting events.

SWIMMING NEWS

Diocesan Carnival

On Friday, 11th March we had our Bethany Diocesan team swim at Blacktown Aquatic Centre. I was lucky enough to be working at the carnival and witness our amazing swimmers compete against other schools across the Diocese.

A special mention goes to Harlow Pollock (Year 3) , Zane Duncan (Year 4), Charlie Jare (Year 4) , Mateo Tangata-Toa (Year 5) and Brody Willmott (Year 5) who qualified for the next level. Well done!



NSW Catholic Primary Schools Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday, 22nd March, the NSW CPS swimming competition was held at Homebush Aquatic Centre.

Congratulations to:

- ▶ Harlow Pollock who came 6th in her heat for the 8 Years 50m Freestyle. Such a great race!
- ▶ Junior Boys Relay team - Zane Duncan, Charlie Jare, Mateo Tangata-Toa and Brody Willmott who came 7th overall. They swam 9.7 seconds faster than they did at the Diocesan carnival!

I watched all swims via live stream and I was very proud of all our Bethany swimmers!!



Mateo, Charlie, Brody and Zane



Harlow Pollock

HOCKEY

Congratulations to Addison Finnimore (Year 6) who trialed and made the Parramatta Diocesan Hockey team. We wish her luck when she competes and trials in Canberra in May!



LIBRARY



Peter Rabbit Day and Easter Hat Parade

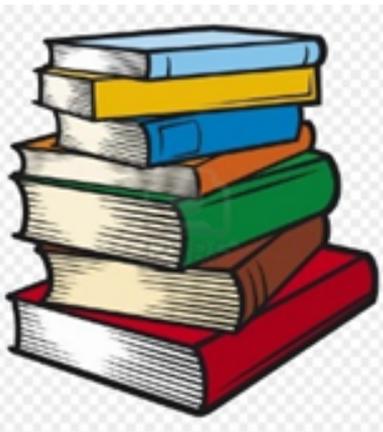
In the Library we have been talking about the mischievous and much loved book character Peter Rabbit. Did you know that The Tale of Peter Rabbit has been translated into 36 languages and has sold 45 million copies since it was first published 120 years ago?

Next Wednesday 30th March students will attend school as usual wearing their school uniform but will bring along the Easter hat they have made at home. Families are invited to the Easter Hat Parade on the basketball courts at 12:15pm and can stay on for a picnic lunch.

**CELEBRATING
120 YEARS**
of
PETER RABBIT

Bethany is hosting a Peter Rabbit day to celebrate all the wonderful stories from Beatrix Potter.

Date: 30th March 2022
Time: 12:15pm Easter Hat Parade - Parents Welcome
Bring - Picnic Lunch, chair/picnic blanket and Easter Hat



Book Covering

When new readers and library books are purchased for our school, they require covering in contact before they are used or borrowed by our students.

If covering books is a way you can help our school community, I would appreciate you sending me an email via the Bethany school office at Bethany@parra.catholic.edu.au and I will include your name on a list of people I can contact when we have books that require covering.

Mrs Emmett

DATES FOR THE DIARY

30/03/2022	Peter Rabbit Day and Easter Hat Parade
04/04/2022	NSWPSSA Swimming - Diving SOPAC
05/04/2022	NSWPSSA Swimming- SOPAC
08/04/2022	Last day Term 1
26/04/2022	First day Term 2
03/05/2022	Diocesan Cross Country- Eastern Creek
05/05/2022	Canberra Excursion - Year 6
06/05/2022	Canberra Excursion - Year 6

OTHER MATTERS

Lost Property

There is a large amount of lost property in our lost property bins. These bins are located outside the Front office.

Please find the time over the next few days to go through these bins for any items your child/children may have lost.

Any items that are not collected by Friday 1st April, will be donated.

Thank you
Bethany Office

COMMUNICATION



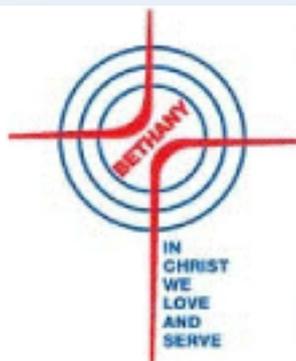
The following information has been advised via the SkoolBag App:

25/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 24th and 25th March - Kindergarten
25/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 24th and 25th March - Year 4
24/03/2022	UPDATE - BETHANY CROSS COUNTRY 25/3/2022
24/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 23rd March - Year 4
24/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 22nd and 23rd March - Year 6
24/03/2022	AFL Auskick cancelled, Thursday 24th March
23/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 21st March - Year 4
23/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 21st and 22nd March - Year 2
23/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 21st and 22nd March - Year 3
22/03/2022	Bethany Choir
22/03/2022	Contacting School Staff
22/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 20th and 21st March - Year 2
22/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 20th and 21st March - Year 4
21/03/2022	Bethany Cross Country Runners
21/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 18th March - Year 1
21/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 18th March - Year 6
21/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 18th March - Year 4
21/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 18 March - Year 3
21/03/2022	Parents and Carers of 3 White
21/03/2022	Parents and Carers of 2 Red
18/03/2022	NAPLAN 2022 Information for Parents and Carers - Year 3 and Year 5
18/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 16th and 17th March - Year 1
18/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 16th and 17th March - Kindergarten

COMMUNICATION

18/03/2022	Western Sydney Zoo Excursion - New Date - Year 1
16/03/2022	AFL Auskick Cancelled Thursday 17th March
16/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 14th March - Year 3
16/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 14th and 15th March - Year 2
16/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 14th and 15th March - Kindergarten
16/03/2022	Parents and Carers of 5 Red
16/03/2022	Parents and Carers of 5 White
15/03/2022	Rapid Antigen Tests (RATS) & Notification of Testing Positive for COVID-19
15/03/2022	Birthday celebrations
15/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 14th March - Kindergarten
15/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 14th March - Year 6
15/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 14th March - Year 3
15/03/2022	Clothing Pool Open today
15/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 14th March - Year 1
14/03/2022	Saint Patrick's Day Flood Disaster Appeal - Mufti Day
14/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 11th March - Year 1
14/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 11th March - Kindergarten
14/03/2022	Ongoing Afternoon Dismissal & Collection Procedures Monday 14 March 2022
14/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 11th March - Year 6
14/03/2022	Year 6 Excursion Note
14/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 11th March - Year 3
14/03/2022	COVID-19 Positive Case Notification - 11th March - Year 5

2023 ENROLMENTS

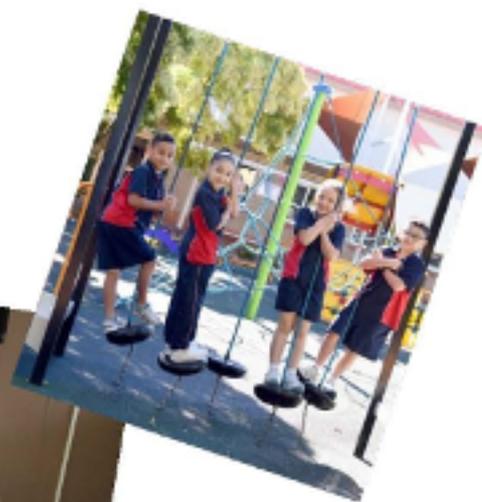


Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2023

We have limited places available for grades 1-6.

FIRST ROUND ENROLMENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN 2023 DUE BY 31ST MARCH

Please contact the School Office on 47233700 for enrolment packs or visit our website
www.bethanyglenmorepark.catholic.edu.au for further information .



COMMUNITY



Still looking for a winter sport? Want to have fun on the weekend with friends?

Penrith Giants want you to give AFL a go!

With the season starting in just 4 weeks get down to Greygums Oval to become a Giant!

Penrith Giants offer something for all junior ages, abilities, boys & girls. Auskick program for the youngsters 4-7 & a Kickability inclusive program for children on the spectrum. Teams are looking for players in our teams from Under 8 through to Under 18s
Male teams Under 9s, Under 10s, Under 11s, Under 13s & Under 15s
Female teams in Under 10s, Under 12s & Under 18s

With registration at ONLY \$100 this season NOW IS THE TIME TO FALL IN LOVE WITH AFL
Contact Lauren to find out more on 0412435542
or penrithjafcexec@gmail.com

 *"Do you have a sister? I have a thousand!
Once you are here you will know what that means."*

We have been inundated with applications!

LIMITED PLACES FOR 2023!

Don't miss the opportunity to join this vibrant community.

APPLICATIONS MUST CLOSE ON MARCH 28!

  PH: 4737 5500