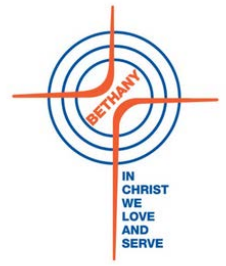


Bethany Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 4 | Week 8 | Thursday, 30th November 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Families,

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Churches' Liturgical Year and the start of Advent. At the commencement of this new season our minds and hearts are turned in anticipation to the coming of Christ Jesus at Christmas. It is also a time to reflect with a sense of awe and wonder at the coming of the Lord at the end of time. We are asked to enter into this season with hope and trust that through the grace of the Holy Spirit our journey to Christmas will renew our own faith and that of the entire world.

Advent also provides us with opportunities to evangelise and proclaim the Good News as Catholic Christians within our own communities. We can do this by reaching out in numerous practical ways:



- by **sharing** our abundance and giving to those less fortunate
- by **praying**
- by weekly attendance at **Mass**
- by **inviting** someone into our family gathering who needs inclusion during this time
- by **providing** gifts to households where Christmas gifts are an unlikely event this Christmas
- by taking time to be truly **present** to loved ones and family.

One of the most beautiful ways of being present to those around us is through **family traditions** which help to enliven the true Christmas message and make the season special.

Good traditions serve to remind us of our place and purpose in the world. Often the best traditions are those that are simple and inexpensive. The strength of establishing a tradition lies within the ability of the tradition to make us take time out of our normal activities and focus on the deeper meanings in a season where we are often pressured.

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE CONTINUED

So, whether it's attending Christmas Mass, reading the Christmas Gospel accounts, playing music, carolling, having a special Christmas lunch, phoning those who are distant or other rituals undertaken at this time of year – we can all contribute to the joy, love and peace that is associated with the Advent/Christmas season as we celebrate the heart of this time of year – the birth of the Christ-child in our midst.

Advent/Christmas Traditions Around the World

Throughout the world there are thousands of regional traditions that in many ways seek to draw us closer to Christ at this time. One of these traditions that comes to mind occurs in my ancestral home Lanciano (Italy). For centuries the feast of Christmas began on the evening of the 23rd December. The bells of the main Basilica toll continuously for one hour from 6pm. The ringing of the bells (called la squilla) is a call to the townsfolk to gather in the main piazza where they exchange warm greetings with each other – friends and strangers alike!



At the conclusion of the “ringing” everyone scampers home to gather with extended family, exchange small gifts, share a meal and spend time together. The feast of la squilla also recalls the pilgrimage of the Holy Family to Bethlehem in search of accommodation. The tolling of the bells and gathering both in the town square and in homes is also intended to recommit all to the message of peace, love, reconciliation and forgiveness evoked by Christ's birth.

Kindergarten Transition

Over the last four weeks, we have hosted children and families from our Kindergarten intake for 2024. During their visits, the children have been able to meet staff and other children as well as engage in a number of activities in preparation for next year. Whilst the children were occupied with learning about school routines, their parents and carers had the opportunity to connect with each other and attend special workshops covering the learning areas of Religious Education, English and Mathematics. The feedback from all concerned has been most positive. We look forward to our new Kindergarten students and their families commencing their primary school journey at Bethany early next year.

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,
Sergio Rosato
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Carers,














Semester 2 Student Reports

As previously mentioned, Term 4 sees the conclusion of our second semester of learning. Semester 2 Student Reports will be available to parents on Compass on Friday 8th December. If you'd like to discuss any areas of your child's learning before then please feel free to contact the school office to make an appointment with their teacher. If you are having any difficulties accessing the Compass portal please call the school office for support.

Managing Screen Time

With the upcoming Christmas school holidays approaching and a break from our regular routines many activities for learning, fun and keeping in touch will be done using screens. To keep healthy and active during this period make sure you spend time away from screens every day. Try some of these ideas to manage screen time.

Many blessings,
Rebecca Lloyd
Assistant Principal

<p>Set a time frame that your child will understand e.g. three episodes of their favourite show or until the dishes are washed.</p> 	<p>Try using the oven timer or an alarm to indicate when it's time to finish on the device. Give a warning before time is up.</p> 	<p>Be a great role model by being active and limiting your use of screens in front of your children.</p> 			
<p>Create firm boundaries:</p> <p>Where e.g. at home in the living room only</p> <p>When e.g. after lunch</p> <p>How e.g. sight word apps but no YouTube</p>	<p>Designate certain days of the week as 'screen-free' days. Plan a fun activity on these days.</p> 	<p>Information sourced from:</p> <p>Preschooler screen time: tips for balance Raising Children Network</p> <p>ReducingYoungChildrensScreenTime.pdf (nsw.gov.au)</p> <p>Guidelines for healthy growth and development for your child</p>			
<p>How Much Screen Time is Appropriate?</p> <p>The Australian 24 Hour Movement Guidelines for screen time states:</p> <table><tr><td> 0 - 2 years No screen time</td><td> 2 - 5 years Less than 1 hour per day</td><td> 5 - 12 years Less than 2 hours per day</td></tr></table>			 0 - 2 years No screen time	 2 - 5 years Less than 1 hour per day	 5 - 12 years Less than 2 hours per day
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Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District



'The Heart of a Child'
Worimi Artist Lara Went

Good for kids
good for life



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



An Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a school community this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. You sent us Jesus to be a sign of hope in our world. This Advent, help us to slow down, to listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas.



Amen.

This weekend at Mass, we will light the first candle on the Advent wreath. The first candle is a purple candle known as the Prophets candle or the candle of hope. By lighting this candle we remember the prophets, especially the prophet Isaiah who foretold the birth of Christ, bringing hope to the world.

Year 5 students will be coordinating at the 10am Mass this Sunday. We look forward to seeing you and your family at St Padre Pio parish.

2023 Bethany Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert is fast approaching. We are looking forward to celebrating with you. A reminder of student dress requirements for the day:

Students in each grade are asked to wear a Christmas t-shirt (or plain coloured t-shirt) as follows:

- Kindergarten: **Red**
- Year 1: **White**
- Year 2: **Green**
- Year 3: **Red**
- Year 4: **Green**
- Year 5: **White**
- Year 6: **Red**

All students are to wear their regular sports shorts, white socks and joggers.

If you will be attending the concert, please complete the form below so that we can arrange seating. [Response Form](#)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTINUED

2024 St Padre Pio Parish Sacramental Program

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Notes have been sent home with students who are currently in Year 2.

If you have a child who is currently in Year 3 or older and who would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2024, please download a copy of the information letter for parents from the parish website. The information includes the dates of the formation workshops and the date of the sacrament.

Please note: Children cannot participate in the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist unless they have made their First Reconciliation.

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming dates:

Friday 1st December: Whole School Thanksgiving Mass (regular school uniform to be worn – no sport uniforms).

Friday 8th December: Whole School attending Year 6 Graduation Mass (regular school uniform to be worn – no sport uniforms).

Friday 8th December: Year 6 Graduation Ceremony for Year 6 students and their parents.

Tuesday 12th December: Year 3 and Year 5 attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Thursday 14th December: Whole School Effort in Learning Awards Assembly.

SILENT NIGHT

holy night



Please join us for a Bethany Christmas Concert

Monday, 4th December

1:00pm

In The Bethany School Hall
Gates open from 12:30pm

SPORT

CSNSW SPORT

CSNSW SPORT is offering a fantastic school holiday opportunity for students enrolled in Catholic schools in NSW.



Our pilot AQUATHLON event is open to participation for students aged 8 years to 19 years with age divisions in both mainstream and Multi Class events.

For more information - <https://csnsw.sport/sports/csnsw-sport-programmes/aquathlon>



Date: Tuesday 19 December 2023 – Term 4, Week 11

Venue: [Max Parker Leisure & Aquatic Centre](#)

Address: Marco Avenue, Revesby NSW

Eligible schools: Affiliated system schools and congregational schools to the Catholic Schools NSW

Gender: Boys and Girls

Age criteria: 8 years to 19 years

100m Swim & 1km Run Event (8 – 11yrs)

200m Swim & 2km Run Event (12 – 19yrs)

Mainstream events & Multi Class events for students with disabilities

Event timings

- First race 8.30am
- Last race concludes at approximately 2.30pm

Event program: Click [here](#) for proposed event program

Cost:

- Entry – \$35 – up to an including 4 December
- Late entry \$55 – up to an including 11 December
- No entries accepted after 11 December
- The above entry costs are payable via the Catholic Schools NSW Sport portal



Registration: To register for Aquathlon – log into the CSNSW Sport portal and click 'Register for a Sport'

Related Link

<https://csnsw.sport/sports/csnsw-sport-programmes/aquathlon>

LIBRARY



Congratulations!

to the 334 students who completed the 2023 Premier's Reading Challenge.

While K-2 students read 30 books with their teachers, many families this year with children in Kindy, Years 1 and 2 took on the PRC challenge and read another 30 at home! What a great achievement for those students who have had the opportunity to experience so many wonderful picture books this year.

The Kindergarten – Year 6 PRC Certificates will be sent home with students next week.

Congratulations to these students who will receive PRC Platinum Certificates this year.

Platinum Certificates are awarded when a student completes the challenge for seven years.

These students are now on their way to achieving a PRC medal which is awarded when a student completes the challenge every year from Year 3 until Year 9.

Sarah Baker	Amelie Carroll	Caleb Commerford
Anna Coburn	Lara D'Agostino	Francesca Vella

Congratulations to the 43 students who will receive PRC Gold Certificates

Certificates are awarded when a student completes the challenge for four years.

Gold certificates will be handed out at the Awards Assembly in Week 10.

YEAR 6

Nathan Farrugia	Alejandro Flammia	Brayden Fretton- Lee
Elyse Handley	Shriyan Kunta	Charlotte Lawford
Sophie Parker	Ariana Spiteri	

LIBRARY CONTINUED

YEAR 5

Cooper Almer	Alysha Castle	Nate Culbert
Isabella Fabiano	Karli Gunawan	Jackson Hosking
Xander Pringle	Lachlan Sutton	Owen Wallis

YEAR 4

Lexi Atkins	Ruby Bampton	Zac Barron
Callie Davies	Indiana Dewhurst	Mia Gorgievski
Hunter Kowalczyk	Charlotte Okulicz	Isabelle Psaila
Alyssa Rizzo	Monica Sierra	Manraj Singh
Caitlyn Trimboli		

Year 3

Fabian Bernard	Pippa Briggs	Connor Cawthorne
Audrey Commerford	Sophia De Bono	Chelsea Easterbrook
Juliet Gregory- Facchetti	Ellie Kopp	Lochlan La
Natalya Martin	Owen McDonagh	Ayvree Pitkin
Liliana Richardson		

LIBRARY CONTINUED



Returning Library Books



All books borrowed by students should have been returned to our school library over the past two weeks.

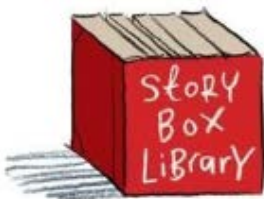
Students who still have books will receive a reminder note next week listing the titles of the outstanding books.

If your child is unable to find the listed books they need to see Mrs Emmett so we can look for it on our library shelves in case it has already been returned. Alternatively, contact the library via the school email.

Thank you for your help in responsibly caring for Bethany's resources so they are ready for students to borrow in 2024.

STORYBOX LIBRARY

Bethany has an annual subscription to Story Box Library which allows all families to freely access this amazing resource at home. New books are regularly added making this an ever-growing library aimed at Kindergarten to Year 6 students. It is a safe online space free from advertising where Australian literature is read by Australian authors, illustrators and storytellers.



***Story Box Library:** www.storyboxlibrary.com.au
USERNAME: bethanycps **PASSWORD:** stories

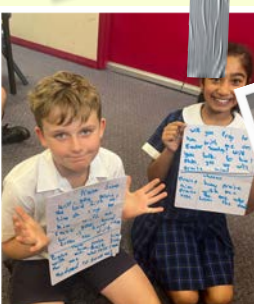
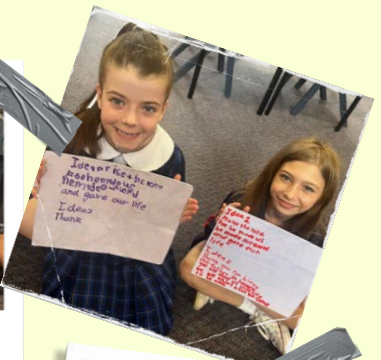
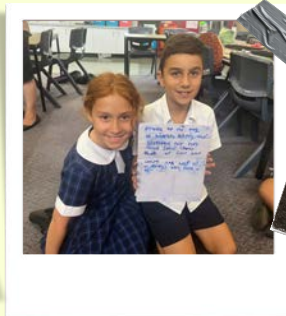
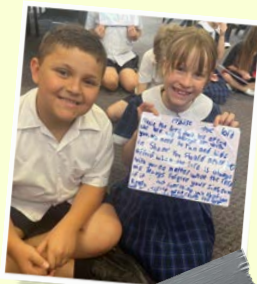
CURRICULUM

Learning at **BETHANY**

Engaging in the Wonders of Current Electricity! ⚡ Year 3 students dive into the fascinating world of current electricity, unraveling its role in powering our modern marvels – from the speed of trains zooming by to the intelligence within our everyday smartwatches! 💻💡☀️



YEAR 3



Embracing Faith through Music! 🎵 Students pour their dedication into a soulful song inspired by Psalm 113, blending creativity with spirituality to celebrate the beauty of faith in today's world. 🙏🌟

CURRICULUM CONTINUED

YEAR 4

Exploring Christmas Traditions: Year 4 students embark on a cultural journey comparing Christmas Down Under in Australia with the festive traditions in Italy. Harnessing Italian vocabulary, their presentations offer a vibrant glimpse into the diverse celebrations of this joyful season! Additionally, students are fine-tuning their musical talents for the upcoming Christmas concert with the guidance of Mr. Green. Getting into the holiday spirit, they're blending learning, culture, and music for an unforgettable performance! 🎵🎄🇺🇸🇮🇹✨



YEAR 5

Spreading Gratitude and Joy! ✨
Year 5 students are crafting something extra special for their Year 1 buddies, inspired by gratitude. Embracing the spirit of giving and kindness, they're preparing a heartwarming surprise to share the joy and celebrate the bond between peers across the school years.



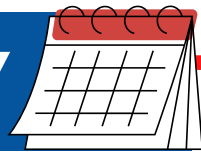
CURRICULUM CONTINUED

YEAR 6

Exploring Dairy Ecosystems! 🐄🌱 Year 6 students are delving into the world of dairy farming, discovering the intricate balance between producing top-quality milk and safeguarding our environment. They're learning how dedicated dairy farmers nurture their ecosystems, emphasising sustainability and responsible practices for a greener, healthier future. 🥛🌍🌱



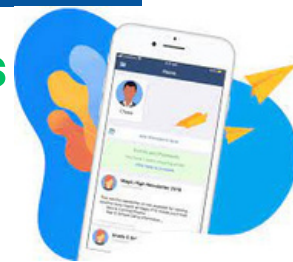
DATES FOR THE DIARY



1st December	Whole School Thanksgiving Mass - 11:00AM
4th December	Christmas Concert
8th December	Year 6 Graduation Mass @ 10:30am
8th December	Year 6 Graduation ceremony @ 12pm - Hall
13th December	'Meet the teacher 2024' 12:15pm - 1:00pm
13th December	Year 6 Social @ 5:00pm-7:30pm - Hall
14th December	Major Awards - Effort in Learning Awards - Whole School 12pm
15th December	Motiv8 Year 6 Last Day Term 4 - K-6



Recent Compass Notifications



29/11/2023	Full School Uniform Friday 1st December
27/11/2023	Uniform Shop
27/11/2023	LOST PROPERTY
27/11/2023	Year 5 Children's Parish Mass
27/11/2023	Christmas Hampers
23/11/2023	Staff Spirituality Day - Pupil Free Day - 24th November
23/11/2023	Twilight Swimming Carnival - Monday 27th November
22/11/2023	Thanksgiving Mass and Farewell - Mrs Joanne Staunton and Mrs Yvonne Terweene
21/11/2023	Busways Changes effective immediatley
20/11/2023	2023 Bethany Christmas Concert
20/11/2023	Notification of Whooping Cough (Pertussis) - Year 4

OTHER MATTERS

APPLICATIONS FOR EXTENDED LEAVE

Parents/Carers may approach the school to seek permission for extended leave for their child/ren's travel during the school term. Extended leave is considered to be 5 or more days during the school term for the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons. Parents/carers must complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave form prior to commencing leave or apply for extended leave in writing to the principal directly. Application for Extended Leave forms can be found on our school website or collected from the school office.

LABELLING OF LOST PROPERTY

We continue to have a large number of lost property items with no names. Over time with regular washing the names often fade and are unable to be read. Please take a moment to check that all your child/ren's items are labelled correctly.

ATTENDANCE NOTES

Thank you to those parents/carers who enter attendance notes into Compass. This process is to be used for whole day absences only. Please ensure that times are not adjusted as this will create a partial absence.

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.



Safe RESPECTFUL Learner

Bethany's PBS4L Purpose Statement:

Our purpose is to create a safe, respectful learning environment for students who love and serve Christ. We nurture students who are responsible and valued members for our Bethany school community.



- We keep our hands and feet to our self
- We move safely and calmly
- We are in the right place at the right time
- We use equipment and belongings safely
- We follow instructions

- We use active listening and follow instructions
- We care for and respect each other
- We care for our environment
- We wear our uniform with pride

- We try our best in everything we do
- We demonstrate perseverance and resilience
- We ask questions and take risks
- We work collaboratively