

Bethany Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 3 | Week 2 | Thursday, 27th July, 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Parents,

Yesterday on the feast day of St Anne and St Joachim (Mary's Parents) we marked grandparents day by celebrating mass, followed by a shared picnic. Our playground was a sea of families enjoying their time together. After the picnic the children escorted their grandparents to their classes to show off their learning space as well as elements of their learning. Throughout the day families were also encouraged to attend the book fair in our school library.

Grandparents' Day 

Grandparents day is a very precious day when we reflect on the gift that grandparents are to families and to our society. What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance – their unconditional love, kindness, patience, humour, comfort and wisdom of life.

There's an Italian proverb that says – *If nothing is going well, call your grandmother.* I suppose what this proverb implies is that grandparents have a unique place in the life of their grandchildren.

For children who are fortunate enough to have grandparents in your lives the key is connecting with them. Connection is not defined in the amount of time you spend with your grandparents, but in the quality of that time. Practical and simple connection is often the best – just talking to grandparents, being taught things by them, playing board games, listening to stories about family history and enjoying their company. I wish to share with you briefly a reflection on my grandmother who I know exemplified many of the virtues of grandparents the world over.

Giuseppa La Pietra was born on the 18th February, 1902. You will not find her in any history books or Google search engine. She was a simple yet extraordinary woman much loved and admired by her grandchildren. Due to circumstances of life I had the opportunity to spend just brief periods with her. We were separated by geographical distance – she was living in Italy and I was growing up in Australia. Even though we were separated in this way we maintained a strong bond that continues even after her death.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

My grandmother Giuseppa, or Josephine, was named after St Joseph a very well admired saint in Italy. Her surname – La Pietra translates in English to mean the rock. This name – the rock, described her character traits in many ways – but not her heart. She was strong, tenacious, and steadfast, but at the same time tender, loving, generous and joyful towards all and particularly her grandchildren.

My grandmother had 8 of her own children. She raised them in a world that was extremely poor, harsh and often dangerous – her life spanned two world wars. I vividly remember my grandmother as always animated and alert; she walked quickly and with purpose in her stride. Even when she was in her 80s we had trouble keeping up with her.

Her home was the epitome of hospitality. When grandchildren came to stay, often visiting from overseas she would prepare for their arrival with military precision. She could whip up a feast in what seemed like a few minutes.

My grandmother was a wonderful hugger; she embraced her grandchildren strongly with real affection. She was an attentive listener as well as being a wonderful story teller. We adored listening to her involved stories full of colourful descriptions of episodes from her life. Some of her recollections were hilariously funny, others sad and emotional. These stories were often laced with precious lessons about life.

Although she would often talk about the past with her grandchildren, she always looked with a sense of anticipation to the future. My grandmother was in many respects a thoroughly modern woman. My grandmother was wise – although she had no formal schooling she could size up a situation in an instant and was incredibly perceptive. In all, my grandmother was a truly inspiring, warm, loving and faithful example to her grandchildren and for this I give thanks.

May we continue to respect, cherish and nurture the enduring bonds of grandparents and their grandchildren.
God bless,

Sergio Rosato
Principal



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Carers,

TELL THEM FROM ME SURVEY DATA

Thank you to all of the parents who completed the Tell Them From Me survey last term. We have received the survey data and had time to read, dive deep into it and analyse it.

The survey includes seven separate measures which are scored on a ten-point scale.

Safety at School was the measure which rated the strongest on the survey. This data tells us that parents feel that the school supports children's behaviour, behaviour issues are dealt with in a timely manner, children feel safe at school, children feel safe going to and from school, gangs are not a problem at our school and there are no racist or ethnic tensions at our school.

Parents are Informed was the measure which rated the lowest on the survey. This data tells us that parents would like more information about their child's progress in school subjects, their child's social and emotional development, their child's behaviour whether positive or negative and whether or not their child was making adequate progress in school subjects.

When parents were given the opportunity to describe areas for change in the survey the two main areas were:

- More regular communication with classroom teachers
- Parents being informed if their child is receiving an award at our Effort in Learning Awards assemblies

In response to this survey data we will:

- further discuss our reporting process for 2024 with the hope to include an additional opportunity for formal parent/teacher conferences
- encourage teachers and parents to arrange meetings to discuss their child's learning, social and emotional development and progress more regularly and when required
- inform parents when their child is receiving an Effort in Learning Award at school assemblies beginning this term

We hope that these strategies will continue to build and maintain positive relationships between school and home.

NAPLAN 2023

Our NAPLAN results have been shared with the Year 3 and Year 5 parents this week. There have been changes made to the way the children's results are reported. Please see the Parent Fact Sheet below. We congratulate the students on their achievements, perseverance and resilience.

Many blessings,
Rebecca Lloyd
Assistant Principal

NAPLAN 2023 results: Information for parents and carers

What's changing?

From 2023, proficiency standards replace the previous reporting of student NAPLAN results that used numerical bands and the national minimum standard.

What are proficiency standards?

Proficiency standards describe what students are expected to know and should be able to do in literacy and numeracy at the time of NAPLAN.

There is a proficiency standard for each test area within each year level.

Students' results are measured against 4 levels of proficiency:

- **Exceeding:** The student's result exceeded expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** The student's result met challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
 - **Developing:** The student's result indicated that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** The student's result indicated that they did not achieve the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.



Has there been a change in what NAPLAN assesses?

No, there has not been a change in what NAPLAN assesses. NAPLAN continues to measure student achievement in numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Detailed information on the knowledge and skills being measured in each NAPLAN assessment is available at www.nap.edu.au

Your child's teacher can provide more information into how your child's NAPLAN result relates to their other school-based assessments and classroom learning, and any additional support your child might need.

Why has the reporting changed?

Proficiency standards provide clearer information about a student's NAPLAN achievement based on reasonable expectations of what students should be achieving at the time of testing.

The standards will allow you and your child's teachers to easily identify areas of strength, as well as any areas that may need more support.

How do I know if my child is meeting expectations?

A result in the *Exceeding* or *Strong* level means your child has met and/or exceeded expectations for their current stage of schooling.

A result in the *Developing* or *Needs additional support* level means your child has not yet demonstrated they are meeting expectations for their year level at the time of testing.

The results are simple to interpret and will allow you to easily identify areas where your child may require additional support.

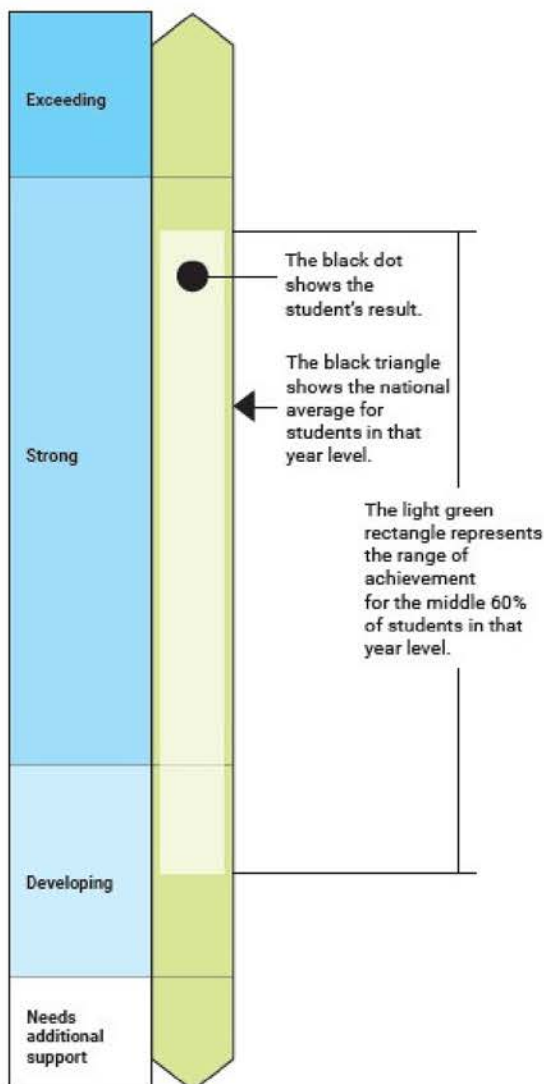
NAPLAN 2023 results: Information for parents and carers

How will proficiency standards appear on individual student reports (ISRs)?

The report shows 4 levels of proficiency - *Exceeding*, *Strong*, *Developing* and *Needs additional support*.

A student's result is shown as a black dot on an achievement scale for each assessment area, which shows increasing levels of knowledge, understanding and skills demonstrated in the assessments.

The new report continues to show each student's achievement against the national average (black triangle) and the range of achievement for the middle 60% of students in their year level (light green rectangle).



What skills are expected at each proficiency level?

Proficiency levels are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for your child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based on what has been taught in previous years of schooling.

Page 4 of the ISR includes a summary of the skills expected at each level of proficiency. Detailed proficiency level descriptions are available at www.nap.edu.au

Can I check my child's progress against previous NAPLAN reports?

Results from 2023 cannot be directly compared with results from 2008 to 2022 as:

- all schools now complete NAPLAN online
- the tests are held earlier in the year
- a new measurement scale that is more suited to the online tests has been introduced.

Questions?

If you have any further questions, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.

Your child's teacher can provide insight into how your child's NAPLAN result relates to their other school-based assessments and classroom learning, and any additional support your child might require.

NSW Education Standards Authority
NAPLAN team

Phone: 1300 119 556 or (02) 9367 8382

Email: naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Welcome back!

We have only just returned to a new school term and already we have had a lot to celebrate.

Last week, we celebrated **Multicultural Week** which culminated with Pyjama/Oodie Day. During these events, Bethany students raised more than \$1000 for the Vinnie's Winter Appeal. Thank you to all for your generosity. See the Bethany Facebook page for photos from the day.

This week we celebrated **Grandparents Day** on the Feast of St Anne and St Joachim who are the grandparents of Jesus. Last Sunday, 23rd July, was the 'World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly' a day established by Pope Francis in 2021. The theme of this day for 2023 is: "His mercy is from age to age" taken from Luke 1:50. Pope Francis' message about this day and the theme explains that God wants young people to bring joy to the hearts of the elderly. In a recent address to the faithful, Pope Francis comments "They [the elderly] remind us that old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the youth. Grandparents are often forgotten, and we forget the richness of preserving our roots and passing them on."

At Bethany, we are blessed to have the opportunity to celebrate with grandparents where faith can be passed on from one age to another.

A slideshow of Bethany students with their grandparents can be accessed via the Bethany Facebook page.

Curriculum

During Term 3, students in each grade will focus their learning in Religious Education on the following overarching questions:

Kindergarten: What did Jesus teach us about showing love for ourselves and others?

Year 1: What can I learn about God's family in my community?

Year 2: What is a sacrament?

Year 3: In what ways is Jesus the pathway to hope and joy in our world?

Year 4: Why do Catholics receive Sacraments?

Year 5: How does the Holy Spirit guide followers of Jesus to serve others as members of a church community?

Year 6: How are we stewards of Creation?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTINUED



Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist

The parish based sacramental program for First Holy Eucharist begins on August 2nd with a parent only information session.

Workshop sessions will take place each Wednesday from 9th – 30th August, 7-8pm in the Bethany School Hall. Attendance at all sessions (including the parent session) is compulsory. Students will receive the sacrament at the end of Term 3.

If you have any questions about this sacramental program, please contact Mrs Regina Rossetto (Sacramental Coordinator) at padrepio.org.au

Upcoming Dates

- **1st August** – Year 3 students attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Padre Pio Parish
- **4th August** – Year 6 attending Friday morning parish Mass at St Padre Pio Parish
- **6th August** – *Children's Sunday Parish Mass* – coordinated by Year 6. Note: this is also an enrolment Mass for students participating in the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist.
- **8th August** – St Mary of the Cross Mackillop Feast Day
- **15th August** – The Feast of the Assumption – Whole School Mass @9am – note this is a Holy Day of Obligation

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ADULT CONFIRMATION

An opportunity exists for adults 16 years and over, who have received Holy Communion, but not the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Requirements: Provide a copy of the Baptism certificate & attend the **Catechesis and Formation Day:**

02 September, 9.30am – 2.00pm in the Downstairs Hall, Bede Heather Centre (formerly known as the IFM),

1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. It is recommended for the Sponsors to attend also.

A light lunch is provided. Contribution: \$25.

Adult Confirmation will take place on **5 September, 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.**

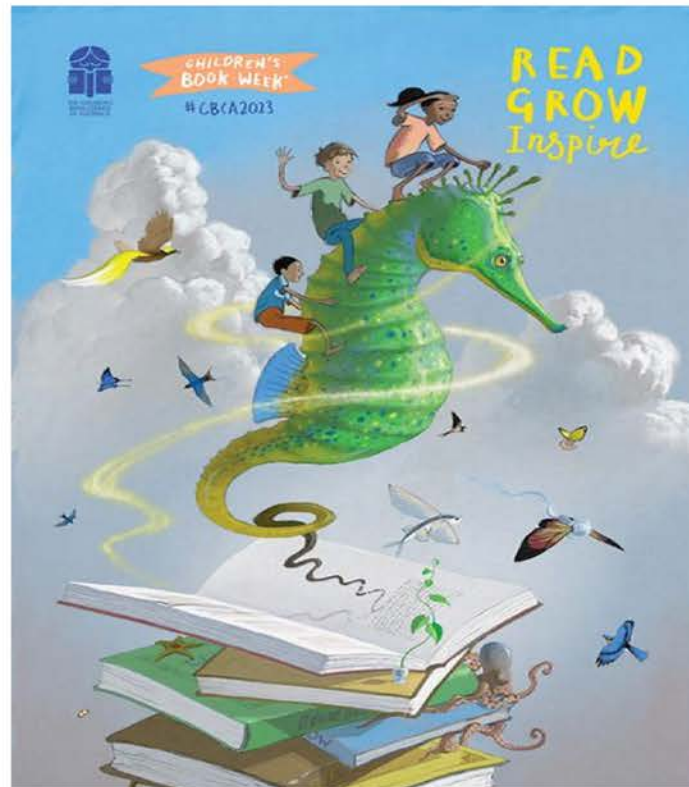
If interested, please contact the parish office on 4789 2232 or glenmorepark@parracatholic.org before 08 August.

LIBRARY



BOOK WEEK 2023

READ GROW INSPIRE



**Which book character will you dress as for
our Book Character Parade?**

Thursday 24th August

More details in coming weeks

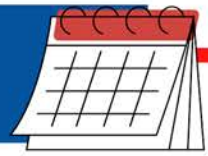


Closing date is Friday 18th August... Week 5.
Congratulations to the 71 students who have already completed the Premier's Reading Challenge for 2023.

With only 3 weeks left to log books for the PRC it's time to read those last few books and enter them on your Student Reading Record.

Please note that Book Club Issue 5 will not be distributed due to our Book Fair taking place this term. Issue 6 will be sent home later in the term.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



28th July	Year 5 Bathurst Excursion
16th August	Yr 6 Personal Development Parent Information Session via Zoom 7pm
18th August	Effort in Learning Awards Assemblies Years K-2 - 8:45am, Years 3-6 - 9:15am
21st to 24th August	Book Week - Read, Grow, Inspire
24th August	Book Character Parade



A day here or there doesn't seem like much
but absences add up 2 days a month adds
up to 4 weeks a year / 20 days a year
which is over one year of lost learning.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

every learner
every day



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese



Recent Compass Notifications

27/07/2023	Gardening Gloves for Year 5 students science lesson.
25/07/2023	Updated proposal for changes to school bus services.
25/07/2023	Whole School to Wear Full School Uniform Tomorrow
25/07/2023	2023 Non-Government Schools Census Collection Notice
24/07/2023	Clothing Pool opened today
21/07/2023	Student Safety: Walking to and from school
21/07/2023	Yrs 2-6 NETBALL TRIALS
19/07/2023	Sausage Sandwich Lunch Order Reminder
19/07/2023	Book Fair Volunteer Request
19/07/2023	Busways Proposed Changes to School Bus Services
18/07/2023	Traffic Safety and Flow During School Zone times



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



2 DAY VIP EVENT

20%
OFF
EVERYTHING*



AUGUST 3RD & 4TH



INSTORE & ONLINE

*T&C's apply, no rainchecks, savings off original prices.