

ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

Principal's News

Term 2- Week 5- Friday 26th May 2023

Dear Parent and Carers,

We are at the half-way point of the term and there has been lots going on at St Bernard's as you will see in this newsletter.

EDUCATION

NSS and Reading Rewards: On Wednesday we joined with children all around Australia to read the book *The Speedy Sloth*, a story about Spike, who wants to run fast and be in a race, despite being a sloth. It is a great story of resilience and reminded our students of our MJR focus NGU, or Never Give Up. Reading is a core life skill we highly value at St Bernard's. As well as learning, reading provides our children with important opportunities to rest, relax and extend their imaginations and knowledge as they engage with both fiction and non-fiction texts. Please support us to foster a love of reading by reading with your children each night. Please record this reading in the reading diary so that students can work towards our reading reward goals: 30 nights – a milkshake, 60 nights – free dress, and 90 nights – lunch with Mrs Marino!

Literacy PLC: Teachers met this week with CEWA Literacy Consultant Nicole Reilly to review their use of Brightpath to enhance the teaching of writing. We are excited to track our students' progress in our current writing genre, Narratives.

Early Years Team/Loose Parts: Thank you to our wonderful St Bernard's Early Years team: Mrs Sumner, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Donaldson, Mrs Venables and Mrs Bowen, which regularly meets to discuss best practice in Early Years education at St Bernard's. A current focus is supporting our Loose Parts Play across the school and we are excited to have recently purchased storage equipment for our Loose Parts Play materials. Watch this space!

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

First Holy Communion: Elsie Eyres in our Year 4 class received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion last Sunday. Thank you to Miss Hewitt, Fr Marlon and our staff for making this celebration possible. Congratulations, and well done, to Elsie!

Fr Marlon holidays & Confirmation: Fr Marlon is taking a well-deserved holiday starting in June and returning in August, and we will have visiting priests and deacons for Sunday Mass during this time. Please note that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be on Sunday 6th August at 8.30am, rather than Saturday 5th August at 5pm as previously scheduled.

COMMUNITY

P&F wish lists and scones: Thank you to our wonderful P&F members, who provided scones, jam and cream for our Mother's Day afternoon tea at the Dancesport Concert, as well as paying for the Dancesport tuition. Class room wish lists are also being finalised – we will let you know in a later newsletter what teachers have purchased for their class or learning area. The next P&F meeting will be on Thursday 8th June at 9am in the staff room. All are welcome!

STEWARDSHIP

Reports: Teachers are currently preparing reports to be sent home at the end of this term. There will be some changes to the information contained in our reports this semester as a result of a CEWA review of reporting practices across all schools. These changes will be covered in a letter which will be sent home with the reports. My thanks to our teachers for their work on reports, which provide important information for parents on their children's progress at school. Thank you, also, for the work they are doing to prepare Achievement Standard dot points for the reports so that parents understand what a C – or 'At Standard' – grade means their children have achieved. Further information on Achievement Standards is available from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority at <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/curriculum-browser>

Till next newsletter, take care and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

*God Bless,
Mrs Marino*

Library



I was thrilled to start Term 2 as St Bernard's Library teacher and even more thrilled to see so many new books which had been put on display disappear in the first week. Always a good sign! As well as having the opportunity to change their library books, students have also been playing a few library games and taking part in library scavenger hunts. The focus this term for students in Years 1-6 has been on selecting a suitable prose text for Oral Language presentations next week. Students have considered texts which are of interest to them, at their reading level, include an exciting part of the story and may have dialogue, all of which helps to engage the audience. We have broken down how to read fluently into several topics. Expression is important, along with clarity, volume, giving voice to characters, using punctuation markers, understanding how the characters are feeling and modifying the speed you read at according to what you are reading. Practice makes perfect! Meanwhile, the Pre-primary group listen to a story during their library time and complete an activity.

On Wednesday morning the whole school took part in National Simultaneous Storytime, reading the same book at the same time as other students all around Australia. This year's book was *The Speedy Sloth* by Rebecca Young. Students loved hearing the story of Spike the sloth who wanted to compete in a race and did herself and the other sloths proud ... even though she came last! Afterwards, we went onto the basketball court and completed a very short race in which everyone had to keep moving but the winner was the person who managed to come last. Quite a challenge for lots of people!

Happy reading!

Mrs Sumner

PS: There will be a Library Busy Bee on Friday 9th June from 1.30pm. Please come along to help sort our shelves. Children welcome, and afternoon tea provided!



Pre-Primary Springhaven Visit



As part of our Service Ministry at St. Bernard's, the Pre-Primary students visited Springhaven Aged Care Lodge this week. The students had time to meet the residents and share morning tea with them before heading out to do some planting. The Shire gardener had kindly organised some herbs and vegetable plants for us to plant in the raised beds. This was done under the supervision of Theresa and Lem from the Shire.

The students had a great time and especially enjoyed being given a treat of chocolate and a colouring in sheet to take home. In a few weeks we have another planting job to do at Kodja Place.

*Mrs Sumner
Bush School*



Merit and Reading Award Winners



Well done Stewart Eyres, Sam Clayton, Charlie Thorn, Logan Miotti, Jake Perry, Archie Thorn, Gypsee Maunder, Elyza Lomas, Mitchell Treeby, Spencer Grace and to Imogen Perry for reaching her 60 Nights of Reading free dress Award.



Congratulations to Marlie Matthews, Braxton and Katana Webb, Hannah Jiril, Jake and Grace Perry and Alex Shepherd who have all been reading at home and completing their reading diaries and were rewarded with a 30 Nights of reading milkshake- reward!

Outdoor Classroom Day

On Tuesday 6th June we will be having an outdoor classroom day with bush school activities. Students can come into school dressed as a pioneer and there will be prizes for the best dressed!

