

# ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

## Principal's News

*Term 4- Week 2- Friday 20th October 2023*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we are approaching the half-way point of the last term of 2023 and lots has been happening at St Bernard's. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and details of some of those events.

### EDUCATION

**Outdoor Classroom Day:** Yesterday we once again took part in World Outdoor Classroom Day which is a global celebration of the power of outdoor education for children. All our classes took the opportunity to head outside for some, or all, of their learning. We were blessed with great weather and the enjoyment was evident on the faces of all our children.

**Year 3/4 Camp:** Our Year 3/4 students headed off to Busselton for their annual overnight camp last week and had a fantastic time, as you will see later in this newsletter. Thank you to Miss Hewitt and Mrs Marinoni, and our parent volunteers, Mr Eyres and Mrs Wellstead, for making this camp possible. Congratulations to our students for their impeccable behaviour while they were away.

**World Teachers' Day:** Students wore hats of their own choosing last Friday to celebrate World Teachers' Day and the theme: 'Hats off to Teachers'. At St Bernard's we consider all our staff to be teachers, whether they are working in classrooms or administration, and we thank them all for all they do for our students and families.



### CATHOLIC IDENTITY

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Congratulations to Hannah Jiril, Georgie Matthews and Jake Perry who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time yesterday. This sacrament focuses on the redemptive power of seeking and receiving forgiveness, and we are all reminded of God's unending love and forgiveness as we receive this Sacrament. Well done Hannah, Georgie and Jake and thank you to Miss Hewitt for preparing our candidates and the Year 3/4 class for this sacrament.

**Rosary Rally:** The Rosary Rally on Sunday 22nd October was once again a lovely, combined school and parish celebration. I was not able to attend due to being in Melbourne but my thanks to everyone who attended and to all staff who helped to prepare for the day.





## **STEWARDSHIP**

**Staff:** It is with great sadness that I announce that Mrs Di Gardner will be leaving St Bernard's Primary School after more than 40 years of service. Mrs Gardner joined St Bernard's when it consisted of just two classes and was run by the Sisters of Mercy, and she has seen many developments and much progress over this time. Mrs Gardner most recently held the role of Teacher-Librarian and is currently on Long Service Leave. Mrs Gardner will be sadly missed from the St Bernard's school community, but we hope she won't be a stranger as she embarks on her well-earned retirement.

Last week I announced our new classroom teaching staff for 2024. We warmly welcome Mrs Nicole Jones to our K/PP class, as Mrs Teresa Donaldson moves into the Year 3/4 class, and Mrs Kirsten Kondonis takes over in our Year 5/6 class. A full staffing list for 2024 will be sent home with reports in Week 9.

## **COMMUNITY:**

**Grandparents' Day:** It was wonderful to welcome grandparents to St Bernard's last Thursday to celebrate Grandparents' Day. All classes took time out of their busy day to acknowledge the enormous role that grandparents play in the lives of children and to thank them for all that they do. A lovely afternoon tea was prepared by the students and staff, students performed the song 'Amazing' from the Cinderella production one last time and there were various other activities going on. It was most heart-warming to see so many of the children simply talking with their grandparents – a reminder of just how important they are in our children's lives.

**Welcome:** St Bernard's school community extends a very warm welcome to our new students and their families: James and Charlotte Gillet-Ratima in Kindy and Jnr. Stars, Daniel and Rhys Kondonis in PP and Year 3, and Nayah Sermon in Year 2.

God Bless,  
Mrs Marino





## Year 3/4

It has been an extremely busy start to Term 4 in the Year 3/4 class. This week we have celebrated Hannah, Georgie and Jake completing the Sacrament of First Reconciliation, which has been a very exciting time for these students. We also participated in Outdoor Classroom Day on Thursday with lots of our learning being completed outdoors. Last week we travelled to Busselton for our overnight camp. The two days were filled with lots of fun activities and ended with some tired students and adults! On the first day we stopped in Donnybrook at the Apple Park for morning tea, before travelling to the Busselton Jetty. We caught the train out to the end of the jetty and saw some dolphins along the way. We went to the underwater observatory and saw lots of fish, some crabs and the coral ecosystem below the jetty. It was then off to the beach and a sandcastle building competition. We then travelled to Mary Mackillop College, where students set up their beds in the school's multi-purpose room, had afternoon tea and a play to run off any excess energy then, after showers and a pizza dinner, we had our annual camp talent show. As always, the talent on display was amazing with lots of singing, dancing, joke-telling, drama performances and a magic show. After a good night's sleep we packed up and headed off to the Cape Naturalist Lighthouse where we walked one of the trails to the whale watching deck – and we were lucky enough to see lots of whales breaching and splashing along the coastline! We then drove to Monkey Business ropes course in Dunsborough, where the students spent nearly two hours challenging themselves on different levelled rope courses and zip lines. Once our time was up, we had lunch and then began our journey home, singing all the way into the school carpark! Thank you to all the students for their outstanding behaviour throughout the whole camp. Also, a big thank you to Mrs Marinoni for once again coming on camp and being our bus driver, as well as our two parent helpers, Mr Eyres and Mrs Wellstead.

There is still much more to come this term, both in and out of the classroom, and we look forward to the big events of Graduation and the Christmas Concert at the end of term.

Miss Hewitt

Year 3/4 Teacher





## Outdoor Classroom day

Students once again took part in the global Outdoor Classroom Day on Thursday 2nd November. St Bernard's students have lots of opportunities to be outside in our beautiful grounds and Bush School but on this day, everyone made a special effort to take their learning outside. Our Year 1/2 students found their classroom door locked when they got to school and had great fun setting up their classroom outside, where they stayed for all of their learning. World Outdoor Classroom Day celebrates the benefits of getting outside into nature for children's learning and development.





## Merit and Reading Award Winners



Congratulations to this week's Merit Awards winners: Poppy Atkinson, Daniel Kondonis, Rhys Kondonis, Reeve Noonan and Eli Meyer as well as the whole year 3/4 class for the outstanding respectful behaviors demonstrated whilst away on camp. Well done!



Congratualtions to our MJR Gotcha prize winners Lincoln Bellotti, Adriana Kahn, Marvella Villanueva, Elyza Lomas and Mart Rutherford.



Well done to the following students for reaching their 30 day milkshake reading reward: Logan Miotti, Kuini Whanarere and Cru'Shaarn Peneha-Patea.



**Reading Rewards**  
90 Day Lunch with Mrs Marino; Adriana Kahn, Scott Bilney, Leo Macri, Marvella Villanueva, Archie Thorn, Charlie Miotti, Damon Mules, Gypsee Maunder, Lyndi Lomas.  
120 Day Ice cream reward; Reeve Noonan, Mart Rutherford, Hannah Jiril, James Matthews and Fiona Rose. ***Congratualtions and keep up the great reading!***

