

ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

Principal's News

Term 4- Week 8- Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our final school newsletter for 2023 and I would like to thank you for your support of our school and our staff throughout the year. It has been a wonderful year, filled with learning, fun and experiences from which I am sure many memories have been made. The learning continues at St Bernard's, and I am happy to let you know about some of the things which have been going on at school in these last few weeks.

EDUCATION

Year 1/2 Vegetable Garden: Our Year 1/2 students most definitely have green thumbs, with their vegetable garden thriving and providing a steady supply of herbs and vegetables such as parsley, spinach and lettuce. This is hands-on learning at its best and the students have loved weeding and watering their garden beds, taste testing the produce and eventually harvesting to take home to use in cooking. Next year we look forward to more planting!

Bush Kindy: Our Early Childhood programs at St Bernard's continue to go from strength to strength and each Friday morning Mrs Sumner and Mrs Matthews have been welcoming an intrepid band of Bush Kindy students. With 19 enrolments, our class is almost full, and the students spend the morning exploring our Bush School classroom, completing nature craft activities and following up on their own inquires and investigations. Thank you to Mrs Sumner and Mrs Matthews for the great job they have done in Bush Kindy and we look forward to both Bush Kindy and Jnr. Stars returning in 2023.

Swimming Lessons: Congratulations to our students for completing their swimming lessons over the past two weeks. The weather and cold water presented their usual challenges, but our students were up to it and everyone did well to extend their swimming capabilities.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Graduation Mass: Our Year 6 Graduation Mass is a special event which takes place at St Bernard's Church just before the Graduation and Class Awards Ceremony. The Mass gives our students, staff and families the opportunity to give thanks for the blessings they have received throughout the year and, for our Year 6 students and their families, throughout the course of their primary school years. All families are welcome to join us at this Mass which starts at 4.45pm on Tuesday 5th December.

STEWARDSHIP

Catholic School Advisory Council: The final meeting for 2023 was held last week and I would like to thank all members of the council for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. Chairperson Joel Treeby, Treasurer-elect Shannon Ivey, P&F representative Michael Rose, and Raymond Noonan are all returning members in 2024 but we farewell Mrs Kate Clayton who is retiring from the council after four years. Mrs Clayton has worked tirelessly for St Bernard's over the years and has been involved in many initiatives, as well as serving as secretary for the CSAC. As Darcie and Sam move onto high school, we thank her for her service and wish her and her family well in the future.

Staff: Sadly, I have to announce that Mrs Kath Wharton, a long-time Education Assistant at St Bernard's, has decided to retire at the end of the year. Mrs Wharton and her husband Peter are looking forward to enjoying more time in Busselton and travels further beyond, with a more relaxed schedule! Thank you to Kath for all she has done at St Bernard's and best wishes for the future.

COMMUNITY:

End of Year Functions: As our year draws to a close, a reminder of our final end of year functions: the Graduation and Class Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 5th December from 6pm at the Memorial Hall and the Nativity and Christmas Concert on Thursday 7th December. Please see your School Stream feed for more information on both these events and contact our school office for more information.

Finally to those families leaving St Bernard's this year: thank you for being part of our family and for all you and your children have brought to our school. Please know that you leave with our very best wishes for the future and please feel welcome to drop in and see us any time when you are passing. To those families returning in 2024: have a happy holiday, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you next year!

God Bless,
Mrs Marino

Pre-Primary

Throughout 2023 the Pre-Primary students on Bush School days have been working with the Kojonup Shire gardeners as part of their Service Ministry to help beautify areas around the town. The Pre-Primaries visited Springhaven Aged Care Lodge in Term Two, and the students had time to meet the residents and share morning tea before heading out to do some planting. Theresa and Lem (both former and current St Bernard's parents) had organised some herbs and vegetable plants to be planted in raised garden beds and helped the students to plant. The students had a great time and especially enjoyed being given a treat of a chocolate and a colouring-in sheet to take home.

The next job in Term Three was planting everlasting seeds in large tubs at the front of Kodja Place and at an adjacent garden, an activity organised by Marina from the Shire and Jill from Kodja Place. This time Theresa and James helped and, while the weather was not kind to us, the children braved the elements and still had fun. The tubs were in full flower by spring and looked fantastic.

In Term Four the focus was Principi Park near the bridge and, under the guidance of Theresa, Lem and James new plants and seedlings transformed the small garden. Last week the students returned to see how the plants were doing. Everyone was happy to see they were doing well, and the students added mulch around the trees to stop the weeds and to help with water retention. Then it was over to Peace Park to rake up leaves to make the space more presentable.

The students have greatly enjoyed their Service Ministry with the Shire gardeners this year. Thank you to Marina Murray and her team – especially Theresa, Lem and James - for helping us and for allowing the students to help for the benefit of the community.

Mrs Sumner

Bush School Teacher





Merit and Reading Award Winners



Congratulations to these fabulous readers for reaching their 90 day reading reward. Eli Meyer, Peter Ivey, Darcie Clayton, Amada Grace and Fiona Rose.



Congratulations to this weeks merit certificate winners; Katana Webb, George Gercia, Patrick Wellstead, Chevin Noonan, Hanah Jiril, Merliah Gementiza and Ariaiah Whanarere.

Waste wise Wednesday winner Jarvis Noonan, Pictured with his new Lunch box from the prize box.



Well done to the year 1/2 class on a fabulous run with Swimming lessons, not an item of clothing was lost and they are commended on their cooperation.



The last group of MJR winners for 2023, well done to Darcie Clayton, Olivia Fisher, Aurora Kahn, Noah Garcia and Mart Ritherford, keep aiming to make Jesus real in everyday moments of your life.



Congratulations to Dasiy Wellstead, Kaylee Goodall and Alexander Shepherd on the completion of their Macqlit program.