

ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

Principal's News

Term 1 - Week 8 - Friday 22nd March

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Term 1 draws to a close, I hope you enjoy the snapshot of all that has been going on at school over the past few weeks. It has been a short but busy term, and I am sure we are all looking forward to a rest over Easter and the school holidays. I will be joining the Year 5/6 students on camp next week along with Mrs Kondonis, Mrs Worthington and Miss Taplin. We are excited for a full program of activities for the week at Woodman Point Recreation Ground and look forward to returning to school in time for the end of the last day of term.

EDUCATION

Early Years Conference: In Week 6 I attended the CEWA Early Years Conference in Perth along with our amazing Early Childhood Education team of Mrs Matthews, Mrs Sumner, Mrs Jones, Mrs Bowen and Mrs Venables. The conference was a fantastic opportunity to hear both international and national keynote speakers and to take part in concurrent sessions which extended our learning and understanding of Early Childhood Education. As you know, St Bernard's is committed to providing quality Early Childhood programs and the conference affirmed our approach to this critical stage in a child's life and educational journey. We left knowing that by focusing on play and nature-based pedagogies we are giving all our students a fantastic start that will support them throughout primary school, high school, and beyond, as they become lifelong learners.

NAPLAN: Year 3 and 5 students have been sitting the NAPLAN over the past two weeks, starting with Writing, and then moving onto Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy. The students have done an amazing job and should be congratulated on the way they have approached these assessments which are designed to provide both school level, state-wide and national comparative data for schools to use to drive future student improvement. Results should be to hand by the end of Term Two.

URStrong: Our URSTRONG journey continues with staff due to complete their final training session on Monday. Thank you to all parents who attended our Parent-Child Language of Friendship session either at school or at home on Wednesday evening. It is so important that we are all working together to support our students develop healthy relationships and learn the tools they need to become Friendship Ninjas!



Thank you to parents who joined our URSTRONG Language of Friendship workshop on Wednesday, either at school or at home. We hope you found it helpful as you help your children to develop healthy friendships



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Clean-up Australia Day: As part of our commitment to the Catholic faith we are called to be good citizens who care for the environment and our school community came together to do just that in Week 7 when we took part in a Clean-up Australia Day event here at school. Thank you to Mrs Sumner for organising this day and to Adele Scarfone for coming in to support the students as they collected rubbish from around the school and church, and then sorted it according to whether it was reusable, recyclable, or just rubbish.

Holy Week and Stations of the Cross: This week marks the end of the Church season of Lent and the start of Holy Week, leading us into Easter which extends for six weeks as we remember the time Jesus spent with his disciples following his resurrection. We will have the Stations of the Cross at school on the last Thursday of term, March 28th, starting in the Undercover Area at 9am. We would love for parents, relatives and friends to join us.

STEWARDSHIP

Capital Development Program grant: At the end of last year we received confirmation of our successful CDP grant for a new multipurpose room and Year 1/2 classroom upgrade, which was very exciting. Unfortunately, the new year brought news that the grant was for the new multipurpose room only, meaning that we will manage the Year 1/2 classroom upgrade ourselves using school reserve funds. It is very exciting to begin the process of planning for our new multipurpose room which will be used for Art, Science and STEM activities, as well as providing us with an indoor whole school gathering place and a home for our Monday morning playgroup. I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Engawa Architects to oversee the multipurpose room building and have begun the process of finalising the location and plans for the new building. I will keep you updated on progress in future newsletters.

COMMUNITY:

Multicultural Evening: What a wonderful night last Wednesday was as the St Bernard's school community came together to celebrate our diverse and special cohort of families and staff. Thank you to everyone who attended and very special thanks to Mrs Bowen, our EAL/D co-ordinator, who organised and hosted the evening. As you will see later in this newsletter, we shared wonderful food and music, learnt more about some of the cultures and countries that make up the St Bernard's community and had a lovely night together. We are very blessed to have such a rich and diverse range of backgrounds and cultures at our school.

P&F Easter Raffle: Many thanks to our P&F for organising the biennial Easter raffle and a big thank you to our families for donating eggs and chocolates for the raffle. Our Year 5/6 students have been busy selling tickets which will be on sale right up until the draw next Thursday at 2.30pm.

Have a safe and happy holidays. God Bless,

Mrs Marino

Clean up Australia Day & Katanning Sunsmart Tennis competition

Schools Classic Tennis Tournament

The Schools Classic Tennis Tournament was held in Katanning on Monday 11th March and St Bernard's was represented by Ryan Mackean, Archie Thorn, Braxton Webb, Spencer Grace, Gypsee Maunder and Kaylee Goodall. The students are to be congratulated on the way they approached each game and how they encouraged and supported each other. The team won a few games, but more importantly, their tennis skills improved throughout the day.

There were 10 school competing in the tournament. After completing two round robins and having cross-over finals, the winners of the day were Kojonup District High School and Broomehill/Tambellup Primary Schools. We wish them all the best as they compete in Perth representing the Great Southern.

Peta Marinoni



Clean up Australia day

On Tuesday 5th March our students took part in the Clean up Australia day challenge. What started as a small community event to clean up the Sydney Harbour back in 1990, has now become the nations largest community based environmental event. Students were delegated an area and with their gloves on, set off to fill their bags with trash. You may have noticed it is looking cleaner around the church, after the year 5/6s came back to school with bags full. Thankyou to Adele Scarfone from Enviro-on-ground services for coming and talking with the students about taking care of our environment.



Multicultural Evening

Last week's Multicultural Evening was a great success with many families joining us for a night of shared food and friendship as we celebrated the diverse multicultural community that makes up St Bernard's School.

We shared some lovely food and heard from some of our students about their cultures, including Rhys, Daniel and Jayden singing the Zimbabwean national anthem; Marvella and Juno singing a Filipino nursery rhyme; Aleigha, Brax, Evie and Archie singing a song in Maori; Merliah giving us some fun facts about the Philippines and George and Mart's mum, Marju, telling us about Estonia where she is from.

Two highlights of the night were Carter's dad Mitch's Welcome to Country, and Aleigha's moving solo sung in Maori. We also enjoyed our whole school choir's rendition of Everyone Belongs, a great song to celebrate our multicultural world.

We had some fun quizzes on the night with most people voting for pineapple to stay on pizza, most thinking the pavlova originated in New Zealand, and everyone agreeing spanakopita was a Greek dish. Students were also able to place a pin in the place their family came from on the world map.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped to make the night so special, and special thanks to Mrs Bowen, our EAL/D coordinator, who organised and hosted the evening.



Merit Certificates and Reading awards

MERIT CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to our merit certificate award winners, Kaylee Goodall, Alex Shepherd, Leamm Villoria, Hannah Jiril, Fiona Rose, Anastasia Mules, Naveah Hinkley and James Gillett-Ratima and a very special award for James Matthews for his hard work in the Mini Lit program. Well done to you all.

READING AWARDS

These champions have already completed their 30 nights of reading. Well done to our year 5/6s Marlie Matthews, Gypsee Maunder, Spencer Grace, Chevin Noonan and Ryan Mackean. Year 3/4 students that received their certificates were Leamm Villoria, Rhys Kondonis, Hannah Jiril and Georgie Matthews, and from the year 1/2 Class, Damon Mules, Fiona Rose, Deanne Collins, Marvella Villanueva and Mart Rutherford, Such a great effort by you all.



MJR AWARDS

Students who are caught displaying Make Jesus Real (MJR) behaviors receive 'Gotchas' and their names go into a draw for a prize. This week Gus Thorn, Patrick Wellstead, Marvella Villanueva and Nevaeh Hinkley were the winners and are very their prizes

