

ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

Principal's Report

Term 2 - Week 4 - Friday 22nd May

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome our students back to school on Monday and great to see those who have been away for so long. The week has gone well and I thank you for your support of our school and our staff, as well as supporting your children to manage the return to fulltime school.

While restrictions and precautions remain in place, we have been able to welcome back our parent groups – the P&F and the School Board – as long as meetings happen after school and appropriate social distancing is in place. On Wednesday the P&F held its first meeting since February and it was lovely to see everyone. The P&F is an amazing group of parents which works so hard to support all students at St Bernard's. This year already they have spent \$10 000 on various projects including the Year 5/6 camp to Rottneest, the Year 6 leavers' shirts and class wishlists. I encourage you to support the P&F in whatever way you can to help their great work continue.

I would like to share the report I wrote for this first P&F meeting in three months, reflecting some of the things that have been going at school.

P&F Principal Report – May 20 2020

As I write this report, I am reflecting on the very different circumstances in which our last meeting took place and how quickly events overtook us. In the space of just three months we have moved progressively into a lockdown situation at school, supported the children of essential workers to enable their parents to keep working, navigated remote learning delivery for our students and, just this week, managed a return to compulsory schooling onsite and a transition back to fulltime schooling for many children. It has certainly been a rollercoaster ride!

In a time of great uncertainty, where outcomes are unknown, and messaging is inevitably confusing and contradictory, I cannot express my thanks enough for the calm and measured approach of our staff and families. This approach has helped us to navigate these difficult times with the minimum of stress.

To our staff, and especially our classroom teachers who bore the main burden of remote learning delivery, my sincere thanks. The program delivered to our students was of the highest quality and has ensured the continuation of student learning with the least amount of disruption. Miss Plakakis, Miss Pavlovic, Miss Hewitt and Mr & Mrs Bell worked extremely hard to prepare, deliver and monitor remote and I am so grateful to them for their professionalism and their thorough approach, in what is for most of them their first or second year of teaching.

Our subject specialist teachers, Mrs Venables and Mrs Jackson, supported the classroom teachers admirably in the key learning areas of English and Mathematics and their expertise and collaboration was invaluable. My thanks to these incredible educators.

Our specialist teachers, Mrs Shepherd, Mrs Marinoni, Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Thorn, ensured our students engaged with the full range of learning opportunities across the curriculum. Thank you to all these creative and talented teachers.

Our Education Assistants – Mrs Wharton, Mrs Smart, Miss Wright, Miss Sugg and Mrs Davies - provided invaluable support to teachers and students throughout. Thank you to all our EAs for their hard work, patience and support.

Mrs Matthews has ensured even our youngest cohort – our Little Stars playgroup children – have been provided with remote learning in the form of amazing Little Stars packs each week. The positive feedback she has received – sometimes from mums feeling isolated at home with toddlers – has been wonderful to hear. Thank you to Mel for her enthusiasm and commitment.

I would like to make special mention of our cleaner, Mrs Annette Sawyer, who has increased her hours and daily cleaning in response to government requirements, and to all our staff who have maintained cleaning routines in classrooms, the playground and toilets throughout the day. With no government funding provided, there is simply no way we could have met these extra requirements without the assistance of all staff.

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Principal's Report - Continued....

Our Admin and Finance staff, Mrs Bilney, Mrs Sibley and Mrs Cant, have ensured the smooth running of the school throughout and maintained communication between school and home. Mr Rob Brown has stepped in as grounds person, following the illness and resignation of Mr Hanekamp. We are so grateful to Brownie for all he does at our school. Mr H is thankfully recovering well from his most recent operations but now faces a significant period of recovery and a reassessment of his health goals and priorities in order to reach full health again. Finally, today we were thrilled to welcome Mrs Gardner back to the school and the library, meaning we now have a full cohort of staff at school.

My thanks to everyone for all their contributions, care and concern on behalf of our students and families during this time.

School returned to compulsory attendance from Monday and the next two weeks will be a transition phase with EAs in all classrooms to support the learning and pastoral care of students. All restrictions and precautions remain in place, in line with the requirements of the Australian Health Principal Protection Committee, Western Australian government and CEWA. Until we receive updated advice, we cannot allow parents on site during the school day and school drop off and pick up continues in the car park. Whole school gatherings are also not allowed at the current time and we are keeping class groups separate as much as possible with staggered recess and lunch times until further notice. We are hopeful of running our cross country carnival in a modified format in Week 9, but we will make this decision closer to the time. Reporting for Semester One is still to be confirmed by the School Standards Curriculum Authority, but we expect it to be in a modified format to reflect the significant disruptions to teaching and learning so far this year. All updates will be provided to families as soon as possible.

Finally, my grateful thanks to you, our parent group for your support of our school and staff, both individually and collectively. Your commitment to remote learning with your children has been amazing and your patience and positive collaboration with our teachers has been gratefully received. We fully understand the challenge of remote learning for our parents, as they juggle the continuing demands of their normal work and family responsibilities, and we are so grateful to you for your persistence throughout this time. As we continue to adjust to our new normal, I know we will emerge from this a stronger and united community, with the health and wellbeing of our students and your children at the heart of all we do.

Take care and God Bless,

Mrs Marino



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A Smart Start & Minderoo Packages

A big thank you to A Smart Start (Great Southern) & Minderoo Foundation who this week delivered wonderful activity and health packages to our 3, 4 & 5 year olds at St Bernard's, with the thought that lots of people would be spending extra time at home with little ones. Safe to say our Little Stars Playgroup families and our K/PP students were over the moon to receive these bags of goodies.



Taco Friday

This term in Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 Health, students have been learning about healthy foods and healthy eating. Last Friday the students had fun making tacos and fruit platters for lunch. Everyone had a great time cutting the vegetables, wearing goggles to stop the onion juices, and most of all, eating the yummy food. We definitely have some chefs in the making! A big thank you to Mrs Davies and Mrs Wharton for all of their help with the cooking and cleaning up.

Miss Hewitt and Mrs Marinoni



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P & F News

Next P & F Meeting - June 24th.

Fundraiser tea towels will be for sale in the front office - Artwork by Lisa Hart

A new style of hat will be available to try on in front office soon - watch this space!

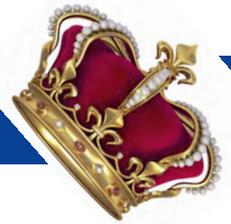


Canteen

No Canteen - Another update will be given in the next newsletter June 5th



A ROYAL Affair in K/PP



Today we dressed up as royals to celebrate our week of 'All things Royal!' We had a royal banquet including cupcakes and pizzas - food fit for royals. Throughout the week we made crowns, decorated a chalis to drink from and made feather pens!



Birthday messages

LETS CELEBRATE
- HIP HIP HOORAY! -

DAVID DE GUZMAN

22 MAY

OLIVER SHEPHERD

30 MAY

