

# ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

Principal's News

Term 4 - Week 4 - Friday November 6th

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the mid-point of this last term of the year things are starting to get busy for our teachers, staff and students. Our end of year celebrations and functions are approaching and the reality that COVID-19 Stage 4 restrictions remain in place for WA unfortunately means our events will look a little different this year. Thank you for your continued understanding and support of your children and our school, and be assured the safety of all members of our school and wider community is at the heart of the decisions we make.

## Graduation and Awards Ceremony

The COVID-19 pandemic and continued Stage 4 restrictions in WA have necessitated changes to our Graduation and Awards Ceremony this year. While change is always unsettling, it is also an opportunity to explore possibilities and different ways of doing things. While we have no choices in the changes we have had to make this year, with your support we will make this a special celebration for our students, staff and families. Please see the note which went home on Wednesday and on your Connected App.

## Year 3/4 Camp

Thank you to our staff and parents for helping to make the Year 3/4 camp a success. This is a great opportunity for our students to experience independence and out of school learning prior to their longer Year 5/6 camp. My thanks to Miss Hewitt, Mrs Wharton and Mrs Marinoni for their organisation and providing supervision, and to our parent helpers, Mr Smith and Mr Thorn, as well as to all parents for their donations of food. Thank you also to Travis at Kojonup Bus Service for the hire of the bus and to St Joseph's College in Albany for the provision of overnight accommodation in their school gym and assistance with breakfast and lunch on Friday.

## Bush School and Pre-Kindy Jnr. Stars Information Session

As we turn our thoughts to next year, there are two important initiatives happening at our school: ***Bush School and the new 3 year old Jnr. Stars Pre-Kindy program.*** Next year, our Pre-Primary students will spend Tuesdays outside in our Bush School area, which is the strip of land along the fence line on Katanning Road. Previously an unused area, this land will become our Bush School area for our Pre Primary and students from all year levels to benefit. There is some groundbreaking work happening in the area of engaging students through outdoor learning and play experiences and I am so proud that our school is going to be at the forefront of this work with our unique Bush School experience.

We are also very excited to be welcoming our 3 year old Jnr. Stars to Pre-Kindy on Tuesdays at St Bernard's from 2021, complementing our early years approach with our Little Stars playgroup on Mondays. This will be a one day a week, play-based program, run by Mrs Matthews, for children who have turned 3. To find out more about these two great initiatives, please come along to our Information Session on ***Tuesday 17th November at 1.30pm in the school Library*** - afternoon tea and a creche supplied. Please spread the word!

Take care and God Bless,

*Mrs Marino*



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## Recycled Hat Parade - Melbourne Cup

Our recycled hat parade for Melbourne Cup day saw some amazing creations! Well done to everyone for their efforts and congratulations to our winners who will receive a Book Fair pack next week.



## Morning Tea for Mr Brown

There was a special morning tea at school on Wednesday to farewell Mr Brown, or 'Brownie', who, along with his wife Daniella, has helped us out for much of this year in our grounds.

We are so grateful to Brownie and Daniella for all the work they have done and for keeping our school gardens, ovals and surrounds looking so good. Brownie has also upskilled our Year 5 and 6 students on correct protocol when raising and lowering our flags, including flying at half mast when necessary.

It has been great to have Brownie around our school and we hope he won't be a stranger in the future!

We were also thrilled to have Mrs Agnes Paini at the morning tea. Agnes is a stalwart member of the St Bernard's Parish and has recently completed the St Bernard's Parish history book, which is an amazing achievement. It was great to see Agnes out and about again after a recent illness and we look forward to seeing her at school morning teas in the future.

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## K/PP

This term in K/PP we have been talking all things dinosaurs! There is so much information to learn about dinosaurs and we are having the best time investigating all there is to know. We have grown our very own dinosaur right here in the classroom and at the moment we are waiting for our swimming reptiles to hatch!

This week we started looking at how we know so much about dinosaurs if people were never on earth to see them. That got us talking about fossils! Through our learning journey we discovered that the scientists who study fossils are called palaeontologists. Palaeontologists have found and studied fossils all over the world - even in Antarctica! We thought we might like to have a go at being palaeontologists on Tuesday, so we got our pickaxes, brushes, magnifying glasses and sieves, and we went up to the bush to see if we could find any fossils in the sedimentary rock.

We came back with quite a few rocks and will continue to see what we can discover from them! We are always busy learning down here in K/PP so stay tuned to see what we uncover next!

*Miss Plakakis*



## Technologies

This term in Technologies, we have been developing our coding systems and algorithm writing skills by applying them to simulated activities and applications. Students have been introduced to the “Hour of Code” model used by schools across Australia. The hour of code tutors students through a sequence of activities with increasing difficulty. If parents are interested in trying Hour of Code it is available for free at <https://code.org/minecraft> - but be warned, it can be quite addictive!

Pre-Primary to Year 4 students have been practising the sequence of coding using the free application, Scratch Jr. Students have made short cartoon sequences using up to four frames and their own voices for added humour. This application is available free and can be downloaded to iPads and devices. Year 5/6 students have been challenged by 8-bit ASCII Codes and Binary numbers. This is the language used for information exchange across computers and devices. The ASCII coding system is the English equivalent of human language. There are hundreds of computer and programming languages which are used in computer information interchange, storage and writing programs. It is very intriguing to be teaching content that we, as parents and teachers, were never taught at school!

*Mrs Shepherd*



## SCHOOL NEWS

### P & F Fundraiser

Please don't forget to order your 2021 school fundraiser calendar.

Please contact Liz Robertson & Leonie Smith to order.

**Liz 0428 841 450 Leonie 0488 195 314**



### WAAPA Summer School 2021

This summer WAAPA is thrilled to be able to offer an exciting school holiday program at our campus in Mount Lawley. There are classes for students from Year 1 to Year 12 in drama, acting, screen performance, film making, music theatre and of course Shakespeare.

For information about the many courses on offer please visit [waapa.ecu.edu.au/summer-school](http://waapa.ecu.edu.au/summer-school) or contact **Gabrielle Metcalf** at [explore.waapa@ecu.edu.au](mailto:explore.waapa@ecu.edu.au) or **9370 6775**

# ST. BERNARD'S NEWSLETTER

## Merit Award Winners



Congratulations to: Ruben Stansbury, Oscar Fisher, Matt Cant, Archie Atkinson, Will Sibley, Deekin Tunui, James Smith, Kate McGuire, Lexi Greenup, Alec Treeby, Leeam Viloría, Grace Perry, and George Garcia.

## MJR AWARD WINNERS



Well Done to our MJR  
Winners:  
James Smith, Brax Webb,  
Katana Webb  
and Elsie Eyres.

## Term Planner - (Week 5 & 6)

November 9	November 10	November 11	November 12	November 13
Gathering and Little Stars – 9-11am		Story Telling Night		Merit Assembly – Yr 5/6 item
November 16	November 17	November 18	November 19	November 20
Little Stars – 9-11am	Parent information session Bush School	1/2 Oral Language 9am	K/PP Oral Language 2.00pm	Newsletter Inflatable Fun Day
3/4 Oral Language 1.30pm	Yr 6 Oral language (debate) to be confirmed *possible change of date and time			