

ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

Principal's News

Term 1- Week 5- Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Parent and Carers,

Welcome to this week's newsletter, keeping you updated on what has been happening at St Bernard's.

EDUCATION

All our students are settling into their classroom learning routines and there is a buzz of activity in the air every day. It has been most pleasing to see routines from the previous year level passed on to the next, with students slipping quickly into routines around group work and independent learning. Well done to our students and staff who have worked so hard over the past few years to embed these routines and behaviours, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy learning, and to make this simply *what we do at St Bernard's*.

Enrichment Team: Congratulations to the 2022 St Bernard's Enrichment Team: Alexander Mathwin, Alexis Greenup, Kyle Pollard, Moana Te-Aotonga, Poppy Atkinson, James Smith, Stuart Eyres and Adrianna Kahn. Lead by Miss Hewitt this year, the team will work together each Wednesday afternoon developing their creative and critical thinking skills and working out team roles and strengths in preparation for the Creative Edge Thinking Challenge at Curtin University in August.

Bush School: I had a great time yesterday afternoon accompanying the Year 1/2 students to Bush School, and I always enjoy watching our Pre-Primary students making the trek across the oval to Bush School on Tuesdays. It is fascinating to watch the children design, create and build a range of structures in our Bush School grounds – from mud puddles to elaborate two-storey cubby houses complete with pulley systems and safety features – all the while building their skills of collaboration, creativity and problem solving. Take a look further in this newsletter to get an insight into what goes on during a day at Pre-Primary Bush School!

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Lent: The Church season of Lent began on Wednesday with liturgies in each class for the Distribution of the Ashes. Students have all worked to prepare their Lenten journeys for the next 40 days, focusing on the four key elements of Lent: prayer, fasting (from behaviours, as well as things), almsgiving and repentance.

Shrove Tuesday: The day before Lent is Shrove Tuesday, or pancake day, when people traditionally prepared for the season of fasting by using up their pantry staples to make pancakes. Our students were happy to keep this tradition going on Tuesday with plenty of pancakes made and eaten in all our classrooms! Many thanks to the P&F who provided the ingredients in lieu of being able to come into school to assist with making pancakes. We are very grateful for the P&F's support.

STEWARDSHIP

COVID-19 restrictions: Well done to our Year 3-6 students who began wearing masks at school from yesterday, and thank you to you, their parents, for supporting them in this new requirement. The students are doing a great job of managing the challenges of wearing a mask and we congratulate them on their maturity and resilience in these challenging times. Thank you to everyone for continuing to follow COVID-19 restrictions to try to keep our school safe from the disease and free of lockdown and isolation requirements.

COMMUNITY

New Families: We are happy to welcome two new students this week: Pelden Wangchuk and Merliah Gementiza both in Year 2. A warm welcome to our new students and their families.

Project Compassion boxes: St Bernard's families have always had a strong sense of community, extending beyond the boundaries of our school, town, state and country. Project Compassion boxes were sent home with students yesterday and contributing any loose coin or spare change you might have to these boxes will help to support those less fortunate than ourselves. The Project Compassion website is a great starting point for conversations with children about how we can all do our little bit to help support the community of people around the world. Take a look at <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/> Boxes will be due back to school at the end of Week 1, Term 2.

Enjoy the long weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school for the second half of Term One.

Take care and God Bless,

Mrs Marino



Pre-Primary Bush School



Bush School has got off to a great start in 2022 with the Pre-Primary group raring to go every Tuesday morning. We start off with a meeting to revisit things from the week before, discuss points of interest and outline the day's events. So far this term cubbies and insects have been the key players and this week we did some cooking in Nature's Kitchen, using a beautiful supply of natural ingredients!

Ants have been the main interest focus over the past few weeks with the children discovering mounds, following ant trails and pondering "why ants were climbing a tree?" Back in the Rainbow Room, on the Internet, we researched what the inside of an ant mound looks like and the children created their own insect using transient art pieces of natural objects and remembering the body parts taught in class with Miss Lock.

Cubbies have been a popular activity - usually created by another class and modified by the Pre-Primaries! The cubbies consist of pallets and planks of wood and other heavy materials, but this does not deter our young builders! How to move these heavy items is an authentic problem solving exercise in itself. Here is an excerpt from last week's Bush School diary:

"A big attraction today was the cubby made by another class using pallets and planks; this leaned against a tree. Finley immediately called it, "the two storey house". He wobbled a branch and said "this can be a Thermomix"; "there's a look out- just like a two storey house!" He went on to name parts of a house to Imogen. They climbed up to the planks on the top working out the best way to get there. Fiona also joined them, as did Dee, problem solving how to get up to the top safely. Finley and James moved more smaller pallets with the help of Damon to add to this cubby. They showed great team work. Under the cubby there was a space that was shared just like on the top, as space was limited. Here they settled to using the clipboards and whiteboards to draw freely. The cubby was also the perfect place for crunch and sip."

In this one morning of activity, we see so many of the Early Years Learning Framework capabilities put to the test and achieved by our students.

*Mrs Sumner,
Bush School Teacher*



The Year 1/2 students also enjoyed adding to the two storey cubby when they went out for Bush School on Thursday afternoon!

Shrove Tuesday



Pancakes are traditionally made on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent. The tradition stems from a time when people used to clean out their pantries of staples such as flour, eggs, milk and sugar in preparation for a time of fasting during Lent. Our Jnr. Stars were happy to make and enjoy pancakes in their classroom - and everyone took a turn to stir the mixture!



AWARD WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MERIT AWARD WINNERS:



TOP L - R:
MOANA TE-AOTONGA

KATANA WEBB

JAKE PERRY

LEEAM VILORIA

BOTTOM L - R
ARCHIE MILLAR

SASHA TE-AOTONGA

WALTER BELL

