

ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

Principal's News

Term 4 - Week 6 - Friday 18th November 2022

Dear Parents and Friends,

We are now in the second half of Term 4 and there is a lot going on at St Bernard's! With swimming lessons coming up and graduation plans well in place for our Year 6 students, it's a great time to remember the importance of sleep, healthy food and some exercise for children to help them through these busy times.

Education

Learning is continuing in all our classrooms, and outside at Bush School. In the past few weeks I have met with all teachers to discuss how their programs in English and Mathematics are going, and to review students' progress. Reflection and review is such an important part of the teaching process and these conversations effectively showcase our teachers' dedication to the students' learning.

Persuasive texts have been the focus text for Term 4. The ability to make rational arguments in order to convince people of our point of view is an important skill, especially in a world where rationality isn't always to the fore in discussions. Yesterday we saw a great example of persuasive texts being used in a real world context when our Year Five students presented their leadership speeches for 2023.

Last week Miss Lock and I took part in some learning of our own when we completed the Early Years Leadership course we have been working in all year. The two days of learning were a great summing up of the learning we have been doing and provided some fascinating insights into the young child's brain and how to foster optimal development. It turns out it really does take a village to raise a child, with the research showing that children learn best when at least some of the time is spent in community with their peers in quality early childhood environments - such as St Bernard's Jnr. Stars!

Catholic Identity

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King in our Church. This solemnity reminds us that Jesus, who lived on earth as a humble man, is the divine king of all Christians. It also marks the last Sunday of the Church season of Ordinary Time. Sunday 27th November will be the first first Sunday of Advent, the season in which we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.



Stewardship

As mentioned earlier, our Year Five students presented their 2023 leadership speeches yesterday, and what a fantastic job they did. We were so proud of the speeches they prepared and how they bravely overcame their nerves to present their speeches so well. All our Year Five students will be leaders in our school next year but, unfortunately, only four can be selected as our school and sport captains. These positions will be announced at our Graduation and Awards night on Tuesday 6th December. A reminder that at St Bernard's our captains are selected by majority vote from both the students and teachers. In the case of the School Captains, we do not require a boy and a girl to be elected - so we may end up with a boy and a girl, two girls or two boys as school captains. We'll have to wait and see!

Community

It is with some sadness and great pleasure that I am able to give you an update on staffing for 2023. We sadly farewell Miss Lock from our K/PP classroom as she moves to Boddington; but it is with great pleasure we welcome Mrs Teresa Donaldson in her place. Mrs Donaldson is a Kojonup local and a recent teaching graduate, having undertaken her studies as a mature age student.

We also sadly farewell Lee and David Bell, and their children, as they return to Perth to be closer to family and friends. Mrs Bell's place in the Year 1/2 classroom will be taken by Mrs Denise Bowen, who is currently teaching Year Two at St Patrick's in Katanning. Mrs Bowen also has a local connection, having grown up and gone to school in Kojonup, and where her mother still lives.

Mrs Bowen will also undertake a Curriculum Co-ordinator role in Mathematics, left vacant by the retirement of Sensei, Mrs Sandy Jackson. We are very sad to say goodbye to Sensei, who has obviously enjoyed her year off this year a little too much! Thank you to Sensei Thorn who has undertaken this role in 2022, but has chosen not to continue beyond this year. Mrs Thorn will continue to teach Science and Drama next year.

Miss Sugg is also leaving to begin a new chapter of her life on the other side of Australia in Brisbane. As sad as we are to see her leave, we wish her well on her new adventure.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Sophie Macri as an Administration Officer to our team, joining Mrs Cavanagh and Mrs Grace in the office.

A full staffing update will be provided in the end of year letter sent home with reports in Week 9.

*Take care and God Bless,
Mrs Marino.*

Kindy / Pre-Primary

This term during our Mathematics sessions the Pre-Primary students have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. The students used the iPad to record what shapes and objects they could find in the school environment.



Loose Parts Play is a strong focus within the Early Childhood years at our school. Loose parts play helps children to develop creative and critical thinking skills by encouraging them to use their imagination and experiment with new ideas freely. In the Kindy and Pre-Primary classroom this term the students brought in loose parts they had collected from home. They then used these parts to create their own magical piece of artwork. The students glued their loose parts to a square board, arranging them creatively and freely however they wanted. The students then painted and added special glitter to give the loose parts a cool effect.



I will always remember on Rottnest Camp when...

Poppy: ... we did Mr Myers' hair after the quiz night.

Darcie: ... we went to Geordie Bay and saw all the fish along the pretty reef snorkelling.

Adrianna: ... we rode our bikes to the Basin and had lunch from the bakery.

Olivia: ... when we went for morning walks with Mr Myers and run down the sand dunes. My legs couldn't keep up so I just tumbled down instead.

Tama: ... Josh fell off his bike but landed on his feet and his bike kept going and did a front flip.

Logan: ... riding the bikes around Rottnest with all my friends

Stu: ... Mr Myers started crying during the quiz night.

James: ... snorkelling at the Basin and seeing all the amazing underwater scenery and fish.

Charlie: ... Mr Myers started crying in the quiz.

Katana: ... we left the door to our house open, and the Quokka got in and pooped everywhere! Josh: ... when I fell off my bike and it did a front flip.

Reagan: ... snorkelling for the first time! I've never seen so many fish in one place.

Lexi: ... snorkelling at Little Parakeet Bay. It was really fun and I had never snorkelled at Rottnest before.

Toby: ... picking up the bikes from town and getting to ride around the island.

Alexander: ... how I managed to keep up with the crew on the long bike ride. It was tiring and didn't think I was going to make it.

Quinn: ... I didn't give way to the give way sign and crashed my bike into it.

John: ... the quiz night when all the teachers started laughing and couldn't keep it together anymore.

Kyle: ... we were riding our bikes around the 'velodrome' at Governor Circle and almost hit a quokka.

Moana: ... the first time seeing a quokka.

Lanz: ... seeing a quokka for the first time and watching them come so close.



Merit Award Winners



Congratulations to our Merit Award winners for this week (l-r):
Gypsee Maunder, Essie Bell, Quinn Taplin, Logan Miotti, Braxton Webb, Ryan Mackean, Mitchell Treeby, Leo Macri and Finley Robinson.
Well done!

Swimming Lessons

Due to some changes with the Swimming & Water Safety program, swimming lessons will only run for one week for each class.

21st - 25th November - Yr 5/6 & Yr 3/4 class.

28th Nov - 2nd December - PP & Yr 1/2 class.

Please make sure your children come prepared with bathers, towel, hat, goggles, swim cap & earplugs (if required), thongs/sandals (to wear to and from the pool), underwear (if your child wears their bathers under their uniform to school). Sports uniform can be worn every day during swimming lessons week.

There will be a \$10 reimbursement per child, for those who paid cash, in an envelope to be picked up at the front office by parents, please. Envelopes will not be given to students to bring home.