

ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

Principal's News

Term 4- Week 6- Friday 17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

With just four weeks left of school for students, we are on the home straight for 2023. It's hard to believe we are almost at the end of another school year, but there are still lots of things happening at school.

EDUCATION

Nursery Rhyme Week: It has been wonderful to listen to each class deliver a nursery rhyme over the PA system each day this week after lunch. Singing nursery rhymes is a wonderful way to introduce children to storytelling and sequencing stories. Nursery rhymes boost language development and oral language skills and introduce children to early literacy skills like repetition, listening for syllables and rhyming words. And they are fun! This week we heard Jack and Jill from our Year 3/4 class; Hickory, Dickory, Dock from our Jnr. Stars 3-year-olds; Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes from the Year 1/2 class; Row, Row, Row Your Boat from the K/PPs; and our Year 5/6 class wrapped up the week with The Wheels on the Bus today. Great job, everyone!

Reports: Student reports will be sent home in Week 9. These reports are an end of year report comprising the results of student learning throughout 2023. Provided in the reports will be the whole year Achievement Standard dot points required for students to achieve a C grade at the end of the year. Teachers are working hard to prepare these reports and I encourage you to take the time to go through them when you receive them and direct any queries or concern to your class teacher.

Swimming Lessons: Due to a shortage of swimming teachers, our classes will each receive one week of swimming lessons, rather than two. Lessons will take place in Weeks 7 and 8 and your class teachers will provide you with the details for each class.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Advent: All classes are focusing on the Church season of Advent in their Religious Education lessons in these last four weeks of school. The season of Advent marks the start of a new year in the Church and takes place in the four weeks prior to Christmas Day. It is a time of waiting and preparing, similar to Lent, but this time we are preparing for the joyous event of the birth of Jesus Christ. Students will be learning the story of Jesus' birth, as well as the story of Mary learning the news that she was to have a baby, and the story of her sharing that news with her cousin, Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist. The colours in our Church change to purple to celebrate the season of Advent. As we are only together at school for one week of Advent, we will be lighting our four Advent candles over the course of the last two weeks of school.

STEWARDSHIP

Year 5 Leadership speeches: Our Year 5 students presented their 2024 leadership speeches on Wednesday and did an amazing job. As the leaders of the school next year, they shared with us a leader they admire and the leadership qualities they display, and then told us some of their own leadership qualities and explained why they were keen to be leaders at St Bernard's. As we get ready to farewell our current Year 6 leaders, I am confident this class will lead our school with great enthusiasm and care. 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 5th 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:

Graduation and Class Awards Ceremony: All families are invited to our Graduation and Class Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 5th December from 6pm at the Memorial Hall. Kindy and Pre-Primary students will each receive a book award on the night and each class from Years 1-6 will have students selected for the Respite Stellam and Academic awards, which this year focus on Reading. We will also farewell our graduating class of 2023, as they get ready to begin the next stage of their education at high school. Please bring a plate of supper to share after the ceremony in the Lesser Hall: K-Year 2 savoury and Years 3-6 sweet. Doors open at 5.45pm and the ceremony begins at 6pm sharp. Families are also welcome to join our Year 6 students and their families for the Graduation Mass at St Bernard's Church on Tuesday 5th December from 4.45pm.

God Bless,

It has been another whirlwind term for the Year 5/6 class and even though it feels like the term has only just begun, we're just three weeks shy of the finish line!

As always, we have been busy little bees in the classroom. In Mathematics we have been working through our probability and Statistics unit and examining what effects translation, rotation and reflection have on 2D and 3D shapes. In English we have read "Diamond Jack" from the History Mystery series and we are working on persuasive responses to whether we feel that Jack was indeed guilty of stealing diamonds, or if it was a matter of 'finders keepers'. The HASS focus for this term is Civics and Citizenship where the Year Five students begin learning about systems of government and how Australia's Constitutional Monarchy fits within these models. Year Six students have learnt about our different levels of government and their responsibilities, along with their own responsibilities as citizens of Australia. Health has been about the physical and emotional changes that we go through as we mature from children to adolescents. Our Design Technologies focus has been on farm to plate practices, looking at harvesting grains, shearing sheep and the positive and negative impacts these practices have on farmers, animals and consumers.

Year Five students have also been putting their persuasive writing techniques to the test in preparing for their leadership speeches. They have all done an incredible job at preparing themselves to be the students leaders of St Bernard's in 2024 and should be very proud of the way they delivered their speeches.

While the Year Fives prepare for leadership next year, our Year Six leaders have worked on their graduation tasks in preparation for what will be their final chapter in primary school before they begin their new adventures into their high school careers. We thank them for their leadership this year and wish them well on their high school journey.

Mr Myers
Year 5/6 Teacher



Nursery Rhyme Week

Week 6 was World Nursery Rhyme Week, and our classes took turns every day of the week to recite a nursery rhyme over the school PA system. Nursery rhymes are fun at any age and a great introduction to beginning literacy skills such as rhyming and syntax. Check out what we listened to during Nursery Rhyme Week:

Monday, Year 3/4 - *Jack and Jill*.

Tuesday, Jr Stars - *Hickory Dickory Dock*.

Wednesday, Year 1/2 - *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*. Thursday, K/PP - *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*.

Friday, Yr 5/6 - *The Wheels on the Bus*.



Merit and Reading Award Winners

Congratulations to this week's Merit award winners:

Lincoln Bellotti, Sam Clayton, Charlie Thorn, Olivia Fisher, Darcie Clayton, Jake Perry, Mitchell Treeby, Nayah Sermon, Imogen Perry and Elyza Lomas.



The following students have been working hard with Mrs Smart and completed stages in their Mutlilit program: Lyndi Lomas, Damon Mules and Deann Collins. Well done!



CONGRATULATIONS!



This group of Year 3/4 boys made it into the top three finalists in Australia for the Primary STEM MAD competition, Habitat Conservation category. Congratulations on your fantastic achievement, boys: Patrick Wellstead, Chevin Noonan, Archie Thorn and Archie Millar.