

ST. BERNARD'S NEWS LETTER

Principal's News

Term 1, Week 5 - Friday 7th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter for the 2025 school year. I hope everyone has had a fantastic start to the year. I have enjoyed seeing families new and old at St Bernard's and I am looking forward to all the events and happenings we will share together during another year at our school.

EDUCATION

STEM: St Bernard's commitment to equipping our students with the tools they will need to thrive in the world continues this year with our focus on play-based, inquiry-oriented learning opportunities in all our classrooms. STEM learning in the areas of Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths continues this year with our Year 3/4 class once again joining the Great Southern Network of schools to prepare for the STEM Showcase which will be held at the Katanning Recreation Centre on August 25th. Mrs Donaldson and I joined other teachers and principals for a network day yesterday which unpacked the STEM process and addressed the practical questions of how to assess and integrate learning in STEM into the curriculum. We are very excited to be welcoming our K/PP students into the STEM Showcase space as well, with Mrs Jones joining a small group of competitively selected CEWA educators in the STEM Early Years program: Head, Heart and Hands. We can't wait to see what they come up with for their showcase in October. Watch this space!

Swimming Carnival: The St Bernard's Swimming Carnival was once again a day of fun in the water and we were happy that the extreme heat of last year stayed at bay to allow us to enjoy the day in full. Be sure to check out the carnival page later in this newsletter.

Shrek the Musical JR Auditions: We are excited to be in a production year once again with auditions taking place with our Year 5/6 class for Shrek the Musical JR over the past two weeks. Well done to our students who faced the daunting task of auditioning, supported by our Drama Teacher Mrs Thorn, classroom teacher Mrs Kondonis, and Mrs Venables. Save the date for the performances: Thursday 18th and Friday 19th September.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Lent: We were busy preparing for the start of Lent this week, cooking pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and receiving the Sign of the Cross in ashes on our foreheads during the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Lent is a sacred time of preparation in our Church calendar. Please see our page on Lent later in this newsletter, which also contains details of Project Compassion.



Ordination: It is an exciting time in the Bunbury Catholic diocese with the news of the appointment by the Pope of our new bishop, Bishop George Kolodziej. The ordination of Bishop George will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral on March 19th when more than 850 guests will gather for the ceremony. I am thrilled to be attending with our student representatives Jake Perry and Georgie Matthews from Year 5.

STEWARDSHIP

Year 6 Ministry Leaders: Our Year 6 Ministry Leaders and teams were announced today at assembly. Congratulations to the Ministry leaders who we know will do a great job serving our school community in the year ahead. The MJR Team is led by Gypsee Maunder and Scott Bilney; the URSTRONG Team by Hudson McLachlan and Archie Millar; the Environment Team by Archie Thorn; and the Service Team by Daisy Wellstead. Congratulations to our school captains who ran their first assembly today and did a fantastic job.

COMMUNITY:

P&F Sundowner: Our wonderful P&F has started the year with plans for a Sundowner to welcome parents and friends, old and new, to St Bernard's. We look forward to seeing you there! Save the date: Friday 4th April. Join our P&F Facebook Page to keep up to date with this event and other activities and P&F news: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2669299006670314/>

New Families: It is with pleasure that we welcome new families to our St Bernard's community. We hope you and your children feel welcome and enjoy your time with us.

God Bless,

Mrs Marino

Swimming Carnival

St. Bernard's Swimming Carnival

The St Bernard's Swimming Carnival was a fun event, held on Friday 21st February, showcasing the fantastic skills of our students in the pool. The carnival was filled with action-packed races, energetic cheers, and plenty of fun novelty games to keep everyone entertained.

Congratulations to all our students for their outstanding behavior and sportsmanship throughout the day. It was wonderful to see our students cheering each other on, supporting the younger students, and having fun.

Well done to our champions:

Intermediate Champion Girl: Imogen Perry, runner-up: Indiana Goodnough.

Intermediate Champion Boys: Patrick Eyres and Gus Thorn.

Senior Champion Girl: Elsie Eyres, runner-up: Georgie Matthews.

Senior Champion Boys: Hudson McLachlan and Archie Thorn.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers who helped to make the day such a success and special thanks mention to Chyan Berliner, the Kojonup Pool manager, for preparing the pool for the day.

Mrs Marinoni

Physical Education Teacher



Lent and Project compassion and Assembly Awards

Lent and Project Compassion

Lent is a time of preparation in our Church calendar, as we prepare for the death and Resurrection of Jesus at Easter time. During the 40 days of Lent, we focus on how to become better people – to ourselves, others, and the world around us.



At St Bernard's we also support Project Compassion which is run by Caritas and supports vulnerable communities in countries around the world. The theme for this year is to Unite Against Poverty and the focus communities are in Samoa, Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Congo. You will receive your family Project Compassion box today. Please support Project Compassion by donating whatever you can to your box over the period of Lent, with boxes due back at school by Week 2, Term 2. Please note that you can also support Project Compassion by scanning the QR code or donating online at caritas.org.au/project-compassion.



This year we are also excited to be supporting Project Compassion through The Big Water Walk on Thursday 2nd April at lunchtime when our students will walk laps carrying buckets of water to raise money through sponsorship. Parents and friends are also welcome to join us. More details soon!



Enjoying pancakes on Shrove Tuesday



Receiving the Ashes at our Ash Wednesday liturgy



Well done to the MJR winners: Merliah Gementiza, Gypsee Maunder, Daniel Kondonis and Dominic Bellotti.



Congratulations to our merit certificate award winners; Mitchell Treeby, Archie Thorn, Imogen Perry, James Matthews, Jarvis Noonan, Sage Cavanagh and Karstan Williams