



St Bernadette's Primary School, Lalor Park Principal's Communication

13 May 2022

Catholics have traditionally celebrated May as the Month of Mary. In the words of Pope Paul VI, May is "a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God." In the Northern hemisphere May falls in spring. Spring is a time of renewal and beauty as nature comes to life. Hence we celebrate Mary the mother of Jesus and renewal. It's fitting that we also celebrate Mother's Day in the month of May.

St Bernadette, our school's patron saint, taught us the rosary prayer after Mary appeared to her at the Grotto in Lourdes, France. As a community we have a defined link to Mary and the rosary. As a practical connection to faith this May create the time and space to sit with your child and say a Holy Mary or maybe even a decade of the rosary and dedicate it to those in need of support.

NAPLAN

This week students in years 3 and 5 completed their NAPLAN Assessments. Students completed assessments for Writing, Reading, Language Conventions and Numeracy. The assessments were completed over four days commencing on Tuesday and ending on Friday. Overwhelmingly it was a very calm and stress free experience for the students. The process was well managed by Mr Galea and the teachers.

NAPLAN results will provide information on how individual students are performing in the areas of literacy and numeracy and help us to improve teaching and learning. The data from NAPLAN results gives schools the ability to measure students' achievements against national minimum standards. As NAPLAN was not held in 2020 there is no opportunity to measure student progress in year 5

NAPLAN is an important test but it is not the only test we use to evaluate student progress. In fact at any time we can quite confidently discuss individual student progress. NAPLAN more often than not affirms what we already know about a student.

Winter Uniform

As per previous communication it is now expected that all students are wearing full winter uniform. This includes black leather school shoes, school jackets or jumpers and hats. Students who wish to wear a beanie or gloves must also purchase these from the School Locker. If you are experiencing difficulties in meeting this expectation contact the office for assistance.

Morning Supervision

The school gates open at 8.30 when morning supervision begins. It has been reported that a number of students are arriving early and are waiting outside the school gates for a substantial period of time. Parents are advised that this is done with your consent and that it can pose some safety issues for your child.

It may be necessary to make an alternate arrangement such as;

- rethinking your morning routine to align with supervision times
- utilising the before school care facility operated onsite
- arranging supervision with friends / family.

The safety of all students is a primary concern. Parents should discuss their expectations with their children to ensure their safety.

2023 Enrolments

2023 enrolments are well underway. I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of new families to discuss 2023 enrollment. A reminder to our current families that enrollment for 2023 should be done now. Additionally if you know of any friends or family interested in attending St Bernadette's a gentle reminder might be required.

Attendance

Over the last two weeks I have made contact with numerous families to discuss their child's attendance at school. This is an ongoing process. We are moving into a period where the effects of COVID have significantly dropped and therefore regular student attendance is required.

Missing school on a regular basis can have unintended consequences for the child including gaps in learning and peer relationship issues. Our aim is to have every student present at school for at least 90% of the school year. This means students can't have more than five days off a term. Five days off a term means a child has missed twenty days or four weeks of school for the year. By year ten that child has missed a full year of school.

To clarify, if your child is sick they should remain at home. The ongoing wellbeing of the community is paramount. However, once they are well to attend school students should return.

Volunteers

I would like to acknowledge and thank all our parent volunteers who do so many things to support our school community. Recently you would of seen that the canteen has been closed due to a lack of volunteers. Our canteen is dependent on parent volunteers with all proceeds going directly to the school. If you can volunteer in any way, even a day a term it would be greatly appreciated. Let's work together to keep our great school moving forward!

Dates For Your Diary

May

20th - Parent Fundraiser
Movie Night

26th - National Sorry Day

June

14th - Mad About Science
Incursion

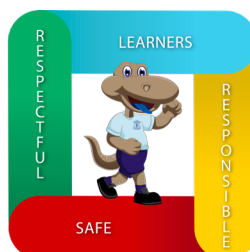
24th - Athletics Carnival



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Fortnightly Focus

Actively engage in tasks by listening, contributing and doing our personal best.