



# St Bernadette's Primary School, Lalor Park

Friday 2nd September 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

Thank you for the warm welcome to the St Bernadette's Community as I replace Mr Kapitanow while he enjoys a well deserved Long Service Leave for the remainder of the term. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and your beautiful children over the week. Please take the time to say hello over the next three weeks while I am here at St Bernadette's.

## **Book Week Celebrations**

We have had a wonderful Book Week which has included a number of activities. On Wednesday it was fantastic to see the students arrive at school dressed up as their favourite book character ready for our Book Parade. A huge thank you to the families who prepared their children and attended the parade. Those in attendance were so encouraging of the students as they paraded and danced and this added to the excitement. It was also great to see all the staff dressed up as their favourite book character too.

Thank you to the staff for supporting and promoting the Book Week celebrations. A number of them have given up their lunch time break throughout the week to share one of their favourite stories with the students in the library and it has been a very popular activity.

Special thanks to Mrs Graham, our teacher librarian, and the staff who have worked tirelessly to set up for our Book Fair. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who have been able to support this initiative. Your children really are so generously supported and encouraged in their love of reading.

## **Father's Day**

Each year we have the special opportunity to recognise our wonderful fathers when we celebrate Father's Day. At St Bernadette's we are so grateful for the contribution that our fathers make to the life of our school each and every day.

Yesterday the children were very excited to browse and shop for the perfect gift at the Father's Day Stall. Thank you to the many volunteer parents who helped the stall run smoothly. A lot of hard work and time goes into making this stall available to the children and we are very appreciative of the wonderful group of parents that form the P & F team. I thank them for the time and dedication that they offer to the St Bernadette's community to ensure that our children and families can experience such wonderful opportunities.

This morning as a school community, we celebrated Father's Day with a BBQ breakfast. It was great to see so many fathers and male father figures present to share breakfast with their children. and it was lovely to see just how happy the children were to have their family with us at the school. Thank you to Mr Galea and Mr Fuller for cooking the breakfast and to all the staff for assisting with the preparations, serving and cleaning up after this wonderful event.

Following the BBQ, students and staff led us in a beautiful liturgy and reflection which captured the essence and true meaning of Father's Day. Thank you to Mrs Stone, our Religious Education Coordinator, for preparing the liturgy and to all the staff who prepared the students.

While we will take the time on Sunday to celebrate our amazing dads, we also acknowledge that this special attention to them need not be confined to a particular day of the year but rather is reflected in our daily interactions and expressions of love throughout the year.

I wish all dads, grandfathers and other prominent male figures in our lives a very Happy Father's Day on Sunday. We especially remember our fathers who are no longer with us on earth but hold a special place in our memory and in our heart.

A Prayer for Fathers  
God, bless all the fathers of the world.  
Guide them to be good role models and loving to all their children.  
Help them to be a father like YOU are.  
Give them grace, strength, wisdom and love  
To be teachers and guides for the young who look up to them  
Amen

### **National Child Protection Week**

Next week is National Child Protection Week, an extremely important week, where we are all invited to continue to embrace the overarching message that 'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go'. This year the major focus is shining a light on children growing up **safe and supported**. I know that this is a high priority for the staff here at St Bernadette's as every day they work together to ensure that the children in their care are within a very supportive learning environment.

Children and young people thrive when they grow up safe, connected and supported in their family, community and culture. Children have the right to grow up in environments that support them according to their needs, now and into the future. In schools we are guided by the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and we are supported also by the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

We can all work together to make sure **every child in our community has a fair go** and we **can do this by ensuring that our children:**

- feel loved and safe
- have a positive sense of their identity and culture
- have material basics
- are healthy
- learning
- participating in activities.

Before the end of the term all the students will be involved in activities in their learning spaces to assist them in making important decisions about their safety.

### **NAPLAN**

Next week the students in Year 3 and Year 5 will bring home a confidential report on their progress in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assessments.

The NAPLAN assessments provide parents and teachers with information about the children's learning in Literacy and Numeracy. Please take the time to sit with your child and read the report and celebrate your child's successes. Where there may be areas identified as challenges, use this time as an

opportunity to discuss possible goals with your child. As the children sat the NAPLAN tests early in May it is possible that the children may have mastered challenges identified in the report.

If your child is in Year 5 please keep your child's NAPLAN results in a safe place as you will be required to provide them for your child's High School enrolment.

### **Library Health Month**

The month of September is Library Health Month and there are lots of free information sessions at Blacktown City Library designed especially for the community. Why not see what is available!

<https://www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/healthy-children/families/library-health-month>

Have a great week!

Mrs Louise O'Donnell  
Relieving Principal