



St Bernadette's Primary School, Lalor Park

Wednesday 21st September 2022

Dear St Bernadette's Families,

Important Term 4 Dates

Tuesday, 11 October	Term 4 commences
Friday, 2 December	Christmas Concert
Wednesday, 14 December	Year 6 Graduation

Playground Arrangements

Next term we'll continue with the shared arrangement on the playground as we have received positive feedback both from the students and the teachers.

Today I had the privilege of attending a Reading meeting with the ES1 and Stage 1 teachers as they reviewed the progress of all their students. There was a lot to celebrate with the student's growth in reading over the term and this is due to the dedication not only of the teachers but also to the parents who are diligent in hearing their child read every night.

During the holidays may I encourage all parents to continue the home reading routine. Two weeks is a long break for children and a little reading every day combined with a story at bedtime will make a significant difference in ensuring that children will maintain their reading level at the beginning of Term 4.

Below is an article that supports the huge role that parents and carers play in listening to their child read.

The Proven Benefits of Reading With Your Child

Parents and carers who read aloud with children in a secure, safe and comfortable context motivate their children to read. Parents' perceptions, values, attitudes, and expectations play an important role in influencing their children's attitudes toward reading, and subsequent literacy development. When children share a book with someone who makes them feel special, the attitude that reading is pleasurable is transferred to other reading encounters.

Relationship building

At the core of reading is a relationship and it is the bond between children and parents that is enhanced through reading together. It only takes ten minutes a day to build this relationship.

Children's reading improves

The research is conclusive: When parents successfully support their children's literacy learning from an early age, everyone benefits. When teachers and parents work together to support children's reading and academic success, learning outcomes for all children improve.

Children read more

Students who read with their parents are better prepared for school. They begin school with knowledge of book language and familiarity with concepts of print. They understand how books work and have many more exposures to text types and vocabulary. Children's self-esteem improves knowing someone cares enough to take time out of a busy schedule to give them

undivided attention around a book makes a significant difference to how students perceive themselves as learners and readers. When parents show an interest in their children's learning, children respond positively.

Reading unites families through shared stories

When a family reads together, stories form a common ground for communicating. Stories bind families and help students make sense of where they fit in the world. Not only does parent involvement have a specific and profound impact on children's reading, but also on children's language and literacy learning in general. It is through interactions with parents and carers that children learn new vocabulary, seek clarification of new understandings, and learn to comprehend their expanding worlds. Talk is the key to reading and writing success. Talking with children (walking to school, at the table, in the car, bedtime) has a significant effect on literacy learning in general.

Adapted from 'Parents' Guide to helping children with reading and writing at home' PETA, 2019

As the holidays draw closer parents are sometimes stuck for ideas on how to entertain their child/children. The link below will hopefully give you some inspiration and ideas for outings during the holidays. I hope it can be of some help to you.

<https://www.hellosydneykids.com.au/free-things-western-sydney-school-holidays/>

As we come to the end of another busy and fabulous term, I thank you sincerely for your contribution to our school in whatever way that may be. To all our volunteers, your time and care is much appreciated.

As this is my last newsletter before I return to Holy Cross I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all the families for your wonderful support of the learning and opportunities offered to the students - it certainly has been a busy term! Your children are extremely friendly and courteous and they are very proud of their school. During my time at St Bernadette's they have been very eager to introduce themselves and share their enthusiasm for learning with me.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the incredibly professional and dedicated St Bernadette's staff. The office staff are very efficient and very calm as they go about their day and the teachers and support staff are passionate about their students and the learning programmes that they prepare and implement.

I am sure that Mr Kapitanow will return refreshed and energised after his Long Service Leave when school resumes on Tuesday 12 October.

Finally, I wish you and your loved ones the most enjoyable break. I hope you get to move at a slower pace, share some wonderful experiences together and, if you're like me, find joy in not setting an alarm!

Happy, safe holiday!

Kind regards,

Louise O'Donnell
Relieving Principal