



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

04/03/2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent. As a school community we celebrated Lent with Father John Paul. Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. We have forty days to reflect on our lives and make some lasting changes. For children these changes need to be practical and supported within the home.

A simple change is to pray together. Start your day or end your day as a family in prayer. Prayer doesn't need to be formal simply being thankful and considerate of others in the world. Naming what has gone well and where you would like to see God's help. This can be a great time to connect with your children and get an insight into their day and their broader feelings concerning the world around them.

Some children will want to give something up for lent. Again this will require some practical support from home. To be successful children need to pick appropriate things to give up. It should be achievable and acknowledged by those around them.

A special thanks to the parents who braved the weather to join the school community as we celebrated Ash Wednesday!

## Catholic Schools Week

Next week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This is a time to celebrate our fantastic school at Lalor Park. St Bernadette's has been part of the community for over sixty years. For me personally it is an honour to serve the community.

St Bernadette's is renowned for having a welcoming culture that is often described as a 'family'. Catholic Schools Week is the first time in a long time that parents will be welcomed back onto the school grounds.

I encourage parents to take advantage of the opportunities to be onsite with their children. Whilst everyone is welcome it is important that everyone understands that this is new to most of our staff. Over the last two years of COVID our staff have changed and therefore understanding how we do things will take some time. This is the same for most of our 'infants' families who have missed out on the normal school events.

Events may change due to wet weather. At this stage Cross Country looks doubtful. Even if the ovals reopen it may not be safe to proceed.

## Wet Weather

The last two weeks have been significantly impacted by wet weather. During wet weather students remain indoors at all times. As you can imagine this leads to a build up of energy and can present in appropriate behaviours. Overwhelmingly our students have been fantastic throughout this time.

I also want to acknowledge the staff. The school has operated as normal, but what families don't always know is that staff go without regular breaks including recess and lunch breaks and they all help out to get students home safely. This is fine when it occurs once every now and again but in elongated times of extra duties it does start to have a toll. Teachers aren't asking for any considerations or acknowledgement, just understanding when things are delayed.

## Afternoon Dismissal

Afternoon dismissal is the most risk adverse event that occurs during the regular school day. Cars are coming and going, parents may be rushing to get home and students are eagerly making their way home.

With all this in mind it is important that parents;

- slow down when driving. Children are unpredictable so be mindful around the school.
- adhere to school expectations. This includes not parking in Gardenia Grove, across residential driveways, in the bus zones or getting to school early for Kiss and Drop.

In recent weeks residents have complained about cars being inappropriately parked and drivers not adhering to the road rules. We have passed this information on to the police and council and expect rangers and highway patrol to be evident around the school in the near future.

## Attendance Family Liaison Officer

We have appointed Mrs Pollard as our Attendance Family Liaison Officer. Mrs Pollard will be focusing on;

- enhance existing school based attendance processes
- support schools to identify and support students with patterns of attendance that places them at risk of absenteeism
- support parents of students who have patterns of emerging absenteeism

A major component of Mrs Pollard's work is to connect with families where attendance has been identified as a concern. This includes student absenteeism and partial absences. The focus of the work is to support families to improve student attendance at school.

## Tennis Court Walkers

A reminder to parents that the tennis courts are not a supervised option for dismissal. Whilst I recognise this is a convenient option for parents this is done at your risk. Parents should communicate expectations with their children particularly if they are late. The school gates close at 3:30pm so returning to school may not be an option.

## Parent Teacher Chats

Parent Teacher Chats have been scheduled for Week 10 of this term. This is an opportunity for parents to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss their goals for their child this year. This is not an academic progress report and as such this will not be discussed. Attending chats is not compulsory, but encouraged. Further information will be provided to families shortly.

Have a great week.

Mr Phill Kapitanow  
Principal

## Dates For Your Diary

### March

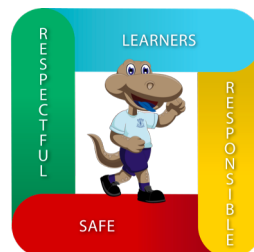
- 8th - Welcome BBQ for families
  - Kindergarten 2023 Information Night - 6pm Library
- 9th - Cross Country weather permitting
- 11th - 10am Whole school mass in the Church - All Welcome
  - Picnic morning tea and open classrooms
- 18th - Harmony Day



[View our News items](#)



[Website Photo Gallery](#)



In Week 3 students will begin our annual lessons on our school expectations. These lessons will help them develop their understanding of what it is to be safe, respectful, responsible learners.