



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

25th March 2022

On Thursday night staff attended mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta to officially welcome new teachers and leaders to Parramatta Diocese. At mass Bishop Vincent reiterated his long held message of the need to go into the deep with our communities. He recounted the fantastic work that schools had done over the last two years going into the deep throughout the pandemic to support students, staff and families. He welcomed new staff and affirmed their decision to serve in our Catholic communities to continue God's work to educate children.

At St Bernadette's we go into the deep each and everyday doing things that go unnoticed by the community to support students and families. This term staff have been working harder than ever before to support students whilst colleagues are absent, we have initiated a vast amount of individual support to assist students in regulating emotions and accessing learning, we are supporting families in need and we are supporting staff who are experiencing personal challenges. We do this as a part of our normal school operations. This normal is above and beyond what happens elsewhere. We don't do this for accolades, we do this as a Catholic community.

Sick Students

Parents / carers are reminded that sick students are not to attend school. If a student is sick at school parents / carers will be notified to pick their child up. This is in the best interest of all students and staff.

Flood Appeal

Last week as an element of our Harmony Day celebration we raised money to assist the victims of the recent flood crisis. As a school community we raised \$636.00. This money has been donated to The Diocese of Lismore 2022 Flood Appeal on behalf of the school community.

Catholic schools in the Lismore Diocese have been totally destroyed by the recent floods. This means school is currently taking place in halls and any other large setting where students can be gathered to learn. Playgrounds, libraries, sport fields etc are non-existent. The time frame to rebuild schools is years.

Thank you to all the families who contributed to this fundraiser and a special thanks to the members of our Parent Group and other volunteers who helped to make this fundraiser possible.

Staff Absences

Over recent weeks you may have noticed a higher than normal amount of staff absence and lack of casual staff replacements. Staff absences are due to illnesses. All staff are directed to remain at home when sick. St Bernadette's like all schools is being affected by the current teacher shortage. Not only is there a shortage of regular classroom teachers, but there is also a critical shortage of casual staff. This impacts our ability to replace absent staff, conduct school planning and staff attendance at professional learning.

At St Bernadette's we are lucky that our class sizes are small and when staff absences occur we have generally been able to continue class routines with less staff in learning spaces or a reassignment of support staff.

I want to assure parents that your child's safety is paramount and we will always ensure students are supervised and safe at school. Staff absences may lead to changes in routine, changes to personal and students being placed in other learning spaces.

I want to thank our staff who are demonstrating great flexibility to ensure student learning continues. As a community we are blessed to have teachers and support staff who are extremely committed to ensuring our school is the best it can be each and every day!

Wet Weather Arrangements

We are currently trialling new arrangements for wet weather supervision during break times. We will be combining infants students in one learning space and primary students in another learning space. Adequate supervision will be maintained but this will enable staff to have breaks each day. Current organisation does not allow teachers to have breaks and this is unsustainable considering the amount of wet weather days we have had and the future forecast suggesting extend periods of wet weather.

Have a great week.

Mr Phill Kapitanow
Principal

Dates For Your Diary

March

28th - Cross Country

April

5th - School Photos

6th - Easter Egg Raffle

- Environment team
Excursion

8th - Holy Week Reflection

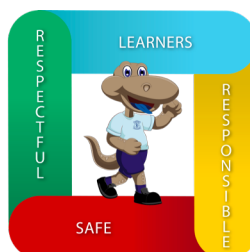
- Last Day of Term 1



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In Week 10 students will be focusing on using their listening skills and speaking politely. Lessons will help them develop their understanding of what it is to be respectful.