



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

### **Stage 3 Camp**

Next week our Stage 3 students will be going on an overnight camp to Canberra. This is an opportunity to absorb themselves in the educational attractions that encompass Canberra and to develop the social and emotional skills required to spend a night and two days away from home.

Stage 3 camp is always an exciting time for students. It is the first camp students have gone on in a number of years due to COVID interruptions. I want to thank the staff who have complete lots of work in preparation for the camp. Organising a camp is a long process that commenced last August and has been particularly difficult this time around. I hope both students and staff have a enjoyable and safe time whilst away!

### **Mandatory Compliance Measures**

This week has been a big of meeting mandatory compliance measures for the school. We have completed the following audits;

- WHS external audit
- Kidsafe Infants Playground Audit
- Tree Condition Audit
- Sunshade Audit

These audits are carried out to ensure that we have done everything possible to keep students, staff and visitors safe whilst at St Bernadette's. The results were very pleasing with very few matters for future follow up and no major issues. This is affirming as we take all reports and recommendations seriously with immediate and timely followup.

## **Small Group Reading Inquiry**

As previously communicated we are three weeks into our whole school reading inquiry. We have made significant progress in the last three weeks. All staff have taken up our challenge to refine small group reading throughout the school. One of our successes is that every stage has engaged in small group reading every single day. This has been a challenging task particularly this week with the amount of staff illness and lack of replacement staff. But, we have done it!

This week the infants team meet to discuss individual student progress and map this on a data wall. The results are very exciting! It has revealed a new focus for small group reading and that is developing students independent strategies to self correct when they make an error. This means applying reading skills to solve reading errors not to just continue reading.

## **Staff Illness**

This week has been significant in regards to staff illness and our inability to replace sick staff. There is a significant teaching shortage affecting all schools. This shortage is real and is affecting St Bernadette's. This week we were unable to replace twenty staff members who were sick. This means that we are forced to think creatively about how classes are covered and regular teaching continues. As you can appreciate this means staff are called on to do more. Unfortunately this is becoming the norm for schools.

I want to assure everyone that our staff take their responsibilities very seriously and are doing their best to maintain standards. At times this is extremely difficult and things are missed as more important priorities are managed.

## **Car Parking**

We have received several complaints regarding parent parking. Please remember that as a school community we strive to be considerate of our neighbours. Parking across driveways is unsafe, illegal and inconsiderate. We rely on the positive relationship with our neighbours to keep our school safe and secure. I ask that everyone consider this as they park cars around the school.

## Parent Group Donation

The parent Group agreed to donate a sum of money to purchase new furniture for the deck. We were lucky enough to order our furniture before a 12% price rise from the supplier.

The new aluminum tables and chairs have arrived and will be built by Doug, the school's Maintenance Man as soon as time permits.

On behalf of the school community I thank our Parent Group for the generous donation and their ongoing support to fund raise on behalf of the school.

## Toys At School

At St Bernadette's we do not allow students to bring toys to school. This includes playing cards. This is a long standing expectation that is in place. There a number of reasons for the expectations including;

- toys typically cause social issues at school
- toys distract students from learning
- when toys go missing or get broken student and families become upset

If toys are brought to school they will be stored in a safe place until home time. We would appreciate your support in this matter.

## Dates For Your Diary

### August

11 - 12th - Stage 3 Camp

15th - 10am Whole School Mass

19th - Kindergarten Excursion

19th - 8.40 S3 & Kindergarten Reading to my Bud program

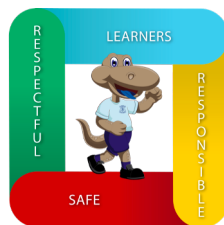
29th - 2nd - Book Week Celebrations



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For the next fortnight each stage will be focusing on the following goals:

ES1 - Actively Listening

Stage 1 - Actively Engaging in tasks

Stage 2 and 3 - Right place at the right time



[Bluey's Patch](#)