Dear Parents,

Last night the staff, family and friends gathered to celebrate the retirement of two teachers who have over many years at St Bernadettes made a significant contribution to the lives of numerous students who have attended our school. We celebrated the teaching vocations of Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Straub who will retire at the end of this year. Both Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Straub have dedicated their careers to Catholic education and for this we are most thankful especially as these careers have been at St Bernadette’s. We thank Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Straub and wish them health and happiness in this next phase of their lives.

An event such as a retirement reminds us to appreciate what we have in life? If you are like me it is so easy to overlook or not to appreciate what I have and who is important in my life. I can take both for granted each and every day. I can always benefit from a gentle reminder to myself from time to time to:

1. Be thankful for family.
   We are all where we are today because our parents or guardians raised us. Hopefully, we have taken all the positive lessons from them and are applying them to our lives. If you are married and have children, be thankful for the blessing of your family. If you are single, be thankful for your parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins.

2. Be thankful for friends.
   True friends encourage us, motivate us, and push us to do better. Take time to call them and thank them for all the great things they have done. Show your gratitude by also being a great friend to others.

3. Be thankful for a home and for nourishment.
   If you have a home, be thankful you have a place to rest and relax. Hopefully your home is also a place of safety and encouragement. Truly show you are thankful for your home by supporting organisations who help those who have no homes. In addition, we should be thankful we have the opportunity to eat on a daily basis. If you have plenty, please show your thanks by helping to support agencies that care for the hungry.

4. Be thankful for laughter.
   Laughter is a gift from God which can bring great joy. Be thankful for the laughter of children, a spouse, or friends.

5. Be thankful for a job.
   A job is a great blessing, whether we are happy in the job we are in or not. Take the time to list out reasons you are thankful for your job. If you find this hard, don’t look at your job just as a means to make money, but look at it as a way to help people.

6. Be thankful for the freedoms you have.
   We have so many freedoms other countries do not have. It has cost some men and women time away from family, life-altering injuries, or the ultimate price – their life. Take time today to say ‘thank you’ to someone who helped, or is helping, protect those freedoms.

7. Be thankful for those who have made a positive impact in your life.
   All of us have had people in our lives that have made a positive impact. It may have been a teacher, coach, pastor, youth worker, Sunday school teacher, or a family member. Be thankful that these people were placed in your life and give to others as they have given to you.

8. Be thankful for your health.
   If you are reading this, you are probably a person in good health. Be thankful for that. However, there may be people in your family and community that are not as fortunate. Take time to help someone this week.

Related Resource: 8 Days of Being Thankful

Mrs Leanne Nettleton—Principal
From the Principal

Parents and Friends Association Meeting and AGM
A reminder that the P&F will meet this Wednesday evening to review the year and receive feedback on the success of our FUN FAIR. This meeting will then be followed by the AGM. All parents are invited to submit nominations for positions on the 2014 P&F. This is done by sending nominations to Mrs Nettleton by Tuesday 26th, November 2013.

KINDER TRANSITION
Congratulations to the 2014 Kindergarten children and parents on the fabulous transition day they attended last Tuesday. The children were all busily playing with and meeting new friends and the parents were all actively engaged in a Mathematics Parent Workshop. Next Thursday as the children join us for their next transition day the parents will participate in a Launching into Literacy Parent Workshop in the library.

Mathematics Assessment Interviews
At the beginning of the 2014 school year the teachers will again administer the ‘Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI)’ on each of the students attending St Bernadette’s. This is a 1:1 interview with a student that takes approximately 40 minutes. The information gathered from this assessment is extremely useful in helping teachers understand where students are in their understanding of number. As each interview takes a long time, we have again received permission from the Catholic Education Office to have 2 of our Staff Development Days for 2014 at the beginning of the school year in order to administer the MAIs. This will be in addition to the usual Staff Development Day that occurs at the commencement of the school year. Therefore Term 1 in 2014 will commence for children in Years 1-6 on Friday, January 31st 2014 and for Kindergarten on Monday, 3rd February 2014.

Term Dates for 2014
Term 1
January 28, 29, 30 Staff Return and Administer MAIs
January 31 Years 1-6 Commence
February 3 Kindergarten Commence
Term 2 Monday, 28th April 2014
Term 3 Monday 14th July
Term 4 Tuesday, 7th October

R.E. NEWS

Gold Coin Collection Day
Thank you to everyone for their generosity with our gold coin collection this week. Our goal was to raise money for the survivors of the typhoon in the Philippines. As you can see from the photo, we were able to fill our glass jar to the brim with coins and even start to fill a second jar. Congratulations on raising $1,158.

We know at St Bernadette’s that... ‘it is in giving that we receive’
(Prayer of St Francis)

Christmas Hampers
We ask you to keep that generosity going for our annual Christmas Hamper collection. The children have been bringing in food items to be sent to St Vincent de Paul to be made into Christmas Hampers. You can continue to send in food items all of next week. Thank you.

Christmas Concert
Wednesday 11th December 6pm on the artificial grass area.

Thanksgiving Mass
Our end of year Mass of Thanksgiving for our wonderful year at St Bernadette’s will be held on Friday, 13th December at 10am on Top Court. It is at this Mass that we thank all our parent helpers who have helped in so many different ways throughout the year and so we ask you to please try and keep this date free and join us if you can. We will also farewell our Year Six students and other children who are leaving our school at the end of the year.

Mrs Jenny Godwin
Religious Education Coordinator

TUCKSHOP ROSTER FOR: Week 8 Term 4

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Fun Fair raised: $65,450!!! Well done and thank you to everyone.
The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday, 26th November between 8.00am and 10.00am.

Parent helper rostered for next week is Donna Noonan.

This will be a great opportunity for kindergarten 2014 parents to purchase uniform.

St Bernadette’s Christmas Concert

Wednesday, 11th December
(on the artificial grass)

Time: 6pm

Hope you can join us for a very special Christmas celebration.

You’re invited …

P&F AGM

Wednesday 27th November
7.45pm
School Library

Please join us as we celebrate our fabulous Fun Fair results and share a Christmas drink.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday, 26th November between 8.00am and 10.00am.

Parent helper rostered for next week is Donna Noonan.

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THIS WILL BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR KINDERGARTEN 2014 PARENTS TO PURCHASE UNIFORM.

Parish News

Yr 6 — You are invited to the fun, friendship and games of INTO LIFE! Every Friday night during the school term, Yr 7 & 8 students come to St Bernadette’s church to catch up with their friends, play a heap of fun games and learn more about their faith. But in Term 4 YOU can come too! Every Friday night from 7-8.30pm in the school Multipurpose room. A donation of $2 covers drinks and snacks at the end of the night. For more info, try Sr Rosie on 0420 594 277 or ym@stbernadette.org.au

Term 4

Staff Development & Pupil Free Days:
Thurs 19th & Fri 20th Dec

Year 5 End of Year Get Together
Friday 29th November  7pm
Castle Hill RSL
Hope to see you there!