Dear Parents,

In last week’s Sunday gospel, Jesus provided his disciples, and all Christians, with a model for prayer.

Say this when you pray:

“Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us your sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us, and do not put us to test”

In keeping with this modelling by Jesus, it is significant that the Lord’s Prayer, or Our Father, is the common prayer of all Christians, regardless of denomination.

The parable and teaching that follow the Lord’s Prayer make clear the particular purpose of prayer that Jesus was highlighting – prayer as petition. In this instance, Jesus assures us that if we pray for what we need with conviction and confidence, then God cannot fail to respond to our prayer.

A crucial aspect of prayer is the attitude with which we view God. We trust in God’s character that it is not a pointless exercise to ask for something. We trust that God is even more loving than a parent who tries to give their child what they need. If we did not make these basic assumptions about God there would be little point in prayer. When our prayer lives do falter at times, perhaps we need to first check our relationship with God and our attitude towards God before trying to “fix” the ways we pray.

Mrs Leanne Nettleton
Principal

**Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop**

Next Thursday August 8 marks the 104th anniversary of the death of Mary MacKillop. It is also the Feast Day of Australia’s first Saint. Mary founded the sisters of St Joseph and was dedicated to educating children. Throughout her life she showed great desire to do God’s will and help those in need.

Fr John will join us as we celebrate this very important feast day with a short prayer focus at our morning assembly on Thursday at 8.30am. Parents are welcome to join us.

God of hospitality open our hearts to the abundance of your love. May we like Mary MacKillop trust in your loving care for us in all the situations of our lives. May we share this love in our wounded world.

St Mary of the Cross, open to God’s presence, pray for us. Amen.

Jenny Godwin
Religious Education Coordinator

**Teacher Professional Development and Learning**

Like professionals in other fields, all teachers are required to keep up to date with current thinking on best practices and new developments. This year, throughout NSW and particularly across our diocese, teachers are preparing for the introduction of the new syllabus. This requires particular staff members to attend professional development opportunities to learn about the changes to the curriculum so that they can then return to St Bernadette’s and share their learnings with other staff members. These sessions sometimes occur during the day, after school or in the school holidays. This term we have:

- staff attending professional learning in relation to the new English and new Maths Syllabus,
- all K-2 teachers attending days on Implementing a Numeracy Block
- all K-2 teachers attending days on Implementing a Balanced Literacy Block
- staff attending technology days focused on learning about Google Apps

I know you will agree that it is important that our teachers are up to date in these specific areas.

**Let’s invest in human capital, not just infrastructure**

357 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill  Phone: 9634 2898  Fax: 9680 2282
School email: BernadetteCH@parra.catholic.edu.au
WEBSITE: http://www.stbernadetteschill.catholic.edu.au
Universal Text-a-thon
An email was sent to all parents today with lots of information regarding our Universal Text-a-thon day on Friday, 30th August. Your child will bring home tonight a sponsor card in which to start collecting all your sponsors.

Staffing
Like every worker in Australia, teachers have entitlements such as long service leave, maternity leave, sick leave, bereavement leave, carer’s leave and jury duty etc. Consequently, there will be times when your child’s teacher is absent from the classroom. On these days, the program for your child’s class is maintained by the relief teacher on the class and the grade team. Teachers on a grade work closely together allowing the grade partners to liaise with the relief teacher so that good teaching and learning continues and routines are kept. At St Bernadette’s we have an excellent group of relief teachers who know our students and school well and this enables the best possible outcomes for our students when their teachers are absent.

Scholastic Book Club
A big thank you to all parents and students who have purchased books from the Scholastic Book Club in Term 2.

As you have purchased over $4,000 worth of books, the school has received $860 worth of reward vouchers for our efforts. These vouchers will be used to purchase books for the library and readers for various classes.

On behalf of the P & F Association, thank you so much for participating and rewarding our students with so many BOOKS.

We look forward to receiving your next order.

Cherie-Ann Kelly & Lucy Losurdo
Book Club Coordinators

Hills Interschool Debating
Congratulations to all those children involved in the 5th round of the Inter School Debating Competition. Today we debated against St Madeleine’s Kenthurst. The topic debated was ‘That technology is destroying our social skills’. Thank you to all the parents who supported their children leading up to the debate. Thank you to Mrs Crake for setting up the morning tea and to the Year 6 students and teachers for their hospitality.

The teams debating today were:

**AFFIRMATIVE**
Abbey Smith
Harrison Bayssari
Saara Stenberg
Nicholas Russo

**NEGATIVE**
Natasha Durney-Steel
William Fitzalan
Rachel Steenson
Dillon Antoni

St Bernadette’s School News

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER FOR: Week 4 Term 3**
Parent helpers please arrive at 10.25am for recess and 12.45pm for lunch

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<tr>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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**UNIFORM SHOP**
The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday, 6th August between 8.00am and 10.00am.