Dear Parents,

Next week at St Bernadette’s we celebrate Mission Week. This will be a collective sign by our children that they can make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than themselves. It is also an opportunity for us all, students, teachers and parents in our community to make the time to reflect on our understanding of and level of commitment to the task we have as Christians to live out, in action our Gospel values. Faith and love must find expression in action. That action is the mission of Jesus continued in the Church. This reflection and action must take place both on a local level and on a global level.

We live in an affluent society. However in Australia there are almost 600,000 children living in families below the poverty line. This year as a school community we want to reach out to some of those children who actually live in our local community. We are making resources to assist these children in their learning. We recognise that there is so much more that each of us can do to reduce poverty, ensure that all children have a right to education and healthy living conditions. So this year we are doing something about it not only through action but also by keeping the needs of all children in our prayers.

Dear Lord,
Hear our prayers as we remember all those who are homeless, sick, despairing, desperate and depressed. May we continue to stand with them in solidarity and do all that we can to provide assistance and support. May we continue to hold them in our hearts.

Mrs Leanne Nettleton—Principal

We pray for all those children receiving the sacrament of Confirmation as they are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and are strengthened in their Christian faith. We keep them and their families in our prayers this weekend.

Next Friday our staff will be involved in a spirituality day. We will be travelling to North Sydney to Mary MacKillop Place as we take part in a pilgrimage. The notion of going on a pilgrimage and being a pilgrim is a very ancient one that belongs to the spiritual tradition of all great faiths. A pilgrimage is a very personal experience but it is usually a journey with others, as you take time to listen, pray and reflect.

Our staff will be visiting places associated with Mary MacKillop’s life and ministry. It will be a unique opportunity for us to understand aspects of her life and appreciate her role as our Australian saint.

We wish all our families a lovely springtime holiday together. May you find some time to play together, read together, cook together, celebrate together, laugh together and just be together.

Mrs Jenny Godwin
Religious Education Co-ordinator

Next Friday 20th Sept
Staff Spiritual Formation & Pupil Free Day:
**From the Principal:**

**Staffing News**
Mrs Louise Gray has been appointed as class teacher for Year 5G replacing Mr Visser each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in Term 4. Mrs Gray is known by some families already as she has taken some blocks of casual teaching at St Bernadette’s over the years.

**Universal Text-athon**
Thank you to all our generous students and families. We have raised $13,000 in our Universal Text-athon. This is absolutely outstanding. Children are asked to please thank their sponsors for their support. Our funds will be used to build literature rich classroom libraries so that our children are able to read stimulating books every day at school.

**Footy Jersey Thursday**
Next Thursday 19th September 2013 we will be celebrating Mr Everett’s retirement with a very special assembly at 12.00 midday. The children are invited to come to school in their favourite footy jersey or colours to celebrate along with Mr Everett. In case you didn’t know Mr Everett is a HUGE Parramatta EELS fan.

**Student Representative Council**
Congratulations to the following students who have been elected by their peers to represent them on the Student Representative Council for the remainder of 2013. These students will be instrumental in leading the children’s involvement in the FUN FAIR.

Abbey McConnell, Alexandra Ryan, Nicholas Russo
Amelia Sing, Finn Towner, Callum Willard
Tara Le Large (4W) Melanie Radman (4B) Charlotte Bourke (4G)
Samuel Hope, (3W) Sarah Carrozzi (3B) Will Jamison (3G)

Thank you and congratulations to the outgoing SRC members. You have done a wonderful job in establishing our SRC in it’s inaugural year.

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**TUCKSHOP ROSTER FOR: Week 10 Term 3**
Parent helpers please arrive at 10.25am for recess and 12.45pm for lunch

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Thank you for your help and support in the Tuckshop. It is very much appreciated.

**REMINDER:**
*Application for Exemption From Attendance at School*
Schools in the Parramatta Diocese have been informed that when families request to take their child(ren) out of school during term time it is necessary for them now to complete an *Application for Exemption From Attendance at School* form (at least 2 weeks PRIOR to taking your child out of school). This form can be downloaded from the school website (PARENTS/HANDBOOK/STUDENT ATTENDANCE). On completion, the form is to be sent to the school office so that a *Certificate of Exemption from Attendance at School* can be issued to parents. Parents are advised that when this certificate is issued they will need to have this with them during the period of exemption that has been granted. This certificate is a legal document.

*If the absence is to attend a funeral, music or ballet exam then just a note of explanation to Mrs Nettleton is sufficient. Mrs Nettleton will then confirm the absence with a letter.*

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**R.I.P. ††**
Our prayerful sympathy is extended to the Hassarati family (Jeremy 6G), following the recent passing of his great grandmother. May she rest in peace.

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**Coming Dates**

**WEEK 10**

Mon, 16th Sept  •  Text-a-thon money due
Tues, 17th Sept  •  Pyjama Day—gold coin
                        •  Sausage Sizzle
Thurs, 19th Sept  •  8.30 am Assembly
                        •  Text-a-thon draw
Fri, 20th Sept     •  Staff Development Day

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St Bernadette’s School News
A HUGE thank you to all the wonderful mums who got up so early and so cheerfully helped us bbq, serve and cleanup after the beautiful Fathers Day breakfast last Friday. The Dads were very lucky to have such a dedicated band of workers making their morning so special. These sorts of events, that the P&F provide for the WHOLE school community, would not be possible without your help so thank you thank you thank you to: Jennifer Wakeling, Marnie Parington, Lisa Biasucci, Carolyn James, Maria Meyer, Christine Gracie, Jackie McCutcheon, Sarah Hope, Kate Collyer, Karen Orsini, Rebecca Cushway, Linda Burnett, Virginia West, Amanda Egan, Joanne Williams, Lena De Guzman, Susan Goodlace, Ranee Fernando, Karen Grace, Bernadette Rushe, Andrea McDonald, Zofia Winiarski, Ann Hishion, Marian Dodd, Adrienne McGovern & our P&F President, Jeff Younis.

P&F Hospitality Committee

Pyjama and Sausage Sizzle Day
Tuesday 17th September
Students are asked to wear their pyjamas on Tuesday and bring a gold coin. There will also be a sausage sizzle (orders should have been placed by Friday 13th September). All proceeds will go to the Pyjama Foundation.

The number of children in out-of-home-care rose by 51% between 2005 and 2010 to around 36,000. Our aim at St Bernadette's is to make a difference to at least some of these children.

http://www.thepyjamafoundation.com

Risky Business

On Wednesday, Year Six had their Risky Business Market Day. We spent the day selling the products we had designed then made for in class.

Risky Business is a Science and Technology unit, involving Year Six students learning about how to form a company and then run a business. Over the whole term, Year Six has been working on designing and making a product to sell to children throughout the school. Our goal was to sell and make a profit that will go towards supporting the Pyjama Foundation.

On Tuesday, we had a Parent Expo Day, where the students had a chance to show their parents what they had made and what they had learnt throughout the term. Each company was responsible for setting up a stall to display their products. They then had to present their Business Portfolio to the parents and explain the different tasks that were set for them to complete.

The Market Day on Wednesday was a hit and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We sold a wide range of products such as play dough, small pillows, slime, stress balls, grass heads, scoobies, note books, ipod socks, bookmarks, bracelets, worry dolls, beaded keyrings and pet rocks.

In total, Year Six raised an amazing total of $3220 to be donated to the Pyjama Foundation. All of Year Six had a great time making and selling their products and we hope the students in the school are still enjoying their purchased products. We thank all the students and their parents for supporting us.

Natasha Durney-Steel and Dylan Schweda 6W
Celebrating Talents

Inter School Debating Competition Results 2013
Congratulations St Bernadette’s!

In our first year of participation in the Hills Cluster Debating Competition our students have been placed 2nd in the overall competition. This is an incredible result. Well done to all the boys and girls involved:

Jack Towner
Harrison Bayssari
Hugo Manieri
Abbey McConnell
Natalie Winiarzki
Natasha Durney-Steel
Saara Stenberg
Rachel Steenson
Christina Saad
William Fitzalan
Nicholas Carr
Abbey Smith
Luca Ferraro
Joseph Patchell

Thank you to our parents who provided transport and support to the students.
Mrs Metwally and Mrs Nettleton

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday, 17th September between 8.00am and 10.00am.
Parent volunteer this week is Donna Noonan

Calling all those Creative Mums
Our final craft day for this term is on Monday 16th September after drop off. Come along and have some fun.

Protecting Children is Everybody’s Business

National Child Protection Week encourages the community to play more of a part in helping to protect and care for children and young people. There are many ways we can all be more involved and aware:

Parents can help by providing loving and supportive environments and by showing children how to have respectful relationships.

Carers can help by keeping children and young people safe and providing them with a safe space in which they can thrive and grow.

Neighbours can help by supporting and helping each other and working towards a safe and inclusive neighbourhood.

For more information refer: www.napcan.org.au
National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
Top Tips for Parents from a Child's Perspective

- I know I can't have everything that I ask for... I just like to ask, so please don't spoil me.
- I feel more secure when I know where my boundaries are. So don't be afraid to set some limits.
- I will take more notice of you when you talk quietly with me in private. So please don't correct me in front of others.
- When I make mistakes please remember I'm just learning. This helps me want to try again.
- I know I have to learn about the consequences of my choices even when sometimes I make a wrong choice.
- Sometimes I might say hurtful things when I think you are bossing me. I need your loving guidance.
- Sometimes I feel like I need a little more attention so I might seem a bit over sensitive.
- Sometimes I might look like I'm not listening. I tend to switch off to the nagging tone and I'm more likely to pay attention to a conversational tone.
- I can feel very disappointed when promises are broken. So please be careful what you promise me.
- Sometimes I don't get all the details straight. Please understand that I am doing my best to remember and explain.
- Sometimes I may feel frightened into not telling the whole truth even when I know it is the right thing to do.
- Sometimes I seem to be asking endless questions. Please be patient. I really like talking with you.
- Being consistent with me helps me know you are trustworthy and I can rely on you.
- It means so much to me when you don't think my fears are silly. They can feel so real and I need your respectful reassurance.
- Help me to understand that everyone makes mistakes, even you. We are all learning to become the best we can be.
- I learn that it's OK to say "sorry" and to admit when I am wrong, by knowing how it feels when you do the same to me.
- It must be hard for you to see me growing up so fast. I want you to enjoy every step with me.
- I learn and grow by experimenting and sometimes taking risks. This can be tricky for both of us.
- Your understanding and love is what helps me thrive and to be the best that I can be. Thank you.

Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence & Abuse, Child Protection Week Committee 2011, reframed from 21 Memos from Your Child off the NAPCAN Preventing Child Abuse website: www.napcan.org.au
SBFC PRESENTATION DAY
And
FAMILY FUN DAY
SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2013
11.00 am – 3.30 pm
At: Eric Mobb's Reserve - Field 1

We have great pleasure to announce all details for our end of year presentation. Please come along & make it a fun day for the whole family and our SBFC community.

Trophy Presentation starts 11.30am sharp
BBQ lunch & Drinks to purchase
BYO Beer and Wine
Free Jumping Castles
Free Face Painting
Football shoot out – great prizes to be won