



St Bernadette's School



Friday 10 December 2021 — Term 4 Week 10 No. 40

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this is our last newsletter for the year I would like to once again, thank all families for their constant support and kind words for myself as well as our amazing staff at St Bernadette's. It has been a year of incredible challenge though we have met every hurdle with a smile on our faces and our heads held high. Children and staff members have worked exceedingly hard all year and our many weeks in remote learning allowed all of us to show resilience in action.

Thank you to our outstanding St Bernadette's staff for all that they have done for the children in their care! The staff members go above and beyond their job description each and every day to ensure the children are given every opportunity to thrive and shine spiritually, educationally, emotionally and relationally. They deserve a complete rest over the holiday break.

We say farewell to our school counsellor Mrs Kristy Washington as she is leaving our school to move back to her home state of Queensland. We are very thankful for all that she has contributed to our school this year and wish Kristy and her family every blessing for the future.

Special thanks to the 2021 P&F committee for their dedication to our school and their willingness to assist whenever they were asked to help. We look forward to a year where we hope the incoming P&F team are able to organise many community enriching activities throughout the year.

Thank you also to Mrs Julie Hawkes, Uniform Shop Coordinator, and her band of volunteers for keeping the sales of uniforms available for our families. Julie spends many hours ordering, organising and processing orders, always with a smile.

Over the holiday break the Admin Block and senior student toilets will be undergoing a facelift and will hopefully be finished for our return to school next year. We look forward to showcasing the updates with you once we return next year.

I pray that you and your family enjoy a blessed and happy Christmas and remain safe while travelling to holiday destinations. I look forward to seeing you again in February.

May God bless and keep you, Mrs Bianca Cooke

R.E. NEWS



This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five-week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.



Rejoice Sunday

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

Continued Page 2...

Week 11 Dates

Tues 14 December
7pm Yr 6 Graduation

Wed 15 December
Last day for students

Thu 16 & Fri 17 December—Staff Development Days

2022 Dates

Fri 28 Jan
Staff Dev Day & MAIs (pm)

Mon 31 Jan
Staff Dev Day & MAIs (all day)

Tues 1 Feb
Yrs 1 to 6 commence

Wed 2 Feb
Kindergarten 2022 commence

Fri 8 April
Last day of Term 1



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for 2022

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School Calendar: <http://www.stbernadetteschill.catholic.edu.au/en/Community/Events>

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In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required?

John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

Gaudette, the Latin for rejoice is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. The pink candle is lit instead of a purple one on the Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

This week in Wellbeing we've been having fun, chilling out and enjoying each other's company before the end of the school year.

I hope this holiday break is safe and filled with much fun and laughter. It is a great opportunity to start a few family traditions that can help improve your family's wellbeing. Social scientists say that over 90% of our thoughts are negative so retraining our brains is possible. Before you eat a meal together, have everyone say 3 things they are grateful for, it can be something very simple. Often it can create lots of conversation and feelings of great joy.

Don't forget the power of our breath! Start a road trip with the "Five Finger Breathing" technique or when you're tired after a busy day. When it's hard to fall asleep, get out the 'Breathing Stick'. Remember to enjoy the present moment!

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a very safe and happy holiday.

Take care
Sally Coppini



Help Wanted

Jo Baker will be taking on the hospitality role for the P&F Association in 2022.



She is looking to put together a small team of volunteers who would like to help with the planning and organising of upcoming events at St Bernadette's.

If you are able to assist in any way, please email Jo at hospitality.stbpnf@gmail.com

Jo will also put a call out before each event for extra volunteers who are wanting to help out on the day.

Thank you.

Overdue Library Books

Please return borrowed library books via the office before Wednesday 15th December. Ensure that you look in all the hiding places at home—under beds, on shelves, behind the curtains, on desks... etc.

A Message from the School Band

Well done to the students who participated in the term 4 Christmas project. Whether you submitted a recording, appeared in the video or simply enjoyed learning the song on zoom you should all be very proud.

Please find below links to the final recordings for both bands.

[Beginner Band \(Santa Comes Marching In\)](#)

[Concert Band \(Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town\)](#)

Feel free to share these recordings with family and friends but be respectful of the privacy of other students by choosing the appropriate privacy settings on whatever platform you choose to share.

To all our year 6 students – thank you for your leadership and contribution to the band. We wish you all well moving into high school and hope you continue your musical journey there. Please contact us if you need any help or advice with this transition.

To all other band members, we look forward to seeing you in 2022. Our goal in term 1 will be to get everyone making music together again (in the same room!!) and, hopefully, organise an informal performance for parents and the school at the end of the term. There is no need to re-enrol (you are automatically part of the band next year unless you contact us to withdraw) and we will be in touch mid January with further details about band in 2022.

And finally, a massive thankyou to Jane Nelson, Mari Kivela and Wayne Rigby, our fantastic band tutors. In difficult times you kept music alive and were always so flexible, generous and supportive.

So "BRAVO" again to everyone, whether you appear in the video or not, and we wish you all a merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Steven Lavis, General Manager





**Congratulations to the following
students receiving Bernie Way & Class Merit Awards
Bernie Way Award— Being a Learner/Being Respectful**

	Bernie Way Award	Bernie Way Award	Class Merit Award	Class Merit Award
KB	Ryan Rann	Zoe Osborn	Olivia Khoudair	Lauren Gulisano
KG	Nathan Hanna	Emilia Roberts	Ophelia Ho	Kianah Sciberras
KW	Joseph Hanna	Xelma Mormul	Harlow Stewart	Alessia Rodrigues
1B	Jake Younis	Eve Palmer	Arnav Chandra	Nicola Watson
1G	Tali Berrell	Harrison Duff	Luca Palma	Mikayla Palma
1W	Cameron McVean	Mia Taylor	Ronan Gooley	Annie Heneghan
2B	Spencer Tang	Samara Rodrigues	Alexandria Catron	Joshua Hough
2G	Amelia Banovic	Kelvin Yohan	Poppy Thornton	Cameron Lennon
2W	Jai Kirkwood	Benjamin Maggs	Ava Mortel	Zara Sakkal
3B	Eve Lincoln	Isaac Saad	Gabriel Saad	Jamie Haj
3G	Josephine Burraston	Alexa Kouknas	Michael Mitchell	Sophia–Therese Raad
3W	Madison Pena	Emily Chen	Nicholas Botros	Eva Chambers
4B	Thomas Macey	Lucia Aiozza	Valda Mormul	William Tran
4W	Alexia Perharda	Benjamin-Jude Raad	Cooper Keremelvski	Jaden Zaiter
5B	Jackson Leib	Marissa Zeaiter	Sophie Pratt	Tiana Symin
5G	Matilda Maggs	Sebastian Haywood	Sofia Papandrea	Tess Gooley
5W	Juliana Zaiter	Sophia Khamis	Peter Georges	William McManus
6B	Joshua Tan	Hilda Mormul	Douglas Windress	Poppy Dibble
6G	Isabella Perete	Kevin Le	Piper Johnson	Angelique Debalak
6W	Lanna Heneghan	Joseph-Anthony Raad	Lucas Ranieri	Harry Palmer



St Bernadette's school is having its own
Summer Reading Challenge
with some great prizes to be won.

It's easy. All you have to do is read 5 books (or more) of your choice or have someone read 5 (or more) books to you.

Once you have read your books simply print, fill out the attached form(s) and return it to school by **Friday 11th February 2022**.

You never know it might be YOU who wins one of our special prizes. You can enter more than one sheet. The more the merrier!



Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge

Taking part in the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is easy! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two \$500 JB Hi-Fi vouchers or one of 30 runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30. Students can enter [online](#) by visiting the CEDP website. **Entries open on 1 November 2021 and close at 5:00pm on 25 February 2022.** Terms and Conditions can be found [here](#).



Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the children in 4B and 5B!! These two classes had the most children to finish this year's PRC. Well done!!

PARISH NEWS:

Communion Photos

Photos of the First Holy Communion's for 2021 are now available to be picked up from the parish office Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Photos from Communion and Confirmation 2020 are still available as well.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

For those wishing to enrol their child in the Sacrament of reconciliation program for 2022, please contact sacraments@stbernadette.org.au or visit the Parish Office Monday-Friday 9am-5pm for a copy of the Parent Information Booklet and details on how to enrol.

School Fees

All over the counter school fee payments have finished for the year. If you wish to finalise your 2021 school fee account please pay via Bpay, Bpoint or Post Billpay.



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ENROL NOW FOR COSHC FOR TERM 4 & 2022!

We offer an exciting and safe space for children of all ages to come before and after school. We are currently accepting bookings! Please email stbcastlehill@cdpsl.org.au for any enquiries. We look forward to having you join us soon!

Swimming News

Last Friday the 3rd of December, St Bernadette's swimmers had a great morning at Blacktown Aquatic Centre.

Congratulations to all swimmers! Special mention to the following swimmers who were named Age Champions and Age Champion Runners Up.

Age Champions

Lexie Hughes-Brogan, James Sahabu, Sofia Raic, Jamie Haj, Sophie Vilorio, William Tran, Natalie Alam, Rafael Clemente, Savannah Jaucian



Age Champion Runners Up

Elliott Lavis, Victoria Kalina, Calan Mooney, Abigail Wigham, Thomas Macey, Matilda Cowper, Thomas Looker, Amelia Lavis

Congratulations to the Green Colour House who were the Champion House with 186 points.



Ilana Blazevic
Physical Education
Teacher & Sports
Coordinator



P & F Working Bee

Saturday 29 January 2022

9am start

All Families Welcome

