



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST BERNARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Batemans Bay, NSW

2013 School Report to the Community



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

St Bernard's is a Catholic Primary School catering for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 6. Together with St Mary's Primary, Moruya and Carroll College, Broulee we have created a Catholic Kindergarten to Year 12 education pathway for students in the Eurobodalla Shire. Our School Motto 'That All May Be One' invites all members of our school and parish community to work together to create an experience of unity. Children learn from what they experience and their learning challenges them to live 'each for all, and all for each' so that truly, All May Be One!

The school currently has 16 classes from Kindergarten to Year 6 with a class average of 23 students. Collaborative teaching partnerships throughout all grades ensure that St Bernard's strives to offer learning programs which are relevant, contemporary, stimulating and enjoyable. There is a very strong focus on the development of English, Mathematics, and Information Communication and Technology.

In addition to all of the designated Key Learning Areas, St Bernard's offers opportunities such as a French Program, school Concert Band, school Choir, a range of sporting endeavours including local gala days and further sporting representative opportunities.

Student Representative's Message

Our school's new playground equipment is well used each day. Our new hall is big and spacey. It provides us with a fantastic undercover area. What makes our school a special place is the good friendships we have with each other.

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Bernard's is a Catholic Primary School located in Batehaven NSW. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 372 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 55% male and 45% female students; 1.9% indigenous students; and 2% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 33 staff comprising 21 teachers and 10 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including clerical support, administration, learning support assistants, canteen operators and groundsman.

The school's website can be found at www.stbernardsbb.nsw.edu.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Bernard's Primary follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*.

All teaching staff have now completed Accreditation A and B in line with the Archdiocesan policy. An area for continued development has been assessment and reporting in Religious Education. Staff drew on the rubrics developed by the CEO Religious Education team and have begun to look at using

the Understanding by Design (UbD) approach to programming to develop a more open ended style of assessment.

The prayer life of the school has continued to be an area of focus. Whole school prayer lead by students is an integral part of our week. Year 5 and 6 students took the initiative this year and began each week with a Stage 3 prayer each Monday in addition to the whole school prayer each Friday.

The sacramental program continues to evolve and this year it was entirely parish based.

We joined with St Mary's Moruya and Carroll College Broulee for the annual Combined Schools Mass as part of Catholic Schools Week.

Living our mission as a Catholic School is most important to the St Bernard's community. As a follow up to their learning during Lent some students elected to set up their own fundraising activities to support the work of Caritas' Project Compassion. Our Mission Week activities in October raised over \$2000.00 for Catholic Mission.

The Making Jesus Real program continues to be embedded in senior classes.

Staff attended a Spirituality Day facilitated by Sr Carmel Drew who showed us how to look at familiar scripture stories with a whole new understanding.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

Students in **Years 3 and 5** sat the *National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy* (NAPLAN) in May this year. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

School and National Mean Scale Scores

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	419	416	411	428	397
School	423	414	398	443	402

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	502	478	494	501	486
School	502	464	481	503	482

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	95%	95%	94%	95%	96%
School	94%	96%	91%	96%	96%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	96%	92%	93%	95%	93%
School	100%	96%	90%	96%	96%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	34%	9%	25%	34%	7%
Band 5	14%	36%	11%	23%	32%
Band 4	20%	21%	14%	16%	32%
Band 3	14%	32%	36%	20%	18%
Band 2	16%	2%	9%	7%	11%
Band 1	2%	0%	5%	0%	0%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	11%	4%	10%	18%	8%
Band 7	19%	8%	12%	22%	11%
Band 6	34%	24%	38%	24%	29%
Band 5	32%	52%	18%	22%	31%
Band 4	4%	8%	12%	10%	17%
Band 3	0%	4%	10%	4%	4%

The above tables show that the school Year 3 students achieved pleasing results in both Reading and Grammar & Punctuation. The Year 5 students performed more strongly in Reading along with Grammar & Punctuation than the other areas assessed. Our Year 5 students showed good growth from their Year 3 assessments in Writing. The development of spelling skills along with challenging our academically capable students will continue to be a focus across the school.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Enrolment Policy

In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website or on the Catholic Education Office website at <http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx>

As Principal, it is my pleasure to personally welcome all prospective families to St Bernard's. We have a strong K - 12 Pathway with Carroll College Broulee, and regular opportunities are embraced to integrate with the College to enrich learning across a variety of Key Learning Areas. An information package is available at the School Office.

Attendance Policy

In monitoring student attendance we are directed by the Archdiocesan Attendance at School (NSW) Policy which can be found on the Catholic Education Office website.

At St Bernard's, parents are asked to notify the school whenever a student is absent. A written explanation stating the cause of the absence is required from the parents or guardian. Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds without the written permission of parents or legal guardian. For unexplained absences, a pro-forma is to be sent to the parents requesting a written explanation regarding a child's absence. Notes are kept in a large labelled envelope and are given to a member of the Executive for checking and archiving at the end of each term. See Pro-forma section for note re. unexplained absences.

Parents/guardians must complete an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form for all absences when the absence is known in advance (eg holidays). If the request for absence is less than 101 days it can be approved by the Principal. If the request is for 101 or more days it must be forwarded to the Catholic Education Office. It will then be sent through the NSW Catholic Education Commission to the Minister of Education or his delegate, for his approval.

Students arriving late for school are expected to collect a late slip from the front office which is then presented to the classroom teacher. In this instance, a part absence is to be recorded in the roll.

In the case of a student exceeding the 15 day limit of unexplained absences or in the event that a student continually presents late to school (ie. after the start of the school day) it is the expectation that classroom teachers track and monitor this situation and make and document contact with the parents/guardians. It is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to notify the Principal when a pattern of absenteeism is evident and the number of days reaches 10-12 days. The Principal will then notify the Regional Attendance Coordinator in consultation with the Catholic Education Office.

Behaviour Management Policy

At St Bernard's we value the dignity and individuality of each child, and the development of positive relationships between all members of our community is paramount. Our Behaviour Management Policy is based on a proactive approach, which is achieved through positive reinforcement and an awareness of the needs of each individual. We believe that as a staff, we are committed to modelling responsible behaviour to the students in our care and working closely with parents to ensure positive outcomes are achieved. Parents are fully informed of incidents as they occur at school. We value the support of parents in ensuring clear expectations are articulated from both home and school so a strong partnership is reinforced for students. The principles of Restorative Justice are embedded in the school's Behaviour Management Policy.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. In addition we do not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce discipline at our school.

The full text of the school's Behaviour Management Policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly and confidentiality is always maintained. A full text of the school policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

The following key areas have been a priority throughout 2013 and some will continue to be a focus at St Bernard's for 2014 and beyond:

Throughout 2013 St Bernard's Primary school implemented a number of initiatives to help improve the student outcomes for Literacy and Numeracy through the National Partnership funding.

The Reading Recovery program was continued to assist younger students who had been identified as being at risk. A whole school emphasis on spelling was continued. Analysis of NAPLAN data was conducted to identify strengths and weakness of results across a one year and a three year timeframe.

Additional Maths staff meetings were conducted to assist teachers with identifying the results of the NAPLAN testing. Teachers in all grades were introduced to the specific activities on the ACARA site to address particular needs as recognised in the NAPLAN results. Additional resources were expended to support teachers in implementing the Maths 300 and Calculating Changes resources. A NIP program was conducted throughout the year assisting students who were at risk in Numeracy. Staff meetings were held to establish an understanding of Rich Assessment tasks and programming using the Understanding by Design (UbD) approach to promote a problem solving skill development and encourage student engagement. A ten point plan was developed to assist with the implementation of strategies to assist teaching and learning opportunities in Numeracy activities. This has been included as an integral part of the Numeracy strategy for 2014. The use of Numeracy Walls was introduced to promote the understanding of the language of mathematics. Several staff meetings were designated to exploring the new Maths K-10 syllabus to be implemented in 2014.