Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to our new Pope Francis I.

How exciting! First non European Pope in over 1000 years, Jesuit and South American. Wow!

Please check this link out for more information.


Have you had a chance to download our very own school app for iPhone and Android devices? So far 90 people have. I am excited by the ease of use and how it conveys simple messages and information quickly, easily and without cost.

As one parent just reported...’the school app is brilliant! So quick and easy and I can get info on my phone at any time. Thank you!’

My hope is that as many of you as possible use this app for day to day communication. Remember the newsletter is accessible via the app as well.

Please search for St Bernard's Primary School in the app stores.

I must raise the unsavoury issue of bad language and how inappropriate it is in the school environment. We have been working very hard at reducing the incidences of students’ bad language but it is becoming increasingly difficult to curb as it is becoming more widespread and generally accepted (by some including the media).

Having said this we have had recent incidences where some parents have been overheard using 'colourful' language. This will not be tolerated. Any parent (or visitor) using obscene language will be asked to leave the school premises.

Just because it is more widespread does not make it right! We have to work hard as a community to instil within our children the values we uphold. Swearing shows a complete lack of respect for the person who hears it.

Yesterday’s Combined Schools’ Mass was a glorious celebration of our Catholic journey. The three schools came together united and proud to be a Catholic School. Well done to everyone.

Tomorrow we are having a mufti day to raise funds for Relay for Life. If at all possible (and not going to too much trouble!!!!) could students please wear colours such as pink, purple, yellow and/or white. The Batemans Bay Community Relay for Life will be held this weekend.

Blessings,
David

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Calendar

Mar
Fri 15 MUFTI DAY
    Dave Berry’s guitar lessons
    Yr 10 Carroll College students visit

Mon 18 St Patrick’s Day celebrated

Tue 19 Feast of St Joseph

Thu 20 School Board Meeting

Notes sent out 7 Mar - 13 Mar
Events have already occurred.

That All May Be One
Dear Parents and Carers

At yesterday’s Combined Schools Mass Father Tom spoke very powerfully about the role of each one of us; parents, students and teachers, in the Catholic school community. There was also a challenge for us to be people who are truly Christ like. Of course we fail, we make mistakes we hurt others. The important thing is to keep trying.

In our world today the immediacy of communication is a double edged sword for while it provides us with security, links to family and friends and constant updates, it can also be used in negative ways to bully, to spread ‘stories’ which then take on a life of their own as messages are forwarded and events taken out of context. There have been some very public examples of this which serve as a reminder to us of what not to do.

This Sunday’s gospel, the story of the woman accused of adultery, also reminds us about the blame game. We can picture the scene of the woman dragged before Jesus by a crowd, many of whom saw themselves as the righteous. Of course they were also trying to put Jesus in a tricky situation. Jesus’ response to her accusers: ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her’ (Jn 8:1-12).

Sadly on the weekend two items were stolen from the school grounds. One was the set of cherubs which were near the Kinder classrooms – a gift to the school some years ago. The second item was the large statue of Mary which stood near Year 3. This statue was a gift to the original St Joseph’s church from a family whose son was killed after the First World War.

On a happier note a big ‘thank you’ to students and teachers in 2A and 3B and their families for the outstanding effort in preparing fruit and cakes to sell at Recess. 2A raised $41.25 and 3B $271.30. This money will be sent to Caritas together with any money donated through the Project Compassion boxes. To put it in context the money raised by the students could provide 31 families in Cambodia with a water filter so that they would have safe clean water thus reducing waterborne diseases. It could buy 62 chickens for a children’s centre in Mozambique so that they can raise and sell more chickens with the money raised used to provide food medical supplies and school uniforms.

Another group of senior students are also planning an activity. This awareness of the needs of others is commendable all the more so because it is the students themselves wanting to act for justice.

We welcome the news of our new pope Francis I. St Francis was the champion of the poor and oppressed.

God, we celebrate your great compassion. Grant that we may work with you to show your compassion to others, to love and serve others and Christ has loved us. Amen.

Helene Boller

WEEKEND MASSES
6.00 PM SATURDAYS
9.00 AM SUNDAYS
Thank you to all parents, students, staff and helpers who made Year 3’s fundraising Cake Stall such a success last Monday. Together we managed to raise $270.00.

This money will support Caritas’ Project Compassion appeal for 2013.

The students set the goal of helping others in need and they certainly feel proud of their efforts.

You can go to [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) if you are interested in seeing who this project will help.

Sharon Beashel and Angela Holmes.
The Relay for Life is this weekend and we welcome everyone to come down and join in all the fun. Join our team of parents, friends and staff. The relay is a fun way to raise money for cancer research and support services. It is a 24-hour event but participants only need to be active for as long or little as they wish. We now have a second team. If you would like to join us in the second team or find out more go to our link: http://relay.cancercouncil.com.au/2013/eurobodalla_2013/St-Bernard--s-Team-Two/341030

If you don’t wish to join you can still come on down for a bit of fun. The St Bernard’s relay team has a stall which is holding a colouring in competition, 100 club, jewellery making, plane making and lots more. Come down and find Mrs Barbara in the school tent. The event starts at 9:15 am this Saturday at Hanging Rock AFL Field. We would love to see you there.
MESSAGE FROM PRIORS
STUDENT BUS TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Unfortunately the NSW Ministry of Transport will only allow one bus pass per student regardless of joint custody and alternative travel arrangements.

Therefore Priors issues one bus pass based on the primary carer’s address details which are registered with St Bernard’s. Where students need alternative travel arrangements, for example, travel to the parent’s workplace or to the Village Centre or Bridge Plaza, there will not be a second bus pass issued. However Priors require a permission note to be written by the parent or legal guardian(s) with the details of the journey and contact details to be given to the driver on the day.

The need for an interim bus pass only arises where the student does not have a bus pass at all and the student needs to travel to a different address eg the parent’s workplace or to the shops (not the home address).

If you have any further questions, please call Emma at Priors on 4472 4040.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

Thank you to families who donated an easter egg for our Term 1 fundraiser. Raffle tickets were sent home last week. Extra tickets are available from the front office or Mrs Barbara.

Could you please return all tickets by Wednesday 27 March 2013. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 28 March 2013.

TICKS IN THE PLAYGROUND

There may be ticks in the playground and we would like to request that parents and carers check their child for ticks especially after today’s Cross Country and sport days.

SCHOOL FEES

There seems to be a little confusion regarding payment of school fees. Each term fees are generated in the first or second week of term. This is a 28 day account with the due date clearly stated on the account. It would be appreciated if this account is paid by the due date as is the case with St Bernard’s having to meet their payments on time. However you can elect to pay them weekly fortnightly or monthly ensuring that the balance is paid off by the end of term. If this is the case payment should commence immediately so that the account is cleared and standing at a nil balance before receiving your next term’s fees. If you are experiencing difficulty with meeting your payments please phone the office on 4472 4446. Thank you.

STINGRAYS GIRLS FOOTBALL CLINIC IN APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The two day clinic will be held at JJ Kelly Park (Outer Field), Wollongong on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 April 2013 from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm each day. All coaching will be provided by current players from the Illawarra Stingrays Women’s Premier League team. The clinic is suitable for girls aged between 7 - 14 years who currently play in a school team or with a local club

At an affordable $45 over two days, this clinic provides a fantastic opportunity for young female players who love playing football to meet their favourite Stingrays and learn some new tips and tricks for the season ahead. Please contact Sport and Recreation’s Wollongong office on (02) 4228 5355.
CONGRATULATIONS!
Award Winners from 13 March 2013 Assembly

(Kinder)
Samuel Blake, Erin Drewsen, Isabella Hair, Rhys Barbara, Genievieve Phillips Chadima, Harper Pollard, Stephanie Bow, Archie Cockram, Lori Kobold, Charlotte Devane

(Year 1)
Ella Elwes, Evie Theodore, Zachary Wattam, Sophie Eppelstun, Guanxian Li, John Leafe, Lilly Wakelam, William Holland

(Year 2)
Harrison Betterraidge, Indhi Filmer, Keira Lenehan, Sophie McAteer, Myles Duncombe, William Nguyen, Grace Ralston

(Year 3)
Jakob Barbara, Jake Brogan, Ruby-Tuesday Jacobs, Charlize Thornton-McAdam, Mason Gilbert, Angelina Sim, Benjamin Theodore, Anna Tran

(Year 4)
Emma Tuckwell, Jordan Wattam, Ezekiel Durden, Isabella Heslop, Alana Caba-Cody

(Year 5)
Jade Borg, Matthew Tuckwell, Dominic Wattam, Jade Briggs, Jorja Scott, Montana Shaw

(Year 6)
Timothy Bath, Faith Ralston, Jai Tipper, Maddison Blewitt, Henry Hatton, Caleb Reisma, Conor Schmidt

(French)
Charlotte Devane, Mia Hewson, Amber Drew, Emma Moses, Angus Stephens, Teagan Moses, Samuel Wright