Dear Parents and Friends,

In today’s newsletter you will see a new section that has been created by the students. I commend their work and hope you enjoy catching up on the ‘Kids Gossip’ etc. I think it is a great initiative and should prove to be a very popular section of the newsletter. (I might have to sneak some of my jottings in there because I know you’ll read them then!!!)

Congratulations to all those who received awards at yesterday’s swimming presentation. Unfortunately not everyone can always win a ribbon but the important thing is to try your best. We are sending a squad of thirty plus swimmers to Narooma today and we hope they give it their best shot. A full report will be in next week’s newsletter. Congratulations to Lourdes on the Swimming Carnival victory. As always a special thanks to Kim Dent for coordinating the carnival and to all staff and parents who helped in any way. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Tomorrow Year 6 will be hosting our first assembly of the year. Please come along and share in the wonderful work happening in the senior classes. Assembly starts at 1.50 pm.

I hope that you all find next week’s parent teacher interviews a beneficial experience. Remember that the main emphasis is sharing information and about your children rather than an educational update/report etc. Formal interviews will take place at the end of Term 2.

At yesterday’s staff meeting we were involved in a numeracy workshop led by Fiona Pettit from the Catholic Education Office. Fiona is working closely with us to develop best practice in contemporary numeracy education.

Have a great week.

Blessings,

David
Dear Parents

Yearbook

The Yearbook has arrived! As families pay for 1 copy of the Yearbook in your fees, it will be sent home next week to those families who were here in 2012. Thank you so much to Michelle Burrows who worked tirelessly with me to ensure that you have a special record of your child’s educational journey. There are limited additional copies available from the Office for $14 per copy from Thursday 28 February 2013.

Thank you also to our sponsors who you will see advertised in the Yearbook. Without their support we would not be able to produce the Yearbook for such a reasonable price. Thank you to: Raine and Horne, AAA Financial Intelligence Ltd, J & H White Pty Ltd, Batheaven Newsagency, South Coast Workwear, Surfkissed Eyelash Boutique and St Bernard’s OOSH.

Life Education

Our Life Education program commenced on Tuesday. We are very lucky to again have the educator Sienna McBride. Sienna is very happy to talk to parents about the program. She will be at the Life Ed van between 8.25 am and 8.50 am on Monday and Tuesday if any parents would like to talk to her about the program.

For those who have placed Happy Harold product orders: Delivery will be by Friday of next week.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Thank you to all of the parents who have replied to our Parent/Teacher ‘get to know you’ interviews. I am sure that these meetings will set a good foundation for your child’s education this year. Please remember that these are just a short time for you to share pertinent information about your child. As always, your child’s teacher will be more than willing to talk to you or meet with you if and when the need arises. If you are ever concerned about something happening in your child’s life at school, please contact your child’s class teacher in the first instance. It is really important that you maintain open communication with your child’s teacher so that we can work together to assist your child achieve their potential.

School Counsellor

Just a reminder about the processes used to refer your child to Melissa Selleck our School Counsellor for 2013. Melissa will be working at St Bernard’s each Thursday from 9.45 am to 4.15 pm.

- To refer a child to Melissa, you (parents) must make an appointment through Heidi or Therese in the Front Office (ph 4472 4446). This appointment can either be to see Melissa directly, or for a time that you will be available for Melissa to telephone you.

- Melissa will see or speak to you in your appointment time. This must occur BEFORE your child receives any counselling.

- Melissa will need to prioritise by need and create a waiting list for students needing counselling.

- If you fail to come to your appointment, you will need to reschedule, and your child will be placed at the end of the waiting list.

These processes are very formal but they should ensure that students receive the best level of counselling in the little time Melissa has available.

Wishing you a blessed week with your family.

Jacqueline Lee
Assistant Principal
Dear Parents and Carers

The Year of Grace was an invitation by the Bishops of Australia to celebrate and renew our faith using images of Jesus to lead us into contemplation. The year began at Pentecost 2012 and will conclude at Pentecost 2013.

What is so special about the face of Christ? Among other things, it is as we contemplate the face of Christ that we enter into the interplay between the divine and the human. What does this mean?

Since the dawn of humanity, human beings have sought to understand who they are and to comprehend their place in the universe. Our feet firmly on the ground, we can look up and wonder at the stars. In one way or another, all major religious movements seek to make sense of this interplay between our daily experience and the universe beyond.

It is a Christian conviction that the human and the divine are not mutually exclusive. While God is beyond us, God is also within us. To enter into a relationship with God, we don’t need to leave our lives and our world behind. God is here. God is one of us.

This is the reality that we contemplate as we gaze on the human face of Christ. God is to be found in your life, as it is, here and now. Nothing that is currently part of your human life and experience is outside your relationship with God. yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/

The Year of Faith began on October 11, 2012 and will end on November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King. The Pope chose October 11 as the opening date because on this day two important anniversaries occur: the 50th anniversary of the opening of The Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The Year of Faith calls us into a deep renewal of our faith through retracing the history of our faith, studying the Catechism, praying the Creed and seeking to be an active witness of what we believe. http://www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en/faq1.html/

Last year we introduced elements of a program called Making Jesus Real. The mirror and images outside the Kinder block are part of this program, a key element of which is recognising that Jesus (God) is within each of us. By the simple act of greeting people each day we are showing the face of Jesus to each other.

An invitation to prayer each Friday at 8.50 am in the Hall. Year 4 will lead prayer next Friday.

God’s blessings on your week

Helene Boller

Jesus lives his life through us each day.
THANK YOU
A big thank you to Nicki Bath who generously made painting aprons for Year 3. We really appreciate the time you took to make them as they look wonderful.

MELANIE GINGER’S PIANO LESSONS
If you are interested, please call Melanie on 0437 766 156. First in, best dressed.
I apologise for putting the wrong phone number in last week’s Newsletter.

BOOK FAIR
Don’t forget our Book Fair is on the following dates during our Parent Teacher Interviews starting at 3.00 pm in the Library:

   Tuesday 26 February 2013 AND Wednesday 27 February 2013

We gladly accept Mastercard, VISA, cash or cheque. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to St Bernard’s Primary School.

Di Metcalf - Librarian

EASTER EGG RAFFLE
We are asking all families to donate an easter egg for our Term 1 fundraiser. Please send in an easter egg to your child’s class. Raffle tickets will be sent home next week. They will be 50 cents each and the raffle will be drawn on Thursday 28 March 2013.

CANTEEN—WEEK 5
Mon 25 Feb  Ray Sheiles
Tue HELPER NEEDED
Wed Michelle Galambos
Thu Amber Willoughby
Fri Kathie Blankley

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend for married couples
15 – 17 March 2013 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW
Bookings: 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au
Information: www.wwme.org.au
Welcome to our first edition of The Children’s Extra. We hope you enjoy reading our stories. All contributions are from the students at St Bernard’s school. We hope to have lots of interesting things for you to read each week.

Mr Casey’s Interview

Everyone knows that Mr Casey is a hardworking, fun loving, helping hand kind of guy. But you don’t know the other side... the COOL side. And when I mean cool I mean motorbike riding, band playing and music loving type of cool. Mr Casey loves to talk to kids and families and he also loves to meet new people. Oh and you might disagree but Mr Casey likes the Samsung Galaxy better then iPhones. Now onto the dislikes: dislikes paper work and gardening (Sorry Ms Bollier).

So next time you see Mr Casey think of him as your principal but also as a friend and a positive role model.

By Cosette Klarica.

THE ELEVENTH HOUR BOOK REPORT

The Eleventh Hour is a problem solving book. But wait, it isn’t all boring. It is exciting and fun and, parents, it will help your children develop problem solving skills. The Eleventh Hour is by Graeme Base. I have loved this book ever since I turned the first page at the age of 5. With colourful pictures for the younger ones and interesting text for the older ones. The eleventh hour is a great classic. Rated 10/10 recommend for ages 5 and up. A great classic for the problem solvers. Might need mum or dad to help find the answer.

By Caitlin Hogan

The Eleventh Hour

Competition

We are looking for a special name for our Students’ page. A prize will be awarded to the student who submits the best name. Please submit names to Hannah Carthew in 6G by next Wednesday.

We’ve seen the rest but now the best will represent our school at the regional swimming carnival today at Narooma Pool. Our school will compete against the Southern Region Schools. We congratulate all contestants and hope they do their best. Go St Bernard’s!!!
REGISTRATION FOR CLYDE UNITED SOCCER

THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2013 FROM 5.00 PM - 7.00 PM and
SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2013 FROM 10.00 AM - 1.00 PM outside
HOGS BREATH CAFÉ.

Enquiries: Shane Chappell 0403 101 090 or Megan Usher 0429 829 517. Under 6’s through to All Age. New players to bring Birth Certificate with them please.

PEPPERS NETBALL CLUB

Registrations are:

Saturday 16 February 2013  9.30 am – 12.30 pm Batemans Bay Soldiers Club,
Friday 22 February 2013    3.30 pm – 5.30 pm Batemans Bay Soldiers Club.

For more information please contact:
Juniors
Fiona Crow on 44726508

Intermediates / Seniors
Mary Beveridge 44727747, 0414589075.

THERE IS NO GRADING DAY FOR INTERMEDIATE AND SENIORS THIS YEAR.

Competition for all teams STARTS Saturday 23 March 2013.

Please note, Peppers is keen to have their uniforms back and will pay $10.00 for them.

MESSAGE FROM FR TOM AT ST BERNARD’S CHURCH

Sacramental enrolment forms are available from the foyer in the church. When forms are completed they are to be placed in the box at the back of the church. Thank you.

Father Tom

LOST RING

A lady’s ring has been found on the school grounds. If you can describe it, it’s yours. Please phone on the office on 4472 4446.
WHO WILL YOU RELAY FOR THIS YEAR?

St Bernard’s Parents & Friends have registered a team for this year’s Relay for Life. Come along and enjoy a great weekend for a great cause. Register online at the address below.

**When:** 16 March 2013 at the Hanging Rock Sports Complex

Who can register for the team?: mums, dads, kids, grandparents and friends. All welcome. It’s a great weekend with lots of fun and entertainment.


MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

Mental Health Matters in conjunction with the Country Women’s Association invites you to join us, listen to the experts, discuss issues and enjoy lunch at its Mental Health Forum on **Saturday 23 March 2013** from 8.30 am to 2.00 pm at the CWA Hall, Edward Road, Sunshine Bay.

In particular, the forum aims to focus on care and recovery services, and on homelessness, two areas much in need of information and/or support.

It hopes also to alleviate the stigma that persistently attaches to mental illness, and enable people from associated organisation, social groups, clubs, churches and the community generally, to come together on a subject of immense social concern to all of us.

To facilitate catering, please contact Maureen on 4472 1282 by 14 March 2013.

For further information, please contact Maureen on the number above or Pauline deGrave on 4474 4443.

SCHOOL BANKING

Congratulations to Raquel Carrasco in 4M who is discovering that saving can be fun and rewarding. Raquel earned a knuckles game for saving 10 tokens. Well done.

The rewards for this year are as follows: wallet, handball, knuckles game, torch, calculator, headphones and the School Banking character money boxes (these are the same as last year). Each reward requires 10 tokens to be handed in and then we order the reward from the Bank.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program.
EXEMPTIONS FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE

It is important that all parents/guardians carefully read this item.

There have been significant changes to the exemptions for student attendance requirements in NSW schools.

Parents/guardians MUST complete an Application For Exemption From Attendance At School for all absences when the absence is known in advance (eg holidays taken in school time). If the request for absence is less than 101 days of absence it can be approved by the Principal. If the request is for longer than 101 days the Application for Exemption is forwarded by the school to the Minister of Education for his approval.

Unforeseen absences, for example, absence due to illness, funerals, situations of pressing domestic necessity do NOT require an application for exemption.

If an Application For Exemption From Attendance At School is approved by the Principal/Minister the school will complete a Certificate of Exemption. This is kept on the student file and a copy is supplied to parents. This must be produced upon request by the Police or other authorised attendance officer. When departing the country the certificate can be requested by customs/passport officials.

The Application For Exemption From Attendance At School can be obtained from the school office or the forms can be emailed directly to you. Please email your request to office.stbernards@cg.catholic.edu.au.

If you have any questions in relation to this requirement please contact us on 4472 4446.

David Casey
Principal

A MESSAGE FROM PRIORS BUSLINES

Bus passes are being handed out today to all students who have filled in a bus application form or are already on our system from 2012 EXCEPT FOR YEAR 3 STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT ALREADY REAPPLIED FOR FREE BUS TRAVEL THIS YEAR. There appears to be minimal Year 3 students with bus passes handed out today. Transport NSW requires all students entering Year 3 this year to complete a bus application form in order to be issued with a current bus pass. Transport NSW removes all Year 3 students off the Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) for this year until they receive a new bus application form for each student. Students entering Year 3 are required to do this because according to Transport NSW they are no longer classified as an infant but are now a primary school student.

Also students in Years 3 to 6 who live within walking distance and wish to access free travel sometime this year will need to complete a new bus application form for this year. On receipt of a completed bus application form Priors will issue an interim or orange pass.

Please phone Priors Buslines on 4472 4040 if you have any queries.