Dear Parents and Friends,

How exciting!!!! We have ordered one hundred iPads for the classrooms and they should be here very soon. As you can well imagine there will be much setting up and configuring of these devices to ensure that they work seamlessly. Teachers have been trained in using the iPad and connecting it to their LED TVs. I will be organising a parent workshop that will present information and demonstrations (with a little bit of training for you) regarding the educational opportunities we will be providing. As previously mentioned St Bernard’s will be at the cutting edge of technology throughout the Archdiocese and wider education communities.

Important!

Certificate for Exemption from Attendance at School (NSW)

Last week I included some information regarding this new process for parents. In summary please refer to the following;

Parents must contact the office (or download form from this link or school website) to apply for exemption from attendance for their children BEFORE being away.


Principal can approve leave from one day up to 100 days.

Applications for leave in excess of 100 days require the Education Minister’s approval.

Application forms are only available from the office or school website.

Once approved a certificate will be issued to parents and a copy kept on the student’s file.

Applications are not needed for absences when a child is suffering from illness, misadventure, or attending school related activities. For illness related leave parents should continue to send in a note to classroom teacher.

Please be aware that this new procedure is for all leave, even just for one day. Unfortunately leave cannot be applied for retrospectively and therefore for roll marking purposes your child’s absence will be marked as unapproved leave.

A reminder that I am currently away at the annual Archdiocesan Principals’ Retreat. During my absence Jacqueline Lee will be the Acting Principal.

I wish you a great week,

Blessings,

David

Calendar

Mar
Fri 1  Clean Up Schools Day
Mon 4  Archdiocesan Swimming Narooma

Notes sent out 21 Feb - 27 Feb
Mon 25  P & F Survey Please return by 6 March 2013

TERM 1 SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to the families that have paid their fees for this term. Prompt payment of outstanding fees is appreciated.

Discounts on CEO Tuition fees will be processed on accounts once the signed form has been returned to the office.

That All May Be One
Dear Parents

Please keep our Archdiocesan Principals and staff from the Catholic Education Office in your prayers. They are currently meeting at Murramarang Resort for a day of meetings followed by two days of retreat.

Best wishes to our swimmers who qualified for the Archdiocesan carnival on Monday. I hope that you all travel safely and compete to the best of your ability!

I am looking forward to the Year 1 Assembly next Friday. Please join us at 1.50 pm in the Hall on Friday 8 March 2013.

Yearbook

The Yearbook was sent home yesterday to 2012 families. As families pay for one copy of the Yearbook in your fees, it has been sent home today to those families who were here in 2012 and are on track with fee payments. Please see David Casey regarding any issues with fees as soon as possible. Thank you again to all those who help make the publication possible.

Combined Schools Mass

This year’s Mass will be held at Carroll College Broulee on Wednesday 13 March 2013 commencing at 10.00 am. There will be facilities available for students to buy food after the Mass. More information will follow regarding the cost of food items, and arrangements for travel to and from the Mass.

Wishing you a blessed week with your family.

Jacqueline Lee

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.
Dear Parents and Carers

Today is a significant event in the Church as Pope Benedict serves his last day as Pope – the first pontiff in 600 years to resign. Benedict’s decision to resign is a most courageous one and is probably the best indicator of his humility; the quality many people have admired in him.

While the Pope is first and foremost the leader of the Church he is also a head of state and world leader, so his influence extends beyond the community of believers. As the Church faces the many challenges ahead we pray that our new Pope will be blessed with the courage and strength to lead it through these times.

BENEDICT XVI’S FINAL GENERAL AUDIENCE: “I ASKED GOD TO ENLIGHTEN ME TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION, NOT FOR MY OWN GOOD, BUT FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH.”

“In these last months I have felt that my strength had diminished and I asked God earnestly in prayer to enlighten me with His light to make me make the right decision, not for my own good, but for the good of the Church. I have taken this step in full awareness of its seriousness and also its newness, but with a profound peace of mind. Loving the Church also means having the courage to make difficult, agonised choices, always keeping in mind the good of the Church, not of oneself.”

“I also thank each and every one of you for the respect and understanding with which you have received this important decision. I will continue to accompany the Church’s journey through prayer and reflection, with the dedication to the Lord and His Bride that I have tried to live every day up to now and that I want to always live. I ask you to remember me to God, and above all to pray for the Cardinals who are called to such an important task, and for the new Successor of the Apostle Peter. May the Lord accompany him with the light and strength of His Spirit.”

“We call upon the maternal intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and of the Church, that she might accompany each of us and the entire ecclesial community. We entrust ourselves to her with deep confidence.”

“Dear friends! God guides His Church, always sustaining her even and especially in difficult times. Let us never lose this vision of faith, which is the only true vision of the path of the Church and of the world. In our hearts, in the heart of each one of you, may there always be the joyous certainty that the Lord is beside us, that He does not abandon us, that He is near and embraces us with His love. Thank you.” Extracts from Pope Benedict XVI final General Audience

May the peace of God bless your families this week.

Helene Boller
REQUEST FROM A PARENT

Mr Stephen Heffernan would like to swap a size 12 tracksuit for a size 10 for his daughter. The size 12 tracksuit is in very good condition. If you can help, please phone Stephen on 0431 249 649.

LOST RING

A child’s ring in a ring box has been found on the school grounds near Year 2. If you can describe it, it’s yours. Please phone the office on 4472 4446.

BOOK FAIR IN THE LIBRARY

Mrs Metcalf has extended the Book Fair hours today until 3.30 pm and will also be open Friday morning 8.15 am - 8.45 am and 11.00 am - 11.45 am. Thank you parents for your support. Books make a great birthday present!

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 6

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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Ray Sheiles</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Connie Aitken</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Catherine Castagna</td>
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<td>Thu</td>
<td>Noel Maguire/Robyn Facchini</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Jo Kemp</td>
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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
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.

Do you have children aged 7 to 13?
Are you worried about their lifestyle?
Go4Fun runs for 10 weeks during the school term. Sessions are run twice a week for two hours after school.

Free Call 1800 780 900
For more information visit www.mendcentral.org/go4fun

Where: Batemans Bay Public School
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm
Commencing 30 April 2013!

EUROBODALLA RIVER OF ART POETRY WRITING WORKSHOPS
WITH MOYA PACEY

Moya Pacey is a highly respected published poet, writer and experienced educator. Moya has been organising the Eurobodalla River of Art Poetry Competitions since their start.

In partnership with council’s libraries, FREE poetry writing workshops will be held where Moya will inspire and encourage the creation of poems based on this year’s theme, ‘HOME’.

Workshops are open to schoolchildren aged 7-12 years. Interested participant parents or carers and teachers are also welcome to attend. Bring along writing materials such as paper, and pen or pencil.

Wednesday 20 March at 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm @ Batemans Bay Library
Thursday 21 March at 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm @ Moruya Library

Bookings are essential and there are limited places, we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment by phoning;

Batemans Bay Library on 4472 5850
Moruya Library on 4474 1333.
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 (e.g., holidays taken in school time). If the request for absence is less than 101 days, 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.

Unforseen 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

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Award Winners from 22 February 2013 Assembly

(Kinder)
Levi Castagna, Alicia Hogan, Joshua Nguyen, Riley Beby, Ciara Coffey, Genevieve Chadima-Phillips, Callum Coulter, Bill Eppelstun, Illia MacLachlan

(Year 1)
Cooper McGann, Kaelan Moore, Joshua Smart, Riley Battiato, Asher Holzheimer, Blayze Roche, Lachlan Dunne, Meika Durden, Josie Guldi

(Year 2)
Eli Chatfield, Summah Faith, Madeleine Talbot, Tilly Pollard, Tyne Porteous, Keira Wood

(Year 3)
Janaki Camp, Jade Coleman, Benjamin Fish, Benjamin Everitt, Samuel Bath, Taylor-Rose Dwyer, Timothy Mifsud, Emma Moses

(Year 4)
Nathan Curtis-Richards, Dylan Golden, Maeve Hatton, Billy Jones, Lilly Ralston, Jasmine Stuart

(Year 5)
Riley Dell, Alicia Ryan, Jonathan Mifsud, Sarah Smith, Isabella Topp

(Year 6)
Hannah Carthew, Aidan Gaffey, Caitlin Hogan, Cosette Klarica, Benjamin Facchini, Jerri Lubbe, Braith Porteous, Caitlin Shalders

(French)
Joshua Nguyen, Ella Elwes, Mark Tuckwell, Kye Bruce, Brock Rushton, Sarah Smith, Ryder Brown