Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you have had a wonderful start to the year. We are looking forward to many exciting and busy times ahead. Welcome back to all students and families returning to St Bernard’s for 2016, and a special welcome to our new families. I am looking forward to leading our school into 2016, fostering improvement, diversity and change working with our highly skilled and dedicated teachers to meet the needs of all students. This year’s theme in Catholic Education is “Proclaims all the Gospel’ and in the Year of Mercy we need to be walking the Gospel.

**Staffing**

During the holiday period there have been some unforeseeable changes to staffing. Mr Terry Young is taking leave for Term 1 2016. As a member of the school’s Executive Team and a Classroom Teacher, it has been necessary to fill two positions. In considering the needs of the students and the school as a whole, Mrs Jenny Smith has been appointed to the Coordinator’s role in Mr Young’s absence. Jenny has over 20 years’ experience in Catholic Education as a classroom teacher and leader. Her professional skill set and personal attributes will be an asset to the Executive team. Jenny Smith will continue as the classroom teacher for Stage 1 teaching the core Curriculum Areas. Jeni McCarthy will provide Jenny with Executive relief for half a day every Friday afternoon from 11.55am. Mrs Julie Ireland has been appointed as Year 5 Classroom teacher. Julie was a Deputy Principal in the ACT before she moved to the Coast last year and has taught across many grade levels. We have a wonderful team of teachers who are working together to ensure best pedagogy is occurring to improve student outcomes. As educators, please be assured that we always have the best interest of the students at heart.

It is my pleasure to welcome our new members of staff. A very warm welcome to Naomi Beatty, Justin O’Neill and Julie Ireland. Again, I congratulate Jeni McCarthy and Vyvette Coulter on their permanent appointments to St Bernard’s. Congratulations also to Laura Tyler, Sue Dickson, Liz Coggan, Emma Davies, Michele Schiefferly and Theresa Hopman on their contracts for 2016. I also wish Carla Durnan and Jenny Smith well in their Executive roles in Term 1, and Julie Valentini and Sharon Beashel every success in their new roles this year. Mrs Beashel will continue to lead our School Improvement Project, our focus following on from last year on ‘differentiated teaching and learning’ with our inquiry question being: In what ways will a school focus on a growth mindset and explicit feedback to students improve teaching and learning outcomes?

**Welcome Morning Tea**

A very warm welcome to our new families to St Bernard’s this year. A morning tea is being planned next Monday morning at 9.00am in the iCentre for our Kindergarten parents and all parents new to the school. If any of our existing families are able to join us, that would be lovely. Thanks in advance to our Year 1 parents for your assistance with catering. This is much appreciated.

I look forward to the year ahead. Please don’t hesitate to come and see me anytime should the need arise. I wish all families a healthy and happy 2016 school year.

Johanna Wain
Principal Acting
Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to a new year of education for your child! I would like to welcome the return of familiar faces and it is exciting to extend a warm welcome to our new families. We trust that you feel very much a part of the St Bernard’s community and we are so happy to have you join us. During the holidays many members of our St Bernard’s community have experienced a variety of changes. Some of these changes have been exciting with new schools, new jobs, new babies etc. Others were sad due to illness, the loss of someone loved, moved away etc. As a community I ask that we pray for the Spirit to help us journey through these changes smoothly and reach out to one another when needed.

I look forward to working with families and staff to support Religious Education and faith within our school and wider community this term. It is with great pleasure to be able to assist us to make Jesus real in our school community. We have a very busy term ahead of us and would like to warmly welcome you to come and join us in the many celebrations over the term.

This term we will be highlighting important VALUES which the whole school will be focusing on a weekly basis. This aligns with the traditions of our school and values which we hold important as Jesus’ people. We hope as the weeks unfold and move into Lent, it will give students a thorough understanding of the importance of community, family and faith. All classes will be unpacking our values each week and we will be teaching students to use prayer as a way of reflection to improve as a community to enable our values to live.

I would like to draw your attention to a few key dates in the first few weeks:

⇒ Tuesday 9 February at 6pm an Enrolment meeting for parents and children interested in making the SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION will be held in the iCentre. A note will go home shortly to all Year 6 students. Confirmation will be held on Sunday 13 March 2016.
⇒ 10 February ASH WEDNESDAY MASS at 9.15am will be held for the Whole School & Parish Community. Families are more than welcome to attend and join us in prayer to start the season of Lent.
⇒ Saturday 13 February at 6.00pm Induction of new Staff and the Executive will take place. All families are welcome.
⇒ 17 February YEAR 6 LEADERSHIP DAY with St Mary’s. This day will explore the meaning of Leadership in a Catholic School for our Year 6 students. We will be concluding with a shared lunch and prayer and warmly encourage our Year 6 parents to come along.
⇒ 19 February OPENING SCHOOL MASS & INDUCTION OF YEAR 6 LEADERS at 9.15am. It would be wonderful if our parent community could attend this occasion.

Prayers

Prayers are with Mrs Rebecca Brady and her family with the sad news that her father passed away last weekend. Please keep Mrs Brady and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Thankyou,

Carla Durnan
Religious Education Coordinator Acting

Good and Gracious God,

As we begin a new year, a new journey, a new opportunity to make a fresh start; help us to boldly seek you out. No matter what places it might take us, no matter what treasures it might cost, no matter what sacrifices might need to be made. Guide us by the light of your grace as we earnestly seek to follow you.

Amen.
Dear Parents

Welcome to all students, parents and staff resuming at St Bernard’s in 2016. In particular, a warm and friendly welcome is extended to all new staff members and families joining the St Bernard’s community. We look forward to a productive and happy working partnership.

School Vision and Mission

The start of a new school year is always a good opportunity to reflect on our school Vision and Mission. This clarifies our educational, pastoral and communal purpose and direction.

At St Bernard’s, our Vision is to foster a learning environment based on St John’s Gospel “That All May Be One” (Jn 17:21).

The Vision of St Bernard’s invites all members of the school and parish community to work together to create an experience of unity and cohesion. It promotes inclusivity of student, staff and community needs whilst affirming that our practice is guided, and inspired by, Gospel values. It expresses the values and beliefs about what our school community considers to be of real importance in education: inclusivity, acceptance, diversity, tolerance, faith, resilience, integrity and solidarity.

Our school vision is enacted through our Mission statement which further defines our purpose in relation to what we want to do, why we are doing it and who it will serve.

At St Bernard’s, we strive to make a difference by:
⇒ Providing excellence in primary education
⇒ Nurturing a living experience of faith
⇒ Developing responsible citizens inspired for tomorrow’s changing world
⇒ Providing a supportive environment for families in partnership with the school and wider community

When our Vision and Mission are shared by all members of the community, they offer a continual source of motivation and energy, which powerfully shape all practice within our school. Peter Senge, in his book "The Fifth Discipline" describes a shared vision as "... a force in people's hearts, a force of impressive power....At its simplest level, a shared vision is the answer to the question, "What do we want to create?"

School Rules

The first weeks of the school year is an excellent time to revisit school rules and clarify expectations for positive behaviour. At St Bernard’s, our rules are as follows;

1. Treat each other with respect.
2. Help each other learn.
3. Keep ourselves and others safe.
4. Wear our uniform with pride.
5. Care for our school environment

I know you will continue to work with us, so your child can grow in confidence, with a love of learning, and a determination to be the best person they can be. As parents, it is essential that you put a great value on these rules. Explain to your child that these rules are important to you too. They also aid in the development of important life skills. The value you place on these, will be the value your child holds. Please discuss the rules with your child/ren.

Interim Parent/Teacher Interviews

In Weeks 4 and 5, we will be holding Interim Parent/Teacher Interviews which will allow you to personally meet your child’s teacher. Information will be given shortly regarding the link to online booking. In the meantime, you are always welcome to make an appointment to speak with the teacher should you have any questions or concerns. Remember, we are all in this together. Developing a solid partnership between home and school is important to both your child’s learning and wellbeing.

Have a lovely week,
Julie Valentini
Assistant Principal (Acting)
Year 6 Big Day Out 2015

Year 6 celebrated the end of Primary School at Corrigan’s Beach paddle boarding, playing sport and enjoying lunch in the park!
ST BERNARD’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL

St Bernard’s School Swimming Carnival is being held next Thursday 4 February, at Batemans Bay pool. All students from Years 3 to 6 are expected to attend the carnival. A copy of the schedule of events has been sent home.

Year 2 students who are already 8 or turning 8 years old this year may attend if parents wish them to swim in the 8 years 50m event or any of the Junior Events. Eight year olds must be able to swim competently and at a competitive level 50m (Squad training or Swimming Club). These students will accompany the Year 3 students to and from the pool.

A junior is any student turning 8, 9 or 10 or is already 8, 9, 10 years old this year. The Junior Events include 50m Breaststroke, Backstroke, Butterfly and 4 x 50m Individual Medley.

If you are able to help out on the day with the following jobs, your assistance would be greatly appreciated:

- Setting up
- Marshalling
- Start
- Timekeeping

Could you please email me if you are able to assist at megan.grant@cg.catholic.edu.au

The Southern Region Swimming Carnival will be held at Narooma Swimming Pool, Tuesday 16 February.

SUMMER TRIALS 2016!

Years 5 and 6 students only!
Up and coming Basketball, Cricket and Tennis stars!
Mark the following date in your 2016 diaries: WEEK 3, Friday 12 February. (Venues TBC)
If your child is interested in trialling for any of these events this year. Please email me at megan.grant@cg.catholic.edu.au or call the office to leave a message

These events are tough and include students from across the Archdiocese, therefore it is only open to those students who play these sports competitively.

Have a great week.

Megan Grant
Sports Coordinator

School Calendar

Don’t forget to check the St Bernard’s Website and Skoolbag App for our updated school calendar as some dates have been added or changed. As the calendar is updated, the date of change is displayed. A copy has been included further on in the newsletter.
WELCOME MORNING TEA FOR KINDER PARENTS AND FAMILIES NEW TO ST BERNARD’S

Next Monday 1 February at 8.45am morning tea will be held in the iCentre to welcome Kinder families and new families to St Bernard’s. This is the first day for our Kindergarten students and the morning tea is a great way for parents to meet one another in a relaxed setting after settling their child into their day. Special thanks to our Year 1 families for catering.

PAM LARKIN PIANO OR RECORDER LESSONS

Pam Larkin (AMusA, DipMusEd, ATCL, AAGMS) will be offering Piano and Recorder lessons again this year. If you would like your child to learn the piano or recorder, please call Pam on 4471 1924.

Concert Band

Mr Barny Barnbrook teaches Concert Band each Tuesday. Positions are available for flute and percussion players from Year 3, Clarinets from Year 4 and Brass for Year 5 and Year 6. As you know this is an inclusive program for all students through to Year 12. Please contact me if you are interested. My email is: barnbrooks@optusnet.com.au or phone 4471 3115.

CANTEEN ROSTER - WEEK 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 1 February</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Suzanne Gallagher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>HELPER NEEDED</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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Remember to check the Skoolbag App under “Canteen” for what is happening in the Canteen. The Term 1 Menu will be on the App soon!

Canteen Special: Week 2

Quesadilla (beef or chicken)

$4
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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Jan/Feb</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
<td>27 ALL staff return</td>
<td>28 Years 1-6 students Return</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>2 Feb</td>
<td>1 Parent Morning Tea at 8.45am Kinder commence full days except Wednesday 3 &amp; 10 Feb Pam Larkin’s piano lessons start</td>
<td>2 Staff Briefing 8.15 am Band with Mr Barnbrook start in the Cottage</td>
<td>3 Rest day for Kinder Kinder Assessment Day (if scheduled day) Visit from St George Dragons Yrs 1 - 6 11:30am – 12:15pm Staff Meeting</td>
<td>4 St Bernard’s Swimming Carnival Yrs 2 - 6, Kinder &amp; Yr 1 at school</td>
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<td>3 Feb</td>
<td>8 ACER Testing begins Meeting at Eurobodalla Council to discuss assistance to schools @ 4pm.</td>
<td>9 Swimming Carnival back up date Rugby Union Clinic Yrs 3-6 TBC Enrolment for Confirmation @ 6pm in the iCentre P&amp;F AGM 7.00pm</td>
<td>10 Ash Wednesday 9.15am (Yrs 1-6) Rest day for Kinder Kinder Assessment Day (if scheduled day)</td>
<td>11 Swimming Presentation 11.15am in Hall Welcome Barbecue for our Indigenous Families @ 3.00pm Staff Meeting</td>
<td>12 Dave Berry’s guitar lessons Summer Trials Basketball, Tennis &amp; Cricket PD for LSA’s with Kaye Lowe at Carroll College Assembly Year 4</td>
<td>13 Induction of new Staff and Executive 6pm Mass</td>
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<td>4 Feb</td>
<td>15 KINDERGARTEN COMMENCE FULL TIME Understanding and Managing Behaviour PL</td>
<td>16 Staff Briefing 8.15 am Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders PL Rugby Union Clinic Yrs 3-6 TBC Southern Region Swimming Carnival Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>17 AFL Trials MacKillop Year 6 Leadership Day Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>18 Author Visit - Susan Berran Community Welcome BBQ at school &amp; Disco</td>
<td>19 Opening School Mass K-6 and induction of school leaders 9.15am PP/Principals/RECs Meeting at Carroll College</td>
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<td>5 Feb/Mar</td>
<td>22 NSW Collaborating on the Curriculum PL</td>
<td>23 Staff Briefing 8.15 am AP Network Meeting Rugby Union Clinic Yrs 3-6 TBC BOOK FAIR Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>24 ELI Meeting</td>
<td>25 ELI Meeting Leadership in Curriculum PL BOOK FAIR</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Mar</td>
<td>28 Public HOLIDAY</td>
<td>29 ALL staff return</td>
<td>30 Years 1-6 students Return Kinder Assessment Day (if scheduled day)</td>
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| 6 Mar      | Staff Briefing 8.15 am  
NIP Meeting  
Archdiocesan Swimming Carnival  
Queanbeyan Rugby Union  
Clinic Yrs 3-6 TBC |
| 7 Mar      | **FALLOW WEEK**  
C-G Winter Trials  
Queanbeyan  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS’ WEEK |
| 7 Mar      | **Easter Sunday** |
| 8 Mar      | Staff Briefing 8.15 am  
A Pathway to Cultural Experiences PL  
Retreat Day for Confirmation |
| 8 Mar      | Staff Briefing 8.15 am  
LIFE ED  
P&F Meeting 7.00 pm |
| 9 Mar      | NSW Collaborating on the Curriculum PL  
LIFE ED  
P&F Meeting 7.00 pm |
| 10 Mar/Apr | **Easter Monday**  
Staff Briefing 8.15 am  
Due Diligence Officer Training - Principals & APs  
LIFE ED  
Staff Meeting  
Due Diligence Officer Training - Principals & APs  
Understanding and Managing Behaviour PL  
LIFE ED  
Staff Meeting |
| 11 Apr     | Staff Briefing 8.15 am  
CE Legal Issues Day  
St Bernard’s Cross Country Carnival TBC  
ELI Training  
Empower Manager Self Service Training |
| 12 Mar/Apr | Assembly Year 3  
Softball Trial MacKillop  
Principals Retreat |
| 13 Mar/Apr | Assembly Year 6  
2015 Recognition Awards Mass & Ceremony  
Sacrament of Confirmation @ 3pm |
| 14 Mar     | Assembly Year 5  
2016 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence  
Rugby Union Gala Day Yrs 3-6 |
| 15 Mar     | Leadership in Curriculum PL  
St Patrick’s Day Mass @ 9.15am  
LIFE ED  
School Board Meeting |
| 16 Mar     | **Easter Sunday** |
| 17 Mar     | **Easter Sunday** |
| 18 Mar     | **Easter Sunday** |
| 19 Mar     | Feast of St Joseph  
Starting School Expo at Riverside Park Moruya |
| 20 Mar     | Palm Sunday |
| 21 Mar     | Life of Jesus  
EL Union  
LIFE ED |
| 22 Mar     | Assembly Year 6  
2015 Recognition Awards Mass & Ceremony  
Sacrament of Confirmation @ 3pm |
| 23 Mar     | Assembly Year 6  
2015 Recognition Awards Mass & Ceremony  
Sacrament of Confirmation @ 3pm |
| 24 Mar     | Assembly Year 6  
2015 Recognition Awards Mass & Ceremony  
Sacrament of Confirmation @ 3pm |
| 25 Mar     | Assembly Year 6  
2015 Recognition Awards Mass & Ceremony  
Sacrament of Confirmation @ 3pm |
| 26 Mar/Apr | Assembly Year 6  
2015 Recognition Awards Mass & Ceremony  
Sacrament of Confirmation @ 3pm |
| 27 Mar/Apr | Assembly Year 6  
2015 Recognition Awards Mass & Ceremony  
Sacrament of Confirmation @ 3pm |