Dear Parents,

I hope you had a wonderful Easter with your families and enjoyed the four day break. Last Thursday morning we were reminded by Year 6 about the significance of Holy Week. I thank Mrs Durnan, Mr O’Neill, Miss Davies and the Year 6 students for leading us in a very prayerful service. Easter is a time for us to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Easter Hat Parade was a lovely way to finish the week. I could see many excited faces as the children walked around the Hall showing off their Easter Hat creation. A special thank you to all our parents and students who obviously put in a lot of time together making their hats.

Assessment to inform teaching and learning
Over the last few weeks, all classes have been involved in various Literacy and Numeracy Assessments. As communicated previously, we are involved in a systematic and organised change process to improve students’ learning outcomes in numeracy and literacy (known as COSA+). At St Bernard’s our focus question is:

How can evidence gathered from assessment inform explicit teaching to improve student learning?
The purpose of assessing student learning is to assist classroom teachers to plan for explicit teaching experiences that best cater for individual student learning needs. As we endeavour to improve practice, and increase teacher and student capacity, we are committed to enhancing the educational opportunities we provide for all students at St Bernard’s. Enrichment, differentiated learning tasks and small group/individual support are some of the strategies implemented in the classrooms to tailor learning for individual students. All assessment data has been entered into ePART (Educational Performance and Reporting Toolkit), a web based application that captures data on literacy and numeracy diagnostic assessment from Kindergarten through to Year 6 directed by Catholic Education. The information collected represents a System wide approach to analysing and reporting literacy and numeracy achievement and progress of students. This data is used to enable decisions about student learning to be informed by current evidence. If you have any questions about your child/ren’s learning please feel free to make a time to see your classroom teacher.

The Lion King Musical
This year St Bernard’s will be putting on a school production titled ‘The Lion King Experience Kids’. All students from Kindergarten through to Year 6 will be involved in the production. All students will prepare for the musical as part of their Performing Arts lessons with Miss Davies. Over the last two weeks students from Year 5 and Year 6 have been given the opportunity to audition for a lead role in the production. All students who are a part of the school choir will also be involved in the musical in a lead role and will be on stage singing all major songs as well as participating in their own class musical number. The production is set for Term 4. More details will follow as students begin to prepare for their performance.

Absence from School
A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for holidays. If travel during the school term is necessary the Principal will look at the reason and if it is acceptable, the absence will be marked as leave. All absences from school require a note from parents and this data is entered into our School Roll. Email addresses of all classroom teachers were sent home on the Curriculum Notes or alternatively you can send in a note or complete a note on the Skoolbag App. Can you please ensure if your child has been away from school this term a note is sent in to the classroom teacher as soon as possible.

Cross Country
Next Thursday St Bernard’s will host the annual Cross Country Carnival for Kindergarten to Year 6. This year the students in Years 3 - 6 who do not wish to compete for a chance to make it on to the next level, will have the opportunity to participate in a 1km fun run. All students are to come dressed in their Sports Uniform but are able to wear a coloured t-shirt or a ribbon that represents their house colour. A note was sent home earlier this week with further information. All families are welcome to join us.

Have an enjoyable weekend.
Johanna Wain
Principal
The reality of Easter is that Jesus enters into our deepest wound by touching what hurts us the most. This is at the heart of forgiveness and calls us to be honest to ourselves and to God. Often we can shy away from this area because we are too vulnerable and believe our humanity is at most risk. When the wound is touched, it brings forth a whole heap of deep seated emotions of anger, disgust, fear and loathing. There is a sense in which we stand naked before God and that nothing can hide us from this rawness and these feelings, that we have somehow been complicit in being wounded. Yet it is when we touch the wounds of Christ, when we acknowledge our fundamental distrust, that anything can change, that our act of forgiveness moves beyond mere words. It is a reality which strikes us at the core of our being which causes us to become people who are freed from the sin that binds us and holds us prisoner to our own thoughts and suspicions. Only when we come to this place can we ever experience healing which calls us to become disciples, not from the moments when we are totally in control, but from the times when we have been most deeply wounded. Will we accept Jesus’ invitation to touch that wound?

Fr. John Armstrong  
Parish Priest of Batemans Bay  
Administrator of Moruya  
PO Box 3220  
Batehaven NSW 2536  
02 4472 4153
Dear Parents

I hope you all had a restful and prayerful Easter. Over the past few days we probably all gave and received a chocolate Easter egg or two. Why do we use this as a symbol? It says that Easter is a happy, festive occasion, that centres around new life.

So what do these symbols of eggs tell us about Easter? They tell us about another kind of new life, which doesn’t happen naturally every time winter is over, but only ever happened once. It wasn’t an ordinary thing at all. It was so completely amazing and impossible that people are still talking about it two thousand years after it happened! Do you know what it was? **HE IS RISEN!**

Well, that’s impossible, surely. People can’t come back to life again. It just doesn’t happen. The fact that it actually did happen: that Jesus really did die on the Friday, and he really was alive again on the Sunday, shows us that Jesus must be more than a human being. He must be God as well as human. And he must be still as much alive now as he was then. No wonder we want to celebrate and give one another flowers, cards and Easter eggs! It means that nothing, not even death itself, is out of God’s reach for all who believe. When you eat your chocolate eggs, and read your Easter cards, don’t forget to remember what we’re really celebrating – that Jesus is risen, Alleluia!

You may have noticed outside Year 2 that our crucifix had returned on Thursday after Year 6 led us in the dramatic unfolding of Holy Week. The crucifix was draped with the crown of thorns, the red cloth and a hammer.

This week our cross is now draped with WHITE. Why? The white cloth represents the cloth Jesus left in the tomb. A few students have asked why we still use the cross as the symbol after his resurrection. The cross is the standing statement of what we do to one another and to ourselves when we struggle and we often get caught up in our own sufferings and not look for hope in others. The cross is there to remind us of Christ’s struggles and even in those last moments, he did not look upon his own pain, but he reached out to forgive those who have hurt him. The resurrection is the standing statement of what God does to us in return as the risen Christ, the cross represents hope everlasting.

I will leave you with a poignant message from Pope Francis:

*The women who go to the tomb….something completely new and unexpected happens….. something which will upset their whole life….. Newness often makes us fearful, including the newness which God brings us, the newness which God asks of us. We are like the Apostles in the Gospel: often we would prefer to hold on to our own security, to stand in front of a tomb….We are afraid of God’s surprises; we are afraid of God’s surprises! God always surprises us! Let us not be closed to the newness that God wants to bring into our lives! Are we often weary, disheartened and sad? Do we feel weighed down by our mistakes? Do we think that we won’t be able to cope? Let us not close our hearts, let us not lose confidence, let us never give up: there are no situations which God cannot change, there is no sin which he cannot forgive if only we open ourselves to him……. Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness… and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive! Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk: you won’t be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don’t be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do.”

(Excerpts from Pope Francis Easter Homily)

Have a happy and safe weekend

Carla Durnan
Religious Education Coordinator Acting
Easter Hat Parade

Happy Easter
Dear Parents

The University of New South Wales is offering your child an opportunity to participate in the *International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)*. ICAS assessments have taken place annually in schools for over thirty years and in twenty countries. Educational Assessment Australia (EAA), who design and deliver the assessments, is the not-for-profit arm of the University of New South Wales.

**ICAS:**

- Is an annual skills development assessment program in key areas of learning for students in Years 2–12; assessments are available in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing
- Gathers performance information through a 30–60 minute supervised in-school test
- Provides a continuous, independent and comprehensive record of a student’s performance, and maps their development over the full period of primary and secondary schooling
- Enables the progress of each student to be mapped in each skill against their previous performance, demonstrating personal improvement no matter the starting point
- Uses fellow students’ results as a reference point; results are mapped against all students sitting at the same year level in Australia
- Provides an excellent preparation for national testing
- Enables students at all levels of ability to participate; ICAS contains questions designed to specifically explore the abilities of students of all standards – this includes those of both lower and higher levels of achievement
- Medals are awarded to the top students per state in each subject and year level (when sufficiently meritorious and the test was sat on the official sitting date)
- Achievement certificates are awarded to all students at a range of levels:
  - High Distinction to the top 1% of students
  - Distinction to the next 10% of students
  - Credit to the next 25% of students
  - Merit to the next 10% of students
  - Participation to all other students
- Results are available to parents and students online; these online reports and analyses remain available indefinitely. ICAS reports indicate which questions were answered correctly, compare student performance to that of the other students tested and are highly suitable for inclusion in a student’s portfolio for future tertiary entrance or job opportunities
- Entries are administered through the school, so teachers can also access the information

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form which was sent home today and return to school with payment by **Wednesday 6 April 2016**.

For more information about ICAS go to [www.eaa.unsw.edu.au](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au), contact Customer Service on (02) 8344 1010 or send an email to info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

Wishing you a lovely week,

**Julie Valentini**
Assistant Principal Acting
Batemans Bay Marine Park Excursion
Occupational Therapy

Free Consultations!!

Does your child have difficulty with fine motor or self care tasks?

This school holidays asOne Therapy will be offering a limited number of free consultations with our Occupational Therapist.

Issues discussed during the 20 minute consultation may include:

✔ Eating
✔ Sensory Processing
✔ Handwriting
✔ Cutting
✔ Dressing

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, 2016

Level 4 Woden Centre

Please contact us to secure your place.

Bookings are essential.

MAXIMISING POTENTIAL

1800 7 ASONE (27663)

asonetherapy.com.au info@asonetherapy.com.au

Wishing you a happy and safe week ahead,
Sharon Beashel
Learning Support Teacher/Coordinator
**Sport News**

**St Bernard’s Cross Country - Thursday 7 April**

Next Thursday is our Cross Country Carnival. The students have been practising during PE sessions and are ready to take on the running course. As you would have read in the information note, we have changed the format of the carnival by holding a ‘Fun Run’ to promote healthy exercise and positive experiences for all students. We would love to see as many parents and families here on the day to cheer on the students. It is also the first carnival for our Kindergarten students which will be very exciting for them.

**Mackillop Trials Swimming**

We wish the following students all the best as they travel to Sydney today to compete at the Mackillop Trials Swimming event at Sydney Aquatic Centre. Best of luck to: Sam B, Jackson B, Keira L and Timothy M. We look forward to hearing about the day on your return to school.

**Rugby Union Selection Trials**

Nominations are now open for any student in Year 5 or 6 who would like to trial for the Archdiocesan Rugby Union team. The trials are being held in Yass on Monday 6 June at Walker Park. It is important to note that only students who play tackle rugby union or have played competitively in the past are able to trial for team selection. For an information note, please either email me at megan.grant@cg.catholic.edu.au or collect a package from me at school.

Wishing you a happy week ahead. One week to go!

**Megan Grant**

PE Teacher/Sport Coordinator
Congratulations St Bernard’s Primary School

KINDERGARTEN OPEN DAY

Please join us for a morning of fun! The children will rotate through a range of exciting learning experiences, capturing life at ‘Big School’. Parents are invited to join in the rotational activities with their children. Our Open Day will conclude with a sausage sizzle at 12:00 noon. The St Bernard’s community looks forward to welcoming you.

Open Day Program...
Parents and children are invited to attend St Bernard’s Open Day on Friday 13 May 2016. The morning will commence at 9:30am in St Bernard’s Hall. This will be followed by Principal’s welcome, school tours and activities!

Address: 2-10 David Street Batemans Bay
Phone: 4472 4446
Email: office.stbernards@cg.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stbernardsbb.nsw.edu.au
P & F News

I hope you had a wonderful Easter break and were able to spend it with loved ones.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated eggs for the raffle and bought raffle tickets. We raised a huge $948 all because of the generosity from you and your children. Congratulations to all our winners.

Victoria Vincent
P & F President

PINK DAY

Friday 8 April

WEAR PINK

The SRC are raising money for Breast Cancer.
Part of the day will also be spent raising awareness of Anti-bullying.

All classes will be involved in some anti-bullying activities throughout the day.

SCHOOL BANKING NEWS $$$

Congratulations to the following students who have earned a Bronze Certificate for making 10 deposits!

Brianna G, Amelia B, Angelica W, Ivy P, Alexis L,
Mia B, Jada S, Michael A, Ella B, Archie B,
Georgie W, Lily P, Charlotte W, Emma M, Brok D,
Siahra W, Riley S and Aliza V

CANTEEN ROSTER - WEEK

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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 Week 11

Thursday Cross Country canteen options ranging from 50c to $2
Jelly Cups $1  Sunfruits $1  Chips $1  Pasta Cups $1  Ovalteenies $1  bacon & egg wrap $2

Friday Pink Party Day from 50c to $2

Full lunch menu will be available

The canteen clothing pool is in desperate need of donations of uniforms, especially girls!
ST BERNARD’S OOSH offers quality after School Care until 6.00pm Monday – Friday in term time and a holiday program from 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday – Friday during school holidays.

Call Natalie on 0448 137 753
Email: st.bernards-oosh@live.com.au

National Pastel Exhibition and Art Fest 2016

Great art experiences for youth and children these Easter Hols!
The South Coast Pastel Society is offering exciting workshops for children and youth aged 7 to 17 as part of ART FEST - National Pastel Exhibition. Registration is preferred, and please bring a sunhat, sunscreen and water bottle. All art materials supplied.

Email: southcoastpastelsociety1@gmail.com
Phone Lyn: 0448 496 998 or Dan: 0429 997 177

National Exhibition and Art Fest Workshops, Demos and Talks, for all ages and experience levels, run from April 14 to April 23, 2016.

LOCATION: Batemans Bay Surf Life Saving Club, George Bass Drive, Malua Bay

Modern Pastel on Canvas
All materials supplied - participants take home completed art work.
Age Group: Youth 8 to 17
Cost: $25
Friday 15th April
10am - 1pm

Pavement Painting
‘Living and Playing in and on the Sea’
Age Group: Children 7 to 12
(Children up to 9 accompanied by a responsible adult)
Cost: FREE
Monday 18th April
10am - 12pm

Pavement Painting
‘Living and Playing in and on the Sea’
Age Group: Youth 12 to 17
Cost: Free
Tuesday 19th April
10am - 12pm

Intra 9’s Term 2 Competition


Auskick for younger kids.

@ Gundary Oval, Moruya, every Tuesday afternoon, 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Competition Starts on 26th April.

4 even teams of up to 12 per side.

$75 per player, BMGiants training shirt included.

Register now www.BMGiants.com

or Ph Marty 0478605645