Dear Parents,

Can you believe how fast the term is going? The weeks seem to come and go very quickly! Last week we celebrated Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week. It was wonderful to see so many students involved in Mass, showing the true strength of our Catholic community. Today we began our day with Year 6 leading us respectfully through the Washing of the Feet. Holy week will end on Sunday with Easter Sunday, where we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Student Wellbeing

Last week Sharon Beashel and I attended a two day workshop in Canberra on Kids Matter, a mental health and wellbeing framework for Primary Schools. Mental health and wellbeing are essential factors in student learning. Students with good mental health and wellbeing are proven to be better equipped to meet life’s challenges and adapt to changes. Student Wellbeing is a main focus for St Bernard’s in 2016 and has formed part of our Annual Improvement Plan. We believe all students can learn and our focus is to provide added support for our students’ social, emotional and mental health which is paramount in achieving learning outcomes and developing functional and resilient people. The Framework ‘Kids Matter’ will be a whole school approach to develop student wellbeing and inclusion. Over the next 12 months, the Staff will be participating in professional learning and we will be highlighting key information in the newsletter. Did you know “Schools, with the full support of families and the community, are currently one of the best places to comprehensively support children’s mental health and wellbeing” (www.kidsmatter.edu.au).

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy 2016 (NAPLAN)

In May 2016 the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The results of the assessment assist us in forming our annual improvement plan, highlighting student capabilities and key information to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. This will be reported against the national minimum standard. The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 10 - 12 May 2016.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 10 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 11 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 12 MAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar</td>
<td>Writing</td>
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Rugby Union Gala Day

Congratulations to our Year 6 boys who won the competition at the Rugby Union Gala day last Friday. As the students arrived back at school, I was greeted with great excitement that one of our teams made it to the next level! The students have been invited to participate in the ACT NSW Primary School 10’s final at GIO stadium in Canberra on 28 May. Closer to the date more details will be sent out and extra training will be provided at school. Despite the weather, the students and teachers had a great day and commented on the wonderful sportsmanship of St Bernard’s players.

Easter is early this year. Please note that there is no school tomorrow (Good Friday 25 March) or Monday 28 March. Congratulations to all our prize winners. Thank you to all our families who donated chocolate and a special thank you to the parents who came and assisted with the wrapping! Enjoy your extra long weekend and I wish all our families a safe and happy Easter.

Johanna Wain
Principal Acting
Religious Education News

Message from Fr John
Are we missing the point? Lent calls us to encounter the person of Jesus in the journey of our lives. It recognises that our faith only makes sense if we move beyond our initial impressions of Jesus into a life and death struggle with God. Unless he meets us where we are, our faith is always read in a text book or learnt by rote. This deeply personal encounter is mediated through the sacramental life of the Catholic community. We encounter the risen Christ through the sacraments which capture the place where heaven meets earth in our humanity. We are nourished, healed and forgiven; we are caught up in a life which is not our own. It calls us to become disciples who proclaim the Good News that death is not the answer but how we live is the constant question. The resurrection of Jesus Christ comes at a time not of our choosing but as a response to our deepest desire. This is why the Paschal Mystery which we celebrate over the three days of Easter is at the centre of our Christian life and the centre of our faith. It asks three fundamental questions: What are we prepared to live for? Who are we prepared to die for? How do we share what we have received with others?

Fr. John Armstrong
Parish Priest of Batemans Bay
Administrator of Moruya
PO Box 3220
Batehaven NSW 2536
02 4472 4153
jarmstrong@cg.org.au

PARISH EASTER MASS TIMES

Holy Thursday 24 March  7.30pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper
                   Adoration 8.30pm – 10.00pm
Good Friday 25 March  10.00am Stations of the Cross
                   3.00pm Our Lord’s Passion
Easter Saturday 26 March  Easter Vigil 7.00pm
Easter Sunday 27 March  9.00am Mass

Calming Space for the Primary Playground

We have been trialling a new space in the playground outside the Year 3 classrooms where students in Years 3 - 6 can go and talk with their friends away from the noise and ball games in the Lean To. We have found that some students were finding the Primary Playground too big and noisy and were looking for a quiet space to sit and talk with friends. The teachers in Years 3 - 6 have been talking with their class and discussing the purpose of this space. We welcome any feedback from parents and encourage you to talk to your child/ren about this option if they are finding it difficult on the Primary Playground.
Dear Parents

HOLY WEEK

Thank you to all the students and families that came to our Palm Sunday Mass last weekend. It is with great celebration we start Holy Week this week! Even though retailers might not believe it, Easter (not Christmas) is the holiest day on the Church’s calendar. We often welcome our children into our families and wonder at the ‘miracle’ of birth, but birth is no miracle. It is just about the most natural thing in the world, even if it is one of the most difficult but amazing times in our lives as parents!

The Resurrection now that is a miracle! In its emphasis on Easter, the Church reminds us that, though we live in the world, we were not made for it. Our destination, our true home, is some place very different. When we grow tired of things which get old, wear out, and run down, our faith reminds us that there are some things that will never fail or disappoint us. When we are fraught by the unceasing ordinariness of life, our faith reminds us that we can still be surprised. And in our darkest moments, those long walks through death’s shadow, our faith promises us new life. Celebrate this season by helping to bring a little Easter into the lives of those you love. Offer a word of confidence to the shaken in our families and our community, comfort to the sad, a smile to a neighbour. Sharing the joy Christ brings us only enhances our own happiness and honours Christ who is the centre of our belief.

Thank you to Year 6 who shared the story of Holy Week at our Prayer Assembly. I know as a parent it is such a difficult concept to explain to children that someone has died, let alone the miracle of the Resurrection which we celebrate this Sunday with families. As Christians we have a huge story to share with our children, not just sharing the chocolate! I know that in classrooms staff have been discussing the miracle of Easter, and I hope the children will go home and share their learning with you.

PROJECT COMPASSION

This Lent we have been focusing our energy on looking at ways we can share compassion on a school level, community level and in our world. I walked into 3H this week and saw on their prayer space a large glass jar overflowing with stones. When students have caught someone showing compassion and kindness they are able to walk up and place a stone in the jar. What was truly wonderful was that this jar was overflowing! It just shows what we can see and do when we focus on the positives and witness the difference we can make in our communities.

On Ash Wednesday each classroom was given a large Project Compassion box to support the campaign by Caritas to assist communities in need both here in Australia and around the world. It has been wonderful to see some of these boxes getting quite heavy and full with students recognising how their small change can make a big change to others. If your family has been collecting money at home for this, we ask that you return your box to school next week.

Next week we change the coloured prayer cloths in our classrooms from purple to white to celebrate the clean slate that Easter brings to us. I do hope that this Easter weekend brings you and your family the time to reflect upon the meaning of Easter and a time of renewal and rest.

‘We thank you Jesus. Easter is not just about one person’s death and resurrection, but it is about all your people, for us to shout with our voices, hearts and lives that Jesus has risen, that we might use your skills of forgiveness with our friends like you did with your enemies on the cross. That we too can be reborn with the Easter spirit.’ Prayer reflection journal Year 6.

Carla Durnan
Religious Education Coordinator Acting
Dear Parents

On Monday I attended a Professional Learning day facilitated by Associate Professor (Adjunct) Kaye Lowe. Each time I attend one of Kaye’s presentations I leave feeling totally inspired. As you may know, Kaye has had (and continues to have) an esteemed career in the field of Literacy. In addition to the work she has done with parents at St Bernard’s over the past 12 months, Kaye has also worked alongside classroom teachers to model, evaluate and give feedback about current literacy practices and classroom instruction. Using a collaborative and supportive approach, Kaye has worked with teachers to identify and establish effective practices and to assist with planning and programming to meet student needs in their classrooms. This mentoring, has had a very positive effect on best teaching practice of Literacy at St Bernard’s. In fact, staff are currently working on the reformulation of our Literacy Block Agreed Practice to include daily non-negotiables such as; voluntary free reading, sustained free writing, weekly teacher/student conferences and regular publishing. Data driven and student centred, this model has exemplary literature at the core and directly addresses curriculum outcomes.

As you know, at St Bernard’s we favour a collaborative approach between home and school and we value your input and support. You can assist us to improve student growth and engagement in reading and writing in a number of ways:

1. Read with and to your child daily. The literature on the association between reading to children and developmental outcomes is quite extensive.
2. Have fun reading together. Kaye espouses that as simple as it sounds, ten minutes a day of quality time having fun with a book can make the difference between someone who struggles with reading and someone who discovers the love and joy of reading.
3. If you have good quality literature at home that your child has outgrown, the school would be very happy to take them off your hands and redistribute it to classes,
4. Regular publishing can be a challenge in any classroom. If you have some extra time, perhaps you could volunteer to type up stories (particularly in the lower grades). Please speak to your child’s teacher.

Wishing you a happy and holy Easter,

Julie Valentini
Assistant Principal Acting
What a Week in Year 4!

Week 8 was a busy week for Year 4. During the week we had two days out of school – one excursion and one gala day!! On both occasions, we had a lot of fun.

Our first excursion, on Wednesday, was to the ESC Botanic Gardens. The weather was fantastic – blue skies and not too hot!! The people who worked with us were so kind and helpful. On arrival we were divided into two groups and we had a very busy and fun day, exploring the gardens, participating in a scavenger hunt and looking for different species of plants. We also learnt a lot about plants, their anatomy, their needs and how to pot them.

Last Friday, we went to the playing fields, over near Bay Primary, for a Rugby Union Gala Day. Prior to the Gala Day, Angus, the Rugby Union Coach, came into our school for four sessions and taught us some Rugby skills. Although the weather did not look promising and it had been pouring with rain just as we were about to leave, we were really lucky and were able to play most of our games. There were three Year 4 teams and a combined Year 3/4 team. Some of the Year 4 boys played in a tackle team. After a day filled with lots of fun and laughter, we were glad it was the weekend and we would be able to have a bit of R and R.
Sports News

Rugby League Gala Day

Congratulations to the 22 students who played at the Batemans Bay Rugby League Gala day last Wednesday. We had a Year 5 and a Year 6 team enter into the tackle competition against other schools from our area. The boys had a fantastic day and were all great sports! Year 6 boys were defeated on the day but our Year 5 team were overall winners. Congratulations Boys! A big thank you to Mr Adams (Jack Year 5) for coaching the team and to the Bay Tigers Football Club for lending the club jerseys. The Year 5 boys will now be a part of the next round of League competition in Narooma next term. More details will be communicated with you as they become available.


Rugby Union Gala Day

Last Friday, in not so pleasant weather conditions, Years 3 - 6 travelled to Surfside Playing Fields to participate in a Rugby Union Gala Day organised by The ACT Brumbies. We started the day in pouring rain and ended in gale force winds but the kids had a fantastic day! There were tackle teams in all grades with the majority playing under the ‘Viva 7s’ rules (touch football). Again, our senior teams excelled on the day and the Year 6 boys tackle union team were the overall winners of the competition. It was a draw at full time, however, our boys won by having scored the first try of the game against Batemans Bay Primary! Some of these boys hadn’t played Rugby Union competitively before and picked up the skills very quickly. Well done boys! The winning team now has the opportunity to go to GIO Stadium Canberra in May to play a pre-match game before watching the ACT Brumbies. Angus Balmaks (Development Officer) will be coming to give the team some training before the game. Congratulations to all the students on their excellent behaviour and great sportsmanship on the day.

Well done to: Jed S, Ben F, Jack Mc, Sam L, Dillon C, Kobi B, Chris U, Lachlan C, Jake B, Harry R, Ethan B. Thank you to the parents from both St Bernard’s and St Mary’s for their help with setting up the marquee and the dismantling.

Following the success of the day, I have had a few enquiries from parents in Year 3, asking how to become involved in Junior Rugby Union in our area. Below are the details for the **SOUTH COAST JUNIOR RUGBY UNION TWILIGHT MINI RUGBY** which is starting in Term 2. Please feel free to contact the numbers listed on the Community News page for further information.
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Who will run the tests?
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how?
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. From 2016, NAPLAN content will be aligned with the Australian Curriculum. For more information on this please see the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.
How is NAPLAN performance measured?
NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?
Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 13 May 2016.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?
A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?
- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?
For more information about NAPLAN:
- visit the NAP website www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child’s school
- contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website).

NAPLAN 2016 tests timetable

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tuesday 10 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 May</th>
<th>Thursday 12 May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy 45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy 50 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
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- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- Calculators are NOT permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student sits one numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.
We would love to say a huge THANK YOU to each and everyone one of you for donating eggs for the raffle. These will be raffled on Thursday morning and sent home with the children. We hope you have a fantastic Easter break.

The photos are from our P & F meeting last Tuesday night. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10 May at 7pm in the Board Room. Please feel free to come along.

Tori Vincent
P&F President
tori_vincent@hotmail.com
0433988254

Library News

Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC) update
The Premier’s Reading Challenge has begun!! We are encouraging all students to participate. Kindergarten - Year 2 must read 30 books and Years 3 - 6 must read 20 books. We are asking students to keep a list of the books they have been reading and we will assist with logging them onto the website at a later date. Please encourage your child/ren to read over the holidays. All students will have an opportunity over the next couple of weeks to borrow a selection of books for some holiday reading.

App of the Week

Multiplication Genius X 19
FREE
This Multiplication study app has a nice design to it and can continue to progress your child in a never ending continuance of drills – providing they keep their score perfect. With varying degrees of difficulty, Multiplication Genius x 19 provides a study aid for everyone to memorise times tables.

P & F News

We would love to say a huge THANK YOU to each and everyone one of you for donating eggs for the raffle. These will be raffled on Thursday morning and sent home with the children. We hope you have a fantastic Easter break.

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Tori Vincent
P&F President
tori_vincent@hotmail.com
0433988254

Canteen Roster - Week

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<th>Mon</th>
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<tr>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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<td>HELPER NEEDED</td>
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Remember to check the Skoolbag App under “Canteen” for what is happening in the Canteen. The Term 1 Menu is available on the App!

Canteen Special: Week 10

Lamb Meatballs with couscous $4, or $5 meal deal (includes popper and icy pole)
Batemans Bay Junior Boars Rugby Union Club is now taking registrations for the 2016 competition. Junior teams aged from Under 10 – Under 16’s will be playing in the ACT Junior competition on a Saturday, playing both home and away games.

Training is held at Hanging Rock on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4.30pm. Registration costs are $90. Program is fully supported by ACT Brumbies.

For further information, [https://www.facebook.com/bayboarsjuniors](https://www.facebook.com/bayboarsjuniors) or contact Ronnie: 0408247644 or Kylie 0428743471 or email: juniorboars@gmail.com

**SOUTH COAST JUNIOR RUGBY UNION - TWILIGHT MINI RUGBY**

**When:** Friday 5.30pm to 6.30pm  
**Where:** Captain Oldrey Park, Broulee  
**Ages:** 5 years to 10 years  
**Dates:** Friday 29 April to Friday 1 July  
**Cost:** $45 per child

Mini Rugby – is modified games for younger players, are safe to play yet still challenging. They incorporate altered aspects of adult Rugby laws, such as the size of the ball, the playing area, the length of games, and the number of players on the field, U7 is non-tackle.

Registration – is online - look on our Facebook page ‘South Coast Junior Rugby’ or alternatively, come along on the first night and we will assist you with registration.

All parents are encouraged to assist and the weekly barbecues provide a great way to meet new friends and feed the family!

Enquiries to: Secretary - Karyn Starmer 0427 522 227 or Registrar- Kylie Filmer 0414 727 372

**Batemans Bay Basketball Association.**

Winter Competitions start from 25 April.

All games held at Batemans Bay Basketball Stadium at Hanging Rock.

All ages—Boys and Girls from 4 years through to Open Men and Women.

Nominations taken at Batemans Bay Basketball stadium office on the following days

**Thursday 7th April 4.30pm to 8.30pm**  
**Saturday 9th April 2.00 pm to 5.30pm**

Inquires to Kylie 4471 7789 0400 597 630 or Marnie 0417 586 768