Dear Parents,

Congratulations to our students who received the Sacrament of First Eucharist last Sunday. Thank you to Fr John, Fr Dominic, Mrs Valentini, Mrs Holmes, Mrs Coggan, Mrs Burtenshaw and Mrs Tyler for their time, planning and preparation with the students for this Sacrament. Also, thank you to Miss Davies, Mrs Smith and our choir for leading the music. It was wonderful to see the Parish and school choir combine together to celebrate Mass. Mrs Valentini did an amazing job in coordinating this Sacrament. A special thank you to parents, staff, peers and parishioners for their support of our students.

Father’s Day Breakfast
We look forward to welcoming the many fathers and father figures of our students tomorrow for our annual Father’s Day Celebrations. The BBQ breakfast will be followed by a special prayer liturgy at 9.15am in the Hall. The Special Literacy and Numeracy Week Awards will follow and will commence at approximately 9.45am. In order to assist with the safety of all students at the Father’s Day Breakfast please ensure your child stays within the Lean-To and the playground immediately adjacent to the Lean-To. The best place to park to minimise congestion and provide a safe environment is the church car park. During the day the students will also have the opportunity to visit the Father’s Day Stall where they can purchase something special. Thank you to Tori Vincent, Nicole Powell and the P & F for organising a variety of gifts for the students to purchase.

Bus Program
Donna Clarke, Senior Constable, Youth Liaison Officer & Weapons Instructor for the Far South Coast has been approached by Priors Bus Service to run another Bus Program focusing on bus safety and behaviour on and off the buses. In conjunction with Priors Bus, Donna will be presenting the Program to our school, targeting all years. She’ll be running the program in all schools. The Bus Program will be run at St Bernard’s tomorrow at the following times:

**Group 1: Years K - 2:** 11.15am to 11.45am (talk first then practical)

**Group 2: Years 3 - 6:** 11.30am - 12 noon (talk first then practical)

Currently we are developing our own school Bus Policy outlining school expectations for all students travelling to and from school by bus. This will be sent home in the coming weeks. I encourage you to continue to talk to your child/ren about appropriate behaviour on the bus.

Mrs McRae will be on leave for the last three weeks of term and Mrs Margaret Watt will be teaching 4M. We wish Mrs McRae an enjoyable and safe holiday with her family.

*Have a wonderful weekend and to all our Dad’s, Happy Father’s Day!*

Johanna Wain
Assistant Principal
Dear Parents

Please join me in congratulating the 28 students who received the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time at Mass last weekend. The parish community came together to support these young people on their special day, filling the church to capacity. A superb performance by the combined school and parish choir created an atmosphere of joy and unity.

Celebrations like this take a great deal of preparation and coordination. Thank you to Father Dominic who led the ceremony so reverently, the Year 3 Teachers; Angela Holmes, Elizabeth Coggan, Sallyann Burtenshaw and Laura Tyler, who prepared the students so beautifully, Jenny Smith and Emma Davies for leading the choir and music, the choir students who gave up countless lunch times to rehearse and most importantly to the candidates and their families for their commitment to their faith.

In the Year of Eucharist in October 2005, Pope Benedict XVI invited children receiving their first communion to St Peter’s Square. Some of the children seated closest to the Pope asked him questions about the Eucharist.

Andrea: "In preparing me for my First Communion day, my teacher told me that Jesus is present in the Eucharist. But how? I can’t see him!"

Benedict XVI: No, we cannot see him, but there are many things that we do not see but they exist and are essential. We do not see the very deepest things, those that really sustain life and the world, but we can see and feel their effects. This is also true for electricity; we do not see the electric current but we see the light.

So it is with the Risen Lord: We do not see him with our eyes but we see that wherever Jesus is, people change, they improve. A greater capacity for peace, for reconciliation, is created. Therefore, we do not see the Lord himself but we see the effects of the Lord: So we can understand that Jesus is present. And as I said, it is precisely the invisible things that are the most profound, the most important. So let us go to meet this invisible but powerful Lord who helps us to live well.


Andrew Chinn Concert

On Thursday 8 September, Australian religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting our school to share his songs with us. Andrew has regularly toured schools and parishes around Australia, New Zealand and in more recent times, North America.

Parents, younger siblings and parishioners are warmly invited to be a part of the celebration of faith and fun. The cost of the Andrew Chinn concert is $5.00 per family. Please return permission slips and payment by Wednesday 7 September. We look forward to sharing this special event with you.

Blessings on the week ahead,

Julie Valentini
Every spring is an opportunity to review what is important in our lives and to empty out our closets. It may be that the lengthening of the days or the change in the way that the light is present to us that we are called to see things differently. This taking stock allows us to discover what truly brings us joy and what burdens we carry. This is not just about material things which can clutter up our lives but also those attitudes which hold us back. Fundamentally it calls us to reflect on what draws us to the light and what drives us away from that light? How are we called to live in the light of the Gospel and the dream that God has for us? This is not by making us in our own image and likeness but allowing God to mold us into what we are truly called to be. This is not solely our own work but our cooperation with God who seeks to create through us more than we can ask or imagine. It calls all of us to discover what truly brings life to us and our communities.

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

“*The intellectual quest is exquisite*, like pearls and coral. *But it is not the same as the spiritual quest. The spiritual quest is on another level altogether. Spiritual wine has a subtler taste. The intellect and the senses investigate cause and effect. The spiritual seeker surrenders to wonder.*” (Rumi Wisdom; trans. Timothy Freke)

**Sport News**

**Legends of League Sydney**

Congratulations to the 10 (one was injured) boys who represented St Bernard’s at the Legends of League Finals series last Wednesday in Sydney. It was pouring rain and very muddy, but that made for all the more fun for the boys! Below is a piece written about the day. As you will read, they were very close games. Well done boys! You should be very proud of your achievements. A special thank you to Mrs Angela Holmes for being so supportive of the team and supervising on the day.

‘**First, we versed Goulburn. We won 2 tries to 1. It was freezing and pouring rain. Then we versed Mascots. We lost 2 tries to 1. Jackson scored the only try. Next we versed Penrith. We lost 2 tries to 1 and Myles scored our only try.**

**Finally, we played Blacksmiths. We lost that game 3 tries to 2. Myles scored a great try and after that we scored a legendary team try! We were very proud to represent the Far South Coast. We played our best footy despite the terrible weather!**’ By Myles D and Zac H

Best of luck goes to all the students within our school who are playing in their sporting grand finals in coming weeks. Students have been buzzing with excitement over the last few weeks.

Wishing you a happy week ahead.

Megan Grant
PE Teacher/Sport Coordinator

**Have you downloaded the Qkr APP?** It is an easy-to-use phone app that has been introduced to all families this term. It gives you the flexibility to make hassle-free canteen orders and school fee payments at a time and place that suits you. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**BOOK CLUB IS DUE BACK FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER**
Dear Parents
This week we celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy Week with schools all across Australia.

We take great pride in our Literacy and Numeracy blocks at St Bernard’s. Our staff undergo regular professional development in these areas, ensuring that our students are catered for individually and as a whole, through current, ‘best practice’ teaching and learning strategies. This week, a number of staff participated in peer mentoring, whereby they visited another class to watch a Literacy session in action. Today we have 3 Staff members attending Professional Learning focusing on Numeracy Essentials. This further affirms our commitment to quality teaching and learning and our desire for continual improvement.

Read for Australia – Friday 2 September 2016

‘Read for Australia’ is a national simultaneous reading event celebrating reading together. The 2016 ‘Read for Australia’ book is My Two Blankets, written by Irena Kobald and illustrated by Freya Blackwood. It was the Winner of the 2015 Children’s Book Council Award for Picture Books. All classes will read the book and complete activities.

Kindest regards

Julie Valentini
Religious Education Coordinator/Literacy Contact

Literacy and Numeracy Week Activities
Year 6 News from Camp
Sue Larkey Tip Sheet

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS: Strategies for home and school

Theory of Mind

Many people on the autism spectrum have difficulty with social skills as they are not logical – rules change, people are your friend one day and not the next, games change and children use language and phrases that are confusing. In addition to not being able to predict what people mean and understanding the social context can make social situations very frustrating. This is called ‘Theory of Mind’. Most children can pass a Theory of Mind test by age three, whereas most people with ASD have an impaired Theory of Mind.

“Theory of Mind is the ability to recognise and understand thoughts, beliefs, desires and intentions of other people in order to make sense of their behaviour and predict what they are going to do next.” (Pg 112 ‘The Complete Guide to Asperger’s Syndrome’ by Dr Tony Attwood)

Effect of Impaired Theory of Mind

- Difficulty reading social/emotional messages through eyes.
- Making literal interpretation.
- Being considered disrespectful and rude.
- Sense of paranoia.
- Difficulty managing conflict.
- Anxiety.
- Exhaustion (in social situations).

There are two fantastic books that can support students at home and school to help improve Theory of Mind abilities.

What Did You Say? What Did You Mean? is a book full of over 100 metaphors and can be used with the whole family or class.

Language that does not mean what it says can add to the stress experienced by children with ASD. Many of you would have heard stories where children took comments literally like: “to put their skates on”, “pull their socks up”, or “hop on the bus”. But there are some metaphors that can cause distress like “school is breaking up at the end of the day”. “At the end of the day, we’re all going to die”, “Ms Green is going to bite your head off” – these can actually make students frightened. (Try re-reading them and imagine you are literal – you would believe the school is failing apart at end of day, etc)

Taking language literally is much more than misunderstanding metaphors, it extends to taking words at face value and not understanding the inferred meaning behind questions. With questions like “Can you count to ten?”, “Can you sit down?” children with ASD will often just answer “Yes” or “No” rather than realizing they are meant to demonstrate or follow the instruction. Another is when a child picks up something they are not meant to have – you say “You can’t have that” but they have got it, so they will often then argue with you as “they have it” and so you are wrong! At my workshops last term a Mum had a huge ‘ahh haa’ moment when I was discussing this and why kids with ASD will call you a LIER. It was an absolute light bulb moment that her son was not being rude he was being HONEST! I know a girl who answered the question “Can you see the pattern” in a maths test and with “yes, yes, no” etc when she was meant to continue the sequence?

Why Do I Have To? is a book designed for children to understand why rules exist and how they make things work better. It has lovely illustrations and fantastic explanations. Establishing rules can be very frustrating for adults and children, and this book helps children understand why they have to! The book is under three main areas home, school and friends. It is a great book for children who have difficulty coping with the expectation of daily living, as well as for their parents and the professionals who work with them.

Here are a few great examples found in the book:

- Why do I have to listen to the teacher talking about something I already know?
- Why do I have to rest when I am not tired?
- Why do I have to stop talking about things that I like?

When we use words like ‘could’, ‘would’ and ‘can’ many children with ASD think that is a choice i.e. “Can you start work?” When they say “no” people often think the child is being difficult. In fact the child saw it as a choice, it was the child’s literalness that made them misunderstand, not them being difficult.

Great Resources for Improving Theory of Mind

What Did You Say? What Did You Mean?: By Jude Welton

Jude Welton looks at a hundred of the most common figures of speech in the visual workbook designed as a springboard for family and classroom discussions. Each figure of speech is accompanied by an illustration showing its literal meaning, which will help ASD children recognise and learn to enjoy metaphors and figurative language.

CODE B45 $32.95 (plus P & H)

Why Do I Have To?: By Laurie Leventhal-Belfer

Why Do I Have To? looks at a set of everyday situations that provide challenges for children at home, with their friends, and at school. Empathises with children’s wish to do things their way, explains clearly why their way does not work, and provides a list of practical suggestions for how to cope with these challenges and avoid feelings of frustration.

CODE B46 $22.95 (plus P & H)
All of the students enjoyed the visiting author Mr DC Green last Friday. Mr Green has kindly offered to extend the opportunity to purchase his books and he will autograph them. Please complete the order form below with your payment and return it to the office as soon as possible. It makes a great Christmas present.

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<th>Child's name: __________________________________________</th>
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<td>Three Little Surfer Pigs ($10 each). Quantity: __________</td>
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<td>Two City of Monsters ($19 for 2). Quantity: ____________</td>
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<td>All three Erasmus James books ($35 for 3) Quantity: __________</td>
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<td>All six DC books ($95 for 6) Quantity: ___________</td>
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Theresa Hopman
Library Assistant

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**P & F NEWS**

Good afternoon

We are very excited about the Father’s Day breakfast and stall that is occurring tomorrow. We will be setting up in the music room.

Prices start at $2.00 through to $7.00 and students can buy as little or as much as they like. We also ask for plastic bags you no longer use to be brought in for the children to carry their gifts.

We are always looking for parent helpers to come in. It’s a great way to meet new friends and be a part of our amazing school. I just ask that you sign in at the office and sign out when you leave. Even if you can help for an hour that would be wonderful. We are meeting at 9:30 am in the French/Music Room.

I look forward to meeting you.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Tori Vincent
St Bernards P & F President
CANTEEN THANK YOU

The Canteen would like to thank all of the St Bernard’s families and volunteers for supporting our Olympic celebrations over the past 3 weeks!

We are VERY excited to announce our gold medal winner was AUSTRALIA with a massive 175 orders!

A huge thank you to our volunteers who assisted us in providing this service.

Thank you in no particular order to Sue, Tori, Val, Phil W, Eli, Phil L, Nicole, Ann Marie, Noamy, Lara, Denise & Kayla

St Bernards Canteen

CANTEEN - WEEK 8

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SCHOOL BANKING NEWS $$$

Congratulations to the School Banking savers who received the following:

- Jade C-H (3C) - a Wildlife Writer Set.
- Georgie W (KH) - a Jump and Skip Rope.
- Brianna G (1H) and Lily D (KH) - a Backtrack Eraser Pen.
- Lachlan C (4S) - Galaxy Glider. Wonderful savings!

Also congratulations go to the following students who received a Silver Certificate: Taylah K (4M), Ivy P (3C) and Ethan K (KH). Bronze Certificate: Genevieve P-C (3H) and Harry Bruce (KB). Well done!
**Eurobodalla community bike ride**

**When:** Sunday 18 September 2016, 9.00am registration for a 10.00am start

**Meeting point:** outside Broulee Surf Life Saving Club, Heath Street, Broulee

**Cost:** free!

Call Heidi Hanes on 02 4474 1347 or visit www.esc.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Join our community bike ride! All ages and skill levels are welcome with two ride options that you can complete at your own pace. After your ride relax and take advantage of refreshments and a BBQ lunch.

**4 km ride:** cycle along the sealed shared pathway from Broulee Surf Club to Candlagan Creek bridge and return. This option suits families with younger riders or for people who are less experienced.

**13 km ride:** cycle along the Bengello bike track from the Broulee Surf Club to Moruya Airport and return. This is a gravel bike track and is suited for more experienced riders.

All participants need to wear a helmet and riders 10 years and under must be accompanied by an adult.

All riders will receive Bike Week giveaways and go into the draw to win great prizes including a luxury ‘glamping’ weekend away at The Bower Broulee.

Explore our scenic bike tracks and join in the fun!

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**Batemans Bay Basketball Association**

Summer competition starts from Monday 17 October 2016.

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

Open to all boys and girls from 4 years old through to Open Men & Women

Nominations will be taken at Batemans Bay Basketball Stadium on:

- Wednesday September 14 4.30pm-6pm
- Wednesday September 21 4.30pm-6pm

Or for more information please contact:
Kylie - 0400 597 630 or kyliearmstrong2@bigpond.com
Marnie – 0417 586 768
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MOGO ZOO’S FREE
FATHER’S DAY BBQ
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH 12-2
TREAT DAD TO A DAY AT THE ZOO AND ENJOY OUR FREE GOURMET BBQ LUNCH WITH EVERY ADULT TICKET SOLD. INCLUDING TRADITIONAL KRANSKY ROLLS SERVED WITH A SELECTION OF SAUCES AND A SAUSAGE SIZZLE FOR THE KIDS!
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