

# BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term: 4 | Week 6 | Date: Friday, 20th November

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Families,

A few Christmas' ago a colleague gave me a plaque as a gift. The plaque had the following quote on it: **Before you abuse, criticise and accuse, walk a mile in my shoes.**

The words are from a song released in the 1960s that talks about trying to understand other people rather than judging them. The words to the song were probably adapted from a 17th Century poem called **Judge Softly**.

All children are born with the capacity for empathy, but like most skills and aptitudes it needs to be nurtured throughout their lives. Learning empathy is much like learning a language or a sport. It requires regular **practice, modelling** and **guidance**.

**Empathy** has four important parts:

1. Being able to take the **perspective** of another person
2. Refraining from **judgement**
3. Recognising **emotion** in other people
4. Communicating the **understanding** of that person's feelings.

The benefits of modelling and helping our children to practice being empathetic include:

- helping them to build a sense of **security** and stronger **relationships** with other children and teachers, setting them up well for learning
- encouraging **tolerance** and **acceptance** of others
- reinforcing the notion that their actions and **behaviours** affect others
- promoting good **mental health** and **resilience**.

The best model of empathy is **CHRIST**. The Gospels are full of **ENCOUNTERS** where Christ demonstrates empathy towards people. From His response to a widow's loss and grief whilst at **BETHANY** to His response to the **THIEF** on the **CROSS**, Jesus was always empathetic to the experiences of others.

Empathy is a **LIFE SKILL** and one of the key '**soft skills**' that will serve children in every area of their lives - for the rest of their lives. The ability to connect empathically with others—to feel with them, to care about their well-being, and to act with compassion—is critical to the wellbeing of our kids, helping them to get along with others and to thrive.

An important way to develop a child's ability to empathise is through **READING**. Research has shown that reading **literature** provides a wonderful way for children to **develop** and **practise** empathy and to better understand how other people feel and think.

By working **together**, teachers and parents can play a critical role in helping children to better understand what it is like to walk **IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES**.

Until next time,

Sergio Rosato

Principal

**BEFORE YOU ABUSE,  
CRITICIZE, AND  
ACCUSE WALK A MILE  
IN MY SHOES**



***O Great Spirit, help me to never judge another until I have walked two weeks in their moccasins***

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## First Communion 2020

The reception of Communion for the first time is an immensely important faith occasion in the life of a young person. During last term a large number of children from our parish attended preparation for First Communion classes which took place after school over four weeks. The classes were taught by Father Suresh and held in our library for Bethany students and at the same time, via Zoom, for the children who attend other schools in our parish.

COVID-19 restrictions have meant that the First Communion Masses had to be spread over four Sundays rather than held on one common Sunday. The smaller groups in each sacramental liturgy, in turn, have given a greater sense of intimacy and specialness to each of these masses.

Particular thanks to the Parish Sacramental team led by Mary Holy and Regina Rosetto for their dedicated work and to the many teachers from Bethany who assisted with the preparation classes. Thank you also to Jodie Donlan (REC) & Cassandra Wakim (REC Assistant) for their work in support of the children.

Congratulations and blessings to each of our First Communicants and their families.





# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## Kindergarten 2021 Transition Visits

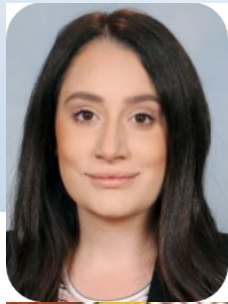
Over the last month our new Kindy students entering school next year have been visiting Bethany to help familiarise themselves with the teachers, classrooms and other children. COVID restriction has meant that the students are being handed over to Bethany staff in the hall with parents returning to collect the children from the hall after the conclusion of the session. The vast majority of children have adapted really well to this predictable routine and have thoroughly enjoyed their time getting used to "Big School". Our school mascot Bethany Bear has been on hand at Gate 2 for a visit to welcome the children with a friendly wave. The final transition visit for children will take place on Tuesday 24 November 2020.



## Student Toilet Upgrade

Currently both our primary student toilets are undergoing a complete renovation. The renovation once completed will provide our children with modern toilet facilities complete with new fixtures featuring hygienic non touch fittings throughout. Renovations to the primary toilet blocks and a newly built ambulant toilet will be completed in the next fortnight. The infant's toilet block will undergo renovations once the primary block is done and be completed by the end of this school year.





# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



## Year 6 GRADUATION MASS

Mass will be celebrated with our Year 6 students on Tuesday 8th December at St Padre Pio Parish at 6pm. Details will be forwarded by the Year 6 teachers in the near future. With restrictions eased for places of worship, each student will be permitted to have two guests attend this Eucharistic Celebration. The Mass will be live streamed and recorded for viewing via a secure link for any family members who are not able to attend.

## THANKSGIVING MASSES

Two Masses will be held, so that students from Kindergarten to Year 5 with staff can give thanks for the year. These will be at 11am on Thursday 10th December and Friday 11th December. Due to the restrictions of people gathering in a church, only students and staff will be able to attend. Like the Graduation Mass, we will be live streaming and recording the Mass via a secure link. Grades will be advised as to which day they will be attending next week.





# SPORT



## TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

- 8-13 years (in 2021), competent swimmers only.
- Week 8 Monday 30th November, 2020
- Time: from 6:00pm for a 7:00pm start. First call will be at 6:50pm.
- ENTRIES HAVE NOW CLOSED



## 2021 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials are OPEN!

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2021 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four in 2020 and in 2021. It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above-average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in years 5 and 6 in 2021 be invited to attend. To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held for the following sports:

Sport	Age Group	Trial Date	Nominations Open	Registration closing date
AFL	Open boys & girls	Feb 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Basketball	Open boys & girls	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	Open 2 Nov 2020	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
Cricket	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Diving	10/11yrs & 12/13yrs boys & girls	Term One 2021	Nominations Open in 2021	Registration via CSNSW Sport in 2021
Football (Soccer)	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Golf	Open boys & girls	Term Three 2021	Nominations Open in 2021	Registration via CSNSW Sport in 2021
Hockey	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Netball	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Rugby League	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Rugby League	11yrs boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Rugby Union	Open boys & girls	April – May 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Softball	Open boys & girls	April – May 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Tennis	Open boys & girls	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Open 2 Nov 2020	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
Touch Football	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

# SPORT

ALL 2021 Team Sport Trials are OPEN, however, the Summer Sports of **BASKETBALL & TENNIS** registrations close for these sports only on Monday 23rd November as these trials are planned for November and December 2020. This will be confirmed closer to the date due to COVID-19 restrictions and venue availability.

All other sports trials will be held in Terms 1 and 2 in 2021.

Primary students enrolled in Years 5 and 6 in 2021 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials. It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who **display an above-average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport**. While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 and 6 in 2021 be invited to attend.

Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports: **AFL, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League (11 years and Opens), Rugby Union, Softball, Tennis & Touch football**. The sports of Diving & Golf will be held at the MacKillop level.

To be eligible for selection for these trials the **2021 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration** form must be completed. Please visit the Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport website or Facebook for the link and information.

WEBSITE: [www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au)

FACEBOOK: [Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese](#)

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for 2021 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

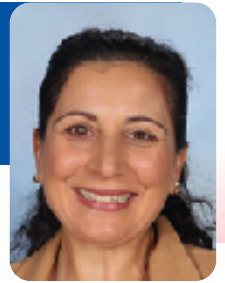
Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by the child's school. For the child to attend the nominated trial or event, the school approves students based on playing history and selection criteria. All fields and especially "Representative Experience" if applicable to the sport **MUST** be completed. Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the **2021 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration** form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.



**Mrs Neilly**



# LIBRARY



It's that time of year! Start looking for those missing library books and Class Readers.

Check under the bed, in the car, or maybe at Grandma's. Check the bookshelf and your schoolbag.

Please return all library books to school ASAP. These books are expensive to replace!



## OTHER MATTERS

### Medical Action Plans 2021

If your child is on a Medical Action Plan, could you please take the time to check that it is still valid. Medical Action plans are valid for 12 months. We would appreciate it if updated Action plans could be brought to the office within the first week of **Term 1 2021**.

### Carpark Safety

Here are a few rules that can keep all community members safe when coming and going around the school carpark:

- Please ensure that the hands of little ones are always held when moving about the carpark.
- When entering the driveway, always remain to the left and process through the carpark in a clockwise direction. Do not turn right, as a matter of urgency in order to secure a parking space.
- When leaving the carpark, please maintain the correct speed limit, particularly when heading down the driveway and have limited peripheral vision of pedestrians crossing.
- **When parking on the dirt and gravel behind the hall, in front of the presbytery (whether in the morning or at special school events) please ensure that the bitumen driveway to the presbytery remains clear at all times.**
- When on the dirt and gravel behind the hall, in front of the presbytery please do not park next to the large rubbish bins (parallel to the carpark) as it means that parents and children alike, are having to walk through the carpark to get to the school entry near the canteen.
- **Fr Suresh has requested that, if parking in the dirt area of the carpark, please reverse-park.**
- Please park accurately within the parking lines to ensure that other drivers can get out of their cars safely.
- Please remember to use the crossing.
- To keep morning traffic flowing smoothly in the school car park, we ask parents and carers to be mindful of not getting out of their cars if they have driven to the Kiss and Drop area.
- **Please do not park in the car park in front of the church for safety reasons, as parents, carers and students walk this way to access the Welcome Garden. This is restricted to the parish and staff.**

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

<b>Tuesday 24th November</b>	<b>Kindergarten 2021 Transition Session 4 - 9:00am to 10:20am</b>
<b>Friday 27th November</b>	<b>Parramatta 2021 Team Sport trial - Tennis</b>
<b>Tuesday 1st December</b>	<b>Parramatta 2021 Team Sport trial - Basketball</b>
<b>Wednesday 2nd December</b>	<b>Kindergarten 2021 - Follow-Up Parent information Evening via Zoom - 6:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 8th December</b>	<b>Year 6 Graduation Mass 6pm - Padre Pio Parish</b>
<b>Thursday 10th December</b>	<b>Year 6 Fun Day</b>
<b>Thursday 10th December</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Mass (Cohort 1) 11:00am</b>
<b>Friday 11th December</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Mass (Cohort 2) 11:00am</b>
<b>Friday 11th December</b>	<b>Year 6 Graduation Presentation via Zoom 1 - 2:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 15th December</b>	<b>Year 6 Social Bethany Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday 15th December</b>	<b>Year 6 Guard of Honour 2:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 15th December</b>	<b>Last day Term 4</b>
<b>Wednesday 16th December</b>	<b>Staff Development Day</b>
<b>Thursday 17th December</b>	<b>Staff Development Day</b>



# COMMUNICATION

The following information has been advised via the SkoolBag App:

- 13/11/20      Becoming Catholic or wanting to  
complete the Sacraments of Initiation
- 11/11/20      Library Books  
Announcement
- 9/11/20        Year 6 End of Year Events



## YEAR 5 NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

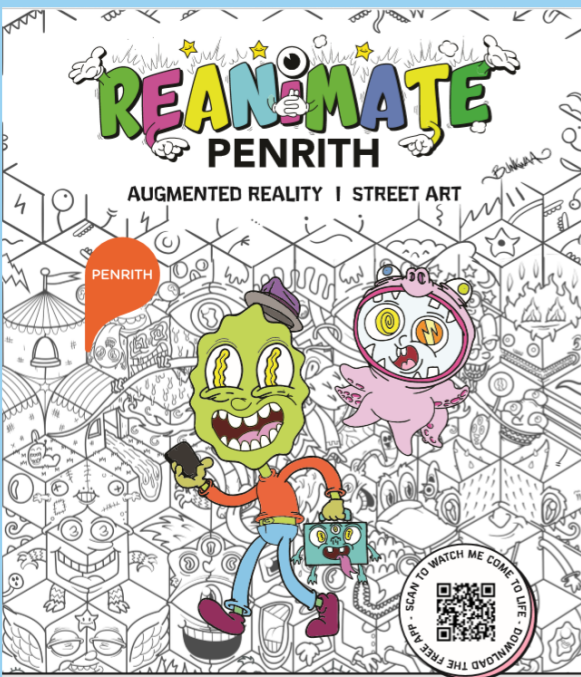
The Year 5 students at Bethany would like to invite you to read the current edition of the  
**"Bethany Year 5 Student Newsletter"**.

Please scan the QR Code below to access the newsletter,



<https://sites.google.com/parra.catholic.edu.au/bethany-year-5-newsletter/>

# COMMUNITY



**REANIMATE**  
PENRITH  
AUGMENTED REALITY | STREET ART

PENRITH

WHEN: Sunday 1 November - Monday 30 November  
WHERE: ARTWalk - High St, Penrith City Centre  
Street Art - Allen Place Car Park

IN THE APP:  
SELECT 'AR FUN AT HOME'  
AND THEN 'AR POSTER'  
View artwork through your phone!

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

ReAnimatePenrith

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**YEAR 7 2021**

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**CONTACT US 8811 0300**

[www.patsblacktown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.patsblacktown.catholic.edu.au) | [patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**Fine young men striving for personal excellence centred in faith**



# COMMUNITY

## KIDS DECEMBER CAN ACT HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY 23rd DECEMBER SPRINGWOOD	THURSDAY 24 <sup>th</sup> DECEMBER SPRINGWOOD
9.30-2.30pm <b>For Puppets Sake!</b>	9.30-2.30pm <b>Superhero Academy</b> 2.30-5.30 pm <b>If The Hat Fits</b>
WEDNESDAY 30TH DECEMBER SPRINGWOOD	THURSDAY 31ST DECEMBER PENRITH
9.30-2.30pm <i>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie</i> <b>Suitcase of Memories</b> 2.30-5.30pm <i>1,2,3 Let's Film It!</i> <b>But Wait!</b> <b>There's More! Sell It!</b>	9.30-2.30pm <b>Superhero Academy</b>
REMEMBER TO USE YOUR \$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER 	<a href="http://www.kidscanact.com.au">www.kidscanact.com.au</a> Cathie 0414 475 158 

## KIDS JANUARY CAN ACT HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

MONDAY 18th JAN SPRINGWOOD	TUES 19 <sup>th</sup> & WED 20 <sup>th</sup> JAN SPRINGWOOD
<b>One Super Duper Crazy KNIGHT!</b> 9.30-2.30pm <b>Drama Games &amp; Scenarios</b> 2.30- 5.00pm	<b>Outside The Box</b> 9.30-2.30pm 
THURSDAY 21 <sup>st</sup> JAN PENRITH	FRIDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> JAN SPRINGWOOD
<i>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie</i> <b>The Day I Fell Into A Storybook ...and Survived</b> 9.30-2.30pm	<b>Puppetry</b> 8.30-1.30pm
<b>A Bag Full Of Stories Storytelling</b> 2.30-5.00pm	<i>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie</i> <b>It Wasn't Me! I Didn't Do It!</b> 1.30- 6.30pm OLDER STUDENTS (9-16 years)
REMEMBER TO USE YOUR \$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER 	<a href="http://www.kidscanact.com.au">www.kidscanact.com.au</a> Cathie 0414 475 158