15th of October 2014

Dear Parents

Difficult as it is to believe we are already in Term 4 of the 2014 academic school year. The children have settled back into the routines of school well, after some downtime during holidays. Andrew Introna will be taking the students for Indonesian and Library for the first four weeks of Term Four whilst Mrs Richards enjoys her long service leave. Mrs Walsh returns to school in Week 3 after her long service leave.

Due a number of reasons out of our control the newsletter in full will not be available until week 3. However to ensure consistent parent school communication we have included some information that will be helpful.

Grandparents Day Liturgy – This Friday 17th October, we are looking forward to seeing lots of grandparents at St Bernard’s. This day will commence with open classrooms at 9:15am where grandparents are welcome to spend time with their grandchildren and see some of the exciting learning taking place. The liturgy will begin in the church at 10:15am and morning tea will follow in the school hall where the band will perform. Children have been asked to bring a gold coin donation for the day which will go towards Catholic Mission.

Mission Mass and Catholic Mission – October is Mission Month and on Wednesday 22nd October, the School Captains and Mrs Tod will attend the Mission Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Waitara. This takes place in Mission Week each year and is a great opportunity for all schools to gather together to reflect on the Catholic Mission theme for the Year. This Year the theme is;

“When I grow up I want to be…alive”

The appeal aims to reach out to support the crucial work of the Jamaican Catholic Church in helping people turn away from violence and crime to seek a new future through the power of education and the spirit of Jesus Christ.

“The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty. We do not judge our progress based on how the wealthiest are doing. Instead, we evaluate our greatness by observing how the most vulnerable are faring. And then, whenever we see deficiencies, we are called to respond in faith.” Pope Francis, 2013
All classes at St Bernard’s are currently studying Religious Education Mission Units which enables children to reflect on the ways they can reach out in love and compassion to the less fortunate in our world. On Grandparents Day the classes will learn about the works of Catholic Mission and how we can help those in need.

**Altar Server Training** – A reminder that Altar Server training will take place on Tuesday 21\(^{st}\) and Thursday 23\(^{rd}\) October, starting at 3:30pm in the St Bernard’s Church. If you have not yet returned your permission note, please do so promptly. Thank you once again to Vince Hughes for leading this training.

**Stage 3 Family Mass** – A reminder that the date for this celebration has changed to Saturday 22\(^{nd}\) November at 5:30pm. (I apologise as it was printed on the wrong date in the term calendar so please change this. Thank you)

God Bless
Jackie Tod

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**School Production DVD:**

I thought I would give you all an update on the DVD of our school production, The Battered Suitcase. I know that you are all eager to see it and buy lots of copies! The editing of the DVD is well underway; however there is a delay in completion at the moment. It is with much sadness that I have to inform you, John Roy’s (who did the fabulous music for our production and providing the sound and videoing equipment) wife Debbie had a stroke two weeks ago and is currently in intensive care. Our thoughts and prayers are with Debbie, John and their family during this time.

I will be sending home in the next week an order form for the DVD. We are just finalising the cost of the DVD.

From Mrs Cottrell

**League Gala Day**

On Thursday 30\(^{th}\) October, 2014, all students in Years 3, 4 and 6 will be participating in the ARL League Tag Gala Day at Foxglove Oval, Mt Colah (Year 6) and Rofe Park, Hornsby Heights (Years 3 & 4). Please see attached permission note for details. In order for the day to be a success we will require parents to manage teams so please indicate your interest to be involved on the attached note.

From Miss Massey and Mrs Hayman

**Leadership Day**

Year 4 and 5 students will be participating in the first Leadership Day on Monday the 20/10/14 in the school hall. The day will facilitate opportunities for students to develop a deeper understanding of
leadership and the skills required to lead successfully. The day will be led by Mr Cottrell, Miss Massey, Mrs Walsh and myself.

Thank You

The new fixed equipment is currently being erected on the oval and the children are eagerly waiting an opportunity to play. Thank you to the P&F, Ann Fallon and the outdoor committee team for the time and contributions.

The classrooms have also had some additional equipment to support learning. Once again thanks to the P&F, Kelly Tunny and the indoor committee for their dedication in making Saint Bernard’s a wonderful school.

At the commencement of Term we have implemented, after consultation with staff and the SRC, a playground roster. The purpose of the roster is to ensure equity and safety for all student; we are very privileged to have such a wonderful area to play, run and explore. The roster enables all stages to access the oval four times a week, therefore enabling students to play team sports with adequate space, as well as provide areas where children can enjoy creative non-structured games.

Orientation

Our first day of Orientation was a day of excitement and fun for the teachers, year 4 students, the Kinders 2015 and their parents. Lots of play based learning activities were organised by Mrs Tomsett and Mrs Cohen around the theme “Jungle”. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the exemplary behaviour of our all the students who participated in the opening liturgy (Yr 4, Kinders 2014 and selected students in Year 6) and the school band; they were great ambassadors for our school.

Date Reminders:

23/10 Student School Disco
21/10 Second Week of Orientation
22/10 Mission Mass at Waitara 11-12:30pm School captains and Mrs Todd
25/10 Trivia Night
30/10 & 31/10 Year 5 Leadership Day
30/10 League Gala Day for Yrs 3, 4 and 6

Have a terrific week and God bless.

Jeanette Fowles
Assistant Principal