St Bede's School Newsletter

ST BEDE'S SCHOOL

2 Marwal Ave North Balwyn 3104 Ph: 8851 4651 Fax: 9859 7202 Email: info@sbedesbn.catholic.edu.au

12th March 2020

Reflection
God of mercy, you ask us to listen to your Son, Jesus.
Open our ears to hear your Word and fill our hearts with your love
so that we may change our lives and so change the lives of others.
Amen.

Dear Parents

One of the aspects of my role as Principal that I thoroughly enjoy is being able to be part of each classroom on a regular bases. These opportunities allow me to develop a deeper understanding of what learning is occurring in each classroom, and the needs of our learning community. It is clearly obvious from my observations that the students at St Bede's are eager learners wanting to develop their understandings and knowledge across the whole curriculum. This same observation has been reiterated by many of the parents who I have taken on tours this year. It is our responsibility (staff, students, parents) to continue to work together to ensure that each student is challenged to be the best learner they can be.

Parish Picnic
A reminder to our community that the annual Parish picnic is on this Sunday between 12pm-3pm. A huge thank you to the PA and everyone else who has volunteered to assist during the day. A jumping castle and face painting has been organised for the children. The weather is expected to be kind to us on Sunday so please come along and join in the fun.

Disco
The school Disco will be held next Thursday evening 19 March. The Year Prep to Year 2 Disco will be held between 6.00pm and 7.00pm whilst the Yr.3 to Yr. 6 will be held between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. Once again a huge thank you to the PA who have organised this event.

Open Day
Our school open day will take place next Wednesday 18th March between 9.00am and 1.00pm. Enrolments are currently open for Prep 2021. If you have a child who is eligible to start Prep in 2021 please make contact with the school office to complete an enrolment form. As an existing family with siblings in the school you are our first priority for enrolment. It is important that we know our incoming Prep siblings so we know how many places we can offer to new families. Offers for placements for Prep for 2021 will go out by the end of Term 2

School Closure Day
Our Term 1 school closure day will be on Wednesday 25th March. The staff will be involved in a Mathematical Professional Development Day. There will be no school for the children on this day.

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Coronavirus

Our first priority at St Bede's is the health and safety of our school community.

I want to reassure you that the school is well-prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak.

Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with our Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan. We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

You can also find information about Catholic education's response at http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents.

This is an evolving situation, but we will keep you updated as things change.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact my office should you have any concerns. I will keep you informed of any further updates

Thank you for your support as we work to keep our students safe.

Volunteers

Just a reminder that if you wish to volunteer in any capacity at St Bede's that you are required to have a current working with children's check. This can be obtained through an online application.

https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply

We encourage all parents to obtain a WWCC. If you nominate St Bede's as the organisation you are volunteering with, the school will receive confirmation of your application.

Enjoy your week

Brian

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Bebras Australia is an international student challenge run by CSIRO Education and Outreach through the Digital Careers program. The **goal** is to promote **Computational Thinking** to students in a way that highlights student ability beyond Science or Mathematic skills.

This week students in Years Five and Six participated in the Bebras Challenge during their Digital Technologies classes. Students had a choice to work individually or with a partner. Students in Years Three and Four will complete the challenge next week. The results will be out in a couple of weeks. Students will be presented with their certificates early in Term Two.

The Bebras Australia Challenge is for Year 3 to Year 12 students, it's free and online.

Bebras is not a competition, it's a challenge!

Bebras is Lithuanian for *Beaver!*

Over 48,000 students complete the Bebras Challenge each year in Australia

Bebras began in Lithuania in 2004. It has grown so much that more than 1,527,000 students from around the world completed the challenge in 2016!

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What is Computational Thinking

Using Computational Thinking skills doesn't mean thinking like a computer – it is a way of thinking that promotes problem-solving and it can be used in every aspect of our lives. It uses a number of skills that help us to do this, these skills include:

Pattern Recognition
identifying patterns or similarities

Algorithms
precise sequence or instructions, or set of rules to perform a task

Logic
breaking problems into parts, removing unnecessary or reorganising data

We use problem-solving in everything that we do – and future jobs will require this even more. Teaching Computational Thinking is not about how to use technology to solve the problem but rather how to understand the problems and identify the tools needed to solve them.

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BULLYING. NO WAY!
SAFE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS. TOGETHER.

Dear parents

At St. Bede's we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone.

You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone.

Please see below for tips on what to do if your child talks to you about bullying, from 'Bullying. No Way!' Parents know their children best and know the best way to tailor communication to their needs. Adapt these tips to what works for you and your child.

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they've told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child's experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.
2. **Reassure** your child they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like, 'That sounds really hard to deal with. No one should have to put up with that.' or 'I'm so glad you told me. You should be able to feel safe at school; that's not fair at all'.
3. **Ask** your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.
4. **Visit** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.
5. **Contact** the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help. Make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher and, if you need to, ask to talk with the principal. Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child's safety.
6. **Check in regularly** with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.

www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

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If you are looking for support for yourself to deal with a bullying situation, you will find ideas on the Bullying. No Way! website for parents. As well, please feel free to contact the school if you would like to discuss any aspect of our approach to preventing bullying.

Thanks for your support to make St. Bede's a great school for everyone.

PLEASE NOTE

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is March 20th

To show our support this day we will integrating teaching and learning experiences throughout the curriculum, through our Term 1 Wellbeing Focus 'Relationships and Diversity.'

We will also be holding an assembly on Friday 20th March hosted by 3/4 K.

Students can wear a splash of orange on Friday 20th March to show their support.

For example students may wish to wear orange ribbons in their hair, wear an orange t-shirt, orange shoe laces etc.

www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

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ICAS ASSESSMENTS™

Dear Parents/Giardians

We are delighted to inform you that St Bede's will be participating in the world-renowned ICAS Assessments this year. ICAS is developed by UNSW Global, a wholly owned subsidiary of UNSW Sydney, with over 35 years' experience in educational assessments.

ICAS is designed to target students' higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling and Digital Technologies.

Each assessment celebrates students' accomplishments by providing opportunities for recognition. Every student will receive a printed certificate and an online result report. Top performers will be eligible for medals and are invited to attend special award ceremonies to have their academic excellence publicly recognised.

We encourage you to consider entering your child into ICAS this year. The assessments are suitable for students wishing to extend themselves academically and take up the personal challenge of competing in an international assessment. Your child will be presented with high-quality, expert-developed questions, allowing them to apply their learning without the need for prior study or revision.

ICAS Assessments are now online, a move that reflects a sector-wide transition to computer-based assessments. This allows greater accessibility for students and faster delivery of results.

Learn more about ICAS here: unsw.global/ICAS

UNSW Global

UNSW Global Pty Limited ABN 62 086 418 582 is a not-for-profit provider of education and assessment services and a wholly owned enterprise of UNSW Sydney.

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ICAS ASSESSMENTS™

In 2020 students have the opportunity to participate in the following subjects:

Subject and Sitting Date
ICAS Science- (Years 2-6) – Between 17-21st August
ICAS Writing - (Years 3-6) -Between 17th-21st August(Year 3 & Year 4 will still be paper tests)
ICAS Digital Technologies-(Years 3-6) Between 24th-28th August
ICAS English- (Years 2-6) -Between 24th and 28th August.
ICAS Mathematics- (Years 2-6) - Between 31st August and 4th September.
ICAS Spelling Bee- (Years 2-6) - Between 31st August and 4th September.

Cost per test: $15.95 including GST

If you would like your child to participate in any of the subjects listed above, please visit the new online Parent Payment System to make a direct payment to UNSW Global. The Parent Payment System is a simple and secure online payment service specifically for parents to purchase ICAS Assessments.

The web link is: https://shop.unswglobal.com.au/pages/pps

Our school's unique access code is: **AXO142**
Online payment closes Monday, **17 July 2020.**

IMPORTANT: Please enter your child's name accurately into the System as it will appear on their ICAS certificate.

Privacy notification

UNSW Global stores, uses and modifies the ICAS Assessments data in order to generate reports, conduct research and analysis, and improve its products and services. UNSW Global will not hold or use ICAS Assessments data that constitutes personal information for longer than 15 years. As the parent or guardian of a student who intends to sit ICAS Assessments, you consent to the school collecting the ICAS Assessments data that relates to the student, disclosing it to UNSW Global and to UNSW Global's use of it in the manner outlined above. You also consent to the school assigning this consent to UNSW Global.

We are proud to partner with UNSW Global in offering the ICAS Assessments, and look forward to some fantastic results later in the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Amanda Martin
Learning Diversity Leader

UNSW Global

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TERM 1 DATES	
DATE	ACTIVITY
Term 1	Wednesday 29th January – 27th March 2020)
Sun 15th March	Parish of St Anne & St Bede PARISH PICNIC after 11am Mass
Thurs 19th March	School Disco
Wed 25th March	Mass of Anointing @ 11am
Wed 25th March	School Closure Day – Staff PD
Fri 27th March	END OF TERM @ 1.15PM
Term 2	
Tues 14th April	Commence Term 2
Sat 18th April	3/4 Family Mass @ 6pm
Fri 8th May	Mother's Day Mass @ 9am
Mon 18th May	School Photos
Wed 20th May	St Bede's Open Day 9am-1pm
Mon 25th May	St Bede's Feast Day
Fri 19th June	Feast of Sacred Heart Mass
Sun 21st June	Yr 6 Commitment Mass for Confirmation

Dear Families

The parish picnic is this Sunday, March 15th, and we are in need of volunteers to help in the children's area with the highly anticipated "Jumping Castle" and games including the much loved "Chocolate Toss" game.

The children's area is such an important part of the picnic as its guaranteed to put a smile on your child's face and keep them entertained, so volunteering some of your time on the day is much appreciated.

Please register on my school volunteer found on your my school connect dashboard or email Viv (vrossios@ozemail.com.au) the times you would like.

We are also looking for volunteers to co-ordinate the Grade 6 Graduation and organise the Mother's Day Dinner please email me if you are interested on omar@otkgroup.com.au. These events are volunteer based and will not be able to proceed without help from our parent community, please consider volunteering for these two wonderful events.

Thank you
Omar
PA President

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Australian Mathematics Competition

The AMC will be held on Thursday 30 July 2020

School-based maths competitions don't get much bigger than this—with more than 15 million entries since 1978 and students in more than 30 countries attempting the same problems each year.

The AMC is an engaging 30-problem competition that demonstrates the importance and relevance of mathematics in students' everyday lives; **it is open to students in years 3 to 12.**
Australia's leading educators and academics, with a deep understanding of our national curriculum standards, actively design the unique AMC problems each year.

This is a fairly challenging competition. I would recommend entry only for those students operating at or above standard for their year level.

If you would like to enter your child in this competition- Please send the entry fee in an envelope clearly labelled with your child's Name and Year level to school before Thursday the 18th of June.

Cost: $6.50 (Aust & NZ)

Amanda Martin

Learning Diversity Leader

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Christus Dies Aeterna Nostra

2 Marwal Ave, North Balwyn
Ph: 8851 4651
info@sbedesbn.catholic.edu.au

Enrolments Open 2021 - 2022

Come and see our children in action

Open Day Dates:

Wed 18th March 2020 9am-1pm
Wed 20th May 2020 9am-1pm

All Welcome

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Yarraleen Pre School Bulleen

RATED EXCEEDING NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

Open Day & Fete

Sunday 22nd March, 2020

11am - 3pm

92 Rocklea Road, Bulleen

Come and meet our educators between 12-2pm

There Will be:

- Sausage sizzle
- Petting farm
- Fire truck rides
- Games
- Jumping castle
- Face painting
- Cake stall
- Coffee
- Market stalls

AND MORE!

ENROL NOW FOR 2021

*Vacancies still available for the 3YO Program in 2020.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Tel: 9850 8486
Email: enquiries@yarraleenpreschool.vic.edu.au

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