

Dear Families,

As the 2024 school year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the school community for their commitment to their children's learning throughout this year. Your support, participation and contribution to each other, to the children and to our community at large is greatly appreciated.

Together we have:

- Celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Participated in Sacrament family nights
- Celebrated level masses and liturgies
- Introduced the Student Representative Council (SRC) to give student's greater voice and improve wellbeing with initiatives such as Sports Day, Hot Dog Day and Bethany's Got Talent!
- Celebrated (next week) Year 6 students at Graduation- acknowledging their contribution to our school community for the last seven years
- Celebrated Mother's and Father's Day with brekky and the stalls
- Celebrated community Masses in the Parish
- Celebrated Bethany Day
- Celebrated the prowess of student athletic ability through our School Athletics Sports Day, Gala Days, District and regional competitions in swimming, athletics, winter and summer sports, cross country etc
- Celebrated and provided opportunities to develop independence and interdependence through our Camp programs from Prep to Year 6
- Provided opportunities for students to experience learning beyond the classroom in the many excursions engaged in
- Celebrated and used the individual and combined feedback and consultation from families in the Parent in Partnership Team and School Advisory Council to improve and enhance the way we do things at Bethany
- Welcomed our new families and prep students for 2025 with two Pre-Prep visits and an Orientation Day
- Continued to engage the students in all learning- with significant outcomes in learning across English and Mathematics
- Continued to grow our capacity with the Science of Learning more specifically in Writing and across Mathematics, with success in student outcomes and staff professional learning and implementation of learning
- Continued to provide students with specialist expertise in teaching, in the Arts- Art and Music, in Physical Education, Social and Emotional Learning and STEM (Robotics)
- Continued to build our language learning in Italian
- Celebrated student learning in the student end of year reports that will be distributed on **Monday 16th December** - an acknowledgement of the learning, progress and growth each student is making and has made
- Engaged in fundraising events- Easter Raffle and Christmas Raffle to improve school facilities, especially furniture around the school as soon to be seen in the Bridging Centre
- Continued to repaint and update school facilities e.g. Discovery and Exploration Centres and the front office over the holiday break
- Continued to update signage across the school to ensure easier location

- Introduced social media (Facebook and Instagram) to showcase the many ways students learn across the school

And finally,

We will celebrate the end of the 2024 school year with the Family Christmas Carols evening (to be held on Thursday 5th December- tomorrow), as a celebration and acknowledgement of our Catholic identity, faith, collaboration and community at Bethany. I look forward to welcoming you all and seeing you all at this event.

A few reminders: -

- Please remember students should not be at school before 8:30am, as there is no teacher supervision at this time.
- Christmas Event- Carols Thursday 5th December 4:30-7:30 (tomorrow).
- The date for Year 6 Graduation this year, is **Wednesday 11th December at 6:00pm**. All students are to wear full school uniform.
- The last assembly for the year will be held on Thursday 12th December at 2:10pm. Please place in your diaries.
- Year 6 will also be attending the Graduation excursion on Monday 16th December. This is also their last day of school.
- School Reports will be available through nforma on Monday 16th December.

As you prepare to buy shoes for your child for the new school year, please ensure they meet the School Uniform requirements. **Black school shoes not runners** are to be worn with the full school uniform. **Runners are only to be worn with sports uniform**. Please understand this will be compulsory in the new school year. I thank you as always for your co-operation with this.

Again, I ask you to be mindful of the safety on Retford Drive. The current situation has become increasingly hazardous due to a number of issues:

- Cars performing U-turns in the middle of the road
- Children and parents darting between vehicles to cross the road
- Parents using the drop-off zone as a parking area, leaving their cars to chat or walk their children into school
- Vehicles blocking the school crossing, making it difficult for pedestrians to cross safely
- Cars parking on the speed humps, obstructing the road and disrupting traffic flow

These behaviours not only cause significant congestion but also create dangerous conditions for children, parents, and staff. Unfortunately if this continues the school will be forced to call the council and request the use of traffic inspectors.

The last assembly for the year will be held **on Thursday 12th December at 2:10pm** in the School Hall. Thank you and awards will be given at this time. All are welcome.

Last day for lunch orders is next Friday 13th December.

The last day of Term 4 will be **Tuesday 17th December for all students and we will finish at 12:30pm. This will be a casual dress day for all.**

The first day back for Year 1-6 students in 2025 is Thursday 30th January at 8:45am
The first day back for Prep students in 2025 is Friday 31st January at 8:45am.

Enjoy the remainder of the week and the week ahead.
 This will be the final newsletter for the year.

Take care. God bless.

Joanne Webster
Principal

Prayer

Dear God,

We give thanks:

For all the learning and teaching that has occurred
within our school, families' homes and the broader community,
For the talents and gifts that have been shared
And the challenges that have been faced,
For the burdens that have been lifted
And the hurts that have been healed:
For the respect and care that has been given.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun
And for those that have grown.
For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,
For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the darkest days
And for the love that has kept us going.
We give thanks for the community that we are.

We ask you Lord,
Bless our students, their families and our staff over the Christmas break;
May your Spirit inspire us with kindness, faith and compassion.
May our remaining time together this term leave us with memories to cherish.
Pour out your peace, love and hope on us, so that we may return to school next year, renewed
and refreshed to continue our journey together.
Help us to hear your call and accept your will.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord

Amen

Staff

Staff News

Bethany Staff - 2025

School Leaders

Principal – Joanne Webster

Deputy Principal Learning, Teaching and Coach – eLearning (Digital Literacies) – Kate Flanders

Deputy Principal Learning, Teaching and Coach – Mathematics Years 3-6 – Sheree Hegarty

Deputy Principal Learning, Teaching and Coach – Literacy – Korrily Wallis

Student Diversity Leader and Leadership Centre Leader – Elaine Dunne

3-6 Literacy Assistant Leader and Leadership Centre Leader – Leanne Rotin

Catholic Identity and Faith and Bridging Centre Leader – Trish Hollenbach

Student Wellbeing (Mental Health) Leader and Bridging Centre Leader – Simon Beraldo

Family Engagement in Learning Leader and Discovery Centre Leader – Amanda Defina

P-2 Literacy Assistant and Discovery Centre Leader – Andrea Alfredini

P-2 Mathematics and Exploration Centre Leader – Kim Kennedy

Exploration Centre

Prep Wombat – Earth Hub – Tegan Beech
Prep Emu – Ocean Hub – Kristen Baldassarro
Prep Koala – Sky Hub – Jessica Di Martino
Prep Kangaroo – Star Hub – Anna Duong

Discovery Centre

Year 1 – Red Hub – Julia Ocampo
Year 1 – Green Hub – Jocelle Cachero
Year 1 – Yellow Hub – Inya Wallis and Bianca Jones
Year 1 – Orange Hub – Demi Bertone
Year 2 – Blue Hub – Cassandra Hockley
Year 2 – Indigo Hub – Maree Day and Natalie Newman
Year 2 – Gold Hub – Kristy Varenica and Natalie Newman
Year 2 – Violet Hub – Clare Barwood
Learning Enhancement Teacher – Cheryl Hamill

Bridging Centre

Year 3 – Yarra Hub – Julius Prack
Year 3 – Murray Hub – Venessa Herbert
Year 3 – Werribee Hub – Catherine Janson
Year 4 – Jordan Hub – Maddison Domeney
Year 4 – Todd Hub – Jessica Kerlin
Year 4 – Sepik Hub – Mariela Aparo and Jordan Di Pietro
Learning Enhancement Teacher – Kirsty Moodie

Leadership Centre

Year 5 – Chisholm Hub – Helena O'Connor
Year 5 – MacKillop Hub – Steven Giammarino
Year 5 – Mandela Hub – Brenton Payne
Year 6 – Kolbe Hub – Marilyn Gerace
Year 6 – Little Hub – Cassandra Farrugia
Year 6 – Teresa Hub – Emma Bonnano
Learning Enhancement Teachers – Kate Hockley, Ashlea Hudson

Specialist Teachers

Visual Arts – Josephine Allison and Natalie Newman
Physical Education – Connor Brien and Veronica Spencer
STEM/Digital Literacies – Ashlea Hudson and Kate Hockley
Music – Natalie Killender
Science – Catherine Wills
3-6 Kitchen Garden – Kate Hockley

Italian Language Assistant

Claudia Pesolilla

Learning Assistants

Johanna Hennessy
Kay Collins
Nella Navarro
Joanne Hornstra
John Webster
Jennae Sheedy
Kim Williams
Naomi Wattlelet
Kim Steve

Janette Pepi
 Wendy Grima
 Elizabeth Pistone
 Gillian Aldcroft
 Suzie Lockwood
 Heather Moreira
 Lara Corso
 Daljit Kaur
 Ruby Bitton
 Ashlea Hornstra
 Beverley Raniolo

Administration

Kylie Scott – Finance
 Mary Semaan – Principal Personal Assistant
 Joanne McNabb – Payroll, HR and Finance
 Michelle Dimasi – First Aid Administration and Resource Centre Manager

Maintenance and Facilities

Brendan Byrne – Facility Manager/Gardener
 Emmanuel Vasquez – Cleaner and Grounds Assistant

Staff Leaving

The following staff will leave Bethany at the conclusion of 2024. We thank them for their contributions over the many years they have served the Bethany school community and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. God bless you all.

Rita Krnac, Joshua Archer, Veronica Wren, Alyssa Navarro, Lachlan McConnell, Kym Young, Natasha D'Cunha and Austin Defina

School News

Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to 'Lifestiles' for their generous donation of tiles to our primary school! With their support, our students will explore their creativity by crafting beautiful mosaics, adding colour and character to our school environment. We're excited to see the amazing art our children will create—thank you for making it possible!

Swimming Program 2025

Bethany students will once again participate in a **compulsory** five-day intensive swimming school Aquatic Education and Water Safety Program conducted at Aquapulse indoor pool. The program adopts the Swim & Survive program and will run for the following times:

Week 3 Monday 10 February – Friday 14 February	Yr 3 & Yr4	9:10am – 12:15pm 3 lesson times
Week 5 Monday 24 th February – Friday 28 th February	Yr 5 & Yr 6	9:10am – 12:15pm 3 lesson times
Week 5 Monday 24 th February – Friday 28 th February	Yr 2 & Yr 1 Red, Yellow, Orange	11:35am – 2:45pm 3 lesson times
Week 6 Monday 3 rd March – Friday 7 th March	Prep & Yr 1 Green	11:25am – 2:45pm 3 Lesson times

Swim & survive is a comprehensive swimming and water safety program, which seeks to encourage the development of swimming and water safety skills of children to prevent drowning and to increase their participation in safe aquatic activities. Further information will be provided next year.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

At Bethany Catholic Primary School, Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is at the heart of our school community. Through PBL, we encourage and acknowledge students for being *Safe, Respectful, and Responsible* in all aspects of their school life. This year, our students have consistently demonstrated these values during various events and activities, showcasing their commitment to building a positive and inclusive school environment.

From showing respect and responsibility at assemblies and liturgies to ensuring safety and teamwork during sports carnivals, our students have embodied the core principles of PBL in many meaningful ways. Whether it was participating in classroom activities, excursions, or special celebrations, their actions have reflected the values we uphold as a community.

We've celebrated these positive behaviours in multiple ways. Students have earned House Points which contributed to their house teams and individual points, which they could 'cash in' for exciting rewards from our Centre Rewards Menus. These rewards, big and small, recognize and encourage students to continue demonstrating their best.

Thank you to our students, families, and staff for supporting and celebrating these efforts throughout the year. We are proud of the way our school community works together to make Bethany Catholic Primary School a place where everyone feels valued and inspired to do their best. Let's continue building on this success in the year to come!

Positive Behaviour for Learning School Wide Expectations



Let Learners Learn and Teachers Teach

	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Learning Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Line up and walk calmly and quietly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use kind words and actions Use whole body listening Follow directions promptly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look after self, others and equipment Be a responsible learner
Outside Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands and feet to yourself Use spaces and equipment correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use kind words and actions Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look after self, others and equipment Wear correct uniform Be on time & walk promptly to line up

UPDATED JAN 2024



The Resilient Project - The Value of Pausing: Making the Most of Summer Break

As the Summer holidays approach, it's the perfect time to pause, reset, and embrace the slower pace of the season. While the holidays are often packed with activities, carving out time to reflect and relax can significantly benefit your child's emotional and social development.

Slowing down helps children practice mindfulness - being present in the moment. It allows children to build resilience by managing unstructured time and practicing patience. Whether it's noticing the sound of waves at the beach, the taste of a homemade treat, or the colours of a sunset, these mindful moments teach them to appreciate life's simple joys and develop gratitude.



Through family conversations and shared experiences, children can continue to build empathy and emotional literacy skills. Sharing family stories, volunteering, or even discussing books or movies can help children understand others' perspectives. These conversations develop their capacity to connect with and support others, skills they'll carry through life.

Pausing doesn't mean doing nothing; it means making space for what really matters. Take time for shared meals, unhurried walks, or even quiet moments together. These small acts create a sense of belonging and help children build resilience as they learn to balance rest with life's busyness.

This Summer, give your family the gift of slowing down. By balancing rest with connection, you'll help your child develop the resilience, empathy, and mindfulness they need to thrive.

Happy Families - How to Really Play with Your Kids



In this week's edition of Happy Families, Dr. Justin Coulson reminds us of the joy and importance of playing with our children. In our busy lives, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the idea of adding one more task, but play is more than just fun - it's an opportunity to bond and create lasting memories. Research shows that playing together strengthens relationships and boosts happiness for both parents and kids.

The key isn't expensive toys or perfect activities but simple, silly games that fit your child's interests. For younger kids, games like hide-and-seek, building pillow forts, or a game of chasey can create laughter-filled moments. For older children and teens, consider joining their world - play video games together, have a trivia night, or cook a new recipe side by side.

Play doesn't have to be perfect or planned; it's about being present and sharing time. As Dr. Coulson puts it, love is spelled T-I-M-E. So, take a break from the busyness of life, let go of distractions, and dive into the fun. These moments will become cherished memories for you and your children.

You can access the website at <https://schools.happyfamilies.com.au/login/bethanycps> and the password is **happybcps**

Child Safe Standards

This year, Bethany Catholic Primary School has showcased its commitment to meeting the *Child Safe Standards* through regular updates in our newsletters. Each edition has highlighted the steps we take to ensure a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for every child. From outlining policies and procedures to promoting student voice and celebrating diversity, we've shared how our community upholds these standards. By embedding these practices into daily school life, we continue to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of all students. Thank you for partnering with us in building a school culture where every child feels valued and protected.

Victoria's Child Safe Standards Plain language summary

- 1** Your organisation welcomes Aboriginal children. You support them to express their culture and to enjoy their rights. You don't allow racism.
- 2** Child safety is important to everyone at all levels in your organisation. You document how you find, avoid, and stop risks of child abuse or harm.
- 3** Your organisation supports children to know their rights to be safe from abuse, informed, and involved. You help them to talk openly and take part in decisions that affect them.
- 4** Your organisation tells families and the community about what you do, and how you keep children safe from harm and abuse. You help families to have a say and to take part in decisions that affect their child.
- 5** Your organisation understands that every child is different and has different needs. You make sure that they can get the information and help that they need.
- 6** Staff know what they must do to keep children safe from abuse and harm. They record, report, and share information about child safety when they should. Staff who work with children have had the background checks they need.
- 7** Children and their families know how to make a complaint and what happens when a complaint is made. Your staff know how to respond properly to complaints.
- 8** Your organisation trains and supports staff to keep children safe from abuse and harm. Your staff know the signs of child abuse and harm and what to do if there are issues of abuse and harm.
- 9** Your organisation makes sure children are safe when they use your services, settings, and activities. This includes when children are online.
- 10** Your organisation checks and improves the ways you keep children safe from abuse and harm.
- 11** Your organisation has written policies about how you keep children safe from abuse and harm. They are easy to understand, and all staff follow them.

For more information, contact the Commission for Children and Young People
www.ccyp.vic.gov.au

Source: <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Victorias-Child-Safe-Standards-Plain-language-poster-10.02.2023.pdf>

Family News

Key Enrolment Dates for Year 5 2025 beginning Secondary School in 2027

If you wish to enrol your child in a Catholic Secondary School beginning in 2027, please observe the following dates.

- Tuesday 28 January 2025 – Applications will open for students commencing Year 7 in 2027.
- Friday 15 August 2025 – Applications will close.
- Friday 17 October 2025 – Offers will be posted to prospective 2027 Year 7 applicants.
- Friday 7 November 2025 – Final date for parents/carers to accept an offer made by a school.

If you require any further information, please see Sheree or Elaine.

Assemblies:

The last assembly for the year will be held on Thursday 12th December – End of Year Assembly – led by Joanne Webster – Principal at 2:10pm.

Matters Financial

All School Fees are now due

Please see Joanne Webster if you are having difficulty paying.

Concessional Fee Policy:

The concessional fee policy was introduced to support families struggling to pay school fees. Concessional school fees are available to any family that meets the below eligibility criteria:

- Holding a valid HCC and eligible for CSEF
- Experiencing severe financial hardship
- Holding a DVA Gold Card
- Identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard
- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage

You will also be required to complete a form as a part of the process to determine eligibility. Should you wish further information re this funding or if you have questions as to whether you are eligible, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to Joanne Webster.

Important Dates – December

Thursday 5th December – Christmas Family Event 4:30pm – 8:00pm

Wednesday 11th December – Year 6 Graduation 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Thursday 12th December – Final School Assembly at 2:10 in the school Hall **Updated**

Monday 16th December – Year 6 Graduation Excursion and **last day for Year 6 students** **Updated**

Tuesday 17th December – **Last Day Prep to Year 5** – students finish at **12:30pm**

School Dates for 2025 **NEW**

January 2025

Tuesday 28th January – Professional Learning Teachers

Wednesday 29th January – Professional Learning Teachers

Thursday 30th January – Year 1-6 students return to school

Friday 31st January – Prep 2025 students begin school

February 2025

Monday 10th – Friday 14th February – Yr 3/4 Swimming

Monday 24th – Friday 28th February – Yr 5/6 & Yr 2 & Yr 1 Red, Yellow & Orange Hubs Swimming

Wednesday 26th February – Prep 2026 Information sessions at 9:30am and 6:00pm

Thursday 27th February – District Swimming Carnival

March 2025

Monday 3rd – Friday 7th March – Prep & Yr 1 Green Hub Swimming

Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday Mass at 10:00am

Thursday 6th March – Wyndham Swimming

Wednesday 12th – Monday 24th March – NAPLAN Yr 3 & Yr 5

Wednesday 12th March – Bethany School Open Night 3:00 – 5:00pm

Thursday 13th March – School Photos

Saturday 29th March – Bethany Community Mass at St Andrew's 6:00pm

Monday 31st March – Bethany Athletics Day

LUNCH ORDER PRICELIST 2024

HOT FOOD	
Party Pies	\$2.00
Sausage Rolls	\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce	\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce & Cheese	\$6.00
Schnitzel Sandwich	\$6.50
Schnitzel Sandwich with Lettuce & Mayo	\$7.00
Extras: Sauce	\$0.20
Mustard	\$0.20
Paper Bag	\$0.20

CAKES	
Iced Donuts	\$1.20
Cinnamon Donuts	\$1.00
Jam Donuts	\$3.00
Chocolate Jam Donuts	\$3.50
Croissant	\$3.00
Lamington	\$4.00
Apple Cake	\$4.50
Mini Mud Cake	\$4.50
Hedgehog	\$4.50
Muffin (Chocolate Chip & Blueberry)	\$4.50
Happy Face/Neenish Tart	\$3.50

DRINKS	
Prima (Orange or Apple)	\$2.50
Prima (Apple & Raspberry)	\$2.50
Kids Milk (Chocolate or Strawberry)	\$3.00

SANDWICHES	
Ham or Chicken	\$4.00
Ham or Chicken & Cheese	\$5.50
Ham or Chicken, Cheese & Salad	\$7.50
Cheese & Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber & Carrot)	\$7.50
Cheese & Bacon Roll	\$2.00
Cheese Roll	\$1.80
Cheese & Vegemite Scroll	\$4.00