



St Bernard's School Newsletter

21 October 2018

Term 4, Week 2

Important Dates

October

- 21 - Swimming Lessons
- 28 - Labour Day
- 29 - Pilgrimage Yr 7 and 8 at Home of Compassion
- 30 - Cultural Celebration
- 31 - Cricket

November

- 01 - Cricket
- 01 - Assembly 2.15pm
- 04 - Swimming Lessons
- 08 - Cricket
- 11 - Swimming Lessons
- 15 - Playhouse Theatre, Yrs 1-4
- 15 - Capital E, Yrs 5-8

2019 Term Dates

Term 3

Mon 22 July – Fri 27 Sep

Term 4

Mon 14 Oct – Wed 18 Dec

Contact Us

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Principal's Message

Tena Koutou everyone,

Every year, a debate rages among Catholics and other Christians: Is Halloween a satanic holiday or merely a secular one? Should Catholic children dress up like ghosts and goblins? Is it good for children to be scared? Lost in the debate is the history of Halloween, which, far from being a pagan religious event, is actually a Christian celebration that's almost 1,300 years old.

The Christian Origins of Halloween

"Halloween" is a name that means nothing by itself. It is a contraction of "All Hallows Eve," and it designates the vigil of All Hallows Day, more commonly known today as All Saints Day. ("Hallow," as a noun, is an old English word for saint. As a verb, it means to make something holy or to honour it as holy.) All Saints Day, November 1, is a Holy Day of Obligation, and both the feast and the vigil have been celebrated since the early eighth century, when they were instituted by Pope Gregory III in Rome. (A century later, they were extended to the Church at large by Pope Gregory IV.)

Despite concerns among some Catholics and other Christians in recent years about the "pagan origins" of Halloween, there really are none. The first attempts to show some connection between the vigil of All Saints and the Celtic harvest festival of Samhain came over a thousand years after All Saints Day became a universal feast, and there's no evidence whatsoever that Gregory III or Gregory IV was even aware of Samhain.

In Celtic peasant culture, however, elements of the harvest festival survived, even among Christians, just as the Christmas tree owes its origins to pre-Christian Germanic traditions without being a pagan ritual.

Combining the Celtic and the Christian

The Celtic elements included lighting bonfires, carving turnips (and, in America, pumpkins), and going from house to house, collecting treats, as carolers do at Christmas. But the "occult" aspects of Halloween—ghosts and demons—actually have their roots in Catholic belief. Christians believed that, at certain times of the year (Christmas is another), the veil separating earth from Purgatory, Heaven, and even Hell becomes more thin, and the souls in Purgatory (ghosts) and demons can be more readily seen. Thus the tradition of Halloween costumes owes as much, if not more, to Christian belief as to Celtic tradition.

Faith

Wednesday Mass

Please come and join Room 4 along with members of our parish to celebrate Mass in Room 3 at 9am this Wednesday 23 October 2019.

Faith facts: October 21st - 25th

22nd St John Paul II
23rd St John Capistrano



This week is only the 5th year that we have celebrated the feast day of St John Paul the second.

Here are some of his inspirational quotes from the great man.

The future starts today, not tomorrow.

Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.

A person's rightful due is to be treated as an object of love, not as an object for use.

The worst prison would be a closed heart.

As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.

Do not be afraid to take a chance on peace, to teach peace, to live peace...Peace will be the last word of history.

School News

Welcome to St Bernard's School!

Welcome to St Bernard's Cosima. Cosima turned five last week and is now in Room 1. We are delighted to welcome Cosima and her family to St Bernard's.



Condolences

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Mr and Mrs Small and their family. Mr Small's mother sadly passed away last week. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Shake Out

Last Thursday the entire school took part in 'Shake Out'. Shake Out is New Zealand's national earthquake and tsunami drill day. All over New Zealand at 1.30pm participating schools and businesses took part practicing what to do in the event of an earthquake and or tsunami.

Calendar Art

At the end of last term the children all completed a piece of art work that can be used to create calendars \$12, diaries \$16, mousepads \$14, cards \$12.50 and sketch pads \$14. These make great Christmas presents. Order forms were sent home last week, spares are available from the school office. If you wish to take another look at their artwork, please see Katrina in the school office. **Orders must be placed by next Tuesday 29 October.**

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Flippa Ball team. They had their first game last week and aside from having lots of fun, they also won 8-2. Well done!

Whitakers Chocolate Fundraiser

This fundraiser has now finished, could all money please be returned to the school office, or if easier it may be banked directly into the school bank account (just use your name and chocolate as the reference). Thank you to all those who have sold their chocolates and returned their money already, and especially to those who have taken and sold extras.



Thursday Hot Lunch

This week will be serving baked beans and toast.

Lunches cost \$2, and orders are to be placed at the office by Wednesday lunchtime.

Swimming Lessons

All children will be taking part in our swimming programme this term. Lessons will be on a **Monday**. Children will travel by bus to the Kilbirnie Aquatic Centre. The bus will leave school at 10.30am. Lessons will be from 11 – 12pm. Parents and caregivers of younger children are welcome to join us at the pool and assist with changing.

Please ensure all items of your child's clothing and footwear are clearly named. Children must remove all their belongings from the changing rooms during lessons, check that the bag your child will take to



swimming is large enough for them to fit all their clothes and footwear into while they are swimming.

Sun Hats Term 4

A reminder we are a sun smart school, so all children must have a school sunhat at school each day in Terms 4 regardless of the weather.



Brooklyn Library Visits

This term we will resume our twice termly visits to Brooklyn Library. If your child wishes to borrow a book during the visit they need to bring their personal library card with them. We will return books on the next visit if they are brought back in time. Books not brought on the day of the visit will need to be returned by yourselves. If you would like to leave your child's card in the classroom between visits then teachers will find a safe place to keep them.

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| Room 1: | 22 October | Room 2: | 29 October | Room 4: | 05 November |
| | 19 November | | 26 November | | 03 December |

Terracycle

As you know we currently collect used Colgate toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and empty packaging which is then sent off to be recycled.

We have now registered with Terracycle to collect old writing implements which can also be sent off and recycled. Any form of used pen can be sent, for example, biro, whiteboard, gel. There will be a box in the disabled bathroom for you place your items in to.