



St Bernard's School Newsletter

05 December 2022

Term 4, Week 8

Upcoming Events

December

05 - Swimming Lessons

05 - Leavers Dinner

07 - Leavers Mass 9am

08 - Nativity Play 6pm

12 - Swimming

16 - Term 4 Ends, 12.30pm

2023 Term Dates

Term 1 Thur 2 Feb Jul - Thur 6 Apr

Term 2 Wed 26 Apr - Thur 29 Jun

Term 3 Mon 17 Jul - Fri 22 Sept

Term 4 Mon 09 Oct - Tues 19 Dec

Teacher Only Days

Mon 24 April

Fri 30 June

Contact Us

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Principals Message

Rachel Kriechbaum

Unfortunately, I have to share the sad news that Rachel Kriechbaum has resigned from her position at St Bernard's and will be leaving us at the end of the year. Rachel has been a fabulous addition to our teaching team and will leave us stronger as a result. She has created such a warm environment for the students of Room 1. I am sure parents will have appreciated her approachable nature and the amazing progress the children have made due to the experiences she has provided for them. We wish Rachel well for her upcoming wedding and in her new position.

We have employed a new teacher for Room 1 called Louise Parsons. Louise is a very experienced junior teacher who comes to us from Karori Normal School. She has a passion for literacy and likes to run very practical and creative maths and science lessons. Her referees tell me that children at her school adore her.

Policy Review

This term we are reviewing our Safety On and Off School Grounds and Health, Safety and Welfare policies. If you would like to read and comment on these policies, please log into www.schooldocs.co.nz username: stbernards, password: taft

Term Dates for 2023

The Ministry of Education have allocated schools the ability to take two extra teacher only days in 2023 to support them in adopting the new NZ Curriculum. The first of these days for St Bernard's will be April 24th, the first day back after the Easter break and the day before ANZAC Day.

Other dates for the year are on the school calendar which can be found on the school website.

This is the last newsletter for 2022, there will be no newsletter next week

Special Character

End of Year Mass and Morning Tea

Please come and join us at our end of year Mass this Wednesday morning at 9am in the school hall. After Mass we will be having morning tea as a way of saying thank you for all your help and support during the year.

Parish Newsletter

This week's Parish newsletter is available [here](#)

Keep the Christ in Christmas

At this very busy time of year it is important that we do not forget that Christmas is about the birth of Christ. Remember to keep the Christ in Christmas.



From the DRS:

Leading up to Christmas is a busy time for all; end of term, Christmas and summer holiday planning. For Christians it is a time of preparation for celebrating the coming of Christ. The season of Advent reminds us of peace, hope, joy and love found in our faith. At school, teachers are busy writing end of year reports, wrapping up learning for the year, stripping the walls of students' work and preparing to farewell students who are moving on; on to other classes or preparing to leave St Bernard's for high school. We delight in the children's excitement about Christmas and the end of year celebrations. We realise how much the students have grown, both physically and academically, and how much they have endeared themselves to us. This week is bittersweet for us, as we have our special Leavers' Mass on Wednesday morning to acknowledge and farewell our senior students. Then on Thursday evening we have our Whole School Nativity Play which reminds us of the true meaning of the season; Christ's birth. Let us feel the peace of Christ in the quiet moments, the hope of the future, the joy that children bring to our lives and the love of our families. May you all feel God's presence this Christmastime.

School News

End of Year Celebration – Dec 8

Children have been very busy practising for our end of year celebration to be held at 6pm, this Thursday 8 December. The evening will include the nativity play and our Year 8 leavers Sam, Logan, Beatrice, Flynn & Kenzi will be presented with a cross and chain as a memento of their time at St Bernard's. We are very proud of all these young people and look forward to following their future successes.

All children are involved in the presentation of the Christmas story. If for any reason your child will not be attending it is important that you let their teacher know immediately as this will have an impact on others.

Last Day 16 December – Come Dressed in Red and Green

Children are reminded of the school tradition of coming dressed in the Christmas colours of green and red for the last day. Find those Christmas hats, reindeer antlers etc. and get them ready for the day.

Remember school finishes at 12.30pm.



School Reports

Your children's school reports will be sent home with them on our last day of term, Friday 16 Dec. Please email the office if your child did not receive one. Email: office@stbernards.school.nz

Stationery Lists 2023

These will be included with your children's reports. Copies are also available on the school website and on www.myschool.co.nz. (Stationery can also be ordered online at this site.)

A note from teachers: If your child still has room in their books from this year, we are happy for them to use the rest of the pages at the start of 2023.

Thanks So Much!

We really can't thank all our wonderful parents who have kindly helped with transport and supervision on various trips and visits during the year enough. Without you, a lot of these trips would not have been possible. We really appreciate the time and help you have given us. Thank you!



Happy Birthday to Annabel who turns 9 next Thursday.

We also send big birthday wishes to all those children who will celebrate their birthdays during the school holidays, Jacob, Jordiya, Ethan, Riley, Danica, Michaela, Amira, Mason and Inigo.

We hope you all have wonderful, fun filled birthdays.

Room 1

Room One is really enjoying their Nativity rehearsals and cannot wait to get all dressed up this Thursday night for our Nativity show.

The start of Advent meant that we could begin preparing ourselves and our rooms for Christmas. We enjoyed decorating our class, writing notes for our advent calendar and learning about Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in our religion lessons. We learned about the annunciation and thought about how Mary may have felt when she was visited by Gabriel. We also learned about how schools and whanau prepare for Christmas. We also made our own angels for our Nativity scene display.

Last week, we read the story, "All the Colours We Are". This story explains how we get our different skin colour. We learned about melanin and discussed our ancestors. After that, we talked about what we love about our skin and had a go at painting our handprints in the colour of our skin. We had some wonderful discussions about our skin and its special job.



Whilst watching her own daughter, Mrs Small was lucky to be able to see Michaela and Eleanor perform and receive their end of term certificates from Harbour City Gymnastics. Well done girls.

Room 2

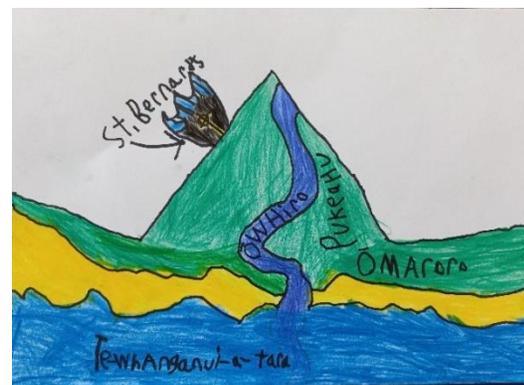
The Christmas decorations are up in Room 2 and so is the excitement as Christmas draws near. Each day, during morning karakia we read from our "Joseph" Advent calendar - his thoughts and concerns as he prepares for fatherhood. Also daily, we take turns at reading a Christmas pun from our Santa wall. Here are a few:

What are children's favourite kings? Stockings!

Why didn't Rudolph and Blitzen receive any bids on Trademe? They were two deer.

What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum? A meltdown.

Last year our school pepeha was written by the Kura Ahurea advisory komiti (committee) which comprises seven kaumatua (elders) from Te Atiawa iwi. To help the Room 2 students remember our school pepeha they created visual pepeha artwork. Here are those completed so far:



Room 4

For their final inquiry research this year, the Year 6 children chose a body part to study as part of our Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds inquiry. Below are snippets of their explanations which will be published soon on Class Dojo.

Danica - The Stomach

Appearance

The stomach inside your body is shaped like the letter j. The digestive system looks like its parts are connected or squashed together. The parts of the digestive system are the mouth, **oesophagus**, stomach, **small intestine**, **large intestine**, and the bowels. They work together to digest the food you have eaten. In humans, the stomach is 1mm thick, and its surface is smooth, soft and **velvety**.

Logan - The Brain

Introduction

The nervous system is the system that controls your entire body. It tells it to move, breathe and think. The nervous system is controlled by your brain. The main part of your brain is the cerebrum. It is the biggest (and heaviest) part of your brain. This controls your voluntary muscles and your thinking processes. The weird thing about the cerebrum is that the left side controls your right, while the right side controls your left side. The next part of your brain is the cerebellum. It controls your balance and coordination. It helps keep you upright and enables you to walk. If you did not have a cerebellum then you would not even be able to stand up!

Natalie - The Tongue

Appearance

Your tongue is the big pink blob inside your mouth. The bottom of your mouth is firmly attached to your tongue. If you look closely, you will see tiny bumps. These bumps are called papillae. Your taste buds are on your papillae. On your taste buds are tiny hairs called microvilli.

Vincent - The Digestive System

Function

First the mouth chews up food and covers it in saliva to make it easy to swallow. Next, it travels down the oesophagus and drops down into the stomach. As your food sits in the stomach, *gastric juices* help to break down the mush (food). Any remains that did not dissolve pass into the small intestine. The small intestine breaks down the food mixture even more so your body can absorb all the vitamins, minerals, proteins, carbohydrates and fats. The pancreas, liver and gallbladder all send different juices to the first part of the small intestine which helps to digest food and allows the body to absorb nutrients. Finally, the mush passes through to the large intestine to absorb most of the remaining moisture and then passes out of the body.

Public Notices



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