Dear Parents,

Welcome back to St Bede’s for the 2017 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and holiday break. It is lovely to see the children all bright, refreshed and dressed beautifully ready for another busy year at our school. The new Kindergarten started on Tuesday morning and is especially settled and is very at home here. I am very excited to lead this wonderful community and provide opportunities for each and every child.

Together with welcoming our already established families, I wish to especially extend warm wishes to our new families – Al Rashedi, Byrne, Campese, Campton, Chindamo, Franjic, Grutt, Hamer, Wade/Krippner, Leech, Loughman-Khachan, Peters, Read, Smith, Tyack and Griggs/Wootten to our school community. We also welcome back the Gepollo and Hill families who, for some of last year, spent time in other exotic places and have returned for the beginning of the 2017. We also warmly welcome Breen Fox as the new Assistant Principal and Year 3 teacher.

I encourage you to come along to our Parents Information Night on Tuesday, 14 February beginning at 6.00pm in the hall. This is an excellent chance to catch up with the class teacher where information about your child’s class will be available but, not at this time, specific information about your child. I am aware it’s Valentine’s Day, so put the dinner booking back until 8pm. If you’re not going out, the P&F will provide a drink and nibbles!

We are making a few minor changes to the way we provide communication. The newsletter will remain fortnightly but I will share a ‘Principal’s Message’ separate to the newsletter, usually in the alternate week. Each Friday, a family memo with all of the next week’s major events including a ‘to do’ list, deadlines, etc will be forwarded via email as well as ‘Skoolbag’. Additionally, major events of the week will be displayed on the screen in the front foyer. I would love feedback in due course on these new initiatives. These changes are to make it easier for families to know what is happening together with highlighting the wonderful things that regularly occur at school.

At St Bede’s we have a Class Contact system which was established in 1988. It remains an initiative of the School Board and the P&F and promotes pastoral care towards all members of the school community. We aim to be a welcoming and friendly community that serves others in the local and wider community area, assist families in times of need, provide a formal and semi-formal channel of communication among families within our school and celebrate important events.

Each class generally has two Class Contacts who are the focus for communication and pastoral care among families of the class. Class Contacts would normally arrange a class social event each term as well as hospitality at the Mass assigned to their class. Planning events is at the discretion of the Class Contacts and communicated by a class note and/or email and also included in the school newsletter.

At the beginning of Term 1, Class Contacts organise a class list with contact details for parents that may include parent names, addresses, parent email addresses and mobile phone numbers. You need only complete the contact details you are comfortable with supplying. This enables the Class Contacts to facilitate contact in a timely fashion to inform families of events, functions, etc. It is imperative that there is a Class Contact Coordinator that oversees the running of the system so that all members know expectations and are kept in the loop with community needs.

As a result of privacy legislation, St Bede’s is not permitted to supply personal information and class lists may only include the contact details of families who have given consent to the sharing of their information. The personal information supplied to the school at enrolment may only be used for our core business and we are required to ensure security of personal information.
Once the class contacts have been organised I will meet with the coordinator and the teams each term to discuss events and expectations.

At the last P & F meeting last year, most positions were filled and I thank all those who have willingly given up their time to take on these roles. However, we are still looking for a P & F President, Tuckshop Coordinator, Class Contact Coordinator and, in some cases, Class Contacts.

The first P & F fundraiser for the year is a BBQ outside Harvey Norman in Fyshwick on Sunday, 12 February from 10am – 5pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise money early in the year. I can guarantee that families would only need to volunteer for an hour of their time on the day to fulfil our commitment. Please email me or Linda if you can help.

A ream of paper came home with your children this week! I apologise for this but we have certain regulations where we need to keep a signed hard copy. We would like these returned as soon as possible. Please complete a separate form, where supplied, for each child as they are ordered in year groups.

As you may be aware, the new development on the old Morling Lodge site has finally been approved. Surveyors were on site last week so I am sure that clearing of the block will begin in the not too distant future. I will keep families informed if and when I hear of any progress.

I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank both the staff and parent community for their support as we embark together on a new year. I have a clear vision for St Bede’s into the future and hope that with collaborative means, a very successful year will be had by all.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.
Julie Douglas
Principal

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Religious Education News

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Job 33:4

Welcome back to a new school year. This year our school focus is ‘The Breath of God’. Last week our staff was lucky enough to participate in a Spirituality Day with this focus. We spent the morning focusing on how we can ‘breathe in’ through prayer and scripture, reflecting on those things that nourish our faith. The afternoon session was spent ‘breathing out’ through active service in and for our community. We spent time at the St Vincent de Paul stores and cooking meals for people in our community. Our values focus over the first few weeks this term is: RESPECT

We have a busy term coming up and there are a few items that I would like to bring to your attention early.

- Opening School Mass – 8 February at noon
- Year 1 Focus Assembly – 20 February, 2.45pm (please note new time!)
- Ash Wednesday Mass – 1 March at noon
- Kinder and Year 5/6 Parish Mass (St Peter Chanel’s, Yarralumla) on 5 March at 9.30am (new initiative continuing this year)

In addition to the abovementioned dates – if you have a child in Years 2, 3 or 5/6, the Sacramental dates are set out below. Information and other dates relating to the Sacraments will be sent out closer to the time.

- 10 August – First Reconciliation
- 10 September – First Holy Communion
- 4 June – Confirmation

Have a peaceful weekend and enjoy your family.

_Breathe in the breath of God_
_Breathe out your cares and concerns_
_Breathe in the love of God_
_Breathe out your doubts and despairs_
_Breathe in the grace of God_
_Breathe out your fears and frustrations_
_Breathe in the breath of God_
_Breathe out your tensions and turmoil_
_Breathe in the love of God_
_Breathe out your haste and hurry_
_Breathe in the grace of God_
_Breathe out your waste and worry_

Be peace filled with the breath of the Holy Spirit who renews every fibre of our being
Be in awe before the Glory of the One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Nikki Dwyer
Religious Education Coordinator

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**NO SNACK SHACK TOMORROW**

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**SKOOLBAG APP**

DOWNLOAD OUR SCHOOL APP, IT'S FREE!

The app allows us to communicate messages and notifications to you in a timely and effective way. To install it, just search for our school name "St Bede's Primary School Red Hill" in either the Apple App Store (make sure that you have selected iPhone rather than iPad) or Google Play Store. You can subscribe to various push categories by clicking "more" then "setup" in the app. Please ensure your settings are set to receiving all general messages as well as those that are class specific.
Swimming Carnival

This year’s carnival will take place Thursday, 23 February at CISAC Pool in Belconnen for all students in Years 2 - 6.

A permission note has been sent home and completed permission notes need to be back by this next Wednesday, 8 February. Unfortunately, no late entries are able to be accepted.

As always, these events require the assistance of parents to help with judging, timing, marshalling, etc. If you can help out in any way, would you please fill in the section on the permission note.

Vikings Water Polo

Vikings Water Polo Trials

During the year I receive emails and posters regarding upcoming trials and sport for children. I will advertise these on the ‘Sports Board’ on the door of my classroom, Year 4.

Please keep checking the board for all sporting trial information and visit the ACT School Sport website School Sport ACT if your child is interested in representative sport.

Levi Heffernan
Sports Facilitator
WWVP CARDS

An IMPORTANT reminder that all helpers and volunteers need to have a current Working with Vulnerable People Card. If you have received a replacement card recently, please ensure Linda has a copy for our records.

Please don't forget you must sign in at the office and wear a visitors sticker if you are helping or working at the school. If you are just dropping something to the school for your child, please go to the office and Linda will assist you. Please do not go to the classrooms during learning time unless you are scheduled as a helper.

NUT AWARENESS

St Bede's is a nut aware school and we again request your understanding and support in protecting children with nut allergies which, in some cases, are life threatening. We ask that you:

1. do not use peanut butter, Nutella and other nut spreads on lunches; and
2. discuss with your child/ren the importance of not sharing food at school. The transfer of trace elements of nuts in food will be avoided when children refrain from sharing food.

The elimination of peanut butter and nut spreads from the school environment is essential to avoid contaminating pencils, scissors, play equipment, etc.

2017 TERM DATES

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Communication Avenues School to Home:
- Email
- SkoolBag
- Fortnightly newsletter
- Weekly Family Memo (reminder of the week ahead) forwarded each Friday
- Principal’s Message (separate to the newsletter)
- School webpage
- School Calendar is included on the webpage and SkoolBag
- Facebook – limited by invitation to members of the school community

Volunteers Needed
P&F Fundraising BBQ
12 February 2017

The P&F is conducting a fundraising BBQ at Harvey Norman in Fyshwick from 10am – 5pm on Sunday, 12 February, 2017. We need your help. Please email Julie or Linda if you are able to assist.
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