At St. Bernard’s School, the six basic rules to which all members of the school community are expected to adhere are:

- Follow directions.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Listen to the speaker without interrupting.
- Move safely at all times.
- Treat all property with care.
- Speak appropriately.

**Bernardo**

4th Term 9th February 2011

At St. Bernard’s School, the six basic rules to which all members of the school community are expected to adhere to are:

- Follow directions.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Listen to the speaker without interrupting.
- Move safely at all times.
- Treat all property with care.
- Speak appropriately.

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**Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,**

**Reflection**

A Child’s Advice to His Parents

My hands are small. Please don’t expect perfection whenever I make a bed, draw a picture, or throw a ball. My eyes have not seen the world as yours have. Please let me explore it at my own level without unnecessary restrictions.

Housework will always be there, but I will be little only for a short time. Please take time to explain about this wonderful world. My feelings are tender. Please be sensitive to my needs. Treat me as you would like to be treated.

I am a special gift from God. Treasure me as God intended, holding me accountable for my actions, giving me guidelines to live by, and disciplining me in a loving manner. I need your encouragement to grow, so go easy on the criticism. Try to correct my behavior without criticizing me as a person.

Give me the freedom to make decisions. Permit me to fail, so I can learn from my mistakes. Then I’ll be prepared to make the kind of decisions life requires of me as an adult. Don’t do jobs over that I have done. This makes me feel that my efforts don’t quite measure up to your expectations. I know it’s hard, but please don’t compare me with my brother or sister.

Please don’t be afraid to leave for a weekend together. Kids need vacations from parents, just as parents need to get away occasionally. This is also a great way to show us kids that your marriage is very special.

Please set a good example by taking me to Church and religious education class regularly. I enjoy learning more about God.

**Welcome**

A very warm welcome to the families who are new to our community this year. Our Preps have stared full days this week and have Wednesdays off until the week beginning 28th February, when they begin their first full week of school for the year. This is a new process. It is wonderful to see them settle in so well to school life. Last Thursday we welcomed our Prep parents with a Morning Tea upstairs and this was a great success. Many thanks to the parents for attending and special thanks to Tracey Elezovic, Marie Higgins and Claire Stanyer for the effort and work they put in to provide such a lovely introduction to school life.
Mass

This Friday 11th February we will celebrate our Beginning of the School Year Mass at 9:30am in the Church. Our School Captains and SRC representatives will be presented and receive their badges, so we invite all families to attend.

In-Service day

On Thursday 24th February the staff will be attending a Professional Development Day facilitated by Phillip Holmes-Smith on NAPLAN data. So the children do not attend school on this day. OSHC is available, bookings essential.

Assemblies

Every second Thursday we have a School Assembly from 3:00pm-3:25pm and parents and families are welcome to attend. Each Year level hosts an assembly and this information is published in our calendar at the beginning of each term. This will also be available on our website. The Assemblies are currently being held in the Church until our building work is completed. The first one is on tomorrow and will be a general welcome assembly. We look forward to seeing you there.

Key Enrolment Dates for Year 7 students in 2012

A reminder to our Year 6 parents that applications for Catholic Secondary and Private Colleges close on 2nd March so please ensure that all paperwork is completed and sent to the school. Please be aware of the important dates below. Places in State Secondary Colleges are organized later - midyear.

The CEO have advised the importance of applying for more than one Catholic Secondary College to ensure there are options in the event of a first choice being over-subscribed.

Critical Enrolment Dates

Weds 2nd March 2011 - Date by which all applications to colleges close.

Mon 2nd May 2011 – Date on which offers of places to prospective Year 7 students are to be posted.

Fri 20 May 2011 – Final date for acceptance by parents of offers made.

Levies and fees are now payable. A discount on fees is available for those families who pay the entire amount before the end of March. We ask that any family who has not yet paid the levies of $325 per child, please do so by Friday 11th February. This money covers the costs of book packs and essential supplies and was due at the end of 2011. If any family is experiencing difficulty, please arrange an appointment time to meet with me to discuss the situation.

Education Maintenance Allowance

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) provides assistance to eligible families by helping with the costs associated with the education of their children.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive the EMA, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and

- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent; and

- submit your application to the school by the due date.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of 1st Term (1 February 2011 which is the first day for teaching staff) for the first instalment and the first day of 3rd Term (18 July 2011) for the second instalment.

EMA forms can be obtained from the office. This form needs to be completed each year.

Parent Teacher Online

A reminder to all families that if you have not done so already, you need to book your appointment time/s through the Parent Teacher Online booking system. If you have any problems using this new system, please contact the office.

A reminder that school finishes at 1:00pm on this day. OSHC is available, bookings essential.
We welcome our staff for 2011.

Joanna Balliro  Teacher Assistant
Lesa Bush  Prep LF
Marie Close  Year 3/4C
Glenn Curran  Teacher Assistant
Wendy Di Tirro  Year 5/6W
Eva Dimitropoulos  Year 1/2E
Joanne Doherty  Principal
Marnie Galea  Year 5/6M
Marlene Gillespie  Reading Recovery
Margaret Govers  Release
Student Wellbeing Coordinator
Jan Herlinger  Year 1/2J
Afroditi Hrousis  Year 1/2A
Jackie McGrath  Year 3/4M
Megan McCasker  Prep M
Josephine Natoli  L.I.T.
Phil Pearson  PE/ICT/Deputy Principal
Irene Pilipasidis  Year 5/6W
Livia Schiavoni  Administration
Carmel Serruto  Italian
Barb Siddiqui  Literacy Coordinator
Kaye Smith  Year 5/6K
Siobhan Staunton  Year 3/4
Claire Stanyer  Uniform/Canteen
Luci Tamis  Uniform/Canteen
Daniela Torcaso  Year 3/4M
Fionna Wells  Prep LF
Mary Whalley  Year 5/6M
Religious Education Coordinator
Janine Williams  Administration

Homework Policy

We are currently undertaking a review of our Homework Policy. This process has begun with staff identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of the existing policy and continued with professional reading, research and discussion about current trends, educational theories and best practice. Focus groups of parents and students will also inform our new policy which will be circulated in March. We suggest that until that time, children continue to read, practise times tables (where appropriate) and use Study Ladder as their homework. Classroom teachers will discuss this with the children over the coming days.

Sacramental Dates – 2011

Sacrament of First Reconciliation (Confession)
Monday 2nd May  7:30pm – Group 1
Tuesday 3rd May  7:30pm – Group 2

Sacrament of First Eucharist (Communion)
Sunday 7th August  10:30am Mass – Group 1
Sunday 7th August  2:30pm Mass – Group 2

Regards,

Joanne Doherty.
Principal

Twilight Sports

Our Twilight Sports will be held on Friday 25th February at the Harold Stevens Athletics Track in Coburg, Outlook Road, Coburg.

Students need to be at the track by 3:40pm as the first event will commence at 3:55pm. Students need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Families are welcome to bring a picnic dinner or snacks. The event will finish at 7:00pm.

Families have the option to collect their children from school at 1:00pm, should they wish. The school will remain open for families who do not want the pick their children up early and these children will be supervised.

I would appreciate some assistance from parents with the marshalling and scoring at each event. If you can help, please return the tear off slip below. Any queries, please see me.

Regards – Phil Pearson.

Twilight Sports

I am available to assist at the Twilight School Sports on Friday 25th February.

Name: _____________________________
Telephone No: _____________________
Eldest Child’s Name: __________________
Grade: ___________________
As a new committee will need to be formed, an Extraordinary Meeting will be held to vote in new members. This is a formality that needs to occur as per the constitution. So, if you are interested in being on the committee, even as a general member, please come along and have your say or put your hand up for a role.

The more people involved, the less the work load. This is a great opportunity to join the PFA and put your ideas and suggestions forward. Remember, it’s all for our children, the funds we raise all go back to the school and in turn, our children.

PARADE COLLEGE OPEN DAY
Sunday 13th February 2011
Bundoora Campus Open 11:00am – 3:00pm
1436 Plenty Road, Bundoora, Melway 10 A10
Preston Campus Open 10:00am – 2:00pm
8 Clifton Grove, Preston, Melway 30 G1

PARADE COLLEGE ART SHOW

Opening Night
Friday 11 February 7.30pm-10pm
Saturday 12 February 9.30am-5pm
Sunday 13 February 9.30am-4pm
36th Parade College Art Show
College Hall - Atrium
1436 Plenty Rd, Bundoora
9468 3300 or artshow@parade.vic.edu.au
www.parade.vic.edu.au

Entry:
Friday Night $10 ($5 conc.)
Saturday/Sunday $5 ($2 conc.)
Tickets available at the door

ALL ART FOR SALE
WOW at St Bernard’s

To begin this year we are having ‘WOW’ Week. ‘WOW’ stands for Watch Out Week. Watch out for ourselves and watch out for others. ‘WOW’ will run from Monday 7th to Friday 11th February and will involve all children.

Our goals throughout this week are to, establishing an effective learning environment, to learn about ourselves and others, to establish school/classroom rules and for children to become aware of behaviours that promote healthy lifestyles and relationships.

Each day the children will participate in Wellbeing activities.

Monday  Values Education activity
Tuesday  Sunsmart activity
Wednesday Healthy Eating activity
Thursday Values Education Mural
Friday  Buddy grade activity

Margaret Govers (Student Wellbeing Coordinator/Student Services)