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.

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Reflection

The Champion Within

You carry the torch of a champion. You may not fully recognize it, but it is with you, wherever you go. Its fire is your winning spirit.

Within you lies a golden ore of potential. Uncover it. Mine it. Let your burning spirit meld with your potential to forge your own winner’s medal. Now you are ready to become a champion. The torch will guide you on your way.

See yourself wearing your winner’s medal. Feel it, enjoy it and know its value. This medal is your permission to win. The secret of winning in life is that, first, you must believe you are...

by Dr. Denis Waitley
(New Dynamics of Winning)

Twilight Sports

Our Twilight Sports last Friday night was a great success with children, staff and families enjoying a wonderful afternoon/evening of activities, competition and fun. The Athletics Track was a sea of red, blue, gold and green with parents and siblings dressed in as much colour as the children. The children participated well and enjoyed doing so and were supportive and encouraging of others in their teams. Our Preps also took part in the activities despite having only been at school for a few weeks.

Congratulations to Gold Team who won in a very close competition this year. We are very proud of all our children. Many thanks to the children, the parents who attended and helped with various events, the staff who prepared and organized the children, to Glenn Curran for helping set up and to Phil Pearson who organized and set up the entire event. Keep your eyes open for slide presentation on the TV in the foyer.
Congratulations
We congratulate Phil, his wife Tania and sons Max and Seb on the birth of a son and brother, Zac Xavier Pearson, born on Monday 28th February. All well.

Family Faith Nights
Last night we conducted the first of our Family Faith Nights with our Year 1/2 families. It was a beautiful experience to see the parents and children spend a special time together and to reflect on the special Sacrament of Baptism. A session is held for each level and we ask that all families make an effort to attend. Whilst we ask that each child attends with one parent, both are welcome. These nights provide a wonderful opportunity for parents to spend some time with their child one to one and discuss important family and faith moments. The sessions are conducted by the Presentation Family Project and are inclusive of all cultures, faiths and backgrounds. Dates have been listed in the 2011 Calendar so please make note of those involving your child.

Family Buddy Mass
This Sunday 6th March our Prep and Year 3/4 children will come together with their families to celebrate Mass at 10:30am. All other families are welcome to join these grades.

Absences From School
It is a government and legal requirement that all student absences from school are documented with a letter of explanation. If your child is absent from school due to illness, please inform the school in writing.

An absence note is available on our website under Information Tab for you to print and complete and send to school when your child returns. If you are planning a holiday please inform the school in writing, prior to your departure. These notes are filed and kept to fulfil legal requirements.

Parent Helpers
Over the past few weeks you will have seen requests for parent help in classrooms for Literacy and Numeracy. We are always looking for classroom helpers and ask that anyone who is interested and able, contact the school. Grandparents, Aunts or Uncles are also able to help if they have the time. All classroom helpers must obtain a Working with Children Check and these forms are available at the post office.

Regards,

Joanne Doherty.
Principal

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Fete News
32 days to go!

Fete Ride Wrist Bands
Later this week we will send out an order form for the Fete Ride Wrist Bands. This will be a special pre-Fete price of $25.00 for unlimited rides on the day. The price on the day of the Fete will be $30.00.

Variety Show Entry
Remember to fill in your entry to the Variety Show by this Friday. Get together with some friends and have some fun – sing, dance, play an instrument, tell some jokes.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

Easter Raffle Donations
A reminder that there is an Easter Raffle donation box in each classroom. Thank you to those who have already donated, keep the donations coming. The more eggs, the more prizes!

Thanks – Parents and Friends Association.
The Facts on School Funding

You may have noted the page one story in The Age on February 28, ‘Catholic schools’ $39m bonanza’. The article made a number of erroneous claims about Catholic school funding, based on an interview with government school lobbyist Trevor Cobbold. Unfortunately the claims ignore the fact that, like Government schools, Catholic schools pool government funding and distribute it to Catholic schools according to need.

The funding attributed to the Catholic schools in the article is re-allocated to support schools with disadvantaged students, students with a disability, indigenous students, refugees and rural and regional schools.

This story appears to be part of an orchestrated campaign by the Australian Education Union and others to influence the Australian Government’s review of school funding and secure more funding for government schools at the expense of Catholic schools.

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria estimate that total government funding to Catholic schools is less than 80% of the per student cost in government schools, although this percentage varies between schools.

The recent state government bi-partisan commitment to fair funding recognised the right of parents to be supported financially in their education choice. We hope that the federal funding review will also recognise this right and ensure Catholic schools receive a fair share of government funding.

Parade College Campus Tours

Families are invited to experience the Parade College community at both our Bundoora and Preston campuses by enjoying a personalised tour with senior staff. Tours operate on a fortnightly basis, starting at 9.15am sharp, and run for approximately 45 minutes. Bookings are essential and can be made by phoning Bundoora campus on 9468 3300 or Preston campus on 9480 2922. Dates for March are:

**Bundoora campus**
Monday 7 March
Thursday 24 March

**Preston campus**
Tuesday 8 March
Thursday 24 March

1436 Plenty Rd Bundoora
8 Clifton Grove Preston

*A world of opportunities for young men.*
**L.I.T. – Help Needed**

Parent helpers needed in the L.I.T. Centre to scan books and to cover books that the children will borrow.

If you are interested, please fill in the sheet near L.I.T. centre door.

Thanks – Josephine Natoli.

**Numeracy – Help Needed**

We are currently looking for volunteers (parents, grandparents or other family members) who may be able to work with small groups of students on a Tuesday as part of an intervention program for students experiencing difficulty with maths. Volunteers will be provided with activities to teach and instructions, and be required to lead a small group of students under the supervision of a teacher. Basic English language skills are required. A Working with Children Check is required (forms available from the Post Office).

Thank you to all the families who have returned their StudyLadder forms. As children may be set StudyLadder tasks at school for Literacy and Numeracy Activities, we ask that any outstanding forms please be returned as soon as possible.

Thanks-Wendy Di Tirro-Numeracy Coordinator.

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**2011**

**MARCH**

- **Tuesday 1**<sup>st</sup> 5:00pm & 7:00pm
  - Year 1/2 Baptism Night
- **Sunday 6**<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Prep and Year 3/4 Buddy Mass
- **Tuesday 8**<sup>th</sup>
  - School Photos
- **Wednesday 9**<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday
- **Thursday 10**<sup>th</sup> 2:45pm Assembly Year 3/4
- **Monday 14**<sup>th</sup> Labour Day (public holiday)
- **Tuesday 15**<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm & 7:00pm
  - Year 3/4 Reconciliation Night
- **Thursday 17**<sup>th</sup>
  - St Patrick’s Day
- **Thursday 24**<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm Assembly Year 1/2
- **Friday 25**<sup>th</sup>
  - Melbourne Markets Incursion (all grades)
- **Thursday 31**<sup>st</sup>
  - Year 1/2 Camp Dinner (time TBA)

**APRIL**

- **Sunday 3**<sup>rd</sup> 10:00am-4:00pm Fete
- **Thursday 7**<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm Assembly Prep
- **Friday 8**<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm Term 1 ends
- **Friday 22**<sup>nd</sup>
  - Good Friday
- **Sunday 24**<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday
- **Monday 25**<sup>th</sup>
  - Easter Monday/ANZAC Day
- **Tuesday 26**<sup>th</sup>
  - ANZAC Day Public Holiday
- **Wednesday 27**<sup>th</sup> Term 2 begins

**MAY**

- **Monday 2**<sup>nd</sup> 7:30pm Group 1
  - Sacrament of Reconciliation
- **Tuesday 3**<sup>rd</sup> 7:30pm Group 2
  - Sacrament of Reconciliation

**JULY**

- **Friday 1**<sup>st</sup> 1:00pm Term 2 ends
- **Monday 18**<sup>th</sup> Term 3 begins

**AUGUST**

- **Sunday 7**<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Group 1
  - Sacrament of First Eucharist
- **Sunday 7**<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm Group 2
  - Sacrament of First Eucharist

**SEPTEMBER**

- **Friday 23**<sup>rd</sup> 1:00pm Term 3 ends

**OCTOBER**

- **Monday 10**<sup>th</sup>
  - Term 4 begins
- **Monday 31**<sup>st</sup>
  - In-service Day

**NOVEMBER**

- **Tuesday 1**<sup>st</sup>
  - Melbourne Cup Day – no school

**DECEMBER**

- **Tuesday 20**<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm School finishes – students
- **Wednesday 21**<sup>st</sup>
  - In-service Day/Planning 2012
- **Thursday 22**<sup>nd</sup>
  - School finishes - staff