



St Cecilia's Catholic School, Balgowlah

59 Seaview Street, Balgowlah 2093
Phone: 9948 3069

Website: www.scbdbb.catholic.edu.au

E-mail: scb@dbb.org.au

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School Prayer

At St Cecilia's Catholic School we are committed to learning together within an environment that reflects the Gospel values. God of Love, Bless our school. Teach us to respect others and your Creation. Encourage us to be our best. Inspire us to treat others the way we want to be treated. Lead us to help people in need. Be with us as we celebrate the many gifts you have given us. St Cecilia, pray for us

Core Value: *Hope*

School Rule: *Be Positive and Contribute*

Scripture: *'With God all things are possible' Matt 19:26*

Story: *Parable of Talents: Recognise and congratulate others*

Principal's News

Dear Parents

ST CECILIA'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

Last week we celebrated the Feast Day of St Cecilia. After a music filled Eucharistic celebration Fr Paul processed to the reflection garden, designed and created by Jo Trube, to bless and officially open it. Fr Paul was accompanied by the SRC. After recess the children enjoyed a music festival in the school playground led by Evergreen.



SCHOOL REPORTS

End of year Academic Reports will be emailed home on Wednesday 12 December. Parent/teacher interviews will again be offered to all parents from the 13 to the 18 December. End of year interviews are optional. The procedure for booking appointments will be included in the newsletter in early December. Please do not book a time simply to thank teachers. A note addressing your gratitude would be very much appreciated instead

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Teachers are also finalising academic awards for the year. These awards will be handed out at the Core Value Award Assembly on Monday 17 December. Two awards will be handed out per class based on end of year assessment in combination with consistency of academic performance throughout the year. If your child is to receive the award you will be contacted shortly by the class teacher.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The children are happily getting into the Christmas spirit as they begin to prepare for our concert on Wednesday 12 December at 6pm. The concert will take place in the church. Please save the date. More details are to come.

MOVING

In preparation for 2109 Year 4 will move into the foyer of the hall for a few days next week whilst the library is relocated to their current classroom and the new Year 4 classroom is recarpeted. Once the carpet is down the children will move into their new learning space for the remainder of the year.

We have asked Camp Australia not to use the foyer of the hall next week. Their program will continue in their current room, the hall and the playground. The students will hang their bags on the hooks near the gate they exit from. We ask parents to please pull the exit gate closed behind them as they enter and exit the school as the children will be accessing the playground via the bathroom area.

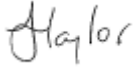
DEBATING

Congratulations to our Stage 3 students who have made it through the grand final of the Northern Beaches Catholic Schools Debating competition. They will compete against St Martin's tomorrow afternoon. We wish them well.

ABSENCE

It is important to understand that attending school is a legal requirement. This includes arriving on time and staying until the end of the school day. Please remember to fill in late arrival forms if your child is late to school and always follow up an absence with a written note.

In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus
In all things may God be Glorified.



Fran Taylor
Principal

Religious Education

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

By now you will have received a letter detailing the arrangements for the 'Christmas Hamper Appeal'. We are excited, as a community, to continue one of our longstanding traditions by preparing to donate goods and gifts to the St Vincent de Paul Society. Donated **goods** are due to your child's classroom by **Thursday 6 December** to coincide with our Good Sam Day: Giving and Gratitude.

Donated **gifts** are due to **Nikki Delrennie** by **Wednesday 5 December**.

If you would like to help with assembling and/or transporting the Hampers, please **go to the 'SignUpGenius' page**.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0949AAAE2CA6F94-vinnies>

Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness in this Advent Season.

HEAVEN ON EARTH—PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

The link in last week's newsletter regarding faith formation opportunities was incorrect. We ask that you take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire. Your feedback will help inform future planning around Heaven on Earth or other faith formation opportunities.

<https://goo.gl/forms/HRRUclnANA1fONb43>

We apologise for the error.

PARISH MASS

On **Wednesday 28 November, 2W** attended our Parish Mass. Thank you to all family members who joined us for this Eucharistic celebration.

KB will attend the Parish Mass on **Wednesday 5 December** at **9am**.

'FAMILIES COME GATHER' MASSES

We celebrated our final Families Come Gather Mass on Sunday. The Year 1 students did a wonderful job singing and reading. Thank you to the Year 1 families for helping us welcome the Kindergarten students and their families who will be joining our school next year.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS—RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Advent begins this Sunday 2 December. Over the next three weeks all classes will be focusing on Advent leading to Christmas. The liturgical season of **Advent** will be explored as a time of **waiting and preparation for the celebration of the coming of the Messiah**. The people of the Old Testament waited, Joseph and Mary waited and so we too wait in anticipation.

Early Stage 1—Kindergarten

- **For Advent:** The focus of Advent in this module is the annunciation. The announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus shows that God is active in the lives of ordinary people, and thus is active in our own lives.



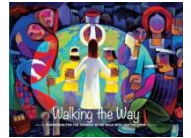
- **For Christmas:** Christmas will be seen as a time that opens up possibilities for us to change as people. The infancy narratives will be explored in the context of what they say to us as disciples of Jesus. Christmas celebrates God's transformative power in the person of Jesus. The acts of giving, receiving and celebrating open us up to transformation and to transforming the lives of others.

SHARING THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

In the rush and bustle of Christmas we may sometimes lose sight of the 'reason for the season'. Click [here](#) for some ways families can share the true meaning of Christmas from Janette Davidson, Family and Sacramental Minister Catholic Community of North Harbour.

WALKING THE WAY

Walking the Way is a school-based initiative in the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, designed to encourage parents in their sacred task of accompanying their children on their journey with God. There are four elements: Book & video / E-Bulletin / Parent gatherings / Annual retreat. Click here to view <http://walkingtheway.dbbco.org/archive-2018-year-b.html>.



School News

WEEKLY AWARDS

We congratulate this week's Awards' recipients.



Week 6	Hope Core Value	Merits
KB:	Rohan P	Samuel M and Emma P
KW:	Harrison B	Elijah A and Asha K
Yr 1B:	Arthur P	Christian G and Molly S
Yr 1W:	Oliver T	Jack K and Samuel M
Yr 2B:	Finlay D	Evie C and Rae-Marie B
Yr 2W:	Caiden M	Bonnie B and Lewis H
Yr 3:	Lily A and Nicholas G	Leo K-F, William P, Sibella H and Jamie L
Yr 4:	Lucas C	Alex D and Luca C
Yr 5/6	Elise B and Neneh H	Francesca B, Amelie R and Isabella S

UPCOMING DATES

November

Thurs 29th NB Debating

Fri 30th 7pm Parent Christmas Party

December

Sun 2nd 2pm Drama dress rehearsal

Mon 3rd 2.30pm Advent Liturgy / Prayer Assembly
3B

Wed 5th Yr 6 Fun Day

Thurs 6th Good Sam Day
Christmas Hamper donations due
Drama concert

Fri 7th Yr 5 Leadership Day
Yr 6 Reflection Day
2.30pm Millie Smith pop up shop

Wed 12th Reports home
6pm Christmas Carols

Fri 14th 1.40pm Yr 6 Graduation Mass

Mon 17th Core Value & Academic Assembly

Wed 19th 10.30am Thanksgiving Liturgy

Wed 19th **Last day for students**

Thurs 20th SDD

Fri 21st SDD

January 2019

Wed 30th EMU and Best Start appointments

Thurs 31st Yrs 1 – 6 commence
Best Start Kinder appointments

February

Fri 1st Kinder 2019 commence
Tea and Tissues

Tues 5th 6pm Meet the Teacher

Thurs 7th 2.30pm Class Parent meeting

Fri 8th 9.30am Opening School Mass and
Ceremony of Light

Thurs 14th Swimming Carnival

Tues 19th P&F Exec meeting

Fri 23rd Welcome Cocktail Party

DRAMA

Compulsory dress rehearsal this Sunday in the school hall 2 – 4pm. Please be on time.

There are some children still very uncertain with their lines – remember all lines to be word perfect by this Sunday. Younger children may need some help at home with this – your support is much appreciated.

All Drama students are required at both Wednesday and Thursday classes until their performance so they can learn the sequence of the scenes in the play and where they fit into the story. The play is too long to rehearse in one 45 minute lesson. Thank you for your help with this.

Trish Collier, Stageworks Drama Teacher

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2019

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2019 are now open.

Student Voice

FEAST OF ST CECILIA

The Feast of St Cecilia was on Thursday 22 November. There was a wonderful Mass filled with singing and music to celebrate the occasion. There was a small choir who sang accompanied on instruments by Stage 3 students, Isabella Ch (cello), Olivia (flute) and Clara (viola). The Mass was followed by a blessing of the Reflection Garden and a musical performance lead by the Evergreen students. Overall the Feast of St Cecilia was a very enjoyable celebration filled with singing, dancing and music.

Emilie, Leila and Clara



Parent Network News

PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE: Click [here](#) for the 2018 booklet.

- **Thank You Kindy Parents!**

A big thank you to the current Kindy parents for hosting the final transition for our incoming kindy class, last Wednesday. The spread was fantastic and families felt most welcome. Thank you again!

- **Parents Christmas Party**

The parent Christmas Party is coming up this Friday, 30 November at 7PM! Please be sure to purchase your tickets via QKR and come have a great time!

- **St. Cecilia's 90th Anniversary Celebrations**

St Cecilia's School was founded by the Good Samaritan Sisters in 1929 and we will be celebrating our 90th anniversary next year!

A brainstorm session will be held in the ground floor meeting room on Friday 30 November at 2.30pm to generate ideas for how we could celebrate this milestone next year. All parents and carers are welcome to join us. More heads are always better than one!

Alternatively you can email your ideas to Robyn Wunder who will be collating plans over the coming weeks robyn@thewunders.net.

- **Millie Smith Second Hand Uniform Shop**

Thank you for your donations of pre-loved school uniforms throughout the year. *Our last Millie Smith Uniform Shop sale will be on Friday 7 December, 2:30-3:30pm.* Remember to pay by cash or Qkr.

- **Heaven on Earth - Parent Survey**

Heaven on Earth is offered to parents and parishioners to take some time out of their busy schedules to reflect on their own and their family's faith life. The sessions have been held once a term, both during the day or in the evenings. Guest speakers have been invited to facilitate topics such as: The Gift of Gratitude, The Gift of Courage, The Gift of Wisdom, The Gift of Compassion, The Gift of Mercy, Walking Justly, Walking the Way, River of Mercy, Christmas: Peace on Earth of going to pieces and An Advent Journey.

The program began in 2014 and we are now reviewing it. We invite you to answer the following questions. Your feedback will help us plan for the future of Heaven on Earth. It should take no more than 10mins of your time.

Questionnaire-- <https://goo.gl/forms/HRRUcInaNA1fONb43>

With thanks from, Majella Brady (Heaven on Earth Coordinator and parent and Nikki Delrennie (St Cecilia's Religious Education Coordinator)

Volunteer Corner

1 Christmas Hampers

Your help is desperately needed to sort, pack and wrap the Vinnies Christmas Hampers in the school hall on Friday 7 December. You can sign up for 1 of 4 tasks which take no more than a couple of hours.

Please sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0949AAAE2CA6F94-vinnies>

2 Millie Smith Second Hand Uniform Shop

Our last Millie Smith Uniform Shop will be next Friday 7 December, 2.30-3.30pm - TWO VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0949aaae2ca6f94-mille>



SHARE THE DIGNITY

This year Neneh, Zoe and I are coordinating a collection for the *Share the Dignity* campaign and we would really appreciate your support.

On any given night in Australia, 1 in 200 people are homeless. 44% are female. 27% are children under the age of 18. Family violence is the number one reason people present to homeless services. 55% of females cite this reason. We really would love your help.

When you donate to *Share the Dignity*, you're donating much more than personal care items. You're giving a woman experiencing homelessness or financial crisis the essentials, so she doesn't need to choose between food and dignity.

It's a simple act of kindness – filling a preloved handbag or backpack with life essentials (think shampoo & conditioner, soap, deodorant, sanitary items etc.) and they are then distributed to shelters for women in need. We may be given many things this Christmas, however for many of the women and girls in the shelters this may well be the only thing they receive.

There is a collection box in the school office where you can leave your donated bags. The final day for donations is Friday 30 November.

We really appreciate your support! #itsinthebag

Danni H



The roster can be found through the school website under the School Community/Volunteering tab or click [here](#).

Upcoming Roster

Fri 30 Nov: Robyn Wunder and Eliza Faulk
Wed 5 Dec: Natasha Ryan-Pryor and Sara Toia
Fri 7 Dec: Susie Warren and **1 Volunteer required**





PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE REFURBISHMENT FUNDRAISER

Wine and Cheese Christmas Celebration Friday 30 November see above. Join us for our Tamburlaine Wine Tasting and purchase your wines for Christmas see order [form](#) .
Please RSVP by Monday 26 November.

If you cannot attend you may be able to support the event by donating a prize for our raffle or by ordering wine. Please contact Evelyn Paterson at robevelyn@tpg.com.au if you can assist with a donation.

Janette Davidson, Family and Sacramental Minister - Catholic Community of North Harbour

Community News

VACATION CARE

Northern Beaches Council operates a very successful vacation care program for primary school aged children across the whole of the Northern Beaches. In the Summer school holidays we will have centres open at Cromer, Forestville, North Curl Curl and also at Manly Vale Community Centre.

With the December/January school holidays approaching fast, we have just released the holiday program on our website, with the Summer 2018/19 brochure containing lots of activities and ideas to keep children occupied. Copies of the brochure are available at the school or via the council website: [Northern Beaches Council Vacation Care](#)

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Terms and Conditions: 1. This offer is for parents and children currently enrolled at St Cecilia's. 2. The offer is valid for the 2016/2017 financial year.





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