



Some photos of the construction that has begun for the new nature play area and some students watching things come together.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our Week 3 Newsletter for Term 1. I would like to welcome those of you who have joined us later than planned due to isolation requirements. We are glad that you are here, and your children have returned to the routine of school. We will continue to support children as they arrive at school and would like to thank you for your understanding and help with this transition. Once again, our children continue to adapt and adjust and we are so very proud of the way they are gaining confidence and building independence in the mornings.

I would like to let you know that we have received an update from the State Government on a range of restrictions that will be removed from the start of Week 4 (28<sup>th</sup> February). It is intended that the new arrangements will apply from the start of Week 4 until Week 8 in Term 1. Some current restrictions will also stay in place as we do our best to minimise the risks associated with the spread of COVID-19.

We are very grateful with the way parents are keeping children home who have any symptoms as this is certainly keeping cases to a minimum. It is still recommended that we minimise visitors on site, which includes parents, and so we ask that you continue to drop off your children to keep the number of people mixing to a minimum. We will have the gates open until 8:45am but if you are able to drop off your children, we recommend that you continue to do so. In the afternoons, we will open gates just before the bell rings at 3:10pm and we also recommend that you drive through or wait away from others where possible. All students have done so very well in managing to be dropped off and picked up from the gates and we want to encourage them to maintain this independence and reduce the number of parents on site. Please remain aware of others and do your best to keep your distance.

We will hold our Athletics Days for Years 2 to Year 6 in Week 5 this term, with parents using a viewing area only. This enables you to come along to the rear of the school and view from the surrounding fence line and internal roadway along the edge of the oval. You will not need to check in or sign in as there will be no access to the oval and no toilet facilities available. You will receive a notice with information for your child via email which includes a timetable of events for the day so that you will know when to come along and view your child participating in a particular event. We appreciate your help in maintaining physical distancing and ask that you wear a mask while viewing the event.

We are also able to resume extracurricular activities including sports training, choir, and instrumental music lessons next week. Please be aware that any extra activities have a cost involved and are voluntary for your

child to participate.

Even with these changes next week, we are unable to join for Monday Morning Praise or Chapel until at least Week 8 this term, and so we have created a way of continuing to share songs, a message and other information using videos to help us to connect. I always enjoy chatting with our Reception students who tell me they have seen me on the screen with great delight. Staff will continue to wear masks and meet virtually for training, meetings, and devotions to reduce the spread. Current testing, isolating and quarantine settings remain unchanged, including definitions for classroom contacts. Once again, we thank you for notifying us if someone in your family is COVID-19 positive as this helps us to keep others healthy. We really appreciate all you are doing to keep our community healthy.

Thank you to those parents who have raised questions about the status of classroom contact notification and participating in weekend sports. There are no mandates as to what must occur if your child is a classroom contact and so we ask you to use your discretion as to what impact attending the event will have on your child and others they will be in contact with. The advice is to minimise risk to others when outside of school. Should your child display symptoms then please do not attend the weekend match and follow SA Health recommendations. Please communicate your attendance each week with your team coach so they know if they have enough players to take the court, please do this as early as reasonably possible.

We have had enquiries about work at home for children in isolation. If your child is unwell, we encourage you to let them rest and recover. If they are well, we will point you towards our website where we will have specific year level learning available in the coming days.

I am very excited to be able to tell you that our new play space has begun! After a number of setbacks, we have contractors working on this area and we hope that it will be open for use early in Term 2. Our children have been very excited to see the progress so far and I look forward to sharing this with you. We have included some pictures for you so that you can see what is happening.

A big thank you to those of you who joined your teacher for 'Meet the Teacher Night' last week. This new virtual way of connecting has become part of our world and we enjoyed sharing general expectations with you. If you have questions about homework or the day-to-day things of school, please use the school diary.

Thank you for your support as we continue our learning journey at Bethany for 2022.

Have a lovely weekend,

God bless,

**Wendy Matear**  
Principal

**Memory Verse:**

Love God and love each other. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

*1 John 4: 21*

# DEPUTY'S CORNER

## The Importance of School

Every child in Australia has not only the right to an education, but it is actually unlawful for them to be prevented from coming to school. It is a legal obligation for parents to enrol a child into a school.

Being enrolled into a school means so much more than fulfilling a law. Students being an active, *present* member of a school community helps develop critically important social and emotional skills, connectivity with a community and academic growth. There is a significant amount of research to support the need of consistent attendance at school, which includes the findings that school absenteeism is cumulative, and it can have an impact on academic success and school attendance in the latter years of school (Hancock et al, 2013; Zubrick, 2014).

If we think of schooling as an active choice to get fit and healthy to achieve a fitness goal for the future. We begin a physical fitness training and healthy eating programme that aims to get us to get our goal. If we aim to run a triathlon, we don't start at the finishing line. We have to build up our physical and mental stamina in order to cross the finish line successfully.

Schools do this gradual building up of social, emotional, physical and academic stamina over the time a child begins their formal education. This is safe guarded by following a national curriculum to ensure the journey toward success is followed. Not everyone learns at the same rate, just as not all athletes train at the same rate. That would be like asking someone like me take up training for a triathlon alongside a seasoned triathlete. I am not going to have the same needs as that athlete. However, schools have highly trained educators who are able to make professional decisions to help support children of a similar age to go through a process of systematic learning.

Sometimes a child will need additional support. This support within school comes from our Diverse Learning Team. Together, in partnership with the child's teacher and parents, the Diverse Learning Team staff will determine the areas of need and provide the required support so that the child is provided the necessary skills and access to additional support.

Occasionally a family may feel that their child will benefit from additional tuition, which is on top of the school support. Tuition outside of school can prove to be a positive experience, however private tuition is a *supplement* to formal schooling, not a *substitution*.

Teachers spend years training beyond their university degree to provide sequential learning plans. If private tuition occurs within school hours, the child might have 1:1 literacy and math in the 1-2 hour sessions, but will miss the other curriculum areas and the fundamental building blocks taught in class for literacy and numeracy, which will negate the benefits of private tuition.

Navigating a worldwide pandemic has challenged many areas of society, and education has not been spared. South Australia seems to have been spared from much of the pandemic which began in 2020 despite the notable state 'lockdowns' experienced in 2020-2021. Generally speaking, however, we have not seen prolonged, consistent lockdowns requiring excessive online learning.

Truly, our greatest challenge has been coming into 2022 with our borders opened and the COVID-19 Omicron variant raising our case numbers and hospitalisations to a previously unheard number. This has caused some anxiety amongst some of our families attending Bethany Christian School (BCS).

One response to the anxiety over COVID has to been to withhold a child from their face-to-face learning. We know that vaccines help our immune systems to learn how to fight an illness, but they do not stop us from getting sick. Withholding a child from school because they have not yet been vaccinated or are not fully vaccinated is not a valid reason for not attending school.

Any child who misses school must have an authorised absence. This is because there is a very strong link between student attendance and a child's academic achievement, and the more absences a child has increases

the impact of their learning. In short, “every day counts and there is no ‘safe’ threshold for absences” (Hancock et al. 2013). As a school, we are required by law to report our attendance statistics. There are three instances where ongoing absences are formally authorised via educational forms:

- [ED175 A](#) (for family vacations for **15+ days**);
- [ED175 B](#) (for **short term** of up to 4 weeks absences due to disability, behaviour, health or medical reasons); or
- [ED175 C](#) (for exemptions for a period **greater than 12 months** for an overseas exchange, participation in elite sports or full-time non-school education.

These forms can be collected at our Administration office upon request. Once they are filled in, they are then submitted to the Principal for official authorisation. The ED175 B applications must include a plan of getting the child back to full time school attendance within a 4 week period. Filling in the form does not automatically approve your child’s absence, as this is at the Principal’s discretion. Please be very aware that withdrawing a child from school for in school hours private tuition most likely will be an unauthorised absence.

In short, no absence is considered unimportant. Your child’s whole education is vitally important, as there is a direct correlation to their future academic and employment success (AITSL, 2019). If you are worried about your child’s academic progress or about COVID-19, please speak to your child’s teacher. For any COVID-19 related queries, please ask to speak to our school nurse, Priya Wilson. We are here to help.

#### Reference List

AITSL. (2019). *Spotlight: Attendance Matters*. Retrieved from aitsl: Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited: <https://www.aitsl.edu.au/tools-resources/resource/spotlight-attendance-matters>

Hancock, K. J., Shepherd, C. C., Lawrence, D., & Zubrick, S. R. (2013). *Student attendance and educational outcomes: Every day counts*. Canberra: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Zubrick, S. (2014). *School Attendance: Equities and inequities in growth trajectories of academic performance. ACER: Quality and Equality; What does research tell us?* Adelaide: ACER.

*“The effects of non-attendance on achievement are cumulative and can impact both academic achievement and attendance in future years of schooling” – Hancock et al., 2013; Zubrick, 2014*

## Term 1 Reminders

### Car Park

Please remember to keep our children safe. Observe the rules of our car parks. Please do not queue while waiting for your child. This causes our lines to be exceptionally long and frustratingly slow. If your child is not at the turning circle or the kiss ‘n’ drop when you arrive, please go and park.

Our turning circle and kiss ‘n’ drop areas only work efficiently if drivers are patient, courteous and remember that it is a privilege which comes with responsibility, not a right. Please show respect to the teaching staff trying to manage the traffic on school site. Let’s be kind to one another and work together to keep our children safe.

### Thank you

A massive thank you to all our parent school community for following our COVID-19 safe practices, avoiding coming on site and wearing a mask. COVID-19 is a tremendous challenge for us all. While we have had active cases of COVID-19 on school site, this might have been far worse had we had a greater number of people on site.

I wish you all the very best for you and your family in the week ahead.

God bless you,

**Deb Clifford**

Deputy Principal

# HIGHLIGHTS

## HEALTH CARE

What a wonderful busy week. Thank you, parents/carers for helping us in following the guidelines provided by the SA health related to COVID-19. As we are progressing, I would like to remind you of some of the guidelines to be followed by us as a school community. This will help us to ensure the safety and the wellbeing of our students and staff at our school.

### **COVID-19 guidelines**

If your child develops any symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell/taste, muscle/joint pains, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting or extreme tiredness, please:

- Obtain a **PCR** test (You can find your nearest COVID-19 testing clinic [here](#))
- Notify the school about the positive result ASAP via email or phone
- keep your child at home until you receive confirmation that the test is negative and their symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they must remain isolated for 10 days from the testing date and must follow SA Health instructions.
- If in doubt regarding the symptoms and testing please contact the school and the staff can help you

### **Household contact requirement**

If a student tests positive to COVID-19, all people who live in that household must quarantine for 7 days (or 14 days if the household cannot separate).

### **Medication**

Just a reminder if your child needs to be on any medication at school please provide the school with the required medication along with the current management plan.

Thank you,

Priya Wilson

**School Nurse**

## SCHOOL DENTAL PROGRAM

# DENTAL FOR SCHOOLS

*We are scheduled to visit in:*

**Term 1 2022 - from Monday 28th March**

We will be visiting Bethany Christian School to provide check-ups & onsite treatment. Simply fill in our dental consent form for your child to be a part of this worthwhile experience.

**Check-up & Clean**

Have your child's teeth shining bright again! We will provide a check-up & professional clean. Here we will let you know if they need any further work.

**Goodie Bags**

All participants receive a gift bag with essentials and some extra goodies, to say thank you! You will also have a take home oral health report to follow throughout the year

**Visit with friends**

Take the stress out of your child's dental visit while they visit with their friends and classmates. Our vehicles are fitted with movies to watch while they wait.

E. info@dentalforschools    W. dentalforschools.com.au    P. (08) 7225 8142

## ENROLMENT

### Sibling Priority for 2024

If your child is due to start Reception with us here at Bethany Christian School in 2024 and you have not heard from our Enrolment Officer, please ensure you call the school to secure your child's position.

Interviews to fill our 2024 Reception classes will commence in May and a secured position may not be available after this time.

### Withdrawal Policy

Should you decide to transfer your children to another school, then the school requires written notification one term in advance of the withdrawal of the children. This enables the school to plan ahead with possible enrolments to replace the children. If written notification is not given, then one term's fees will be charged.

Kind regards,

**Bronnie Lyrtzis**

**Enrolments**

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## PLAYGROUP

We would like to announce that Playgroup will re-commence on Friday 4th March. Please see the flyer below for more details.



# SPORTS NEWS

## WEEKLY SPORTS

### [Netball Nomination Form](#)

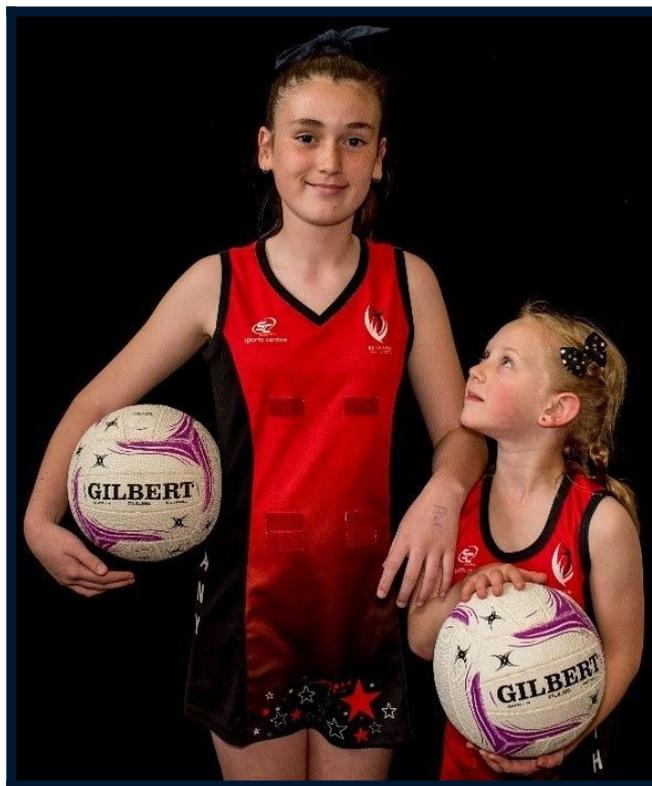
#### **Netball | Reception - Year 6**

**(must already be 5 years old)**

Bethany Christian School offers a Weekly Netball program.

This is a user pay program staffed by approved volunteer coaches

- There are two seasons per year:
  - Semester One Season | Terms One and Two
  - Semester Two Season | Terms Three and Four
- Age Groups as follows:
  - Under 8s mixed
  - Under 10s mixed
  - Under 12s mixed
- Games played during school terms at:
  - The Gardens Recreation Centre
  - Games are played on Saturday mornings
  - Trainings held at BCS after school during the week and are compulsory



#### **AFL Football | Year 2 - 6**

Bethany Christian School offers a Weekly AFL program.

This is a user pay program staffed by approved volunteer coaches

- There is only a Winter Season [Term 2 and 3] each year, normally 12 rounds for the season.
- Parents will be able to use the OSRV towards the program.
- Age Groups as follows:
  - Year 2 | 9 a side mixed teams
  - Year 3|4 | 9 a side teams
  - Year 5|6 | 12 a side teams
- Games played at Ridley Reserve on Saturday mornings.
- Trainings held at BCS after school during the week and are compulsory.

## WEEKLY SPORTS RESULTS

### MATCHES WEEK ENDING 12/2/22

| Sport      | Team | Opponent | Coach's Pick | Match Result |  |  |
|------------|------|----------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| Netball    | U08  | U08      | Wild Stars   | Bye          |  |  |
| Netball    | U10  | U10      | Bright Stars | Bye          |  |  |
| Netball    | U12  | U12      | Diamonds     | Bye          |  |  |
| Basketball | U08  | Blue     | Bulls        | Bye          |  |  |
| Basketball | U10  | Orange   | Boomers      | Bye          |  |  |
| Basketball | U10  | Blue     | Blazers      | Bye          |  |  |
| Basketball | U12  | 3Blue    | Lakers       | Bye          |  |  |
| Basketball | U12  | 4Blue    | Thunder      | Bye          |  |  |

### MATCHES WEEK ENDING 19/2/22

| Sport      | Grade | Div    | Team         | Opponent             | Coach's Pick | Match Result |    |    |
|------------|-------|--------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----|----|
| Netball    | U08   | U08    | Wild Stars   | -                    |              | -            |    |    |
| Netball    | U10   | U10    | Bright Stars | Renegades White      | Emily D      | W            | 7  | 0  |
| Netball    | U12   | U12    | Diamonds     | Forfeit              | -            |              |    |    |
| Basketball | U08   | Blue   | Bulls        | Brooks Nuggets 8     | Isaac D      | L            | 6  | 16 |
| Basketball | U10   | Orange | Boomers      | Bye                  | -            |              |    |    |
| Basketball | U10   | Blue   | Blazers      | Forfeit              | -            |              |    |    |
| Basketball | U12   | 3Blue  | Lakers       | Walkerville Cats 12b | Elijah Y     | W            | 32 | 16 |
| Basketball | U12   | 4Blue  | Thunder      | Brooks Wildcards     | Elijah R     | W            | 19 | 14 |

# WEEKLY INFORMATION

## IMPORTANT DATES

| Date                                  | Event                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 2nd March                   | Reception Rest Day                          |
| Wednesday 9th March                   | Reception Rest Day                          |
| Thursday 10th March                   | Senior Athletics Day                        |
| Friday 11th March                     | Junior Athletics Day                        |
| Monday 14th March                     | Adelaide Cup Day                            |
| Monday 28th March to Friday 8th April | School Dental Visits                        |
| Thursday 7th April                    | Parent Teacher Interviews                   |
| Monday 11th April                     | <b>Pupil Free Day</b>                       |
| Tuesday 12th April                    | Parent Teacher Interviews                   |
| Thursday 14th April                   | Last day of term - <b>12.10pm dismissal</b> |

### 2022 Term Dates

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Term 1 | Monday 14th February to Thursday 14th April    |
| Term 2 | Tuesday 2nd May to Friday 8th July             |
| Term 3 | Tuesday 26th July to Friday 30th September     |
| Term 4 | Monday 17th October to Wednesday 14th December |

## PE TIMETABLE

| Class | Days                 |
|-------|----------------------|
| ELC   | Monday to Friday     |
| RHan  | Tuesday and Thursday |
| RHay  | Monday and Friday    |
| RK    | Tuesday and Thursday |
| 1TC   | Thursday and Friday  |
| 1D    | Thursday and Friday  |
| 1P    | Thursday and Friday  |
| 2WS   | Thursday and Friday  |
| 2R    | Thursday and Friday  |
| 2Z    | Thursday and Friday  |
| 3HR   | Monday and Friday    |
| 3M    | Monday and Thursday  |
| 3T    | Tuesday and Friday   |
| 4G    | Tuesday and Thursday |
| 4PS   | Monday and Wednesday |
| 4W    | Monday and Friday    |
| 5R    | Wednesday and Friday |
| 5K    | Tuesday and Thursday |
| 5T    | Wednesday and Friday |
| 6SC   | Wednesday and Friday |
| 6T    | Wednesday and Friday |
| 6W    | Wednesday and Friday |

## BETHANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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