



Welcome to Year 2!

St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School, 2018

Phone: 9174 7000 Email: batchelor.elise@cathednet.wa.edu.au School website: www.saintcecilia.wa.edu.au



In the classroom ...

Hi! I'm Elise Batchelor and at school I'm usually just Ms B. I am excited to be in Year 2 again this year, having taught in a variety of year levels from K-6 over the past few years. It's lovely to meet some new faces as well and I look forward to learning more about each child as we move forward.

I have been teaching since 1996 and began as a secondary English and Literature teacher in Melbourne. After several years, I accidentally found a home in the Pilbara and have taught in both secondary and primary schools, working across all year levels in both Karratha and Port Hedland. Primary teaching has been my singular focus for 10 years now, so I am both qualified as a primary teacher and secondary teacher. I adore teaching early literacy, numeracy and social skills and have a lot of fun in the classroom engaging students in the exciting world around them.



Mrs Belinda Sibley will be our Teacher Assistant on a rostered timetable, here to provide support to all of our students.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My philosophy of teaching centres around the relationships I build with my students and, where possible, their families. In coming to understand the motives for student behaviours and the ways in which individual young people think and enjoy learning, I find I can better address the learning goals of students and enhance their skills. Perhaps as much as this, my focus in skill building is to encourage all students to TRY. The benchmark of your child's success will be their willingness to give everything their best shot – not to be perfect – but to believe they CAN do things. The reality is, as we move through the middle primary years, trying for many young people can and will mean HARD WORK. But reward often does come with effort and I aim to appreciate and recognise this effort all the way.

YEAR 2 SPECIALIST TEACHERS:

Ms Fimmell – Sport and Health
Mrs Wellbeloved (Mrs Wellbe) – Science & Technology
Mrs Sheen – Library
Miss G (Greatorex) – Aboriginal Teaching Aid
Miss Tate - Religion

Administration

School Times

School begins at 8:25am. The classroom doors will be open to students from 8:15am to allow the children time to organise themselves for the day. Please do not allow your child enter the classroom if a teacher is not present, for safety/legal reasons.

Should you arrive at school early, children are instructed to leave their bags on the hooks provided and wait until 8:15 in the undercover area. NOTE: No supervision is provided at the school before 8:00am.

Recess: 10:20am – 10:40am
Lunch (eating): 12:20pm – 12:35pm
Lunch (play): 12:35pm – 12:55pm

The school day ends at 2:35pm when the children will be dismissed from the classroom.

All parents and guests entering the school between the hours of 8:45am and 2:15pm are required to report to the front office to receive a visitor's badge.

Punctuality is important to ensure that your child has the best start to their school day. If for any reason you are running late to school, you as the parent are asked to accompany your child to the office and fill out the required late book/iPad and your child can bring a red **'late'** card from the office to the class teacher. Should you need to collect your child from school before the end of the school day, you need to collect a green **'early departure'** card from the front office.

Important days for Year 2

Library – Friday

Students need to remember to bring their library bag and previous week's library book.

Sport – Tuesday. Students are to wear sports uniform.

Test day – Tuesday. Each week we will have Maths and Spelling tests on a Thursday. These are quick tasks which include spelling and basic number facts.

Homework – Is completed weekly and due TUESDAYS. Homework for the following week then comes out Friday. Children will receive this via a homework template and specific tasks that will go up on the school website each week. I mark homework on Tuesday and encourage all students



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to submit it weekly. There are encouragements on offer in class and the small amount of homework we do allows you to participate actively in your child's learning.

Spelling is an important practice task each week. Research indicates that students who fare best as they move through school with their written work and significantly correlates with students who develop a solid phonemic awareness in the early primary years. It's not a given, but it is seen now to be a highly relevant and vital skill. And still, it's all about trying ☺.

READING
gives us the keys
to the kingdom!

"If you want to make your child intelligent, give them a book. If you want to make them more intelligent, give them more books".

Author Jackie French.

The most powerful thing you can do for your child is to encourage them to read. This may be with daily school readers, magazines, their own books at home, reading aloud TO them, giving them fun reading challenges at the shops or when out driving, or on the computer.

Reading crosses almost all areas of life. Much of what we do in maths becomes possible when we can read. This goes for reading a science experiment, learning about history, using the internet, reading public signs, reading birthday cards or love letters (well, maybe when they're 35 ☺). The more your child practises reading, the stronger chance they have of improving across ALL subjects at school and in communicating their ideas in life.

Furthermore, learning to read gives children access to stories. And stories tell us about other people's lives, journeys and experiences. They teach us empathy, they teach us wisdom, courage, how to strive, how to be a good friend, how to be a better friend. And they can bring joy.

This year I will be encouraging your child all the way with believing in themselves as a reader and working hard, if it takes that, to improve their skills, at whatever level of reader or ability they sit.

Every day: READ. READ. READ.

Please sign your child's yellow reading book and also read stories TO your child as often as **you can. It's the greatest escape!**



PARENT HELP

I love parent help! I would love to see each parent come in, even if only once this year. It's a fabulous help, but more importantly, you get to see what your child is doing in their world every day. Our children grow up way too fast and you might enjoy coming in for that little extra sneak peak before they're suddenly already in high school. My roster is up and I appreciate everyone who comes in. You are made to feel special.

Absences

Any absence from school is to be followed up with a written (or emailed) note of explanation.

Absence notes must please include the following:

- Student name
- Year level
- Date of absence
- Parent signature

Phoning the office on the day is appreciated, but this still needs to be followed up in written form. If the school has not received a message either by phone or email then an SMS will be sent to a family mobile phone notifying you of your child's absence.

Uniform

All students at St Cecilia's are required to wear the correct uniform with pride at all times. All items need to be clearly labelled with your **child's name**. Children are required to wear their hats outside and sunscreen is provided in the classroom for application throughout the day.





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A note explaining any deviation from the school uniform is required and relieves your child from any undue pressure. Any child who attends school with the incorrect uniform will be issued with a red uniform slip that needs to be signed by the parent and returned to school the next day. This includes inappropriate jewellery, socks, hair, temporary tattoos and nail polish.

Games, toys and precious items

We ask that your child does not bring toys, games, iPods or any precious items to school. They should only do so if this has been requested as a specific news day.

Allergies

Should your child have any form of allergy or medical condition we ask that you inform the school so that we may be best prepared for any situation.



Birthdays

Birthdays are recognised in class and at Thursday morning assemblies. We kindly request that you do not send any cakes, lolly bags or treats to school to celebrate your child's birthday.

If your child is having a party and inviting the whole class, please let me know and I can give you a class list of first names. However, as the children are now increasingly aware of social ties, It would be great if any invitations for smaller numbers of your child's buddies are handed out after school by parents/carers where possible.

Assemblies and Masses

This year we have re-introduced the Monday morning assembly in the undercover area. At this assembly we say our school prayer and sing the National Anthem during flag raising. This assembly is also an opportunity to build on our school values and how we can express them. We also highlight ways to live our motto, "Faith Family Friendship" at school and at home.

Assembly is also held every second Thursday morning at 8:30am in the school hall. At this assembly class items are performed, birthday certificates are handed out and merit certificates are presented. I will endeavor to inform you via email or Class Dojo the day before if your child is receiving a certificate; however, as this is a surprise for the students it's great if it can stay that way before the presentation.

Please see the term planner for the dates and times of all school masses.

All parents are welcome to attend the Thursday morning assembly and any school Mass.



Parent interviews

Parent interviews are scheduled towards the end of this term. An interview notice will be sent home for you to select preferred times closer to the day.

Semester Reports

Semester progress reports are sent out at the end of Term Two and Term Four. We use the national curriculum and required curriculum assessment levels to report on our students. *The old A-E levels are not used any more.* Assessment is now like a competency based system, where, if your child is achieving at the required satisfactory standard for their year level, they will receive a 'C'. It does not mean a C as in 60%, but a C as in 'Working at a standard year 2 level'. On some occasions, students working well above this may receive a B, with a very small minority receiving an A. Students who are not yet working at a year level standard will receive a 'D'. Individual students with specific or diagnosed learning needs can be tailored to with different types of plans. These are discussed with individual families.

Communication

Please refer to the school website for regular updates.

www.stcecilia.wa.edu.au

All notes sent home as well as homework will be posted on this website.

Before school is a busy time and not conducive to having private conversations. For this reason I prefer to have an open door and to be able to chat to everyone in the classroom first thing in the morning.

Please see me after school days, or contact me via phone or Class Dojo should you wish to catch up about something in particular relating to your child. I'm very happy to chat.

Restorative Practice

St Cecilia's has adopted a 'Restorative Practice' approach to behaviour management. This approach promotes the development of trust relationships between individuals. I use a '1 2 3' behaviour system in class, acting much like green,



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orange and red traffic lights. Students who reach a three may be asked to take some "time out" or complete work in a 'buddy' class next door. We also have raffle tickets for great mat efforts. Class Dojo may also be used for special points.



HAPPY HAIR

Head lice is often a concern in school communities. Should a note be sent home informing that head lice have been found, please **check your child's head** and follow up with the appropriate treatment. Simple daily combing through of wet hair with the cheapest hair condition and a strong, metal nit comb can help break the six day nit (lice larva) cycle.

SPECIAL PROJECTS



"Melted – the Musical" was our 2017 school 75th birthday

musical production in which all staff and students participated. Due to its success, the Matt Dann Theatre has asked us if we wish to perform this for the town in a more professional capacity, with use of the theatre space for rehearsals and access to their technical means.

Parents/carers will receive a letter outlining Melted – 2018. This will be an 'opt in' venture for its reboot, given that the time, rehearsal and performance commitment will shift up a notch. We would love as many children to participate as are keen. Please read letter sent out and indicate your/your child's keeness to participate!

I will be directing the musical and for those of you with interests in volunteering, there will be parent jobs along the way to help out.



Mr E

Mr E is our class pet for semester one. He loves to solve mysteries about Port Hedland. When your child brings Mr E home, they will have a history task to complete. This involves writing a question about the history of Port Hedland. We are looking for unique, quirky and interesting facts of history to share with the class. If you do take a photo of your child doing fun things with Mr E, feel free to print it out for them to bring in the next day and present to the class or upload the photo to Class Dojo!

Some ideas to ponder... (from the expert experts)

DITCH THE BEDROOM TV

Studies have shown that when we watch television, we do not improve our intelligence much at all, especially if we are passively watching.

Imagine a television or games console in a bedroom as another hurdle your child has to clamber over and pass to get to their learning potential or success. Research has also revealed that children with such devices in their rooms often perform more poorly on maths and English tests.

DEVICES

Many of our children do have devices now and use them daily. As a parent of primary aged children myself, I know all too well how I've tried to convince myself that the portable baby sitter is teaching them something. However, by and large, it's been random games, games, games, or tv shows, movies, Youtube and more games. Addiction IS EASY. Minecraft can be really clever and helpful, but how much is too much? Could time be better spent at least some of the time? Educational apps can be excellent, but how often are these in voluntary use?



Then there is the thought that children's fine motor skills are weaker now because of more game time. And gross motor skills are weaker because of less time climbing trees and swinging on monkey bars.

Have a little look at the wisdom of children's educator extraordinaire, Maggie Dent, too. She's rather brilliant on all of this.

<http://www.maggiedent.com/common-concerns>

While creative play, reading, music, sport and family participation help build those brain connections, guess how much brain connection passive game playing on devices adds?

Feel free to print this handout and pop it on the fridge as a go-to. In the meantime, have a wonderful year! **Ms B**