



St Benedict's Primary School

PO Box 59
NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604

Ph: 02 6295 8027
Email: Office.StBenedicts@cg.catholic.edu.au

7th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

St Benedict's Primary Mini Vinnies Program

Mini Vinnies is a social justice program of the St Vincent de Paul Society which exists in many primary schools. Mini Vinnies empowers primary school students to become advocates within their school and local community by putting their values into action. They meet regularly to learn about social justice issues, develop leadership skills and engage with the wider St Vincent de Paul Society.

The Mini Vinnies model of "See, Think, Do" is a great way to get young people thinking and talking about their spirituality and to connect their faith with issues affecting their community through volunteering, advocacy and fundraising. Not only do the students in Mini Vinnies benefit from the experience but also the school and wider community.

St Benedict's Primary will be opening this program to all year levels K-6. Due to some initiatives requiring a more mature understanding of social justice some initiative opportunities will only be available to the older grades.

Students in K-6 will have the opportunity to be involved in:

- Organising toiletry packs for the St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol Van
- Organising Winter Woolies Day to raise awareness of homelessness and collect donations for the Night Patrol and Street to Home Program
- A weekly lunchtime meeting, prayer as well as discussion about social justice issues, reflection on human dignity and fundraising planning
- Organising the Christmas Hamper appeal and packing hampers
- Contributing to the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese Mini Vinnies Little Book of Prayers
- Leading the end of year Giving Mass

Students in Years 4-6 will also have the opportunity to be involved in:

- The school Sleep Out

Students in Years 5-6 may also have the opportunity to be involved in:

- Homeless Connect Day
<https://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/homeless-connect-canberra>
- Mini Vinnies Student Conference (networking day across schools)
- Liaising with our Vinnies Parish Conference

To be a Mini Vinnie, we require commitment from students to attend weekly meetings, perform weekly duties during school, and to prepare and participate in initiatives (when appropriate). If you would like your child to be a part of this program please complete the attached permission form with your child and return to school by **Thursday 12th February**. Please note that some of the above initiatives will have separate permission forms when the time is appropriate (Sleep Out, Homeless Connect Day, Mini Vinnies Conference).

All Mini Vinnies will be formally commissioned at our school assembly Friday 21st February 2.30pm.

Kind regards,

Natalie Wright
Religious Education Coordinator
natalie.zarb@cg.catholic.edu.au



St Benedict's Primary School

PO Box 59
NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604

Ph: 02 6295 8027

Email: Office.StBenedicts@cg.catholic.edu.au

Mini Vinnies 2020 Permission Form

Parent to complete

I _____ (parent) give permission for my child _____

to be part of the St Benedict's Mini Vinnies Program. I have spoken to my child about the importance of the ongoing commitment to the program.

Signed _____ Date _____

Student to complete

I _____ (child's name) understand that being a Mini Vinnie is a commitment for the whole school year. I understand that I must attend weekly meetings, complete weekly in-school duties and help with initiative preparation.

Signed _____ Date _____

Class _____