

# Holy Spirit Primary School



## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Lent

On Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent.

We are called during this season of the Church to change, to reach out and to give help to others.

We are challenged to renew our lives and review our values: to prepare ourselves for Easter.

*Life giving God,  
may the ashes we receive remind us  
that you call us out of sin  
into the freedom and joy of life in Christ.  
During this Lent, grant us the grace to turn away from sin  
and receive your mercy and love.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

### Spell-a-thon

Our major fundraiser for the year will be a Spell-a-thon. Spell-a-thon lists and sponsor cards were sent home on Monday. Please encourage your family and friends to support the children in this.

The Spell-a-thon day is Friday March 14. Children who have returned their sponsorship money by 21<sup>st</sup> March will go in to a draw for a small prize. All children who have returned their sponsorship money by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March will receive a free zooper dooper ice block at lunch on this day. Finally for every \$5 collected children will be given a raffle ticket. The raffle will be drawn at our assembly in week 10. Good luck and start getting those sponsors!

### Electronic Devices

Children are not permitted to bring ipods, ipads etc to school. We have sufficient technology resources in the learning spaces for children to access. If children bring a mobile phone these are to be handed in to the school office each morning and collected each afternoon.

### Enrolments for Kindergarten 2015

If you have a child born between July 2009 and June 2010 they are eligible for kindergarten enrolment. Please collect enrolment forms from the school office or download from the school website. Please pass this information on to friends or family. There will be tours of the school next Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 9:30am and 10am.

**Term 1, Week 6**

**5 March 2014**

Prayer IT

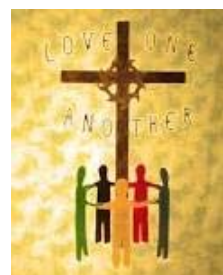
Dear God

Thank you for  
today and for  
each other.

Help me to be  
like Jesus and  
make good  
choices in  
work and play.

God bless my  
family and  
friends.

Amen



## Uniform

At our recent school committee meeting our school uniform was discussed. In the coming weeks Mrs Figuero and myself will do a spot check. Any child not in correct uniform will receive a note. I understand that some children have new non white joggers, I ask that as they need replacing that you choose a predominately white jogger.

## Trees

Following a recent inspection by a Penrith City Council representative, a number of trees require removal from the playground area. We plan to replace these trees with medium to tall shrubs.

Kind regards

Anne Hines  
Principal

# Learning Matters

Dear Parents,

There are many aspects of development that we focus on at school. These include, spiritual, academic and physical. But as far as the academic field, the importance of reading has always been of the utmost importance. Without the required reading and comprehension skills, a child will find it difficult to progress in any of the Key Learning Areas.

At Holy Spirit we continually encourage the students to improve their reading ability by READING, but one of the most significant influences on a child's reading and learning is YOU. Research has shown that the single most important thing that a parent can do to help their child learn language, prepare for school and instil a love of learning is to read to them. (Russ et al.,2007)

Reading helps develop the groundwork for language development. Being read to, builds language skills that are essential for later success in learning to read.

In addition to this, reading aloud to a child may do something even more important because you are developing a life-long love of learning and creating a bond between you and your child. Taking time to read to your child tells them that they are your priority and this is a special time together.

Try to choose books that are enjoyable to both of you. Reading books that you enjoyed as a child may bring back positive memories that you can share with your child. If you are excited about reading to your child, your child will be excited to listen, and the more you do it, the easier and more fun it will become. Soon it will be part of your daily routine and it will be the easiest and most fun way to prepare your child for future learning. The research is clear. Reading to your child can make learning and achieving at school easier. So why not take the opportunity to visit the Book Fair next week at school and buy a book to read to them. You will have fun and help them to learn at the same time!

Christine Figuero  
Assistant Principal

# Open Day

We will be holding an Open Day during Catholic School's Week. If you know of anyone who has a child starting Kindergarten in 2015 they may be interested in attending. The details are:

Date: Monday 10 March 2014  
Time: 9.30am and 10.00am

# Religious Matters

## Holy Week Reflections

The church season of Lent begins this Wednesday with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. In their Religious Education lessons throughout Lent, the children will be learning about the events which eventuated in Jesus' death on the cross. This learning will be further reflected on through a number of prayerful presentations surrounding the 'Last Journey of Jesus'.

The presentations will take place on Thursday afternoons at 2pm in the MPA during weeks 9, 10, and 11. The Holy Week Reflections are as follows...

**Week 9 Reflection, Yr 5 and Yr 4**

**Week 10 Reflection, Yr 3 and Yr 2**

**Week 11 Reflection, Yr 6**

Kindergarten and Yr 1 will present the joyful news of 'Easter : Christ risen and alive among us', when we return to school in Term 2.

**Kinder and Yr 1** Easter Celebration is as follows...

**Week 1, Term 2, Friday at 2:20pm in the MPA.**

This resurrection theme will then be taken back into the classrooms for our 3pm Augustinian Prayer.

You are very welcome to join us for these prayerful representations of Jesus' last days with his disciples.

## Lenten Prayer Group for Parents

This year the school is offering a 'Lenten Prayer Group' for parents. The program follows the 'Brisbane Lenten Program' which reflects on the Sunday Gospels for Lent and follows this with small group discussion and prayer.

It's still not too late to join us. Please contact the office if you'd like to be part of the group. We'll meet on Fridays during Lent, from 9:00am – 10:00am (approximately), in the room adjoining the library.

I hope you can join us!

Lorraine Alexander  
Religious Education Coordinator



# Spell-a-thon

This week every student received a sponsorship card and word list so now is the time to be collecting sponsors and learning the words.

The Spell-a-thon will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March and all money collected needs to be sent in to school by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March.



The Growers Club has produced an abundance of herbs. If you would like to purchase fresh, organic herbs at \$3 a bunch please send the money in an envelope with your child to be placed in the class message bag. Please address the envelope to Miss Brooker. Write clearly on the front your child's name and class and quantity of the herb you wish to order. They will be sent home with your child in the afternoon.

Herbs available now are:

\* Basil

\* Oregano

\* Sage

\* Thyme

# Administration

## Emergency Contacts

Your child's safety is important to us. We ask that if you arrange an alternative person to pick up your child, whom is not listed as an emergency contact, please provide the school office with a fax, letter or email advising that you give permission for your child to leave the school with that person.

## Illness

It is in the best interest of your child that they remain at home while they are sick. It is important to notify the school office if your child is unwell with an infectious disease and a medical certificate is required on return to school.

# Safety at School

As mentioned in a previous newsletter item, the safety of your children is of the utmost importance at Holy Spirit. There are a couple of points that need to be mentioned.

Firstly, some parents are using Moore Street as a Kiss'n'Ride area. In doing so the Bus Stop is sometimes blocked. This could lead to a penalty if the police were to patrol at that time. We only have one Kiss'n'Ride and that is located on Todd Row. Please use the correct area.

In the afternoons, parents are **NOT** allowed to park and leave their car to pick up children in the designated Kiss-n-Ride area. This stops the movement of cars in the queue as they wait for you to return to your car. The Kiss-n-Ride area is a drop off/pick up zone from 8.00am-9.30am and 2.30pm-4.00pm. Parents are to **REMAIN** in their car and children to enter from the kerbside.

Parents are asked not to use the parish driveway to complete a u-turn it is dangerous, as it blocks traffic coming in the opposite direction and there is always the chance of a child (not necessarily from our school) walking behind the vehicle.



Please follow the guidelines outlined by the school and keep safety, not convenience a priority.

## Canteen

The canteen will not be selling any meat products on Ash Wednesday or Fridays during Lent. A separate note has been sent home with your child with further details and additional items available. Normal canteen menu is available all week excluding meat items on Ash Wednesday and Fridays in Lent.



# Catholic Schools Week



The Holy Spirit 'Spell-a-thon' and Book Fair is only a week away!

## Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March

9:30am and 10:00am Open Day for new families

## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March

8:00am Book Fair opens for any student with a parent/grandparent

8:20am Book Fair opens for all students wanting to purchase books

9:15am-9:45am Spell-a-thon in classrooms

10:15am Catholic School's Week Mass K-6

11:20am-11:50am Morning Tea for Parents

12:00pm Whole School Assembly in MPA

### Grade Presentation

- Year 1
- Year 5
- Year 2
- Year 6
- Year 4
- Year 3
- Kinder

1:00pm – 1:20pm Open Classrooms - Parents may continue to shop at Book Fair

3:30pm Book Fair closes

# Grip Leadership Day

Last week our 4 school captains took part in a day for young leaders called 'GRIP Leadership' at Homebush with over 800 other young leaders from across NSW. It was a fantastic day and they were wonderful ambassadors for our school, participating fully in the leadership activities, learning about how to be a good leader and having fun! It was a pleasure and a privilege to accompany them.

Below are their responses to the day.

Donnalee Hughes  
Stage 3 Coordinator

I learnt so many things on the leadership day about integrity and being humble. I had so much fun and I can't wait to use the skills I learnt to make our school an even better place. Thank you for the great opportunity.  
Brooke

The conference was very exciting! I learnt many ways to become a '**berry**' good leader. A berry leader is like a strawberry, the same on the inside as the outside, the choices you make are who you really are. The opposite type of leader is a watermelon, the inside is very different to the outside. Markas

I learnt how to show initiative and be a friendly leader, I can use this advice in my life everyday. I now further understand the meaning of leadership. I will lead by example and be proactive. I also learnt to put others before myself at the GRIP leadership day. The 'loud noises' part of the day was a lot of fun! Cooper

I learnt a lot of things about being a good leader like being a '**berry**' leader, which means being yourself at all times instead of being a watermelon leader, which is not true to who you really are. Michaela



## School Committee 2014

*Congratulations to the following parents who have volunteered to be part of the School Committee for 2014.*

### **Executive Committee**

Michelle Parkes	Chairperson
Maryjane Johnson	Deputy Chairperson
Phyllis Stylianou	Secretary
Emma Carter	Assistant Secretary

### **Fundraising**

Jessica Aldag

### **Class Representatives/Delegates**

Belinda Charbel	KB	Katrina Sabelleil	3A
Paola Dicenso	KB	Natalie Gauci	3A
Emma Greczko	KS	Febe Guirguis	3H
Diana Niroshan	KS	Natalie Bradbury	3H
Agata Curley	1N	Sophie Fuser	4B
Georgette Hakim	1N	Marie Pedrol	4C
Nicole Brock	1T	Roslyn Smith	4C
Sharon Mingramm	2B/4B	Angela Campbell	6B/6H
Donna Vales	2B	Jane Ryan	6B/6H
Kellie Jorda	2C		



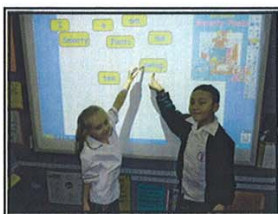
# Holy Spirit Primary School

Phone: 9670 5379 / 9670 5377  
Fax: 9834 3209



7-17 Todd Row, St Clair 2759  
Email: [holyspirit@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holyspirit@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au)

## Enrolments 2015



Enrolment packages for Kindergarten 2015 will be available from the school office from Monday, 3 March. All forms need to be returned by **Friday, 11 April 2014**.

Please ensure forms are filled out correctly, signed by both parents and returned with enrolment fee, original Birth, Baptism and Immunisation Certificates. If both parents are born outside Australia or the child was not born in Australia, we need to sight the Citizenship Certificate.

*If you would like an enrolment package sent home either for your child, or the child of a friend or relative, please complete the form below and return it to the school office as soon as possible.*

### 2015 ENROLMENT PACKAGE

Please send home an enrolment package for my child, friend or relative

Name of prospective student: \_\_\_\_\_

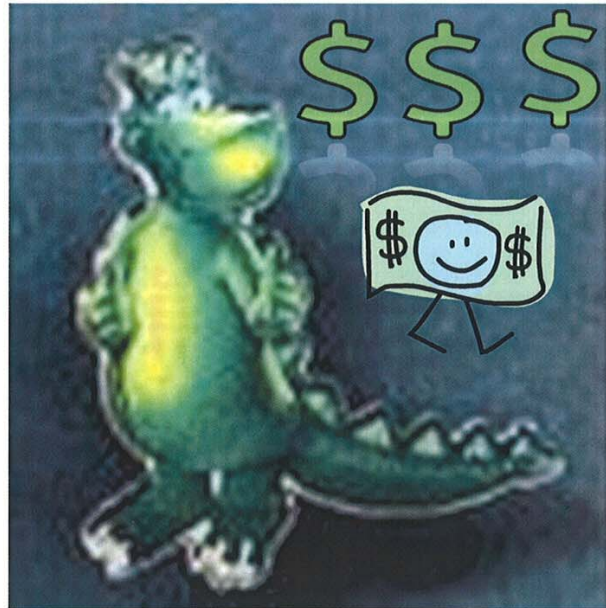
Contact details of family seeking enrolment: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send package home with: \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name)

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## WELCOME TO ST.GEORGE SCHOOL BANKING

My name is Eva Rizk, and I am your local St.George Branch Manager at the St Marys Branch. I am excited to welcome you to St. George Bank's school banking initiative with your school Holy Spirit Primary.



As parents, there is nothing more important than giving your children the best start in life. By opening a St.George bank account for your children, you will be giving them a great introduction to banking and the world of money and saving.

At St.George, we believe that by starting early we can teach, as well as educate children about the value of money, by managing it right, and providing a regular savings routine that can help children to achieve their financial goals.

Through our banking program we aim to encourage positive savings behaviours and, as your children grow into young adults, help prepare them to manage their finances.

School Banking will commence on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2014 and fortnightly on a Monday in the school term. Please ensure your child has their school banking ready for collection from the office area to be banked by the St.George Bank St Marys staff.



The accounts to choose from are as per below:

Our St.George Complete Freedom Student Account is specially designed for children as it offers:

- ^No monthly service fees until your child finishes studying
- ^Unlimited transactions
- Regular statements emailed or mailed to you

Our Savings Account designed for you to kick start your children's savings which offers

- ^No monthly service fees
- ^Competitive interest rate
- Regular statements emailed or mailed to you

Upon opening your child's St.George bank account/s your child will receive:

- \*Happy Little Dragon deposit book
- \*Happy Dragon money box
- \*Happy Dragon side bag
- \*St.George Pen

To open your Childs account please fill in the details below and return form to the school office.



Please tear the section below and drop in the box provided at the office:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_ Class Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardian Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No: \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_

Account Type: ☐ Student Account ☐ Savings Account OR ☐ Student Package

For further enquiries please contact one of our local expert Customer Service Specialists: Yvonne, Vanessa or Jo on 02 9833 6477.

Accounts must be opened in the student's name or held in trust. The advice in this letter is prepared without knowing your personal financial circumstances. Before you act on this or any advice, please consider if it is right for you. If you need help, please call 13 33 30. ^Refer to fees and charges and PDS upon request.\*Limit one per student.

# Community News

## **Emmaus Catholic College OPEN NIGHT Wednesday 12th March, 2014**

*Come at 4pm for 1<sup>st</sup> tour and then presentation at 6pm OR  
come at 6pm for presentation then 2<sup>nd</sup> tour at 6.30 pm*

*Students and families from Years 5 and 6 are particularly  
welcome.*

*Enrolment Applications for 2015 will be available that evening.*

*For further details, please contact Mrs Biermann at  
the College on 9670 4588*



*87-109 Bakers Lane, Kemps Creek*

A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage!

**Weekend date: 21 – 23 March at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW**

**Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or [wsharpe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsharpe@bigpond.net.au)**

**[www.wvme.org.au](http://www.wvme.org.au)**

**[www.facebook.com/WVMEasternUnit](http://www.facebook.com/WVMEasternUnit)**

## **UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS PENRITH OBSERVATORY**

### **FAMILY ASTRONOMY NIGHT Saturday, 8 March (8pm – 10pm)**

#### **Science from the World's Biggest Telescope: The Square Kilometre Array**

Dr Nick Seymour from CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science will discuss Australia's SKA Pathfinder, currently under construction in WA, and his work with it. He will further discuss the science to be done with the SKA in Australia and South Africa. The night will also include a 3D astronomy movie that will run for 15-20 minutes, a tour of the dome area and stargazing through various computerised telescopes. Our program will run regardless of the weather.

**Cost:** \$15 adult, \$10 child/concession and \$40 family.

**Bookings are essential:** Book and pay online: [www.uws.edu.au/observatory](http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory), What's On

**Enquiries:** Phone (02)4736 0135 or email [r.mccourt@uws.edu.au](mailto:r.mccourt@uws.edu.au)



[www.haroldwheen.com.au](http://www.haroldwheen.com.au)

### **We are taking enrolments for 2014-2015!**

**Harold Wheen Preschool**  
UnitingCare Children's Services

We are a community-based preschool in St Clair catering for children from 3-6 years of age.

We are open Monday to Friday, NSW School Terms  
8am to 4pm

#### **We offer:**

- \* Highly qualified staff in each of our rooms
- \* Reduced Fees for Health Care Card holders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families
- \* Quality educational program incorporating the Early Years Learning Framework

#### **Contact us on:**

**Call:** (02) 9834 1636 and ask for *Robyn* (Monday to Thursday)

**Email:** [accounts@haroldwheen.com.au](mailto:accounts@haroldwheen.com.au)

**Visit:** 165 Bennett Road, St Clair (parking directly behind St Clair Shopping Centre, Botany Lane)



Harold Wheen Preschool is an activity of St Clair Uniting Church

## Upcoming dates...

### **Wednesday 5 March**

Ash Wednesday  
Primary 11.30am  
Infants 12.00pm

### **Thursday 6 March**

Buddy Mass—Year 3 9am

### **Friday 7 March**

Whole School Assembly  
2.30pm

### **Monday 10 March**

Open Day for new  
families 9.30am & 10.00am

### **Thursday 13 March**

Yr 5 Incursion - Graffiti  
9.00-9.45am

Buddy Mass 4C & 1N 9am

### **Friday 14 March**

Catholic School's Week  
Mass 10.15am

Spell-a-thon & Book Fair

Augustinian Prayer 3pm

### **Monday 17 March**

Banking



### **7-17 Todd Row**

**ST CLAIR NSW 2759**

**Phone: 02 9670 5379**

**Fax: 02 9834 3209**

**E-mail:**

**[holyspirit@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holyspirit@parra.catholic.edu.au)**

**Web address:**

**[www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au)**