

Holy Spirit Primary School



From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

At a recent principal meeting data on school attendance was highlighted. At Holy Spirit this year we have recorded a staggering 2,101 absent days and 1,588 partial absences. Cumulative absences have been shown to severely impact on children's learning. Good practices such as packing the school bag the night before and early bedtime may assist in children being punctual to school. These small changes may have a very positive impact on children's learning and social behaviours.

Kind regards
Anne Hines
Principal

Term 2 concludes at 3:10pm on Friday 1st July. Term 3 begins on Monday July 18. All at Holy Spirit wish our families a happy and safe holiday.

Staff Update

Mrs Kyla Aggar continues to require medical treatment and will not return in term 3, we continue to keep Mrs Aggar in our prayers. We thank Miss Rebecca Perreira who will continue to teach year 5A for term 3.

Ms Corinne Brooker will take long service leave in term 3 from week 4 – week 10, we wish her safe travel. We thank Mrs Maryjane Johnson who will teach 5B during this time.

Miss Katrina Vukelic will represent our school and the Diocese at World Youth Day in Poland and will be on leave for weeks 1-3 of Term 3. We thank Mrs Karen Farrugia who will teach 2KV during this time.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Thank you to the parents and carers who made the time to attend our recent interviews. The valuable support and partnership you give to the school is appreciated.

Hair

A reminder of our school uniform policy:

- hair of collar length and longer, should be tied at the nape of the neck. Ribbons, scrunchies or headbands should be red/black/white
- children are not to colour their hair or to have streaks, foils etc. Radical or exaggerated haircuts and hair styles **are not permitted**.

The start of the Christmas holiday break is an opportune time for unusual cuts and styles and this allows for the style to grow out before school resumes

Talent Quest

There is a lunch time talent quest for the children on Friday July 1st at 1:30pm. Parents are welcome.

Term 2, Week 10

29 June 2016

Prayer 2CV

Dear Holy Spirit

*Give us hope,
strength and
power.*

*Help us to be like
you.*

*Your nature
gives us our life.*

*Help us to be-
lieve in you.*

*We will follow
your action and
words.*

*We hope to be
Holy.*

Amen

Social Justice

St Anthony's Picton was severely damaged by recent flooding. The students in year 2 wrote letters of comfort to the community and we sent a financial donation to let them know that we are thinking of them.

Mufti Day

Last day of term – Friday 1st July will be a mufti day. Children are asked to wear sensible play clothes and closed in shoes eg joggers. Please send a gold coin with your child. The money collected will go towards the purchase of gifts for our Father's day stall.

Writing

Please enjoy this great writing from our students:

As Altair looked over Maysaf's hidden door and its keys he realised that once the Templars (a group of holy knights) find them, he would have to flee forever.

When Altair left the castle he bumped into Abbas who said 'Out of the castle, are we?' Then Altair knocked Abbas out and hid the now limp body in a haystack before setting off.

*While Altair was walking through the market, a carrier pigeon arrived for him, it had a letter which read:
'Bad news Alt, the castle has been raided. Come back soon. Malik'*

*The news hit Altair like a dull blow to the stomach. He was back at the castle in a day. His thoughts had been confirmed the Maysaf's keys had been stolen..... **Jude Year 6***

*I like being at my school. I want to reach out to my friends so that they will know that I am a Jesus person. I want to give comfort to them when they are sad. I want to play safely so we are all happy. I want to be a polite person who uses kind words so I can make all of my friends happy. I can help my friends by saying kind words. My friends are incredible. My friends use kind words to me and I am happy. **Emily Year 1***

Chess

At our recent school committee meeting there was a suggestion regarding Chess. We have been fortunate to register two Stage 3 teams to compete in the Penrith RSL tournament early next term.

If there is a parent or grandparent who is able to play chess to support a Chess Club here at Holy Spirit please let the school office know. Thank you.

Assistant Principal

Just a brief message about Early Bird Reading: Children who attended as either Readers or Tutors for a minimum of ten visits over the term will receive a certificate by the end of the week. Thank you to all who attended as Readers and Tutors. Early Bird Reading will begin again in Week 2 of Term 3.

It was during these mornings when I would hear and see students being courteous to one another that made me think about the responsibility of teaching children basic manners and how to interact in a socially acceptable way.

In an article questioning whose job it was to teach children manners, Dennis Sleigh, discusses the fact that teachers already teach manners in their classrooms everyday.

He states:

"Most teachers recognise that if their pupils are going to move smoothly through the education system, and then gain employment, some social skills are essential. This is part of the hidden curriculum of our society, and I think most of us recognise that those deficient in such skills often fail to progress as far as they might like."

Whose Job is it, anyway?" Dennis Sleigh

Of course schools are not the only place in where manners and values are taught but schools do have their role to play. In many ways it is an expectation. The Catholic school has the added role of teaching and modelling Christ-like values. This is reflected in every aspect of our teaching. These values are not only treated in our Religious Education lessons but in other Key Learning Areas as well as our daily interactions with each other, the children and the wider community.

The school nurtures the development of Christ-like values, manners and common courtesies in incidental ways. It is because of our commitment to our faith and our love of the children in our care that this happens. (Sleigh, D. 2016, Term 2, "Whose job is it, anyway?" Education Today. Volume 16, pages 18 -20).

Christine Figuero
Assistant Principal

Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has a vision for the church, he refers to it as, '*The Church of Mercy*' and his hope is that it becomes a healing force in the world simply by communicating and demonstrating the mercy of God. We have been told often enough that, '***we are the church***', so then, what is our responsibility? What does mercy look like? How do we show the face of mercy in a world desperately in need? The following is an excerpt from an article by Vanita Wright who writes for the digital journal, 'National Catholic Reporter'.

'As I move through my day, how will I live mercifully? What words and actions will express to others around me the mercy that Francis is talking about? My mercy may not show in grand gestures, but perhaps I can consider the following: Mercy gives you his seat on the bus, acting as if he was about to get up anyway rather than making you feel that he is doing you a favour. Mercy does not let out that sigh -- you know the one -- the wordless disapproval toward the person in the check-out line ahead of you whose card didn't swipe, or whose toddler is having a meltdown. Mercy offers quiet sympathy and does not convey with her body language that this holdup is ruining her day. Sometimes mercy chooses not to send back the food that isn't just right, simply because the waitress looks overwhelmed. When mercy has been wronged, the offended one does not make it difficult for the offender to apologise or ask forgiveness. In fact, mercy does not wait for the other's action but forgives so quickly that the person needing forgiveness is freer to ask for it. Likewise, at work, at home or in the classroom, mercy creates an atmosphere in which a person feels safe enough to admit his mistake or ask a question. Mercy makes a habit of giving others the benefit of the doubt.'

There's more to this insightful article, but I might leave that for our next newsletter, in the interim, I hope that the words above touch you as they have me, and serve to remind us all that *we are the church*, and that makes us... God's face of mercy to the world.

Lorraine Alexander
Religious Education Coordinator

Administration

Private Strings Lessons

Payment for Term 3 Private Strings Lessons are now due.

If you ***do not*** wish your child to continue with the Private Strings Lessons program, please notify us in writing as soon as possible.

Please note if payment is not received by Week 3 of Term 3, your child will not be able to participate in the program until payment is received.

Congratulations to our First Communicants

Recently, many of our students received their First Holy Communion. It is, no doubt, an exciting day where best dress and after-party occupy a large part of their thinking, but over and above all that is the awareness that on this special occasion they grow in intimacy with Christ. This sacrament is an important milestone in the lives of children and an encounter with Christ that affects their development in faith. Here's what some of our students had to say about their experience:

"I feel more like a Jesus person since making my First Holy Communion, it's made me feel much closer to Jesus" (Ellie 4B).

"I felt really happy to receive the Body and Blood of Christ and I look forward to receiving Jesus each time I go to Mass now" (Sienna 4B).

"Since making my First Holy Communion I feel more connected to the other people at Mass and to Jesus" (Damon 4S).

We thank God for the special graces that come with the reception of the sacraments and keep our stage three students in our prayers as they now prepare for Confirmation.

Lorraine Alexander
Religious Education Coordinator



Parish Information

First Reconciliation

If your child has been Baptised and you wish to continue their Sacramental Journey, we would like to invite you to an Information Meeting on Monday 25th July at 9:30am or Wednesday 27th July at 7:30pm. The meeting will be at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 5 Todd Row, St Clair.

We have changed the timing of sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation this year. Previously, we have the preparation at the beginning of Term 1 of Year 4. The new program is offered to children in Year 3 and above.

Sacrament of Confirmation

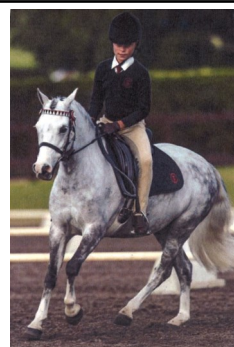
If your child has been Baptised and has received First Eucharist and you wish to continue their Sacramental Journey, we would like to invite you to an Information Meeting on Tuesday 9th August at 9.30am or Wednesday 10th August at 7.30pm. The meeting will be at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 5 Todd Row, St Clair.

This program is ideally for children in Year 5 and above.

Last Thursday to Sunday Holly and her pony Skipper, competed at the NSW State Interschools Equestrian event, representing Holy Spirit School.

Overall Holly was placed 7th out of a huge 27 competitors!

Congratulations Holly and Skipper on this wonderful achievement.



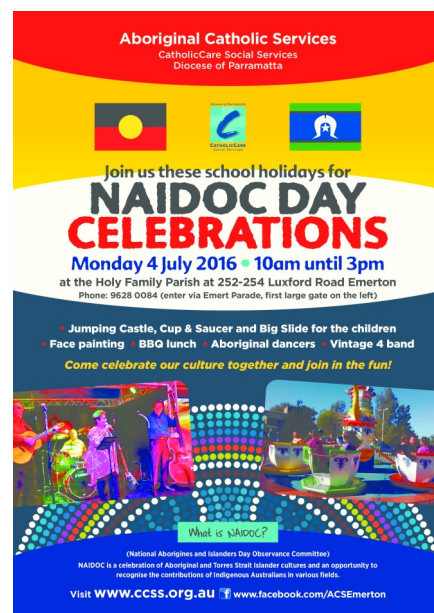
Community News



Holy Spirit Parish
BINGO NIGHT
SAT, 30 JULY 2016, 7.30PM
at Holy Spirit School Hall
COME WITH FAMILY + FRIENDS
10 ROUNDS + 1 BUMPER ROUND
Sausage Sizzle + Soft Drinks on Sale
Free tea, coffee + biscuits
Donations welcome
Organised by the Community and Cultural Commission



Join Us!
family TRIVIA
Sat 9th July 2016, 2pm
Holy Spirit Parish
Entry Donation: \$5 per family
Free sausage sizzle after the event
Bring a FRIEND, a GRANDPARENT
GREAT PRIZES!!!



Aboriginal Catholic Services
CatholicCare Social Services
Diocese of Parramatta

Join us these school holidays for
NAIDOC DAY CELEBRATIONS
Monday 4 July 2016 • 10am until 3pm
at the Holy Family Parish at 252-254 Luxford Road Emerton
Phone: 9628 0084 (enter via Emert Parade, first large gate on the left)

- Jumping Castle, Cup & Saucer and Big Slide for the children
- Face painting • BBQ lunch • Aboriginal dancers • Vintage 4 band

Come celebrate our culture together and join in the fun!

What is NAIDOC?
(National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee)
NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields.

Visit WWW.CCSS.ORG.AU / www.facebook.com/ACSEmerton

WYD Pilgrim Commissioning Mass

Next month, 315 young people from our Diocese will depart on pilgrimage for World Youth Day in Poland with Pope Francis. Everyone is invited to the WYD Pilgrim Commissioning Mass with Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv on Sunday 3 July at 6pm in St Patrick's Cathedral.

Upcoming dates...

Thursday 30 June
Stage 2 Boys Soccer Gala Day -
Jamison Park

Friday 1 July
Last day of Term 2

Year 5 Bathurst Incursion

Mufti Day - Gold coin donation

Uniform Shop Closed

Talent Quest - Lunchtime (1:30pm)

Term 3 Resumes
Monday 18 July

We wish all our families a safe break.



NOW AUDITIONING!

NEPEAN VALLEY VOICES CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Auditions are being held to recruit talented children to join Western Sydney's exciting new Children's choir.

CALL OUT TO STUDENTS IN GRADE 2 - 8.

Nepean Valley Voices Children's Choir is Western Sydney's leading vocal program, offering students expert specialised training including classroom music, expert vocal coaching, choral training and performance opportunities. It provides children with the skills to develop in all technical aspects of music and singing, while in a fun and social environment.

The Nepean Valley Voices Children's Choir has the opportunity to perform at many prestigious events, presenting the unique opportunity to gain vital performance experience.

The program is held once per week on Friday from 3:45pm to 4:45pm.

Please be aware that extra rehearsals may be required for certain performing events.

It is expected that students who are accepted into the choir commit to these rehearsals and to the performances throughout the year.

AUDITION DETAILS

WHEN: Saturday July 2nd, 2016.

TIME: Book online at www.nepeanvalleyvoices.com.au/book-audition

WHERE: The Music House, Higgins St, Penrith.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS: Students are required to sing a 2 minute song unaccompanied that shows vocal range. Students will then be given some pitch and rhythm tests.

If you are accepted into the choir you will be sent an information package with enrolment fees, start date and further details. If you have any further questions please contact the Director on 0414363598 or email nvch@info.com.au.

Visit www.nepeanvalleyvoices.com.au for more information.

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