

# Holy Spirit Primary School



## From the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Increasing the vocabulary of our students is a focus at Holy Spirit this year. This is evidence by our wonderful 'Write-a-thon', an increased focus in the classroom, our word of the week (for infants and primary) and professional learning for teachers.

Research suggests that vocabulary is enormously important to children's development, especially in reading and writing. Children also learn new words through reading independently. Children who read more tend to have richer vocabularies. When we engage students in motivational activities to encourage reading, we are simultaneously improving their vocabularies. I have often written about the importance of reading and continue to encourage reading to improve many literacy-based skills.

We want children to notice and learn new words when they encounter them. There are many ways to draw children's attention to and interest in words around them. Playing with words through games, songs, and humour can be powerful. Simply encouraging children to recognise when they have encountered new words, and to notice special characteristics of words or similarities to other words will also raise word consciousness.

Teachers are continually trying to inspire the children so that learning new vocabulary is a fun experience. Thank you to our parents and family members who came to visit our shoe gallery which motivated many exciting stories and even assisted their children to add interesting words to the display and thank you for supporting the children in the Write-a-thon.

Christine Figuero  
Assistant Principal

### Write-a-thon

Our students completed the Write-a-thon last week. We reminder students to collect and return their sponsor cards as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support.

### Uniform

Just a reminder to parents that students must be in full winter uniform. This include the correct school jacket or jumper, plain black jackets and/or jumpers are not allowed.

School hats are to be worn to and from school and during recess and lunch.

Term 2, Week 6

1 June 2016

## Prayer 1T

*Dear God*

We thank you  
for all you give  
us each day.

We thank you  
for the Police,  
Firefighters and  
Ambulance  
people, who  
work hard to  
protect us.

Keep them safe  
as they do their  
important  
work each day.

Amen



# Religious Matters

## Reflection on the Year of Mercy

God is known to be a God of mercy and grace. Understanding mercy is often difficult for us as we tend to be a generation of, "I'll get him for that", or "I hope they get what they deserve." Many of us have developed a nature of harsh criticism and want others to get what they have coming to them, and then some!"

God, however, is merciful and has compassion for sinners. This means that even though he knows our guilt, he relents from issuing the punishment we deserve and provides a way for our sins to be forgiven through Christ Jesus.

We look to the Bible and perceive God's tender mercy through St Paul's letter to the Romans, 'For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins' (Romans 3:23-24).

In this Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, let us grow in mercy towards others and show Christ's face to the world.

## First Eucharist Candidates

We have a number of children in our school who are coming to the end of their preparation for First Eucharist. This is an exciting time for the children and an important milestone in their journey of faith. We pray that this Holy Communion will increase their love for God and for their neighbour, and that through the grace that this sacrament confers, they will continue to open their hearts and minds to their loving God who gifts them for the service of others.

Our first group of candidates will receive First Eucharist at the parish Masses this weekend.

Lorraine Alexander  
Religious Education Coordinator

# Administration

## Safety at School

The safety of your children is of the upmost importance at Holy Spirit. Please remember the following:

- 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.
- Parking in the parish carpark is **NOT** permitted. Also please do not walk your child through the carpark in the morning or afternoon.

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

## Early Departure/Late Arrivals

If your child arrives late to school a parent must accompany them to the office to sign an absence note.

Children leaving school early must be collected from the school office by an adult. Please understand that we are not able to allow a child to go home with someone unless we have had written permission.

All absences including late/early absences are recorded on the roll.

As the whole class learning time is disrupted when children arrive late or leave early, it is important that this situation is avoided. Where possible appointments should be made outside of school hours.



## BUILDING CHILD SAFE COMMUNITIES – NEW FORMS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

'Building Child Safe Communities' is a new initiative developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care. It is now a requirement that all volunteers complete an online undertaking form that confirms expectations in relation to behaviour whilst volunteering at schools. This undertaking form also seeks to determine the suitability of volunteers by requiring them to declare that they do not have a criminal history involving children.

- **Volunteers** – please click on '[Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking for Volunteers](#)' or access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).


Then click on '[Volunteer Form](#)' (halfway down page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.

We thank all volunteers for their continued support of Catholic Education.

# Community News

**HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**  
**invites you to a talk on**



**THE JOY AND BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE:**  
**A Brief Journey Through Pope Francis'**  
**Apostolic Exhortation**  
***Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love)**

**Speaker: MADELEINE VELLA**

**on Monday 6 June 2016, 7.30pm**  
**Pioneers Room, Holy Spirit Catholic Church**

**No cost to attend. Coffee and Tea provided.**

Madeline was born and raised in Orchard Hills. She fell in love with the teachings of Saint John Paul II and later on inspired to be a missionary after attending the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. After discovering how beautiful human love and sexuality really is, she felt deeply called to spread this message and has made it her life mission to inspire young people to embrace the call to be authentic men and women.

Madeline is currently helping to establish The Culture Project International in Sydney. It seeks to restore our culture through an experience of virtue, inviting our culture to become fully alive. She recently started a full-time teaching position at Montgrove College.

**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
**EMMAUS WYD FUNDRAISER**

Friday 24 June 2016 6 - 9.30pm

Trinity Catholic Primary School Hall  
61-83 Bakers Lane Kemp's Creek

\$15 per person | \$120 per table of 8  
BBQ available | BYO snacks | Great prizes

For further information and bookings  
contact Emmaus College on 9670 4588



## Upcoming dates...

**Thursday 2 June**  
Buddy Mass Year 3

Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala  
Day - Jamison Park

**Friday 3 June**  
School Assembly 2:30pm

**Tuesday 7 June**  
Early Bird Reading

6H Reconciliation

**Wednesday 8 June**  
Early Bird Reading

Parent Scripture Meditation

6W Reconciliation

**Thursday 9 June**  
Buddy Mass KB & 6W

**Friday 10 June**  
Primary Athletics Carnival

Parent Afternoon Tea  
Augustinian Prayer

**Monday 13 June**  
Public Holiday—No school

**Tuesday 14 June**  
Early Bird Reading

**Wednesday 15 June**  
Early Bird Reading

Parent Scripture Meditation

**Please check our  
Parent noticeboard  
in the MPA for  
upcoming events.**

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