

Holy Spirit Primary School



From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 3, I hope you had an enjoyable holiday break. A young child asked her dad how much he earned an hour. The dad replied that he was the executive of a big company and that he earned \$200 an hour. The little girl went away and two weeks later she went up to her dad with a fist full of coins. She gave these to her dad. When he asked what it was for she said she hoped it would be enough for him to give her an hour of his time!

In a recent article Dr Tim Hawkes spoke about the following tips for families:

'Time is probably the greatest currency we use as evidence of our love for our children. Giving them time in an age when time is often at a premium – you've got to make it precious, quality time. There's a great temptation particularly in teenage years, for parents to back off and that is tragic because that is a time when parents are needed more than ever. Some research is saying that meaningful interaction between parents and their children can be measured in seconds a day. And yet that same child is spending hours on the net. You could legitimately ask who is raising the child'.
(The Daily Telegraph, July 9, 2016)

Kind regards
Anne Hines
Principal

Government Grant for Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit has been successful in our application for funding for specialised gymnastic tuition for years 3 – 6. This will take place this semester.

Parent Writing Workshop

On Wednesday 3rd August there will be a 'writing workshop' for parents. This will be held in the library from 2:15pm – 3:00pm and facilitated by Mrs Julianne Green.

Coffee and Chat

On Monday 8th August parents and carers with children in Kindergarten, year 1 and year 2 are welcome to join Mrs Hines for a 'coffee and chat' in the MPA at 9am following morning assembly.

Social Justice

St Vincent De Paul is in need of the following new items: tooth brushes, tooth Paste, deodorant, socks. If you are able to assist please leave at the school office. Thank you.

Year 2 Movie Night

Just a reminder that Year 2 are hosting a Hoyts Fundraiser Movie night to see 'Bad Moms' on Thursday 11 August at Hoyts Penrith. Tickets need to be purchased by Friday 29 July. Please support this fundraiser.

Term 3, Week 2

27 July 2016

Prayer 3G

Dear Lord

Help us to be as
faithful as Mary,
when she said yes to
God.

Help us to be as
strong as Mary to
make good decisions
so that we are on the
right path to you.

Help us to be as kind
and caring as Mary
as she was to her
cousin Elizabeth.

Help us to be as
brave as Mary so
that we never give
up.

Amen

**Friday, 5 August will be
Census Day for our
School.**

If your child is absent on this day a letter explaining their absence **MUST** be sent to their class teacher upon their return.

Writing

Congratulations to Ellie, Year 6 on gaining second place in a recent poetry competition.

I See RED

*Sometimes I look down and remember,
Even though I don't want to, I do.
I hold my Poppy, hold it for a while and think.
Think of the time I accepted the request to go to war.
Palms shaky, though I pulled the trigger.
They see red.
Think of the time we place down landmines.
Head pounding with pain, though I threw the grenade.
They see red.
Think of the day in the hospital bed I lay, before going back home.
Coughing and wheezing, I stopped breathing.
I see red.*

Extra Curricular Activities at Holy Spirit include:

Chess: Between two and four teams compete in the Penrith RSL chess tournament in term 3. The children each play 7 games against students from the surrounding area.

Strings: Students in Years 3-6 at Holy Spirit have the opportunity to participate in the 'strings program'. Currently there is tuition for the violin, viola and cello.

Guitar: The guitar club operates at lunch time on Fridays with Mr Green - (Students in Years 3 - 6.)

Public Speaking: Our year 6 students annually compete in the Diocesan 'Voice of Youth' competition. Students compete at cluster level and if successful compete at diocesan level.

Electives: Students in years 1, 5 and 6 participate in an electives program. They choose from a variety of activities including yoga, cooking, table tennis, sewing, hairdressing and technology. Parents and carers assist with the success of this program.

Choir: Mrs Green oversees the school choir with students from grades 2-6. The choir performs at our assemblies, school liturgies and whole school Masses.

Gardening: Students help Ms Brooker with our vegetable gardens. Visitors to our school often comment on our lawns and gardens which are a credit to our maintenance man Mr Follan and Ms Brooker.

Sport: Holy Spirit has been successful in our application for funding for specialised gymnastic tuition for years 3 – 6 in 2016. This will take place in the second semester. We continue to represent teams at sport gala days including soccer, netball and touch football.

Maths and English Competitions: Each year students in years 3-6 are invited to participate in these university competitions.

Social Justice: The students at Holy Spirit regularly engage in outreach to St Vincent De Paul, Project Compassion and Catholic Mission. This is done through donations of money, hampers and required items (e.g. socks during winter).

Operation Art: Each year classes prepare art work for this competition. Holy Spirit has been successful in the past with our art being displayed in the Olympic Park precinct.

School Committee

Funds raised from our school committee have enabled the purchase of over \$4000 worth of new bench seating around the playground. Thank you.

Below is the roster for term 3 for committee representatives to 'host' the cup of tea for all parents and carers before 'Augustinian Prayer'.

Term 3:

Week 1	Year 3
Week 3	Year 4
Week 5	Year 5
Week 7	Year 6
Week 9	Kindergarten

Staff Development Day

A Staff Development Day will be held on Friday 23rd September. This is a pupil free day, there will be no classes for students on this day.



Chess

As part of our EXTRA-CURRICULAR activities our two Stage 3 teams competed in the Penrith RSL chess tournament last Tuesday. The children each played 7 games.

It was an enjoyable day for the children with some wins, losses and draws.

Well Done Holy Spirit!



Farewell and Best Wishes

Mrs Cheryl Bolton our finance secretary will be moving to St Monica's school at Richmond. Cheryl's last day is Friday 5th August. We thank Cheryl for her time here at Holy Spirit and wish her well in her new school.

Mrs Karen Dillon will replace Cheryl. Karen will begin here on Monday 8th August.

Assistant Principal

Our maths goal this year is centred on developing the children's understanding of multiplication and division. The term that describes this understanding is 'multiplicative thinking'. Our aim is to develop a deeper understanding around what multiplication and division is, and how to use multiplicative thinking to solve open-ended maths problems.

In order to do this, our staff has engaged in professional learning to deepen our own understanding. This includes staff meetings, professional learning days (outside of school) as well as professional reading. Chris Hurst from Curtin University has written an article about multiplicative thinking. He explains that multiplication and division are sometimes taught as separate entities, whereas the "multiplicative situation" is rich in connections and links.

One of the critical elements that Chris Hurst discusses is the need to develop a deep understanding of multiplicative arrays. An array, is the arrangement of objects, pictures, or numbers in columns and rows. This array shows 3×5 . There are 3 groups, with five in each group.



We can also look at factors and multiples as well as area and fractions. The use of correct language and concrete materials helps the children to make connections before they are introduced to the symbols used for multiplication and division.

Hurst concludes by stating that this conceptual development takes place over time and requires a whole school approach beginning in Kindergarten. The use of the array assists children to make connections and links. Today we heard from some year 2 parents whose children are able to use arrays during their mathematics lessons to help them solve problems and are able to recognise arrays in their environment. They have taught their parents what an array is! Well done Year 2.

Christine Figuero
Assistant Principal

Parish Information

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.

Reflection of Year of Mercy

In our last newsletter I referred to an article by Vanita Wright who authors the digital Magazine 'National Catholic Reporter'. She was reflecting on what Mercy might look like in the everyday. In what follows, she speaks about Mercy in the context of 'power'.

'I was at a conference recently, and it was interesting to observe how the well-known, powerful people wore their power, how they responded to others' admiration, how they spoke to those who were not so well-known or admired. Some used their power to make room for others and invite their voices; others used their power to dominate the space and the conversation.'

'In my own work, I have achieved a certain level of expertise and others' respect. When I sit in a room with colleagues, they feel the weight of my opinions. With a sentence or a glance, I can crush or I can encourage. I can open up the conversation or shut it down.'

'Most of my sins involve failure at mercy. Whether through my unhelpful opinion of someone, my silent sentences that criticize him, my words grinding away in the privacy of a moving car, my neglect to help, or my refusal to notice when help is needed -- each failure of mercy denies the community a bit of healing that might have happened.'

We may not wield the power of a corporate executive, but we each hold power in our own circumstances, perhaps it comes with position in our employment, or club, or family. In all these circumstances, authentic mercy treats power as a sacred trust. I can be merciful because I have some sort of power... the means to affect another's life, if only for a moment.

We pray for the insight to act mercifully in exercising our power... to do kindness in our families, our workplaces, our world.

Lorraine Alexander
Religious Education Coordinator

Mercy Cross coming to Holy Spirit

To further commemorate the Year of Mercy, we will have the opportunity to host the 'Mercy Cross'. This cross, which has been specially made for our diocese will make its way to each Catholic school and parish in Parramatta so that students and the wider community will have an opportunity to worship and reflect on what it means to be... 'merciful like the Father' (Luke 6:36).

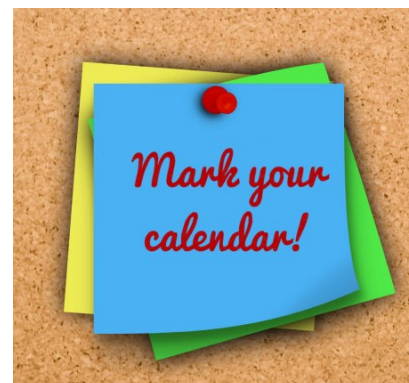
Our school will host the Mercy Cross. We will provide more details as the time draws near.

Kiss-n-Ride

Just a reminder to parents that Kiss-n-Ride finishes at 3.30pm. All students need to be picked up by this time. We understand on the odd occasion that parents/carers may be delayed, if so please contact the school office.

What's Happening at Holy Spirit....

<i>Thursday 28 July</i>	<i>Buddy Mass 2CV & 5B - 9:00am in Parish</i>
<i>Friday 29 July</i>	<i>School Assembly 2:30pm in MPA</i>
<i>Tuesday 2 August</i>	<i>Early Bird Reading - 8:30am in MPA ICAS English Competition 5B Reconciliation - 11:30am in Parish</i>
<i>Wednesday 3 August</i>	<i>Early Bird Reading - 8:30am in MPA Parent Scripture Meditation - 8:50am 5P Reconciliation - 11:30am in Parish</i>
<i>Friday 5 August</i>	<i>Census Parent Afternoon Tea - 2:30pm in MPA Augustinian Prayer - 3:00pm in your child's classroom</i>
<i>Monday 8 August</i>	<i>Coffee and Chat with Mrs Hines (Kinder, Year 1 & Year 2) - 9am</i>
<i>Tuesday 9 August</i>	<i>Early Bird Reading - 8:30am in MPA Confirmation Information Meeting - 9:30am in the Parish</i>
<i>Wednesday 10 August</i>	<i>Early Bird Reading - 8:30am in MPA Parent Scripture Meditation - 8:50am Confirmation Information Meeting - 7:30pm in the Parish</i>



PLEASE NOTE:

**FRIDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER WILL BE A STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY -
NO CLASSES ON THIS DAY.**

Administration

Absences

Parents if your child is absent from school it is important to send in a note with the child upon their return, explaining their absence. Our Skoolbag app has been improved and is a convenient way to send through absentee notes.

On a monthly basis we issue letters to parents who have outstanding unexplained absences. These letters must be completed and return with your child.

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.

Premier Reading Challenge

Just a reminder if your child is participating in the Premier Reading Challenge their reading logs are due to be entered online by 19th August.

Community News



Junior Indoor Netball

THE BEST COMPETITION IN THE WEST!

STARTING Thursday 15th September 2016

- Times from 4:30, 5:00, 5:30 & 6pm (3 x 9 min thirds)
- 7 A SIDE
- U/8-U/14's- Boys and Girls (play together)
- \$7 per game per child
- Individuals and teams welcome!

ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS: NOW!

LADIES 6 A SIDE DAYTIME NETBALL

- FRIDAYS from 10am (2 x 14 min halves)
- \$10 rego, \$10 per game. (Individuals and teams welcome)

Where to Find Us:

20 Forthorn Place www.stmarysindoorsports.com.au
 St Marys NSW 2760 info@stmarysindoorsports.com.au
 PH: 9623 5523 or 0406 237 779

Rego:
\$10 per child

Rego:
\$10 per Player

CATHOLIC CARE SOCIAL SERVICES DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA PRESENTS

Faith in Marriage

SEMINAR 2016



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SOPHIE YORK
 Barrister and Spokeswoman for Marriage Alliance,
 will speak on the Topic of
'the Beauty & Joy of Marriage'

SPEAKER: BEN SMITH
 Director of the Family and Life Office will speak on
*'the Pope Francis apostolic exhortation
 The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)'*



FRIDAY 26 AUGUST

St Paul the Apostle Parish, 40 Buckleys Rd, Winston Hills.
 Commencing at 7.30pm and concluding with a light supper.

Register attendance by
 emailing marriage@ccss.org.au or
 phone Lyn (02) 8822 2222




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: 23-25 September at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings online at nswbookings@wwme.org.au or Bill and Ardell Sharpe on 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au



Junior Indoor Soccer

THE BEST COMPETITION IN THE WEST

STARTING MONDAY 5th September 2016

- Times from 4:20, 4:45, 5:10, 5:35 and 6pm
- Mon: U6-8's Tues: U9-12's, Wed: U13-16'S
- 5 A SIDE
- U/6- U/16- Boys and Girls (Play Together)
- \$7 per game per child
- Individuals and teams welcome!
- Rego includes a Playing shirt and shorts

ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS: NOW!

Where to Find Us:

20 Forthorn Place www.stmarysindoorsports.com.au
 St Marys NSW 2760 info@stmarysindoorsports.com.au
 PH: 9623 5523 or 0406 237 779

Junior Indoor Soccer
\$65 per Child




HAWKS

ST CLAIR CRICKET CLUB

Play Cricket!

2016/17 Season Approaching Fast!

Fun, exciting games for ages 5 through to Adult. Maximum participation for all players is encouraged through modified game formats.

Milo Program for 5 to 8 year olds teaches basic skills, run during the week for 10 weeks, Oct to Dec.

All other ages (from 6 to 15 years old) play on a Saturday morning. Girls are most welcome.

Competition begins mid-September.

Men's competition also available on Saturday afternoons.

Registration Dates

10am – 2pm

St Clair Shopping Centre

31st July, 7th and 14th August

For more information

Web : stclairhawks.nsw.cricket.com.au

Email : stclairhawks@gmail.com

Ph : 0411 485 357 Facebook – www.facebook.com/stclairhawks

7-17 Todd Row
ST CLAIR NSW 2759
Phone: 02 9670 5379
Fax: 02 9834 3209
E-mail:
holyspirit@parra.catholic.edu.au
Web address:
www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au