Holy Spirit Primary School

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

At our recent Kindergarten orientation parent meeting I shared the following story from the parent helpline:

Children need a soft place to fall

As adults, we often get so caught up in our own lives that it's easy to forget the struggles that children face in their daily lives. Whilst we are managing multiple needs, relationships, finances, housework, work and extended family issues, it can be hard to appreciate that a child's world is complex at times as well.

Many times we get to the school gate or the bus stop to pick up our child and we are hurried and stressed, thinking about all we have to do when we get home. We often miss the opportunity of being present in the moment and the non- verbal and verbal cues that children give us about how they are feeling, what their day is like and what they might need from us.

At the end of the day when we greet them there might be a lot of things that our children are trying to process. They might be confused by how a friend has behaved, or worried that they won't get selected for a team they want to play in. They might have a happy moment that they also want to share with us, as the most important people in their world. The list is endless.

Many times children are greeted at the school gate, asked lots of questions, whisked away to an after school activity, followed by a rushed dinner, homework and bedtime. Increasingly, families have busier timetables and multiple commitments.

What a nice welcome it is for a child to walk to the school gate to be greeted by a parent or carer who was happy to see them, interested in them and present. Children often need to reconnect with their parent and receive some comfort after being at school for a long day. This might only take a few minutes, eye contact, a soft face, warm words, a tender touch and focus on what the child is telling you with both the tone and content of their words and also their actions.

Kind regards
Anne Hines
Principal

Reports

Children will receive their annual school report on Thursday 11th December.

Parent Morning Tea

All parents and carers are warmly invited to morning tea on Thursday, 4th December following our whole school Advent Mass.

Term 4, Week 8

26 November 2014

Prayer School Leaders

Dear God,

Please help us to take care of each other as we prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Bless the Year 6 students as we prepare for the journey of graduating from Holy Spirit.

Thank you God for the times we have shared at this great school.

We ask you to continue to guide us in high school and in our future.

Amen

New Enrolment Policy and Procedures

In September 2014, a new enrolment policy and procedures were approved for use by Catholic systemic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta.

What has changed?

Under the previous enrolment policy, Catholic families were asked to enroll their child/ren in their local parish or 'feeder' school. Recognising the changing nature of work and family life, the new policy allows Catholic families greater choice, by removing the concept of feeder parishes and schools.

Catholic families may now apply for enrolment in a Catholic school anywhere in the Diocese.

Where places are limited, priority will be given in order to:

- Catholic children who live in the local parish
- Catholic children from other parishes
- Children of families who actively participate in the life of the school and local parish community (e.g. siblings)
- Orthodox children
- Children from other Christian faiths
- Children of non-Christian faiths

Student Work

Melinda

One early morning as the sun was rising and the fog started to lift, a little girl sat in an old tree, but she was not just any girl, she was a fairy. Her name was Melinda. She loved dancing with her delicate wings. She went so high she could touch the sky.

Thump! Thump! She heard as she came down from the sky. She saw something big! Something powerful! She saw a huge army of strong machines. They were going to destroy her home.

By Mia B Year 2

Learning Matters

Dear Parents,

The end of the year is fast approaching. It's a busy time for all, organising Christmas and the holiday break. We all need a rest, including the children. They have worked hard throughout the year and as the end of term comes to an end they too get very tired. Teachers find that after the long Christmas break that sometimes the children will fall back a little with their reading. There is a strong emphasis on reading at Holy Spirit and it would be a great idea if the practice of reading was to continue during the break.

You might be really lucky and have a child who loves to read, and will do so without any reminders from you. But if you don't, you will battle. Not everyone has to be an avid reader. We need to read to survive in our world. Print is all around us. I remember reading a Reader's Circle book with a group of Year 4 children. The book was called "I Hate Books". The main character in the story did hate books because he couldn't read. In this case the whole family became involved to encourage him to read. In the end there was success. In some instances you might have to involve the whole family in encouraging and making time to read with your non-reader child. When reading or any other skill is seen as important and worthwhile gains are made. I just had a conversation with a parent who explained that the whole family are involved with helping their youngest move forward with his mathematics. And what gains he has made! Working together and having the same mindset does work.

With constant practice words are recognised automatically. Reading becomes faster, smoother and more expressive as confidence increases. Children move from reading out loud to silent reading which is obviously a faster process. There are two general approaches to improving reading and fluency. One is a direct approach which involves modelling and practice and repeated reading and the indirect approach involves encouraging the children to read voluntarily in their free time. Voluntary reading gives the children the opportunity to read for pleasure. It would be excellent if they saw you reading in your spare time. That would be great modelling. In reality, it may be difficult to find the time to read for yourself or to listen to your child read, but during the break if the opportunity arises, seize it!

Christine Figuero
Assistant Principal

Congratulations to the following students who have received Principal Awards

Kinder: Daniel, Carisma, Zacariah, Jashan, Mia, Sonny, Yannik, Mark

Year 1: Jayden, Issac, Samantha, Ellie, Breeana, Ahoi, Anyang

Year 2: Jaida, Declan, Emma, Mya, Damon, Georgia, Jeselle, Jarred, Holly

Year 3: Riley, Kaela, Jack G, Jack R, Hayley, Thomas, Giselle, Jack F

Year 4: Taj, Aaron, Darnel, Cameron, Riley

Year 5: Adhel, Isabella, Eliana, Jacob, Jamaal, Niamh

Year 6: Peter, Adrienne, Corey, Mariam

Administration

Raffle Tickets
Parents please remember to return your raffle tickets for the Christmas raffle by Monday 8 December. Tickets are $1 each with many great prizes to be won.

Fees
Parents please ensure that all fees for 2014 are finalised immediately. All fees are now OVERDUE.

Lunches
Due to the hot weather we are experiencing, parents please remind your child to bring their lunch boxes and drink bottles into the classroom.

Parent Prayer Group

We will be offering a parent prayer group here at the school on Monday mornings during Advent. This will be a meditation group where we listen to the Gospel of the day and spend some ten minutes in silent prayer together.

The prayer will be held in the library conference room and will begin straight after morning assembly on Monday. It will conclude by 9:15am. All are welcome!

Lorraine Alexander
Religious Education Coordinator

Message from the Canteen - Important Dates

* The last hot dog day for this year will be on **Wednesday 3 December**
* The canteen will be **CLOSED** on **Thursday 4 December**
* The last day for the Canteen this year will be **Friday 12 December**. The canteen will **NOT** be opened the last week of school. Parents are to ensure they send their children with recess and lunch during this time.

Community News

Xmas Under the Stars

CHANGE OF DATE

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2014

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS

SANTA ARRIVES 6.30PM

MOVIE STARTS 8.15PM

BYO Picnic, Free Face Painting, Fairy Floss, Popcorn, coffee cart and Glow Sticks for sale. A Sausage Sizzle will be available and all funds raised will go towards our Youth Project.

SCYNT ARE ACCEPTING NON PERISHABLE FOOD AND NEW TOY DONATIONS DURING THIS EVENT. HAMPERS WILL BE PACKED AND DONATED TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED THROUGH HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS.

AUTUMNLEAF NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
1 AUTUMNLEAF PDE, ST CLAIR
9834-2708/info@scynt.org.au

SCYNT gratefully acknowledges support received from Penrith City Council-Community Assistance Program Funding.

ST. MARYS SOCCER CLUB

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2015 Registration Days

January
Saturday 17th 9am - 1pm
Sunday 18th 9am - 1pm
Friday 23th 6pm - 8pm
Saturday 31st 4pm -

February
Sunday 1st 9am - 1pm
Saturday 7th 4pm - 7pm
Sunday 8th 9am - 1pm

'Go the Saints'

At Potter Field Corner of Shepherd Street And Bennett Road St Marys
Enquiries: John Sipsak 0406 914 332 - Registrar
Joe Youssef 0410 694 742 - President

* Players turning 5 in 2015 to All Age, including Over 35's & 45's
* Female only team start at under 10's
* All new players need proof of age (License, passport or birth certificate).
* All registrations need to be done Online

Website: www.stmaryssoccer.com.au

Upcoming dates...

Wednesday 26 November
School Banking

Thursday 27 November
Buddy Mass 9am KB & 6B

Friday 28 November
St Vinnies Hampers due

Thursday 4 December
10.15am School Advent Mass followed by Parent thank you morning tea and end of year Awards ceremony

Canteen CLOSED

Friday 5 December
Selection Swimming Carnival

Friday 5 December
Augustinian Prayer 3pm

Monday 8 December
Raffle Tickets due

Wednesday 10 December
School Banking

Year 6 Dinner/Disco

Thursday 11 December
Reports go home

Year 6 Graduation Mass 7pm

Friday 12 December
Last day for Canteen.

Promotions Afternoon

Important School Dates

Thursday 4 December
School Advent Mass—10.15am
Parent thank you morning tea
End of Year Awards Ceremony—12.00pm

Friday 5 December
Selection Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 10 December
Year 6 Dinner/Disco

Thursday 11 December
Year 6 Graduation Mass - 7pm

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