



# Holy Spirit Primary School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 8 ~ 29 November 2017

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## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Sunday we begin a new liturgical year. It is the season of Advent, a season of longing for God, of preparing our hearts and our world to receive God. Many of the Advent readings, including the First Reading and Responsorial Psalm, recall the longing of generation after generation of the people of ancient Israel, who experienced a special covenant with God and who longed for the Messiah whom they believed God would send them. We Christians believe that God fulfilled that promise in the person of Mary's child, Jesus.

The Church goes to the prophet Isaiah for the First Reading to open the new liturgical year. It is a plea to God to 'tear the heavens open and come down' (64:1). The Gospel writers allude to this text in their account of Jesus' Baptism, for they see Jesus as God's answer to Isaiah's plea. The author looks at his world, he finds hearts dulled by a routine of life that pays little or no regard to the sacred. People are living on the surface, not thinking of the One from whom they are receiving life, and not caring to see that their way of life flows from God's inspiration and grace. The prophet looks around and sees people getting on with existence, but neglecting and failing to get in touch with their deepest longings.

Advent gives us time to stop and prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth at Christmas. (*Fr Michael Fallon*)

Kind Regards

Anne Hines

Principal

### Farewells

Mrs Judy Gonsalves has worked as an administration assistant in the school office at Holy Spirit for 22 years. Judy has decided to retire at the end of the school year. We thank Judy for her work and dedication for the children and families of Holy Spirit. Judy has always been obliging and taken gentle care of the students. We wish her all the best as she enters this next phase of her life.

Mrs Sue Hardy has accepted a position at CEDP for 2018. Sue has worked at Holy Spirit for the past 5 years. Sue was part of our diversity team assisting students with reading, in programs like reading recovery and R3. Sue also mentored staff in the areas of reading and literacy. Sue is an excellent practitioner and a supportive staff member. We wish her all the best as she leaves Holy Spirit. We know that children in other schools will benefit from her wonderful expertise.

Mr Paul Weston is relocating to Queensland in 2018. Paul has been at Holy Spirit for the last 2 years. We thank him for the work he has done for the students in his care. We wish Paul and his family all the best for their move north.

Miss Rebecca Perreira is moving to St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith. Rebecca has been at Holy Spirit for the last 2 years. We thank her for the work she has done for the students in her care. We wish her all the best in her new school.

Mr Chris Cheetham has completed his 2 year placement at Holy Spirit as an IT trainee. We thank Chris for his work and great knowledge of technology. We wish him all the best in his career.

## School Leaders Prayer

Our Father...

God of love and  
goodness,  
you raise up  
good people  
who show with  
their lives  
that they follow  
the gospel of  
your Son, Jesus.

Fill us with your  
grace,  
so that our lives  
and our words  
will be as true as  
our faith.

May we grow  
more and more  
in your son's  
likeness.

We ask this  
through Christ  
our Lord.

Amen.

### Carols Night

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Carols Night last night. It was a wonderful celebration reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. A special thanks to our teachers and students for the work they did in making it such a memorable celebration. Well Done!

## From the Assistant Principal

Catholic Schools in the Parramatta diocese are required to use an A to E scale when reporting to parents. Reports outline progress in curriculum areas, including Religious Education, behaviour, and effort.

Student reports are designed to provide students and parents with a clear picture of a student's achievement at the time of reporting. The report will show the progress the student has made since the previous report.

Information about where a student is in his or her learning can include:

- the kind of knowledge, skills and understanding that your child now demonstrates
- reference to the performance of other students of the same year level. This is seen as a number underneath the given grade.

Learning happens continually during your child's education. The rate and pace of learning is not fixed and constant; different children learn at different rates. A 'C' grade means your child is achieving at their Stage expectations and this result is to be celebrated.

Just for your information a couple of points need to be mentioned before the reports are given out at the end of the term.

- Awards that are listed on the report will be from Semester 2. If your child received an award in Semester 1 they will not be recorded on this report.
- Similarly, "School Involvement" will only list activities from this current semester.

Semester 1 reports covers learning and achievements from Term 1 and 2.

Semester 2 reports covers learning and achievements from Term 3 and 4.

Also, when exercise books come home at the end of the year, spend some time looking at the content and notice the growth your child has made since the beginning of the school year. Their books and semester reports outline their achievements and growth during the year.

Christine Figuero  
Assistant Principal

## School Uniform Reminder

One of the ways in which students visibly demonstrate their pride in their school and a sense of belonging to the school community is in the wearing of the school uniform. As I have mentioned before, there was care and thought given to designing these uniforms and visitors always comment on how smart the children look. Wearing the school uniform correctly every day is a requirement at Holy Spirit. I'd like to thank parents and carers for your support in ensuring that we maintain high standards of school uniform and would encourage you to continue this as it helps to build a sense of pride and belonging within our school.



Just a few reminders about school uniform before we leave for the Christmas break. Our Parent Handbook states:

***“Students are expected to keep their hair clean, neat and tidy and out of their face and eyes at all times. Haircuts are to be in a sensible and conventional style. There are to be no extremes of fashion in hairstyle cut or colour.”***

Teachers have spoken to children who are sporting haircuts that do not reflect the school policy. Please ensure that your child has an appropriate haircut when returning to school in 2018.

The other two items to mention are that children are to wear “Black leather school shoes” with their school uniform. These may be lace-up or velcro in style. Boots are not acceptable.

The school backpack with school emblem is the required bag for the children to have at school.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

**Student Attendance rate for last week was 92.3%**  
**Remember every school day counts!**

# What's Happening at Holy Spirit...

<i>Thursday 30 November</i>	<i>Buddy Mass Kinder &amp; Year 6 ~ 9am</i>
<i>Thursday 7 December</i>	<i>Final Assembly &amp; Awards Ceremony ~ 9:15am ~ MPA Year 6 Graduation Mass ~ 7pm ~ Holy Spirit Parish</i>
<i>Friday 8 December</i>	<i>School reports sent home Christmas Raffle drawn Augustinian Prayer ~ 3pm</i>
<i>Monday 11 December</i>	<i>End of Year School Mass ~ 10:15am. ~ Holy Spirit Parish Thank you morning tea for parents following Mass Promotions Afternoon ~ 2pm</i>
<i>Tuesday 12 December</i>	<i>Year 6 Dinner Disco ~ 5:30pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 13 December</i>	<i>Year 6 Big Day In Year 6 Guard of Honour</i>
<i>Thursday 14 December</i>	<i>Christmas Mufti Day</i>
<i>Friday 15 December</i>	<i>Last day of Term for students</i>

***Term 1 2018 commences Tuesday 30th January Years 1-6 and  
Kindergarten Thursday 1 February.***

Last week 11 students participated in the 29th Diocesan Gymnastics Competition. Once again, they were wonderful ambassadors for our school, putting in their very best effort and showing great team spirit. This year we were lucky enough to win first place for Team of 10 - Gold Division! The following students also received some individual awards.

***Hayley (Year 6):***

*1st Mini Tramp*

*4th place Champion Girl*

***Elijah (Year 4)***

*1st place Floor*

*2nd place Static & Mini Tramp*

*4th place Vault*

*1st place Champion Boy*

Thanks to all the parents for their support on the day.



## ***Joke of the Day***

***Q. How do you  
make a tissue  
dance?***

***A. You put a little  
boogie in it!***



**Congratulations to the following students who have received Awards at our School Assembly on Friday 17th November**

**Principal Award**

Freya (KR), Madison (KW), Keily (1R), Teleah (1W), Uchechi (2R), Shania (2W), Mitchell (3R), Raphael (3W), Aleks (4R), Francis (4W), Adeng (5R), Flynn (5W), Marina (6R), Maya (6W)

**MacKillop Award**

Georgia (KR), Isaac (KW), Mikayla (1R), Jaxon (1W), Aiden (2R), Daniel (2W), Harry (3R), Tayah (3W), Isabella (4R), Aria (4W), Isabella (5R), Declan (5W), Jack (6R), Madison (6W)

**Holy Spirit Award**

Cameron (KR), Mackenzie (KW), Antonio (1R), Yasmin (1W), Enrique (2R), Emily (2W), Cameron (3R), Angelina (3W), Katherine (4R), Breeana (4W), Michael (5R), Josh (5W), Jake (6R), Hayley (6W)

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the ICAS Maths and English Competition.

The following students received a merit, credit or distinction :

ICAS Maths

Merit ~ Damon (Year 4) & Taylor (Year 5)

Credit ~ Angus (Year 3), Daniel (Year 3) and Francis (Year 4)

ICAS English

Merit ~ Isabella (Year 5)

Credit ~ Angus (Year 3) & Jamie (Year 6)

Distinction ~ Francis (Year 4) & Terina - Grace (Year 6)



**Congratulations to the following students who participated in the NSW Premier Reading Challenge**

*Kinder*                      *Xavier, Jasmine and Maryam*

*Year 1*                      *Mary, Tiana, Angelina, Keily, Kayne, Zac, Ava, Patrick, Gabriel, Erin, Emma, Ayesha and Neyli*

*Year 2*                      *Pelenaise, Uchechi, Hayden, Sienna, Kyra, Faith, Daniel, Liliana, Myles, Aiden, Charlotte and Alexandra*

*Year 3*                      *Samuel, Adrielle, Hannah, and Julia*

*Year 4*                      *Nikkita, Marko, Zoe and Ayesha*

*Year 5*                      *Isabella, Chloe, Lea May and Christian*

*Year 6*                      *Jamie*

***Gold Award ~***                      *Angus (Yr 3), Lucas (Yr 3), Tayah (Yr 3), Kirsten (Yr 3), Ethan (Yr 3) and Carisma (Yr 3)*

***Platinum Award ~*** *Kaitlin (Yr 6), Anthony (Yr 6) and Madison (Yr 6)*



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

# *Advent & Christmas* Schedule

## **ADVENT RECONCILIATION**

**Tue 19 Dec | 7:30pm**

## **WEEKEND MASSES FOR 23-24 DEC:**

**Sat 6pm; Sun 8am, 9.30am**

**NOTE: There is no 6pm Mass on Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec**

## **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**Christmas Eve Mass: Sun 24 Dec, 7.30pm**

**Note: Mass will be inside the church. No need to bring chairs.**

**Carols: Sun 24 Dec, 11.15pm**

**Masses: Midnight, 8am, 9.30am**

**NOTE: There is no 6pm Mass on Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec**

## **WEEKEND MASSES FOR 30-31 DEC:**

**Sat 6pm; Sun 8am, 9.30am, 6pm**

## **NEW YEAR'S MASS**

**Mon 1 Jan, 9.05am**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PARISH OFFICE:

Phone: (02) 9670 8222 • Email: [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au) • 5 Todd Row, St Clair 2759 NSW



Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians





# *2018 Sacramental Preparation*

## **CONFIRMATION (Year 5)**

- Parent Information & Catechesis Meeting
  - Mon, 7 May @ 7.30pm (1 hr)
  - Wed, 9 May @ 9.30am (1 hr)
- Preparation Sessions will be held during the month of May
- Confirmation Masses: TBA (possibly early June 2018)
- Blessing Mass: 16-17 June

## **FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4)**

- Parent Information & Catechesis Meeting
  - Mon, 4 June @ 9.30am (1 hr)
  - Wed, 6 June @ 7.30pm (1 hr)
- Preparation Sessions will be held during the month of June
- First Communion Masses: early July 2018

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION (Year 3)**

- Parent Information & Catechesis Meeting
  - Mon, 30 July @ 7.30pm (1 hr)
  - Wed, 1 August @ 9.30am (1 hr)
- Preparation Sessions will be held during the month of August
- First Reconciliation: late August 2018
- Thanksgiving Mass: 8-9 September

**NOTE: Children with special needs are most welcome to join the preparation.**

For all enquiries contact the Parish Office:

E: [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au) • P: 02 9670 8222



# St Marys Soccer Club



## 2018 Registration Days

Saturday	20/01/2018	10am- 2pm
Sunday	21/01/2018	10am- 2pm
Saturday	27/01/2018	4pm - 7pm
Sunday	28/01/2018	4pm - 7pm
Saturday	03/02/2018	10am - 2pm
Sunday	04/02/2018	10am - 2pm
Thursday	08/02/2018	6pm - 8pm
Saturday	10/02/2018	4pm - 7pm
Sunday	11/02/2018	10am - 2pm



**At Potter Field Corner of Shepherd Street and Bennett Road St Marys**

Enquiries: John Sipsak 0401 942 865 - Registrar

Afif Ali 0488 167 529 - President

- Players turning 5 in 2018 to All Age, including Over 35's.
- Girls only teams start at under 10's. ***Under 12, 14 & 16 girls squads!***
- All new players need proof of age. (*License, passport or birth certificate*).
- All registrations to be done Online at MyFootballClub.com.au or via our website and follow the link. Please bring invoice to canteen when registering.
- 'Early Bird' discounts apply to completed & fully paid registrations on the nine official rego days.

**[www.stmaryssoccer.com.au](http://www.stmaryssoccer.com.au)**