

# Holy Spirit Primary School



## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those parents and carers who were able to attend the Parent Information Evenings. Our parent information sessions were well attended and demonstrate the importance that you as parents have on working together in educating your child.

I spoke to all classes about Holy Spirit Primary having beautiful facilities, supportive families and great teachers. Thank you for taking the time to visit the school and hear about the plans each of the teachers have for your children.

A reminder of some key points:

### Uniform

Children are to wear correct school uniform including school hat each day. Children are not to colour their hair or to have streaks, foils, etc. Radical or exaggerated haircuts and hairstyles are not permitted.

### Be Punctual

The start of the school day is key learning time. To set your child up for success children need to arrive at school on time, line up with their class and be ready for a day of learning. Duty at school begins at 8:20am. Children who arrive at school before 8:20am are unsupervised.

### Help children to be independent

Remember to speak positively to your children about school. Avoid comments such as 'what am I going to do without you?' and 'I'm going to be lonely without you'. Such comments can be unsettling for children. Rather say something like 'can't wait to hear what you played at school'.

### Reading

Children need to practice essential skills. It is important that they practice reading every night. Sometimes you might share the reading with your child. Try to make the experience fun and something they look forward to.

### Augustinian Prayer

Please join us fortnightly on a Friday at 3pm for prayer in the classrooms.

### Toilets

Parents, carers and visitors for child protection please do not use the children's toilets. If you need to use the facilities please ask at the school office.

### School Committee

Please note our first School Committee meeting for 2014 will be held at 7pm next Tuesday 25th February. All welcome.

**Term 1, Week 4**

**19 February 2014**

## Prayer 4C

Dear God,

As it is the start of a new school year may you please help us to learn new things and bless all our new members in our school including Mrs Hings.

Also please look after our new Kindergarten children.

Amen

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

**School Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 25 February**

**7.00pm**

**All Welcome**

## Spellathon

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March we will be having a Spellathon. Children will receive a list of words on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to learn. Please encourage family and friends to support your child's learning. Money received will go to the purchasing of new resources

## Open Morning

If you have a child starting kindergarten in 2015 you are invited to attend our 'open morning' on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 9:30am and 10am. Please come to the school office where you will be met and taken on a tour of the school grounds.

Kind regards  
Anne Hines  
Principal

# Learning Matters

Dear Parents,

As parents you are very influential in the life of your child. There are certain "life skills" which you have been teaching your children from an early age. These may include; a hygiene routine, making sure to brush teeth and tidy hair, general safety around the home and during play and road safety.

You play an important role in keeping your child/children safe as they travel to and from school. These safety rules need to be taught and modelled by parents. Parents can actively teach road safety behaviours and explain why they are safe. As with all new skills which are learnt it is a great idea to praise and encourage your child during these times.

The following tips are issued by the NRMA.

### Travelling by car.

- Ensure your child is using the correct child restraint for their age for every trip.
- Teach your child to enter and exit using the rear door nearest the footpath called the "safety" door.
- Never call your child across the road, instead meet them at the school gate.

### Catching a bus.

- Take and pick your child up from the bus stop.
- Help your child get on and off the bus.
- Remind children to be polite on the bus and listen to the bus driver's instructions.
- Wait for the bus to move on before crossing the road with your child.

### Walking to School.

- Model how to ***Stop, Look, Listen and Think*** when crossing the road.
- Hold hands with smaller children when crossing the road, on a footpath or in a car park.
- Teach your child the safest places to cross the road. (Use the Moore Street Crossing)

### School Pick-up and Drop-off zones.

- Be patient, be alert to children around your car, and follow the school rules.
- Do not use the parish driveway as a turning bay.
- Never double park or make illegal U-turns.

### Riding a Bike

- Check your child's helmet is correctly fitted.
- Always supervise your child, especially near driveways and cars.
- Regularly check the bike's brakes and steering.

Let's keep everyone safe at Holy Spirit!

Christine Figuero  
Assistant Principal

# Administration

## School Fees

We have been advised from the Catholic Education Office that they had experienced an issue whilst generating the fee statements and this has resulted in a slight delay in our parents receiving their statements. This issue has been rectified and all families should receive their statement by the end of this week. If you do not receive your statement by Friday please contact the school office.

We have noticed that many families have started making part payments towards their school fee accounts. Please note that if you wish to avail of this option a letter must be sent to the school office clearly stating the amount, frequency and method of payment. This payment plan must be strictly adhered to. If you do not avail of a payment plan all accounts must be finalised in FULL within 28 days.

## Parking

Parents are reminded that parking in the parish carpark is **not** permitted. Also please do not walk your child through the carpark in the morning or evening.

# Religious Matters

## Ash Wednesday

The liturgical season of Lent begins on Wednesday 5 March when Christians come together for a special day of reflection known as Ash Wednesday.

The children will be involved in a liturgy to be held in the MPA where they will receive a cross of ashes on their forehead. This cross reminds them that Lent has been set aside by the church as a time when we try to grow more like Jesus and turn away from selfish and destructive habits which impact negatively on our relationships with others and with God.

Ash Wednesday begins the forty days of Lent which concludes with the joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. Lent is a time for inner reflection to examine those areas of our lives where we know we could improve so that we might come closer to realising our potential to be the people we were created to be; signs of God's love in the world.

The liturgies for Ash Wednesday will be times of quiet prayer and reflection for the children, but if you are in, or around the school at the time, please know that you are welcome to join us. Years 3-6 -11.30am and Years K-2 - 12.00pm in the MPA.

Lorraine Alexander  
Religious Education Coordinator



## Messages from the Canteen

- Parents please note the next hot dog day will be Tuesday 4 March instead of Wednesday 5 March due to this date being Ash Wednesday.
- Parents we are trying to promote healthy eating for our students and for this reason the canteen will not sell lollies at recess time. Lollies will only be sold at lunchtime. Please try and send your child with a piece of fruit for recess.



# Book Fair

## Book Fair fun... Helpers needed!

**Friday 14 March, Week 7**

As part of our Catholic Schools Week celebrations, the school will host an exciting Book Fair to highlight the children's efforts to improve their literacy and to celebrate and promote their love of reading.

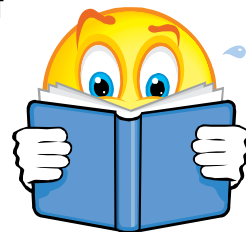
The Book Fair will open at 8.00am on Friday morning to accommodate working mums and dads. Children accompanied by parents may purchase books at this time.

From 8.20am the Book Fair will be open for all children wishing to make purchases. The Fair will close briefly for our whole school Mass and for the Special Assembly. The Fair will be open for the remainder of the day so that parents may collect their children from classrooms to attend the Book Fair, or alternatively, you might like to send some money along in an envelope so that the children can attend the Book Fair with their teacher or members from their buddy class.

### Please Help! We need you!

The Book Fair becomes very busy throughout the day especially in the morning and during recess. If you are able to come along for all, or part of the day to help sell the books it would be very much appreciated.

Thank you in anticipation.  
Lorraine Alexander (Teacher Librarian)



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**I am able to help out at the Book Fair on Friday 14 March.**

NAME (Please print) .....

HOME PHONE..... MOBILE .....

CHILD'S CLASS..... Approximate time .....

Signature .....

# Community News



## Holy Spirit Parish

St Clair – Erskine Park  
PO Box 103 St Clair, NSW 2759  
Tel: 02 9670 8222 Fax: 02 9670 4029  
Email: [parish@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:parish@holyspiritstclair.com.au)  
[www.holyspiritstclair.com.au](http://www.holyspiritstclair.com.au)

Pastored by  
The Augustinians

January 2014

### RE: Sacramental Program 2014 – Year 4 – 6 Students Only

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There have been alterations from previous years as to children eligible to partake in the Sacramental Program. This is for baptised students in Year 4, 5 and 6.

For the children, who have been baptised and seek to complete their Sacraments of Initiation – (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) - see the program as listed below.

#### First Reconciliation – School Term 1

Years 4 to 6 to enrol your must attend a Parent/Guardian information meeting to be held in the Parish Church Todd Row, St.Clair on one of these dates:

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 10:00am **OR** Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7:00pm

Once you have attended a Parent/Guardian information meeting you will be asked to make a commitment to the program by attending a Mass with your family on the weekend of the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> March for the Enrolment Ceremony, Children will be presented to the community at these Masses.

#### First Holy Communion – School Term 2

First Holy Communion will be offered to children who have completed their First Reconciliation, either here or at another Parish, to enrol you must attend a Parent/Guardian information meeting on one of these dates:

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 10:00am **OR** Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7:00pm

Once again you will be asked to make a commitment by attending Mass with your family on the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> May. For your information First Holy Communion will be celebrated on the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.

#### Confirmation – School Term 3

Confirmation will be offered to those children in Year 5 or 6 who have completed their First Holy Communion. Confirmation dates have been booked for the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014. You will be informed as to when relevant meeting dates are announced.

Peace & Blessings

Sacramental Team – Holy Spirit Parish

## UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS PENRITH OBSERVATORY

### FAMILY ASTRONOMY NIGHT Saturday, 22 February (8pm – 10pm) ROBOT ASTRONOMY .....ON THE ICE

Come along and find out about the advantages and disadvantages of robot observatories, about what new opportunities they bring, and how they restrict us. The talk will also include information on the PLATO series of robot observatories, built by Australia and currently working on the Ice. The night will also include a 3D astronomy movie that will run for 15-20 minutes, a tour of the dome area and stargazing through various computerised telescopes. Our program will run regardless of the weather.

Cost: \$15 adult, \$10 child/concession and \$40 family.

Bookings are essential: Book and pay Online: [www.uws.edu.au/observatory](http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory).

What's On Enquiries: Phone (02)4736 0135 or email [r.mccourt@uws.edu.au](mailto:r.mccourt@uws.edu.au)

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN OVERSEAS STUDENT?

Learn about another culture, learn a new language or perhaps improve your culinary skills

#### Hosting – An Experience for Life

Student Exchange is looking for host families across Australia to welcome overseas students into their home



[www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au)  
1300 135 331 (cost of local call)

## Upcoming dates...

**Thursday 20 February**  
Reconciliation 6B & 6H  
11.30am

**Friday 21 February**  
Whole School Assembly—  
Welcome Kinders 2.10pm

**Tuesday 25 February**  
School Committee Meeting  
7pm

**Thursday 27 February**  
Stage 3 Mass  
12.00pm

**Friday 28 February**  
Augustinian Prayer 3.00pm

**Wednesday 5 March**  
Ash Wednesday  
Primary 11.30am  
Infants 12.00pm

**Thursday 6 March**  
Buddy Mass Year 3  
9.00am

**Friday 7 March**  
Whole School Assembly  
2.30pm



I would like to invite you to the **SmartLoving Workshop** on Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2 - 5pm in the Holy Family School Hall.

Please see below for full details.

God Bless,  
Father Zvonimir

**BreakThrough**  
Overcoming  
Relationship Gridlock

**SMARTLoving Workshop** **Luddenham NSW**

**SUNDAY, MAR 23**  
**2-5PM**

All couples go through periods where their relationship is strained. Stress, sleep deprivation, demands from family and work can stave your marriage of the positive energy it needs and desires. Soon, you find yourselves arguing more often, making up with less enthusiasm and becoming someone even you yourself don't like.

If this sounds like you, or someone you love, it's time to do something about it! The **SmartLoving BreakThrough Workshop** is a practical, solution-focused event for all stages of marriage. Drawing on contemporary research and Catholic theology, this workshop will arm you with skills and insights to transform your relationship into the thriving, joy-filled encounter that it is meant to be.

- Identify your conflict triggers
- Learn strategies to de-escalate an argument
- Understand what the real issues are
- Find constructive ways to re-establish connection

**Workshop Details**  
**Sunday, March 23**  
**2-5pm**  
Holy Family School Hall  
32 Willawene Ave  
Luddenham NSW 2745  
Donation at the door  
(afternoon tea provided)  
Bookings essential  
Call Jess: 02 5519 6280  
[info@smartloving.org](mailto:info@smartloving.org)

**7-17 Todd Row**  
**ST CLAIR NSW 2759**  
**Phone: 02 9670 5379**  
**Fax: 02 9834 3209**  
**E-mail:**  
[holyspirit@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holyspirit@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
**Web address:**  
[www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au)