

Holy Spirit Primary School



From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we begin the church season of Lent. We are called during Lent to change, to reach out and to give help to others.

We are challenged to renew our lives and review our values: to prepare ourselves for Easter.

*Life giving God,
May the ashes we receive remind us
that you call us
into the freedom and joy of life in Christ.
During this Lent, grant us the grace to turn back to you
and receive your mercy and love.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Kind regards
Anne Hines
Principal

Catholic Schools Week

This will be held in week 7. Please mark Wednesday 11th March (Book character parade/Book Fair) and Thursday 12th March (Opening School Mass) in your diaries.

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2016

If you have a child born between July 2010 and June 2011 they are eligible for kindergarten enrolment. Please collect forms from the school office or download from the school website. Please pass on this information to family and friends. There will be tours of the school on Monday 9th March (3:30 – 4pm) and Tuesday (9:30 – 10:30am).

Items on school roof

From time to time children kick their shoes or throw their lunch boxes onto the school roof. Children have been warned and I would appreciate you reminding them at home, that should this occur then the items will remain there. It is a Work, health and Safety issue for people to be on the roof without a harness.

From time to time if soccer and tennis balls are located in gutters, whilst cleaning is in process, then items with names on them will be returned.

Thank You

A big thank you to all our parents and carers for attending our recent parent information nights.

Reading Helpers Wanted

We are in need of parents, grandparents, carers to listen to children read any week day 9-10am. Research has shown that by having an interested adult sit one to one with a child while reading, improves the child's reading ability and fluency. Please phone the school office if you can help.

Term 1, Week 4

18 February 2015

Prayer 4S

Dear Lord,

As we begin another school year help us to remember how to be the best that we can be.

Show us the way to kindness and lovingness. Help us to be gentle people, kind learners and helpful friends.

Lord watch over our teachers, friends and families.

God help us to be respectful, to keep safe and to be excellent learners.

Amen



Sport

Last year we surveyed our families regarding Holy Spirit's participation in sporting competitions. As a result we plan to support the following:

Stage 2 Girls: Soccer, Netball, Touch Football, Basketball and Gymnastics.

Stage 2 Boys: Soccer, Touch Football, Basketball, Netball and Gymnastics.

Stage 3 Girls: Basketball, Touch Football, Netball and Gymnastics.

Stage 3 Boys: Rugby League, Basketball, Touch Football, Netball and Gymnastics.

School Committee

Our first school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm in the school library. All parents and carers are welcome to attend. At this meeting we discuss the coming term and fundraising initiatives.

Leave

Apologies regarding the information in our last newsletter. Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel is required during school term and leave of ten (10) or more school days is needed then an exemption form is required. Leave of less than ten days requires a letter to the school and the inclusion of dates of absence and specific reason for the leave request.

No Animal on School Grounds

To ensure the safety of students, animals such as family pets are not to be brought onto the school site. Animals can only be brought onto the school site for educational purposes with the approval of the principal. Arrival and dismissal times are very busy times. There are also babies and toddlers around. It is simply not safe to have animals at school at this time.

These guidelines are for the safety and wellbeing of students, teachers and the animals are in line with the NSW Department of Education and Training 'Animals in School' (2001).

Learning Matters

Last week many parents attended the Parent Information Evening. Just you being there is saying so much to your children. You're saying that you are interested in their education, you want them to succeed and you are there to help them and support them and that education and learning are important to you. This positive attitude is contagious and your child will bring this positive attitude to their learning community.

A positive attitude acts as a motivation for the students, is a very important part in the learning cycle and is a contributing factor in achievement and school. Teachers use strategies to increase motivation and develop positive attitudes in the classroom.

Mrs Hines and I have been visiting the classroom and seeing these strategies at work. Teachers are constantly giving praise and acknowledgement of achievement. Children know exactly what they need to do in each lesson because the "Success Criteria" is discussed at the beginning of a session and visible to the class. There's no guesswork involved. The children know that if they want to be successful they need to check the requirements stated in the Success Criteria and aim to complete them. Children are constantly praised for their efforts and small and large steps are celebrated.

The learning community must have an attitude where if mistakes are made they must be seen as an opportunity from which to learn. Children need to have confidence in themselves to be able to have a go in the knowledge that if they don't get it right first time, or even second, no one will laugh at them and someone will be there to give them direction and support. That doesn't change as you get older. Throughout our lives we travel the learning curve, hopefully with people around us who will offer support and encouragement.

Christine Figuero
Assistant Principal

Administration

Council Car Park

Parents when you are parking in the council car park (off Moore Street) please ensure you park towards the back fence so that access to the exits is not blocked. Also please be mindful to other parents when parking that you allow enough space for them to exit their parking spot and do not block their way.

Driveways

Parents please be considerate to our neighbours and do not park across/block their driveways. Please also refrain from allowing your child to run across our neighbours lawns.

Uniform Shop

Parents please be aware that our uniform shop is run by a parent volunteer. At times the uniform shop can get quite busy and your patience is greatly appreciated. Parents are welcome to place an uniform order through the school office. These orders will be filled on Wednesday and Friday.

Help Wanted

The office staff are asking for your help to wash the blankets and ice pack covers from our sick bay. You would be required to collect the washing on Friday afternoon (or your child can collect it) and return it to school on Monday morning. There is no ironing involved. If you can assist please contact the school office.



Religious Matters

Ash Wednesday

The liturgical season of Lent begins on Wednesday 18 February 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



Do you want to know how to help your child progress in their understanding of Mathematics?

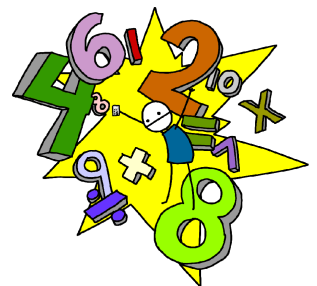
Then please come along to our 'number fun' morning to be held after Monday's assembly during *Catholic Schools Week* in the MPA.

You will be introduced to games used in the classroom that you can play at home to increase your child's understanding of how Maths and numbers work!

Maths IS fun and if your child enjoys Maths they are more likely to succeed.

See you at 9am on Monday 9th March in the MPA

Donnalee Hughes
Lead Mathematics Teacher



Community News



St Dominic's College will be holding an Open/Information Day at the College on Sunday 8th March between 10am – 3.00pm.

**Information Sessions:
10.00am and 1.00pm
Organised Tours commence:
10.30am and 1.30pm**

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to its 2015 Open Day on Sunday, March 1 from 10am to 2.00pm. Principal's Welcome at 10am and 12pm.

Discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life.

To reserve your place or obtain further information visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 9683 3300.



**Open Day
Sunday
March 1, 2015
10am-2pm**

**Free workshop for
parents & carers of
children with autism!**

Blacktown - March 3 & 4

Register your place:

positivepartnerships.com.au



Upcoming dates...

Wednesday 18 February
Parent Scripture
Meditation/ Parent Lenten
Group 8.50am

Ash Wednesday
Primary 11.30am
Infants 12.00pm

Friday 20 February
Whole School Assembly
Welcome Kinders 2.10pm

Tuesday 24 February
Nepean Zone Swimming
Carnival

School Committee Meeting
7.00pm

Wednesday 25 February
Parent Scripture
Meditation/ Parent Lenten
Group 8.50am

Thursday 26 February
Stage 3 Mass 12.00pm

Friday 27 February
Diocesan Swimming
Carnival

Augustinian Prayer
3.00pm

Wednesday 4 March
Parent Scripture
Meditation/ Parent Lenten
Group 8.50am

Thursday 5 March
Buddy Mass Year 3 -
9.00am



St Clair Netball Club are still taking 2015 Registrations.

6-8 years \$130

Juniors \$165

Seniors \$180

Comp starts Saturday 2nd May 2015. Contact appropriate registrar this week.

Juniors: Sharyn 0429 059 505

Seniors: Sharon 0409 834 347

Email: stclairnetball@hotmail.com

Website: <http://stclairnc.nsw.netball.com.au>

Facebook: StClair NetballClub

7-17 Todd Row

ST CLAIR NSW 2759

Phone: 02 9670 5379

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E-mail:

holyspirit@parra.catholic.edu.au

Web address:

www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au