

# Holy Spirit Primary School



## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the last couple of weeks many of the children have had the opportunity to experience an excursion. The teachers have reported that the students have been great ambassadors for our school and a credit to their families.

Below is an email I received following the Year 1 excursion:

*"My name is Carmel Heywood from Arms of Australia Inn Museum where we had the pleasure of hosting your year one students and five teachers on Wednesday 4th May.*

*Our team of volunteers would like to congratulate you on your wonderful students and teachers, led by Jackie (Thomson), who joined in with all the activities. The children were so well behaved it was a joy to have them and the interest they showed in everything we have hands on or just looking and listening was really terrific.*

*At times it was hard to believe they were year one.*

*Thank you again for allowing us to share our history with them all.*

*Kind Regards, Carmel and team"*

Congratulations to all our students at Holy Spirit!

Kind regards  
Anne Hines  
Principal

### Write-a-thon

This week children will have brought home sponsorship cards for our 'Write-a-thon'. The children will view a range of shoes to help them imagine and write about a character and setting. As this is our major fund raiser please support your child to get sponsors. The writing will be completed on 27<sup>th</sup> May and children are asked to return all money collected by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June. All children who return their money by this date will receive a free zooper doper ice block. Good luck!

### Chess

We are in need of a parent or grandparent who is able to play chess to support a Chess Club here at Holy Spirit. Please let the school office know if you are able to assist. Thank you.

Term 2, Week 4

18 May 2016

## Prayer 4S

*Dear Lord*

*As we celebrate  
Pentecost the  
Feast day of  
our school, let  
us pray for the  
church.*

*May we  
continue to  
grow as a  
loving, caring  
community of  
people who  
strive to follow  
the example set  
by Jesus.*

*Amen*

## **New bishop**

The Diocese of Parramatta has a new Bishop, the Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen.

Bishop Long Van Nguyen comes to the Diocese with a rich understanding of the challenges and opportunities of multiculturalism in western Sydney. He was born in 1961 in Gia-Kiem, Vietnam. In 1980 he left Vietnam to begin a new life in Australia.

Bishop Long is familiar with the western Sydney community, having been parish priest at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville from 1998-2002.

He became Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2011.

## **School Committee**

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our recent school committee meeting. It was suggested that a cup of tea/coffee be available to parents just prior to Augustinian Prayer on the odd Fridays of the term. This gathering will take place in the MPA from 2:30pm – 3:00pm. The purpose is to build community and to get to know other families in your grade as well as a chance to meet with grade representatives on the school committee. It is planned for this to happen each term.

### **Term 2**

Week 5: 27 May 2:30 pm– 3:00pm

Week 7: 10 June 2:30pm – 3:00pm

Week 9: 24 June 2:30pm – 3:00pm

## **Learning Matters**

The Early Bird Reading program started in Week 2 of this term. This is a way Holy Spirit continues to promote the importance of reading.

From past experience it was clear that the children were excited to read to another student. It widens the audience of people that they are able to read for and strengthens the bonds between our children as they realize we are all part of the learning community.

Your help, as parents, is always vital. Whether it is making sure that your child is here early enough for Early Bird Reading or encouraging them to read at home. Of course the most important factor is that you keep your attitude positive towards all aspects of their learning.

I have included an outline of the Early Bird Reading Process for you. This was included in an earlier Newsletter.

***In brief Early Bird Reading involves readers and tutors meeting in the MPA at about 8:30am. The older children will listen to their younger buddies read. Cards will be stamped to keep a check on how many times the children attend the sessions during the term. Certificates will be issued to children who consistently attend. Teachers will be supervising the session. This is not a compulsory activity but it is another way of practicing and consolidating reading skills.***

***This will be a new experience for our Kindergarten children. We found last year that Kindergarten were very enthusiastic and had their readers ready for Early Bird Reading.***

***The Early Bird Reading Days will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays.***

***It takes place in our Multi Purpose Area.***

***We begin at 8:30am and must finish by 8:45 so that teachers who are helping with this extra supervision are able to get back to their classes when the bell goes.***

Looking forward to an exciting term of Early Bird Reading.

Christine Figuero  
Assistant Principal

# Year 6 Canberra Excursion

On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of May, Year 6 went on an incredible excursion filled with laughs, smiles, wonder and awe to Canberra, our beautiful nations Capital. Throughout this excursion we learnt about important events and places, learning and loving the discovery of democracy and the Government. Everywhere we turned our smiles and laughter were getting bigger and louder.

The bus ride was long and, for some, boring but once we arrived in Canberra all those frowns turned upside down as we started off with going to the Australian National Art Gallery. We went through the Sydney Nolan section and saw his stunning Ned Kelly art works. After a stretch we all filed back in the bus on our way to Parliament House.

At Parliament House we saw both the Senate and the House of Representatives, aspects of which were a very unique experience that taught us about how our country is governed, oh and no we did not see any politicians because they were off campaigning for the upcoming election.

After that Yr. 6 went to the Australian War Memorial to learn about the sacrifice our Anzacs made. It was emotional for many, as lots of people have had relatives who died in wars.

We followed that up with a trip to Australia's Old Parliament House. There we saw decades of history throughout the long line of Australia's Government. We had the pleasure of being able to participate in a role-play of important events in Australia's Democratic History.

We eventually arrived at our cabins where we had dinner and got ready for the Institute of Sport. It was a fun and interactive experience, which went hand in hand with the Olympic training centre that was a top-notch facility to prepare Australia's athletes.

Thankfully we got back to our cabins for a great nights rest. (note the sarcasm...) A 6:30am wake up call led to breakfast, cleaning up and Questacon. It's a hands on experimental paradise, which included incredible scientific sights and activities.

After Questacon we went to the Old Parliament where we learnt about the AEC, (Australian Electoral Commission) Constitution and voting.

Back on the bus we got to conclude our tour of Australia's Capital with a well earned and an enjoyable serve of maccas that took forever but it was still worth it. We got on the bus home. What we have learnt will stay with us forever.

We would like to thank our teachers and school staff for giving us this Canberra experience that will always be known as the best excursion in primary school.

From Yr. 6 of 2016.

*The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program.*

## A Reflection on the Year of Mercy

As you know, pope Francis has declared this year as a Jubilee Year of Mercy. In their religious education lessons, the children are encouraged to *find the mercy action* in the Scripture they are studying. To do this, they look closely at the scriptures in question to find where God's love and mercy 'shine through' and then they reflect on how they might share this love and concern with others.

Sometimes, when we think of the word *mercy*, we picture someone throwing themselves on their knees before a cruel master, pleading to be spared some punishment. This is not our understanding of God's mercy. We do not ask for God's mercy because we are afraid of incurring his anger as punishment for our sins. Rather, when we call on God to have mercy, we are calling on God in the *only way we know him*—as one who responds with compassion to those in need. When we show mercy to others, we are responding as God responds, with compassion and love.

As we move through the busyness of our day with its cycle of joys and frustrations, let's keep in mind this broader understanding of mercy and hear Christ's command... .. "Be merciful, just as your heavenly Father is merciful" (Luke 6: 36).

# Community News

*6th Annual*  
**SYDNEY CLASSIC & ANTIQUE  
TRUCK SHOW 2016**



**MUSEUM OF FIRE**

*Public Show Day*  
**SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2016, 8AM TO 3PM**  
**MUSEUM OF FIRE, PENRITH (CHARITY EVENT)**

**FREE AMUSEMENT RIDES AND DISPLAYS  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ON STAGE**

ADMISSION: Adults \$15 (includes up to three children under 16 free with paying adult)  
Concession \$10 (excludes free child entry)

**OPEN TO HEAVY COMMERCIAL & SPECIALISED VEHICLES  
OVER 30 YEARS (PRE-ENTRY REQUIRED)**

EXHIBITORS ONLY: Saturday arrival and setup, a club run and night function. More details available with entry form. FREE overnight camping facilities, breakfast, tea and coffee, hospitality tent.

CONTACT: mail@museumoffire.com.au | (02) 4731 3000 | www.museumoffire.com.au

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:     

 **CATHOLICCARE**  
Social Services

*Rollercoasters<sup>SM</sup>*  
*A Curriculum for Children of Change*

**FOR KIDS WHOSE FAMILIES ARE CHANGING**

Group activities for children years 3 to 5 who are experiencing & struggling with  
Family separation | Parents' divorce | Family changes

**5 to 6 Mondays: Commencing 30 May to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Time: 4pm to 5.15 pm after School (snack provided)

Venue: CatholicCare Social Services  
38 Prince Street Blacktown NSW 2148

Contact: Ruby or Karolyn  
02 8822 2222 at Blacktown Office  
A pre group meeting will be arranged for parent & child

Topics Covered: Week 1 Everything is different  
Week 2 Is it my fault?  
Week 3 I wish everything was back to normal  
Week 4 I am so mad!  
Week 5 How can I manage?  
Week 6 What I have learned?



## Upcoming dates...

**Wednesday 18 May**  
Early Bird Reading MPA

Parent Scripture Meditation

**Thursday 19 May**  
Buddy Mass IN & 4B

**Friday 20 May**  
School Assembly 2:30pm

**Tuesday 24 May**  
Early Bird Reading

**Wednesday 25 May**  
Early Bird Reading

Parent Scripture Meditation

**Thursday 26 May**  
Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala  
Day - Jamison Park

**Friday 27 May**  
Parent Afternoon Tea 2:30pm  
MPA

Augustinian Prayer - 3:00pm

**Tuesday 31 May**  
Early Bird Reading

**Wednesday 1 June**  
Early Bird Reading

**Thursday 2 June**  
Buddy Mass Year 3

Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala  
Day - Jamison Park

**Friday 3 June**  
School Assembly 2:30pm

**GOLDEN THREADS**  
EMBROIDERY

**Don't lose another jacket or hat!**  
Embroider their name on them

**\$8.00 each**

First name 1cm high  
on Jackets, Jumpers & Hats

**goldenthreads.com.au**  
**4731 5221**

Shop 1, 564 High Street, Penrith  
(next to Selected Shoe Warehouse)

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)