# Holy Spirit Primary School

## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday we celebrate Father's Day. Father's Day is a good time to pause to appreciate a unique person that God has put into our lives, our father. It is easy to take fathers for granted. The natural hurts that arise in all families can cause us to forget the wealth of goodness and commitment that is also there.

Father's day gives us the opportunity to recall and affirm the particular gifts that fathers bring to families. This includes our personal fathers, grandfathers, single parent fathers and children or brothers who are fathers.

I hope you have a wonderful Father's day and enjoy God's blessings.

*Creator God*
*We praise you for the gift of our fathers*
*and those who have been father figures to us.*
*We thank you for the life and love they have brought to our world.*
*You gave us fathers to give life to us and glory to you.*
*May we learn to develop that love with all*
*members of our families and to share that love with others.*
*Amen.*

Kind regards

Anne Hines
Principal

**Captivate**

Congratulations to our Year 4 and 5 students and teachers for the performance of 'Captivate' at St Dominic's College on Monday night. You are all stars.

**Father's Day Stall**

Thank you to Jessica Aldag and all the parents and carers who assisted with our Father's Day Stall. .

**Parenting Course – PLEASE JOIN US THIS WEDNESDAY**

A three session program takes place on Wednesdays 3rd, 10th and 17th of September from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. The course teaches ways to handle challenging behaviours and encourage good behaviours. Another course like this will not be offered in the near future. It is not too late to participate!!

**Term 3, Week 8**

**3 September 2014**

Prayer 5B

Dear God,

Thank you for this wonderful school you gave us and our wonderful friends.

Help us to be like Jesus and help us to try harder in class.

Help us to love and learn from each other every day.

Amen

# Learning Matters

The end of the term is approaching and next week will be our last week for Early Bird Reading. The children who have completed their cards will receive a special certificate and those who have completed cards for two terms (last term and this) will be able to choose a book as a special reward. Once again I hope that this is done before the holidays but if not, everything will be ready for the beginning of next term. There is no Early Bird Reading next term. I would like to thank the parents and carers who have encouraged the Readers to arrive at school on time and participate in the program. A special thank you must also be given to our wonderful tutors who would often line up two or three times to listen to the readers.

Early Bird Reading is one way of promoting reading and highlighting how important this skill is to the overall learning process. Another way to develop reading skills is to reread texts that the children are introduced to in class.

Rereading consists of on-going and repeated encounters with a text. Rereading is a most effective type of reading because it offers learners the opportunity to re-think messages and see features they have not noticed in initial reading. When learners read through the whole text two or three times, they will find that their own comprehension of the text improves.

At Holy Spirit we ask the children to read at home. In the younger grades and until the child has become an independent reader it is important that they read out loud to an adult so that the adult is able to give feedback. When the student reads aloud there is an opportunity for guidance and instruction that can actually help the student to learn and improve their skills. Reading in this way can have significant impact on word recognition, fluency and comprehension. It is because of the powerful impact that reading out loud can have that the teachers ask you to spend some time every night during the week in listening to your child read. As I have mentioned before it also gives them the message that reading is fun and a very important skill.

Christine Figuero
Assistant Principal

# Complaint Handling Policy

If at anytime, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to contact the school and make arrangements to speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or the principal, to find a resolution for your concern. It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and a professionally fulfilling experience for our staff.

If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to lodge a complaint and a complaint form are available from the school office or in the Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures. The documents can be accessed on the school website or system website www.parra.catholic.edu.au

If you would like to access these documents on our website below are the instructions:

Click on the Parents Tab
Parent Information
Catholic School Community
Complaint Handling Policy

## *Congratulations to the following students who have received Principal Awards*

Kinder: Julia, Angus, Ava, Alisha, Morbe, April
Year 1: Adrian, Suhavi, Narlaine, Julian
Year 2: Caoilinn, LeaMay, Charlotte, Jorja
Year 3: Marina, Marisa, Olivia, Caitlyn, Benjamin
Year 4: Shenesh, Rosemary, Connor, Athot, Sarah
Year 5: Thomas, Jyrell, Jordan, Patrick
Year 6: Joshua, Lucas, Charbel, Celine

# Voice of Youth

Congratulations to Elisha from Year 6 who won the Voice of Youth Cluster final last Wednesday and now goes on to compete in the Western District Final. The judges from Toastmaster were very impressed with the quality of all the speakers and commented on Elisha's delivery and confidence. Good luck Elisha!

Congratulations to all our Year 6 students for participating and to Damon, Angel, Elisha and Peter who were selected to represent Holy Spirit in the Cluster Final.

# Timor-Leste Fundraising Event

We are enormously proud of the generosity shown by the Holy Spirit families in participating in our Crocodile Coin Drive last Wednesday. The children were very excited to be able to help children less fortunate than themselves. Together we have raised over $900 which will be used to purchase much needed maths resources for schools in Timor-Leste.

Thank you for the strong sense of giving that you demonstrate and have instilled in your children.

Ms Corinne Brooker and Ms Terese Collins

# Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Students from Year 6 recently experienced an educational tour of the National Capital – Canberra. The students participated in a variety of educational programs focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. Our thanks to the Australian government for their support of this important program through the 'Parliament and Civics Education Rebate' which provides funds towards travel expenses incurred and to all our teachers who attended.

A recount of the excursion follows....

It was a very, very early start for Year 6 on the 28 August as we arrived at school at 6:15am for our excursion to Canberra. It took us a very long few hours to get to our first stop, which was the National Gallery of Australia. We had our lunch in the park and visited the Gallery to see the Sidney Nolan exhibition, as we had been studying his artworks in class.

Our next stop was Parliament House where we learnt all about the Government and what they do there. We were very lucky as we visited both the House of Representatives and The Senate while they were in session. We also got to role-play the passing of a bill and it was a lot of fun...here here!!

Afterwards we went to the Electoral Education Centre that is located in Old Parliament House. We watched an awesome show with life like characters that explained about Federation, the Constitution and Democracy. We then had an opportunity to participate in an election and learn about the process our parents follow in a Federal Election. We also had some delicious food in the Senate Gardens and saw the Aboriginal Embassy.

Our driver took us on a tour of all the Embassies in Canberra and we were guessing which ones they were by the flag and their surroundings. Finally we arrived at our hotel, excited and hungry for dinner! But we weren't there for long before we left again to go to the Institute of Sport. We saw where all the athletes train and got to play in the interactive games room – it was a great experience!

We left there exhausted at 9pm but were excited to get back to our cabins with our friends.

The next morning we had breakfast, packed our bags, cleaned our rooms and were back on the bus all before 9am!

The first activity we did was visit Old Parliament House. We liked this because we got to wear special white gloves to protect all the old things that are there and we got to use big touch screen computers. We also sat in the Senate and some people got dressed up as the Governor General.

Next we went to the Australian War Memorial. We did the Discovery Zone where we went in a helicopter, submarine and saw what the trenches would have been like. We also went to the new Afghanistan memorial hall, watched a movie about 'George' the plane and did the Remembrance Walk where we saw the names of all those who have died fighting for our country. Some of us placed poppies on the wall for family members who have died; it was very moving and special.

Lastly we went to QUESTACON!! We were very excited! It was awesome to do all the hands on activities, to be in the earthquake house, see lightning form, chase the scarf through the tubes and of course go on the drop slide – it was really awesome!

After two exhausting but fantastic days we sadly had to go home. We stopped halfway for yummy McDonalds and then some slept and others watched movies all the way home.

All the teachers and students had a wonderful time in our nation's capital city - Canberra!

Thank you for sending your child to school looking so smart in their uniforms. We are still finding many items of clothing not labelled. **Also, please check your child's bag for any clothing that may not belong to them. Sometimes, children take home other children's items of clothing by mistake.** Make sure all items are labelled, including all clothing, hats, school bags, pencil cases, stationery, drink bottles, containers, lunch boxes etc. This will save you money and your child unnecessary anxiety about losing their belongings.

# Community News

**University of Western Sydney**
**UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY**
**School Holiday Program**

**Saturday 27 September 7pm – 9pm**
**School Holidays Astronomy Night**
This night will include a presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

**Wednesday 1 October 10 am – 12 noon**
**KIDS FUN DAY – Rockets**
Lots of fun for kids of all ages. Make and launch your own paper rocket and watch water rockets being launched. The program will also include a short presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and SAFE viewing of the sun

**Saturday 4 October 8pm – 10 pm**
**School Holidays Astronomy Night**
**OUR PLACE IN SPACE**
Become more familiar with our neighbourhood and have a closer look at our solar system, sun and moon. The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie and stargazing (weather permitting).

Cost: $15 adult, $10 child/concession and $40 family. Bookings are essential: Book and pay online: www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What's On Enquiries: Phone (02)4736 0135 or email r.mccourt@uws.edu.au

# Upcoming dates...

**Wednesday 3 September**
Early Bird Reading 8.30am

School Banking 8.30am

Fathers' Day Stall

Parent Course 1.2.3 Magic 6.30pm-8.30pm

**Thursday 4 September**
Year 5 Camp

Kindergarten Liturgy of the Word—12.00pm

**Friday 5 September**
Year 5 Camp

Kindergarten Farm excursion

Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day

**Tuesday 9 September**
Early Bird Reading 8.30am

**Wednesday 10 September**
Voice of Youth Final

Parent Course 1.2.3 Magic 6.30pm-8.30pm

**Thursday 11 September**
Year 3 Blue Mountains excursion

**Friday 12 September**
Infants Sports Carnival

Augustinian Prayer 3.00pm

**Wednesday 17 September**
School Banking 8.30am

Parent Course 1.2.3 Magic 6.30pm-8.30pm

**Reminder Infants Sport Carnival**

**Friday 12 September**

**Students are to wear their sports uniform.**

**The sports carnival will be held at the school**

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