



Shepherd Spy

WEEK 3 TERM 1

22 FEBRUARY 2018

Dear Community,

Partnership in education is something that we have been talking about in schools for a long time now. The partnership we speak of is the relationship that exists between school and home (and in Catholic schools the parish). Partnerships are many and varied and the type of partnership existing would vary markedly from school to school, vary according to the people involved and the history and culture of the school.

I think it would be safe to say that in the past the lines of demarcation were well and truly drawn between home and school. Parents dropped the children at the school gate and the teachers were in charge of everything that happened inside that gate. At the end of the day the children were neatly dispatched back to the parents and parents got on with the business of home life forthwith.

Luckily, things are not quite like that these days!

Last week we had a very successful Parent Information Night. I have received some very positive feedback from this evening: 'great community event', 'informative' and 'partnership' are three words/phrases I received in emails and letters from parents. During the evening there was plenty of evidence to show we are working with you in raising your children. We value parental (and grandparental) assistance and support- in fact, we see it as an important part of our school culture.

A reminder, please, to approach your child's teacher- or me- if you have any concerns. We love what we do and want the best for your children too. Hoping we see many parents/carers and grandparents at our swimming carnival next week!

Swimming Carnival- Monday

The weather should be fine and sunny for Monday's annual swimming carnival. Parents and friends are most welcome to join us Monday to cheer on your house! Sunscreen will be provided at the pool, however, it is really important that you apply sunscreen on your own children before they arrive at school. Please talk to your children about staying in the shade when not in the pool. We are really looking forward to a great day.

Community Council Meeting

This week we held our first Community Council meeting for the year. Discussion topics included our Strategic Plan for the school, our Building project and further improving communication within our large school. How we can make 'Mothers' Day' bigger and better than the Fathers' Day event last year was also hotly debated!

The school will be using Community Council funds this year to contribute towards our new playground. A new playground will be built later this year (where the current Year 1 portable is situated) and this will be financially supported by parents through the Community Council Levy.

We are also looking for 'leaders/moderators/representatives' for Year Level Facebook pages. This role is just someone to monitor, encourage, oversee and assist in communicating to parents. It is not onerous and would really suit someone who is 'savvy' with this social media. If interested, please send me an email.

Good Shepherd
Catholic School
Amaroo is a
companion school
to Holy Spirit
School Nicholls,
Mother Teresa School
Harrison and St John
Paul II College,
Nicholls.
Together we serve
and are served by
Holy Spirit Parish
Gungahlin.

Parish Mass is
held every
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 8am;
9.30am and 5.30pm
All are welcome
to join us.

School website
www.goodshepherd.
@cg.catholic.edu.au

Email
[office.goodshepherd@](mailto:office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au)
cg.catholic.edu.au

Phone
6255 7888

Parish Home
Fr Mark Croker
6242 9622

To be together the heart of..

School Welfare Officer/Chaplain

As you would be aware, Mrs Veronica Harris resigned at Christmas time. We have advertised for a School Welfare Officer/Chaplain for the rest of this year. (There is no guaranteed government funding for this programme beyond 2018).

The hours will be approximately 20 hours per fortnight (2 days per week). The successful candidate must hold either a Certificate IV in Youth Work or Pastoral Care, or an equivalent qualification. School chaplains support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services, and supporting the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community.

If you are interested (or know someone), please find the advertisement on the Catholic Education Website (under employment) and follow the links.

Wishing God's blessing on you and your families,



David Austin
Principal



Good Shepherd provides a [counselling service](#) for all students and families within the school. The school counsellor is employed by CatholicCare and attends our school weekly, to provide one-on-one assessments and therapies for children, support to families and carers, consultation with the school, and resources and referrals to outside services.

What are common issues that the school counsellor can help with?

- Improving mood and mental health, such as anxiety or depression
- Difficulties with friendships or social skills
- Self-esteem or resilience
- Family situations such as parental separation or health issues
- Grief and loss
- Managing behavioural difficulties or developmental issues
- Providing support for parenting

How can I contact the school counsellor?

Parents and carers can speak to Kate Cummings (*Thursday 9.00am - 3.30pm or even week Friday 9.00am - 3.30pm*) or ask your child's teacher or the school Principal to make a referral. In some cases, teachers may make a referral directly. Older children may initiate contact, however parental consent is always gained before the school counsellor has any contact with children.

How does the counselling service work?

The school counsellor works in collaboration with families and carers, teaching staff, learning support, and if necessary outside services, to ensure a holistic approach to children's wellbeing. However, contact is carried out in a way that ensures as much privacy for children and families as possible, and information is kept confidential unless permission is given or there are serious concerns about the safety of the child.

After a referral has been made, there can be a waiting period of up to two weeks, although the counsellor endeavours to make contact as soon as possible and prioritises urgent cases. The school counsellor starts with discussing what is happening with your child to make an assessment about how to best provide therapy or support.

Our school counsellor Kate Cummings, who works at Good Shepherd Thursday (9:00am - 3.30pm) and even Friday (9:00am - 3:30pm). To make contact please phone the school.



...God in Amaroo.

Making an Appointment with Your Child's Teacher

Parents who wish to make a formal appointment with a teacher are asked to email the teacher directly. Teacher emails are

firstname.surname@cg.catholic.edu.au (*Direct email links are on our website*).

Some things to consider:

- Please do not approach a teacher at morning assembly or straight after school for a formal chat. Teachers are often on duty, have meetings or appointments scheduled;
- Teachers may take a few days to respond to your email;
- Appointments will usually be before school or immediately after school. Like any specialist appointment, parents make need to rearrange their work schedule to make the appointment;
- Interviews are scheduled for all year levels in early Term 2. Parents also have the option of an interview at the end of Term 2 and Term 4 following receipt of written reports.

Medication

If your child has any medication at school eg. Epipen, Ventolin, Asthma or Antihistamine it is your responsibility to check and replace any medication out of date. Also please ensure you have signed and lodged the appropriate authorities and Action Plans. Action Plans must be updated each school year.

Sign In/Sign Out

It has come to our attention there are a number of children arriving to school after morning assembly. If your child arrives late they must be signed in at the Front Office by a parent/carer. Children then hand a late note to their teacher.

If your child needs to leave school during school hours for an appointment or any other reason, your child's teacher must be notified by email before the commencement of class. This allows the teacher to make arrangements for your child to be at the Front Office when you come to sign him/her out which will save you time and reduce interruption to the class.

School Fees

Term 1 Fees have been issued. **Payment is due Friday, 9 March.** If you have not received your statement please contact the Office. Preferred payment method is BPay. If you are having difficulty meeting your financial commitment please email finance.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au

Handy Helpers

If you are free on a Monday morning and would like to meet some new people while helping out our teaching staff, then please come to the Staff Room after morning assembly. While we chat we can start to do any craft prep, laminating, contacting, or other general duties that the teachers need for upcoming classes. It's an informal group so just come when you can. Younger children are also welcome to come along. Morning tea will be provided.



Good Shepherd Netball Registrations are now OPEN!

If your daughter is in Years 1-6 and would like to be part of a fantastic team sport, please consider joining Good Shepherd Netball Club. They will have loads of fun while learning new skills.

Please go to the Good Shepherd website for more information and how to register in our registration pack.

The Stars of the week are:



Benjamin (KE)	Tess (1C)	Adelaide (2C/T)	Jackson (3D)	Riley (4F)	Cameron (5D/D)	Alex (6B)
Ebony (KK)	Lyla (1H)	Ronan (2F)	Daniel (3T)	Natasha (4J)	Eliezel (5H)	Harrison (6M)
Harry (KM/S)	Paige (1M)	Mary (2K)	Ryan (3Welsh)	Matilda (4P)	Liesbeth (5R/T)	Amber (6T)
William (KT)	Lachlan (1R)	Stevie (2M)	Oliver (3Wh)	Alani (4Z)	Noah (6A)	

To be together the heart of...

To be the Heart of God through connected hearts,
inspired minds, flourishing students.'

Prayer Celebration Invitation

Our school community is invited to join Year 4 Zaja and 4 Jones/O'Connell for our Prayer Celebration tomorrow, Friday, 23 February.

Confirmation, a sacrament of initiation, establishes young adults as full-fledged members of the faith. This sacrament is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. During your Baptism, your parents and godparents make promises to renounce Satan and believe in God and the Church on your behalf. At Confirmation, you renew those same promises, this time speaking for yourself.

Reminder that this weekend are enrolment and commitment Masses for Confirmation. Please bring your enrolment form, a copy of your child's baptism certificate and the prayer card from your information packs.

If you missed the Confirmation information sessions on Tuesday, there is a last chance to receive the information you need to begin preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. This session will be held in the Church at 5pm on Saturday 24 February.

This weekend will be the last chance to enrol your child into the Confirmation program. Please notify Anthony.oconnell1@cg.catholic.edu.au or the Parish Office if your child would like to be involved in the Confirmation program this year. If there are any enrolments after this weekend, those students will have to wait until next year to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Many thanks to those families who have signed to collect for the **Vinnies Doorknock Appeal**. All packs have been collected so a huge thank you to the families who have been involved in the doorknock. As you complete your areas, please leave your kits with Joan or Helen in the Front Office.



Lent relates to the time Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the desert before He began His ministry. During this time Jesus was tempted by the devil three times: firstly he tempted Jesus with food (avoid suffering), then he tempted Him with power (to be an important ruler), and lastly he tempted Jesus to test God to see if He exists (throw Himself off a tower and make God save him). Each time Jesus answers 'no' and is strengthened to fulfil His mission.

Applying this to our own lives, we are also tempted each day with the same things: tempted to avoid suffering that comes to us, tempted to look for power and prestige, and tempted to believe God doesn't exist, especially when we struggle to see Him in our everyday lives.

As Christians, we are called to the same mission as Jesus. His mission is to make known God the Father through his life, death and resurrection. This is also our mission. We are called to show the world that there is life after death and that God loves them so much he gave His life for us through his son, Jesus. This is a HUGE mission and can only be accomplished with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit Parish are hosting on a Multicultural festival after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 24 March. There will be lots of food from different cultures as well entertainment including singing, dancing and even some cheerleading from our very own Good Shepherd Cheer squad. Save the date: Saturday 24 March. Come along and enjoy this wonderful community event!



...God in Amaroo.

Community Council News

Welcome to 2018!

The Good Shepherd Community Council consists of parents, teachers and staff of Good Shepherd Primary School.

We currently have 2 vacancies for parent members and are looking forward to welcoming some new faces this year. Please forward your nomination to the Front Office in a sealed envelope addressed to The Principal, Mr David Austin

Our committee is

- * David Austin Principal
- * Melinda Hall O'Brien - Assistant Principal
- * Vanessa Thornton - Teacher Representative
- * Rita Wood - Council Chair
- * Jim Fisher - Treasurer
- * Leanne Cowburn - Parent Member and Netball representative
- * Bernadette Maher-Pratt - Parent Representative

Naomi Mitchell Sachs leaves us this year - Naomi is a great supporter of the school and has been a fantastic member of Council. We thank Naomi for her contribution.

This year Council's main focus will be on school ground improvements with the majority of our budget going towards the new playground and external ground works and maintenance.

We are also working with Roads ACT to resolve traffic issues around our school. We will be working with Amaroo School and Roads ACT to engage a traffic consultant to do a study and report back with recommendations to ease the congestion. This will not be an easy task with over 2500 students attending both schools - please bear with us during this time and be considerate of other drivers and pedestrians.

We are looking forward to a great year at Good Shepherd Primary School and as always welcome any feedback for council to be sent to gscouncil1@gmail.com or directly to David Austin .

<p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM</p>

I, hereby nominate
(Name)

for the position of elected Parent Representative on the Community Council

.....
(signature)

Seconded by
(Name and signature)

I accept this nomination
(Name and signature)

All nominations are confidential. Please send nominations to Mr David Austin, Principal, in a sealed envelope labelled 'Community Council Nomination' by **3pm on Friday 23 February, 2018**. All nominations will be placed in a sealed box and will be opened by Father Mark, our Parish Priest and the Principal, David Austin.