



Shepherd Spy

WEEK 1 TERM 3

26 JULY 2018

Good Shepherd Catholic School Amaroo is a companion school to Holy Spirit School Nicholls, and 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](mailto:cg.catholic.edu.au)

Email
office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au

Phone
6255 7888

Fax
6255 7999
Parish Home
(Fr Mark Croker)
6242 9622

Dear Community,

It is a great pleasure to welcome students, staff and families to the second semester and Term 3. It was great to see everyone enthusiastic and ready for a busy and productive term. I spent the most of Week 9 and 10 recovering from a hernia operation but feel 100% now and so glad I'm back!

Teachers have spent much of the holidays preparing and planning teaching programmes for this term. It is another busy term with First Eucharist and Reconciliation celebrations, Wakakirri, Book Week, Fathers' Day, Year 4 Camp, 'STEM' Fair, and Working Bee all taking place.

The holiday break provides the occasion to stop, rest and reflect on the past semester. It is also an opportunity for readjustment, to make necessary changes and set benchmarks for the semester ahead.

Following on from school reports last term, I encourage parents to sit with their children and set realistic goals for the semester ahead. My hope is that by the conclusion of the semester, each and every student can look back with a sense of achievement about what has transpired, have overcome challenges on their journey and have approached their schooling with enthusiasm and perseverance.

MID YEAR REFLECTION

In saying that, it is important too for the School Leadership Team and Community Council to reflect on the goals from the past Semester and to readjust, make necessary priorities and set goals for the last two terms.

Our Leadership Team and Community Council identified some key areas for 2018. Our Leadership Team and Staff have also been working on our Annual Improvement Plan, based on data from NAPLAN and other areas. Our strategic priorities for 2018 are:

By the end of 2018 we will:

- have implemented the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) program matrix to create supportive classrooms at Good Shepherd;
- Have applied an inquiry mindset to develop a culture of inquiry across a range of curriculum areas; and
- Investigate which teaching strategies and learning opportunities deliver improved student achievement in spelling.

Much of our Professional Learning (Staff Meetings) has focussed on these areas. Staff work collaboratively in their team meetings to ensure that these priorities are at the forefront of their planning and at the end of 2018, we can collect data to see if these priorities have been met.

Other areas we have focussed on for 2018 are:

1. *Our Building Project*

We are currently in the middle of a major refurbishment of classrooms. B Block opened last term and currently G Building is being renovated to ensure our school is contemporary and caters for 21st century teaching and learning. F Block (the

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current Year 6 and 3 building) as well as C Building (current Year 5 block) is currently having Final Sketch Drawing completed and will go to tender in the next few months.

Our current project (G Building) is expected to be completed in November.

Landscaping around the front of B Block (new building) is also being planned and completion of this should occur this term. Consultation and feedback will be provided for parents before the project is signed off.

2. Playground

We are currently in discussion with a Playground company, the architect and the Catholic Education Office to construct a large climbing playground where the old portable was situated. Completion and construction is expected by the end of the year.

3. Community events

The Community Council are focussing their energies on Fathers' Day afternoon, Working Bee etc. This year we have held Mothers' Day event and a bushdance. Our school is a large school and making all members feel welcome is a priority.

4. Carparking/Pickup

We are currently working with ACT Government and Amaroo School (and a traffic consultant) to give us recommendations for pick-up/drop-off, parking etc. We should get this information soon and the Community Council will consider recommendations and will inform parents when available.

NEW FAMILIES

A special welcome to the many new students and families to Good Shepherd: Tine Guta (Yr 1), Kossia Deng (Yr 2), Addison Lewis (Yr 4), Anisha Nathania (Yr 4), Nydier Deng (Yr 6), Kaedon Lewis (Kinder) and Jonathon Seedhom (Kinder).

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Following an election within the Community Council, we have a new executive. Congratulations to Mrs Erin Burrows who was appointed Community Council Chair. Congratulations also too to Mrs Kendall Morrison who was appointed Deputy Chair. Mrs Erin Anderson (Secretary) and Mr Jim Fisher (Treasurer) maintain their roles.

Other members of the Community Council (Parent Reps) are Mrs Leanne Cowburn and Mrs Bernadette Maher-Pratt. The Staff representative is Mrs Vanessa Thornton. Fr Mark Croker (Parish Priest), Melinda Hall-O'Brien (Assistant Principal) and I are ex-officio members of the Community Council.

STAFFING UPDATE

Last term we farewelled our Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) Mandy Woodall. I congratulate Taryn Ahern who has been appointed to this role for the rest of 2018.

Please feel free to contact Taryn if needed: taryn.ahern@cg.catholic.edu.au

CatholicCare has appointed a new School Counsellor for Good Shepherd, commencing this term. Mutsumi Sakaguchi will be starting on Thursday 9th August and will work at the school on Thursdays and alternate Fridays. If you would like your child to access this free service, please contact the Front Office.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICES FROM 2019

We have been made aware of the proposed changes to the Transport Canberra bus network commencing in January 2019. Of particular interest are the changes proposed to school bus services.

Commencing in January 2019, dedicated school bus services will no longer be provided for Good Shepherd.

As parents and carers, you are strongly urged to provide your feedback through "YourSay" on <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/rapid-bus-network> before 12 August 2018.

...the heart of God.

We will continue our discussion with Transport Canberra and provide further information as and when available.

Wishing God's blessing on you and your families,



David Austin
Principal



Stars of the week...

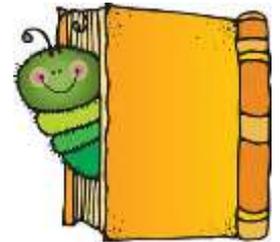
Asher (KE)	Lachlan (1C)	Eshaan (2CT)	Joseph (3D)	Sophie (4F)	Lanie (5DD)	Dante (6A)
Kaedon (KK)	Darcy (1H)	Harlow (2F)	Noah (3T)	Stephanie(4JO)	Joshua (5H)	Bryce (6B)
Sienna C (KMS)	Aidan (1M)	Natalia (2K)	Emma-Luisa (3W)	Grace S (4P)	Paawni (5R)	Charlie H (6M)
Meredith (KT)	Astrud (1R)	Riley (2M)	Riley (3Wh)	Keira (4Z)		Kayla (6T)



Book Club Reminder

Scholastic Book Club went home yesterday.
Please use LOOP only for the orders (details are on the back of the forms).

Orders are due back no later than next Friday 3 August.



REMINDER - Tickets on sale now for Brick Expo!

We'd like to tell you about Brick Expo (www.brickexpo.com.au), a local LEGO exhibition that raises money for PaTCH - Paediatrics at the Canberra Hospital. Over the last few years, Brick Expo has raised more than \$300,000 that has been used to purchase life-saving equipment, artworks, and lots of other things that help make staying in hospital a little bit easier.

Brick Expo is held over three days at the Hellenic Club, Woden, and tickets are on sale now. We'd appreciate it if you could share the attached flyer or poster with your school community. Maybe in your school newsletter or you might like to put it up on your school noticeboard.

If you would like to know more about Brick Expo, you can find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanberraBrickExpo/>. Tickets are available online now at www.brickexpo.com.au.

We hope to see you and your school community at Brick Expo! 10-12 August 2018.



Departing Families

We are aware that some families will be moving out of the area at the end of this year. To help us with staffing and class structure for 2019, we would really appreciate knowing which children (apart from Year 6!) will not be returning to Good Shepherd next year.

If your child/ren will not be returning, please email
office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au

Please also indicate where your child/ren will be attending school next year.

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Religious Education News

Sacrament of Reconciliation & First Eucharist

This weekend begins the formal preparation of those students receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist later this term. Please keep these students in your prayers as they are welcomed more fully into the Church and into a Christian life serving God and loving those around them.

A reminder to parents and children to collect a jigsaw puzzle piece at Mass each week. They will be available in the room adjacent to the foyer before Mass.

Pray Celebration - Sustainable Growth

Year 6McMinn and 6Abbott will be leading the school in prayer at next Friday, 3 August at 9.15 am in the hall. All families are welcome.

Term 3 Masses

During the school term, each class celebrates a Mass with the parish at 9:15am on Thursdays. A warm invitation is extended to all families to come and celebrate Mass with the children.

Classes	Mass Timetable
Year 3	Thursday, 2 August (Week 2)
Kinder and Year 6	Thursday, 9 August (Week 3)
Year 1 and Year 5	Thursday, 6 September (Week 7)
Year 2 and Year 4	Thursday, 20 September (Week 9)



Assumption Mass - Wednesday, 15 August

Good Shepherd will be celebrating Mass at 9.15am to commemorate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. Everyone is welcome to celebrate this feast.

Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop Feast Day

On Wednesday, 8 August the Catholic Church celebrates the life and mission of our first and only Australian saint, St Mary of the Cross Mackillop. During her life, Mary Mackillop looked out for others and did all she could to help those around her who were troubled. In this time, if you have an intention, you may like to pray to St Mary of the Cross Mackillop using the prayer.

*Ever generous God,
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop
To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement
to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.
With confidence in your generous providence
and through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop*

***We ask that you grant our request.....**
We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit
so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust and openness.
Ever generous God hear our prayer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

