



# Shepherd Spy

WEEK 9 TERM 4

13 DECEMBER 2018

Dear Parents

This, of course, is the final 'big' newsletter for the year and I take the opportunity to thank everyone for a year that I have found extremely rewarding from the first days. While looking forward to a summer break, there will be much that can be taken from this year into what I am sure will be a successful 2019.

Last night we held our annual Christmas Carols and Picnic. Although we had a late change to our proposed venue, it was a fantastic evening catching up with friends and saying thanks for a great year. Thank you for the great feedback and spending time as a community leading to Christmas.

Over the next week, we will hold some key school events: Kindergarten Nativity, Year 6 Graduation, Candle Ceremony and our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass.

## [Kinder Nativity](#)

Tomorrow morning is our annual Kinder Nativity. We are really looking forward to this performance at 9:15am tomorrow. Our Kindergarten students have come such a long way since the start of the year. We had a sneak peek this morning and it is a great performance! Please join us tomorrow!

## [Year 6 Graduation- 5pm Tuesday 18 December](#)

This Tuesday evening is a significant date for our current Year 6 students and their families. Our outgoing Year Six students leave us with the very best of memories and the Mass and celebrations to follow are a great opportunity to wish them well. Their contribution, enthusiasm and good humour have been greatly appreciated. A big thank you to the band of Year 5 parents who have coordinated and organised the Graduation celebrations for our Year 6 students and their families.

## [Candle Ceremony- 9:30am Wednesday 19 December](#)

This is a special ceremony where we recognise the Year 6 students who have been out student leaders for 2018 and hand over the light of leadership to our current Year 5 students- our new leaders for 2019.

You are all most welcome to attend- it is a very moving and special ceremony.

## [End of Year Thanksgiving Mass- 12pm Thursday 20 December](#)

Our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass will be held next Thursday in the school hall, commencing at 12pm. We encourage you to come along and celebrate a great year. During the Mass we will farewell the students, families and staff who will leave Good Shepherd at the end of the year.

As at the end of any year there are families whose association, often over many years, finishes on the last day of this term. To those departing families and children I wish you well and thank you for your ongoing support of our wonderful school.

## [School Banking](#)

Every Thursday, a band of mothers meets at school and work tirelessly on our Commonwealth Bank School Banking. With over 700 students at school we have many who participate in this programme and the work from our committed parents Lee Revell, Anita Soldo, Emily Gifford and Kelly Savage each and every week is very much appreciated.

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

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.catholic.edu.au](http://www.goodshepherd.catholic.edu.au)

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

Phone  
6255 7888

Parish Home  
Fr Mark Croker  
6242 9622

## To be together .....

This year, I have been informed that the school has received over \$1600 in commission from the school banking. The Community Council will ensure this is used wisely to benefit all students within our school.

Thank you again to our banking volunteers! We are very appreciative!

There will be no banking next week.

### Staff news

Just when we think we have finalised our staffing for 2019..... we have change!

Congratulations to Mrs Toni Pfeiffer who has been appointed National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) Officer at the Catholic Education Office from the start of 2019. Toni has been a staff member at Good Shepherd for over 8 years and this is a promotion and great opportunity for Toni.

Mr Morgan Holland has accepted a temporary teaching position at a northside public school for next year. This decision has obviously had an impact on our Year 5 teaching staff and I have advertised for a Year 5 teacher which closes mid next week. Although extremely late in the year, I am hoping we can fill this position before the end of 2018 and will keep parents informed throughout Christmas and the New Year of developments.

### Other news.....

- Mrs Diana Jones will be working in the area of Classroom Support next year.
- Mrs Lisa MacMahon has decided to take twelve months off her leadership role and will teach Kindergarten full-time.
- Mrs Philippa Brotchie has been appointed Acting Coordinator for 2019 to replace Lisa and will share Year 6 with Anthony O'Connell.

In next week's 'short' newsletter, I will list all staff for 2019.

### Class lists

Every year at about this time, the talk starts! Who will be my child's teacher next year? My question is ..... does it really matter?

I often wonder why parents have certain views about different teachers. Is it based on previous experience or gossip? Good Shepherd is fortunate to have a wide range of talented teachers. We have a fabulous reputation in the community for providing excellence. We have experienced and early career teachers. We have teachers with a passion for Maths, for Literacy, for the Creative Arts, for Technology and the list goes on.

Over 7 years at primary school a student will experience a wide range of teachers and gain valuable skills and knowledge from each and every one of them. Parents cannot always shelter and protect their child or choose their teachers for them. A big part of life is learning to deal with a range of people, whether it be other children or adults. It is about building skills and resilience that can be used in later life. Sure, some students may not like a particular teacher, but how do they really know if they have never actually been taught by them?

I do not know how many times a student (and parent) has been apprehensive about a teacher, only to find that they then have a great year. How your child responds to the news of their class teacher for 2019 will largely depend on your own response. Whether you are satisfied or not, you need to be positive and encouraging. If your child sees that you are upbeat, then they will be confident and optimistic about the future.

Our staff members have just completed compiling class lists, considering numbers of factors and parental educational concerns. I know from having spoken to many parents this year, and in previous years, that you understand the complexity of the task. I thought however it may be of interest to you to outline the factors that are taken into consideration when placing children into class groupings.

## ...the heart of God.

- Gender: We aim to achieve an even split of boys and girls (this is made easier by the fact that our school does not lose boys in great numbers to single sex schools in the Primary Years).
- Ability: We believe that children learn from each other and that applies to the more and less abled child. Classes operate most effectively when children learn cooperatively from each other, the learning may not just include academic areas but social growth as well.
- Friendship Groupings: This is always problematic because Primary- aged children move in and out of groups on a regular basis, and as you know from adult life mutual friendships can sometimes be one way on occasions.

An additional layer of complexity in this process is the placement of teachers on grade levels. Our teachers work in teams so it is crucial to have the right mix of team members on each year level. Once again we aim to spread the experience and gender of staff across the grades. We also take into consideration the need to keep staff fresh by moving them regularly across different grade levels. As in previous years children will be placed in their new class next week. In short, putting classes together is somewhat of a giant jigsaw puzzle but at the heart of the jigsaw must remain the needs of the child. Our staff appreciates the huge trust that you place in them to get the jigsaw right!

### [School Reports home tomorrow](#)

The reports distributed tomorrow have been prepared in line with the school's Assessment and Reporting policy and also the Australian Government funding requirements and associated legislative regulations. The teachers have worked extremely hard throughout the year to ensure assessment strategies are implemented to develop clear and fair assessment tasks; to make consistent and reliable judgements about a student's work; to ensure effective, explicit teaching has occurred and that assessments are placed within those parameters; to ensure that the assessment process is known by the students prior to being conducted; and that assessment data is utilised to inform teaching and learning programs.

When reporting, the teacher is awarding a grade to the student taking into account knowledge, skills and understandings covered up to the point when the judgement is made. This means the staff are making an 'on balance and professional judgement' of student progress and attainments.

I hope that you find your child's Semester Two Report beneficial in providing information related to their learning and progress at school. Thank you for working in partnership to support your child's education. This partnership between home and school will be healthy and enhance our children's learning if it is fostered in a positive way.

Thank you also to the staff who have spent hours and hours over the past few weeks writing reports and completing assessments. They are a very committed and dedicated group of people!

### [School Fees](#)

Thank you to the families who have finalised their 2018 school fees and returned their 2019 (yellow) school fee commitment form.

There are still a number of outstanding school fees. Please finalise payment as soon as possible.

If you have not yet returned your yellow 2019 School Fee Commitment Form please do so immediately.

Wishing God's blessing on you and your families,



David Austin  
Principal



To be together .....

# Religious Education News

## Advent & Christmas

During each week of Advent, weekly prayer liturgies will be sent home via the Skoolbag app. Each week you are welcome to take time to pray with your family to prepare yourselves for Christmas.

There is also a calendar that can be printed out and put on the fridge to remind you each day how to give of yourself this Advent season. Have a look in this newsletter for a copy.

## Second Week of Advent

The second candle in the Advent wreath is called the *Bethlehem Candle*. This candle reminds us of the time when Jesus came to earth as a baby and was born in the small city of Bethlehem. This candle also reminds us that Jesus promised to come again. According to Luke's Gospel, these are his words:

*"Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near." (Gospel of Luke 21:27-28)*

## St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers

Thank you families for your generous donations to the Christmas appeal this year. All the Christmas hampers will be blessed at Sunday Mass at 9:30am at Holy Spirit Parish before they are taken to families in Gungahlin who need extra help this Christmas. Altogether Good Shepherd was able to donate 33 hampers to the appeal this year. Many thanks again for your generosity.



Friday 14th December - Kinder nativity at 9:15am

Wednesday 19th December - Year 5 & 6 Candle ceremony at 9:30am

Thursday 20th December - Whole School Thanksgiving Mass at 12pm

Understanding Faith -  
Resource for Religious Education  
Parents are the first educators of their children. This is also true for education in the Catholic faith.

If you feel you would like to more about the Catholic faith or would like to teach your child more about it, visit this website:

[www.understandingfaith.edu.au](http://www.understandingfaith.edu.au)



The login details are:

Username - ceo.cg.amaroo

Password - 32cubeGLAD

This is a great resource that is used across the school to teach about the Catholic faith in a real and tangible way. It can be particularly good for preparation in the Sacraments.



# Defence News



Moving is a major life change, and children may face challenges as they leave behind friends and familiar places and activities.

There are several steps you can take to make the process more manageable for children and to help them become more positive and self-reliant. DCO/DFA offer a range of support for children, including assistance with changing schools and special programs for young children and teenagers.

For more information about guiding children through relocations, contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or <http://www.defence.gov.au/DCO/Military-life/Moving-relocation/kids.asp>

Talk to the children about the upcoming move

Communicating truthfully and openly with children about relocations is important to help them understand and cope with the change. Talk about the relocation early and often to give them time to become accustomed to the idea and think through what it means to them. Explain clearly why it is important for the family to move.

Involve the children in the process

Letting children help with the move - e.g. helping to pack or unpack, or decide where things will go in the new home and involving older children in discussions and preparations for the move, can help them to feel empowered, valued and that they have a say.

Talk about feelings

Encourage children to express their emotions, their hopes and fears, and respond with understanding. Expressing your own feelings in healthy ways can help them recognise they are not alone. If they resist opening up to you as a parent, try to provide some opportunities for them to talk with family or friends they may feel more comfortable confiding in. They might also want to express their feelings through other avenues like stories or poetry, art, music or physical activities.

Be positive

Guide children to think about the positive things about the change - e.g. the chance to make new friends, new interesting subjects to take at school, or a fun activity to do in the new location - and healthy ways to respond to the challenges - e.g. keeping in contact with friends from the last location, or creating a scrapbook or photo album of their former community, school, home and friends.

**My family uses language like “this is a new adventure”, another chapter in the life of a very proud Defence Family.** We look at maps to see what the area is like and we also talk about what we will be able to see or experience in that part of the world. We assure our kids that with technology these days we will be able to keep in touch with friends and family.

Please let me know if I can help you to make your transition in or out of Good Shepherd easier.

Taryn Ahern  
DSM



## Stars of the week ....

<b>Sebastian &amp; Eli</b> (KE)	<b>Fabian</b> (1C)	<b>Lachlan</b> (2CT)	<b>Avyukth</b> (3D)	<b>Siena</b> (4F)	<b>Nikolas</b> (5DD)	<b>Charlotte</b> (6A)
<b>Nezahat</b> (KK)	<b>Amelia</b> (1H)	<b>Omeesha</b> (2F)	<b>Alicia</b> (3T)	<b>Dejon</b> (4JO)	<b>Jacob</b> (5H)	<b>Sarah</b> (6B)
<b>Jessica</b> (KMS)	<b>Winter</b> (1M)	<b>Gabrielle</b> (2K)	<b>Yohaán</b> (3W)	<b>Aidan</b> (4P)	<b>Jasmine</b> (5R)	<b>Rory</b> (6M)
<b>Ruby</b> (KT)	<b>Lachlan</b> (1R)	<b>Janelle</b> (2M)	<b>Georgia</b> (3Wh)	<b>Rebecca</b> (4Z)		<b>Amelia</b> (6T)