Dear Parents and Carers,

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Last week I attended the National Catholic Education Conference in Perth. The theme was Faith to Lead – Lead to Faith. Over 1400 leaders from all over Australia gathered to discuss issues relevant to Catholic Education. It was also an opportunity to reflect upon what it means to lead the young people we serve. I took so much away, and felt inspired as a leader of our school. The topic explored by one of the keynote speakers was – What is an education worth having? I believe that at Holy Spirit we constantly provide a Catholic Education worth having. What sets us apart from other schools is that we really get to the heart of what is important, relationships. We teach not only values, but the art of living. Our school is a place to meet the living God. It is a place of challenge and support, a place where differences are respected and accepted. We are a school, where we honour the past, but constantly see the need to redesign the future of learning. We engage our students and promote productive behaviours. We value cognitive and non-cognitive skills. We realise we need to touch the hearts of our students in order to make a difference. I firmly believe we make a difference at Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School and Early Learning Centre.

On your behalf, I thank our dedicated staff, who in their varied roles, give fully of themselves every day to ensure that our students are educated, cared for, nurtured and inspired. We, as a staff, are grateful for our students’ families who work in partnership with us, and are involved in the life of our school. We give thanks for our students; the people who fill each day with joy, excitement, adventure and inspiration.

STORY TELLING THROUGH ART

This week, a number of classes participated in a workshop with Aunty Wendy Rix, a contemporary indigenous artist. Students were inspired by Wendy’s story of her family and their connections to each other and the land. The students had the opportunity to tell their own story through an artwork. Each student painted from the heart and the narratives that were told, were truly moving.

REPORTS

Tomorrow, your child will bring home their Semester One Report. If your child is not at school, it will be sent to you by mail. Please take time to discuss the contents of the report with your child. Be positive, but honest, tell them what they have done well, and where improvement is needed, both academically and with the all-important social skills and work habits. Ask how you can help them improve in the areas that may concern you. All in all, we can only ever ask that our children work to the best of their ability.

Parent Teacher Interviews and Learning Conversations will be conducted in Week 2 of Term 3. Students will be part of a conversation in which they will discuss their learning and set goals for the coming term. Parents will also be given an opportunity to have a short time alone with the teacher if there are sensitive issues to be raised. Please look out for the flyer that will be sent home with the reports tomorrow, giving instructions for booking interviews online. This booking service will be accessible tomorrow. Please ensure that you go online and book the time that suits you in the interview period.
SAFE TRAVELS
We wish Mrs Jane Johns a happy and safe holiday as she embarks on Long Service Leave to travel overseas. We hope that she delights in the beautiful sights of Japan and that she takes advantage of the well-deserved break.

We also wish Miss Bartley safe travels and an enriching experience, as she journeys to Poland for World Youth Day. She, along with 14 other teachers from the Archdiocese, has been chosen for this pilgrimage. Our prayers are with her as she participates in this faith inspiring opportunity.

WELCOME
We welcome back to our school Mrs Melissa Heffernan and Michelle Young, both of whom have been on maternity leave.

We hope that students and staff have a restful break. School resumes for Term 3 on Monday 18th of July.

God bless.
Anna D’Amico
Principal

Knitting Club.......

Our Knitting Club has hit the ground running. We have over 30 regular members that come to 2 Kaptein each Tuesday lunch time to learn how to knit. We are starting to learn the “knit” stitch and are making 10 cm squares to sew into blankets for people in need, especially in this cold weather.

Our Knitting Club would not be successful without the help of our lovely volunteer Brenda Brown (Grandmother of Knitting Club member India Palethorpe) and Mrs French. We would like to thank you for coming along each week.

We have been very lucky to receive a donation of wool and knitting needles from the Australian Country Spinners, who have kindly donated the wool to help encourage knitting and other wool based craft in our school. Thank you so much for your donation, we are putting the wool to good use.

If you would like to contribute to our Knitting Club during the holidays, you can make 10 cm squares and hand them into Miss Kaptein who will arrange for them to be made into blankets.

If you would like to learn to knit, we look forward to seeing you next term!

Defence News...

Postings
Around this time, Defence families can find out they are about to relocate or post elsewhere. This is a big change for families and children. DCO provide some very useful information on their website to help with the process of relocation. See www.defence.gov.au/dco and check out the links for ‘On the move’ and ‘Moving with children’.

KidSMART are a set of four-week programs for primary aged kids to help them manage issues arising from posting, relocation and deployment. Sessions are once a week for 1 to 1.5 hours per session. A workshop will be held in Term 3, in the Gungahlin area – watch this space for more details. Or you can contact the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 for more information or to sign up for a program.

“Friendship Group” will begin again next term and will be held on every second Wednesday (even weeks) at recess. This group is for the children of Defence parents who are away either on deployment, training exercise or course. Please let me know if you have a family member away and I shall include your child in our Friendship Group. I hope everyone enjoys their break and that you get to enjoy the crisp weather in Canberra. But don’t go hibernating throughout the school holidays just because it is winter! There are a lot of activities to do around Canberra. Check out the Winter Festival in the City complete with an ice skating rink. Just head to Garema Place in the City between June 23 and July 17 and have some fun.

Holiday Happenings publish a free activities booklet containing over 120 local programs, events and activities to help keep your kids busily active during the break. Follow the link to holidayhappenings.com.au/canberra.php for all your holiday adventure.

Ciao for now
Vicki Walsh
DSTA
Monday 9am-3pm
Wednesday (even weeks) 9am-11am
Save the date

This year
Holy Spirit Primary
Will be
20 Years old

There will be a day of celebration on Wednesday 14th September

Put that date in your diary, as it will be day full of fun for everyone.

Election Day
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
Fundraiser @ Holy Spirit
Outside the hall
Saturday 2nd July
8am—4pm

Volunteers needed!

We need your help to cook sausages, serve and assist on the day. The shifts are short and many hands make light work. If you are able to assist in any way, please sign up as a volunteer by clicking on http://vols.pt/2th3w4 and follow the prompts. This is a great opportunity to raise funds for our school. Thanks in advance for your support.

P and F Committee
23 June 2016

TO: PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: 2016 NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA ON SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

Catholic schools along with government and Independent schools across Australia will again be participating in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). Our involvement in this process is crucial as it will provide valuable information about supports required for a broad group of students in our schools. The NCCD will enable National and State governments to better target support and resources in schools, this in turn will help Catholic Schools access the support for all students with additional needs.

The NCCD is not limited to students with diagnosed disabilities. It uses a very broad definition of disability, taken from the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, which includes a range of health issues and learning difficulties where schools implement strategies to support students in participating effectively in their learning.

The Data Collection will take place in August. No personal or identifying information about any student will be included, however, if you decide you do not wish information about your child to be included in the NCCD, you are asked to contact your child’s principal to discuss your concerns. If you are still concerned you should request and complete an opt-out form and return to the principal.

More information about the NCCD is available at: http://www.schooldisabilitydataapi.edu.au/

Yours sincerely

Patrick Kelly
Senior Officer Wellbeing & Diversity

“Pozières Day” at Holy Spirit

In just six weeks during July and August 1916, more than 23,000 Australian troops were killed or wounded around Pozières in France. The battle of the Somme was to become known as one of the darkest periods in Australian military history with about 7,000 young Australian soldiers making the ultimate sacrifice.

In Term 3, we will be commemorating the Centennial of the Battle of the Somme with a fundraiser for the Pozières Project. This project will involve our students wearing French colours to school for the day, along with the opportunity to purchase some French delights. We are asking for a gold coin donation to help raise monies towards a new Australian School in the town of Pozières. The Pozières Project is a campaign involving school children from around Australia raising $2 million for the new school. Our “Pozières Day” is a tangible way for our own school to become part of the close links which exist between Australia and the French town of Pozières.

More information to come next term!

Prue Roveta and Vicki Walsh

“N’oublions jamais l’Australie”

Do not forget Australia

CONGRATULATIONS

Cameron McCluskey he has been selected in the ACT soccer team which will be travelling to Perth to compete in the Australian Nationals School Football Tournament from 21-26 August.

Well done Cameron!