Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school we continue to explore the Year of Mercy. This term we have focused on The Door of Love, with children looking at love as an action; something we show through our choices and our behaviour. We started the term looking at helping each other as Jesus teaches us through the parable of the Good Samaritan. As we went through Pentecost we saw how the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit help us show love to others. To finish the term we will see that love-in-action is evident in our friendships, and in how we are friendly to all people we meet.

A significant way we engage with the Whole School Focus each week is through the Focus Assembly each Wednesday morning. It is a time when we come together as a school community to listen to God’s word and learn how we are called to live, and what that might look like in our school. It is wonderful to see so many parents and visitors join us each week, and I encourage you to join in our celebration – be a participant rather than simply watching. It may seem strange to begin with, but I am sure your children would be very happy to see you joining in our meditation exercise, learning the actions to our songs, and praying with us.

As a school we are also introducing Class Mass for all classes. Each week, usually on Tuesday morning, a couple of classes will gather to celebrate the Eucharist in the multi-purpose room. All parents and members of our community are invited to come and celebrate with us as part of the congregation. As your child’s class is scheduled to attend Mass you will receive an invitation, and we would love to see you there.

As a faith-filled community we encourage you to join us in both these ways of celebrating and developing our faith. Please see your child’s teacher if you have any questions when your child is involved in these celebrations.

Grandparent’s Day

Our Kindergarten children presented a wonderful Focus Assembly yesterday, followed by a lovely gathering where the children were able to ask their grandparents about what school was like ‘in the olden days’. There were some very amazed grandchildren, and some equally proud grandparents! Some of the stories that struck the children are:

When he was walking to school Pa saw a platypus. Ma had bottles of milk to drink with a straw. (Olivia)

At Nan’s school she liked skipping and playing with a ball and reading. (Thomas)

My Papa went to school in India. (Deveer)

My Nanny danced with a partner. She did different dancing. (Adeline)
We thank all the grandparents and parents who were able to come along, and talk to the children about school when they were young – perhaps you have more stories to share with your grandchildren over the coming weeks.

Troubles at the Top Car Park

As a school we are aware of the difficulty of finding a park in the top car park, especially in the afternoon. Unfortunately there are a few parents who are making decisions that make the car park unsafe. We are concerned with the safety of our 640 students who are trying to leave school at the end of the day, and we need all parents to be thinking ‘safety first’. To help ensure the car park is as safe as possible:

- please do not stop your car in the middle of the car park – keep moving until a park becomes available
- please do not stop behind parked cars – forcing people to drive around you reduces the margin of error as other cars try to reverse out of parks
- please do not park on the footpath or grassed areas at the front of the school – we need to be able to see children as they are walking to buses or to cross at the school crossing on Kelleway Ave
- please do not park in the disabled car parks unless you have a permit – we have such drivers in our school community and they are entitled to those spaces
- please remember that the top car park is not a kiss-and-go zone in the morning or afternoon – you are required to park your car in a parking bay. If you wish to do a ‘drive through’ drop off or pick up then please use the bottom car park

Also, if a staff member asks you to move your vehicle as it is unsafe, please do so – our priority is to ensure that all our students make it home safely at the end of each day and we need your help to make sure that happens.

We have a wonderful community here at Holy Spirit and we are grateful to all the people who take opportunities to come along and celebrate with us. Thank you.

Working with you in faith,
Kate MacGregor

First Reconciliation and Eucharist

Children in Year 3 or above are invited to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and Eucharist. A note was sent home with Year 3 children last week, and there are spares in the Front Office. The preparation program begins with an information session at Holy Spirit Church on

**Tuesday 21 June at 1pm or 7pm**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at various times from

**23-25 August**

The children from Holy Spirit School will receive the Sacrament of Eucharist on

**Saturday 17 September at 4pm**

If you have any questions about the program please contact your child’s teacher or email Kate MacGregor (REC):

katrina.macgregor@cg.catholic.edu.au
**ELC NEWS......**

Well all this rain has made for an enjoyable time at Preschool. The Yellow class have found many muddy puddles on our Nature Walks. We also climbed trees for the first time, some of us have no fear whilst others take a more reserved approach. Both these approaches show the diversity of learners we have in Preschool. As part of our Welcoming Church unit in Religion, we visited our Church and explored all the things that are inside the building. Father Johnny even gave us a special blessing at the end of our visit.

**Defence News......**

**Western Front Centenary Commemorations**

This year marks **100 years** since the Battle of the Somme, a series of fierce battles which consumed the British and Dominion Forces for most of 1916. This battle would become Australia’s most bloody and costly, with more soldiers dying on the Western Front than in any other war in our history. In just six weeks at Pozieres, Australia suffered 23,000 casualties, including 6000 to 8000 deaths. By contrast, 8500 died in the whole eight months during the Gallipoli Campaign. There are thousands of Australians and New Zealanders who remain buried on what was once the battlefields of the Somme.

The Australian War Memorial will commemorate these significant anniversaries, in July, following their Last Post Ceremonies:

- **Battle of the Somme** - Friday 1 July, 4.55 pm
- **Battle of Fromelles** - Tuesday 19 July, 4.55 pm
- **Battle of Pozieres** - Saturday 23 July, 4.55 pm

**Northside Coffee Club will meet on**

Tuesday, 7 June, at 10am at the Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club, on the corner of Gundaroo and Gungahlin Drives. DCO staff will be there to sign people in if not a member.

**Cook’s Night Off!** will be held on Thursday, 30 June at 7pm at Pomegranate, which is situated at the Kingston shops. Cook’s Night Off aims to provide an opportunity for Defence partners and their support networks to catch-up for an evening meal. RSVP is essential to dco.canberra@defence.gov.au by 27 June.

**Gungahlin Defence Families Playgroup is a relaxed playgroup and, contrary to its name, is not just for Defence families. The playgroup provides opportunities for children, parents and carers to share ideas, experiences, make new friends and above all else, have fun!**

Where: Community House, Kelleway Avenue, Nicholls
Cost: $3 per family, per week (The first two visits are free)
When: Every Thursday 9:30 – 11:30am

Ciao for now

Vicki Walsh
Hello everyone,

I found this informative piece and thought it might be helpful for many of you. Of course the information here applies to all children, not just girls, though the behaviours are seen more frequently within groups of girls. Helping Girls Cope with Bullying and Frenemies

Component 3: Parenting support and education

You will find some links placed here which will lead you to up to date information on children’s mental health. These links will allow you to quickly access important knowledge and resources. Following our last link to information about children’s mental health problems, this link is called Getting help.

Loss and grief are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. Learning to deal effectively with these issues is central to personal well-being and happiness. Unresolved grief can also affect a student’s learning. Holy Spirit School is proud to be offering an Australian education program called ‘Seasons for Growth’ again, commencing in Week 8 this term. This program is designed for children who have experienced significant change in their family because of death, separation or divorce. The change needs to have occurred at least six months prior to the child starting in the program. I run this program every second year and it has been very helpful to many, many children here at Holy Spirit. Some children have already been given a note to take home but if your child missed out and you would be interested, please contact me at sharonmarie.harrison@cg.catholic.edu.au. I would like to start the program before the end of this term so please contact me as soon as possible, thank you.

Social Club

Bikes and scooters next Tuesday lunchtime for students in Years 4-6.

Our Mini Vinnies group are working on a prayer to be included in the Saint Vincent De Paul Society’s Mini Vinnies, Little Book of Prayers. I will have the final prayer here for you to read soon! We will also be running a Winter Appeal – a collection of blankets and warm clean clothing in good condition. Your eldest child will bring home a note outlining what is needed and a large bag to put items in. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity!

Always feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance, at Sharonmarie.harrison@cg.catholic.edu.au.

Our spirit

STUDENT WELFARE NEWS

MINI VINNIES NEWS

K Bartley  Massimo Lavist
K Bell    Lukas Klein
K Johns   Amaya Muench
K McFarlane  Isaac Aitchison
1 Wood    Lucas Allin
1 Creagh  Indie Chesterton
1 Hardiman Rei Ebina
1 Masters Kate Hutchinson
2 Spencer Mikayla Stiffle
2 Kelly   Devante Cruz
2 Taylor  Stella Cosentini
2 Kaptein Isabelle Lockie
3 Gaffey  James Hronopoulos
3 Hague   Aleer Mayom Chol
3 Nuske  Chelsea Kelley
4 Camp   Jemma Obst
4 Hickman Owen Richardson
4 Jackson Joshua Armstrong
5 French Mitchell Barton
5 Eldridge Ashton Antioch
5 Toth     Dominic Pelle
6 Jenkins Madi Kilby
6 Kennedy Aimee Halley
6 Cambridge Simun Franjic
MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACT BUDGET IGNORES MOST VULNERABLE STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Mrs Moira Najdecki, will seek an urgent meeting with the ACT Chief Minister and Treasurer, Mr Andrew Barr to express her extreme dissatisfaction and that of the Catholic Education Commission with the lack of investment in Catholic Schools in the ACT Budget.

The Government’s Budget briefing yesterday included no new initiatives for Catholic Schools in the ACT. The Budget delivered $21.5 million in funding for public schools to respond to recommendations of the ‘Schools for All’ report whilst not providing a single dollar to enable Catholic Schools to meet the same outcomes for their students. Catholic Schools and the parents of students in our schools are committed to achieving the recommendations of the Shaddock Review; the budget expresses disdain for the needs of students in Catholic Schools and their parents.

Chair of the ACT Catholic Education Commission, Associate Professor Patrick McArdle said ‘Governments have a core responsibility to meet the needs of all students in the Territory, especially those with particular and complex needs regardless of the choices of their parents about the type of education that meet their family requirements. Since over 25 per cent of all students in the ACT attend Catholic schools, Government spending should reflect this distribution of students. In this Budget the Government is showing that education funding for ACT Catholic schools is a low priority.’

Mr Paul Compton, Chair of Catholic School Parents for the Archdiocese said, ‘Parents who have a child with a disability or complex need should not be disadvantaged because they choose a Catholic education for their child. These families must be supported.’

The latest ACARA Financial data on the MYSCHOOL website shows that for each dollar of Territory funding going to a student in an ACT government school a student in a Catholic school receives less than 17 cents. This is the lowest amount provided by any State or Territory Government in the country. The ACT Government is demonstrating a continuing lack of respect of for the choices of ACT families, ACT teachers and the requirements of over 17000 ACT students most particularly those with complex needs.

For further information please contact: Frances Neuss, 62345455.

8 June 2016
Our spirit

18 June 10 am to 11.30 am

LITTLE SPROUTS OF LOVE
EMPowering - Creating - Connecting

Facebook: @littlesproutsoflove

Creative Visualisation 4-7 year olds
18 June 2016
10-11:30 am
Nicholls Community House

Welcome to one of many sessions I will be running in supporting our children in decreasing stress, Worries, Anger and increasing creativity.
The children will learn the self-empowering tool of visualisation.

Creative Visualisation is a very powerful tool we can all use from a very young age right into adulthood and beyond. The children will have the opportunity to use something they already possess ‘their imagination’. The children will learn this self-empowering tool of visualisation through guided visual meditation, story, breath work, song, interactive sensory play and the arts.
All these amazing mediums increase creativity, reduce anxiety and stress, increases self esteem and general wellbeing.

Investment $35 (+ booking fee) per child all materials included
Siblings $20 total fee for two siblings is $55 + booking fee all materials included

For more information contact olgaemslie@outlook.com, you can also check out our Facebook page just search for @littlesproutsoflove You can also follow this link (or copy and paste into your browser) for a direct link to the event information, more about myself and purchasing tickets.