Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, parents have taken the opportunity to participate in Three-Way Learning Conversations. Students have set goals for the term and have been affirmed in their efforts, skills and knowledge in various areas of learning. Children’s education relies on a community of people who support and encourage, but more importantly progress depends on their persistence, sense of self-worth and love of learning. We are grateful for the partnership we share with families.

School Wide Positive Behaviour – Be Respectful
Each class has explored our school rule – BE RESPECTFUL. Included in the newsletter are the responses that have been compiled from the discussions. These will be used to teach and reinforce behaviours that demonstrate respect for self and others. We encourage families to discuss what being respectful may look like, sound like and feel like at home so that children can make connections in all areas of their lives.

Carpark Safety
Safety first - please be patient, be aware, set a good example, follow the law and adhere to the procedures for both drop off and pick up areas. An unfortunate accident involving a small child occurred at Gold Creek Pre-school earlier this week due to driver impatience in the carpark. We work hard to keep our students safe, please work with us.

100 Days of School
Last Thursday, our Kindergarten students celebrated 100 days of school. The children wore hats which displayed 100 items and they participated in a variety of activities during the day to mark this milestone, including a visit and a play at the Early Learning Centre. The students looked sensational in their colourful and creative hats.

Safe Travel
We wish Mrs Anne Bell safe travels as she embarks on a 4-week journey overseas. We hope that she has a wonderful time.

Prayers Please
Please keep in your prayers Fr Mark who is recovering from surgery. Please also remember the Pelle family who sadly lost their son this week. Sebastian was a student here at Holy Spirit. Our deepest sympathy goes out to their entire family. For all those in our community who are suffering or are ill at this time, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

God bless.
Anna D’Amico
Principal
5 WAYS PARENTS CAN MAKE SCHOOL DAYS INTO COOL DAYS.

By Marie Amaro, Education Consultant

Would you like to know how you can help your child -
be happier
less stressed
more motivated at school?

For teachers and schools to be able to do the best job possible with students, partnering with parents and caregivers is ideal.

You are the parents, the first educators of their children. As such, you often hold the key to many issues that may arise for your child at school. In addition, when you and your child’s school are singing from the same hymn book, your child will achieve greater results socially, emotionally and academically.

Here are 5 ways you can help your child be more successful at school:

1. Communicate with the teacher. Having open lines of communication with the teacher can help your child at school by letting him know that you are all on the same plane, that you support the school in doing the best for your child and when there is an issue such as behaviour issues or your child being unhappy at school the teacher will let you know sooner rather than later.

Being informed of any potential problems at the early stage can help to prevent them escalating.

Teachers are people too and when there is a positive relationship with parents, it is easier for them to broach more uncomfortable situations.

2. Spend time with them reading, cooking and playing games. As well as enhancing your relationship, your children will see reading as a pleasurable activity and encourage them to be interested. Seeing parents or caregivers reading for pleasure has a very positive effect on their motivation to learn to read and to improve their reading. And don’t think that just because they can read that you can stop reading to them! Spending time together reading a book that you both enjoy means that you will have more in common, can share the fun of the book and then discuss the characters and plot. Seeing a male role model reading for pleasure, is particularly helpful for boys who struggle with reading.

When you cook with children, you are employing maths concepts, learning about the environment and contributing to the family, as well as giving them useful life skills.

Playing games that they are interested in, even if it is computer games, may give you the opportunity to talk about what is going on for them in a non-confrontational way.

Kids are especially vulnerable during times of change and transition e.g. when moving from primary to high school or to university. Playing games provides time and space for them to confide in you about their worries, as well as being a fun time.

You may even be able to teach them some of the old-school games that you like to play. Have a games night you will all enjoy perhaps with another family. Get out all the games: Monopoly, Scattergories, Pictionary, Family Feud!!
3. **Have screen free times.** We can all be slaves to our phones, laptops, televisions or computers so having some screen free time is good for everyone’s wellbeing. When you are separated from each other by screen time, it makes conversations with your children and between your children difficult. Make an agreement that you will have time after school or after dinner, when screens are all off and make sure that you lead by example (no matter who is on Facebook).

4. **Have dinner together.** You have probably seen the ad on television where the dad is worrying about an issue that sounds pretty challenging. It turns out that his family have decided to have dinner together without phones - they have to talk to each other. Incorporating this ritual into your day, not only gives you time together, it also teaches social norms of taking turns in a conversation, listening to each other, and sets the ground rules for how to eat in a restaurant. This will help them at school because they are learning valuable skills about how to get along with others, how to work with others and how to listen when others are speaking.

5. **Listen.** Provide opportunities for your child to talk to you. Give them time to chat and let you know how things are going for them. Some kids need more time and space for them to feel comfortable telling you about any problems they may have, and resist the urge to provide solutions straight away. Don’t be a helicopter parent. Encourage your child to problem solve and think of ways to deal with the issue themselves. If they are dealing with a problem at school, check in with them after they try their solution to see how things went. Letting your child know that you trust them to work things out for themselves will increase their confidence and self-belief and encourage them to keep trying when things go wrong. Above all, be kind to yourself and don’t expect to do everything right all the time! Kids are much more resilient than we think, and as my psychologist friend told me once when I felt that I had done everything wrong as a parent:

‘As long as you do the right thing 40% of the time, they’ll be fine!’
Our spirit

Be Respectful

Sounds like...

Not talking when others are talking
Using encouraging words
Saying nice words
Using manners
Talking nicely
Walking quietly on the walkway
Talking quietly in the classroom
Heart warming
Helping each other
Letting adults through the doorway first
Playing together
Cooperating
Picking up rubbish
Hands off, feet off
Looking after our school
Looking at the person speaking
Doing your work
Sharing

Feels like...

What else could I do?
I’m important and special
I need to listen
Be nice
Are we taking care of ourselves?
I am part of this community
I belong
It’s nice when someone shows me respect
Think about what I am

Makes me think...

Using people’s names
Saying “Sorry”
Greeting people
I have good friends
Welcoming
Jesus in my heart
Peaceful
Cared for
Being treated well
Warm and fuzzy
Safe
I’m doing good for others
I am helping people
Am I using kind words?
How I would want to be treated
How can I be more like Jesus? (WWJD?)
Our spirit

Jeans for Genes Day

On Friday 5th August (week 3), our school is supporting Jeans for Genes day by wearing our jeans and raising valuable funds for Children’s Medical Research Institute’s fight against childhood genetic disease. Please wear your jeans or some denim on this day and bring a gold coin donation to help look after these sick children.

Thank you
Year 6 Leaders

Merit Awards Week 3

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<td>Murray Kate Forrester</td>
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<td>Cambridge Erin Barber</td>
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School Fees and Building Fund

School fee statements and Building fund statements for the 2015/2016 Financial year were sent home last week. Payment for school fees is due by Friday 12th August unless you have a direct debit in place. Thank you.

Holy Spirit Primary Learning Olympathon

8th – 22nd August 2016

Week 2 - and counting down

Have you got your Sponsorship Booklet home and started collecting sponsors? Starting next week, we will collate the amount promised and keep a tally at morning assembly.

Week 3:
Wednesday – Friday: Torch relay and guessing competition. Each class will also add their own motto to our school Olympathon Oath.

Week 4:
Monday 8th August – Holy Spirit 2016 Learning Olympathon Opening Ceremony
Our spirit

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Program

It was fantastic to see so many of our candidates at Mass on the weekend! The children received a Mass book and the first puzzle piece for the back of their placemat. If you missed Mass last weekend, children can still collect their books from the Church foyer before Mass this coming weekend.

Remember, children need to attend Mass each week to collect their jigsaw puzzle piece. Mass times are: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:30am and 5:30pm.

This week’s ‘place mat’ activity

30/31 July: The Penitential Rite: we say Sorry

At the beginning of Mass we reflect on our week and the times we have not always been loving and caring as Jesus showed through his example.

This is called the Penitential Rite

Talk together as a family of different times when you have had to say:
‘I’m Sorry’ or ‘I forgive you’

How does it make you feel when:
You say these words? ____________________________

_________________________________________________________

Someone you love forgives you? ____________________________

________________________________________________________

Have you ever watched a ripple in water get bigger and bigger? Whenever we do something good for someone, the love ripples through other people’s lives like ripples on water.

What ripples of love will you make this week?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________
“Pozières Day” at Holy Spirit

Tomorrow, we will be holding Pozières Day as part of the “Pozières Project”.

Children can come to school in French colours….

Blue, Red and White

and we are asking for a gold coin donation.

The money raised will go towards building a new Australia school which will accommodate up to 130 students in the French village of Pozières. One of the primary aims of the project is to reinforce the memory of the Australian involvement and to provide an enduring legacy and connection with Australia and France.

For more information please contact Vicki Walsh, DSTA vicki.walsh@c.catholic.edu.au

“N’oublions jamais l’Australie”

Do not forget Australia

2016  1916

Somme Centenary
Holy Spirit P & F Movie Date!
Join us for a private screening of Bad Moms
Hoyts Belconnen
Sunday 14 August 2016
2:30pm

Tickets $25 each
includes tickets to win lucky door prizes!
Extra tickets for prizes available for purchase at the event. We are very pleased to be offering the ability to buy your tickets online.

We have partnered with the secure online ticketing services of Ticketebo for the provision of our tickets.

Buy online today by going to http://www.ticketebo.com.au/hspfmovie

Hurry only 90 tickets available!
Tickets available until 5pm Wednesday 10 August