

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS

Prayer in Year 6

In Year 6 we are beginning the school year by focusing on the importance of prayer in our lives. We embodied an example of prayer in our lives reflecting on its importance.



“We can pray a prayer of thanksgiving at the end of the day thanking God for all of our blessings”

Sosefo, Aweng, Sarah W and Michael”



“Many Catholics pray The Rosary daily as they hold Mary close to their hearts”

Bethany, Ashton and Adora



“We can pray to the Lord when we need strength to get through difficult times”

Sarah K, Johnathan and Rhianna



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year to all at Holy Family.

At the start of each Year, the staff join together to begin the school year is prayer, giving thanks for the gifts we bring to our faith community and to give thanks for the children, our gifts from God, that the year ahead brings success and spiritual peace and growth.

This year we welcome many new teachers to our Holy Family community. Over the course of this term, I will introduce you to the new permanent staff members via newsletter articles.

This week I would like to introduce you to Mrs Cheryl Fortini and Mr Andrew Baker.



Mrs Cheryl Fortini has been an educator for 27 years. During this time she has held many leadership positions as an Assistant Principal and relieving Principal. Mrs Fortini is an outstanding practitioner across all areas of learning and has led many of her previous schools in the area of Numeracy and Literacy. Mrs Fortini is also a pioneer in leading Deep Connected Pedagogy (4 C Learning) and has transformed her previous schools in learning and building a positive and supportive student culture. Mrs Fortini is an active member in her parish of Merrylands and a true disciple of Jesus in word and action. I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Fortini at Sacred Heart Westmead and she has the enthusiasm, passion and talent to really make a difference to our school community. Mrs Fortini will take up the role of EMU Leader and Specialist as well as Board of

Studies Compliance Supervisor at Holy Family. As the Assistant Principal of our great school, Mrs Fortini is here to serve the students and their families to continue to build the kingdom of God in Granville and continue the great learning and success for our students. Welcome to our Holy Family Mrs Fortini.



Mr Andrew Baker is an outstanding practitioner who, over his career in education, has made a name for himself as a leader of learning. Mr Baker was selected from among his peers as an Instructional Leader at Trinity Kemps Creek. During his role as Instructional Leader, Mr Baker built the capacity of staff in refining good teaching practices and leading the school in improving individual student success, engagement and learning. Mr Baker is strong in curriculum matters and has a passion for early years instruction. As well as leading the learning in Kindergarten, Mr Baker will also support Board of Studies Compliance matters at Holy Family and also focus on individual student data analysis and school trend data sets. Welcome to our Holy Family Mr Baker.



2018 Whole School Goal

Overarching Goal: For students to **communicate what they know** and **what their next learning goal will be**, cross curricular, guided by **quality questioning**, **formative assessment** and **timely and descriptive feedback**.

Measures of success:

Numeracy: Students are able to transfer and use a variety of comprehension strategies to understand what is required when exploring and unpacking rich, high order tasks . Students will identify the problem and record and articulate the thinking necessary in an organised and purposeful way. Individual student growth will be measured using formative assessment data and class Growth Point tracking mechanisms.

Literacy: Students are able to use higher order thinking and comprehension strategies to gain meaning from a variety of texts and use this knowledge to be strategic writers. Students will communicate a range of sustaining and expanding reading strategies to demonstrate growth as named in the English Syllabus and supported by the The Literacy Learning Progressions.

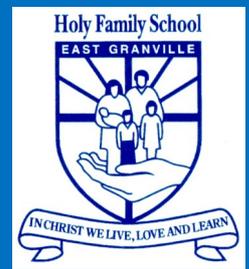
Formation: Students are able to use higher order thinking and comprehension strategies to gain meaning from multimodal scriptural texts. Students will communicate their learning at three different levels: Literal, Spiritual and Application. Progressive achievement of individual student goals to meet personal growth targets (goals) per semester, as shown by visible growth on RE tracking sheet.

Why this goal.....

Over the last three years the school has undergone significant change regarding identifying student needs and addressing these in a methodical and active way. Our school goals are identified after the analysis of many individual data sets and whole school trend data sets. The data indicated that our work to date has shown a significant improvement in oral language proficiency and student confidence in learning and understanding what it means to be a learner. This included upskilling the students in identifying what learning dispositions they required to be able to be good learners.

The children are at a point where they are confident is tackling more challenging and complex tasks as many now have the fundamental skills including grit to see these tasks to fruition.





Our focus will be to continue to instruct our students in unpacking complex texts in all subject areas, using a range of high order thinking and comprehension strategies. Over the year we will be hosting parent workshops to share with you these strategies and learnings. I encourage parents to attend these meetings and share your thoughts on the direction for the year.

ATTENDANCE : The silent blocker of learning success

Last year we informed parents of the need to ensure your child is at school every day unless sick. We had some change to parent mindset regarding the importance of regular school attendance. Regular school attendance encourages continuous learning and success both socially and academically. I will share with you some alarming statistics about student attendance at Holy Family in 2017. All grades are in the category of **chronic** or **complex** student absences.

Kindergarten: 66%

Year 1: 75%

Year 2: 67%

Year 3: 77%

Year 4: 76%

Year 5: 72%

Year 6: 64%

The average CEDP attendance rate across other schools is 90%. As you can see, we are well below the expected target of 90%.

What does this mean? Although the school has made significant changes to improve the quality of teaching and learning and are working with students to improve individual learning, some students are away regularly which unravels the positive learning opportunities that are available to all students.

In short, interrupted learning reduces the opportunity to learn.

Parents have full control over this. Parents need to ensure that your children are at school on time, everyday unless they are sick. With technology today, I can run reports on all students and identify patterns of absences for that student. There is a trend among families to be absent on Monday or Friday. In some cases, students are having both days off on a regular basis. This means that they are attending school on average three days a week.

My question to you : What kind of message are you sending your child if you allow your child to stay at home for no other reason than they want to?



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What will this look like when they are in high school?
How behind will they be compared to their friends as a result of high rates of school absences?
Parents you have the power to change this.



Did you know
1 in 6 primary students are not attending school regularly. Schools are here to help.
If you are having attendance issues with your child please contact us so we can support you to address them.

every learner
every day



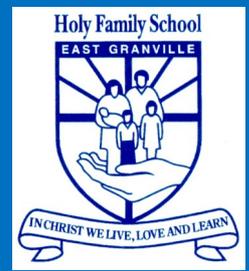
New Learning Space nears completion

Over the holiday break, workmen have been busy making finishing touches to our new learning space in the area beneath the hall. In the past this space has been used as a seniors prayer room by church members and in recent times it housed our playgroup children.

I sincerely wish to thank Mrs Sue Walsh, Deputy Executive Director from Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta, for listening to our request and actioning it with such efficient speed. Within one week of our first meeting architects were at the school measuring and designing the space. The space not only has a modern designed learning area, it also has modern toilet areas with a hydraulic hoist to assist students with mobility needs.

I also wish to thank Fr Andrew Bass for allowing Holy Family to use this space as a permanent learning studio. Fr Andrew has always been an avid supporter of our school and has the needs of our community as a priority.





Once the builders have left the site I will open the room to parents for a walk through and an Opening and Blessing Ceremony will be organised this term.

The generosity of CEDP extends to providing acoustic tiles to our music room space to improve sound quality during band sessions. This project will also be completed in the coming weeks ready for our Band sessions to commence in week 3. This year we are extending our band program to include Year 4 students. The students are very excited to have the opportunity to learn an instrument as part of their normal school tuition for three years.

New Student Well Being Policy launched in 2018

The wellbeing of our students and staff is our first priority. We have been trialling a variety of strategies over the last few years to gather data as to what strategies have made the biggest impact, developing a positive school culture and in some cases a change in student behaviour and attitude to learning.

This year we will launch our Well Being Guidelines. A parent meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday the 20th of February at 6pm in the Library.

This forum is an opportunity to read through the guidelines and clarify or refine the processes and procedures that will be implemented this year. I encourage parents to attend this meeting and have a voice. Student wellbeing is everyone's responsibility.

Swimming Carnival

Due to an administration error last year, our Swimming Carnival will now be held on the 7th of February. The children in Years 3-6 will be competing at this event. Swimmers who meet the time criteria will be able to compete at the Zone Carnival this term, on Tuesday the 13th of February. I look forward to seeing our parents at this event cheering and supporting our students.

Opening School Mass

All parents and friends are invited to our opening school Mass on Thursday the 8th of February at 9.15am. Please join us in celebrating the Eucharist as a faith community.

Ash Wednesday Mass

All children will be attending Mass on the 14th of February at 9.15am. Parents and friends are invited to join us celebrate the Eucharist marking the first day of Lent.

Meet the Teacher Evening- Tuesday the 13th of February

A note went home this week inviting parents to attend a Meet the Teacher Night.

The evening will be broken up into three sessions.

Session One- whole school meeting in the hall with Mrs Baird 6-6.25pm

Session Two: class meeting- 6.30 -7pm

Session Three: repeat of class meeting 7-7.30pm

I encourage parents to attend this meeting. **Children are not required to attend.**



School Banking

A school banking service is available to students who hold Commonwealth Dollarmites or Youth Saver accounts. Encouraging children to make small regular deposits to a bank account helps them to develop good savings

habits and awareness of the value of money. Students who wish to deposit money should bring bank books (with the deposit slip filled in) and money to school on Tuesday morning. The deposits are processed on Thursday during the morning and the bank books returned to students by their class teacher. Please note that we are unable to process cheques. For every deposit you make, you will receive a token. When you receive 10 tokens you can redeem them for a prize.

Any parent wishing to open a Commonwealth account for their child may collect an information package from the school office.



SCHOOL FEES

School Fee Statements will be mailed by the Catholic Education Office in the next coming weeks.

Term 1 school fees are due on the 21st March 2018.

Please note, that any school fee payment arrangement made in 2017 does not automatically continue.

This also includes those families that have automatic payments deducted from Centrelink. Please contact the office to make an appointment as soon as possible. If you have difficulty in paying school fees an appointment will need to be made to discuss this matter with Mrs Baird. Thank You

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY or at the Post Office.



SPORTS REPORT

A Tennis Champion

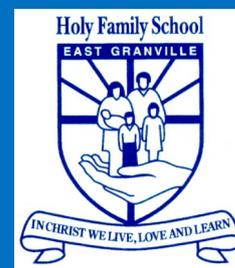
This week Robbie Youssef competed against players from many other schools in Tennis. Robbie played 6 challenging matches and won every match. Robbie is a superstar in the making . I look forward to hearing about the many sporting achievements from Robbie.

Well Done.

On Sunday Robbie will compete in another competition at Sydney Olympic Park.

We wish Robbie the best of luck

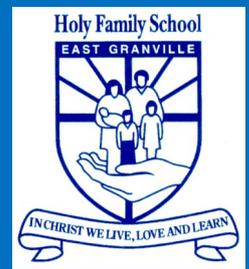




2018 IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

Week 2	2018
Wednesday 7th February	Swimming Carnival Year 3-6
Thursday 8th February	Open School Mass 9:15am
Friday 9th February	School Census Day-All children need to attend School
Week 3	
Tuesday 13th February	Meet the Teacher Evening 6pm-7:30pm
Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday Mass 9:15am Church
Week 4	
Tuesday 20th February	New Student Well Being Guidelines 6pm in Library





Get ready for a Super Savers adventure with School Banking.



This year in School Banking, your child will join the Dollarmites on a Super Savers adventure, developing strong savings skills.

School Banking encourages children to learn the value of saving and rewards those who demonstrate a regular savings behaviour.

New Super Savers reward items.

Introducing an exciting new range of reward items with two released every term. Available in Term 1:

- Twister Power Handball
- Secret Scratch Notepad.

Your child can redeem one of these rewards, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.



Remember, with the CommBank Youth app, it's easy for your child to monitor the Dollarmites tokens they earn when making School Banking deposits and track their savings. Available to download from the App Store on any iOS9+ device.



A chance to win a family trip to Hawaii.



Students who truly are Super Savers will have the chance to win a family trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, staying 7 nights at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort, plus AU\$2,000 spending money.

To enter, students simply make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3 2018, and they will automatically enter the Super Savers Grand Prize Competition.

To find out more about School Banking, or explore fun activity sheets for your child, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

Things you should know: The 'Super Savers Grand Prize Competition' (Promotion) is conducted by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (ABN 48 123 123 124) of Level 3C, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000. The Promotion starts at 9am AEST on 22/01/18 and closes at 11:59pm AEST on 28/09/18. Entry is open to Australian residents aged 4-13 years only who have made 15 separate School Banking deposits into their CommBank 'youthsaver' account during the Promotion period. Eligible entrants will be automatically entered into the draw. Maximum 1 entry/person. The first eligible entry randomly drawn will win a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, USA for two adults and up to three children (aged 17 years and under) including 7 nights accommodation and \$2,000 AUD spending money, valued at \$17,669 AUD. Terms and conditions apply. The draw will take place at 12pm AEST on 1/01/18 at the address above. The winner will be notified by telephone and email, and will be published online at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking and in The Australian on 17/10/18. Winner must claim the prize by 5pm AEST on 15/01/19 or the prize will be redrawn. The prize will be awarded to the winner's nominated parent or guardian. Conditions apply to accepting the prize. Full terms and conditions available from commbank.com.au/schoolbanking Authorised under NSW Permit No: LTPS/17/18318, ACT Permit No: ACT TP 17/01/989 and SA Permit No: 117/1878.



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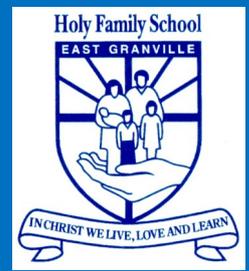
BIRTHDAY WISHES !

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this Month



Luke Laoulach	Paul Laoulach
Olivia Isaac	Rohan Puri
Eliane El Ghoubaira	Derek Saulala
Tristan Lancaster	Suruchi Shrestha
Michael Grace	Marie-Jo Yaacoub





DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS



Executive Director, Greg Whitby

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Executive Director Greg Whitby has been recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours list with his appointment as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM). The award recognises Greg's outstanding contribution to education.

Since 2006, Greg has led a system of 80 Catholic schools in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. As an innovative educator and educational leader, he is internationally recognised for his passion about rethinking school for the digital age and the role of learning environments and technology in supporting learning and teaching.

On learning of his achievement this Australia Day, Greg was deeply moved by the award.

"This recognition belongs to those who have worked with me to transform education over the past forty years," Greg said.

"I've been inspired by great teachers and outstanding leaders who are committed to doing the very best for young people in Australian schools.

"It's been a privilege to be a part of the great mission of schooling. I look forward to continuing to turn around what it means to educate students today for their world."

In support of Greg Whitby's nomination for the prestigious award, Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, reflected on Greg's strong commitment to equity, praising his 'unflinching advocacy for the young people of Western Sydney and their families'.

Greg has previously been recognised with a Papal Knighthood in the Order of St Gregory the Great for his outstanding contribution to Catholic education. He is also a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators, the Australian Council for Educational Leaders and the Australian Institute of Management. Greg was named the most innovative educator in Australia by the Bulletin Magazine in its annual SMART 100 awards and in 2017. In the same year, he was awarded the Sir Harold Wyndham Medal for his contribution to the education of young people in NSW.

