



Holy Family Primary School Newsletter

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Wednesday 23rd November 2016

Term 4

Week 7

Religious Education Matters

End of the Year

Last Sunday marked the end of the year, the Church year that is and, thus, also the end of the Year of Mercy. At the closing of the Doors of Mercy at St Patrick's Cathedral Bishop Vincent spoke that the Year of Mercy was a great opportunity to reflect and think about what mercy is. The closing of the doors begins the opening of our own hearts to mercy as we are called to live with courage, faith, hope and love. Our Mercy Actions of the Week (some examples below) that we have had this year have often taken us out of our comfort zone as trying to live God's Mercy does.

Two little words with great power: "I'm sorry".

Lead with a kind comment with friends as well as strangers.

Make a list of your "enemies". Then, every day, say a prayer for them.

Offer to read to someone who is feeling ill or is just feeling blue.

Try walking in the shoes of the other person.

*Instead of losing patience with someone, try to hear that person's fear.
Ask God for "an understanding heart."*

(Pray for the grace of compassion.

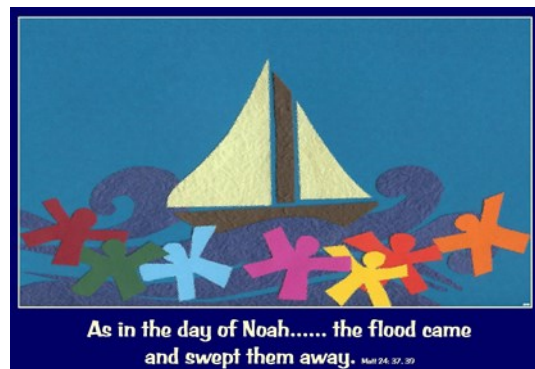
Don't allow wounds to grow. Face hurts as they occur.)

*Be generous enough to allow someone to help you;
people need to feel needed.*

First Sunday of Advent - Year A: Sunday, 27 Nov 2016

The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical (church) year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the Gospel of Matthew. (Year B features the Gospel of Mark and Year C, that we have just completed, features the Gospel of Luke.) Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, which literally means 'coming'. So Advent is our time of preparing and anticipating the coming of Christ into the world that we celebrate in the Nativity at Christmas.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the story of Noah and the flood to highlight the message of being ready for 'when the Son of Man comes.' So while we do not need to take a trip to Bunnings and buy materials for an ark we do have a lot to do to get ready other than Christmas shopping. We need to make sure we take time to listen to the word of God and give yourself quiet time to reflect on what God requires of us.



Student Awards

We congratulate this week's Student of the Week Award recipients:

Kindy	Anushka Raya	Anthony Mansour
Year 1	Lachlan Feher-Hegarty	Sulieti Manu
Year 2	Dylan Vu	Josie Afram
Year 3	Virgilio Agito	Bechara Ghosn
Year 4	Mansour El Boutty	Elizabeth Bittner-Viera
Year 5	Larissa El-Hayek	Sam Tariu
Year 6	Debrah Yossef	Isabella Burke



Message from the Principal

What a celebration!

On Sunday our faith community gathered to celebrate a very special milestone, the 70th Anniversary of our great parish. The day was filled with happy faces and social gatherings. My sincere thanks to our families who supported this event. Our children were able to shine due to your continued support and generosity of time. I also wish to acknowledge our great teachers who choreographed or facilitated the entertainment for the day. I wish to also thank the parish Council for coordinating this event and my sincere thanks to Fr Andrew. He is a true man of God as a leader and as a friend. Well Done Holy Family Parish Community. Here's to the next 70 years.

Swimming Program

Our Swimming Program commenced on Monday. The weather has been fabulous for a swimming lesson this week. Next week we will conclude our program with our Annual Swimming Carnival. I am looking forward to a day of competitive swimming, fun and great sportsmanship.

Kindergarten 2017 Information Night for Parents

Our information night for parents will be on Tuesday the 29th of November starting at 6pm. I encourage at least one parent to attend as new information will be shared with our families this year relating to the new pre assessments mandated by the Government. It is also a great opportunity for parents to socialise and meet some of the parents they will socialise with for the next seven years.

Joint Carol's Night

On the 2nd of December, Holy Family and Holy Trinity Parishes will hold a joint Carol's night on the grounds of Holy Trinity. Many of our children will be singing in the children's choir. I encourage our families to gather a blanket and join the Christmas festivities. The event begins at 7.30pm. Food, drinks and candles will be on sale on the night.

Some vacancies are available for 2017

If you have friends or family wishing to attend Holy Family next year, we have some vacancies in some grades. Please contact the office for an enrolment package or download our forms from our website.

Are You Leaving Holy Family????

If you intend to leave Holy Family at the end of the year, we require this information in writing including the name of the school your child will be attending. Please contact the office as soon as possible so arrangements can be made for your departure.

Learning Matters from the Assistant Principal

PRG meeting report

Many thanks to the parents who attended the recent PRG meeting, following the Student Led Conferences. The following matters were raised by parents discussed:

- **NAPLAN**

For first timers, information about what NAPLAN is, why students do it, how they are prepared and how parents can help would be welcomed.

Action: information will be shared with parents via the school newsletter during Term 1 prior to the NAPLAN tests in Term 2.

- **Google Docs**

What are the Google Apps for Education children use in class? How are they used?

Action: Parent workshops to be organised in 2017 to inform and up-skill parents.

- **Mass**

The frequency of Mass attendance was discussed. Parents were informed that each term there is a balance of Mass and other types of school and class liturgies planned to ensure students have a wide experience of Catholic communal prayer. Celebrating Mass is dependent on the availability of the priests who have three schools in addition to all other parish ministries to fit into their available time.

- **Gates**

Parents asked that the gates be opened consistently at 8.15am as on occasion it has been later.

- **Uniform**

The possibility of having a polo shirt rather than the current blue shirts was discussed. It was resolved that the current uniform would be maintained.

Any further matters are welcome to be raised at any time. They can be discussed at the first PRG meeting for 2017 during Term 1. We sincerely thank all parents who have been involved in steering the school's direction and operations through the PRG in 2016.

“What did you do at school today?”

“Nothing...”

If this is the typical response you hear, you may be interested in the following article I saw recently on Edutopia.org

It is reprinted in full on the following pages.

Learning Matters from the Assistant Principal Cont'd

15 Questions to Replace “How Was School Today?”

These questions will help you draw out important information from your kids.

By [Elena Aguilar](#) Transformational Leadership Coach from Oakland, California

[@artofcoaching1](#) October 27, 2016

How many times have you asked your child, “How was school today?” and been frustrated by the lack of response? As a parent, I’m guilty of asking my son this question all the time, even though I usually don’t get much in return.

Sometimes (to be honest), I haven’t had the energy for a real conversation. Other times, I just can’t think of what to ask. As a teacher, I have often wished that kids would share stories of the awesome things we were doing with their parents, but I couldn’t figure out how to make that happen.

Now that my son is in middle school—where communication from teachers is less than it was when he was in elementary school and more stuff is happening at school that I need to be aware of—I’ve identified a list of questions that draw out important information. I wish that when I was in the classroom I’d been able to offer this list to parents so that they could hear about what we were doing in our class.

The Questions

With slight wording modifications, these questions can work with children of all ages:

1. Tell me about a moment today when you felt excited about what you were learning.
2. Tell me about a moment in class when you felt confused.
3. Think about what you learned and did in school today. What’s something you’d like to know more about? What’s a question you have that came from your learning today?
4. Were there any moments today when you felt worried? When you felt scared?
5. Were there any times today when you felt disrespected by anyone? Tell me about those moments.
6. Were there times today when you felt that one of your classmates demonstrated care for you?
7. Were there any moments today when you felt proud of yourself?
8. Tell me about a conversation you had with a classmate or friend that you enjoyed.
9. What was challenging about your day?
10. What do you appreciate about your day?
11. What did you learn about yourself today?
12. Is there anything that you’d like to talk about that I might be able to help you figure out?
13. Is there anything you’re worried about?
14. What are you looking forward to tomorrow?
15. Is there a question you wish I’d ask you about your day?

Learning Matters from the Assistant Principal Cont'd

Tips for asking Questions

How and when we ask these questions makes a big difference in the information we receive from our kids. First, you don't want to ask all of these questions on the same day. You might ask one or two. After a while, you'll figure out which ones elicit the most meaningful responses. You'll want to ask during a time when you have the ability to focus so that your child feels they have your full attention. With my child—and in my household—dinner and driving in the car are optimal times for these conversations.

Now these conversations have become routine. My son knows that when we drive to school I'll ask him what he's looking forward to, if there's anything he's worried about, and if there's anything he wants to talk about with me that I might be able to help him figure out.

More Suggestions

The following can help your conversations be positive and powerful:

- **Don't interrupt.** This is a good rule for any conversation, but especially if you want to get a lot of information out of a kid.
- **Ask for more.** Simply say, "I'd love to hear more about that..." Or, "Can you expand on that a little?"
- **Ask about feelings.** After a child describes an experience, ask, "How did you feel in that moment? What did you notice about your feelings?"
- **Validate feelings.** Whatever your kid feels is normal and okay. Let them know that. Feelings are okay. Tell them this.
- **Tell them it's not okay for teachers or kids to be unkind or mean.** If they tell you a story about a teacher who yelled or disrespected them (regardless of what they said or did) let them know that it's not okay for an adult to treat them that way. Same goes for how they are treated by other children.
- **Thank them for sharing with you.** Always appreciate their honesty and willingness to share the highlights and bright spots, as well as the difficult moments. This will fuel their confidence in telling you more.

What questions bring about the most conversation between you and your kids?

Calendar



November/December

Wed 23rd Nov- Wed 30th Nov	Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 29th Nov	Kindergarten 2017 Information Night 6:00pm-7:00pm
Thursday 1st Dec	Swimming Carnival –Granville Pool

Birthday Wishes!

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week



Miriam Nohra	Kreepa Joshi
Yorgo Nassif	Ashton James
Caterina Valore	Kayleen Davis
Jacob Georges	Brayden Vu
Andre Rbeiz	Najweh Katrib



Welcome to

Book Club



Issue 8 Closes on Friday 25th November.
Orders will arrive around 6st December
 Thank you, Mrs Gordon

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.

2017 Diocesan School Fees

21 November 2016

Dear parents and carers

Please find below the 2017 Diocesan school fees schedule which includes a modest 3.0% increase on the fees from 2016. Every effort has been made to keep the fee increase to a minimum and I am pleased to report that the increase is *less than* the 3.3% education CPI increase for the same period.

School-based fees will also be limited to a 3.0% increase to ensure we have consistency across our Diocese. School-based fees cover the costs of important things such as technology and school administration.

I appreciate that from time to time, some families might experience financial challenges. With this in mind, I take this opportunity to remind you that confidential fee support is available through

- discounts for families with multiple siblings in our schools
- flexible payment plans
- hardship concession policies for families in need
- the Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- the Byawalla Co-contribution Scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Tuition Fees - 2017

The 2017 diocesan tuition fees are outlined below:

ANNUAL FEES	No charge for 4th+ children	1st Child 100%	2nd Child 75%	3rd Child 50%
Primary	Kindergarten	\$1,131	\$849	\$567
	Years 1 – 6	\$1,461	\$1,095	\$732
	Years 7 – 8	\$2,028	\$1,521	\$1,014
Secondary	Years 9 – 10	\$2,250	\$1,689	\$1,125
	Years 11 – 12	\$2,874	\$2,157	\$1,437

The 2017 term rate for each of the first three terms is outlined below:

TERM FEES	Charged in Terms 1, 2 & 3	1st Child 100%	2nd Child 75%	3rd Child 50%
Primary	Kindergarten	\$377	\$283	\$189
	Years 1 – 6	\$487	\$365	\$244
	Years 7 – 8	\$676	\$507	\$338
Secondary	Years 9 – 10	\$750	\$563	\$375
	Years 11 – 12	\$958	\$719	\$479



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

Diocesan Building Levy - 2017

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us, through our capital works program, to meet the demand for new schools and new classes in high growth areas, and to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard.

All families with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College Kingswood are required to pay the annual Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Building Levy. This levy has replaced the various building levies that parents previously paid to school building funds (managed by either parishes or schools). The levy for 2017 is \$756 *per family*, payable in three equal instalments of \$252 payable in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

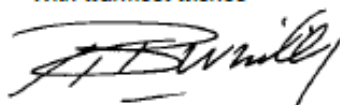
Annual Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents - 2017

The Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents for 2017 is \$1,869 per student, payable in three equal instalments of \$623 in Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee applies to new students on the following visa numbers: 173, 401, 402, 411, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 426, 427, 428, 442, 456, 457, 459, 462, 476, 485, 497, 580, 600, 601, 651, 675, 676, 679, 685, 884, 944, 956, 976 and 977 including where any of these are the preceding visas for families on bridging visas 010 to 090.

Families charged this fee in 2016 will continue to be charged on a *per family* basis to the eldest student whilst the family has continuous current students.

Thank you for your continuing support of Catholic education. Please be assured that we will continue to provide exciting learning experiences for them within our Catholic faith environment.

With warmest wishes



Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Parramatta of Diocese



Catholic Education
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