

HOLY SPIRIT PRIMARY SCHOOL

7-17 Todd Row, St Clair 2759

Email: holyspirit@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.holyspirit.parra.catholic.edu.au



Phone: 9670 5379 / 9670 5377

Fax: 9834 3209

TERM 2

WEEK 3

13 MAY 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

I hope all mums got lots of hugs and kisses and were pampered last Sunday. Here are some students thoughts on what makes their mum so special:

"She helps me if I'm stuck. She helps me and encourages me to do my homework and Mathletics every night". Tom aged 10;

"She helps me when I'm sick and encourages me to have something healthy". Natalie aged 10

"She works hard at her job as well as doing all the other things around the house." Matthew aged 11;

"When I'm feeling sad she makes me happy." Naomi aged 9;

"She cooks dinner for me". Matthew aged 9;

"She always helps me do my homework and she teaches me a lot." Chantelle aged 8;

"Mum is kind and loving: Jordan aged 8;

"My mum takes care of me." Niko aged 6;

"My mum is special because she loves me." Kye aged 6.

NAPLAN

This week children in Years 3 and 5 take part in a national assessment called NAPLAN. NAPLAN stands for National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. This test, like the old Basic Skills Tests assesses the literacy and numeracy skills of these students. Unlike the Basic Skills though, they are national tests not state.

On Tuesday, 12 May, the children had two assessments- the Language Convention test and the Writing test. The Language Convention test assesses children's spelling, punctuation and grammar. While the writing assessment measures the children's ability to write a narrative. The children's writing will be marked according to the way they structured their writing, as well as their use of grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Obviously the Reading test on Wednesday, focused on comprehension. I hope that students referred to the text given to find the answers and not relied on their memory. Then on Thursday it is the Numeracy test.

The results on the reports that go home will provide parents with information on:

- what their child can do
- specific comments about student's results
- and their child's achievement

Prayer from KB

Dear God

We thank you for our beautiful families who show their love to us in many ways.

Amen



level in relation to the national benchmarks

- The school also receives a report. We as a school always analyse our results, with a view of improving the educational program presented to all the children at Holy Spirit Primary school.

2010 Kindergarten Enrolments. Our 2010 Kindergarten enrolment period is about to begin. If you have, or if you know of any parents with children who are starting big school next year, please collect an enrolment package at the school office as soon as possible.

Here is a poem dedicated to all mums that I was reminded of just recently. It is titled "To all you mean mums".

To all you Mean Mum's.

Someday when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them, as my mean mum told me:

I loved you enough to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.

I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover how to sort out your own friendship troubles.

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your own room, a job that should have taken 15 minutes.

I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were harsh and they almost broke my heart.

But most of all, I loved you enough . . . to say NO when I knew you would hate me for it.

Those were the most difficult battles of all. I'm glad I won them, because in the end you won, too. And someday when your children are old enough to understand the logic what motivates parents, you will tell them.

Was your mum mean? While other kids had a Pepsi and a doughnut for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches.

Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were convicts in a prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less.

We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the Child Labor Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, empty the bins and all sorts of 'cruel' jobs. I think she would lie awake at night thinking of more things for us to do.

She always insisted on us telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds and had eyes in the back of her head. Then, life was really tough.

Mother wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them.

Because of our mother we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault.

Now that we have left home, we are all educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like Mum was.

I think that is what's wrong with the world today. It just doesn't have enough mean mums!
Anonymous

And finally, may God the Father gift all our mums with patience and compassion. May God the Son enable them to love as He loves; and may God the Holy Spirit grant them good humour and wisdom. In all the ups and downs of living, may all mothers know God's blessing, guidance, strength and love. Amen

Happy belated Mothers Day.

Mary Ann Gatt-Petrini
Acting Principal

Please continue your prayers for the Canonisation of Mother Mary MacKillop to be Australia's first Saint for the universal church.



CURRICULUM MATTERS

Learning is one of the key concepts in our school community. It is one of our important school rules 'I am a Learner'. The reason the children are at school is to learn whether it be the gospel values; reading and writing or adding and subtracting. There are many things to learn at school and in order for our children to be successful learners they need to be focused.

A further key concept within our school community is safety. The related school rule, I am safe. When children attend Holy Spirit we want them to be safe on all levels, physically and emotionally.

Respect is also a key concept within our school community. I am respectful is a value we want children to be aware of not only at school but in their day to day lives.

There seems to be a growing concern arising with children bringing mobile phones to school. The rule applies to all children that **if they bring a mobile phone to school they must leave it in the office during the school day** and they can collect it at the end of the school day. The reason for this is to keep the children learning, to keep children safe and to respect the privacy of all children at Holy Spirit. If a child keeps their phone on them during the school day it becomes a temptation to play with and a distraction from their learning. If they are tempted to take pictures or send messages it then becomes an invasion of privacy for other children. When there is so much activity on the playgrounds at recess and lunch the phone is at risk of being broken.

Hence the question needs to be asked, does your child need to have their phone at school? In some cases it may be necessary, however in the majority it is not necessary but more a prestige factor for the child. There has been a growing trend within our stage three that it is cool to have your phone on you at school. So the rule remains **if your child brings a mobile phone to school they must leave it in the office during the school day.**



Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Bernadette Vumbaca

Acting Assistant Principal

Reading Information Evening for Stage 1

Wednesday, 20 May—7pm

In the MPA

ADMINISTRATION

UNIFORMS

Available from Lowes:

- Tunics, trousers, shirts, shorts and ties.

Available from school:

- Sports shirts, sports shorts, track pants, sloppy joes, jackets
- Bags and Hats
- Second hand uniforms (*We are always grateful for donations of second hand tunics, trousers and ties which are sold to our parents at a nominal cost*)

Parents are able to place orders for new items from our Uniform Shop. Complete a Uniform Order Form and send to school with payment to the school office.

Uniform Shop is open

Tuesdays, 2.30—3.00 pm

& Wednesdays 9.00-9.30 am.

Please get there at 2.30



CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

This term, Curriculum Overviews for each grade will be published on our web site. It was advertised in our last newsletter that this would happen last week, unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, this has not been done but they will be placed on the school web page as soon as possible.

CHANGED ADDRESS??

Please advise the school immediately of any changes to your home address, phone numbers or emergency contacts.



Enrolments 2010



Enrolment packages for Kinder 2010 will be available from the school office as from Monday, 23 March, 2009. All forms must be returned by **Friday, 8 May 2009**.

Please ensure forms are filled out correctly, signed by both parents and returned with enrolment fee and original Birth, Baptism, and Immunisation Certificates. If both parents are born outside Australia or the child was not born in Australia, we need to sight the Citizenship Certificate.

ENROLMENT PACKAGE

Please send home an enrolment package for my child friend/relative

Name of friend/relative: _____

Contact details for friend/relative:

Please send home with _____ (Child's Name) class: _____

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWS

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs, 14 May	School Assembly 2.15 pm
Fri, 15 May	Stage 3 Touch Gala Day
Mon, 18 May	Interviews for 2010 enrolments commence
Fri, 29 May	Whole School Pentecost Mass 10.15am
Sun, 31 May	Pentecost Parish Mass and morning tea 9.30am
Thurs, 4 June	School Committee meeting 7.30pm
Thurs, 9 July	Term 2 ends
Fri, 10 July	Staff Development Day
Mon, 27 July	Term 3 commences

Change of Date:s: Please note the date for 3V's Reconciliation has been changed to 10 June. The next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, 4 June. And this will be the only meeting this term.

Please note that the WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY to be held this *Friday, 15 May*, will begin at 2.15 pm instead of the usual time.

SPORT

AFL

On Tuesday, 5 May a group of 16 year sixes went and played AFL at Jamison Park in Penrith. We played three other teams in our non-competitive group and beat them all. In 2 of our 3 games, we won by over 50 points! We had an extremely fun day and would have been happy even if we lost all of our games. Everybody played fairly and very well. Eric was one of the captains and scored many goals, and so did Troy and Nathan. Otherwise, we all did a great job, and everyone had a turn having the ball. If another opportunity like this came up we would all like to be a part of it.

By Brittany, Samantha and Laura

FUNDRAISING

Mothers' Day Stall

Thank you to everyone for their support with the Mothers' Day Stall, especially our helpers who did a great job wrapping gifts, making gifts and selling gifts to enable us to have a successful fundraiser. We raised approximately \$4500 from the Stall and Raffle.

Congratulations to the winners of our Mothers' Day Raffle:

Jordan 3H, Vito 3V, Harrison KB, Amber 5B, Kris 1T, Isabella KC, Declan 2M Damon 1T, Jemimah 2S, Corey R 1N, Alyssa 2S, Kristen 5B, Mrs Sycz 3H

Our first Ryan's Toys night for 2009 on June 18. Tickets are on sale now for \$5. Ask family, friends and neighbours to come along.

A 5c-a-thon is being planned for later this year. Now is the time to start collecting those 5c pieces that collect in the car and the bottom of handbags.

Maryjane Johnson

On behalf of the Fundraising Committee

Upcoming Dates:

Ryan's Toys	Thurs, 18 June
Fundraising meeting	Wed, 24 June 9 am
School Disco	Wed, 1 July
Shopping Trip	Sun, 13 September

COMMUNITY NEWS

MindQuest 2009 Program for Gifted & Talented Students

Quakers Hill High School, Saturday, 4 and Sunday 5 July. 9.30 am-3.30 pm. Cost: \$150 GST inclusive.

Brochures available in the school office.