Dear Parents

Building Works

This week the preliminary work for our building project commenced with a visit from a surveyor. It is a clear indication that work will begin in earnest very early next year, with the hope that the first stage will be fully finished by the end of the year.

The first stage will involve the building of a new block located in the space where the playground equipment is currently located. Don’t worry, the plan is for the playground equipment to be relocated to another site.

The work also includes the creation of an additional classroom to be adjoined to the current Kindergarten block. This will eventually allow for the removal of the current (Kindergarten Vanzwol) transportable room. The final building works in this stage will be the refurbishment of G Block (currently housing most Year One and Two classes).

As you can imagine it is going to be an exciting year for our school as the creation of a school without transportable buildings and new learning spaces begins to evolve.

Farewell Celebrations

It was lovely to see so many proud parents at the Year Six Farewell Mass and Celebration. For many of our families this marks the end of a very long association with our school. As Fr Mark commented during the presentation of the certificates “They are a lovely group of children, their parents should be delighted”.

Wednesday evening’s Farewell for our Year Six children was a fabulous night. I would like to especially thank The Livanos family for donating some of the decorations and the Katic family for donating the amazing cake. Thankyou also to a group of generous helpers who worked hard to ensure that the children had a lovely night. Thank you to Donna Cracknell, Linda Fleming, Bernadette Maher Pratt, Gerard Pratt, Sally Taurasi, Julia Gosling, Rita and David Wood.

Reports

As indicated last week End of Year Reports will be posted on Friday. Families with more than one child will receive all reports in one envelope. Class lists will be forwarded home with your child next Thursday.

I look forward to catching up with many of you tonight at our end of year barbeque and Christmas Concert.

May God bless you and your families

Graham Pollard
Principal
**Home Readers:** We have a number of outstanding books that have not been returned to school. If you have any home readers at home, please return them to school as soon as possible as we are undertaking our end of year audit next week.

**Games Club** would like donations of material, toys, games, cars and dolls. Any donations can be left at the Front Office. Thank You.

**SCHOOL BANKING** IS FINISHED FOR THIS YEAR. It will recommence next year.

---

**Mini Vinnies Christmas Hampers**

It is wonderful to see all the goodies and food coming in to fill the Christmas hampers for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Please have your food into the hampers by next Wednesday as the Good Shepherd school community will be presenting these to the parish at a special prayer celebration next Thursday 15 December at 12pm. All families are welcome to attend.

---

**Advent and Christmas**

This Sunday will begin the 3rd Week of Advent. We continue to journey closer to Christmas with the anticipation that Jesus will be born into our lives. We can often, in this very busy world of ours, get caught up with our work, problems in our lives and other things. Jesus invites us to be ready for him and to be alert.

St Bernard writes that there are three comings of Jesus: the first time was at the very first Christmas when God became a man; the second is that Jesus promised he would come again at the end of time; the third is every day of our lives. In this Advent we can ask ourselves: are we ready to welcome Jesus TODAY?

---

**Holy Spirit Parish Christmas Nativity**

Holy Spirit Parish are holding a special Nativity on Saturday 17 December after 6pm Mass. If you would like to be involved in this please fill in the note attached to the newsletter. There are a few rehearsals for the nativity and the details are in the note.

---

**Class Masses**

**15 December: Year 2**

All parents and members of our School Community are invited to attend and celebrate Mass with the children.

---

**Advent Family Activity**

We hope the Advent family activity is continuing to be a good way for your families to welcome Jesus at Christmas. At school we are also adding the symbols to our Jesse Tree in the front office foyer. If you have time, come in and have a look!

---

**2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Term begins</th>
<th>Term ends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Monday, 30 January</td>
<td>Friday, 7 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday, 24 April</td>
<td>Friday, 30 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday, 17 July</td>
<td>Friday, 22 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Monday, 10 October</td>
<td>Wednesday, 15 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Holy Spirit Parish Christmas Nativity

Nativity roles for children in Years 3 – 7
Arrive 6:30pm for 7pm start
(Younger children may come dressed as a shepherd or angel and join the procession to Bethlehem – no practice required. Please meet in the hall foyer at 6:55pm)

Dear Parents,

All children are invited to participate in the Parish Christmas Nativity at Mass on Christmas Eve, Saturday 24 December 2016. If your child would like to be involved they must attend two practice sessions at Holy Spirit Church Burdekin Avenue, Amaroo on:

- Friday 23 December, 9am – 11am
- Saturday 24 December, 9am – 11am

If this is acceptable to you, please sign the permission slip below and return via the RED mailbox in the church foyer OR go online using this QR code.

***Please return permission slip by Wednesday 14 December***

Thank you,
Frances Dinn Frances_1406@hotmail.com
Theivani Evers pastoral.theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au or 0472 921 518

I give permission for my child ___________________________who attends ___________________________ School in Year ________
to participate in the Christmas Nativity on Christmas Eve at 7pm (arrive 6:30pm).
Your Name ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________

I am willing to assist with supervision at practice on:
☐ Friday 23 December 8:45am – 11am
☐ Saturday 24 December 8:45am -11am
☐ Prepare costumes and props – at a time convenient to volunteers.
☐ Prepare costumes and props Friday 24 December at 5:45pm

Signed ________________________________