



Shepherd Spy

WEEK 1 TERM 2 FEBRUARY 2017

Good Shepherd Catholic School Amaroo is a companion school to Holy Spirit School Nicholls, Mother Teresa School Harrison and St John Paul II College Nicholls. Together we serve and are served by Holy Spirit Parish Gungahlin.

Parish Mass is held every Saturday 6.00pm Sunday 8am; 9.30am and 5.30pm All are welcome to join us.

School website
www.goodshepherd.cg.catholic.edu.au

Email
office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au

Phone
6255 7888

Fax
6255 7999
Parish Home
(Fr Mark Croker and Fiona Wilkinson)
6242 9622

Dear Community,

A warm welcome to the 2017 school year at Good Shepherd and a particular welcome to those parents who are joining our community for the first time. I know that those of us who are new to the school have been struck by the sense of excitement, hospitality and obvious commitment found amongst the staff, parents and, of course, children of Good Shepherd. All students look great in their uniform. The school uniform, worn with pride is a distinguishing feature of our school and I thank all parents for their support in following our uniform policy.

In this first newsletter I wish to thank parents for the way in which your sons and daughters have been prepared for their new classes and new teachers. In Kindergarten, we saw a most settled beginning while our senior students in Years Five and Six have set a wonderful tone about the school through their willingness to assist and help others. When, in these first days, I visited many of our classrooms and experienced some of our Year 6 students telling me all about the great things at Good Shepherd, there was little doubt the fine reputation of the school in the wider community is very well-deserved.

I extend my thanks to the teachers and support staff, who have prepared so well for the year ahead. While certainly hectic in these early days we can look towards a good year in our many undertakings.

Welcome

Welcome to our new staff members: Naomi Scott, Rebekah Lyons, Melinda Hall-O'Brien, Rachel DeBoni, Amy Hazell and Shannon Thewlis. We welcome back Marty Capon and Kate Whackett after a year away teaching in other schools. We are delighted to have you all with us.

Parent Information Evening - This Tuesday 6:00pm to 7:15pm

You are strongly encouraged to attend the Parent Information Night next Tuesday, 7 February at 6:00pm. We have changed the format this year hoping it is an informative and community gathering.

The evening will commence in the Hall with a brief introduction of staff followed by information regarding the 2017 school year at Good Shepherd. There will then be an **opportunity to visit the many 'stalls' set up around the hall**- including class stalls to meet and greet your child's teacher and gather further information for the year ahead. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. If you need to bring children because of baby-sitting issues- bring them!

Please make this time a priority as it is important that all families hear the information presented.

(Please note: Kindergarten will have a session prior at 5:15pm in the Staffroom).

It is most important that your children are settled and happy at school, for their learning will be most successful in a supportive and caring environment. Please assist us in ensuring that frequent communication between home and school takes place and please do not hesitate to contact me (david.austin@cg.catholic.edu.au) should you have concerns about your **child's safety or well-being**.

May Jesus, the Good Shepherd, journey with us so together we are the 'heart of God in Amaroo'.

David Austin
Principal



To be together ...

Thank you for Help on Day One!

Thank you to the parents who kindly gave of their time to help welcome Kinder parents and new families to our school at morning tea last week. Your kindness, helpfulness and catering was very much appreciated.



Handy Helpers

Every Monday morning after morning assembly, volunteer parents and carers meet in the staff room to help with classroom tasks for teachers e.g. cutting and laminating, enjoying each other's company and having a cup of tea. We would welcome new faces. You can stay for however much time is convenient for you. Even ten minutes of your time would be appreciated. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents, make new friends and to learn about your school. Children are welcome. If you have any queries, please contact Veronica Harris on 6255 7888.

School of Hope Banner

Thank you very much to those children and families who helped decorate hearts for a banner for the School of Hope. These hearts were applied by Rebecca Lewis, mother of Georgina Lewis (1Manenica) onto a banner which was a gift to the School of Hope, along with funds we raised in 2016. Rebecca worked until late on New Year's Eve to have the banner ready for Simon Carroll of Global School Partners to take to Kenya. Have a look at the Global School Partners website to see the banner hanging on the wall of the school in Kenya. It is very special.



St Vincent de Paul Doorknock Appeal

Come and join the Good Shepherd community on Saturday 18 February as we doorknock homes in our area to raise money for those in our community in need. We'll meet at 9:30am in the Good Shepherd courtyard and will finish at 12pm with a barbecue. Those students preparing for Confirmation and their parents are especially welcome as a way to prepare for the reception of Confirmation early Term 2.

Please email Anthony O'Connell (anthony.oconnell1@cg.catholic.edu.au) or call the school if you would like more information. You can register at the front office at any time. We hope to see you there!

*It's not how much we give but how
much love we put into giving.*

Mother Teresa

Community Council Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on
Tuesday, 21 March at 7 pm in the School Staff Room.

This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to come together as a School Community to discuss how we can improve the school environment for our children.

...the heart of God.

Religious Education

'Who Do You Say I Am?'

"But what about you?", Jesus asked. 'Who do you say I am?'

(Mark 8:27-30)



Our Whole School Focus for 2017, 'Who do you say I am?' focuses around nurturing our relationship with Jesus through prayer by reading and interpreting Scripture and building our relationships with each other. In order for us to answer this question, we need to have a personal encounter with Jesus. This year there will be opportunities for this personal encounter to happen through prayer celebrations where we will encounter Jesus in different ways.

Good Shepherd School Prayer

We have many new students and families who have joined our school community this year.

Each morning we start our day with Morning Assembly and our School Prayer.

We would like all children and parents to learn our prayer so that you can join with us each morning as we pray for the day.



God who loves us all.

*Help us to be like Jesus the Good Shepherd
May we be your hands, eyes, voice
and feet to all we meet*

*Guide us each day to live the Golden Rule,
**So together we are "The Heart of God in
Amaroo"***

*Bless our school community with your love
Amen.*

Term 1 Important Dates

- * **Ash Wednesday** - Wednesday, March 1 (Yrs K, 1, 2 & 3 - Classroom liturgy)
(Yrs 4, 5 & 6 - Parish Mass at 9:30am)
- * **Confirmation Information Session** - Wednesday, 15 February at 1:00pm & 7:00pm
- * **Prayer Celebration: Intro to Whole School Focus** - Friday, 17 February at 9:15am
- * **Confirmation Commitment Mass** - Saturday, February 18 at 6:00pm or Sunday, February 19 at 9:30am or 5:30pm
- * **Prayer Celebration** - Friday 17 March at 9:15am (6Mooney and 2Payne)
- * **Holy Week Prayer Celebration** - Thursday, April 6 at 9:30am

To be together ...

General Information:

Cheerleading

All new and returning cheerleaders interested in signing up for the 2017 Cheer Season, please attend our Cheer Registration Day tomorrow Friday, 4 February at 6pm in the school hall. Come along register, have a chat, purchase 2nd hand uniforms and get fitted for the training uniform. For more information please contact bdawson@yless4u.com.au



Medication:

If your child was administered medication last year for ADHD, asthma or allergies and the medication needs to continue for 2017 you are required to complete a new 'Request to Dispense Medication' form which is available from the front office or on our website. If you have any questions please contact Joan at the office.

School Fees:

Term 1 School Fee accounts will be issued next week with payment due by Friday, 3 March. Please refer to the school website for 2017 Fee Schedules and information.

Most families paying fees by Direct Debit have updated their authorities for 2017, but we are waiting on a few. If you have not done so, please complete a new form and deliver to the office as soon as possible. Payments may also be made online via BPay (preferred), cash or Eftpos at the office, or by using the Qkr app. Credit Card payments are also accepted by telephone.

Swimming Carnival

Our school swimming carnival for Years 3 to 6 will be held Monday, 13 February at the Dickson Aquatic Centre. All permission notes and participation forms must be returned no later than tomorrow, Friday, 4 February.

School Banking

Continues in 2017. If your child needs claim a prize from 2016 the prize redemption forms are available at the Front Office.

Calendar

The 2017 School Calendar is available online through the School Website. The Newsletter will continue to highlight up coming events to ensure that parents and families are fully aware of what is on.

School Uniform

Thankyou to the many parents who have made that extra effort to send their children to school with the correct uniform . It is great to see the students wearing their uniform with pride.

Wet Weather Pick Up

During wet weather there will be no drive-through pick up. Children need to be collected from their class room.

Communication

School communication is shared online via the website and via the School App. To install the App, just look for our school name "Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School Amaroo" in the Apple App Store and install it on your phone. For android devices, search for in the "PlayStore".

A couple of tips:

- Make sure you have allowed for push notifications in your phone settings.
- You can subscribe to various push categories (eg Year Levels) by clicking "more" then "setup" in the App.



...the heart of God.

Email Etiquette: Communication via email is an excellent way for parents and teachers to correspond, however it is essential that appropriate email etiquette is observed by all users. The correct use of email enables parents and teachers to give and receive information, arrange appointment times and also resolve small issues quickly. When used in this way it is an effective communication tool between school and home.

Unfortunately in the past, the use of email as a form of communication between home and school has been misused by some parents. Emailing is not an avenue for venting anger or at its worst, abusing teachers. While this has only happened on a few occasions, the effect it has had on the teachers receiving these emails has been profound.



If a parent is concerned or upset about an issue, it is preferable to speak to the teacher face to face. An email to a teacher to organise a meeting produces a far better outcome in these situations. Good and effective communication between home and school is of paramount importance to us here at Good Shepherd. We embrace email as an effective communication tool and we aim to ensure that we all use it in a courteous and respectful way.

Counselling Service: Good Shepherd provides a counselling service for all students and families within the school. The school counsellor is employed by CatholicCare and attends our school weekly, to provide one-on-one assessments and therapies for children, support to families and carers, consultation with the school, and resources and referrals to outside services.

What are common issues that the school counsellor can help with?

- Improving mood and mental health, such as anxiety or depression
- Difficulties with friendships or social skills
- Self-esteem or resilience
- Family situations such as parental separation or health issues
- Grief and loss
- Managing behavioural difficulties or developmental issues
- Providing support for parenting

How can I contact the school counsellor?

Parents and carers can speak to the counsellor directly by phoning the school, or ask your child's teacher or the school Principal to make a referral. In some cases, teachers may make a referral directly. Older children may initiate contact, however parental consent is always gained before the school counsellor has any contact with children.

How does the counselling service work?

The school counsellor works in collaboration with families and carers, teaching staff, learning support, and if necessary outside services, to ensure a holistic approach to children's wellbeing. However, contact is carried out in a way that ensures as much privacy for children and families as possible, and information is kept confidential unless permission is given or there are serious concerns about the safety of the child.

After a referral has been made, there can be a waiting period of up to two weeks, although the counsellor endeavours to make contact as soon as possible and prioritises urgent cases. The school counsellor starts with discussing what is happening with your child to make an assessment about how to best provide therapy or support.

The school counsellor at Good Shepherd is Kate Cummings, who works at Good Shepherd every Tuesday (9:00am - 3.30pm) and Odd Friday (9:00am - 3:30pm). To make contact please phone the school.

We Endeavour To Be ... Nut Free!

Please remember that a number of our students have serious allergies to peanuts. We have agreed as a community we will take care of these children and work together for their safety. Therefore, peanut butter, **peanuts and peanut related products should not come to school as part of the children's lunches and snacks.**

This includes Nutella and all hazelnut-based spreads. Thank you for your support in this matter.

To be together ...

A Few Reminders:

- Starting time is **8.55am sharp**. Students arriving late will need to be signed in at the Front Office.
- Supervision commences at **8.30am** and **NO STUDENT** should be at school before 8.30am. Students arriving before 8.30am are unsupervised. All children must be collected no later than 3.30pm. Please use before/after school care if necessary.
- All student's hair should be away from the face and, if shoulder length or longer, must be **tyed back** in in plaits or a pony-tail. Hair should also be of **natural colour** and **extreme haircuts are not encouraged**. Hair ties, clips and ribbons should be in school colours only.
- **No jewellery** other than a watch and **plain stud or small sleeper type earrings** is to be worn. No bracelets, bangles, sparkly ear rings, nail polish, make up, etc is allowed.
- Good Shepherd is a **NUT FREE** School.
- Good Shepherd has a **NO HAT ,NO PLAY** Policy. Students without a correct school hat will be asked to sit in the Gazebos during recess and/or lunch..
- Black '**jogger**' type school shoes and boots are **not** part of the school uniform. The only school shoes allowed at Good Shepherd are the **traditional or formal leather school shoes**.
- Students with **Mobile Phones** are asked to switch the phone off on arrival at school and leave it in their bags. If mobile phones are heard or sighted during school time they will be confiscated. The School takes no responsibility for mobile phones.
- Students who are collected by their parents during the day for appointments must be **signed out/in** at the Front Office before and after the appointment. Where possible, advise the school via e-mail the day before. (office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au)
- Parents visiting the school to assist are also asked to sign in at Front Office and receive a **Visitors Badge**.
- Please ensure that the School always has **up to date contact and emergency details** for your children.
- Please drive slowly and be vigilant in the **carparks**.
- **Drive Thru Pick Up** does not **commence** until **3.20pm**. This allows parents who park & Pick Up to vacate the carparks. The aim is to ease traffic congestions in our carparks and ensure the safety of our community members. Please **DO NOT** arrive earlier and start queuing in the carpark
- **Families with 2 or more children** use Drive Thru in the **front carpark**.
- **1 child families** use Drive Thru in the **Church carpark**.
- **Disabled parking** - please leave the disabled car spaces free for those who need them.
- **Walkers/Bike Riders** - Students are to wait at the exit near the Kindergarten block until the teacher on road crossing/bus duty collects them and walks them across the roads. No student should be walking their bikes across the road in the afternoon without supervision.
- **Toys** and personal sporting gear should not be brought to school. Accidental damage and loss is too common in schools.
- **Sports Shoes** need to be predominately **WHITE**. Fluorescent sports shoes are not acceptable.

...the heart of God.

STAFF 2017



Principal - David Austin

Assistant Principal - Melinda Hall-O'Brien

RE Education Coordinator - Anthony O'Connell

Coordinators - Lisa MacMahon and Luke Mooney

Front Office - Joan Jones

Finance Manager - Helen Wilks

Kindergarten
Karen Eglington
Amy Hazell
Erika Tokich
Natalie Wright

Year 1
Rachel De Boni
Sonya Huleatt
Ana Manenica
Kirsty Price
Nicole Rous

Year 2
Jessica Coghlan
Tracey Kenna
Dillon Payne
Melanie Shannon

Year 3
Christine Donnelly
Hayley Oldfield
Rebekah Lyons
Shannon Thewlis
Kate Whackett

Year 4
Steve Bent
Diana Jones
Elizabeth Zaja

Year 5
Marty Capon
Jessica Dittmar
Vanessa Dunstan
Jacinta Housler
Lisa MacMahon

Year 6
Andrea Abbott
Matt Aquilina
Luke Mooney

Learning Support Team
Toni Pfeiffer
Tanya Ahern
Tania Fleming
Maria Goleby
Anne Smart
Libby Willemsen

Teacher Librarian
Bernadette Aitken

Library Assistant
Sue Hall

Defence Services Transition Aide
Amanda Woodall
(Tuesday and Thursday)

Leadership Team Release
Michelle Norris

Arts Release
Sally Taurasi

Science
Sarah Corkhill
Brooke Thompson
Michelle Weier

Student Welfare Office
Veronica Harris

School Counsellor
Kate Cummings
(Tuesday and Odd Friday)

Grounds and Maintenance
Brett King

Sports Days

Kinder: <i>Tuesday and Friday</i>	Year 4: <i>Wednesday and Friday</i>
Year 1: <i>Tuesday and Thursday</i>	Year 5: <i>Wednesday and Friday</i>
Year 2: <i>Tuesday and Friday</i>	Year 6: <i>Monday and Wednesday</i>
Year 3: <i>Tuesday and Thursday</i>	



School Banking

The Commonwealth Bank offers a School Banking program here at Good Shepherd on Thursday mornings. All that is required is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account, simply drop into any branch to apply or through NetBank (for existing customers). If your child has an existing Youthsaver account they are ready to start School Banking. This is a fun and easy way for your child to develop the knowledge and confidence to handle their money, whilst offering an exciting rewards program for children as well as ongoing fund raising for your school.

Join the Dollarmites on a savings adventure into the future with School Banking!

In 2017, School Banking is getting children excited about the future with a brand new look for the Dollarmites. As **Future Savers**, students will join the Dollarmites on a journey to reach the Savings Hover Park, an amazing playground up in the clouds of a hi-tech city.

There are **8 new reward items for 2017** from the Future Savers range:

- Cyber Handball
- Colour Change Markers
- 3D Chalk Set
- Tablet Case
- Smiley Emoji Keyring
- Volt Handball
- Pencil + Tech Case

ture



Epic Earphones

WIN a family adventure holiday at Tokyo Disneyland!

This year, School Banking is running a Future Savers Grand Prize competition that will take one lucky School Banker all the way to Tokyo, Japan. The winner gets an unforgettable family trip, for up to two adults and three children, where they'll explore Tokyo Disneyland with its amazing attractions, including the futuristic Tomorrowland, plus enjoy the fun rides at Tokyo DisneySea.

Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2017 will be automatically entered into the draw. This is another great way to motivate students to save regularly and reach their savings goals.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives from the Commonwealth Bank \$5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of \$10 per individual deposit).

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2017 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to register.