



# Shepherd Spy

WEEK 5 TERM 1 2 MARCH 2017

Dear Community,

Yesterday we began our Lenten Pilgrimage with our Ash Wednesday Mass (Years 4-6) and liturgy (Years K-3). On the news this week you may have seen footage of places throughout the world celebrating Mardi Gras. The customs of Mardi Gras are linked closely to the Christian traditions of Ash Wednesday and Lent.

During earlier times of the church the traditions of fasting and abstinence during Lent were taken much more seriously. Lent was a pathway of denial that stretched for the 40 days leading up to Easter. During Lent, food products such as eggs, sugar and butter were forbidden. On the day before Lent began a party was held. The party used up lots of the ingredients that would spoil if kept untouched in the cupboards during lent. This party day became known as "Fat Tuesday" or Mardi Gras. (On Tuesday, many classes cooked pancakes!)

The contrast in ancient times between Mardi Gras and the days of Lent was marked. No doubt every day during Lent people were reminded constantly, through acts of denial and fasting, that they had to work for reconciliation and repentance. Denying oneself of some luxuries in those days was not a rather eccentric act but a pledge to try to improve one's life and way of living.

We have now begun once again the Lenten journey. Again we are invited to accept the challenge of reconciliation and given the opportunity to speak to and educate our children about reconciliation. Of course the type of reconciliation I am referring to does not begin with public/nationwide apologies but with a personal acknowledgement that sin exists and exists in our own lives.

During the Lents of my childhood I remember clearly the absence of lollies and chocolate, and eating fish on all Fridays. Mission collections every day at school were expected during Lent. Some of this of course went over my head but deep down I knew that by observing these small things I was contributing to a collective Catholic action which helped make God more present in my life and in the world. I also felt that my own individual sacrifices were like my own personal triathlon, a challenge, which I thought about every day. I was always proud of myself when Easter arrived and I had won (well nearly always).

Our Ash Wednesday Mass and liturgy yesterday, I heard were very special. Thank you to Fr Mark for leading our Mass and making the message of Ash Wednesday and Lent very explicit for our students. Thanks also to Mr Anthony O'Connell, Religious Education Coordinator for coordinating our liturgy. Thanks also to our parents who attended and supported our staff and students.

## **Principal's Retreat**

I am currently attending the annual Principal's Retreat at Bowral, with all Principals from our Archdiocesan schools and members of the of the Catholic Education Office. The theme of the retreat this year is 'what Mary of Nazareth teaches us about leadership'.

We all lead busy lives and this retreat will give me an opportunity to be present with God and spend time touching base with all Principals from our Archdiocese. Thank you for allowing me time away from school and I look forward to reporting back next week.

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.catholic.edu.au](http://www.goodshepherd.catholic.edu.au)

Email  
[office.goodshepherd@catholic.edu.au](mailto:office.goodshepherd@catholic.edu.au)

Phone  
6255 7888

Parish Home  
Fr Mark Croker  
6242 9622

# To be together .....

## Director visit

Last Friday, Mr Ross Fox, Director of Catholic Education, made a visit to our school. He was truly impressed with the beautiful manners of all our students and the way in which they welcomed him into our school. While touring the school, Ross visited some of our classrooms and could see the impressive teaching and learning that is taking place here at Good Shepherd.

After sharing morning tea with the staff, Ross presented Mrs Sally Taurasi with a certificate for 20+ years of service to Catholic Education. This was a wonderful recognition of the dedication Sally has shown to our school.

## Hours of Supervision

Please be aware that the hours of supervision are between 8:30am and 3:30pm. Our morning assembly commences at 8:55am each day and is a great way to gather together as a school community. Lessons commence each morning at 9:05am and conclude at 3:10pm on Mondays to Fridays. When children arrive at school in the morning they should make their way directly to the hardtop area where they will be supervised from 8:30am by a teacher on duty. Children should not be inside the building or in their classrooms before school.

We have noticed that some children are arriving at school prior to 8.30am. The school provides before school care (Camp Australia) for families needing care for their children before school. Many parents do the right thing and pay for their child/ren to be cared for. If you need to have your child at school before 8.30am please contact Camp Australia.

We also ask that you assist the school in the interests of the pupils' safety by ensuring that your child does not remain at school after 3:30pm. Staff have meetings from 3:30pm most days and cannot supervise students.

## Parent workshops

As a new Principal, I would like to offer a cuppa and a chat to any parents who would like to discuss what we do well here and perhaps suggestions for the future. These discussions will be very informal and an opportunity to gather some information to assist me with strategic planning. Feel free to join me at one of the following times (meet in the Front office):

- Monday, 6 March - 9.00am -9:30am
- Monday, 6 March - 2:30pm - 3:00pm
- Wednesday, 8 March - 9:00am - 9:30am



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

David Austin  
Principal



## School Photos



Our school photos will be taken on Wednesday, 22 March (Kindergarten - Yr 3) and Friday, 24 March (Yrs 4 - 6). All children must wear full summer uniform (not sports uniform). Family Photos will also be held on the Friday (Family envelopes are available at the Front Office). Photo envelopes will be sent home today.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6 Term 1	March 6	March 7	March 8 Kinder Excursion National Zoo & Aquarium	March 9	March 10 Year 3 Mass 9.15 am	March 11 Prayer Celebration 9.15 am Years 6M & 2P	March 12

...the heart of God.

# Religious Education

## Sacrament of Confirmation

Many of our Year 6 students are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in Term 2. Please pray for these students as they journey to discover their Christian mission.

A reminder to Year 6 students to attend the Ministry Masses as it is a very important part of your preparation. If you need a reminder of which Mass and which ministry you are performing, ask your teacher as they have a list.

## Vinnies Doorknock Appeal

Many thanks to those families who signed up for the Vinnies Doorknock Appeal which happened at Good Shepherd a few weeks ago. The teachers and families who volunteered their time raised a whopping \$1270! What a generous community we live in Amaroo, Bonner and Forde! Thank you again to those who gave their time and effort generously.



## Whole School focus 2017 - Who Do You Say I Am?

On Friday, 10 March 6Mooney and 2Payne will be leading the school in prayer to answer the question: Who do you say I am? These classes will be exploring and praying with the focus of 'Jesus is our Brother'. All families are welcome to participate and pray with us next Friday at 9:15am.



## Ash Wednesday - The Beginning of Lent

Yesterday we celebrated the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Years 4-6 attended parish Mass at 9:30am with students from Holy Spirit, Mother Teresa and Years Kinder to 3 were led in a prayer celebration focusing on prayer, fasting and almsgiving as ways to strengthen our relationship with Jesus this Lent in preparation for Easter.

## Project Compassion

Project Compassion boxes have gone home this week. Almsgiving helps in two ways: it helps those the money or goods go to, and it also helps the giver to separate themselves from money or material goods. We congratulate Dominic (1 Huleatt) for his generosity by filling his Project Compassion box before Lent even started! When your boxes become full please either drop off at the parish office or at the school front office.

## Year 3 Mass

Next Thursday 9 March our Year 3 classes will be celebrating Mass with the parish community. All families are invited to join Year 3 students and teachers for this Mass.



## Term 1 School Fees are due tomorrow, 3 March.

School Sports ACT provides a wonderful opportunity for students to represent the ACT in over 20 sports. Trials for these sports are held throughout the year. If you would like to register your child for any regional school sport trials please register on the School Sports ACT website [www.schoolsportact.asn.au](http://www.schoolsportact.asn.au)

On the website you will find a calendar of all School Sport ACT trials and events, the relevant information for registering your child and lots of other useful information. Please note that exact details about trials is not often available until around a month before the trial date.

I would strongly encourage all students in Grades 5 and 6 to trial for the North Canberra/ Gungahlin regional team in their chosen sport. If you have any questions about School Sports please contact me at [marty.capon@cq.catholic.edu.au](mailto:marty.capon@cq.catholic.edu.au)



## 2017 Student Residential Address Collection

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (the department), to advise you that the department has requested your child's school provide a *statement of addresses*, in accordance with section 21 of the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (the Regulation).

A *statement of addresses* contains the following three pieces of information about students at the school:

- Students' residential address (**not student names or other identifying information**)
- Students' level of education (i.e. whether the student is receiving primary or secondary education)
- Students' boarding school status (boarders or day students)

### Authority for and Purpose of Collection

Consistent with previous practice, and following the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics National Census of Population and Housing (Census), it is timely that information held by the department is updated in order to ensure that Australian Government funding calculations for your child's school are accurate.

Under section 21 of the Regulation, a *statement of addresses* **must not explicitly identify an individual student**. Accordingly, all information in the *statement of addresses* provided by your child's school to the department is de-identified.

### Use and Disclosure of Information

It is important to ensure the *statements of addresses* are accurate, and the department may from time to time carry out audits of *statements of addresses* to verify their accuracy. In the event of an audit, the department's contracted auditors may seek to compare a school's *statement of addresses* with student enrolment information held by the school for the purpose of verifying the information. The department's contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

Any further use and disclosure of information relating to the *statement of addresses* will occur in accordance with section 65 of the Regulation.

### Contact

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you can contact the department by:

- Email: [seshelpdesk@education.gov.au](mailto:seshelpdesk@education.gov.au)
- Phone (free call): SES helpdesk on 1800 677 027 (Option 4)

For further information about the department, including the department's privacy policy, please go to: <https://education.gov.au>.