



Shepherd Spy

WEEK 10 TERM 2 29 JUNE 2017

Dear Community,

For almost a century in this region, Catholic education has provided an inclusive, low fee education opportunity that has been the choice of one in five children, including from all religions, incomes, and backgrounds. Over the past few months, there has been much debate and discussion on fair-funding for ACT Catholic school students. Many of our staff and parents were deeply concerned and angry with the proposed funding freeze for our school. Last week, Gonski 2.0 was legislated in federal parliament and Catholic education in the ACT has strengthened its resolve to seek a genuinely fair funding model for all schools, students and systems.

Last week, Liberal Senator Zed Seselja negotiated \$57.9 million for the ACT to give local Catholic and Independent schools funding certainty and to assist with the transition to the new model while key reviews are undertaken.

Mr Ross Fox, Director of Catholic Education, was quoted saying "I believe this funding is sufficient to ensure no child who enrolls in a Catholic school in 2018 will face pressure on fees or funding cuts during their time in a Catholic school."

Mr Fox has written the following for all parents to be included in this week's newsletter:

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the cause of fair funding for Catholic schools by contacting our political leaders in recent months. It is evident that many MPs and Senators have heard the heartfelt concerns arising from the impact of the Turnbull Government's changes to funding for Catholic schools. It is disappointing that the Government has created uncertainty for Catholic Schools.

Parents and carers in particular have clearly expressed the high value they place on choice in school education and want to see fair funding that supports choice as a real option for families. Working with parents, Catholic education will continue to seek fair funding that meets the long-term needs of all students at Catholic schools.

The many voices speaking up for Catholic schools have forced the Turnbull government to amend its funding policy.

The last minute changes did not solve the long-term problems in the funding model for Catholic schools. Catholic schools will benefit from one year of additional funding for systemic schools while a review takes place. In the ACT additional funding has been won that guarantees funding levels for the next four years.

A review of the Socio Economic Status (SES) measure will be conducted in the next twelve months. This measure is based on ABS data and is the most significant determinant of commonwealth funding for Catholic schools.

Catholic education will participate in the review with the hope that it will deliver fair funding that recognises the needs of students across Catholic schools. Catholic schools want to continue to provide a holistic education with low fees. As a result of the additional funding won for ACT Catholic schools, fee increases should be no more than normally expected for the next four years. To this end I invite parents who may have been concerned by fee increases in 2018 to enrol your child in a Catholic school if you have not yet done so.

Unfortunately, the funding challenges to Catholic education are not over. We have secured a temporary stay only. The unfairness for low fee non-government schools, including Catholic schools continues. Our collective advocacy as parents, caregivers and school leaders, will have the most compelling impact on decision makers.

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

Parish Home
Fr Mark Croker
6242 9622

To be together

Building Update

Construction of the extension to Kindergarten will commence in the school holidays. Fencing will be erected and there will be minimal disruption to students, staff and parents. Changes that will take place include:

- Playground and sandpit will be out of bounds. The playground is obviously being dismantled and will be relocated near Year 4. This will take most of Term 3 to re-erect.
- The carpark bay closest to Burdekin Avenue will be unavailable for staff, visitors and parents. This is the only **access point for the builder's machinery.**

I understand that construction can cause inconvenience for a large community like ours. However, we do know that the short term pain will give us long term benefits for our students in the future. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns with this project at any time.

School Uniform Reminders

With the holidays approaching, it is a good time to get all uniform requirements ready for the start of term 3. School uniform seems to be a constant battle recently! We are persistently reminding students at school that they must wear correct uniform to school. We need parental support in ensuring we follow Catholic Education Uniform guidelines and School Uniform Policy. Some reminders please:

- Navy jackets only;
- Navy or black scarves, gloves and beanies only;
- A Good Shepherd School bag;
- Winter uniform only- no shorts!
- Hair should be clean and neat. Collar length and longer should be plaited or tied in a pony tail.



Please support us by ensuring the students wear correct uniform to school. Thank you.

Also, over the holidays please ensure all school uniforms are clearly labelled with your child's name.



Security in the holidays

With the holidays approaching, I urge everyone to keep an eye on our school during the holidays and report any suspicious behaviour directly to the ACT Police on 131 444. As you walk or drive past the school. Please cast an eye across the grounds!

Staffing News

- **Miss Amy Hazell** will be celebrating her marriage during the holidays. Following her wedding, she will be **taking leave and will return in Week 4 of Term 3.** **Mrs Hoda Farhadi** will be teaching this class in Amy's absence. We wish Amy and her husband Kosta all the best on their upcoming wedding and wish them a lifetime of happiness. We look forward to welcoming back Mrs Amy Kouparitsas on Monday, August 7.
- **Mr Stephen Bent** will be taking well-deserved Long Service Leave for the first three weeks of Term 3. His replacement will be announced tomorrow.
- **Mrs Christine Donnelly** will be taking well-deserved Long Service Leave for the first two weeks of term. Mr Jordan Harper will be teaching her class during that time.
- **Ms Sonya Huelett** will be taking well-deserved Long Service Leave for the first three weeks of Term 3. Her class will be taught by Vanessa Thornton during this time.
- **Mrs Shannon Thewlis** has been appointed full-time teacher in 3 Lyons for the rest of the year. Miss Rebekah Lyons has resigned from her position.
- **Mrs Angela Callaghan** will be returning to Good Shepherd in Term 3 after Maternity Leave. She will be teaching in 3Whackett every Thursday and Friday.

...the heart of God.

End of Semester Reports

Tomorrow, each student will bring home their Semester 1 report. This is a real celebration of the achievements your child has made over the two terms. Please spend some time with your child discussing the report. If you wish to discuss the report with your child's teacher, please contact them after the school holidays to make an appointment.

End of Term.

As we near the end of Term 2, I thank our parents for all you do for the children at our school. Your work for the school is greatly appreciated and we look forward to your continued involvement next semester.

To our very dedicated and wonderful staff, on behalf of all, thank you for your work, care and interest in our children, particularly at this busy time of the year with assessments and reports. How fortunate we are in having a group of dedicated professionals who contribute so much to Good Shepherd Primary School.

Enjoy the last day and then the holidays!

Wishing God's blessing on you and your families these holidays.

David Austin
Principal



Winter Woollies - Uniform Free Day

Our annual Winter Woollies Appeal will be **tomorrow, 30 June**. Please bring your donations of any adult winter clothing. We are also asking for donations of new adult gloves and socks. In exchange for children wearing their winter woollies instead of uniform, we are asking for a gold coin donation. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you to all the wonderful Defence children, parents and Good Shepherd staff who have supported me this term.

I have really enjoyed my time as the Good Shepherd Defence School Transition Aide during Mandy's absence and looking forward to welcoming her back next term.

Have a safe and very enjoyable holiday.

Taryn Ahern



And the award goes to.....

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| Ky (KE) | Ananya (1H) | Keaton (2C) | Lilly (3D) | Nikolas (4B) | Victoria (5D) | Cole (6Aq) |
| Angelique (KH) | Annabella (1M) | Mikayla (2K) | Riley (3L) | Liesbeth (4J) | Mitchell (5HD) | Isis (6M) |
| Sri (KT) | Mila (1PD) | Cristiano (2P) | Grace (3O) | Dixa (4Z) | Taija (5M) | |
| Ethan (KW) | Yu-Yi (1R) | Eli (2S) | Shara (3W) | Eliana (5C) | Cooper (6Ab) | |



School resumes on Monday, 17 July