



Shepherd Spy

WEEK 9 TERM 3

14 SEPTEMBER

Good Shepherd Catholic School Amaroo is a companion school to Holy Spirit School Nicholls, and 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

Dear Community,

This weekend we celebrate First Eucharist (or First Communion) with many of our Year Three children and their families. It is always a very beautiful and special celebration. First Eucharist gives us adults the opportunity to pause and once again reflect on what Communion really means in our lives, and how we should still stand in awe and reverence of the Eucharist.

As Catholics, we believe that Jesus gave us His own body and blood in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We believe that Jesus is present in this Sacrament. The Eucharist is not just a symbol, nor is it a memory -it is really Jesus Christ. This is what we mean by the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The students today had a very productive and reflective 'Jesus Day'. This was a great opportunity to reflect on the special meaning of First Eucharist and to prepare fully for the weekend.

Our thanks to Father Mark, Father Jiss and the Parish team and our dedicated teachers - Christine Donnelly, Kate Whackett, Angela Callaghan, Declan Welsh and Shannon Thewlis, as well as our Acting Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Natalie Wright for their involvement in preparing the children for this very special day, including Jesus Day. While First Eucharist is a milestone for children, frequent participation in the Eucharist is necessary for them to continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

We pray for all the children who will receive their First Holy Communion this weekend- Saturday 4pm and 6pm.

Vinnies Sleep out

The Mini-Vinnies Sleepout last Friday night was a fantastic success. Thank you to the many children who spent the night, sleeping in the hall on only a piece of cardboard and in a sleeping bag. They experienced what it is like to be homeless and this activity raised the profile of homelessness in Canberra.

A big thanks again to Natalie Wright for coordinating the event as well as the many teachers who stayed overnight to supervise. Congratulations.

Australian Primary Principals Conference (APPA)

I am currently writing this from the Australian Primary Principal Association (APPA) Conference in Brisbane where I have joined over 1000 Primary principals from across Australia. This conference is a great opportunity to network with colleagues, listen to high quality speakers and to participate in workshops, and to hear about the latest research in the areas of education and leadership. I will be back at school on Monday.

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

David Austin
Principal

To be together

Swimming Lessons

All children in Kindergarten to Year 3 will be attending swimming lessons next term. Lessons commence Tuesday, 17 October through to Thursday, 7 December. The swimming lessons are the chief component of the Physical Education program for Term 4 and therefore all children are expected to participate.



Athletics

The following students will represent North Canberra/ Gungahlin at the ACT Athletics Carnival next Tuesday, 19 September. *Crystal, Nicole, Achol, Simeon, Ruan, Angelina, Elizabeth, Luca, Patrick, Aiden, Rok.* Good luck!

Mini Vinnies Sleep Out

Well done to those students and teachers who slept out last Friday evening. The evening began with an intimate liturgy led by Father Mark, followed by a presentation from representatives of the St Vincent de Paul Society on the reality of homelessness in Australia. Students also spent some time laying outside in the dark and cold as an experience of empathy for those who sleep rough in our Canberra community. After some games and a movie, the real challenge began as students struggled to sleep with no mattress and no pillow, just a sleeping bag and some cardboard. After a fairly sleepless night, students enjoyed a BBQ breakfast together.

We are so proud of these students for giving a voice to the vulnerable in our community, approaching the experience with maturity and compassion.



All sponsorship forms and money should be brought back to school no later than tomorrow, Friday 15 September. A formal presentation will be made to the St Vincent de Paul's Street to Home program next Friday, 22 September 2:15pm in the hall.



This week the Seasons for Growth program reaches completion, as the children discuss ways of moving forward.

The children and their invited guests look forward to a Prayer Celebration on the last day of term. Invitations have been sent to each child's a special guests.

We are celebrating our time together and bringing to a close the experience of being with our different groups.

It is a time of sharing and of joy.



Earn and Learn Woolworths Sticker Program

If you shop at Woolworths, please collect as many stickers as you can before next Tuesday, 19 September and drop them into the earn & learn box at the Front Office.

The Woolworths Earn and Learn Program gives our school the chance to earn amazing school resources. Each \$10 you spend in Woolworths = a sticker!

Thank you once again for supporting Good Shepherd.



And the award goes to.....

Monika (KE)	Audrey (1H)	Ema-Luisa (2C)	Olivia (3D)	Cameron (4B)	Amber (5D)	Lachlan (6Aq)
Paige (KH)	Hollie (1M)	Alanna (2K)	Talia (3O)	Olivia (4J)	Ethan (5HD)	Juanita (6T)
Oliver (KT)	Hayden (1PD)	Tomislav (2P)	Seraph (3T)	Achol (4Z)	Dominic (5M)	
Winter (KW)	Alexander (1R)	Ray (2S)	Grace (3W)	Marcus (5C)	Daniela (6Ab)	

...the heart of God.

Religious Education News

Sacrament of First Eucharist will be held this Saturday, 16 September - 4:00pm and 6:00pm

Students who are making the Sacrament of First Eucharist need to arrive 30 minutes prior to get ready in the Holy Spirit Parish Centre. Please allow time for parking as it will be very busy.

We pray for these children as they begin this special relationship with Jesus;

* Sean	* Chetachi	* Abbey	* Sebastian C	* Catrina
* Martin	* Ayden	* Ethan G	* Izaak	* Brooke
* Daniel	* Riley	* Sebastian V	* Peter	* Aidan
* Nediljko	* Denali	* Ashley	* Cian	* Grace F
* Gabrielle	* Dejon	* Alani	* Oscar	* Reign-Cedric
* Seraph	* Amelia	* Marina	* Tomasz	* Millar
* Kayla	* Michael	* Zander	* Mikayla	* Victoria
* Sophie	* Grace	* Stephanie	* Shara	* Ryley
* Grace S	* Olivia	* Evan	* Keira	* Talia
* Emerson	* Mitchell	* Luka	* Zahra	* Siena
* Evalyn	* Grace R	* Benjamin	* Riley	* Darcie

Lord Jesus, bless these children who will be making the Sacrament of First Eucharist.

May their day be an initial step into a life-long love of the Eucharist.

Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they can turn to you for comfort, guidance and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship.

May their hands extended in anticipation of your Body and Blood inspire all of us to cherish this sacred sacrament.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Prayer Celebration

Thank you to 2Kenna and 4Bent who led the school in prayer celebrating Jesus as Son. It was a thoughtful prayer that reminded us that God sent us His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins, so that we may have eternal life with Him in heaven, all we have to do is have faith.



Please join us next Friday, 22 September for our next school prayer celebration. 5Capon and 1Price/De Boni will be leading us in a prayer to celebrate Jesus as Saviour. The prayer will begin at 9:15am in the school hall.

Mini Vinnies Food Collection

Please remember to make your weekly Mini Vinnies non-perishable food donation next week, as it is important that the Holy Spirit Parish pantry is well stocked for the school holidays to assist families in our local community.



Class Mass

Next Thursday, 21 September at 9:15am, Year 2 and 3 will be celebrating Mass with Holy Spirit Parish. A warm invitation is extended to all families to come and celebrate Mass with the children.

Congratulations to Mitchell and Vinnie who made their First Eucharist last Saturday evening with the students from Mother Teresa School. May the gift of Jesus' presence bring joy and blessings to you both today and always.