



# Shepherd Spy

WEEK 1 TERM 4

12 OCTOBER 2017

Dear Community,

Welcome back for Term 4. It IS great to see everyone enthusiastic and ready for another busy and productive term. It is always great for us all to have a break from school, recharge the batteries and spend extra time at home with our families. I hope you all enjoyed your time at home not making school lunches, completing home reading with your children and chasing homework! I certainly did!

It is hard to believe that it is Term 4 already- it will be Christmas before we know it! This term is always a busy time with assessments, reports and end of year functions.

It is most important that the 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 should you have concerns about your child's safety or well-being.

Our students have settled in well to the term. A special welcome to our eleven new students: Naomi, Jot, Solomon, Mackenzie, Dan, Sapphira, Aiden, Jarred, Morgan, Bryce, Danya and Rose. You and your families are most welcome to our school.

## [Staffing News 2018](#)

Welcome back Mr Anthony O'Connell after six weeks on leave. A big thanks to Mrs Natalie Wright for her outstanding job as Acting Religious Education Coordinator during this time.

- Mr Marty Capon has informed me that he will be resigning from his teaching position at Good Shepherd at the end of 2017. He has decided to look into possible travel and work overseas.
- Mr Matt Aquilina has accepted a one-way transfer to Holy Spirit Nicholls for 2018.
- Mrs Jacinta Housler has accepted a transfer to St Thomas the Apostle Primary School, Kambah for 2018.

Late last term, applications were sought and interviews conducted for permanent and temporary teachers for 2018. Interviews were also held for the Coordinator position. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Diana Jones has been appointed Coordinator, on a permanent basis, from 2018.

We received a huge number of applications for our teaching positions. Interviews were held late last term. Congratulations to the following:

Mrs Phillipa Brotchie, Mr Dillon Payne, Miss Jessica Coghlan, Mrs Shannon Thewlis, Miss Kate Freeman, Mr Morgan Holland, Mrs Charlotte Fitzpatrick and Mrs Vanessa Thornton.

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.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 .....

## Parent Satisfaction Survey Results

This year, a 'Parent Satisfaction Survey' was distributed to all parents via email from Catholic Education. This information is used to assist the school in understanding parental perceptions and to assist in planning for the future.

The parent satisfaction survey was undertaken in August 2017. Invitations containing a link to the on-line survey instrument were sent to all families. 261 of the 440 families completed the survey (59% completion rate is considered excellent).

Just some results:

The colour indicates the level of satisfaction with green being highly satisfied and yellow being an area where improvement is needed.

SCHOOL Average	Executive Summary
2.5	The school is a safe place for my child
2.5	The staff at this school take an interest in my child
2.3	Most teachers in the school make learning really satisfying and engaging for my child
2.2	I am happy with my child's learning progress
2.1	I feel my child is being challenged to improve
2.2	The school communicates clearly that it has high expectations for student attendance, engagement and outcomes
2.5	I would recommend this school to others
2.0	I am happy with the school's facilities
2.1	This school is well maintained e.g. clean, buildings painted etc
2.1	Communication between the home and school is effective
2.4	I can make contact with my child's teacher or other staff easily
2.3	The school responds quickly to my concerns
2.2	Parent/teacher conferences are helpful at this school
2.1	The school's reporting processes give me a good understanding of my child's progress and areas for improvement
2.3	This school celebrates student achievements
2.0	The school manages behaviour incidents well
2.1	The use of technology (iPads, computers) enhances my child's learning
2.1	I am happy with my child's access to technology in the school
2.1	Change initiatives are well managed at this school
1.9	The school has explicit, clearly communicated school-wide targets for improvement
2.0	The school promotes and sets targets for improving student outcomes
2.4	I feel welcome and a part of the school community
2.4	I have opportunities to be involved in the life of the school
2.4	Catholic religious identity is a strong focus in this school
2.3	Staff, students and parents are actively involved in the prayer life of the school
2.3	There is a strong partnership between the parish/Chaplain and this school
2.1	The School Board/Community Council is effective at this school

Although we would love green in all areas, we do know that we cannot please everybody. However, these are extremely pleasing results and confirm that we are a quality Catholic School. For the extremely small minority who selected 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' there was an opportunity to follow up seeking further clarification or concern. Some of these comments are very helpful and give us 'food for thought' as we embark on our planning for 2018 and beyond.

# ...the heart of God.

## Congratulations Cheer!

During the holidays our Good Shepherd Cheerleaders competed at the 'Cheercon Competition' in Tuggeranong. All of our teams were amazing and great competitors. Congratulations on achieving the following results: Tiny team (Kinder) - 1st place in Poms, Mini Team (Years 1 & 2) - 2nd place in Poms, Youth Team (Years 3 & 4) - 2nd place in Poms, Scholastic team (Years 5 & 6) - 1st place in Cheer and 1st place in Poms plus they achieved the 3rd highest Cheer score out of all the teams in the entire competition. The Scholastic team will be traveling to the Scholastic National Cheer and Dance Competition in Sydney this weekend to compete against schools from all over Australia and we would like to wish them the best of luck.

## Uniform reminders

Being part of Good Shepherd means adhering to correct uniform. It makes it very difficult on staff when students continually (and often deliberately) do not follow the uniform policy at school. When you choose to send your child to Good Shepherd you also choose to send them in the uniform; that is an important part of our ethos. The Good Shepherd uniform policy (available on our website) reinforces in students a pride in their own appearance, instils recognition of themselves as an integral part of the school community, and assists in developing pride in representing our school. Issues of equality, health and safety, and expense are also factors that contribute to the establishment of the Good Shepherd Uniform Policy. Please ensure that your child follows this policy at all times.

A reminder please that this term all students are required to wear Summer Uniform. We have had some students return to school this week wearing winter uniforms, incorrect socks, incorrect shoes and mixing sport and school uniforms.

One major concern is the number of students who have returned to school with lines, patterns, zigzags shaved in their hair. Our school policy, which is available on the website, states: A student's hair should be off their face and, if longer than shoulder length, it must be tied back in an appropriate school coloured band. Hair should also be of natural colour and no extreme haircuts are permitted.

Patterns are extreme. If your child has these cuts in their hair, please have this rectified by next week..

## Catholic Schools Netball Carnival

All the best to the many students participating in the annual Catholic Schools Netball Carnival this Sunday at Calwell. The day is being hosted by St John the Apostle Primary School, Florey.

Many thanks to Mr Marty Capon for coordinating the event at school level and many thanks to the parents for coaching and managing. The focus of the day is participation and enjoyment. I certainly hope that our teams enjoy the day. Good luck everyone and I'll see you there!

## Class Allocation Policy

During this term, we will be finalizing our staffing arrangements for 2018. Below is a copy of the 'Class Allocation Policy' that has been developed by staff this year which aims to ensure there is a fair and just process in allocating students to classes for the upcoming school year. (Available on website).

My firm belief is that teachers are in the best position to decide a child's placement because they know all the children in their classes and have a view of the 'big picture'. However, I invite parents to inform me of anything that you feel needs to be considered, for your own child's well-being or development.

As there are usually four streams of classes each year at Good Shepherd Primary School, there are different combinations of children in classes. When forming the class lists the following factors are taken into consideration:

- Gender;
- Diverse Learners;
- Work habits;
- Cognitive ability;
- Friendships;
- Behaviour;
- Health considerations;
- Religion (to assist in achieving balance between classes, especially in Sacramental years) and
- Common names.

## To be together .....

Ideally we aim for an equal spread of both positive and challenging characteristics. Where practical, parental requests based on educational concerns may be considered. At Good Shepherd, the staff par will follow these principles and guidelines when considering placement of students each year:

- Every care will be taken to ensure that each child is placed in the best situation to enhance learning and social development;
- Parents who wish to raise particular concerns regarding the placement of their children in particular classes should put the concern in writing and address it to me by Friday of Week 4 (Term 4);
- Parent concerns will be considered during the process. It must be clearly understood, however, that no definite guarantees can be given regarding parental concerns;
- Where appropriate, advice will be sought from the Classroom Support Teacher, School Counsellor, Chaplain and current class teacher during this process;
- There will be an opportunity for students to select a 'friendship five' and this list will be taken into consideration;
- Taking into account all of the factors listed on Page 1, the current class teachers compile class lists from mid-term, Term 4. These are then handed to me to confirm;
- Children will be informed of their class placement for the following school year in December (usually the last week of school) and the opportunity will be provided, where possible, for them to spend some time with their new class teacher. New students to the school for the following year are also invited to attend;
- A class list will be distributed to each child at this time; and
- Throughout this process, after appropriate consultation, I reserve the right to make final professional decisions regarding the placement of children.

### Carpark plea

A reminder that cars cannot line-up before 3:20pm in either the Church carpark or in the main carpark at the front of the school. Lining up early causes many problems- namely blocking the entrances to the car-parks, causing disruption on Burdekin Avenue and frustration for others.

We are a large school and need the support of all parents in following the school procedures regarding drop off and pick up please.

Thank you for your support.

Wishing God's blessing on you and your families,



David Austin  
Principal



## And the award goes to.....

<b>Ajok (KE)</b>	<b>Marley (1H)</b>	<b>Hayley (2C)</b>	<b>Martin (3D)</b>	<b>Oliver (4B)</b>	<b>Dom (5D)</b>	<b>Larissa (6Aq)</b>
<b>Liam (KH)</b>	<b>Sarah (1M)</b>	<b>Thomas (2K)</b>	<b>Ben (3O)</b>	<b>Miah (4J)</b>	<b>Makayla (5HD)</b>	<b>Emma (6T)</b>
<b>Lachlan (KT)</b>	<b>Luca (1PD)</b>	<b>Jacob (2P)</b>	<b>Millar (3T)</b>	<b>Erin (4Z)</b>	<b>Roko (5M)</b>	
<b>Mackenzie (KW)</b>	<b>Raiden (1R)</b>	<b>Renee (2S)</b>	<b>Olivia (3W)</b>	<b>Mia (5C)</b>	<b>Jenna (6Ab)</b>	

### Yoga for Children

Michelle Langshaw of Nurturing Within Yoga, is running classes which will focus on mindfulness and yoga for children 5-11 but can also do 12- 15 years if there is interest . Classes will be held at Gungaherra Homestead in Harrison commencing Tuesday, 17 October until Tuesday, 14 November. Cost \$75. For more information please ring Michelle 0417 288 460.

...the heart of God.

# Religious Education News



## Prayer Celebration

Thank you to 5Capon and 1Price/De Boni who led the school in prayer celebrating Jesus as Saviour. It was a thoughtful prayer that reminded us that Jesus was the Saviour whom the prophets foretold for centuries. His life, death and resurrection fulfilled these prophecies and we pray to Him as the one who saves us.

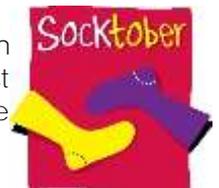
On **Friday, 3 November** 3Welsh and 5Dunstan/Housler will be leading our Prayer Celebration, "Jesus as God". The prayer will begin at 9:15am in the school hall. Everyone is most welcome.

## Catholic Missions

Catholic Missions is a non-for-profit organisation that helps communities all over the world to live and fulfil their Christian mission by reaching out to those who need it. Socktober is a fundraising initiative that lasts all through the month of October. In 2017, Catholic Missions are raising funds for communities in Uganda. For more information, visit <https://www.cm.org.au/WMM2017/index.html>

## Crazy Socks Day

To help raise funds for Socktober, Good Shepherd are organising a Crazy Sock Day on Friday, 27 October. Students will have an opportunity to come to school with their craziest socks and parade them during the day. We invite students to donate a gold coin on the day to help community initiatives in Uganda.



## Catholic Missions Mass

Next Wednesday, 25 October thirty of our Year 6 students will be representing Good Shepherd at a Catholic Missions Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral at 10:30am. The Mass is celebrated annually to pray for children in our Archdiocese and all families are invited to join us in this celebration.

## Mini Vinnies Food Collection



Please remember to make a Mini Vinnies non-perishable food donation each week. The Vinnies Gungahlin conference currently need food to feed 72 families in Gungahlin each month! The food pantry is looking bare so please donate each week if you are able.

## Class Mass

Year 3 Mass was postponed today due to unforeseen circumstances. Next Thursday 19 October, Year 2 and 4 students will be celebrating Mass with the parish. You are most welcome to come and celebrate Mass with us.



To all those wonderful families who donated books for our Book Swap. Your generosity saw an amazing 1473 books donated to our school. The children have selected books for their class library and we have a very healthy collection of books to begin our Outdoor Library.

The fourth annual Run for your Lifeline event will be held on Saturday, 4 November 2017 around Lake Burley Griffin.

Catering for runners and fun-lovers of all ages and levels, Run for your Lifeline now includes 5km, 10km, half marathon and full marathon races. Registrations include a Lifeline Canberra wrist band, a guaranteed fun day out for the whole family, plus everyone receives a medal when crossing the finish line! 100% of each registration goes directly to our local 13 11 14 crisis support service.

More information can be found on our website, [www.act.lifeline.org.au](http://www.act.lifeline.org.au).

## To be together .....

**Learn to Swim Program:** All children in Kindergarten to Year 3 will be attending swimming lessons commencing next Tuesday, 17 October until Thursday, 7 December. The lessons will be held at the Forde Aquatic Centre. All children will wear swimmers under their uniform to school on swimming days and put on their designated swimming T-shirt and thongs/sandals to go to the pool. On return to school the children will change out of their swimmers and back into their uniform. Each day of swimming the children will need to bring to school a towel, underwear, thong/sandals and a T-shirt in a plastic bag with all items clearly labelled with their name. The children will receive their swimming caps at school.

	Class	Time		Class	Time		Class	Time
<b>Tuesday</b>	2 Shannon	11:30-12:00	<b>Wednesday</b>	2 Kenna	11:00-11:30	<b>Thursday</b>	2 Coghlan	11:30-12:00
	3 Thewlis	12:00-12:30		2 Payne	11:30-12:00		Year 1PD	12:00-12:30
	3 Donnelly	12:30-1:00		Kinder E	12:00-12:30		Year 1R	12:30-1:00
	3 Whackett	1:00-1:30		Kinder T	12:30-1:00		Year 1M	1:00-1:30
	3 Welsh	1:30-2:00		Kinder H	1:00-1:30		Year 1H	1:30-2:00
			Kinder W	1:30-2:00				

**Correct School Uniform** is to be worn at all times. Notes will be sent home to families who are constantly wearing incorrect uniform. Formal black leather school shoes are the only black shoes that should be worn, not boots, jogger style or canvas shoes. We encourage parents to buy predominantly white sports shoes.

**No jewellery** should be worn to school and only small plain studs/sleepers and watches are acceptable. No bracelets, bangles, sparkly earrings, nail polish, make up, etc is allowed.

It is important to remove the cord chin straps of broad brimmed hats to avoid accidental choking.

Navy blue and white are the only acceptable colours for hair accessories at school. All hair that reaches to the shoulders or beyond must be tied back each day. This means wearing hair in plaits (preferably), braids and pony tails.

Good Shepherd school uniforms can be purchased from our preferred uniform supplier Lowes and MacDonalds Schoolwear Gungahlin.

Girls Summer Uniform	Boys Summer Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Standard ACT Catholic Schools Summer dress or navy unisex cargo shorts and sky blue shirt with embroidered school logo.</li> <li>▶ Navy fleece with embroidered school logo.</li> <li>▶ White school socks (covering the ankles).</li> <li>▶ Black leather shoes.</li> <li>▶ Navy legionnaires hat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Navy unisex cargo shorts</li> <li>▶ Short sleeve sky blue polo shirt with embroidered school logo.</li> <li>▶ Navy fleece with embroidered school logo.</li> <li>▶ White school socks (covering the ankles).</li> <li>▶ Black leather shoes.</li> <li>▶ Navy legionnaires hat.</li> </ul>
Girls Sports Uniform	Boys Sports Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Good Shepherd sports polo shirt.</li> <li>▶ Navy blue unisex shorts or navy blue netball skirt with sports briefs to match or skorts.</li> <li>▶ White socks (covering the ankles).</li> <li>▶ Navy blue and emerald green tracksuit with embroidered school logo.</li> <li>▶ Navy legionnaires hat or navy beanie.</li> <li>▶ Predominately white sports shoes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Good Shepherd sports polo shirt.</li> <li>▶ Navy blue unisex shorts.</li> <li>▶ White socks (covering the ankles).</li> <li>▶ Navy blue and emerald green tracksuit with embroidered logo.</li> <li>▶ Navy legionnaires hat or navy beanie.</li> <li>▶ Predominately white sports shoes.</li> </ul>

## A New Series of Books for Our Parent Library to Mark Mental Health Week

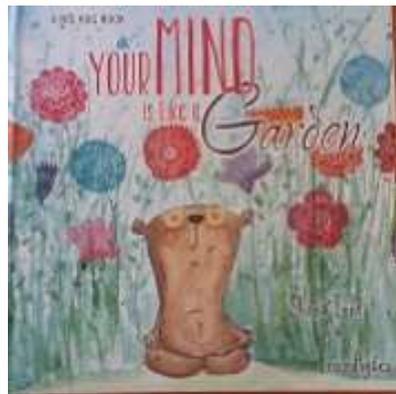
The *Big Hug Book Series* (Kinder to Yr 2)

We have added a new series of books to the Parent Library. Author Shona Innes is a qualified clinical and forensic psychologist with many years of experience assisting children in times of trouble. This series deals with emotive issues that children face in direct and gentle terms, allowing children's feelings and problems to be more easily shared as discussed with family and friends.

At the back of each book the author has written a note to parents and teachers which explains how the books can be used.

There are 8 books in this series:

- Life is Like the Wind (about death).
- Love is Like a Tree (about parental separation).
- Your Mind is Like a Garden (about mindfulness and reducing sensory overload).
- A Family is Like a Cake (about families, routines, traditions and a safe place).
- Worries are Like Clouds (about worries, anxieties and things to do).
- Anger is Like Armour (about recognizing anger cues).
- The Internet is Like a Puddle (about a safe and balanced use of technology).
- You are Like You (about supporting a healthy sense of self).



An extensive detailed booklist can be found at the Parent Library at the school reception for easy reference.

How do I borrow a book?

1. The parent library works on an honesty system – so enjoy the books for as long as you need them and then return.
2. Please write your name and phone number on the cards inside the book you wish to borrow. Enjoy!