



# Shepherd Spy

WEEK 9 TERM

8 DECEMBER

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

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

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

Phone  
6255 7888

Parish Home  
Fr Mark Croker  
6242 9622

Dear Families,

As we near the end of the year, I reflect on some of the many activities our wonderful staff provide for the children. I thank our outstanding staff who have work effectively and purposefully with your children this year. Teachers, office and support staff have united and co-operated well to keep our school running smoothly, even with 650 energetic and vibrant children spending their active hours here through the year. On your behalf I thank each of them for their efforts throughout the year.

Staff here work so well as a team, and I am proud to work with them. It is a tremendous trust that you, as parents, place in the school when you send your children here. The partnership between school and parents has a telling impact on the quality of education of any school. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who continue to offer wonderful support to our school's endeavours. There are literally hundreds of parents who assisted in a variety of ways this year. We cannot operate without parental support - classroom helpers, Mother's Day and Father's Day, Handy Helpers, Community Council, assisting with excursions, supplying emergency meals, offering the hand of friendship to new parents, School Banking, managing the School Clothing Pool, Discos, Netball, Cheerleading, managing and coaching a sporting team, assisting with enrolment time, Open Day, Orientation Days for Kinder, and the list goes on and on. Even if you could not physically lend a hand this year, speaking positively about the school to others and especially to your children is invaluable. I personally thank you for your support of this amazing community.

I also thank the School Community Council. On behalf of all parents, this group works tirelessly and effectively all year. Thank you. We look forward to working with you again next year.

## STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Mrs Vanessa Ross who, following a selection process and interview, has been appointed as Coordinator from 2018. Vanessa is currently teacher and Acting Coordinator at St Joseph's Primary School, O'Connor. We welcome Vanessa and wish her all the best as she starts at Good Shepherd next year.

This week, we were informed that Mrs Natalie Wright has been appointed Religious Education Coordinator at St Benedict's Primary School, Narrabundah, from 2018. Natalie has been an outstanding teacher here at Good Shepherd and will be missed. This is a great opportunity for Nat and we wish her all the best in her new role.

Natalie's departure, brings about the task of finding another teacher! We have advertised and this position closes late next week. Hopefully we can appoint a Year Six teacher before the end of the school year. Regardless, I will contact all 2018 Year 6 families to let them know the outcome.

## CLASS LISTS

Every year at about this time, the talk starts! Who will be my child's teacher next year? My question is ..... does it really matter?

## To be together .....

I often wonder why parents have certain views about different teachers. Is it based on previous experience or gossip? Good Shepherd is fortunate to have a wide range of talented teachers. We have a fabulous reputation in the community for providing excellence. We have experienced and early career teachers. We have teachers with a passion for Maths, for Literacy, for the Creative Arts, for Technology and the list goes on.

Over 7 years at primary school each student will experience a wide range of teachers and gain valuable skills and knowledge from each and every one of them. Parents cannot always shelter and protect their child or choose their teachers for them. A big part of life is learning to deal with a range of people, whether it be other children or adults. It is about building skills and resilience that can be used in later life. Sure, some students may say they do not like a particular teacher, but how do they really know if they have never actually been taught by them?

I do not know how many times a student (and parent) has been apprehensive about a teacher, only to find that they then have a great year. How your child responds to the news of their class teacher for 2018 will largely depend on your own response. Whether you are satisfied or not, you need to be positive and encouraging. If your child sees that you are upbeat, then they will be confident and optimistic about the future.

Our staff members are currently in planning mode for next year. Their thoughts have been occupied by class placements. I know from having spoken to many parents this year, and in previous years, that you understand the complexity of the task. I thought however it may be of interest to you to outline the factors that are taken into consideration when placing children into class groupings.

- Gender: We aim to achieve an even split of boys and girls.
- Ability: We believe that children learn from each other and that applies to the more and less abled child. Classes operate most effectively when children learn cooperatively from each other, the learning may not just include academic areas but social growth as well.
- Friendship Groupings: This is always problematic because primary- aged children move in and out of groups on a regular basis, and as you know from adult life, mutual friendships can sometimes be one way on occasions.

An additional layer of complexity in this process is the placement of teachers on grade levels. Our teachers work in teams so it is crucial to have the right mix of team members on each year level. Once again we aim to spread the experience and gender of staff across the grades. We also take into consideration the preferred teaching levels of staff and a need to keep staff fresh by moving them regularly across different grade levels. As in previous years, children will enjoy time their new class tomorrow. We will then forward home a copy of the new class list with your child as confirmation. In short, putting classes together is somewhat of a giant jigsaw puzzle but at the heart of the jigsaw must remain the needs of each child. Our staff appreciates the huge trust that you place in them to get the jigsaw right!

Thanks for your understanding.

### [Year 6 Graduation](#)

On Tuesday night we celebrate the Year 6 Graduation. This is a major celebration for our Year Six students who, after seven years in Primary school, move into the big world of High School. On behalf of the school community I wish all the best to our Year Six students.

### [End of Year Thanksgiving Mass](#)

Our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass will be held next Thursday in the school hall, commencing at 12pm. We encourage you to come along and celebrate a great year.

### [Leadership Ceremony](#)

Our Year 5 and 6 Candle Ceremony will be held at 9:30am next Friday, December 15. This is a special ceremony where we recognise the Year 6 students who have been our student leaders for 2017 and hand over the light of leadership to our current Year 5 students- our new leaders for 2017. Again, all community members are most welcome.

## ...the heart of God.

### Reports home Monday

The reports to be distributed next Monday have been prepared in line with the school's Assessment and Reporting policy and also the Australian Government funding requirements and associated legislative regulations. Our teachers have worked extremely hard throughout the year to ensure assessment strategies are implemented to develop clear and fair assessment tasks; to make consistent and reliable judgements about a student's work; to ensure effective, explicit teaching has occurred and that assessments are placed within those parameters; to ensure that the assessment process is known by the students prior to being conducted; and that assessment data is utilised to inform teaching and learning programs.

When reporting, the teacher is awarding a grade to the student taking into account knowledge, skills and understandings covered up to the point when the judgement is made. This means the staff are making an 'on balance and professional judgement' of student progress and attainments.

I hope that you find your child's Semester Two Report beneficial in providing information related to their learning and progress at school. Thank you for working in partnership to support your child's education. This partnership between home and school will be healthy and enhance our children's learning if it is fostered in a positive way.

Thank you also to the staff who have literally spend hours and hours over the past few weeks writing reports and completing assessments. They are a very committed and dedicated group of people.

### BUILDING PROJECT

This morning I received a letter from the Australian Government: Department of Education and Training, stating:

"I am delighted to confirm that the delegate of the Minister for Education and training has approved an Australian Government Capital Grant of \$1 000 000 to assist your school with the redesign and refurbishment of 12 classrooms in two blocks and construction of a new breakout space."

This is fantastic news!

The current Year 1/2 classroom block and the current Year 3/5 block will be refurbished and joined together following the construction of the current new building. This is Stage 2 of the Masterplan and one million is nothing to sneeze at!

I would like to publically thank the Australian Government for the grant and when detailed plans are drawn, I will publish in the new year for public comment.

Looks like we will be a building site for another couple of years!  
Wishing God's blessing on you and your families,



David Austin  
Principal



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

<b>Monika</b> (KE)	<b>Harry</b> (1H)	<b>Oliver</b> (2C)	<b>Sebastian</b> (3D)	<b>Imogen</b> (4B)	<b>Jiwoo</b> (5D)	<b>Jackson</b> (5M)
<b>Charlotte</b> (KH)	<b>Thomas</b> (1M)	<b>Jayden</b> (2K)	<b>Grace</b> (3W)	<b>Vrittee</b> (4J)	<b>Joel</b> (5D)	<b>Madison</b> (6Ab)
<b>Leila</b> (KT)	<b>Elyssa</b> (1DH)	<b>Miles</b> (2P)	<b>Aswath</b> (3T)	<b>David</b> (4Z)	<b>Bryce</b> (5H/D)	<b>Lachlan</b> (6Aq)
<b>Sophia</b> (KW)	<b>Mason</b> (1R)	<b>Jaden</b> (2S)	<b>Simeon</b> (3W)	<b>Laura</b> (5C)	<b>Dante</b> (5M)	<b>Izaac</b> (6T)

# To be together .....

## STAFF 2018

Parish Priest  
Assistant Priest

Fr Mark Croker  
Fr Jiss Sunny

Principal  
Assistant Principal  
REC  
Coordinator  
Coordinator  
Coordinator

Mr David Austin  
Mrs Melinda Hall-O'Brien  
**Mr Anthony O'Connell**  
Mrs Diana Jones  
Mrs Lisa MacMahon  
Mrs Vanessa Ross

Administration Manager  
Finance Manager

Mrs Joan Jones  
Mrs Helen Wilks



Kindergarten  
Mrs Karen Eglington  
Mrs Erika Tokich  
Mrs Amy Kouparitsas  
Mrs Lisa MacMahon/Mrs Naomi Scott

Year 6  
Mrs Andrea Abbott  
Mrs Philippa Brotchie  
Mrs Vanessa Thornton  
TBA

School Counsellor  
Ms Kate Cummings  
(Tuesday and Wednesday)

Grounds and Maintenance  
Mr Brett King

Year 1  
Miss Jessica Coghlan  
Miss Sonya Huleatt  
Miss Ana Manenica  
Mrs Nicole Rous

Learning Support Team  
Mrs Toni Pfeiffer/Mrs Victoria Buckley  
Mrs Taryn Ahern  
Mrs Tania Fleming  
Mrs Maria Goleby  
Mrs Anne Smart  
Mrs Libby Willemssen

Year 2  
Mrs Tracey Kenna  
Mrs Charlotte Fitzpatrick  
Mrs Brooke Thompson/Mrs Angela Callaghan  
Ms Jane Moore

Teacher Librarian  
Mrs Bernadette Aitken  
Mrs Sue Hall (Assistant)

Year 3  
Mrs Christine Donnelly  
Mr Declan Welsh  
Mrs Shannon Thewlis  
Mrs Kate Whackett

Arts  
Mrs Sally Taurasi

Year 4  
Mrs Kate Freeman  
**Mrs Diana Jones/Mr Anthony O'Connell**  
Mr Dillon Payne  
Miss Elizabeth Zaja

STEM (Science)  
Mrs Sarah Corkhill  
Mrs Michelle Weier

Defence Services Transition Aide  
Mrs Amanda Woodall

Year 5  
Mrs Vanessa Dunstan/Mrs Rachel De Boni  
Mr Morgan Holland  
Mrs Vanessa Ross/TBA

Wellbeing  
Mrs Veronica Harris

*Last day of  
Term 4 is next  
Friday,  
15 December.  
School resumes  
Monday, 5  
February.*



# ...the heart of God.

## Christmas Hamper appeal



It is wonderful to see all the goodies and food coming in to fill the Christmas hampers for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Please have your food into the hampers by next Tuesday 12 December, as we will present these hampers to the parish at our Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday 14 December. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## We're Knocking at your Door

The annual St Vincent de Paul Door knock appeal is on again! Last year we raised almost \$30,000 in Gungahlin which made a real difference to the delivery of a range of services in our area including unique home visitation services, emergency accommodation, and the Young Carer's Program, to mention a few.

We are collecting again in February 2018 and, with the Gungahlin area continuing to grow, we need your help. We are knocking at your door to become a Vinnies collector and make a real contribution to our community. To be a volunteer you need to be able to commit to visiting homes in allocated streets to ask for donations for the appeal. You will be provided with all the information.

To register your interest email Anne Cantlie on [vinniesannecantlie@gmail.com](mailto:vinniesannecantlie@gmail.com) or call 0404 319 138.

## Thanksgiving Mass

Next Thursday 14 December, Good Shepherd will be celebrating a Thanksgiving Mass to thank God for 2017 and to bless our school community as we venture into 2018. At the end of the Mass we will be farewelling all the staff and students who will leave our school community at the end of the year.

A warm invitation to everyone in our community to celebrate this Mass, especially any families and students leaving Good Shepherd at the end of 2017 who will receive a special blessing during Mass.

## Advent Family Activity

Hoping the Advent Good Works Calendar is helping your families to give of yourselves this Advent season. At school, we will be following the same calendar as we get closer and closer to Christmas.



Graduation Mass: Tuesday, 12 December at 5pm

Thanksgiving Mass & farewells: Thursday, 14 December at 12pm

Candle Ceremony: Friday, 15 December at 9:30am

## Nativities Expo will be held at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre

- **Friday, 8 December: 2pm - 7pm**
- **Saturday, 9 December: 10am - 5pm**
- **Sunday, 10 December: 9am - 7pm**



This exhibition of 350 Nativities is an entrée to family discussion on the true meaning of Christmas. From some 80 countries, they present the diverse cultures that embrace the Christian story, from the Palestinian Territories to Vietnam and China. Hands-on craft activities for children, as well as nativity jigsaws, puppets and books.

You can smell real frankincense and myrrh and see:

- a signet ring from about 700AD featuring the Annunciation;
  - a coin from the time of the birth of Christ;
  - a nativity carved from AK47 bullet casings from the Sierra Leone civil war;
  - Nativities reflecting cultural diversity from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, Europe & Middle-East.
- Invite your friends and neighbours, especially those from other Christian churches.

Entry is a gold coin donation. Everyone welcome.

For more details Ph. 0412 376 317