



# Shepherd Spy

WEEK 1 TERM 1

8 FEBRUARY 2018

Dear community,

Welcome all families to Good Shepherd in 2018! I hope you have had a wonderful holiday break and are ready for an exciting and productive year ahead at school. There was certainly a buzz of excitement around the school on Monday morning as our children returned to 'catch up' with friends and seek out their classmates for this year. Schools are really very happy places to be!

I extend my thanks to the teachers and support staff, who have prepared so well for the year ahead. While certainly hectic in these early days we can look towards a good year in our many undertakings.

We have over 700 students at Good Shepherd in 2018. We welcomed 152 new students and their families this week. I am hoping you feel welcome and are enjoying your new school community.

## Welcome

Welcome to our new staff members: Jason McMinn, Kate Freeman, Jane Moore, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Philippa Brotchie, Vanessa Ross, Melinda Taylor and Morgan Holland. We are lucky and delighted to have you all with us. This Sunday, at 9:30am Mass, our new staff will be welcomed to the Parish. All most welcome.

Our School Chaplain, Mrs Veronica Harris tendered her resignation during the holidays. Veronica is exploring other avenues including adult counselling. She will be sorely missed big loss! We wish Mrs Harris all the best in her new pursuits. We are currently speaking with Chaplains from other schools who we are hoping can fill in for now. Thanks for your understanding as we finalise a new appointment.

## Parent Information Forum- This Tuesday 6pm to 7:15pm

You are strongly encouraged to attend the Parent Information Night next Tuesday at 6:00pm. The evening will commence in the Hall with a brief introduction of staff followed by information regarding the 2018 school year at Good Shepherd. There will then be an opportunity to visit the many 'stalls' set up around the hall- including class stalls to meet and greet your child's teacher and gather further information for the year ahead. Some refreshments will be provided. If you need to bring children due to baby-sitting issues- bring them!

Please make this time a priority as it is important that all families hear the information presented.

(Please note: Kindergarten will have a session prior at 5:15pm)

## Opening School Mass

Our Opening School Mass will be held tomorrow, Friday, commencing at 9:30am in the hall. Parents and friends are most welcome to join us.

## New Playground

The new nature playground has been completed and all students are utilising this new space. Our playground Working Party did a great job in meeting with architects, landscape architects and landscapers to design a space for students to develop their physical skills as well as social skills, cooperation, and the ability to solve problems. A more 'traditional' playground with monkey-bars, climbing

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

Fax  
6255 7999  
Parish Home  
(Fr Mark Croker and  
Fiona Wilkinson)  
6242 9622

## To be together ...

equipment etc is planned around the next building project and should be installed later this year.

### School Communication

Our parental survey results last year showed the area of most concern is communication. In a large school it is imperative to have regular, consistent communication across a range of platforms. Of course, communication is two-way so we strongly encourage parents to read the newsletter and notes that are distributed.

This year we will have a range of communication channels to assist with this:

- Skoolbag will continue. Many parents find this to be a great communication tool.
- Website- We are hoping to launch our new website in the next week. We are hoping you find this extremely informative and helpful;
- Facebook/Twitter- for those on Facebook or Twitter, there are regular updates and information disseminated. Please 'follow' us or 'friend' us;
- The Community Council are keen to set up a Facebook Page for each Year Level- to assist with general questions, communication relevant to each Year Level etc. More information to follow.
- Email groups- we have set up email groups for each Year Level and for the Whole School so information/newsletters/notes can be emailed to relevant Year Levels or the whole school where appropriate.
- We are hoping all families received our yearly calendar this week. Please put this in a prominent place at home and refer to it regularly.

### Grandparents Day: Claim the Date

Please claim the date: Tuesday 13 March. We would like the whole school (K-6) to participate this year and more information to follow!

### Swimming Carnival

Our annual Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 26 February at Dickson Pool. This year, we will have all students (K-6) attend the carnival and parents, grandparents and friends are most welcome.

Our Year 2-6 students will have the option of participating in competitive races in order for us to select a Good Shepherd team to represent us at the North Gungahlin carnival. Otherwise, they can elect to be non-swimmers and participate in toddler pool activities or novelty events in the medium sized pool. Please ensure permission forms are returned by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Kindergarten/Year 1 students will travel out at 10:30am and spend an hour in the water play park, have morning tea and participate in games before returning at lunch.

We strongly believe in including all students in our major community days and know our Kinders and Year 1 will have a great couple of hours.

Of course, parents are most welcome! Pray for great weather!

### Moncrieff Bridge Opening

Tomorrow I will be attending the opening of the new Moncrieff Bridge with 20 of our students. This bridge will be very handy for many of our families in getting to school. Photos and reports on Facebook tomorrow!

### Help required

We currently have a family in need. One of our students cannot get to school or return from school because her mother currently cannot drive. The student cannot catch a bus to school because the bus route does not go anywhere near her home. Fr Mark and I visited them yesterday. Presently staff are picking this girl up from her house and returning each day, but we hope to make a connection within the school community

Can you help?

Do you live near Essie Coffey Street and Roden Cutler Drive in Bonner?

We would love to set up a roster whilst this family gets back on their feet and able to drive.

Please contact Joan at the Front Office (62557888) if you can assist. Thank you.

# ...the heart of God.

## Building Project

Our new building is progressing well and still on track for handover during the upcoming school holidays. Currently roofing, external cladding, internal framing, glazing, plumbing and electrical rough-ins are taking place. It doesn't look like much is happening from the outside but we will be moving in before you know it. Following this construction, demolition and construction will take place mid-year for G Building and F Building. Thanks for your patience whilst construction is taking place.

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 ([david.austin@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto: david.austin@cg.catholic.edu.au)) should you have concerns about your child's safety or well-being.

Wishing God's blessing on you and your families,



David Austin  
Principal



## Thank you for Help on Day One!

Thank you to the parents who kindly gave of their time to help welcome Kinder parents and new families to our school at morning tea on Monday. Your kindness, helpfulness and catering was very much appreciated.

## Handy Helpers

Every Monday morning after morning assembly, volunteer parents and carers meet in the staff room to help with classroom tasks for teachers e.g. cutting and laminating, enjoying each other's company and having a cup of tea. We would welcome new faces. You can stay for however much time is convenient for you. Even ten minutes of your time would be appreciated. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents, make new friends and to learn about your school. Children are welcome. If you have any queries, please contact the Front Office.

## Drive Through Pick up

Next week our new families will receive a printed card with their family name. When you are collecting your child through Drive Through Pick up we ask you to display your name on your dashboard. This helps the teachers on duty. As parents approach the pick up area the teacher calls the family name over the microphone and parents drive towards the next teacher on duty who will place the children in the car. Parents do not get out of you car.

If any of our previous parents have lost or misplaced their family card and require a new one please ring email [office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto: office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au)

## Canberra Irish Dance

Where fun, exercise and dance combine, discover your new way to move with Canberra Irish Dance today! Classes begin week 2, Monday 12 February. If your child/ren are interested and you would like more information please Contact [gabrielle@canberrairishdance.com.au](mailto: gabrielle@canberrairishdance.com.au)

## AFL - Gungahlin Jets (your local club)

If your child is interested in playing AFL, the Jets Auskick Rookie Program starts on Sunday, 25 February from 10am to 11:30am. The session will run during school terms 1 & 2. For registrations and further information go to [juniors@gungahlinjets.com.au](mailto: juniors@gungahlinjets.com.au) or come down to Gungahlin Marketplace, Saturday, 10 February 9 - 2pm or Casey Marketplace, Saturday, 17 February 9 - 2pm.

## Carpooling

We have a parent (in Ngunnawal) looking for parents willing /interested to do share arrangement for dropping and picking up children from home/to school . If you can assist please contact 0433 778 875

To be together ...

# Religious Education News

This year Good Shepherd will be exploring our new belief statement during prayer celebrations.

**‘To be the Heart of God through connected hearts,  
inspired minds, flourishing students.’**

A warm invitation is extended to everyone to participate in these wonderful celebrations led by our students of Good Shepherd. Year 4 Zaja and 4 Jones/O'Connell will be leading the school in the first prayer celebration on Friday, 23 February.

## Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation, a sacrament of initiation, establishes young adults as full-fledged members of the faith. This sacrament is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. During your Baptism, your parents and godparents make promises to renounce Satan and believe in God and the Church on your behalf. At Confirmation, you renew those same promises, this time speaking for yourself.

If your child is in Year 6, is a baptised Catholic and would like to confirm their faith in this Sacrament, come along to an information session on Tuesday 20 February at either 1pm or 6pm. Both sessions will be held in the parish church.



## Vinnies Doorknock Appeal

Many thanks to those families who have signed to collect for the Vinnies Doorknock Appeal.

There are 40 areas to be covered in the suburbs in Bonner and Amaroo. If you would like to participate in the Appeal it is not too late to sign up! Please come past the school and pick up a kit or email [anthony.oconnell1@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anthony.oconnell1@cg.catholic.edu.au)

Your time and generosity is much appreciated.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a season that leads the Church into the feast of Easter.

Next Wednesday, 14 February, students from Years 3-6 will participate in a Mass to commemorate the beginning of the season of Lent. All families are warmly welcome to come and celebrate this day with the parish. Years 1 and 2 will celebrate with a liturgy in their classes during the day.



**You are all warmly invited to join the staff and students, for our Opening Mass, tomorrow Friday 9 February in the hall at 9.30am. We would love to see many parents, carers, and members of our extended families to join with us in celebrating this wonderful sacrament.**

# ...the heart of God.

## Cheerleading

All new and returning cheerleaders interested in signing up for the 2018 Cheer Season, please attend our Cheer Registration Day tomorrow Friday, 9 February at 6.30 pm in the school hall. Come along to register, have a chat, purchase 2nd hand uniforms and get fitted for the training T-Shirt. Anyone wanting to do cheer in 2018 please attend unless registration forms have been emailed. For more information contact Principal Coach, Belinda Dawson ([goodshepherdcheerleading@gmail.com](mailto:goodshepherdcheerleading@gmail.com)). Training starts Week 2 of term Tuesday, 13 February.



## Medication:

If your child was administered medication last year for ADHD, asthma or allergies and the medication needs to continue for 2017 you are required to complete a new 'Request to Dispense Medication' form which is available from the front office or on our website. If you have any questions please contact Joan at the office.

## Swimming Carnival

Our school swimming carnival for Years K to 6 will be held Monday, 26 February at the Dickson Aquatic Centre. All permission notes and participation forms must be returned no later than tomorrow, Friday, 9 February.

## School Banking

commenced today. If your child is at high school and still wants to do banking it can be sent with their younger sibling.

## Calendar

Our Good Shepherd 2018 School Calendar was sent home to every family this week. If your family did not receive the calendar please contact the Front Office. The Newsletter will continue to highlight upcoming events to ensure that parents and families are fully aware of what is on.

## School Uniform

Thankyou to the many parents who have made that extra effort to send their children to school with the correct uniform. It is great to see our students wearing their uniform with pride.

## Wet Weather Pick Up

During wet weather there will be no drive-through pick up. Children need to be collected from their classroom.

## Communication

School communication is shared online via the website and via the School App. To install the App, just look for our school name "Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School Amaroo" in the Apple App Store and install it on your phone. For android devices, search for in the "PlayStore".



A couple of tips:

- Make sure you have allowed for push notifications in your phone settings.
- You can subscribe to various push categories (eg Year Levels) by clicking "more" then "setup" in the App.



The first edition of school TV 2018 will present the **'Healthy Body Series'** and the first topic will be 'Diet and Nutrition'.



Good Shepherd has registered for the Coles Sports for Schools Program. For every \$10 spent at Coles you will receive one Sports for Schools voucher. Every voucher you donate to the school (collection box in the Front Office) can be redeemed for leading brand sports equipment. Thank you for your support and happy shopping.

## To be together ...

**Email Etiquette:** Communication via email is an excellent way for parents and teachers to correspond, however it is essential that appropriate email etiquette is observed by all users. The correct use of email enables parents and teachers to give and receive information, arrange appointment times and also resolve small issues quickly. When used in this way it is an effective communication tool between school and home.

Unfortunately in the past, the use of email as a form of communication between home and school has been misused by some parents. Emailing is not an avenue for venting anger or at its worst, abusing teachers. While this has only happened on a few occasions, the effect it has had on the teachers receiving these emails has been profound.



If a parent is concerned or upset about an issue, it is preferable to speak to the teacher face to face. An email to a teacher to organise a meeting produces a far better outcome in these situations. Good and effective communication between home and school is of paramount importance to us here at Good Shepherd. We embrace email as an effective communication tool and we aim to ensure that we all use it in a courteous and respectful way.

**Counselling Service:** Good Shepherd provides a counselling service for all students and families within the school. The school counsellor is employed by CatholicCare and attends our school weekly, to provide one-on-one assessments and therapies for children, support to families and carers, consultation with the school, and resources and referrals to outside services.

**What are common issues that the school counsellor can help with?**

- Improving mood and mental health, such as anxiety or depression
- Difficulties with friendships or social skills
- Self-esteem or resilience
- Family situations such as parental separation or health issues
- Grief and loss
- Managing behavioural difficulties or developmental issues
- Providing support for parenting

**How can I contact the school counsellor?**

Parents and carers can speak to the counsellor directly by phoning the school, or ask your child's teacher or the school Principal to make a referral. In some cases, teachers may make a referral directly. Older children may initiate contact, however parental consent is always gained before the school counsellor has any contact with children.

**How does the counselling service work?**

The school counsellor works in collaboration with families and carers, teaching staff, learning support, and if necessary outside services, to ensure a holistic approach to children's wellbeing. However, contact is carried out in a way that ensures as much privacy for children and families as possible, and information is kept confidential unless permission is given or there are serious concerns about the safety of the child.

After a referral has been made, there can be a waiting period of up to two weeks, although the counsellor endeavours to make contact as soon as possible and prioritises urgent cases. The school counsellor starts with discussing what is happening with your child to make an assessment about how to best provide therapy or support.

Our school counsellor Kate Cummings, who works at Good Shepherd Thursday (9:00am - 3.30pm) and even Friday (9:00am - 3:30pm). To make contact please phone the school.

### **We Endeavour To Be ... Nut Free!**

Please remember that a number of our students have serious allergies to peanuts. We have agreed as a community we will take care of these children and work together for their safety. Therefore, peanut butter, peanuts and peanut related products should not come to school as part of the children's lunches and snacks. This includes Nutella and all hazelnut-based spreads. Thank you for your support in this matter.

# ...the heart of God.

## A Few Reminders:

- Starting time is **8.55am sharp**. Students arriving late will need to be signed in at the Front Office.
- Supervision commences at **8.30am** and **NO STUDENT** should be at school before 8.30am. Students arriving before 8.30am are unsupervised. All children must be collected no later than 3.30pm. Please use before/after school care if necessary.
- All student's hair should be tied away from the face and, if collar length or longer, must be **tied back** in in plaits or a pony-tail. Hair should also be of **natural colour** and **extreme haircuts are not appropriate**. Hair ties, clips and ribbons should be in school colours only.
- **No jewellery** other than a watch and **plain stud or small sleeper type earrings** is to be worn. No bracelets, bangles, sparkly ear rings, nail polish, make up, etc is allowed.
- Good Shepherd is a **NUT FREE** School.
- Good Shepherd has a **NO HAT ,NO PLAY** Policy. Students without a correct school hat will be asked to sit in the Gazebos during recess and/or lunch..
- Black '**jogger**' type school shoes and boots are **not** part of the school uniform. The only school shoes allowed at Good Shepherd are the **traditional or formal black leather school shoes**.
- Students with **Mobile Phones** are asked to switch the phone off on arrival at school and leave it in their bags. If mobile phones are heard or sighted during school time they will be confiscated. The School takes no responsibility for mobile phones.
- Students who are collected by their parents during the day for appointments must be **signed out/in** at the Front Office before and after the appointment. Where possible, advise the school via e-mail to your class teacher.
- Parents visiting the school to assist are also asked to sign in at Front Office and receive a **Visitors Badge**.
- Please ensure that the School always has **up to date contact and emergency details** for your children. Any changes are required in writing.
- Please drive slowly and be vigilant in the **carparks**.
- **Drive Thru Pick Up** does not **commence** until **3.20pm**. This allows parents who park & Pick Up to vacate the carparks. The aim is to ease traffic congestions in our carparks and ensure the safety of our community members. Please **DO NOT** arrive earlier and start queuing in the carpark.
- **Families with 2 or more children** use Drive Thru in the **front carpark**.
- **1 child families** use Drive Thru in the **Church carpark**.
- **Disabled parking** - please leave the disabled car spaces free for those who need them.
- **Walkers/Bike Riders** - Students are to wait at the exit near the Kindergarten block until the teacher on road crossing/bus duty collects them and walks them across the roads. No student should be walking their bikes across the road in the afternoon without supervision.
- **Toys** and personal sporting gear should not be brought to school. Accidental damage and loss is too common in schools.
- **Sports Shoes** need to be predominately **WHITE**. Fluorescent sports shoes are not acceptable.

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

Arts  
Mrs Sally Taurasi

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

Year 6  
Mrs Andrea Abbott  
Mrs Philippa Brotchie  
Mr Jason McMinn  
Mrs Vanessa Thornton

STEM (Science)  
Mrs Sarah Corkhill  
Mrs Michelle Weier

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

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

School Counsellor  
Ms Kate Cummings  
(Thurs and even Fri.)

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

Teacher Librarian  
Mrs Bernadette Aitken  
Mrs Sue Hall (Assistant)

Grounds and Maintenance  
Mr Brett King

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

Defence Services Transition Aide  
Mrs Amanda Woodall



## Sports Days

<b>Kinder:</b> <i>Wednesday and Friday</i>	<b>Year 4:</b> <i>Wednesday and Friday</i>
<b>Year 1:</b> <i>Tuesday and Thursday</i>	<b>Year 5:</b> <i>Monday and Thursday</i>
<b>Year 2:</b> <i>Tuesday and Friday</i>	<b>Year 6:</b> <i>Tuesday and Thursday</i>
<b>Year 3:</b> <i>Tuesday and /Friday</i>	

### House Colours

**Brescia** - Blue or Purple  
**Cavanagh** - Green or White  
**Noolup** - Yellow or Orange  
**Patterson** - Red or Black