

Family Matters

Holy Family Primary School

Wednesday, 5th February, 2020 Issue # 1



EDUCATING IN FAITH FOR TOMORROW'S POSSIBILITIES

Principal's message

Mrs Anne-Marie Marek

Dear parents,

Welcome to the first 'Family Matters' newsletter for the year. Please take the time to sit down with a cool drink to read the information in this newsletter. This is always an information overload newsletter. I'm speaking to the converted if you are reading this but it's so very important to read the newsletter each week as it always contains information that will be important to you or your child. For all updated information please download the free Holy Family Gowrie Skoolbag App.

Welcome to the 2020 school year. We particularly welcome all our new families and we hope that you will soon feel as though you belong to this great school community. We welcomed 30+ new children in Year 1-6 and then our Kinders and preschoolers. A special welcome to our teachers returning from Maternity Leave: Lauren Messina, Emma Wearn, Sophie Burgess, Julie Gould. Our only new staff member is our new janitor- Clayton Bryan who will be working 2 hours a day.

FIRES

I cannot thank you enough for your generous support of the families in fire affected areas. Altogether we compiled over 400 school bags with supplies: pencils, textas, lunchboxes, drink bottles, reading books, exercise books, rulers, sharpeners, erasers, glue sticks etc. We also collected around 100 sports balls, a couple of cricket sets and lots of teacher resources. The 25 teachers who came in to assist was testament to the amazing staff at Holy Family.

Louise Hall took 50 bags plus supplies to Moruya, Jannine Richards (Principal at Batlow) collected 50 bags, I delivered 150 bags and supplies to Braidwood (Principal Trish Ferlitsch) and then Jane, myself (and husbands) and Kylie Henock from "Chalk Education" delivered three car loads and two trailer loads of supplies and bags to Tumbarumba (Principal Daniel Francis) and surrounds. It is difficult to comprehend the devastation the fires have caused, however driving through the Batlow/Adelong/Tumbarumba region, the charred remains were a haunting reminder of recent events. All school principals extended their extreme gratitude to the Holy Family community for the generosity and kindness displayed during this difficult time.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Event 1

**Meet and Greet: teacher-touching
base interviews 3.30-6.00pm**

Tuesday-Thursday 11-13th Feb

Event 2

Opening School Mass

9.15am Tuesday 18th Feb

ALL WELCOME

Event 3

P & F AGM

Wednesday 19th Feb @ 7.30pm

Staffroom



COMMENCEMENT - OPENING SCHOOL MASS

All families are invited to attend our Opening School Mass on Tuesday 18 February at 9.15am. It would be terrific to see parents and grandparents join our school community to pray for a successful school year.

BUILDING and MAINTENANCE WORKS

Over the break the hall floor was re-sanded and work commenced on our new classrooms. E Block was painted, new autex went on the walls in E and F Blocks. A new disability toilet was built for a student commencing this year. We also had all gutters and drains cleaned.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE...COOSH and ELC Care

Congratulations to all our fabulous COOSH staff for the outstanding holiday programme!!!

HAVE YOU ENROLLED YOUR CHILD FOR 2020? We are unable to accept children in care unless you have completed and returned the documentation for this year.

The school offers Before & After school care via the COOSH program. Years 2 - 6 operates from A Block and Preschool -Yr 1 operates from the ELC building. If you are interested in using this service please contact COOSH directly via A Block or the ELC. We provide this facility for working parents. Therefore, there should be no child dropped off to school **before 8:30am**, nor left at school **after 3:30pm**. Your child is not supervised before or after these times and dropping them off before this time or not collecting them leaves your children in a potentially very dangerous situation. This is done entirely at your own risk. Staff may be on site early for work purposes, or there may be no staff on site. Supervision of students is a carefully managed arrangement between the school and the staff. It is not fair to expect staff to supervise students before official work hours commence. Your child's best interests are paramount to us all. We provide COOSH - Before School Care for parents. It is not fair to those families who do the right thing and place their children in Before School Care at COOSH.

FAMILY INFORMATION, CONTACT DETAILS UPDATE

It is important for your child/ren's wellbeing at school that we have accurate contact details and relevant information. This is not only for the safety and welfare of the child/ren but to allow correct and authorised communication within the wider school community including the Parent Teacher Online Interview login details which requires an up to date email address. In order to streamline this process and minimise the number of notes, on Monday 10 February we are sending home with every child, a family information sheet printed from the data we have on our Maze computer system. We ask that you **check** the accuracy of your details, **sign** and **return** (even if all is OK so that we know that too) by Friday 21 February.

THANK YOU....

We would like to thank the families for their generous response to our request for security volunteers these past holidays. Your support and willingness to give to this community are greatly appreciated. As a result we have had no vandalism (only one broken window!) over the holiday period. Many families were generous enough to offer their assistance on several occasions!

On Friday the request form for the Term 1 Weekend roster will be sent home and we are looking forward to a great response to that. Please consider helping out and perhaps giving our fantastic regulars a rest!

PLEASE MODEL USING THE CROSSING AND UNDERPASSES AFTER SCHOOL- FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

Please, please, please do not wander through the afternoon traffic instead of using the crossing. The children are often 5 paces behind the adult. Please, please, please use the crossing or underpasses. Castleton Cres and Bugden Ave are dangerous places to cross at that time with prams and young children in tow.

Please be advised that ACT Police are patrolling schools and booking cars parked illegally eg school nature strip, bus stop etc.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees will be sent home via email on Friday. A summary of the fees was sent home at the end of 2019. Fee remissions do not carry over from year to year, please contact Tessa at tessa.ferguson@cg.catholic.edu.au or on 6292 1222 if you require a 2020 application.

Please take special note of information required if you have children attending another systemic high school or ACT Catholic primary school. This information must be in to Tessa Ferguson at the Front Office by Thursday 7 February to enable correct invoicing of school fees.

PARENT NETWORK

The Parent Network is a vital part of the school’s community and was set up to enable a community that is supportive and approachable. We do some fantastic things for some of our families. As we know throughout life we all have some ups and downs and may need a little extra support. We help support families through whatever life throws at them even the joys of a new addition to the family. We help with organising farewells for students; provide care meals for families; class/year social gatherings and whole school events like the Mothers’ Day Breakfast and the Fathers’ Day BBQ. Being part of Parent Network is a great way to meet other families, be involved in the school and does not require immense amounts of your time. The Parent Network is looking for 2 parent representatives from each class for 2020.

For further information please feel free to contact me at any time. Looking forward to working with you.

Antoinette McBride, Parent Ambassador
antoinette.mcbride@cg.catholic.edu.au

If you are interested in taking on the role as your child’s class rep, please fill in the slip below and return to your class by Friday 14 February. The first Parent Network meeting is set for Wednesday 4 March (Week 5) at 6pm in the school staff room, so please pop this date into your calendar.

I would like to be a Parent Network representative for my child’s class in 2020

Parent’s Name: _____

Child’s Name: _____ Child’s Class: _____

Contact Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (M) _____

Email Address: _____

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW–

MEET AND GREET

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons: 11-13 February, from 3.30-6.00pm we will be conducting “Meet the Teacher– touching base” sessions whereby you are welcome to come along and meet your child/ren’s teacher/s and inform them about your child. Parents are asked to book in online for a 10 minute meeting.

A PRINT VERSION OF THIS WAS SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD TODAY and BOOKINGS WILL OPEN IN THE AFTERNOON.

CHILDREN’S BIRTHDAYS

the birthday child may like to wear non-uniform to school on their birthday. Children whose birthdays fall in vacation time or on the weekend, can inform their teacher when they will wear non uniform. We hope this will help the children feel special on their birthday. Some children may not wish to participate in this and that’s okay too.



Dear Parents/Carers,

Meet and Greet interviews will be held in Week 2 on Tuesday 11/2, Wednesday 12/2 and Thursday 13/2. Interviews are strictly 10 minutes and spaces are limited. This is a great opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and discuss your his/her individual needs. If you require more time with a particular teacher, please arrange a separate meeting by contacting your child’s teacher.

To book an interview, please visit www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the code **wsjrmj**



Enter your details



Select the teachers you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best



When you click FINISH, your selected bookings will be emailed to you immediately. If you not receive your email, please check your junk-mail, or enter the event code again and check your email address spelling. Update your details if email address is incorrect. **DO NOT DELETE** the email you receive. Keep it somewhere safe. You may need to refer back to it at a later date.

REMEMBER TO ADD YOUR APPOINTMENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR - reminders will not be sent home.

Bookings must be finalised by midday on Monday 10th February.

If you need to view, cancel, change or print your bookings:

- Click on the link in the confirmation email you received after you made your bookings
- OR return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the code and the email address you used when making your bookings.

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SKOOLBAG APP OR VISIT THE WEBSITE <http://holyfamily.act.edu.au/communication/> EACH WEDNESDAY TO VIEW NEWSLETTER.

NEWSLETTERS

The School newsletter is sent electronically on Wednesdays. Please look out for it as it will always have information that is relevant to you and your child. A P&F newsletter is sent home once a month following the P&F meetings.

SPORTS days

K	Tues & Thurs
1	Mon & Wed
2	Tues & Thurs
3	Tues & Thurs
4	Tues & Thurs
5	Mon & Thurs
6	Tues & Thurs

Library / Indonesian / Music Day

Tuesdays
Thursdays
Mondays
Thursdays
Wednesdays
Tuesdays
Wednesdays

CONTACTING STAFF AFTER 6PM

I have instructed staff to not reply to emails sent to them after 6pm at night. Teachers deserve to have family time. They will reply to your email when they arrive at school in the morning.

PARENT EMAILS

Teachers will need your email address to keep you informed of important class happenings eg sport days etc. All classes this year will use a new App- SeeSaw and can send you photos and reminders during the day too. Please let your child's teacher know your email contact details.

All staff in the school have a common email: first name.surname@cg.catholic.edu.au

CANTEEN

The Canteen is closed for business on MONDAYS and TUESDAY. I would encourage all parents/carers (grandparents welcome too!) to consider volunteering to help in the canteen...there are many options, depending on your time constraints and our Canteen Manager, Mr Michael Cook, is always very appreciative of any offers. Even if you could spare 15 minutes first up in the morning that would be a help. All lunch orders must be submitted online by 9am. Have you downloaded the Qkr! App?

WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE LEGISLATION

Any parent who volunteers to work in classrooms, sporting teams, Learning Support, coaching, driving children to excursions, canteen, uniform shop, etc. **must download and complete the Working With Vulnerable People paperwork** and take it along with proof of identity to a Access Canberra Office. As with your driver's licence renewal, your photo will be taken and a card sent to you within 2-4 weeks. There is no fee for volunteers. If you intend offering your services in any way this year, we ask that you comply with the legislative requirements. We thank you most sincerely for your time and willingness to support this community. Please show your card to Belinda or Tessa at the front office where they will take a copy.

HOLY FAMILY SKOOLBAG APP & QKR (BOTH APPS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR FAMILIES)

At Holy Family, we have our own "**Skoolbag App**" as an alternative method of communication with the parent body. We are asking parents to install our Skoolbag – Holy Family's App.

Qkr is our school services payment app e.g lunch orders, sports shirts, disco etc (cannot be used for school fees).

How do I install the App? – just search for "**Skoolbag Holy Family Gowrie**" in the App Store and/or QKR! . Install it on your device. In order to receive information relative to your child's grade you will need to set up push notifications.

What does it do?

This Skoolbag App provides the school with an easy way to tell parents everything they need to know about school news, newsletters, event alerts.

The QKR App allows you to pay disco entry and lunch orders for your child along with other items that become available throughout the year.

P&F AGM Wednesday 19th February

We encourage all parents to come along to our first P&F meeting for the year. At the end of the newsletter you can find a general invitation and an outline of the roles that need to be filled. (This has also been sent home via Skoolbag notification). Amy Kennedy is our P&F President. If you feel you could offer Holy Family some of your skill/enthusiasm/talent then we would be very eager to hear from you. If you know someone who would be able to fill any role could you please nominate them? PLEASE take a look at the various roles and seriously consider putting your hand up to support this amazing community– you will always have lots of willing helpers to assist you!

SCHOOL BOARD 2020 NOMINATIONS

If you, or anyone you know, would like to stand for election on the 2019 School Board, please complete the form below and return it to the school by 4pm on Friday 14th February. We will also be seeking a P & F rep. I would encourage parents to think seriously of this opportunity to play a significant role in the future development of our school. The Board is a major part of the infrastructure/governance of this school, and Board members contribute in a very real way to the smooth operation of the school.

Meetings are held one Wednesday evening a month during school terms, commencing @ 6.30pm. The only thing you need to have is a sense of humour and a passion for this school and its directions. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th February.

If you nominate someone else, please obtain their approval. Nominations close **Friday 14th February at 4pm.**

2020 SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATION

I nominate for a position on the School Board for 2020. This person is aware that I have made the nomination.

Signed

Name (Please print).....Child & Class.....

"

All children, in particular, our new children, have settled in beautifully. We have had a very smooth start and both children and teachers appear to be very happy to be back. Please know that my door is always open to you and I am eager to help and support you in whatever way I can.



Proud Nanny on Harry's first day in Kinder

I ask God's blessings on you and your homes,

Anne-Marie Marek
 Principal

annemarie.marek@cg.catholic.edu.au

Holy Family Swimming Carnival Years 3-6 only

**Holy Family Swimming Carnival will be held on
Thursday 12 March @ Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre**

SAVE THE DATE!

Holy Family Swimming Carnival will be held @ Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre on Thursday 12 March 2020. The carnival is for students in Year 3-6 only. Students will be bused to and from the Centre.

Information note, nomination form and parent helper note will be sent home via your child next week. Please keep the information in a safe place.

Ensure the form is completed CAREFULLY and ACCURATELY, return these to your class teacher by Thursday 20 February.



P & F AGM Wednesday 19 February 2020

We need you!

The P & F AGM will be held Wednesday 19 February. There are a number of positions on the committee becoming vacant and we need you to fill them. If you are interested in being part of the P & F Committee for 2020, please complete the form below and return to the Front Office, or you can email belinda.pulford@cg.catholic.edu.au

Whether you are nominating for a position or not, we would love to see you at the meeting.

I would like to nominate for the position of

Name.....Contact number.....

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Holy Family Primary School – Parents’ and Friends’ Association Committee

FYI- ROLE OF OFFICE BEARERS

President: The President coordinates the operation of the P & F, including chairing regular meetings and liaising with the Principal.

Vice-President/s: The Vice-President chairs meetings in the President’s absence, assists the President in the management of the committee and P & F activities and attends School Board meetings as the P & F Representative. Over recent years two Vice-Presidents have undertaken these tasks.

Secretary: The Secretary records the minutes of the P & F meetings and manages the correspondence for the P & F.

Treasurer: The Treasurer maintains and manages the financial affairs of the P & F Association and presents financial reports at P & F meetings.

Parent Network Class Representatives: (usually 2 per class). The Parent Network Class Representatives organise class-based social events and provide practical support for families, under the guidance of the Parent Ambassador.

Canteen Convener: The Canteen Convener works directly with the Canteen Manager, and is supported by a Canteen Committee, to manage the operation of the School Canteen.

Clothing Pool Coordinator/s: The Clothing Pool Coordinator/s manage the sale of second-hand, and some brand new, clothing items on behalf of the school community. Last year there were two Clothing Pool Coordinators who operated the Clothing Pool each Friday afternoon between 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

Disco Coordinator: The Disco Coordinator organises the discos each term, which involves coordinating parent volunteers, organising the DJ and refreshments, and liaising with the Principal and Canteen Manager.

Social Events Coordinator: The Social Events Coordinator organises fun activities for the school community (that are not fundraising activities) to promote the community spirit of Holy Family. These activities may include Family Picnics, Trivia Nights and School BBQs.

School Banking Coordinator: The School Banking Coordinator manages the School Banking program, organises parent volunteers to assist and liaises with the bank.

Book Club Coordinator: The Book Club Coordinator manages the implementation of the Scholastic Book Club programs within the school, organises parent volunteers to collate orders and arranges delivery of books.

Book Club Assistant: The Book Club Assistant assists the Book Club Coordinator as required.

Netball Coordinator: The Netball Coordinator organises the school Netball teams for the Tuggeranong Netball Association Saturday competition.