

Family Matters

Holy Family Primary School

Wednesday 19 February, 2020

Issue # 3



EDUCATING IN FAITH FOR TOMORROW'S POSSIBILITIES

Principal's message

Mrs Anne-Marie Marek

Dear parents,

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Yesterday we celebrated our Opening School Mass in the Church. I thank Theresa Terry (Religious Education Coordinator) for her time in ensuring this mass was a special occasion. I also thank Fr James and the parents and visitors who were able to join us as a school community to celebrate the beginning of the school year. Our theme this year is LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR This was launched as last Friday's Assembly. The banner was designed by Emma Harris. Bev Stone once again wrote and composed our new school theme song for the year.



UNIFORM

Thank you to the many parents who have ensured their child is wearing the correct uniform. Enrolment at Holy Family indicates that each child will abide strictly with our school's dress code. This code states that each child will wear full and correct uniform to school each day. This includes the correct coloured hair ties/bows. The only exceptions to this are when the school holds an "out of uniform" day or it's your child's birthday. Parents are asked to strongly support this rule making sure that **shoes are of the correct type - BLACK LEATHER school shoes** and the school bag has the school's logo. Fluro sneakers/laces are not part of our uniform code at Holy Family. The only jewellery permitted are a watch and stud earrings.

THE SCHOOL BOARD

The new School Board will meet for the first time next week. We still have a couple of parent rep vacancies if anyone is interested. Board Minutes will be located soon on the PARENT page of the website along with photos of the Board members. At the meeting Reports are presented from the Principal, Treasurer, COOSH, ELC, P&F and Staff.

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

Parents are reminded that animals should not be brought to school unless it has been arranged with the teaching staff.

Many children have allergies to cats, dogs, rabbits, fur etc. and we must ensure their safety. If the visit is pre-arranged and approved then special arrangements can be made for students with allergies. It is Catholic Education policy that **dogs are not allowed on school premises** – even dogs on leads. Once again this is for the safety of all children.

DATES TO

REMEMBER

Event 1

3W Assembly
Friday 21 February
2.15 pm

Event 2

5R Prayer Liturgy
Monday 24 February
9.15am @ Church

Event 3

ELC Welcome BBQ
Tuesday 25 February
6.00pm-7.00pm

Event 4

ASH WEDNESDAY-
Wednesday 26 February

Event 5

4W ASSEMBLY
Friday 28 February
2.15pm

Event 6

PARENT NETWORK
MEETING
Wednesday 4 March
6pm in the Staffroom

P&F 2020

The P&F AGM will take place tonight in the staffroom commencing at 7.30pm. We have received several nominations for positions. Please come along and learn more about the parent community at Holy Family– Everyone is very welcome.

CANTEEN FUN FOOD DAYS

We thought we'd provide some information that might enable our new families to understand why we have these days. Very simply, the Fun Food Days are a money making exercise. The canteen will close if we can't generate this money.

Most parents view the canteen as a treat for their child. Most families do not regularly order from the canteen and many children are not prepared to buy over the counter at recess and lunchtimes as they would rather be out there playing. Most children's lunchboxes prepared at home are VERY healthy and so I believe that parents don't often order lunches for their children when they can give their children healthy foods from home.

For 192 school days the canteen is an **AMBER** / **GREEN** canteen. No unhealthy foods are sold - A small amount of amber foods are sold. For 8 days (2 days each term) we have **FUN** Food Days. Parents have the **option** of ordering on this day. If you do not wish your child to have a lunch order then that is perfectly fine. I am fairly certain that the majority of families would have a take-away night several times a term. The **FUN** Food Day is considered to be a treat.

Michael Cook, the Canteen manager, is often working on his own in the canteen - we have very few parent volunteers to assist him, so it means that for FUN Food Days much of what is offered needs to be easy to deliver.

It is never intended that the canteen be a profit making business - rather a service to our families.

Without the 8 Red Food Days in the year we would definitely need to close the canteen!

We have had to close the canteen for over the counter sales at lunch time on Fridays as we have no parent volunteers and Michael needs to pack 150 lunch orders on his own. **Fun Food Day Wednesday 18 March**

SCHOOL BANKING DAY IS MONDAY

Students can bring in their banking on Mondays and send it to the front office via the classroom blue bag, or it can be dropped off directly to the front office. If bank books are not in by Monday afternoon, the student's banking will be kept and banked the following week.

PARENT NETWORK

This is not an arduous role; it simply involves coordinating a couple of out of school get together for your child's class. It enables new and old families to meet their child's friends and foster new and old friendships. We could really do with a few more parents, grandparents or carers to fill the open spots. Ideally one per class the following classes still Parent Reps for 2020.

Please contact Antoinette McBride if you can help out : antoinette.mcbride@cg.catholic.edu.au

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents, please note that even if you have made a phone call informing the school that your child is away (and for one day this is not necessary, longer absences we do appreciate a phone call), we still need a **written note, email or Skoolbag App notification** upon their return explaining the absence. Otherwise your child will be marked as ABSENT WITHOUT REASON in the Class Roll.

If a child arrives at school after 9.00am they need to be signed in, after 9.30am, they are marked as absent for the morning and a note will need to be provided explaining why he/she was late. Holy Family Primary School is regularly audited by the Education Department regarding Student Absences. Every week we have to send in a report of children (named) who have been absent that week and a reason for their absence.

HOME READING

Home reading should be an enjoyable, stress-free activity where students can practice and consolidate their skills and really learn to love literature.

Kinder parents should make every effort to come along to the workshop shortly to give them some strategies on how to help their child learn to read.

If your child arrives home with a library book or home reader that is challenging, why don't you try echo reading or just read the book to them. If it's too easy, congratulate them and stress how much fun and easy reading is. Children need to see themselves as readers. Often children who struggle to read lack confidence and ability to take risks with their learning.

Students in the older grades are also required to read NIGHTLY. Parents are asked to assist teachers with closely monitoring the home reading. In our experience many older children choose not to read. Children in Years 2-6, who are beyond level 30, move on to Literacy Pro (Lexiles).

Many of the books in the library have been grouped according to this framework. Children complete regular on-line comprehension tests to ensure they are reading at their 'lexile level'. The school has also invested in quite a bit of money to purchase 'readers' for the older students.

SCHOOL FEES

Statements for Term 1 fees have been sent via email. You are asked to please pay Term 1 fees by Friday 6 March. Payment may be made by cash, credit card, EFTPOS, BPay. If you would like to know more about any of the payment options please ask Tessa at the Front Office. If you experience difficulty in meeting your commitment, please don't hesitate to come and speak with me.

Some parents query the Building Fund Contribution. This donation is collected and sent to the Catholic Education Building and Maintenance section. This enables Catholic systemic schools in the ACT to be supported through a central body. All our electrical, plumbing, painting, glass repairs and internal maintenance work is undertaken through this CE department. Over the last few years, this money has enabled this school alone to have new carpet in E and F Blocks, roofing and plumbing problems repaired, flood damage repaired, painting in E and F Blocks etc. NSW schools in the Archdiocese have to pay for their own maintenance and repairs.

Families who have an older sibling at MacKillop, St Clare's or Merici Colleges and have notified us by returning a form have received a discount on their primary school fees. An administration fee of \$50 will be charged for any fee adjustments that need to be made if you qualify but have failed to return the form.

MEDICAL ALERTS

If your child suffers from a medical condition that requires treatment at school the front office you must provide an Action Plan. Please check the accuracy of the information and take whatever action is necessary (ie. fill in a new Action Plan or let us know in writing if your child no longer suffers from previously recorded conditions) to ensure we have up to date information for your child if emergency treatment is required. Relevant forms can be obtained from the Front Office.

The school policy requires all children with Anaphylaxis to supply the school with an epipen and Action Plan signed by your doctor. The school has purchased three epipens which are taken to the ovals at lunch and recess times. They will be used at the Front Office during the day if needed. Your child's epipen will be with their teacher in their classroom and taken to specialist classes, on excursions, to carnivals etc.

SUN SAFE & HATS

As part of the Holy Family Sun Smart Policy all students must wear a hat when playing outdoors all year round. This includes before school, recess, lunch and at any other outdoor school/class activity. The **NO HAT! NO PLAY!** rule is enforced by all teachers. Children who do not have a hat are asked to sit in the shade on the benches outside the Admin block.

The school hat is a navy blue legionnaire, bucket or broad-brimmed style. For convenience, school hats are available for purchase at the school from the Front Office and the Clothing Pool (open on Friday afternoons 2.30 – 3.30pm) at a cost of \$13.

SICKNESS AT SCHOOL

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents will be contacted when their child receives a knock to

the head, sustains an injury that is considered serious or in need of a second opinion, soils their underwear, constantly complains of feeling ill requiring extended supervision, complains of a severe headache and presents at school with an infectious or contagious illness. When contacted, parents will be asked to collect their child or make other arrangements, as we are unable to provide the necessary supervision for such cases at school. In extreme situations we will negotiate the best possible solution with the parents eg. take the child to hospital for a second opinion.

Wishing God's blessing on you and your homes,
Anne-Marie Marek
Principal

LITERACY PRO/LEXILES

Matching Readers to Books

If you have a child in Year 3 or your child is new to Holy Family in Years 4, 5 or 6, you may have heard a new word at home....**Lexiles**. Students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are reading at a PM level of 30 will participate in Literacy Pro this year.

What is a Lexile? A Lexile is a unit that measures the amount of challenge presented by a passage of text. It measures reading comprehension. If we know the Lexile measure of a book and we know the Lexile measure of a child, we can tell how the book matches the child's reading ability – whether it is too easy, too difficult or just right. When a reader has the same Lexile level as the book they are reading, they are positioned to read that book with competence, confidence and control.

The students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 take the Lit Pro Test each term. This test will assess their reading ability and comprehension. They are awarded a Lexile level at the end of the test. The students then select, borrow and read books within their Lexile range. These books are located in our library or even the local Public Library. They can complete motivational quizzes on the computer to check their comprehension of the book read and earn points and certificates for the books they read successfully. If you have any questions regarding Literacy Pro/Lexiles, please email me or feel free to visit me in the library.

Louisa McIntosh
Teacher Librarian

HOLY FAMILY YEARS 3-6 SWIMMING CARNIVAL-THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2020

Thank you to all of the families that have returned their notes and parent helper forms. **Please ensure these are returned by the end of the week. Any nomination forms submitted after this date will unfortunately miss out on being entered in a race.**

If any parent holds a bronze medallion certificate and is willing to help out on the day, please email me asap.

We still require helpers (time keepers, novelty event helpers, hospitality helpers, marshals), if you are able to assist please let me know asap.

Jessica Eddleston
jessica.eddleston@cg.catholic.edu.au

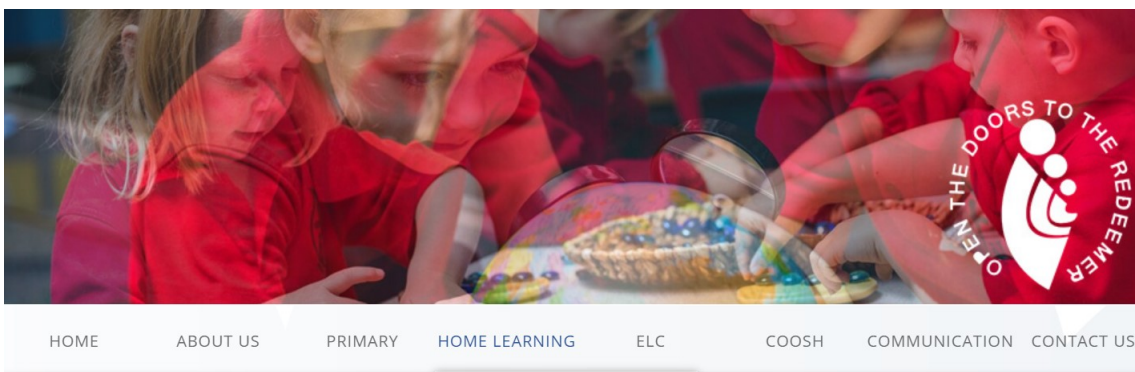
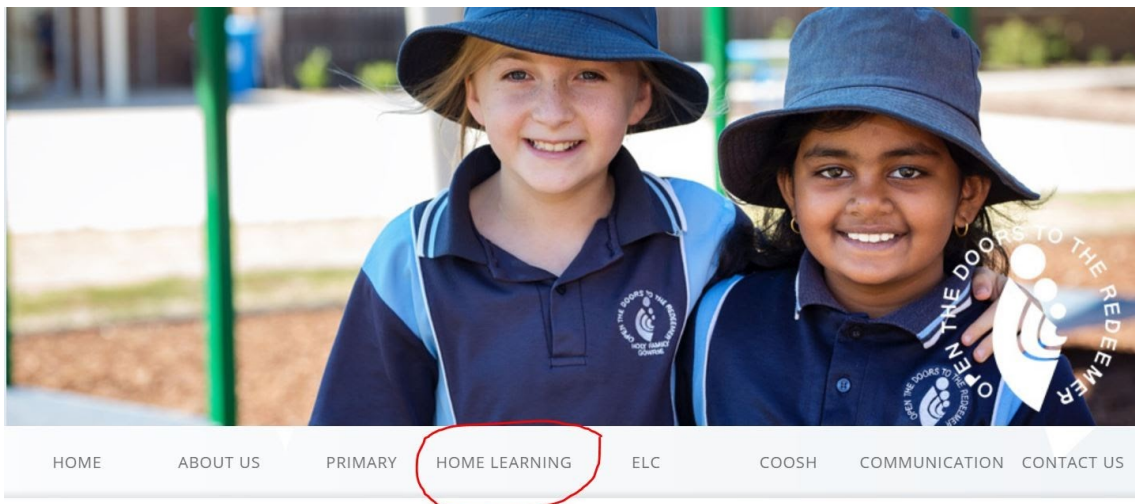
Assistant Principal News

Home Learning at Holy Family

Last year Holy Family trialled a new approach to homework and it became known as 'optional home learning'. Along with many other schools within our Archdiocese, we were interested to see whether compulsory home learning was having any positive benefit for our students and their families. After one year of moving to optional home learning we have had positive correspondence from students, their families and their teachers.

The Holy Family website has a number of links to educational sites where students can consolidate their learning if required. I encourage you to take the time to have a look through these recommended sites and speak with your child's teacher if you require any further information.

Please note that reading each night is compulsory across all grade levels.



Year 3 and Year 4

Literacy

- Lexiles (<https://siz04.scholasticlearningzone.com/siz-portal/#/login2/AUS/en>) ORG ID: 784c. Lexile Quizzes to be completed after reading Lexile books from our Library

Sounds Write Website - (<http://www.sounds-write.co.uk/#Sounds%20Write>) This website includes a /home-learning

Holy Family Pri...
 Liked
 Holy Family Primary, Gowrie
 3 hours ago
 We gathered together today to celebrate our Opening School Mass for 2020 Today

Wishing you a wonderful week,
 Jane Hart

Canteen Volunteer Roster – TERM 1, 2020

Our school canteen at Holy Family cannot run without the help of Volunteers.

This term we are going to trial a roster system and would appreciate your involvement.

There are many opportunities for you to lend a hand with preparation or to serve the children their treats at recess or lunch. We aren't fussy, we welcome Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles and Carers of our Holy Family Children. **All volunteers must have a valid Working with Vulnerable People Card** and sign in at the front office before coming into the canteen.

	Day	Date	Morning Prep 8:30 - 9:30	Recess 10:30 – 12:00	Lunch 1:00 – 2:00
WEEK 4	Wednesday	26 th Feb			
	Thursday	27 th Feb			
	Friday	28 th Feb			
WEEK 5	Wednesday	6 th March			
	Thursday	7 th March			
	Friday	6 th March			
WEEK 6	Wednesday	11 th March			
	Swimming Carnival	12 th March			
	Friday	15 th March			
WEEK 7	FUN FOOD DAY	18 th March			
	Thursday	19 th March			
	Friday	20 th March			
WEEK 8	Wednesday	25 th March			
	Thursday	28 th March			
	Friday	27 th March			
WEEK 9	Athletics Carnival	1 st April			
	Thursday	2 nd April			
	Friday	3 rd April			
WEEK 10	Cross Country Fun Food Day	8 th April			
	Thursday	9 th April			
	Friday	10 th April			

Helping in the School canteen is a great way to get involved in the school community, meet parents you may otherwise not bump into and perhaps make some new friends along the way.

If you let us know your child/children's classes we can try roster you on with other volunteers from those grades.

Name:	
Email:	
Phone Number:	
Children's Class:	

PLEASE RETURN THIS WITH YOUR DETAILS AND AVAILABILITY VIA YOUR CHILD BY MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY