



NEWSLETTER

HOLY SPIRIT INFANTS ABERMAIN

16 Feb 2017

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels like a while ago now we had our **Parent and Teacher Information Evening and Welcome BBQ**. I would like to extend a warm thank you on behalf of the staff for those who attended. I hope we offered as much information as we can at this early stage.

So our **communication** can continue to filter through to you, please be sure to update your personal details with our office. A simple email or phone call to check that we have your correct email address, phone numbers and emergency contact details would be appreciated. One means of communication is through the Skoolbag app. TIP: When you have the app, open the "more" option and press "setup Push Notifications" otherwise you will not hear when alerts and messages come through on your phone.

Congratulations to Danielle and Andrew McDonald (Ainsley KM) on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Olivia.



Well done to all of our swimmers who attended the **Holy Spirit school swimming carnival** last week on Tuesday at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre. The winning colour house on at the school carnival was Joseph House (purple)! A special mention and congratulations to the following children who attended the **Regional carnival** yesterday (15th February) at Maitland Pool: Ayden Lawrence (8yrs 50m Freestyle, Jnr 50m Backstroke and Jnr Relay); Lexi Maunder (8 yrs 50m Freestyle); Mila Lubinski (8yrs 50m Freestyle and Jnr 50m Backstroke); Mackenzie Calloway (8yrs 50m Freestyle).

The **Year 2 children** started their swimming lessons this week on Tuesday. Thank you to Mrs Shakespeare who transports the children in the bus and also thank you to the parents who attended to help the children get

organised – shoe laces, dropped goggles, lost shoes etc – it all helps!

Our first **P&F meeting** is fast approaching and you are all welcome to come along. We will meet next Tuesday at 6pm here at Abermain. We would really appreciate your support, come with some ideas or suggestions or just come to listen. The P&F committee of a school do many things "back stage" and can be the driving force of many initiatives with a focus on improving the school for your children and building on the sense of community. We look forward to seeing some new faces and also welcoming back the existing committee.

ICAS is a comprehensive educational assessment program made available world-wide and owned by University of NSW. Here at Abermain Infants school the English, Maths, Spelling and Science assessments are made available for only Year 2 students as these assessments are primarily made for children in years 2-6. These assessments are held at school under supervision and paid by parents wanting their child to sit any or all of these subject assessments. For more information please look at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au and look at the ICAS section. If you would like your child to participate you will receive comprehensive reports on completion of the marking of these papers and your child will receive a certificate from ICAS. Please see costs and due dates below, these costs are based on having 3 or more assessments ordered across the school. If you are interested, please leave the amount required, your child's name and indicate the assessment/s at the office.

SUBJECT	CLOSING DATE	SITTING DATE	COST (based on 3 or more)
Science	1 st May	30 th May	\$9.90
Spelling	15 th May	14 th June	\$13.20
English	22 nd June	1 st August	\$9.90
Maths	22 nd June	15 th August	\$9.90

Each class (**class assembly**) will present at various Friday morning assemblies in the hall to showcase their excellence in learning. All parents and carers are very welcome to attend. The dates are as follows for each class:

Year 2: 10/3 & 11/8
Year 1/2: 24/3 & 25/8
Year 1: 7/4 & 8/9
KM: 12/5 & 20/10
KS: 26/5 & 3/11

All other Friday morning will be our normal awards assembly without the class showcase.

Holy Spirit Infants “Little Spirits” Playgroup is back in 2017. This is a great opportunity for the “Little Spirits” to attend playgroup, become familiar with our surroundings, play, listen to stories, have opportunities to participate in art and craft and outside games! What a great opportunity to meet other families in our community also. Our playgroup is made possible through the collaboration of Hunter Prelude, Family Insight, Mindaribba and our school. Our first playgroup will be on Thursday, 2nd March in our hall from 9.30-11.30am and again on Thursday, 6th April. As the year progresses we aim to have playgroup every fortnight but we will need parent volunteers for some of these sessions. It would be a nice tradition for the existing Kindergarten parents to be involved in this and then pass the baton to our 2018 Kindergarten parents! However, ALL parents are very welcome to volunteer. Please see Charlene Reid if you are able to help out with our future playgroups in Terms 2,3 and 4 – they don’t necessarily have to be on a Thursday.

Here is a copy of our **school prayer**. I’m learning it and I thought if parents would also like to learn the prayers you can also join in!

Morning Prayer

Holy Spirit,
Help us to live up to your name.
Help us to be a loving, caring community
Where we make friends and enjoy our work and play.
Help make our school a place where all feel welcome
And where we grow closer to God each day.
Amen
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

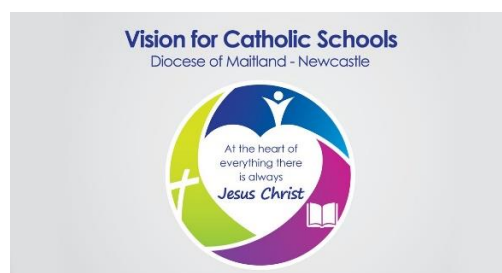
Afternoon dismissal Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Thank you today
For the friends I have made
And the games I have played.
Bring me back safely tomorrow.
Amen
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Some of our staff members attended our Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan **Called to Serve Mass** on Tuesday night at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Thank you for coming and celebrating as a staff. It was a fitting celebration to start the school year with our colleagues from around the Diocese and our new Director of Schools, Dr Michael Slattery. Also in attendance was our lovely previous Principal, Marie Simoes. Marie is serving her new community at East Maitland well but is obviously missing you all here at Abermain. We have invited Marie back to Abermain for a visit and will let you know when we confirm a date and time so we can farewell her properly as a community.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the parents and friends in our community. The sense of togetherness and mateship in this community has really ignited here at Abermain. I have witnessed this in the playground when parents drop their children off, at pick up time and just in general conversation. The caring nature you display not only to your own children but to other children too – this was evident last week when we had parents and ex-parents looking out for a young man in our school uniform. They took time out of their busy morning to look out for a child in need and for this I say “thank you”. It’s wonderful to see people living out the hope and dream of Mary MacKillop “Never see a need without doing something about it”. You, as parents and carers, are the role models for your children and I see that same care filtering through your children by the way they support each other in their work and play.

God Bless,
Charlene Reid
Principal



Religion News

Holy Spirit Infants would like to send positive thoughts and prayers to those families that have been affected by the heat and fires of late. We further extend this to the amazing team of firefighters that risk their lives to help others. They are true heroes and we will be keeping them in our prayers for the remainder of this fire season.

This Term is looking very busy and is a special time celebrating the beginning of another school year, welcoming new students and leaders. We have some special Masses and Liturgies coming up!

Week 5

The whole school opening Mass has now been moved to Wednesday 22nd February at 12 noon at Holy Spirit Church Kurri Kurri.

Kindergarten Welcoming Mass is on Sunday 26th February at St Francis Xavier Church Abermain beginning at 6pm and Supper will follow. The Kindergarten students are very excited as they have been learning a new song to perform on this special evening!

Week 6

Ash Wednesday is on the 1st March and commemorates the first day of Lent. We will be holding a special liturgy to celebrate this.

As we do start to get busy and life starts to become more challenging, please stop and take a moment to reflect upon how truly blessed we are.

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of life, each season is special and beautiful in Your timing. And I praise you, Jesus, for teaching me to embrace each one, in the midst of this current season of busyness. I desperately need the wisdom that can only come from You. I need You to calm my hurried heart, the hustle and bustle can cause my spirit to sink... When I know Your plan is to soar, will You usher in the wings of Your strength? Will You calm my attitude in the midst of the rush? Will You prompt me to slow down when needed? As the God of the universe living inside of me, the Author of peace that can't be comprehended, please give me Your heavenly tranquillity to experience fully and I'll praise Your holy name.

Amen

God Bless,

Bec Cook

Relieving Religious Education Coordinator.



Isabella Crouch – 'I love school'

Audrey O'Brien – 'My favourite part of school is when I play on the playground'



Fletcher Plessiet – 'I love counting all the numbers'

Isaac Holz – 'I like doing numbers and playing'



Dakota Denham
– 'Reading is fun!'

CLASS NEWS!

This week is KS's news.



Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new kindergarten students and their families. KS have enjoyed a wonderful start to school life at Holy Spirit Abermain and they have been adjusting to our daily class routine beautifully. It has been a busy 2 weeks with lots of fun and learning happening in our classroom. In religion we have been learning about what makes a good friend, during maths we are learning all about our numbers 1-20 and in science we have been exploring our 5 senses. KS would like to share some thoughts and photos about school so far:





Ava Walker – ‘Today we did an experiment on taste. It was really fun!’

Isabelle Allen – ‘I liked tasting the juice’



Kind Regards
Erin Saxby
Classroom teacher

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION DAYS



Save the date...
The Special Needs Working Party in conjunction with the CSO Teaching and Learning Unit is pleased to again be presenting an opportunity for parents and carers who have children enrolled in our schools with additional needs an opportunity to hear about the support available to them and their child in our Catholic schools.

These days are to be held as follows:

ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL MUSWELLBROOK

✓ Tuesday, 14 March 11.00am – 1.00pm

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL TAREE

✓ Tuesday, 21 March 11.00am – 1.00pm

ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL KOTARA SOUTH

✓ Tuesday, 28 March
11.00am – 1.00pm

Please RSVP to.....

Cath Garrett-Jones

P: 4979 1303

E: cath.garrett-joynes@mn.catholic.edu.au

Crunch and Sip

Please don't forget to send a drink bottle and a small amount of fruit or vegetables each day for crunch and sip.

Hats

Just a reminder regarding school hats. All students need to have their school hat on at play. If they do not have their hat they will be asked to play in the shade. Hats are for sale for \$12 from the school office.

P&F



All are welcome to attend. Tuesday, 21st February at 6pm in the Abermain school library.

Awards

Term 1 2017, Week 3

Class Captains

Olivah Cole, Eliza Kekevski, Will Firth, Evie Dorn, Ricky Heard-Talbott, Sophie Willetts, Tiah Richardson, Zane Freeman, Sophia Nevin, Isaiah Sulendro

Class Awards

KM Mason Callaway, Louis McKay, Aster Smith
KS Isaac Holz, Audrey O'Brien, Dakota Denham
Year 1 Marlie Weller, Rory Kelly, Mason Denham
1/2 Emerson Power, Carter Kingsley-Cook, Ayden Lawrence
Year 2 Ella Stewart, Lexie Maunder, Blake Haddock

Principal Awards

Fruit of the Spirit - Kindness

Ryder Lewis, Bonnie Sumner, Stella Walker, Ava Trow, Allie Collingwood, Treasure Trainer, Reagan Spliet, Jayden Thomas Amity Pilgrim, Darcy Campton

Manners

Nylah Davey, Thomas Connell, Sophie Willetts, Jarrod Charker, Thayn Johnstone

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 1 Important Dates

Week 4

13th Feb Canteen Opens
14th Year 2 swimming starts 1-2pm

Week 5

21st Feb Year 2 swimming 1-2pm
22nd Feb Welcome to School Mass, Kurri
12pm

26th Feb Welcome to Kinder Mass, Abermain
Sunday 6pm

Week 6

28th Feb Project Compassion Launch
Year 2 swimming 1-2pm

1st March Ash Wednesday
2nd March Playgroup (to be confirmed)
2nd March Leigh Hobbs author Video
conference incursion K-2, 11am

Week 7

Catholic Schools Week!

7th March Year 2 swimming 1-2pm
8th March Catholic Schools Week liturgy,
Abermain 12pm (not 2pm as
previously stated)

9th March Ship O' Fools water saving 1.50pm

Week 8

14th March Year 2 swimming 1-2pm
17th March St Patrick's Day
Harmony Day

Week 9

20th March St Joseph's Feast Day liturgy
21st March Last Year 2 swimming 1-2pm
26th March Kurri Kurri Nostalgia

Week 10

27th March Annunciation liturgy
30th March Responsible Pet Handling incursion

Week 11

Holy Week activities (to be advised)

6th April Playgroup (to be confirmed)
7th April Last Day of Term 1
Meal Deal Day

Term 2

Week 1

24th April First day back for all students
Easter/ANZAC liturgy
25th April ANZAC Day Public Holiday
ANZAC Ceremony (Details TBC)

Week 2

4th May Playgroup

Week 3

8th May Winter uniform changeover

9th May Life Education Van visits

NAPLAN for Years 3 & 5

10th May Life Education Van visits
NAPLAN for Years 3 & 5

11th May NAPLAN Years 3 & 5
Mother's Day liturgy (TBC)

Week 4

19th May Pupil Free Day. Staff attending
Making Literacy Visible, Sydney

Week 6

1st June Playgroup

Week 8

12th June Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
15th June Father's Day Liturgy (TBC)

Week 9

23rd June School Reports sent home

Week 10

Last Week Term 2

Term 3

Week 4

9th August School Photos

2017 School Dates

Term 1

Friday 7th April Last day of term 1

Term 2

24th April to 30th June

Term 3

17th July to 22nd September

Term 4

9th October to 15th December

Canteen News

Monday 20 Feb	Wednesday 22 Feb	Friday 24 Feb
Ashley Pickering Kristen Denham	Jodie Sweetman	Bec Campton Nat Osland
Monday 27 Feb	Wednesday 1 March	Friday 3 March
Kiona Sunerton Lisa Bright	Liz Johnstone Sandy Padilla	Deb Kelly Ash Kelly