



# NEWSLETTER

## HOLY SPIRIT INFANTS ABERMAIN

2 Feb 2017

Church Street, Abermain 2326  
PH: 49304361 FAX: 49304363

Email: [admin@abermain.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@abermain.catholic.edu.au)  
Web: <http://www.abermain.catholic.edu.au>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2017 school year to our returning families and to our new families in Kindergarten and other grades. We hope you had a restful holiday and are looking forward to some excellence in learning throughout the year. Last week the teachers officially returned, therefore this week is classified as Week 2!

I, Charlene Reid, would like to introduce myself briefly as your new Principal. I have come to Holy Spirit Infants School with many years of experience in education with a love for learning and serving others. I have taught in many schools in Parramatta, Central Coast and Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. I look forward to building new partnerships with the staff here at Abermain and also the Parent and Parish communities. Please come and tell me about yourself and your family so I can get to know you. A great time to do this could be at the Parent Information and Welcome BBQ Evening on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February. Please send back your RSVP by Friday (tomorrow) for your free sausage after the information session. A second sausage sandwich will cost \$2 each and drinks will be for sale for \$2. This is a great time to meet other parents also!

We are also blessed with a new Assistant Principal/Year 1K teacher, Rebecca Kearns, and Erin Saxby, our Kindergarten teacher. Welcome Rebecca and Erin and all of our existing staff. I know we all spent many hours during the holidays at school preparing for the year ahead.

We wish Courtney Porter all the best who has commenced her maternity leave, therefore, handing over the role of Religious Education Coordinator to Rebecca Cook in her absence. Thank you Rebecca for taking the lead in this new role.

### Our staff for 2017 is as follows:

KM – Naomi Mueller/Carlia Collingwood

KS – Erin Saxby

Year 1K – Rebecca Kearns

Year 1/2C – Rebecca Cook

Year 2P – Jessica Palmer

Learning Support Teacher – Monica Shanahan

Learning Support Aides – Leah Shakespeare, Amanda Focic, Steven Ozimek, Janelle Williams, Rachael Latter, Lisa Bolam

Support – Amy Matsen

Library – Lyn Jones, Kay Woods

Pastoral Care – Roger Whitney

Cleaner/Groundsman – Trevor Shakespeare

School Psychologist – Ben Crebert

Office – Nadine Leighton & Dot Seamer

Principal – Charlene Reid

We have returned to school with many new and beautiful surroundings including a lovely new fairy garden completed by Pat Sharkey. Pat is a gem here at Holy Spirit who volunteers his time and energy with no fuss! Thank you Pat the children love their new fairy garden and I'm sure they will take special care to look after it.

We also have a new classroom being built for our Year 2 children. Due to some delays in the holidays, the work was not complete for the Year 2 class to move straight in on Monday, however they will be in their new classroom this coming Monday. Another feature in our classroom building is the insertion of connecting doors to the rooms. These doors are able to slide open allowing children to work closely with their neighbouring class.

We would like to welcome our new Kindergarten families and would also like to thank Thomas and Lucy, Hugh and Flynn, Jimmy and Peta for coming into school during their school holidays to be interviewed and photographed by Catholic Schools Office and Newcastle Herald. They are featured in Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January on the front page of the Newcastle Herald and will also be

included in the Cessnock Advertiser. What a wonderful keepsake and a great promotion for Holy Spirit Infants School families.

We do assemble every morning and afternoon together for prayer, birthdays and any special messages – parents are very welcome to stay for these times. We also invite you to stay for our more formal assembly on Friday mornings at 8.55am. At this assembly children will receive awards both class awards and Principal awards. The Principal awards will be focusing on the Fruits of the Spirit and acknowledging students using their manners at all times. Each week there will be a focus on a particular Fruit of the Spirit and next week the Fruit of the Spirit will be Kindness.

Thank you to Janelle Seagrave who has volunteered again to look after your child's school banking. School banking will begin next Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February. Please be sure to send in your child's banking. If you would like to start school banking for the first time, send in your forms or collect a new form from the office and Janelle will organise this for you.

Year 2 swimming commences 14<sup>th</sup> February on a Tuesday. Please send your Year 2 child to school in their sport uniform during the swim program. They are also allowed to wear their sport uniform on Friday's with the remainder of the school.

A very important part of any school is the canteen and we need parent helpers to volunteer to keep it open and readily available for your children. Our canteen is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If you are able to assist perhaps once or twice a term PLEASE contact the office and we will put you on the canteen roster. The helpers are very welcoming and will assist you until you get to know the routines. Thank you to Cassie Freeman and her team of volunteers who are already rostered. Canteen will re-open Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Please find a copy of the menu and price list on our skoolbag app next week.

If you are wanting to purchase any second hand uniforms for your child please contact Kerrie Phillips from Holy Spirit, Kurri Kurri on 0412 264446.

The Music Bus is now coming to Holy Spirit Abermain on a Tuesday – 8am is keyboard; 8.30 is guitar; 9.05 singing and 9.40 drums.

Our newsletter will be published on a fortnightly basis on a Thursday.

God Bless,  
Charlene Reid  
Principal

## Religion News

Welcome back for another exciting year and a special welcome to our new families and staff! I hope you had a restful and calm break over the holidays with your family. This Liturgical year we are celebrating the Year of Grace. The Year of Grace is an invitation to the Catholic Church in Australia to undertake a spiritual journey, a time of listening to the Spirit, a space to recognise God's grace in our lives, and to encounter Jesus afresh.

Just a reminder of a few masses coming up soon. We have our Whole School Opening Mass at Holy Spirit Church Kurri Kurri on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February beginning at 12pm. Our School Captains for both schools will be inducted and it is a beautiful way to begin our School Year!

We also have our welcome to Kindergarten Mass on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February at St Francis Xavier Church, Abermain. We would love for all of our new Kinders to come along with their families to Celebrate the beginning of their schooling and welcoming them into the Church. A note will come home shortly about this.

God Bless,

**Bec Cook**

**Relieving Religious Education Coordinator.**

## 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-joines@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



Dates for our P&F will be advised. All are welcome to attend.

14<sup>th</sup> March Year 2 swimming 1-2pm  
17<sup>th</sup> March St Patrick's Day

Harmony Day

### Week 9

20<sup>th</sup> March St Joseph's Feast Day liturgy

21<sup>st</sup> March Last Year 2 swimming 1-2pm

26<sup>th</sup> March Kurri Kurri Nostalgia

### Week 10

27<sup>th</sup> March Annunciation liturgy

30<sup>th</sup> March Responsible Pet Handling incursion

### Week 11

Holy Week activities (to be advised)

6<sup>th</sup> April Playgroup (to be confirmed)

7<sup>th</sup> April Last Day of Term 1

Meal Deal Day!

## 2017 School Dates

### Term 1

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> January Yr 1 and Yr 2 Return

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February Kindergarten commence

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April Last day of term 1

### Term 2

24<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June

### Term 3

17<sup>th</sup> July to 22<sup>nd</sup> September

### Term 4

9<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December

## Canteen News

### TERM 1 2017 CANTEEN ROSTER

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| MON 30TH JAN<br>CLOSED                              | WED 1ST FEB<br>CLOSED                           | FRI 3RD FEB<br>CLOSED   |
| MON 6TH FEB<br>CLOSED                               | WED 8TH FEB<br>CLOSED                           | FRI 10TH FEB<br>CLOSED  |
| MON 13TH FEB<br>Emily Castles                       | WED 15TH FEB<br>Jade Sweetman                   | FRI 17TH FEB<br>Cassie Freeman<br>Jodie Connell                   |
| MON 20TH FEB<br>Ashley Pickering<br>Kristen Denham  | WED 22ND FEB<br>Renae Trow                      | FRI 24TH FEB<br>Bec Campton<br>Nat Osland                         |
| MON 27TH FEB<br>Kiona Sunerton<br>Lisa Bright       | WED 1ST MARCH<br>Liz Johnstone<br>Sandy Padilla | FRI 3RD MARCH<br>Deb Kelly<br>Ash Kelly                           |
| MON 6TH MARCH<br>Kath March                         | WED 8TH MARCH<br>Christine Hughes               | FRI 10TH MAR<br>Cassie Freeman<br>Shantal Brewer<br>Sharon Brewer |
| MON 13TH MARCH<br>Emily Griffith                    | WED 15TH MARCH<br>Amy Rowley                    | FRI 17TH MARCH<br>Sharleen Holz<br>Jo Parry                       |
| MON 20TH MARCH<br>Kristine Lubinski                 | WED 22ND MARCH<br>Hannah Foley                  | FRI 24TH MARCH<br>Jacinda Shaw<br>Michael Shaw                    |
| MON 27TH MARCH<br>Emily Castles                     | WED 29TH MARCH<br>Christina Power               | FRI 31ST MARCH<br>Liz Johnstone<br>Mel Mazzitelli                 |
| MON 3RD APRIL<br>Ashley Pickering<br>Kristen Denham | WED 5TH APRIL<br>Renae Trow                     | FRI 7TH APRIL<br>MEAL DEAL  |

If you are unable to attend your rostered day please try and arrange a swap with another volunteer. If you cannot swap with another volunteer please call or text Cassie or speak to Mrs Leighton in the office.

### Canteen co-ordinator

Cassie Freeman 0422 073 981

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Term 1 Important Dates

#### Week 2

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb Kindergarten's First day at big school  
Finish 2.30pm

#### Week 3

7<sup>th</sup> Feb Primary swimming carnival at Kurri  
for 8 year old swimmers

7<sup>th</sup> Feb Parent Information evening & BBQ  
Kindergarten at 5.30pm  
Years 1 and 2 at 5.50pm

#### Week 4

13<sup>th</sup> Feb Canteen Opens  
14<sup>th</sup> Feb Year 2 swimming starts 1-2pm

#### Week 5

21<sup>st</sup> Feb Year 2 swimming 1-2pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> Feb Welcome to School Mass, Kurri  
12pm

26<sup>th</sup> Feb Welcome to Kinder Mass, Abermain  
Sunday 6pm

#### Week 6

28<sup>th</sup> Feb Project Compassion Launch  
Year 2 swimming 1-2pm

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

#### Week 7

Catholic Schools Week!  
7<sup>th</sup> March Year 2 swimming 1-2pm  
8<sup>th</sup> March Catholic Schools Week liturgy,  
Abermain 2pm  
9<sup>th</sup> March Ship O' Fools water saving 1.50pm

#### Week 8