

# The Holy Herald

Holy Spirit School Newsletter



**Term 2 Week 4 – 20th May 2020**

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K - 2 have been moving to classical music.

Moving to "Peter and the Wolf" the students had to listen to the music representing each animal, and use their bodies to move as the animal.



## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL .....**

### **WHAT IS THE VIRUS DOING FOR US?**

The last 3 months have been life-changing. We have been forced to change the way we live, play, interact and work and in our respect the way we teach. The vast majority of us can't wait for things to get back to 'normal'. I have spent time reflecting on this experience as a husband, father, friend, colleague and principal. Has it all been bad or negative?

Bill Gates recently shared a few insights about COVID-19. Bill's spin on the virus is not so much about what the virus is doing to us but what it is doing for us.

He suggests:

- It has taught us we are all equal and all just as vulnerable
- It reminds us that we are all connected and what affects one, affects another
- It reminds us how precious our health is
- It reminds us how short life is and what is truly important
- It challenges our materialistic tendencies and how little is really essential
- It reminds us that family comes first and our true work is to look after and protect one another
- It reminds us that the power of free will is in our hands - the power to choose to share, to support and to help co-operate

These are lessons that cannot be packaged in a compact, well-resourced and approved curriculum. They are lessons learnt through life's experiences. Each one of us has learnt a great deal during this time. Last week I came across a reflection piece which asked me to consider what were the unintended benefits emerging from the pandemic in my life, which I began to extend to Holy Spirit. I posed the following to the staff: What do you want to Reduce, Reframe, Remove in our school community?

We were asked to consider:

- **REDUCE:** the clutter, what has become important, core work? Review current initiatives with a view to reducing or clustering them.
- **REFRAME:** strengthen new connections between what was, what is and what is to come?
- **REMOVE:** distractors, (possibly what we once deemed essential).

Some of the many conversations I have had with colleagues and parents have stretched my thinking to what I have reduced, reframed and removed both personally and professionally. I wondered what each member of the extended Holy Spirit community has reduced, reframed and removed? I wondered what the virus has done for us? Please take the time to reflect on the positives that may have come from the COVID-19 pandemic, even if they are minimal.

### **WELCOME BACK**

It has been so good to see so many of our students return to school over the past week and a half in house groups. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone return next week. Unfortunately, while we will have all of our students, we still need to adhere to NSW Government social distancing guidelines, see below for an outline of these restrictions.

### **RETURNING TO SCHOOL PROTOCOLS**

As of Monday, 25th of May, all students from Kinder to Year 6 are expected to return to school as per advice from the NSW Government. All students not attending school will need to notify the school office or lodge through the Compass platform. Drop off and pick-ups will be the same as they have been this week (summary below). We are really looking forward to having life back as normal but for the immediate future, we ask that all parents not enter the school, except to go to the Front Office. If your child has any flu-like symptoms, could you please keep them at home. The student free days planned for Term 2 have been cancelled. We will continue to keep you updated via our Compass and social media platforms.

### **ENROLMENTS**

We are still taking enrolments for Kinder in 2021. It is vital that we receive enrolments forms for all our siblings as soon as possible as we finalise our enrolments for next year.

### **ROAD SAFETY: PICKUPS AND DROP OFFS**

For the safety of our students we ask for all parents to adhere to road rules during drop off and pick up times. There are a number of 'No Standing' areas at the front of the school. Following these rules will not only keep the students safe, but it may also save fines being given out as there have been a number of Police cars who have been monitoring the area around that time. Please find attached the guide we have been advertising on social media.



## STAFFING

Until the end of the term, Mrs Brenda Konecnik will be taking leave from her teaching role. Mrs Sophie Reid will be taking Mrs Konecnik's teaching role and throughout this time, Mrs Di Voss will be teaching in Year 1 to replace Mrs Reid.

## 2021 SCHOOL PHOTOS

This year we changed our format from Homerooms to Year Levels for our photos. We are asking for your input as to which format you prefer for 2021 and beyond. We would appreciate you taking the time to fill in this quick survey: [2021 Photo Survey](#)

**Matt Kean**  
**PRINCIPAL**



## Religious Education



### Pentecost - Sunday 31st May

Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter and 10 days after Ascension Thursday. Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, and the start of the church's mission to the world.

Pentecost is a special time in the history of Holy Spirit School and Parish

1970 - Pentecost Sunday - Parish Launched with title- Holy Spirit Parish

1971- Pentecost Sunday- First stage of the school blessed

1977 - Pentecost Sunday - Holy Spirit Church presbytery bless

1978 - Holy Spirit School Church blessed and opened.

When the Holy Spirit descended to Earth, it sounded like a very strong wind, and it looked like tongues of fire. The apostles then found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit. People passing by at first thought that they must be drunk, but the apostle Peter told the crowd that the apostles were full of the Holy Spirit.



**Confirmation has been cancelled** for the time being. It was due to happen for our Year 6 students on Saturday 30th May. More information will be given at a later date.

Regards,

**Joanne Davies**  
**Religious Education Coordinator.**

## SCHOOL BANKING

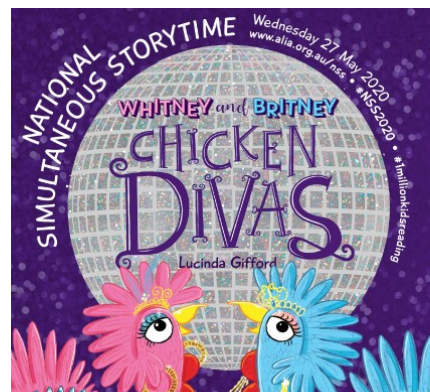
There will be no School Banking this Tuesday, it will remain on hold until further notice.

**Hume Bank**

## LIBRARY NEWS

Library Lessons start again next week. Could all Library Books please be placed in the collection boxes outside classes each day so they can be wiped before going back on the shelves.

Next **Wednesday (27th)** is National Simultaneous Story Time Day for Australia. All classes will be reading the picture book 'Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas' by Lucinda Gifford. More information can be found on [www.alia.org.au/nss](http://www.alia.org.au/nss).



Watch your children's bags in the next couple of weeks for a new Book club catalogue.

## Parent Wellbeing Grief Group

*If you have lost a loved one and are parenting school children you are welcome to join.*

We meet **Wednesdays 1-2pm**  
**on Zoom**

This group is confidential,  
supportive, therapeutic and  
facilitated by our  
School Wellbeing Practitioner  
Counsellor  
Michelle Wood  
For more information contact  
0407 231 085



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*wellbeing for all*

## HOLY SPIRIT IS A **NUT-FREE** SCHOOL

Foods such as Peanut Butter, Nutella and nutty snack bars are not permitted.