



Newsletter 21 Week 9 Term 4

4 December 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This is always a really special part of the year in our school community, particularly a community like Good Shepherd with a strong performance culture and a music specialist like Diana Newman who works so hard to provide unique performance opportunities for the children at our school to spread the Christmas cheer. So a very special time of the year, but also a very busy time of the year with the extra events throughout the last week or so of the school year for the children.

Instrumental Showcase

Last week was a wonderful finale for the children in our school community who performed a piece of music on their chosen instrument. Some children have only recently taken up their instrument and others have been refining their instrumental skills for a number of years as well, but wonderful to see the progress of all the children. This extra breadth of learning opportunity definitely adds extra experiences for the children, particularly as they enter secondary school, congratulations to all who participated.

Preparation for Christmas

St Vincent de Paul Food Drive

A huge thank you to all families who have provided non-perishable food items for our St Vincent De Paul food drive coordinated again by Carrie Archibald. The food items will be passed on to needy families in our local community to ensure a more enjoyable Christmas for the recipients. This tradition at Good Shepherd sends some really good messages to the children about the need for us to support the needy people in our community. Thank you again to all families for their generosity and to Carrie Archibald for her hard work in coordinating this program.

With last Sunday, 1 December being the first day of the Advent season, from a liturgical point of view we have

just begun the Christmas season. From our school point of view, the children have been really busy under Diana Newman's guidance:

Mercy Care Performance

Last Thursday 28 November, our Year 5 and 6 students caught a bus to Mercy Care in Kelmscott to sing a number of Christmas carols for the elderly residents. The students were also given the chance to interact with the residents, and to wish them a Merry Christmas. This event is always a highlight for the Mercy Care residents and our students.

Parish/School Christmas BBQ

Thank you to all the families who joined us for the annual Parish/School Christmas BBQ event last Friday night. The children seem to get very excited in the lead up to the event with the opportunity to perform, as well as catching up with their friends in a relaxed environment at the Church. Once the performances had finished, we had the traditional arrival of the Three Wise Men. A huge thanks to all the families who donated a Christmas gift which will be passed onto less fortunate children in our local community to ensure they have a more enjoyable Christmas.

Year 5 Christmas Stalls

Congratulations to the Year 5 children for the creativity and enterprising way they prepared for the Christmas stalls, before managing them at lunch time on Monday. The stalls generated great excitement in our community throughout the day and there seemed to be a fairly sugar filled lunchtime for some of the children! The support provided by Year 5 parents was crucial, so many thanks to the parents for their time and donations of goodies! Huge thanks also to Sarah Cooper for coordinating the experience for the children in our community. The students raised over \$734.50 for our local St Vincent de Paul group here in the Kelmscott/Armadale area. Well done everyone, it was a huge success!

GSK Christmas Play

This morning we enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Play, again coordinated by Diana Newman, engaging all children from Kindy to Year 3. It was great to see so many parents in attendance celebrating their children performing and sharing some Christmas spirit. The performance culture of our school begins from a very

young age and we were all very proud of the way the children performed so confidently in front of a large audience. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Thanksgiving Mass

Please come and join us tomorrow morning if you are able to, as we gather together at the Church for a whole school Mass to give thanks to God for all of our blessings as we get close to finishing the school year. The Mass begins at 9:30am on Thursday 5 December.

Final Assembly

This Friday is the finale of our Christmas activities with the children singing some Christmas songs between us farewelling a number of staff, presenting leadership badges to the Year 5 recipients in preparation for next year, and presenting the Year 6 awards and the whole class to the community.

This will be part of farewelling our graduating cohort in front of the school community and wishing them well for the future.

Speaking of Christmas spirit, as a staff we are preparing to go out into our local community for half a day next week donating our time to provide some Christmas cheer and service to people who need it. Some staff will be putting together hampers for St Vincent De Paul, while others spend half a day providing a gardening service for elderly members of our parish as well. In the busyness of our lives, we need to remember that Christmas is a season for giving where you can to people who need it most, and this is our opportunity to do that.

End of Year Reports

The end of year school reports have been distributed this afternoon, both in hard copy form and electronically to all families. These reports provide a summary of your child's academic achievements throughout 2024 and also some descriptors and comments identifying your child or children's approach towards their learning as well. Please spend some time with your child/ren celebrating their achievements and pinpointing some areas for further development.

Children's University

For the first time at Good Shepherd, some children in Years 5 and 6 have participated in the Children's

University program. Those students who have met the requirements will be graduating in a special ceremony at Winthrop Hall at UWA this afternoon. This is something we are all looking forward to.

GSK Talent Show

Following the Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday 5 December, the children will have the opportunity to participate in a Talent Show, from 1:30pm. This is another lovely tradition for the children as we celebrate the end of the year, and it is great to see the confidence of the children feeling comfortable to share their talents in front of the school.

Preparation for 2025

Pupil-Free Days

For the benefit of the families looking ahead with their planning into 2025, we have identified the Pupil-Free days for next year:

- Friday, 28 February (end of Week 4, Term 1)
- Tuesday, 4 March (following the long weekend in March)
- Monday, 28 April (day 1 of Term 2)
- Tuesday, 3 June (following the long weekend in June)
- Friday, 7 November (end of Week 4, Term 4)
- Monday, 10 November (start of Week 5, Term 4)

Finally, on behalf of our school community, I would like to wish all families a very safe, holy and enjoyable Christmas season and a wonderful start to the new year, we look forward to seeing the children again on **Wednesday, 5 February** for the first day of the 2025 school year.

Best wishes for the coming fortnight.

Paul Hansen

Principal



Carpark Safety

For the safety of our whole School community, please remember to slow down and adhere to the 8km speed limit whilst using our carpark.

Your co-operation is appreciated.

Uniform Shop

Thank you for your support in 2024, and we wish Mrs Aldworth a long and happy retirement! We look forward to serving you in 2025, both online via www.quickcliq.com.au and, in person on Fridays from 8:00am - 9:15am.

[Click here for the Uniform Policy](#)

School Fees

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your fees, please contact me at accounts@gsk.wa.edu.au or 9496 9292.

Jenny Marion-Clark

Finance Officer

2024 End of Year Functions

Please find listed below the details for several functions that are occurring before the end of the year. We look forward to sharing these special occasions with you.

Thanksgiving Mass

Date: **Thursday, 5 December 2024**

Time: 9.30am

Participants: All students, Pre-Primary – Year 6 and families.

Where: Good Shepherd Church, Streich Avenue Kelmscott

Dress: Full Summer uniform

Final Assembly

(Including the Year 2 & Year 6 Buddy Dance, 2024 Year Six Awards, 2025 Student Leadership Announcements)

Date: **Friday, 6 December 2024** (last day of school)

Time: 9.00am

Where: Undercover Area

The assembly will include the Year Two and Year Six Buddy Dance, the Year Six presentation of the "Reindeer Rap", announcement of 2024 Year Six awards and 2025 Leadership roles.



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal

Thank you for your generosity!



Calendar of Events

Thursday, 5 December - Thanksgiving Mass

Friday, 6 December - Final Assembly and last day of Term 4

Monday, 3 February - Uniform Shop open 8:00am - 9:00am

Wednesday, 5 February - Students return to school

[Click for the Current Calendar](#)



[Canteen Menu](#)

CANTEEN

The Canteen will be closed on Friday, 6 December 2024.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who help in the canteen. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Parent Helpers must sign in at the office before going to the canteen.

Wendy, Canteen Manager

[Order Canteen Here](#)

Enrolments 2026

Enrolments are now open for 2026 Kindergarten and our 2026 Three Year Old Pre-Kindergarten Program.

Please contact admin@gsk.wa.edu.au for an enrolment form.

Families with siblings are also required to submit an enrolment form.

Enrolments in some other Year groups are also available.

[Your child's journey starts HERE](#)



Camp Australia - Before and After School Care

Bookings for Your OSHC program are open. Registration is free for all families. We recommend that all families register so if you ever need or want to attend, all you need to do is book your session as we'll already have all the documentation we need from you. You simply have to login and register through our Parent Portal, also available as a smartphone app, and start booking.

[Camp Australia Information](#)

Dental Therapy Van

The Dental Therapy Van is now located at Roleystone Community College, 90 Raeburn Road (van is located off Brooks Rd), Roleystone, until further notice. Our phone number is 0428 304 970




Top Tips

A healthy self-esteem is one of the building blocks of resilience in young people. The way we speak to them - and about ourselves - shapes how they view themselves. Over time, this becomes their inner voice, making it essential to lead by example.

Tip of the week: Model the confidence you want your child to feel

When you show self-acceptance and speak positively about your own challenges, you teach your child to believe in themselves. Young people with healthy self-esteem feel capable, valuable, and more prepared to take on life's challenges.

 **Try this:** When your child takes on something new or challenging, say, "I love how brave you are for trying this!" Pair it with statements about your own growth, like, "I'm proud of myself for learning something new today too."

By modeling self-confidence and encouraging your child to see their own value, you're helping them build resilience and set the stage for healthy relationships and behaviours as they grow.

[Read more](#)

"Better Health Program"

"You say all the right things to your kids, but they don't always listen to you. So I think hearing it from someone else and hearing so much of the reasoning why all of the different healthy choices we make are important, coming from someone else makes such a big difference."

"I felt like I knew a lot of stuff about being healthy but I didn't quite know how to package that up into a way that I could explain it to the kids and so I wanted to come and learn with them so that we learnt together." – Alex, mum of 3 on the Better Health Program at Bounce

The [Better Health Program](#) is a free 10-week initiative focusing on healthy eating, physical activity, sleep, and screen time for primary-aged children. Each child receives free resources, and families are supported by a dietitian or nutritionist each week.



Online places are available for immediate start!



Group sessions are available at BOUNCE locations in Cannington, Osborne Park, and Joondalup for Term 1 2025. Register now before spots fill up!



Visit betterhealthprogram.org/wa or call 1300 822

Children must be between 6-12 years old and above a healthy weight unless referred by a health professional."

Lumen Christi College

Instrumental Program 2025

Enrolments for Music lessons 2025 are now open for Drums, Guitar, Piano, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone and Trumpet.

For information and enrolment, please click on the button below

[Lumen Christi Instrumental Program](#)

Community News

Camp Australia - [Rocketeers Holiday Program](#)

Camp Australia - [Bookings for 2025](#)

Better Health Program - [Better Health Program](#)

Bricks4Kidz - [Bricks4Kidz Holiday Workshops](#)

Roleystone Junior Football Club - [Auskick Girls Only, Auskick 2025](#)

Rotary Club - [World Festival of Magic - FREE event](#)

City of Armadale - [Summer Reading Quest](#)



Good Shepherd Catholic Parish Kelmscott - Fr Pavol Herda

Parish Office: 42 Streich Avenue, Kelmscott

Parish Website: www.goodshepherdkelmscott.com

Parish Email: kelmscott@perthcatholic.org.au

Phone: 9495 1489 Office (Wed & Fri 9am-12pm) (Thurs - 12 to 3pm)

Presbytery: 9495 1204

Sacred Heart Parish - 1643 Canning Road, Karragullen - Sunday Mass: 8.30am

Masses at our Parish Church

Weekday Masses: Mon-Wed & Friday 8am Thursday: 6.30pm

Saturday: 8.00am, 6.00pm

8.00pm: Neocatechumenal Mass

Sunday: 8.30am Latin Mass

Sunday: 10:00am and 6:00pm

Reconciliation - Saturday 5-6.00pm

When attending Mass you are strongly encouraged to maintain physical distancing where possible and not to attend Mass if you are feeling unwell.

[Click here for the Latest Bulletin](#)



Insight Series
for families

Tips for transitioning to Big School

Free webinar

Monday 9th December
4:30pm AWST



with

Dr Kaylene Henderson

Child Psychiatrist, Parenting Expert and Mum



We know that starting school is a big milestone for families, often filled with excitement but also some challenges and uncertainty. With this in mind, we've created the Tips for Transitioning to Big School event to offer practical guidance from one of Australia's leading parenting experts (and mum of three 'Big Schoolers'), Dr Kaylene Henderson. Please join us for this live event.



Register here



by  Camp Australia

 Share

 Forward

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