

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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21st August 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

RELIGIOUS LITERACY

The Bishops of NSW and ACT in 'Catholic Schools at a Crossroads' invite educational leaders and staff, clergy and religious, parents and parish communities, to dedicate themselves to ensuring that our schools are "truly Catholic in their identity and life" and "enable our students to achieve high levels of 'Catholic religious literacy' and practice."

With you, we are concerned to develop children's literacy in every area of learning, and this includes Religious Education. In one sense, a focus on 'religious literacy' is not new. Religious Education in Catholic schools has always aimed to develop children's capacity to express their growing understanding, appreciation, thoughts, questions and insights into God, Jesus, the Scriptures, the Church, the Sacraments, Prayer and life as a Christian. This is essential to their participation in the religious life of the school and the parish.

There is also a religious literacy that is needed for life in a multicultural society. Increasingly we love, live and work, learn and serve with people of differing cultures, Christian traditions, world religions and other people of goodwill. Religious literacy assists people to communicate and cooperate with other citizens in creating a more just and compassionate Australian society. Religious literacy also assists people in their work and in their relationships with family, friends and in the workplace.

Teachers are continually assessing students' learning and reporting to you on their developing religious literacy. In addition to this school-based assessment, and in consultation with the Parramatta Diocesan Schools Board, all Year 4 and Year 6 students in Primary and Year 8 and Year 10 students in Secondary will participate in a Diocesan Assessment of their religious literacy. Students in these grades will complete an online assessment during Term 3, Week 7. The students will answer a series of multiple choice questions related to their learning in Religious Education.

In addition, Year 4 students only will complete a variety of learning tasks related to the Religious Education unit, Reconciliation: God's Forgiveness and Healing. Their achievement in completing these tasks will be formally assessed. A report based on students' completion of these assessments will be forwarded to parents during Term 4.

We continue to delight in the goodness and faith of all our children. With you, we are dedicated to their learning, their wellbeing and their continued growth and development as people made in the image and likeness of God.

Should you require further information, please contact Mrs Anne Watson or any of the class teachers.

Regards,
Lesley Studans
Principal

Anne Watson
Acting Religious Education