HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE EDMONTON NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 , WEEK 4

Principal's Message



Over the past few weeks, I have been fortunate to spend time across many parts of our Holy Spirit College community. From attending a Yarn Up gathering in Hopevale and catching up with the Cooktown crew, to spending time with young people and staff at our Edmonton campus; I have constantly been reminded of the power of relationships and the importance of communities working together to support our young people.

The **Hopevale Yarn Up** brought together representatives from schools, community organisations and government agencies to discuss how we can better collaborate to meet the needs of young people and their families. It was a wonderful opportunity to listen, learn and share ideas.

The forum acknowledged that positive outcomes for young people occur when families, schools and communities work together with a shared commitment to their wellbeing and future.

I have also greatly enjoyed spending time at our **Edmonton** campus over recent weeks. Every campus within Holy Spirit College has its own unique character, and it has been a privilege to connect more deeply with the young people and staff at Edmonton, to observe learning in action and to witness the **strong sense of belonging** that exists within the community.

Last week, I was both humbled and surprised when Durm O'Riordan, Executive Director of Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns, visited our Manoora campus to present me with an acknowledgement recognising twenty years of service within Catholic Education. While I am grateful for the recognition, milestones such as this inevitably invite reflection. Looking back over two decades in Catholic education, one enduring truth stands out: **young people flourish when they are surrounded by adults who genuinely care about them, stop and listen to their needs, and above all, treat them with respect and dignity.** In fact, I think we all require these conditions to flourish, as they reflect a respect for our basic human dignity.

Many of these experiences have caused me to reflect further on the theme of **hope** that I introduced in our previous newsletter, acknowledging that the research tells us (Edwards et al., 2007) that hope emerges through a combination of **WillPower** and **WayPower.**

Hope is one of the great gifts of the Holy Spirit and sits at the very heart of our Christian faith. Hope is not simply wishful thinking or optimism that things might somehow work out.

Rather, hope is the belief that tomorrow can be better than today and that, with the support of others, we can take meaningful steps towards that future.

Throughout this year, our Leadership Team has been engaged in a process of discerning the future direction of Holy Spirit College. Through prayer and as we reflected on the needs, strengths and aspirations of our young people, hope consistently emerged as the foundation upon which meaningful growth and transformation occur. Teasing this apart, and consulting the research, we came to understand that hope grows when young people have a strong sense of purpose **(WhyPower)**, supportive relationships **(WePower)**, confidence in their own abilities **(WillPower)** and clear pathways towards their goals **(WayPower**).

This understanding now sits at the heart of what we describe as our Pedagogy of Hope. Put simply, our work as educators at Holy Spirit College is to create the conditions where hope can flourish. We do this by building relationships, developing skills, nurturing aspirations and walking alongside young people as they navigate life's challenges and opportunities.



Whether I am sharing ideas with community partners in Hopevale, connecting with students at Edmonton, or reflecting on twenty years of service in Catholic education, I am continually reminded that hope is not built in isolation. Hope grows through relationships, belonging and a shared belief in the potential of our college, its staff, our families and most importantly every young person in our care.

May we continue to work together to create communities where hope flourishes and every young person is empowered to become all that God is calling them to be.

Take care and stay strong!

Dr Lucas Felstead
Principal



HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE

Edmonton Campus News



Mr Dan McMahon
Acting Head of Campus

Welcome to the first Edmonton campus newsletter for Term 4. While our whole College newsletters will continue to be published during the first and last even weeks of each term, these Edmonton-specific editions provide an opportunity to celebrate the learning, relationships and community life that make our campus such a special place.

As many of our young people are aware, Toni is currently on leave. On behalf of the Edmonton community, I would like to acknowledge her ongoing contribution to our campus and wish her well whilst she is away. The great news is that whilst Toni is on leave, we have been able to secure the services of Mr Dan McMahon, who will be stepping in as the Edmonton Head of Campus for a few weeks. In the meantime, it is my privilege to share this first Edmonton campus newsletter with you and provide a snapshot of the wonderful learning and engagement I have observed across the campus in recent weeks.

One of the first things I have noticed this term is the positive energy that has accompanied an increase in student enrolments, which is a strong affirmation of the work being undertaken at Edmonton and of the supportive, relationship-focused environment that staff work hard to create each day. As young people have returned for Term 4, there has been a genuine sense of purpose across the campus. Students have settled quickly into the rhythm and routines of college life, demonstrating positive attitudes towards their learning and strong connections with both staff and peers.

A particularly pleasing aspect of each morning is, when possible, standing out the front of the college and welcoming young people as they arrive for the day. Between 8:15am and 9:00am, the campus comes alive as students enjoy breakfast prepared by our wonderful cook, Emi, and spend time socialising with their peers, often engaging in a game of basketball or Uno before the formal learning day begins. These moments are critical for many of our young people as they provide an opportunity to build a sense of belonging, strengthen relationships and create the foundations for successful learning.

Perhaps most impressive has been how smoothly students transition from these social opportunities into their learning sessions. Classrooms quickly become calm, purposeful spaces where young people engage with their learning and continue to develop important skills across Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy.

During Term 4, students are exploring a range of learning experiences designed to support both their academic growth and their personal development. In Literacy, students focus on communication, self-expression and reflection. In Numeracy, learning is centred on practical real-world applications, including working with data, identifying patterns, measurement and problem-solving. Within Wellbeing, students are continuing to strengthen important life skills such as emotional regulation, resilience, participation, positive decision-making and preparation for future pathways.

In the coming weeks, families will receive their young person's Individual Education Plan (IEP) for review. The IEP sits at the heart of our work at Holy Spirit College. It helps us develop a deep understanding of each young person, their strengths, aspirations, goals and support needs. Through the IEP process, staff work collaboratively with students and families to design personalised learning experiences that are meaningful, achievable and responsive to individual circumstances.

We value the contributions families make to this process and encourage you to take the opportunity to review and discuss your young person's goals with them when these plans are shared. If you could also please sign and return these documents to us via front reception, it would be greatly appreciated

Staff have also commenced the important work of preparing Semester Two reports. Our reporting process focuses on recognising growth, celebrating achievement and acknowledging the progress each young person has made throughout the semester. Reports provide families with an overview of learning within Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy, as well as each student's elective subjects. Most importantly, they highlight the strengths of each young person and the growth they have achieved throughout the year.

As a Catholic learning community, we also take time to pause and remember those who have gone before us. At approximately 1:15pm on Monday 2 November, the Edmonton campus will gather for an All Souls Day Liturgy. This liturgy provides an opportunity to remember and pray for loved ones who have died, while reflecting on the hope that sits at the heart of our faith. Parents, carers and family members are warmly invited to join us for this special occasion.

Finally, I would like to remind families that our **Annual End of Year Celebration** will be held on **Thursday 26 November 10am - 12noon**. This is a great event to send the young people off on a positive note. In addition to recognising students through a range of awards, we also look forward to showcasing the talents of our young people through musical performances and an art exhibition.

As we head into the final few weeks, I would like to thank our students, families and staff for the positive start to Term 4. As they say, it takes a village to raise a child, so let's keep working together to give our young people every opportunity to thrive in this complex and challenging world.

I look forward to celebrating many more successes with you throughout the remainder of the term.

Take care and stay strong!

Dr Lucas Felstead
Principal





Deputy Principal – Engagement Wellbeing & Learning



What if wellbeing isn't something that sits alongside learning, but is part of how learning happens?

At Holy Spirit College, we are challenging ourselves to think differently about what a young person needs to learn.

Feeling safe matters. Connection matters. Being understood matters. So do consistency, clear expectations and learning how to manage emotions, relationships and challenges.

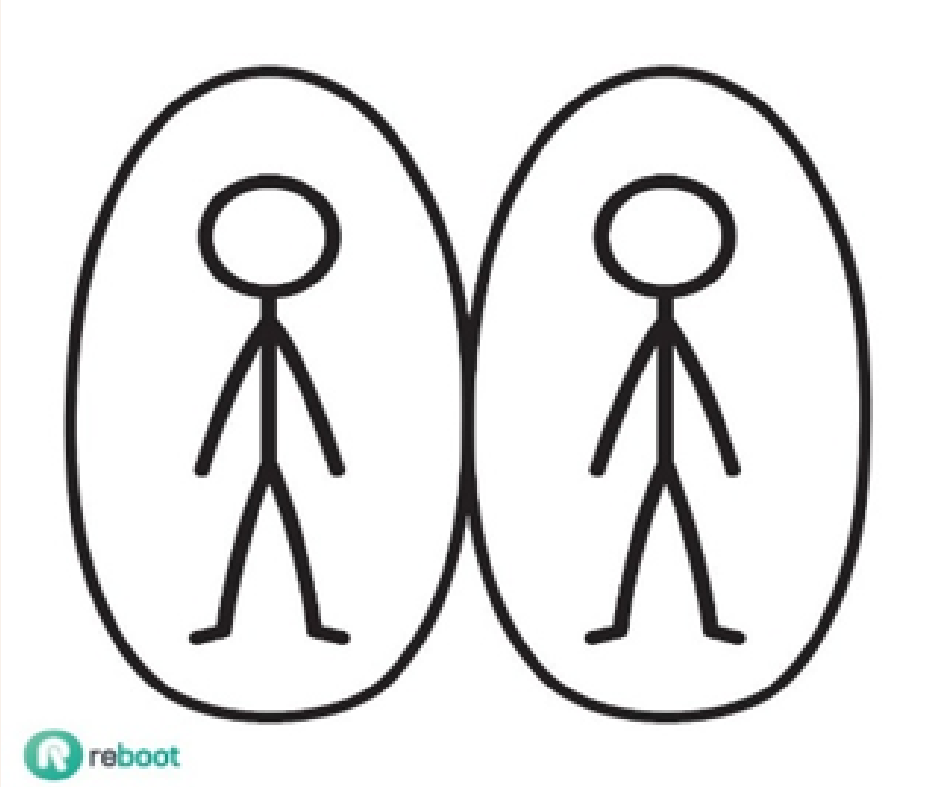
Our Wellbeing curriculum deliberately develops these skills through learning about identity, emotions, relationships, communication, safety and strategies that support wellbeing. These aren't things we attend to before the 'real learning' begins. They are part of the learning. The connection works both ways: wellbeing supports learning, and experiencing success in learning can build confidence, belonging and wellbeing.

We don't want to remove every challenge or solve every problem for a young person. We want to help them develop the skills, confidence and understanding to increasingly navigate challenges for themselves.

Perhaps the conversation doesn't need to start with *What did you learn today?* - Try asking - *What helped you learn today?*

Robyn Arri
Deputy Principal

We are here to help you, help you. Power With! (Reboot)



HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE

Term 4 Key Dates

TERM 4	(8 Weeks)
~~King's Birthday Public Holiday~~	~~Monday 5 October~~
~~School Starts~~	~~Tuesday 6 October~~
~~World Mental Health Day~~	~~Saturday 10 October~~
College Board Meeting (HSM)	Tuesday 27 October
World Teachers Day	Friday 30 October
All Souls School Liturgy	Monday 2 November
Remembrance Day	Wednesday 11 November
College Board Meeting Dinner	Tuesday 24 November
Edmonton Northern Outlook Day	Wednesday 25 November
All Sites Last Day - End of year celebration	Thursday 26 November
HSC office closes	Friday 4 December

HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE

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