HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE MANOORA 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

Deputy Principal – Head of Campus Manoora



Welcome to the first edition of Holy Spirit Manoora newsletter.

We are proud to share the many achievements, activities and community partnerships that have enriched learning and wellbeing throughout the month. Thank you to our students, families, staff and community members for your ongoing support and encouragement.

MANOORA COLLEGE OCTOBER HUB NEWS

■ **Celebrating Seniors Month**

Students this term will visit community members including time at Bupa Residential Aged Care, building connections across generations.

■ **Learning in Action**

Our science activities were a hit, with students enthusiastically engaging in volcano experiments, and hands-on learning experiences.

■ **Diversity and Inclusion**

We welcomed support from Antonella Grant, Occupational Therapist and Roshni Dullaway, Diversity Consultant from CEDC to support our young people.

We also welcomed Durm O'Riordan, Executive Director of CEDC to spend time at the college and to present Lucas with his milestone achievement.

■ **Pastoral Care and Wellbeing**

Students continue to participate enthusiastically in self-care classes and wellbeing activities which are a part of the approach we take to support young people to start their day well and learn to use their strategies for a successful day.

■ Community Partnerships

OzHarvest continues to support our community with weekly food drop offs that greatly contribute to the food supply to feed our young people. We have community police connections as well which has been a great way for our young people to build positive relationships with police. ATW training has been going well with 4 young people regularly engaging in a small engines program to learn new skills and see if that is the direction they would like to go in the future.

■ Student Activities

Young people have enjoyed our Wednesday programs with Beach Art, Woodwork, Cooking and Outdoor Activities plus our outing days and the Booyah program on Wednesdays.

■ Looking Ahead

Staff and students are preparing for end-of-year celebrations and reporting. There will also be consent forms sent out soon for free hearing tests for young people at the school which will help us to support them the best we can.

Congratulations Dr Lucas Felstead!

During a special staff and student gathering, Lucas was presented with a certificate for 20 Years of Service in Catholic Education and a commemorative gift in recognition of this outstanding achievement.

We congratulate Lucas on this remarkable achievement and thank him for his leadership, dedication and commitment to our students, staff and wider community.

Thank you for your outstanding contribution to Catholic Education and for the positive difference you continue to make within the Manoora Campus.



Steve Hamm
Head of Campus









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.

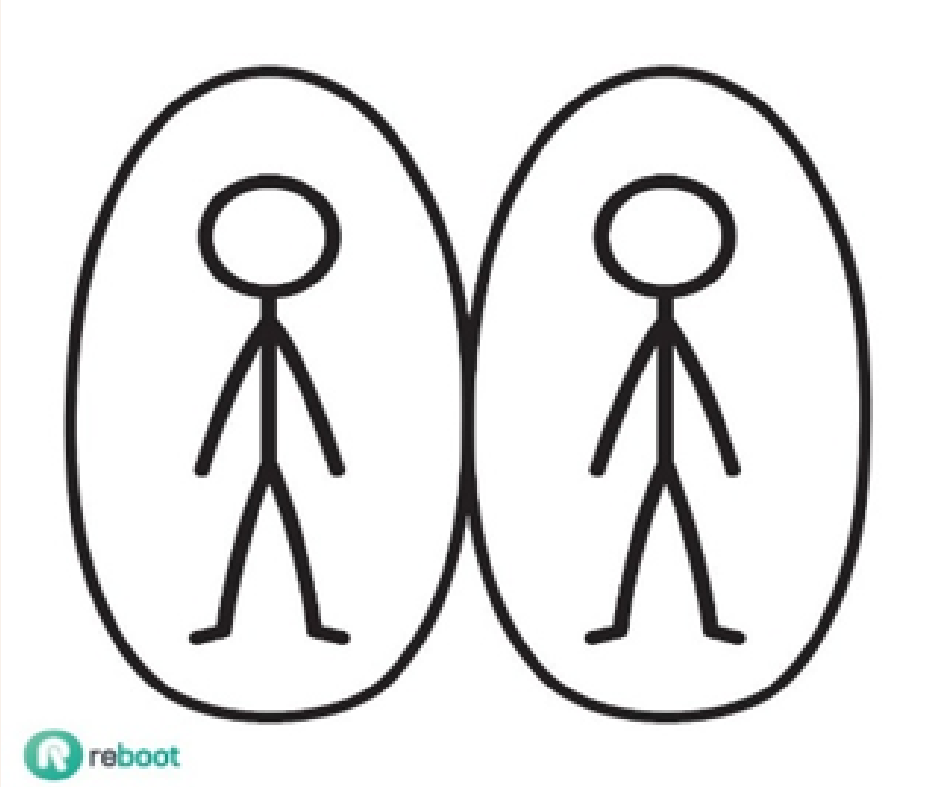
Our Wellbeing curriculum deliberately develops these skills through learning about identity, emotions, relationships, communication, safety and strategies that support wellbeing. These aren't things we attend to before the 'real learning' begins. They are part of the learning. The connection works both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