

90 Seconds with the Principal

WATCH VIDEO



"How many things we own that we do not give away because we feel so attached to them. It is better to have less in order to give it all to Jesus."

Mother Teresa



First Reconciliation

Keeping with the policies of the Diocese of Parramatta the Parish's Sacramental Programme is a **parish based, family centred, school supported** programme. This means the programme is run through the parish and is not conducted by the schools. Students enrolled in the programme will have the information they receive during the preparation sessions supported by learning in their RE classes at school.

The Sacramental Programme is open to all children baptised in the Catholic Church and whose family have made Sacred Heart their primary place of worship. The school your child attends does not have a bearing on eligibility for participation in the programme. Children baptised in a Protestant, Anglican or Orthodox tradition ought to approach their own denomination for sacramental preparation.

Baptised Catholics seven years of age or older are eligible to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance (commonly called Reconciliation or Confession).

Enrolment forms for First Reconciliation can be collected from the Sacred Heart Parish Church Westmead while attending Mass during the period 10th-24th October 2015. *Enrolment forms are not available from schools.*

If you require any further information please contact the Parish Office on 9635-9262 during office hours.

Kindergarten 2016 Parent Information Evening (PIE)



We had a wonderful welcome to our new 2016 parents this week. The night commenced with a warm welcome from our Parish Priest, Fr Walter followed by an address about the MTP vision from Mr Borg. There was an opportunity for parents to learn about how to prepare their children for Kindergarten and assist them with their numeracy development. The evening concluded with a number of information 'stalls' including Year 6 students displaying their iPad skills, packing a healthy lunch box, installing our Skoolbag App and Uniforms. We look forward to welcoming our new students to MTP in the near future.

Scholastic Book Club



Just a reminder that Book Club is online. All payments are by Credit Card only through the LOOP system.

Book Club closes **22nd October**.

- **Friday, 30th October**

Pupil Free Day—Staff
Spirituality Day

- **Monday, 9th—Thursday, 12th November**

Kindergarten 2016
Orientation Sessions

9:00am—11:05am

Canteen Price List

[Click Here](#)



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose



Developing your child's social media scripts

It's important to start conversations with children about using social media at a young age to prepare them to be savvy users when we're not around.

"If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well."

This mantra always pops into mind whenever I'm about to cut some corners or do a rushed job in any endeavour. As a result I double-check every article I write for mistakes. I over prepare every talk I give. And I continually edit and re-edit my books. This message keeps me at the top of my game.

I can thank, or blame, my mother for inserting this mantra in my mind as she repeated it whenever I did a rushed job as a youngster making my bed, doing homework or cleaning up my bathroom mess.

Parents of every generation have always found ways to frame messages of safety and success for their children to remember. Parents of past generations who only had to contend with the offline or real world intuitively knew that they needed to teach child important lessons about safety and manners rather than assume they'll be understood.

The same maxim holds true for the world of social media that children now inhabit from an increasingly young age. Even though our children are growing up with technology as a part of their every day lives, they will still make plenty of mistakes while using it. This means we need to have direct conversations with our kids about the comments and posts that are okay to make using social media of all forms.

As parents we teach our kids to talk politely and clearly so that they know how to speak to others when we're not around. In effect, we give our kids social scripts to fall back on when they talk to friends, teachers and relatives. There's no guarantee they'll look an adult in the eye when they speak to them, but our discussions, reminders and lessons about manners will hopefully hold up when we're not around.

The same applies to social media. Our conversations and lessons will prepare them to be savvy users when we're not

around. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1 "Is this worth posting?"

The relatively impersonal nature of social media means that we can post information and pictures with relative immunity. Also its immediacy means that we can do so without much thought. This means that kids need to be very critical about what they see online. 'Is this accurate?' and 'Is this worth posting?' are two valid questions children can ask when they read posts placed by others.

2 "Have you taken a big breath?"

A child who blurts out everything that comes into his mind without thinking is sure to put plenty of people offside. 'Think before you speak' is the type of message that every child should have in mind.

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... Developing your child's social media scripts ...

The same applies to social media. Just because they think something doesn't mean they post it. 'Take a big breath' may just about be the most important message to give your kids about social media.

3 "Do you want the principal to see this?!"

An invitation to a teenage birthday party posted on social media is one way to get more attendees than you bargained for! The viral nature of social media means that kids should only post messages and photos that they want to be spread and read by a large audience.

4 "How does this post make you feel?"

We need to teach kids that not every post needs to be commented upon and not every thought needs to be shared, particularly when they are angry. Teaching them to walk away and then to step back in when they've calmed down is perhaps the most important communication lesson of all. It is very relevant to social media as emotions are often the last thing on many people's minds when they haphazardly post a message.

5 "How will you fix this?"

Social media just like any social space requires kids to behave ethically and with kindness. When kids overstep the mark and post hurtful things then it's fair that they fix their mistakes, and apologise. It's reasonable that we teach our children to act with tolerance and with empathy online, and if mean things are posted then they should be expected to try to repair relationships through social media, just as they should offline.

I agree with *Galit Breen* author of *Kindness Wins* who says that parents should have conversations with children around social media before they reach the teenage years. Starting these conversations when they are younger means that they are more open to our parenting opinions, as well as being a little more amenable to the messages of tolerance, kindness and empathy that we need to encourage.

Michael Grose



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