



Semester 1, 2017

Yeronga State School & Yeronga State High School Chaplaincy **NEWSLETTER**



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Hi friends.

It's been another great semester, filled with wonderful opportunities to connect and serve in my school communities.

I've been able to do my job well because of the Local Chaplaincy Committees supporting me, helping with vision, supporting events and fundraising activities, and generally "having my back". Both LCCs are made up of staff, parents and community representatives and are a great blessing to me.

Thank you to:

YSS Chaplaincy Committee - Carla, Sue, Andrea, Ps Neil, & Diana (& previously Evelyn & Yvonne)

YSHS Chaplaincy Committee - Jessica, Jennifer W, Jenny F, Domini, Vicky, & Ps Angelo

Also, I want to acknowledge the support from the ministries at:
Annerley Baptist Church
Fairfield Christian Family
Hillsong Youth Services
Hope Centre Brisbane
Salvation Army South Brisbane
The Embassy Youth

In this edition, I thought I'd answer some of most commonly asked questions I'm asked about Chaplaincy. Here goes...

What does a Chaplain do?

Lots of things! Anything that can help support students, their families, and staff. This semester I've helped with...



Breakfast with Chappy

- Feeding 25-100 students per week
- Survey of YSHS eating habits
- Contacting community agencies for support

Welfare support

- Food and other goods to families
- Uniforms, books and stationery
- Referrals to community agencies

Pastoral Care

- A "listening ear"
- Referrals for professional support
- Follow-up care
- Hospital and home visits
- Attending funerals and providing comfort through grief and loss
- Lots of cards and letters

Spiritual Support

- Spiritual conversations
- Muslim Prayer Rooms
- Question of the Week on Assembly
- Prayer for school

Assembly messages, including...

- Random Acts of Kindness
- Harmony Day
- Think before you Speak
- Healthy Eating Habits

Support of special needs students

- With a safe place to go at lunchtime
- Connecting the school with community organisations



Group Programs

- Fun Friends & Friends for Life – helping children learn friendship skills and to cope with anxiety
- Thursday Club – lunch time activities, craft and games
- Shine – a program for girls to help them understand their unique value and worth

Other important things

- International Women's Day Breakfast
- Harmony Day Celebrations
- RSL Padre – Anzac Day Service
- P&C meetings
- Connection with politicians & the Local Minister's Fraternal
- Chappy Week
- Mentoring of new Chaplains
- Representative for my district of 50 Chaplains in Chappy Excellence Group meetings



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Do I get to have spiritual conversations?

Yes. I also get asked to pray with and for people, and have been asked all sorts of questions about faith and spirituality, but it is only a small part of what I do.

I also support people of all faith backgrounds, helping them in their own spiritual journey, and if necessary directing them to find answers from their own faith leaders and resources. I adhere to a strict Code of Conduct, Guidelines of the NSCSWP, and respect other people's views, values and beliefs.

While it is not appropriate for me to share about my own spirituality, I still am motivated by my faith to care and love people, particularly those who are in need.



How is Chaplaincy funded?

NSCP funding:

- Federal Funding passed on through the State Government to the school then to SUQLD.
- Partly funds 2 days at each school

Fundraising balance of wage & purchase of resources through:

- Sale of the Entertainment Book j.mp/chappybook
- Chaplaincy events e.g. Camp at School with Dad, Chappy's Movie Night, RiverFire Function

Sponsorship:

- Some regular small monthly sponsorship

- Larger one-off gifts (usually EOFY) *Donations are greatly appreciated:*
- School Start-up fund specifically for getting students school-ready (uniforms, books, stationery)
- Donations of old uniforms, books, toys, hampers
- Donations of breakfast foods



Do I have some "Stories"?

There are so many to choose from, but here are a few stories...

On school photo day, I found a young girl very distressed because she believed she wasn't beautiful and didn't like her photo being taken. We talked about the concept of beauty, and I used my set of "Strength" cards (e.g. caring, honest, creative, etc.) to guide the discussion. She realised she had 17 strengths to be proud about. She walked out with her head held high!

A YSHS student visits me every time I'm in the school, and often multiple times throughout the day. On those visits, he chats, has breakfast, talks through issues at school and home, and we sort through any needs he might have. My office has become a safe place where he can come and have respite from a difficult life and receive a little bit of TLC.

I have journeyed for a number of years with a YSS family with a number of different needs in and out of school, including welfare support and access to community services.

An important job I do at YSHS is to supervise the Muslim prayer rooms, making sure the students are not interrupted, and also that they are behaving! On one of these occasions, a Buddhist student came up to me and initiated a conversation about Christian prayer. That was quite an interesting and powerful conversation!

How can you get involved?

You can help to write some more stories at both my schools! Have you thought of volunteering, making donations to support a project, or contributing financially to ensure the Chaplaincy programs continue and are well resourced. Here are some events that I would love some help with:

YSHS

- Multicultural Day 18/8 – help with "Aussie Breakfast" and lunchtime sale of ice-creams
- Breakfast with Chappy every Monday morning
- Riverfire Fundraising Dinner 30/9

YSS

- Chappy's Movie Night 28/7
- Camp at School with Dad

You can also financially help by:

- Making a tax-deductible donation by choosing my schools at... <http://www.suqld.org.au/donate>
- Purchase an Entertainment Book for yourself or as a present from... j.mp/chappybook



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