

16th June 2017



## MTP Parent University - Wednesday, 21st June - 6.00-6.45pm

After parent feedback and reflection, we are continuing our **MTP Parent University**. This is an opportunity for **ALL** parents to learn, increase their skills and collaborate on topics related to your child's learning.

Constable Chris Liplyn, our Police Youth Liaison Officer will be presenting ways to help you keep yourself and your child safe using the internet. This presentation will be targeted to parents and some staff will be available to supervise Mother Teresa students during the presentation. Unfortunately, toddlers are unable to be supervised by staff.

If you haven't already registered your interest in attending, please complete this [Parent University—attendance form](#).

## Bingo/Disco Night - Friday, 4th August 2017

Your child will be receiving a note about our annual family community event. This is a wonderful night to enjoy each others company, have some fun and dance! To assist with the evening each Learning Studio has been asked to donate items for our prizes to accompany our raffle. If your business (or one that you know) would like to donate a special prize for the raffle please contact the office with the details.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

The staff of MTP



## GOD IS

The mystery of the one true God is expressed in the mystery of the Trinity. God reveals himself to us in a variety of ways. God reveals himself through the Father, the source of life, of the universe, with every living thing created through and in love. God is revealed in the person of Jesus, who modelled the perfect life for us, taught us and showed us the face of the Father, unconditional love, forgiveness, sacrifice, and salvation. God is revealed through the Spirit stirring within us, calling us to be what we are meant to be. So, how are we revealing God to the world? Are we creators, builders, motivated by love and respect for life? Are we the face of Jesus to everyone we meet? Do we allow the Spirit to stir us, move us, shake us into loving action, to work for peace, for justice and God's Kingdom?

Maria Boyd REC

Imagine you were on the street on a cold winter day and you were wearing shorts and a singlet. You'd be freezing! People on the street live like that every winter! You see people on the street, but do you stop and give them the time of day? This winter you can support the needy and give them hope by giving them warm clothes that are new or near new, they may not fit, but that are still in good condition. **You are able to donate clothes in the last 4 weeks of this term.** Give them hope this winter. Give them clothes.

Mini Vinnies.



*"Love the poor. Do you know the poor of your place, of your city? Find them. Maybe they are right in your own family."*

St Teresa of Kolkata

## Important Dates:

- Wednesday, 21st June**  
Celebration of Learning  
4:30pm - 6:00pm  
  
Parent University—  
Cybersafety  
6:00pm - 6:45pm
- Friday, 30th June**  
Last Day Term 2
- Monday, 17th July**  
First Day Term 3
- Friday, 4th August**  
Bingo / Disco Family Night
- Monday, 7th August**  
Staff Development Day

## Tuckshop-2-U

"In purchasing your child's tuckshop order online through Tuckshop2U, you are contracting directly with the supplier. You are responsible for checking that the ingredients of what you order are not incompatible with your child's sensitivities or health issues. Please ensure you check the disclaimers in the supplier's website. If in doubt you should contact the supplier."

### Lunch Order Cancellations

If your child is absent from school on a day that you have ordered lunch, cancellations can be made through the **Tuckshop-2-U** website by **8:00am** the day of.



## 2017 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to those students who have completed the Premier's Reading Challenge.

For those students who are yet to finish you have until the 25th August 2017. Be sure to keep adding to your Premier's Reading Challenge list over the school holidays.

Happy Reading!



### MISSING SCHOOL = MISSING OUT

Early primary children learn new sounds and words every day. These are important building blocks upon which all future learning is built.

Help your children achieve their best by getting them to school on time every day.

every learner  
every day 



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta





## Anxiety in Primary School Kids

By Dr Jodi Richardson



***Anxiety affects people from all walks of life, and lots of kids have it. If that's what's happening in your family, your little one is lucky that you know, care, and are seeking answers.***

The idea that one of our kids might be experiencing anxiety sets off all sorts of alarm bells in us as parents. It's fair to say it makes us anxious ourselves, and has us asking all sorts of questions like "What does it mean?", "What's 'normal'?" and "What can I do to help?"

Like anything else in life, the more informed we are about anxiety, the calmer and more empowered we'll feel, enabling us to support and advise our precious kids through their challenges and seeking help when needed.

That's what this article is about. Giving you the facts and helping to settle your mind so that you can begin to help them settle theirs.

Before reading on, I want you to close your eyes and take three long, slow breaths in and out... Depending on what you're up to right now, you may indeed be experiencing a level of anxiety at the moment, and this breathing exercise will help.

Okay, let's get you some answers to those questions.

### **Anxiety, what is it anyway?**

Anxiety is a feeling. We've all experienced it. It's a completely normal reaction under dangerous or stressful circumstances. Perhaps you've narrowly avoided a car accident. Your heart pounds, your breathing becomes shallow and fast, your body floods with adrenaline to put you on red alert, your blood pressure goes up, you might perspire, and glucose dumps from your muscles into your bloodstream. All of this is preparing you to face up to the 'threat' or run like heck in the other direction. This is 'fight or flight' in action.

This reaction is a survival instinct dating back to early times when life-threatening situations were ever present. These days we can experience anxiety when we're under pressure to meet a deadline, preparing to talk in front of our colleagues or for a job interview, or simply noticing how many emails are awaiting our reply. Our lives are not in danger but our bodies react as if this were the case. The same can be true for our kids.

Anxiety is a normal response to a threatening situation. All of these physical changes happen instinctively as a tiny part of our brain called the amygdala tells the sympathetic nervous system to take over and fire

us up so we can do what we have to in order to survive.

Do you know the feeling? Perhaps it happens to you now and then. But maybe, if you're one of the two million-plus Australians (including me) who experience an anxiety disorder, your body and brain respond like that more often, more quickly and more intensely than others.

Trust me, it feels awful. I've experienced anxiety since I was a child, still do and always will. My parents didn't even know anxiety existed when I was a kid and it took me until my early twenties to be diagnosed. Now that I know, I can, and do, take action to manage it. I have my ups and downs like everyone else but on the whole I live a rich, full and meaningful life. Your kids can too. Anxiety is common, it's treatable and there's so much we can do to help as parents.

Our kids are lucky. They have great parents (that's you) who know to look out for their mental health, and who have access to lots of great resources.

Anxiety affects people from all walks of life, and lots of kids have it. If that's what's happening in your family, your little one is lucky that you know, care, and are seeking answers.



# parenting ideas

## Anxiety in Primary School Kids

### How do I know what's 'normal'?

All kids experience fear and worry about things. It's understandable given that so much is new for them; new experiences, new places, new people, new teachers, new skills, new challenges to name just a few. What we need to look out for is when their amygdala (remember that tiny part of the brain?) is causing them to react anxiously to situations where there is no danger. Signs of this include:

- Their worries and fears begin to outweigh the situations and challenges that they are facing.
- Their anxiety starts to interfere with their participation at school and the activities, sports, parties, playdates and events than other kids their age are enjoying.
- They're more anxious, and anxious more often, when compared to other kids their age.
- They're obsessed with symmetry or cleanliness and they repeat behaviours like hand washing.

### What does anxiety feel like for them?

Our minds and bodies are interconnected and are now considered as one, not separate. How we think and what we think affects us physically, regardless of age. Anxious kids can complain of tummy pains, diarrhoea, headaches and difficulty getting to sleep. They are easily upset and often like to stay close to you.

Some anxious kids will worry a lot, mulling over and over their thoughts which only serves to fuel their anxiety.



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They can also look to us as parents to help them cope by seeking our reassurance that the scary thing won't happen or avoiding a confronting and anxiety-provoking situation.

### Okay, so how can I help?

1. Spend regular quiet time with your primary schooler to foster a loving and open relationship while giving them time to share with you their thoughts, fears and worries. You can also help immensely by remaining calm under stressful situations (I know – easier said than done sometimes!)
2. If you think your primary schooler is experiencing anxiety, talk about it and go together to see your GP and have a conversation about what's been happening.
3. Teach your child about anxiety so he/she knows what underlies the thoughts and feelings. I highly (highly) recommend *Hey Warrior!* A book for kids about anxiety, by Karen Young. Anxiety is not nearly as frightening when you understand why.
4. Because breathing becomes shallow and fast with anxiety, a simple yet incredibly effective way to show the amygdala that everything is okay is to take deliberate, slower breaths (in for 3, hold for 1, out for 3). After all, no-one can do this when their life really is in danger!
5. Mindfulness is a superpower for the anxious brain (any brain in fact!) and there are lots of great ways to help kids practice mindfulness. One fun game is lying on the floor, eyes closed and asking them to tune into their 'Spidey Senses', listening carefully

for any sounds near or far, feeling any sensations under their hands and body and smelling for any scents in the air. Mindfulness reduces the size of the amygdala among other incredible changes in the brain.

6. If they are worrying about things over and over in their minds – let's say it's about presenting to their class – instead of saying, "You'll be fine, I've heard your presentation, it's wonderful," or, "Don't worry, all the other kids will be nervous too," or similar, try this instead: "I understand how you're feeling, that's so normal. I'd feel the same way; is it helpful to keep thinking about it?" No! "Okay, then let's focus our attention on something we can do to help, like practicing more, making cue cards or going outside to bounce on the trampoline." They need to know that you understand, that you 'get' it, and that they're not alone.

"Is it helpful?" is a great question (when asked compassionately), followed up with asking your child what they can do that will help the situation, or engaging him/her in something meaningful and enjoyable, making a positive step forward.

**Visit our website  
for more ideas and  
information to help  
you raise confident  
and resilient young  
people.**

