



MJR Bulletin



APRIL-MAY 2023

I hope you all enjoyed your break and are refreshed and excited for Term 2.

Knowing teachers – and myself – are becoming busier and busier, we have decided to change from a monthly *MJR Bulletin* to producing it every two months. So, this edition will cover April-May, followed by June-July, August-September, October-November, and we will finish the year with a special December edition. We hope this change will enable you to have plenty of time to read and take advantage of the great ideas you'll find in the Bulletins!

Recently, it was my pleasure to work with some Year 5/6s and Year 11s. We focused on the theme '**Accountability**' and how important it is '**to claim the blame**' when we do something wrong. Teachers and parents/carers must hold young people accountable for their actions and, as a class, we discussed how the '**Art of Reflection**' can help us to correct mistakes. Tied into this was how essential it was to understand and use manners. We looked at habits and how we need to work on changing negative habits and cultivating positive habits.

You'll find more ideas in this Bulletin – I hope you find them interesting and inspirational.

Marty

OK WITH A SMILE

It is amazing how students can teach you, 'The Teacher'!

For many years I have been advocating for students (both young and old) to understand that backchatting/talking back is a non-productive habit that seriously erodes family connections and values. This is especially evident when they are asked to do a simple chore at home – e.g. dishes, clean their room, mow lawns, stop playing computer games etc. Instead, I ask students to say 'OK' – *with a smile* and to try and make it a positive habit in their lives.

Recently, a Year 6 student came up to me during a break and, with a tear in his eye, said that he had tried this approach last year – and now his mum keeps saying to visitors, family, and friends that it is like 'having a new person in the house'. He then thanked me saying, 'I am now a much happier, friendlier person because of it.'

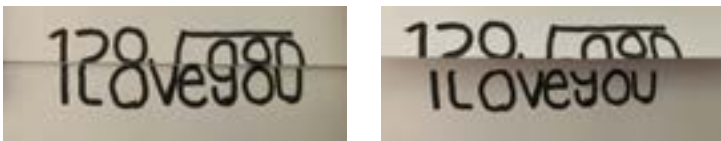
I usually write 'OK – *with a smile*' on the students hands, but another class from Deloraine in Tasmania suggested to me, 'Why not let us design our own?' Here are some of their amazing samples. I am sure they will remember these and will explain to adults at home why they have this written on their hands.



BEING ACCOUNTABLE

As mentioned in the opening paragraph, I have been taking a number of sessions about the importance of being held accountable.

At the end of these sessions, I have asked students to write a letter home asking for help in being 'Accountable' for their attitude, habits, chores etc. The response from parents/carers has been unbelievable, with many principals being contacted by parents saying they had sat down with their child and worked out how to improve family connections. I also asked some of the older classes to write the equation below over the seal of the envelope.



Make sure you align the middle of the equation over edge of the flap so it creates a line so you can see the hidden message.

This really brings a smile to faces when they open it.

MITCH'S TRAVELS

One of the lessons Mitch presents begins with asking the students the following questions:

1. Where do they see the 'Spirit of Jesus' in others?
2. Where can they better show the 'Spirit of Jesus' moments in their lives?
3. Where have they seen gospel values being lived?
4. How can they be a Team player **At Home (TAH)** and Team player **At School (TAS)**?
5. Have they had an 'Oh Yeah' moment during an MJR lesson or anywhere else?

These answers can then be shared with others via your school newsletter, parent/teacher communications, assemblies etc.

For teachers, Mitch shares the following thoughts ...

For me in Cath Ed, we aim for the kids to have a relationship with Jesus – plus, anyone they communicate in their busy lives. To have a relationship with anyone we have to communicate. With Jesus, we can't ring, text or email Him, but we can write about where we saw His presence in our lives. And we can also pray.

QUOTES

This month, rather than suggesting videos, I thought I would share some great quotes I have heard over the past few months.

I dare to fail

Deborra-Lee Furness, Australian Actor

Please take a moment to resay this yourselves – it is VERY powerful.

It is the church with its sleeves rolled up.

A teacher speaking about some great work her parish was doing in the local community.

...but it starts with the little things?

A Year 6 students from St Mary's College while they were working in a small group

Coincidentally, while I was in Darwin, I spotted this amazing mural on the corner of Cavanagh and Bennett Streets that was painted by the talented Jesse Bell. And, in December, I was lucky enough to work with the great Charlie King and the staff of O'Loughlin Catholic College staff on this powerful theme.



Finally, I was asked the following question by a Year 11 student from Tasmania:

But how do you live it out?

A great question to put on your staffroom notice board!

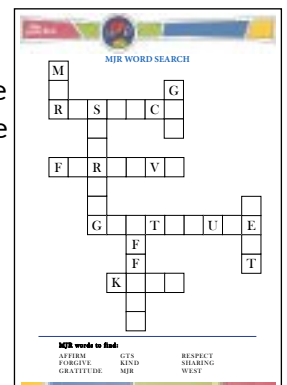
FILL-IN CROSSWORD

Here's a easy activity you can give your students.

This fill-in crossword contains some of the key words/values that can be found in the MJR workbooks.

Click [here](#) or on the image to download the worksheet.

For the answer sheet click [here](#).



SOME OTHER GREAT IDEAS

MJR WALL

Below is the *MJR* wall at Holy Spirit Catholic School in Darwin. Pictured are Principal Paula, Deputy Emma, and myself.



MAKE JESUS REAL AWARD

This wonderful *Making Jesus Real Award* from Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, Darwin is an annual award given to the person who demonstrates the beautiful Christ values outlined on the trophy. It is a much sought-after award each year!



Trophy text

for living the Gospel message by serving others with love, respect, justice, hope and joy and working to make our school a more just community.

EXCITED!

I am very excited to be visiting Perth schools in May and in August, I will be back again visiting my old stomping ground – the NT. *MJR* is very strong in these areas and many schools have seen for themselves how the themes and topics found in *MJR* help their behavioural management – as well as bringing Jesus into their school communities in a subtle manner.

I have a few places left if you would like me to visit. I am available to travel all around Australia and look forward to crossing Bass Strait more! So, don't hesitate to contact me on marty.ogle13@gmail.com or download my brochure [here](#).

MJR PODCASTS

The MJR Podcast – A GPS for Life

Each Podcast episode has an accompanying 3-2-1 Activity Sheet which is available from the Resources page of www.makejesusreal.com.au/resources.



To listen to the *MJR Podcasts* go to:

Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4VDJEOCL2UVvL7AqPX91Y>

iTunes:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/the-mjr-podcast-a-gps-for-life/id1513474986>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Got an idea for a story, or want to share a story that captured the ears and hearts of your students?



We'd love to hear from you.

Please email Marty at: marty.ogle13@gmail.com.

Note: If you are including images, please ensure you have permission to do so.

Live Jesus in your Hearts – FOREVER!

The MJR Team



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MJR READERS

Set of 8

Prep to Year 2



Click Here for More Information!

A Religious Education and Literacy Tool in the **One Resource!**

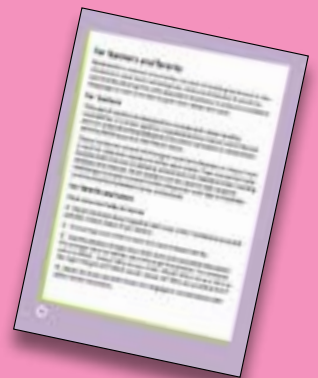


Contemporary Australian Images



Familiar MJR Characters

Guide for Teachers and Parents



Live Jesus in your Hearts - FOREVER!
The MJR Team

