



## Mitch on teaching 'Spirit of Jesus' (Grade 3/4)

I know we were all disappointed about the last day of the conference being cancelled due to the horrific weather. Friday is the day we bring it all together to send you out to spread the "Good News" and for the "ripple effect" to take place across Australia.

I was "saving the best wine till last". In my lesson to the Grade 4s, I was going to bring out some simple things that engage kids about growing as a person and developing the *Spirit of Jesus* in their hearts and minds, as was, no doubt, were Jason (Grades 5/6), Liz (Prep - Grade 2) and Marty (secondary).

I had two 5-minute sessions with the Grade 4 class that I was going to demonstrate on the second day, Friday. I had never met the class before and they were so keen to be a part of your learning. Here are some of the points I was going to make:

### ONE

The 'Oh Yeah' moments where the lights go on in your mind and a point becomes clear to you and you say, "Oh Yeah, that's right".

We practice by getting a student to stand next to the light switch and when she or he turns on the lights they say, "Oh Yeah". Do that three times and the kids are fired up to have an "Oh Yeah" moment.

Try it with your kids, as until they say, "Oh Yeah", they will not change their behaviour.

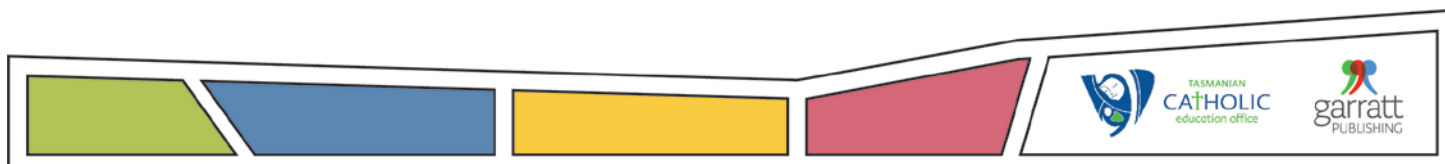
I ask them three simple questions about growing:

1. Who thinks their handwriting, counting, spelling, computer skills, reading has improved since Prep? They are keen to put their hand up.
2. Who thinks they have physically grown since Prep? They are keen to put their hand up.
3. Next question. Ask them not put their hand up. This question really stuns them.

Who thinks since Prep, that, as a person, they are still moaning and groaning at home and school, putting people down, being nasty, excluding others by saying, "you can't play with us", answering back at home etc.

Of course, we all do, but it makes them think and then I ask them ...

Who thinks now they need to think about *Growing* as a person? They put their hands up and then I ask them, "Is that an, 'Oh Yeah' moment? and the whole class goes, 'OhhhYeahrrrr'!"





## TWO

In your show bag, on pages five and nine are two black line masters of questions. In term 1, I ask them the 5 questions on pgs5-6. On page 7 you can see the class responses from St Paul's Bridgewater to these questions. Notice the answer to question 5, the 'Oh Yeah' question.

At the end of term four, I ask them the 5 questions on pg9. The class responses from St Teresa's Monahan are on pg11.

We encourage the teachers to send the classes responses to the parents or even have some published in the school newsletter. Try using the black line masters with your classes.

Page 13 is for a "switched on PE teacher". It would be great to take the *SOJ* right through your school by spending two minutes at the end of the lesson asking, "Where did you see the *SOJ* in our lesson?". They then listen to four stories before going back to class. That page asks some great questions and can make a huge difference to the PE lesson.

The last page is from the cover of the 2006 *MJR*, with our journey with Jesus through life still having the "Oh Yeahs" in our different stages in life up to 92 and beyond!

From Mitch

