What does a Pastoral Associate do???

My role here at St Francis Xavier is to support the staff, students and families, particularly in times of difficulty and stress. Life sometimes throws problems at us when we least expect it and the effect can be hard on everyone. My role is to support you as parents through listening, being a sounding board, passing on helpful information and resources, and being a liaison between home and school.

If there is an issue at home, it does have an effect on the students at school. Many parents feel alone, unsure and unsupported. Sometimes there is a sense of embarrassment or shame at ‘exposing the problems’ and asking for help.

Please do not hesitate to call if you need help or support in any way. Sometimes the most reassuring thing is to know that you are not alone, or not the only one who is dealing with a particular issue.

I can be contacted through either campus, directly on the mobile phone, or by email. In the past 12 months, close to half of my time has been spent visiting families at home and supporting parents. No issue is too big, too small, too embarrassing or too unimportant. If we as a school can support you are parents, then we have a great partnership underway.

I look forward to touching base with you all as the year progresses.

Rhonda O’Connor

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A Reflection

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child’s mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher; the tools being used
Were books and music and art,
One a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled
With touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent laboured just as hard
And polished and smoothed it o’er.

When at last their task was done
They were proud of what they had wrought,
For the things that they had molded into the child
Could neither be sold nor bought.

And both agreed they would have failed
If they had worked alone;
For behind the parents stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.

From ‘A Canopy of Stars,
Some Reflections for the Journey
by Christopher Gleeson SJ