Dear Parent, Carers and Friends of Holy Cross

I wish all Mothers a wonderful day on Sunday. The day highlights the incredible influence Mothers have in the lives of daughters and sons and the precious role you play in families and in society.

Thanks to all Mums for the incredible job you do each and every day.

A special “thank you” to Mrs Mariska Intellisano and her team for the work done to hold the Mothers Day stall. I saw the children’s excitement as they shopped for Mum’s very special gift.

I wish all Mum’s attending the Mothers Night tonight a great celebration together. Thanks to Mary Therese Brady and Kym Hodda for organising this for our past and present Mums.

On Wednesday and Thursday this week a school staff team attended some valuable Professional Learning in coaching. The days were very rewarding and helped us to develop skills that focus on the potential of each person in our teams and community. The days were so worthwhile; affirming and challenging.

How was your day??

I recently heard a presenter share a parenting tip that is based on research into resilience. I thought it very worthwhile to share. When children jump in the car after a day at school, do you ask, “How was your day?” I know it is a question that I am in the habit of asking family and friends. Research into family relationships and resilience now shows that if we rephrase this question to “What are the top three things that happened today?” the answers become far more powerful and positive and this will increase children’s sense of well-being and ultimately develop there resilience. Of course this doesn’t mean that there won’t be challenging times but if, more often than not, our focus is on the positives then success will build on success.

Next Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday our Years 3, 5 & 7 students will be involved in the NAPLAN Assessments. Arrangements have been made to ensure that children are familiar with this style of assessment and well prepared for the length of time that will be required for each assessment.

Today Year 5/6 celebrated Mass at 9.15am with the Parish. The celebration was very reverent and moving. We reflected on the Gospel call to be hopeful people of JOY.

Enjoy a wonderful weekend!

Paul Drewniak
Principal
A.P.R.E.’s Report

International Day of Families
This coming Wednesday (15th May) is International Day of Families; a day to reflect on families as the basic unit of society and to promote awareness of a range of issues relating to families. This week is a time to think about your life, your family and other families in your community. Are we creating a society for all families, free of discrimination and exclusion? What can you do this week to celebrate your special family?

Walking in God’s Way
This Sunday we will celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. God took Jesus into heaven beyond our sight, leaving us with the power of the Holy Spirit. We wait for Jesus to come again, and we follow in Jesus’ steps by doing God’s work in our daily lives. This week during National Volunteers Week, we remember and pray for the many volunteers who work for justice and goodness in our world especially for our Catholic Charities including St Vincent de Paul and CARITAS.

Happy Mother’s Day to all our beautiful Mums! I hope Sunday is filled with love and surprises.
P.S. Thank you to the mums who helped with our Mother’s Day Stall today.

NAPLAN
Next week students in Years 3, 5, and 7 will sit their NAPLAN tests (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 14th of May</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th of May</th>
<th>Thursday 16th of May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reading Test</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Catch Up Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Conventions Test</strong></td>
<td>Year 3 – 40 mins</td>
<td>Year 3 – 45 mins</td>
<td>for students who</td>
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<td>(Spelling, grammar,</td>
<td>Year 5 – 50 mins</td>
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<td>were absent on</td>
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<td>punctuation)</td>
<td>Year 7 – 65 mins</td>
<td>Year 7 – 2 Tests</td>
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<td>Year 3 – 40 mins</td>
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<td>40 mins (calculator) + 40 mins (non-calculator)</td>
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<td>Year 5 – 40 mins</td>
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<td>Year 7 – 45 mins</td>
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| Writing Test        |                       |                     |                   |
| Year 3 – 40 mins    |                       |                     |                   |
| Year 5 – 40 mins    |                       |                     |                   |
| Year 7 – 40 mins    |                       |                     |                   |

Top Tips for Helping Your Child Prepare for NAPLAN

**Before the test:**
- Help your child get to bed on time.
- Keep your routine as normal as possible.
- Mention the test to show you are interested, but don’t dwell on it.
- Get up early to avoid being late.
- Ensure your child eats breakfast.
- Be at school on time.
- Be positive about the test. Acknowledge that tests can be hard but doing your best is what counts. Help your child feel comfortable and confident!

**After the test:**
- Talk to your child about his or her feelings about the test, and congratulate them on their effort.
- Discuss what was easy and what was hard, and what they learnt from the test.
- Remind your child that no matter what their results may be, you love them for the person he or she is.

God bless,
Helen Coman
Assistant Principal – Religious Education
Dear Parents

As we approach Mothers’ Day, it’s a good time for parents, especially mothers, to answer the question, “What nourishes you?” This was the title of a recent article by Joan Chittister. Here is an abridged version.

“... One thing grows increasingly more obvious as the years pass: every one of us, whoever we are, in this highly frenetic, jangling technological world in which we live, need more of what nourishes us and less of what drains us.”

The question of the painting begs for attention, then: What am I overlooking in life? What nourishes me? Am I doing enough to provide it? What happens to me when I don’t?

Whatever the answer to all those things, this one thing grows increasingly more obvious as the years pass: every one of us, whoever we are, in this highly frenetic, jangling technological world in which we live, need more of what nourishes us and less of what drains us.”

May you find the answer to this question in the coming week.

Happy Mother’s Day.

**TEA BAG TAGS** Thank you to all who have sent in tags. They weigh very little, but the more we have, the heavier it becomes! Thank you, too, to those who continue to send in toiletries, ‘cuppa’ items and used stamps. Each item makes life a little easier for someone less fortunate than us. It helps us to continue being ‘with God for others’ in a ‘spirit of mercy.’

**KIDS MATTER** is a government initiative, available to Primary schools and parents. It has lots of interesting information which can be downloaded as a reference sheet. It also provides a monthly newsletter to parents. Just go to www.kidsmatter.edu.au to find the relevant place to sign up. If you need help to do this, let me know.

God bless,
Sr Anne.

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**PASTORAL CARE CORNER**

**Dear Parents**

As we approach Mothers’ Day, it’s a good time for parents, especially mothers, to answer the question, “What nourishes you?” This was the title of a recent article by Joan Chittister. Here is an abridged version.

“At first glance, still-life painting does not seem to have much to say to anyone. The subjects they use, in most part, arouse no pathos, provide little in the way of human insight, touch the eye more than the heart. But not this one. Not Cézanne’s Still Life with Fruit and Curtain. This one strikes at the core of life. It requires us to ask ourselves what it is that nourishes us. And why, I, for one, know how easy it is to get caught up in the dramatic and miss the power of the mundane, the wisdom of the daily, the comfort of regularity, the unexciting dimensions of what it means to be really alive. And yet my life cries out for more and more and more of it always.

Time at the desk, one week with the [family], time of quiet commonplace, five minutes [or longer]—uninterrupted— soothes my soul beyond any telling of it. The daily schedule nourishes me; the sight of the familiar nourishes me; the silence nourishes me.

The banter of friends and the rhythm of prayer, the best of music and the single shaft of promise every new day brings, provide the kind of balm no bought balm can give.

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God bless,
Sr Anne.

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**REFLECTION**

A few weeks ago I kept finding strings of dried grass and small twigs on the front porch. I solved this mystery by discovering an industrious mother robin building a nest behind the security light. During the same week I was immersed in the novel, The Twelve Tribes of Hattie, the story of another industrious mother. Hattie worked tirelessly to feed and clothe her many children in extreme poverty (due to a womanizing, gambling husband.) Hattie loved her children fiercely but lacked an ability to show them physical or verbal affection.

So many kinds of mothers exist in our world. Each has her own way of being with her children. In the U.S.A. we celebrate Mothers Day in May. While I honour the beautiful relationship I had with my birth mother, I also think of both young and adult children with tenuous or difficult maternal relationships. Yet, no matter how this relationship is, or has been, each mother gives her child the gift of life and the possibility of a worthy future.

**A Blessing for Mothers of All Sorts, Sizes and Shapes of Body, Mind and Spirit**

- O mothers, one and all, some of you have carried your children in your womb. Others of you have welcomed babes in need of your attention who came to you from another birth mother. May the love you’ve extended return to you a hundredfold.

- O mothers, do not live in regret of what you wished you would have done, or what you did do and wished you had not. As you look back on your mothering, may you remember that you tried to do your very best?

- O mothers, those of you for whom much of your life with your children is before you, do not imagine you can do this alone. Remember it takes a lot of leaning on the Divine Mother whose heart enfolds every mother and child. May you draw strength daily from her kindly presence.

- O mothers, do not forget to care for yourself. Find what enriches and enlivens your deepest self. May you have the vitality it takes to generously give of yourself daily.

- O mothers, you who have gone on to another sphere of life. We bring you to mind and heart today. May the peace you now have seep into the weary and troubled places of mothers’ hearts everywhere.

**Enrolment Closing Date:** Friday 10th May 2013

**RECONCILIATION Preparations**

Activity 1: Fri 31st May 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Activity 2: Fri 7th June 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**RECONCILIATION Celebration:** Friday 14th June 3.30pm – 5.30pm, Holy Cross Church

**CONFIRMATION Preparations**

Activity 1: Fri 9th August 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Activity 2: Fri 23rd August 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**FIRST COMMUNION Preparations**

Activity 1: Fri 9th August 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Activity 2: Fri 23rd August 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**REHEARSAL** (Confirmation/Communion)

Fri 18th October, 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**CONFIRMATION Celebration:**

Saturday 26th October 6.00pm, Holy Cross Church

First Holy communion Celebration:

To be Confirmed
Happy Birthday

The school community wishes the students who celebrated their birthdays this week, many happy returns.
Laura Brennan & Rory West

Happy Mother's Day!

AWARDS
Congratulations to all students who received awards during assembly.
PG  Ryan Stewart & Nicholas Lamprecht
PW  Lucas Jebreen & Alex Lamprecht
1/2G  Grace Gordon & Olivia Turner
2G  Dom Chester, Ella Zappert & Eilidh Evans
3G  Sienna Artuso & Alec Richardson
3W  Andrew Melville & Emma Whittle
4W  Caitlin Hind & Charles Barbour
4/5G  Thomas Gordon & Gabi Lambert
5/6G  Sophie Fahey & Jasper Rowell
7G  Beau Cossar, Josie Wruck & Anna Sharpe

A big thank-you to all the wonderful parents of our school community who regularly send in boxes and other goodies to Prep.
At present we have a major over supply of such items so boxes are no longer needed.
However we need little items such as lids of bottles, small cylinders, small yoghurt containers, buttons etc.
Many thanks for your support.
Irene

Mt Maria College
OPEN DAY
Monday 20 May
3.30pm – 7.00pm
67 Osborne Road
Mitchelton

SOME COPIES OF 2013/2014 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE!
If you would like a copy please pay online (link below) OR return payment slip to the Office and the Entertainment Book can be sent home the same day!
Don’t forget $13 from each book sold goes straight to our P&F to assist with school resources.
To view the new 2013/2014 Entertainment Book, visit our school office OR view online at http://www.entertainmentmedia.com.au/flickbook/20132014/brisbane/
Purchase securely online with credit card: www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/2225d30
*When ordering online please tick ‘pick up’ delivery option.
Please note: if you have ordered and paid for an Entertainment Book but are yet to receive it please contact: Maddie (mbarbour@fincom.com.au)
Thank you for your support!

FOUND
1. Silver Ring with pink & white stones
2. Pair of brown & gold sunglasses
3. Grey iPod Shuffle
Please see Mrs McKee in the office
**GOTCHA CARDS – Week 4**

**GOTCHA CARDS** have been designed to encourage and reward good behaviour in an effort to boost each child’s self esteem and improve the general standard of behaviour at our school.

Well done to all the ‘Gotcha Card’ recipients who have done a brilliant job of demonstrating our school-wide positive behaviour expectations (Safety, Learning & Respect).

The following children won seats in our assembly Corporate Box:

- Dahlia Vogel
- Samantha Slater
- Kiloran Zuill
- Dominic Zitny
- Sarah Melville
- Georgia Fenton
- Breanna Murphy
- Juliana Luongo
- Joban Kahlon

Also, keep an eye out for our Gotcha Card display in the hallway near the office.