11 May 2012

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Holy Cross

I would like to wish all mothers in our community a wonderful day on Sunday. During the week a newspaper article published a survey that had polled the gift that mothers most sought for the day. The result was not surprising – most Mum's polled said that they did not need expensive gifts to reward their critical role in family but they simply wanted to spend time with the whole family and especially to share a meal together and to be spoilt a little by their children. I hope that our Holy Cross Mums have that wish fulfilled so that the wonderful job you do in families is recognised and appreciated… Happy Mother’s Day to all Mums. Thanks to Bonita Gerry for once again organising our school Mother’s Day stall.

The children were very keen to choose the gift that was “just right” for Mum. A best wish to the Mum’s who will be attending the Mothers’ Day dinner.

Today Archbishop Mark Coleridge is installed as Archbishop of Brisbane. During his installation in St Stephen’s Cathedral, the Archbishop takes his place as the key teacher in the Archdiocese. Let’s pray that our new Archbishop will receive the many blessings of the Spirit so that our local church will be led with compassion and wisdom and that we will be inspired to be the face of Christ for all.

At Wednesday’s P&F meeting a number of parents asked for details regarding the programme and timeline for the celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist in our parish. Earlier in the year Father Fitz-Herbert wrote about the parish model of preparation for children over the age of 7 yrs. If you wish your child to prepare for Confirmation and First Eucharist please ensure that you contact Fr Fitz-Herbert at the Parish office as soon as possible.

Office Phone: 3357 5793
Email: lutwyche@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Office Hours: Mon/Thu/Fri 8.30am – 12.30pm

There are just TWENTY THREE days till Festival!! Please ensure that you read today's Festival flyers so that you can do all you can to support this fantastic community event and fun-raiser. We especially need your donations so check the information to see what you can gather up over the weekend to donate. Donations have begun slowly this year so let’s make sure of a big finish over the next weeks.

Paul Drewniak
Principal

2012 Festival Raffle!!!
A book of 5 Raffle Tickets have been sent home today.
They are $2.00 each or 5 for $10.00 Please return money or unsold tickets to the office by FRIDAY 1 June 2012.
A.P.R.E.’s Report

I light candles – when times are good and at the times when things overwhelm me and my friends!

Each day as I arrive in my office, the first thing I do is light a candle. Many times, I know exactly who and what the prayer is for, but there are also the times that I just leave that to God, as I entrust my family, my school community and my friends to the Mercy and Love of God for the day.

Lighting candles is not something I thought of by myself. I come from a family where lighting “The Lamp” was part of the tradition. We had a lamp because, I guess when I think about it, Mum really could not have afforded candles at the rate they were needed! The little kerosene lamp sat on the piano in the dining room and was lit often, not just for the Kelly family, but for a wide variety of friends and neighbours who heard about it. People contacted Mum on numerous occasions to ask her to light that lamp and to pray with and for them. At times, the lamp was burning for someone in desperate need of strength from God and at other times, it was alight for something as minor as for one of the Kelly kids doing a music exam, or a spelling test!

The lamp did not have magical qualities, but it did remind us that life is not meant to be tackled on our own. A desperate need of strength from God and at other times, the lamp was burning for someone in desperate need of strength from God and at other times, it was alight for something as minor as for one of the Kelly kids doing a music exam, or a spelling test!

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Yet, we all know that praying does not prevent terrible things happening, but when the raw pain passes and it does, God is still there, in fact, has always been there!

To signal hope for all that might be, To whisper thanks for all that is, To reflect the love I’ll carry with me, I light a candle in Your name”.

God is with us!

Patty McCourt

Pastoral Care Corner

Dear Parents

Happy Mothers’ Day to all mothers and those who act as mothers. For those of you with more than one child, sibling issues can make motherhood a minefield, at times. I’m sure you do a great job of navigating that minefield, but here are a few suggestions.

1. MODEL good conflict resolution skills. Children wear L plates when it comes to solving disputes. Some will yell, get abusive or even get physical when they are settling disputes. Show them better ways of sorting out problems by talking things through with your partner, compromising and apologising when you’ve said something upsetting to your partner or your children.

2. Help children MANAGE their emotions: “Yep, it would make me mad too if someone said that to me.” Usually someone’s feelings get hurt when siblings argue so make sure you recognise their emotions without taking sides. This focus on feelings helps them develop emotional literacy and promotes empathy in siblings as well.

3. MONITOR sibling relationships: Keep your antenna up for the signs of discord within sibling relationships. Some disputes they can sort out themselves, but you need to be ready to intervene and assist your children in the peace-brokering, or at least to act as a safety net when one child continually appears on the wrong end of a power imbalance.

4. MENTOR them to sort out disputes. Children need the chance to sort their conflict out themselves, but sometimes they need a little coaching. Don’t waste time trying to sort out who started an argument. Instead make some suggestions such as taking turns, giving way, bargaining and swapping. Encourage them to MAKE-UP. Children often get over disputes far more quickly than adults. They can be squabbling one minute and cuddling up the next, so it gets tricky intervening sometimes. However there are times when you need to encourage a child to mend bridges with an aggrieved sibling. This can mean children have to swallow their pride, admit that they may be wrong, make an apology or make some sort of restitution such as doing a special favour. This type of restoration means they must take responsibility for their behaviours and is a sign of growing maturity.

Children need to be as close to their siblings as they are to their parents. Fostering this relationship early in life is a great mothering talent. Keep up the good work.

God bless

Sr Anne.

2012 CROSS COUNTRY

When: Wednesday 23rd May 2012
Where: Shaw Sportz, Shaw Rd, Kalinga
Please Bring: Sports Uniform, joggers, school bag, hat, sunscreen and water bottle

Students are reminded to arrive at school on time. Buses will depart at approximately 9.00am
From the Parish Priest

This week I spent two blocks of fifty minutes with another two classes in preparation for their own class Mass this term.

In addition to listening to the students reflect on their experiences at school, at home and their own life journey, we also explore one of the scripture readings that will be proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word on the day of their Mass.

So we’ve been opening up various texts from Acts of the Apostles. The students learn that our church listens intently to selections from Acts during the fifty days of Easter.

I ask them: why do we do this? Why specifically from Acts?

We eventually get to a point where we recognize that our church – the one we are now members of - started in times of persecution. Our faith community was born from the cross and from the blood of martyrs: Jesus, Stephen, Paul and others. Many lost their lives because they recognized Jesus as the Messiah and proclaimed this “Good News” often at great personal cost. Those who paid the ultimate sacrifice included children.

At the end of our time, I invite the students to think about our broad conversation and to attempt to offer a perspective that we may integrate into their Mass.

I was very impressed that one student said: these Easter scripture selections teach us to remember that we are to be Christian disciples within the realities of life today and the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to do this faithfully.

Not a bad summary of the fullness of life that we can share in through our baptism.

Parents might be surprised (as I was) to hear the rich insights of their children into a life of faith when sacred stories from Acts of the Apostles are shared and explored with an eye on possible meaning for being Christians ‘today’.

Fr John Francis Fitz-Herbert
Parish Priest

Masses and Liturgy of the Word
TERM 2

MASSES 11.30am

4/5G  21 May Monday
6G   22 May Tuesday
7G   28 May Monday
4/5W  5 June Tuesday

LITURGY OF THE WORD

21 May Monday      10.30  3G
22 May Tuesday     10.30  2/3W
28 May Monday      10.30  1G
 1 June Friday      10.30  1G
 1 June Friday  11.30  1W
 8 June Friday      10.30  PG
 8 June Friday  11.30  PW

TUCKSHOP

Helpers for Wednesday 16th May are:

Tuck-shop: Jane Vincent, Lisa Evans, Natalie Finney, Maddie Barbour, Mary-Therese O’Sullivan & Deb Birthisiel

Home bake: Amanda Stickley, Catherine Byrne, Kylie Braine, Leah Edwards & Maria Celere

Please note our NUT FREE POLICY when preparing Homebake items. Thank you

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The school community wishes the students who celebrate their birthday this week many happy returns:

Laura Brennan, Charlotte Peterson & Samuel Devlin

FAMILY INFORMATION UPDATE

All parents should have received a form for each child requesting the update of information and/or change of any incorrect data. PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THESE FORMS - EVEN IF THERE ARE NO CHANGES – TO THE OFFICE.
Holy Cross School
Swimming Record
Holders 2012

Nicholas Egan, Daniel Egan, Chelsea Crawford,
Ashlynn Haywood-North, Niamh Cree, Ursula Piper,
Brigid Mason, George Williamson & Scott Pringle

AWARDS
Congratulations to all students who received awards during assembly.
PG      Emily Smith & Oscar Rowell
PW     Tom Waters & Rhea Multani
1G      Mikayla Jebreen & Seb Zitny
1W     Eva Sampson & Alex Finney
2G      Alec Richardson & Sasha Macaulay
2/3W  Sofia Bell & Riley Edwards
3G      Angelina Daly & Isaac Rogers
4/5G   Sophie Fahey & Isabelle Davies
4/5W  Luca Barichello & Stella Artuso
6G      Anna Sharpe & Matthew Morris
7G     Domi Aming & Shaun Gray
7W     Katie Adler, Ross Grimsdale & Ashlynn Haywood-North

2012/2013 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED!
Pay online (link below) OR return payment slip to the Office and the Entertainment Book can be sent home today!
Please help support Holy Cross School P & F fund raising: $13 from each book sold goes straight to our P&F to assist with school resources.
Contact: Maddie (mbarbour@fincom.com.au) or Mariska (vitofm@bigpond.com)
P&F Association

Book Stall
Pre-loved Books, Dvds, Cds & Computer Games NEEDED
Just a reminder that when you’re going through your cupboards to donate to this year’s festival to please go through your bookshelves as well.
This year we’re also selling DVDS, CDs and COMPUTER GAMES (wii, PlayStation, DS, X-Box) and your donations will be gratefully accepted.
Kind regards,
Russell & Jennifer.
E: jennifer.stephens@me.com

For the Love of Books
Holy Cross Festival Book Stall.

SELL YOUR FESTIVAL
RAFFLE TICKETS - & return them to the school by Friday 1 June 2012.
All tickets returned must come in clearly named envelopes including the Sellers Name and Phone Number to be eligible for incentive prizes.
If you need extra books contact the office.

TO ALL THE BAKERS & VOLUNTEERS
on the Election Day Stalls
Many thanks again for your wonderful efforts in helping raise another $1200 on Council Election day, despite the wet weather! Your generosity has allowed us to raise a combined profit of $3700 from the two Election Days: an impressive outcome. Thank you!

P&F Association

Thanks!
HOLY CROSS MOTHER’S DAY CELEBRATION DINNER - tonight
The Mother’s Day dinner will be at L’Academie Hotel, St Paul’s Terrace tonight 11th May 6:30pm.

BEFORE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY PRACTICE
Practices have started before school from 7.50-8.20am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Meet Mrs Laube and Mrs Sullivan behind the pavilion with running shoes, hat and drink bottle. Please apply your sunscreen at home as usual. See you there!

HCS UNIFORM SHOP:
change of opening times
Please note: the Uniform Shop will now be opening **fortnightly only**, on the **second and fourth** Fridays of each month. That means the next day of opening will be **May 25th**. Don’t forget it operates out of the Tuckshop 8am -9am. You may also order ahead online by emailing Tanya Smith at **hcunforms@gmail.com**.

Are you able to lend a hand with our Uniform Shop? If you are able to roster on fortnightly/monthly/occasionally, please email Tanya. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated!

Awesome Effort Holy Cross!
Our **CRAZY SOCK DAY** last Friday raised $377.50 for Oxfam Australia. Thank you so much for your support and involvement! There were some crazy socks and some very creative ones. The winner of the craziest socks went to Cooper Cameron 2G. Well Done! Mrs Dunn will be doing her 100km walk on the 15th June.

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:

Oscar Barrett
Katie Adler
Bridie Swain
Dom Cutajar
Cooper Haywood-North
Luca Barichello
Kate Nally
Jacob Moesbergen
Mekela Morrison

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