Dear Parent, Carers and Friends of Holy Cross

Welcome to Term 2! I hope that you have had a restful and rejuvenating break. Term 2 is Festival Term so we are looking forward to June 3 and a wonderful community day. P&F met on Wednesday evening and information regarding collections for Trash and Treasure and other stalls and ways that you can help with the success of Festival are in flyers in today’s newsletter.

Our Way of the Cross held in the pavilion on the final day of Term 1 was a very meaningful and reverent celebration. All students, and after Wednesday’s Assembly, all staff, were included in retelling and reflecting on the events that are the essence of our faith. The symbol and meaning of the Easter event are central to our identity as Holy Cross School.

We are still in the season of Easter when Christians reflect on the life-giving actions of Christ and how we can participate in bringing life (salvation) to the world through our own words and actions. Consider how you might bring life through a supportive, forgiving, welcoming or comforting word or action. In these ways we live the Easter we celebrate and our prayers come to life.

This year the School Pastoral Board will be developing a “Statement of Special Religious Character” to outline the local ethos of the school; naming what is important to the faith story of our community. The development of a new School Renewal Plan 2012 – 2016 is also underway with the assistance of Board members, staff, Fr Fitz-Herbert and BCE staff. The plan will make broad aspirational statements about “the kind of Holy Cross” we want to continue to be and become. Our Annual Action Plan will then align to these statements. The Board began the process of Statement of Special Religious Character at the final meeting in 2011 and the Renewal Planning process at the April meeting. Drafts of both of these documents will be available for community feedback during the process.

Our outreach to Project Compassion – Caritas during Lent was also very successful. A total of $4000 was raised - a wonderful effort in a school of our size!

Sunday’s support for the McIvor Family Fun Day was exceptional. It was a great privilege to join others to support Mark and Karen and family.

Both these activities were ways we live “with God for others.”

During the Easter Holidays some maintenance work was undertaken including painting of the externals of the Prep Room, repainting of the Year 2/3 and Yr 2 rooms and some repairs to staff room. More work to staff room is planned as is washing of walls in top floor hallways. Thanks to Mark Mammeralla who volunteered last term to assist with reviewing the Maintenance Plan for the school.

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Our new school brochures have been delivered to the local Child- care Centres and Pre- Prep Learning Centres to advertise our school. There has already been a response to this campaign from some new families. We will begin enrolment interviews for Prep at the end of April. If you have a Prep aged child and have not made contact with the school office regarding their enrolment for 2013 please do so as soon as possible to ensure a place.

Our Inter School Touch Football will begin next week. We are involved in the Zone Touch Football Competition this term competing against other Catholic Primary Schools in our Zone at Brendale. Another great opportunity for Year 4-7 every Thursday. We will leave school by bus just after 12 noon and return at approximately 2:50PM.
A.P.R.E.’s Report

Easter - The story tells us that the stone was rolled back and the tomb was empty!
A simple statement in the Gospels, but an event of profound significance to those who believe and more powerful than his followers could have ever imagined.
The women who came to anoint His body were the first to realise that something of consequence had happened.
They hurried to tell His disciples, but of course, they were never going to believe a group of women. If what they were saying had indeed occurred, Jesus would have visited the men first – surely!
After this, Jesus made his presence felt to two of his followers, who disillusioned that they no longer had a leader, were heading home. The stranger walked with them and explained the whole point on the message of Jesus in very clear terms and they finally got it! They were sure of his identity, though he looked different, when He broke bread and drank wine with them, as they had done the last time they shared a meal together.
The rest of the disciples were down-hearted also. Deep down, they did not really believe that Jesus would actually die on a cross, but they had seen it with their own eyes.
They had built a fire on the side of the lake and were talking and commiserating among themselves, when Jesus came and sat with them. They knew then, even if Thomas had to make sure by putting his finger into the wounds on Jesus’ hands and feet, that the story had not ended. It really had only just begun!
It just goes to show to what extent these men needed to be convinced and Jesus, it would seem, stood there and declared and Jesus, it would seem, stood there and declared.

Patty McCourt

Pastoral Care Corner

Dear Parents

Welcome back. I hope Easter was a peaceful time for you. It may also have been a time when tempers frayed a little as people got tired. That’s often when ‘language’ flies. Michael Grose, child psychologist, offers the following tips.
The role of parents is to teach children to use language that doesn’t offend others. Whether it’s teasing or swearing it’s all the same. If it’s offensive then choose other words, or say nothing at all. Socially-skilled children of all ages will adjust their language to suit the situation they are in. They may speak one way with their friends, but use a completely different vocabulary when they are with adults. They are aware that what works with their best friend just won’t cut it when you are in grandma’s company. This awareness shows a flexibility to adjust to different environments. It needs to be extended to all sorts of situations including where adults and younger children are present. If your child uses bad language, try to work out its purpose. Children swear for many reasons, including to experiment with language; to attract your attention; to make themselves appear bigger or older than they are; and even as a challenge or expression of personal power. Teach them that language may be appropriate in one context or may be acceptable to one group, but it may not be acceptable in every situation. If swearing has become a habit for your child, make up alternative words to replace the swear words. One family I know had replaced certain words with the names of fruit. They had a fruit for every situation! You could also use a ‘made up’ word, such as ‘fisherfloss’. Practise saying it as often as needed to be able to say it without laughing. Then, it will be more natural when the need arises to use it. Alternatively, use a penalty of fine system to make children aware of their poor language.

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Teaching appropriate language use is at the very heart of teaching children to be socially-skilled. That’s something we all should swear by!

Happy language making!
God bless
Sr Anne.

Parent Prayer Time

I would like to remind you of the opportunity available to parents for a time of prayer, reflection and time for yourself, on a regular basis - half hour each week, prior to collecting their children on Fridays.
Please join us on Friday afternoons at 2.20pm in the ground level room of the new building. Patty McCourt

Thank you to everyone for the amazing TANKITAS effort which raised $3 750 to help those in need of a water supply to enable them to survive in their difficult terrain.
Your generosity is a gift and greatly appreciated and valued. God Bless each one of you.

The 1st Anniversary Mass for the repose of the soul of Melinda Leigh Melville (Sarah 4/5 and Andy 2G) will be held at St Kevin’s Parish Church, 251 Newman Road Geebung at 10am on Saturday 21st April to be followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome.
From the Parish Priest

Our community of faith – this particular community of Lutwyche Catholic parish as well as all local churches throughout the world - is now in the wonderful space of Easter. This is our annual fifty day festival for celebrating the resurrection of Christ Jesus. In the scriptures that we listen to during these Easter days, we often hear the word ‘alive’. The disciples are proclaiming that the Risen Jesus, the same One who was crucified, is alive and present in the breaking of bread and the explaining of the scriptures. This same Jesus continues to be present to us today in everyday living and also when we gather on Sunday for the eucharist.

For ourselves, ‘where’ and ‘when’ are we truly alive? What are the criteria we employ to make this judgement? How does the gift of our Christian faith invite us into the ‘more of life’?

Let’s enjoy these Easter Days and continue to share with our children the Good News of God through the dying and rising of Christ, our brother and friend.

Fr John Francis Fitz-Herbert
Parish Priest

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The school community wishes the students who celebrate their birthday during the holidays many happy returns:


Mother’s Day

MOTHER’S DAY STALL
FRIDAY 11TH MAY
ALL GIFTS $5.00

Don’t forget to bring your money to buy a special surprise for your Mum!

Tuckshop

Holy Cross Tuckshop will be closed this Wednesday 25 April due to Anzac Day holiday.

Please note change to menu: -
“WATERMELON WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE TUCKSHOP FOR TERM 2 & 3 DUE TO IT GOING OUT OF SEASON. If ordered, this will be replaced with an alternative piece of fruit.”

Term 2 Roster & Menus are attached to this weeks newsletter.

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 P&F is running a cake stall and BBQ on Local Election Day starting from 8am. More details attached.

Brisbane City Council in conjunction with CoolSports are running free programs in Kalinga Park, Park Avenue, Wooloowin on Thursdays from 19 April to 24 May. 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Adventure Kids (Ages 5 - 12)

This program is guaranteed to keep the kids active with lots of action in the outdoors. Activities include putting up tents, orienteering, parachute games, super rockets, bush walking, water squirting challenges, obstacle courses and treasure hunts! Parents are encouraged to participate. Bookings are not required. Come and join the fun! Meet at the Playground, with payment by 18 April.
Fancutts Tennis Centre are continuing the tennis program at the school court in the assembly hall on Thursdays afternoons 2.50-3.20pm (Prep & Gr1) 3.20-4.05 (Gr.2,3) & 4.05-4.50pm (Gr4-7). Coach has enrolment forms. Rackets on special $30.

Hot Shots friendly tournaments (for trophies) is being held at Fancutts on Wednesday 25th April (Anzac Day) from 12.30-3.30pm & Mondays 7th May & 11th June from 9-12noon. McDonald’s Voucher & free Hot Shots t-shirt is given to every player. Friendly Hot Shots Tournaments for trophies are on Sat.11am-1pm during school term. SUPERLEAGUE fixtures are on Saturday afternoons and Sunday evenings for children & teenagers & Tuesday/Wednesday nights for adults. New season starts 14th July, 2012. Restrings – a 24hr. service or possible emergency restring while you wait. All enquiries, please contact Fancutts 38572922 in office hours or email admin@fancutts.com.au

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)


Thank you for your support.

Festival 2012 - Donations needed

Festival 2012 donations have commenced. Please donate one or more of the following items this Friday (marked boxes will be available at each classroom):

- Stuffed toys and animals in good, clean condition (for the Clown Stall)
- Prizes for kids – including small toys, stationery items, books, accessories etc
- Wine, champagne and spirits (for the Wine & Win Wheel) - there is a box in front of the office for wine and spirit donations

Please refer to the Festival flyer attached to this newsletter for further information.

This week your child will bring home a Book Club brochure. Should you wish to order from these brochures please complete the order forms and return with payment to your child’s teacher by Friday April 27 at the latest.

You may pay by cash, cheque (payable to Scholastic Australia) or credit card. Credit card is the preferred method and the process for doing this is outlined in the brochure. You must return the slip with the receipt number with your order.

The school receives free resources as commission from Book Club.

Chess Club will resume Wednesday May 2. If your child is unable to attend Chess Club this term due to sporting commitments etc please fill in the slip below and return to the office.

My child _________________ is unable to attend Chess this term.

Signed ______________________________.