Dear Parent, Carers and Friends of Holy Cross

This morning our school joined the parish for our Opening Mass for 2013 and to commission our young people in Year 7 as Student Leaders. To prepare for the ceremony and for the role our Year 7’s have reflected on the qualities of great leaders and also committed to imitating the servant leadership of Christ. It was appropriate that today was a feast associated with the leadership of St Peter. During the Mass I was struck by the words of the first reading from the apostle Peter who reminds Christians to lead gladly …. not simple as a duty. Certainly in the first 4 weeks of the year we have witnessed this joyful spirit of service in our Year 7 group. Congratulations Year 7.

Mrs Sarah Bull will take leave beginning next Monday until Monday April 10. In her absence Mrs Cheryl Bailey will step in to the role. Mrs Bailey is an experienced Support Teacher who has worked at Holy Cross in the past in supporting Curriculum Development. Mrs Bailey is well known to staff and students alike.

Yesterday a group of interested parents met to plan how to promote our school to the wider community. I am very grateful for the support that has been offered. In the next two weeks we will be sending our brochures to kindergartens and child care centres in the local area. If your child attends a kindy or centre can I ask that you volunteer to drop our enrolment packs to the centre. Please leave your details at the school office if you can volunteer to help with this. In the near future we will have a display table at 2 local shopping centres promoting our school. Parent volunteers to support this promotion will also be required for this venture.

Enrolments for Prep 2014 are now open. If your child turns 4 between 1st July 2008 and 30th Jun 2009 please contact the office for enrolment information. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website. Enrolment interviews will be held in April and May.

Yesterday our swimmers competed at the City Districts Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to all who competed. I heard great stories of our school being well represented by our students. Thank you to parents who volunteered to assist for the day.

This week Ms Coman and I attended a Leadership Meeting with many other teams from the north of the diocese. The meeting allowed time for us to work in Area and School teams to set goals and actions for the year. The basis for this planning was our Vision, Mission, Statement of Special Religious Character and our Strategic Renewal Plan which were revised and composed last year. An Annual Action Plan will be soon published on our website and with the newsletter.

Last Saturday our Parish formally welcomed Fr Josekutty as our Parish Priest at his installation by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. Congratulations from us all.

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

Lent – pray, reflect, act!
Archbishop Mark Coleridge delivered his Lenten Pastoral Letter 2013 - Visions of the Night at the Holy Cross Parish Mass on Saturday night. In this letter, he invited us to make Fridays of Lent special days of prayer and penance. A day when we pray, reflect and act by contemplating the face of Christ and His crucifixion. Our School Parish Mass (every Friday at 9:15am) during Lent provides a perfect way for you to accept this invitation. If you would like to watch or read our Archbishop’s Lenten Pastoral letter, click on the following link http://www.bne.catholic.net.au.

Congratulations to Fr. Josekutty who was installed as our Parish Priest on Saturday night!

Today we celebrated our ‘Welcome School Mass - 2013’ to mark the beginning of a new school year and to commission our Year 7 students as leaders of the school. Congratulations to our new Leaders who made a commitment in front of their peers, teachers and family to follow their Leadership Creed and live daily our school motto, with God for others. I look forward to watching our Year 7 students lead with confidence, courage, compassion, justice, humility and wisdom.

CARITAS – Project Compassion
Please keep collecting spare change for your CARITAS money boxes. Remember $10 could provide a family with a water filter to access clean and safe water.

Next Week’s CARITAS School Fundraising Events will be held on Friday 1st of March:
- Lolly bags to be sold by the Social Justice Committee for 50c
- Guess the Easter Eggs in the Jar – 50c for one guess or three for $1.
- Craft Club begins on Friday 1st of March at 8am.

Next week I will post details about our K’s for Caritas event on Wednesday 20th of March.

Remember ‘Future-tis-us’ – if we want to open doors into the future.

Curriculum News
Over the past few weeks, I have been working with teachers in all year levels to plan for their learners. It has been wonderful to collaborate with such dedicated, passionate and caring teachers. This year Holy Cross teachers are using the Australian Curriculum to plan learning and teaching in Mathematics, English, History and Science. The Queensland Curriculum and Early Years Curriculum remains for all other learning areas.

As a school, we are focusing on the learning area, Science to enhance our pedagogical practice and resources. Staff will be engaged in professional development throughout the year, including using information and technology in Science as a tool to engage students. This general capability; Information, Communication and Technology will be another area of focus for our school community.

This week 4 teachers and Mr. Drewniak played with a new learning tool called LIFE. This learning management system (LIFE) will allow students to collaborate in a safe online space. Staff and students will begin using this tool in their classrooms very soon. Students will create an avatar to identify themselves in this online space. Check out Ms Coman’s avatar. Can you see any resemblances??? I’m certain there will be many successful LIFE stories to share in our newsletter soon.

God Bless,
Helen Coman
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Pastoral Care Corner

Dear Parents

Last week I spoke about happiness. Australian Unity (a health fund) and Deakin University publish a Wellbeing Index. They have discovered that, apart from those on the poverty line or below, money doesn’t make us happier. Some of the things that do make a difference, include: Embrace a passion – find something you enjoy, that makes you feel good and dedicate time to it. Simplify life – Don’t be always on the lookout for new ‘stuff’. Appreciate what you’ve got rather than wanting new ‘stuff’ or more ‘stuff’. Don’t worry about what ‘stuff’ the Joneses have! Find something to believe in – for those of us with faith, that’s not a problem. If you are struggling with your relationship with God, or you don’t have one, talk to someone about it. Search out other avenues of belief, find what is right for you. Get into nature, exercise – How often have we heard that! But, it’s true. Maybe this is where you will find God. Love a pet – This is not always possible, but it’s worth considering. It has great benefits for your children, too, on many levels. Do for others – there are many calls on our time and money, but do we answer them? Have you done anything for the school community, lately? Did you respond in any way to the flood appeal? What about encouraging your children to contribute to Caritas by contributing yourself?

There are six ideas to help you increase your ‘wellbeing’/happiness level. Try at least one this week.

Joan Chittister’s thought for the week summed it up beautifully - To be human is to listen to the rest of the world with a tender heart, and learn to live life with our arms open and our souls seared with a sense of responsibility for everything that is.

Catherine McAuley would say: Be cheerful and happy, animating those around you.”

Anne Cannon
School Pastoral Worker

EASTER CHOIR

Holy Thursday, 28 March, is the last day of term, but also a very important day in our Church calendar. Mass is at 7:00pm in Holy Cross Church. Fr Josekutty would love to have a children’s choir for the occasion. Mrs Farne Sang will teach some of the hymns during school lessons and choir and there may be a practice one night during the week. Some of our band members may also be playing. Mass on Holy Saturday night (30 March) is at 7:00pm. Again, it would be great to have children as part of the choir. If you would like your children to be involved, please encourage them to tell Mrs Farne Sang and Sr Anne. If you require further information, please see Sr Anne.

TUCKSHOP

Helpers for Wednesday 27th February are:

Tuck-shop: Deb Birthisel, Alison Strong, Marie Wol gast, Cathy Bennett & Michaela Tsangari

Home bake: Karen Hind, Kym Hodda,
Scott Johnson, Jeanine Fenton, Carmen King & Tanya Smith

Please note our NUT FREE POLICY

When preparing Homebake items.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The school community wishes the students who celebrated their birthdays this week, many happy returns.
Evie Lyons, Oscar Rowell & Max Strong

AWARDS

Congratulations to all students who received awards during assembly.

PG Chloe Dunn & Jack Gordon
PW Nicholas Cheney & Jack Woodward
1W Dahlia Vogel & Harrison Heath
1/2G Harry Monaghan & Matthew Birthisel
2G Alex Finney & Hayden Malone
3G Lauren Maher & William Wood
3W Shiloh Lee & Ailish O’Donoghue
4W Lilly Watson & Brandon Martinz
4/5G Breanna Murphy & Willow Preston
5/6G Inabi Dunn & Arjun Mehrotra
7G Daniel Egan & Ross O’Brien

HOLY CROSS SWIMMING CARNIVAL YEARS 3-7

When: Wednesday 13th March
Where: Stafford State School
Time: 9:30am – 2:00pm

The Zone 6 Swimming Carnival will be on Tuesday 19 March at Somerset State School

SPORTS NEWS

Another fantastic result for Holy Cross at the City District Swimming Carnival. Our team performed brilliantly with four swimmers, George Williamson, Daniel Egan, Louis O’Callaghan & Brigid Mason being selected in the City Districts Swimming Team. These swimmers will now trial at the Met North Carnival coming up on the 27 March. We wish you luck!!! Well done kids, and thanks to parents and their support.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

School Fees have been emailed or posted to parents. If you have not received your fees account, it is very important that you contact the office as we are checking for system errors.

Thank you

IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE NEWSLETTER EMAILED TO YOU EVERY WEEK PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO:
bmckee@bne.catholic.edu.au
CLASS COORDINATORS
The role of a Parent Coordinator is to organise parent morning teas or dinners, to assist with the school festival, to prepare a class contact list and help/support the class teacher. Some classes already have their Parent Coordinators in place:

PG Lauren Milner
PW April Cavanagh
1W Kirsty Ryan
1/2G Natalie Finney
2G Kirsty Ryan & Michaela Tsangari
3G Jude Noone
3W Lisa Evans
4W
4/5G Janice Cutajar
5/6G Katrina Donoghue
7G Kathryn Lyons & Amanda O’Callaghan

If you would like to volunteer for those classes who do not yet have a Parent Coordinator, please contact Billie in the school office on 3857 2443 or the Class Teacher.

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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:

Brigid Mason
Louis O’Callaghan
Dominic Cutajar
Zoe Appleyard
Matthew Devlin
Alex Cutajar
Maya Love
Audrey Gallagher
Henry Cunningham

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

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Get your copy of the 2013|2014 Entertainment Book & help our school’s 2013 fundraiser!

This year we are fundraising with the new 2013|2014 Entertainment Book! We wouldn’t be able to help the school grow without community support. You can help us reach our 2013 fundraising goal by purchasing a copy of the 2013|2014 Entertainment Book for our fundraiser!

To get your copy and support our fundraiser, go to:


Purchase your Entertainment Book before March 18th and receive 6 bonus offers worth over $180 that you can use straight away – available only while stocks last!

This year there are over 140 new Brisbane offers for restaurants and businesses, including The Coffee Club, Palace Cinemas, Iceworks, Wheel & Barrow, Bacchus, The Euro, Full Moon Hotel, Arrivederci Pizzeria, Ginga Japanese Restaurants, and many, many more!

From every book sold, $13 will go toward building a better school not only for our children, but the next generation of Holy Cross students.

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THE 2012/2013 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK ORDER FORM IS HEADING OUR WAY IN MARCH!!

Holy Cross families, as in previous years, our P&F Committee will sell the popular “Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Surrounds Entertainment Book” during March and April. This local guide provides hundreds of 25% to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from restaurants, cafés, attractions, theatres and accommodation.

Please consider purchasing one for your own family or perhaps ask your friends, neighbours or workmates if they may be interested in buying one through Holy Cross School. Each book will cost $65, with $13 from each book sold going directly to our school. So, please spread the word wherever and to whomever you can. The book should sell itself but we can help by letting our local community know they will be available from Holy Cross School from March 20.

Please note that in March order forms, not the actual Entertainment Book, will be distributed to each family at our school but you may view an Entertainment Book at our school Office or online before ordering. You may alternatively choose to order and pay securely online via


Thanks for your consideration! If you have any questions, please contact Maddie Barbour (mbarbour@fincom.com.au)