Dear Parent, Carers and Friends of Holy Cross

This week there has been growing excitement and enthusiasm as the activity to prepare for Festival builds. I know that families have received stall containers for filling and returning for Festival.

Flyers will be coming home next week for HC families to distribute to neighbours’ letterboxes, at sports clubs etc.

- Raffle ticket sales have been going well with tremendous prizes on offer. More tickets available from the school office.
- Class donations – With only 3 weeks till Festival, let’s step these up. Please check the Festival flyer attached to the newsletter for details of what to shop and send in!!

Parish Sacramental Program is underway. The parish will welcome children and their parents to the Parent Information Session and Reconciliation Activity beginning on 31 May at 3:30pm. 54 young people will be preparing to complete their initiation into the Church over the next months.

In the next few weeks all families in our school will receive an invitation from Archbishop Coleridge to support the Annual Catholic Campaign. Your gifts to the Campaign will support the work of the Church in Brisbane in the area of family support through Centacare, support for the Mary Mackillop Foundation which assists families access Catholic Education, support for retired priests fund and for priest formation at our seminary. All of these ministries are tremendous works of the church making a difference to the lives of many people in the Brisbane Archdiocese. When you receive your invitation from the Archbishop I encourage you to respond generously. The theme of the campaign is “You Make a Difference to Me.” The letter will outline the people that your donation will help. This is another way our community can live its motto – With God, For Others. We can support those beyond our own community by our generous support of those who work to help families and young people in our Archdiocese.

Congratulations to all our students who took part in the School Cross Country on Wednesday. From my vantage as a marshal at the final turn I observed EVERY student giving his or her best. I was very proud to see the efforts of all … no matter where in the field they found themselves. I was also impressed by the support all our runners received from their peers. Well done! Thank you to all our staff and volunteers for a great day!

Paul Drewniak
Principal

Family Information Updates were posted to each family last week. Please take a few minutes to check the information carefully amending even small errors. Please print legibly and return this form to the office by Monday 27th May. These forms MUST BE returned even if there are no amendments to be recorded. We are still waiting on 80 forms to be returned.
A.P.R.E.’s Report

Today our year four students led our parish community in celebrating the feast day of Our Lady Help of Christians; the patron saint of Australia. Thank you for your reverence and participation at Church. A special thank you to Mrs. Tracey for preparing the children.

Who is the greatest? (Matthew 18: 1-4)

This week Year 7 students read and discussed the meaning of Matthew 18 and how the scripture has implications for our school and our local community. Matthew 18:1-4 asks; who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? The reading led students in a discussion on the importance of being humble in our school and not being the one to boast or show off.

During the cross-country carnival on Wednesday, I saw many great students participating with humility in our school event. One particular moment reminded me of the above scripture passage. A student who had won his race, continued to cheer every competitor across the finish line including the last competitor who finished some time after him. Most students had stopped cheering but this great student kept calling out his name with words of encouragement. He made that student feel like the winner of the race. Who is the greatest?

Thank you to Mr. Cannell, Mr. Devereaux and Mr. Estreich for organizing the event and the teachers for their help and support. Good luck to our Zone Cross Country team on Monday!

Well done to the children and their families who walked safely to school today! Every child who walked to school received a sticker. Thank you to our Year 7s for your help in leading this event

This week is National Cyber Security Awareness Week, an Australian Government initiative, held every year in partnership with industry, community and consumer groups and state and territory governments. Awareness Week helps Australians understand cyber security risks and encourages us to take simple steps to protect our personal and financial information online.

Technology is rapidly becoming faster, cheaper, mobile, integrated and more powerful. More and more young people are actively online using these technologies. Today we live in a digital world where we can observe, participate and communicate in world events in real time. We can be communicating 12 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. This interaction has created a digital society and like any society, it is expected we act in a certain way, and be good digital citizens.

10 Simple Tips for better Online Security

1. Install and update your security software; set it to scan regularly.
2. Turn on automatic updates on all your software, particularly your operating system and applications.
3. Use strong passwords and different passwords for different users.
4. Stop and think before you click on links and attachments.
5. Take care when transacting online – research the supplier and use a safe payment method.
6. Only download “apps” from reputable publishers and read all permission requests.
7. Regularly check your privacy settings on social networking sites.
8. Stop and think before you post any photos or financial information online.
9. Talk with your child about staying safe online, including on their smartphone or mobile device.
10. Report or talk to someone if your feel uncomfortable or threatened online – download the Government’s Cyber safety Help button.

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

We all get anxious some of the time. It’s what gives us the adrenalin drive to get the task done or face the difficulty. Sometimes, we get overanxious, as do our children, who also pick up on our anxiety. Michael Grose offers the following tips to help with anxiety issues.

1. **Skilling towards bravery**: Help children face their fears by skilling them up. (“Look around for a friendly face when you go to Scouts.”) You need to put on your coaching hat to build skills and self-confidence, which defeats anxiety.

2. **Scaffolding towards bravery**: Rather than avoidance allow children to face their fears in stages (“Let’s go to the party for an hour, then I’ll pick you up.”) By breaking things down into smaller stages children feel that they are more in control. Lack of control is behind a great deal of anxiousness in adults, as well as children.

3. **Be empathetic, not sympathetic**: There is a difference. Empathy shows you understand how they feel; however sympathy can be maudlin, leading you to pay excessive attention to the fear as well as and letting them off the hook. Children need a supportive adult who says (but not necessarily in these words), ‘I know how you feel but I also know you can do this.’

4. **Creating opportunities for independence**: Competency is the enemy of anxiety. Building children’s self-help skills and their independence outside of the home has a snowball effect on how they feel about situations that they usually fear.

5. **Model bravery**: If you want children to be brave then you go first. Your calmness, patience and willingness to methodically work your way through new situations has a calming effect on children (good leadership is basically about staying calm in stressful situations), as well as showing them how fears of unknown, new social situations, and even specific fears such as going to the dentist, can be handled positively.

It’s worth noting that most children grow out of their anxiety given attentive, brave parenting. As a general parenting strategy Michael recommend that you take a strength-based approach and focus on building children’s strengths and assets to help them overcome fears......at the same time recognise that some children may need some extra assistance from time to time as a result of their anxiety. We can offer this help at school. Just ask your child’s teacher, or check with me. Catherine McAuley would say: “Try to meet all with peace and ease.” Have an anxiety-free week.

God bless
Sr Anne.

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**MINI VINNIES**

Beau Cossar, Lily van der Wal, Anna Sharpe, Louis O’Callaghan, Sam Patane, Charles Williamson, Evie Lyons, Isabella Grellman, Kelly McKenzie, Josie Wruck, Harriet Boyd and Sian Miu, our Year Seven Mini Vinnies, attended an Activity Day on Wednesday, joining Mini Vinnies from many other Brisbane schools. They learnt a lot more about social justice issues and have some great ideas of how to promote action for these issues. Watch for their exciting developments.

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**CALLING ALL GARDENERS**

Northy Street City Farm is conducting an after-school program for 6-10 year olds. Cost is $10 per session, for 8 weeks. Each session is for two hours. For further information check out [www.thesmithfamily.com.au](http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au) or email Benjamin.Breen@thesmithfamily.com.au

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**CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

**RECONCILIATION Preparations**

Activity 1: Fri 31st May 3.30pm – 5.30pm
(cluding the Parent Information Session)
Activity 2: Fri 7th June 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**RECONCILIATION Celebration**: Friday 14th June 6.30pm, 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
**TUCKSHOP –**
 Helpers for Wednesday 29th May are:

**Tuck-shop:** Deb Birthsel, Jane Vincent (til 11 am)
Jeanine Fenton, Mary-Therese Brady, Sharon Vogel & Loretta Mammarella

**Home bake:** Deb Birthsel, Kate Felsman, Kate Denning, Anita Maher, Deanne Jebreen & Karen Hind

Please note our NUT FREE POLICY When preparing Homebake items.

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER TERM 2 ATTACHED TOGETHER WITH VOLUNTEER SLIP FOR TERM 3.**

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**O.S.H.C. VACATION CARE**

The June/July holidays Vacation Care program is attached to this weeks’ newsletter. If you require child care for your child/children it is very important to fill in your booking form and return it to the school office or O.S.H.C. as soon as possible. These holidays we are limiting the amount of children we are able to take and the places will go to the first ones we receive. Once we reach **30 children** we will begin a wait list and will only allot places as they become available or alternatively we may be able to direct you to another centre which may have vacancies.

Rhonda Wood
OSHC Coordinator

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**CRAFT CLUB**

It’s not too late to come along to “Winter Crafts”. Put in an order form to make a hat, scarf, or turtle and join us outside the staffroom on Fridays at 8 o’clock.
All profit will go to the 139 club, a drop in centre for the homeless located in Fortitude Valley. Prep children are very welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

Thank you
Mrs Shaw

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**VACATION CARE:**

MAKE SURE YOU BOOK EARLY AS PLACES ARE GOING TO BE CAPPED AT 30 FOR THESE HOLIDAYS!

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**5/6 G Italian Fashion Parade**

The 5/6 G Italian Fashion Parade will now be held on Monday 3 June at 11:30am in the new building. The date has been changed due to the Zone Cross Country Carnival. We are looking forward to seeing some 5/6 parents there.

Dina Nardone (Italian Teacher)

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**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.


*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!
SUPPORT A READER (SAR) is a very successful program which aims to support and develop the literacy skills of our young students. It is easy, fun and very satisfying. We are calling for volunteers to help us run this program in 2013. If you are interested you will need to be available to attend a training session at the school on Friday, May 31. (9.00-10.30 am) This session will be informative but very relaxed! We will then ask you to nominate a 1 hour time slot each week when you can support 4 young readers in 15 minute sessions each, following the SAR process. If you feel you are able to support the school in this way please contact Maureen Walsh on mvwalsh@bne.catholic.edu.au or 38572443 ASAP. Thank you in anticipation!

Maureen Walsh
Support Teacher- Inclusive Education

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**Cent Auction Fundraiser Tupperware Party**

Please RSVP ASAP
milnerl@bigpond.net.au

The Holy Cross Festival Cent Auction team in conjunction with Lauren Milner (year 2 and Prep mum) are hosting a Fundraiser Tupperware Party to raise funds to obtain a TUPPERWARE PRIZE PACK for the Festival Cent Auction Stall. All you have to do is SHOP and SUPPORT this event.

- **Date:** Friday 24th May 2013
- **Venue:** 92 Huet St, Nundah
- **Time:** 7 pm
- **Details:** Canapés will be provided
- **RSVP:** Lauren Milner at milnerl@bigpond.net.au by Wednesday 22nd May

Can not attend the party? you can still BUY!

ORDER FORMS & CATALOGUES AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE

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**Woolworths Earn & Learn Program**

8th April – 9th June 2013

Please keep collecting your Earn & Learn stickers!

We will be able to redeem all our Woolworths Earn & Learn Points for valuable education resources including areas such as Mathematics, Literacy, Science, Art & Craft plus many more.

You can place your Woolworths Earn & Learn Points sheet in the Collection Boxes located at either –

- The School’s
- Woolworths Nundah
- Woolworths Chermside

Thanks for your support!

Any questions please email jeanine_fenton@yahoo.com.au

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**GLUTEN FREE BAKING**

The Festival Cake Stall is seeking gluten free baked goods. Last year these were very popular and this year we don’t want anyone to miss out!

Please see the Festival Flyer attached for more information on how you can help.
To celebrate the national day of Italy which is coming up on June 2, "delicious food, fine dramatic performances and wondrous workshops will light up the river city and Sunshine State for the seventh annual Italian Week Festival" next week - from May 26 until June 2. For information, please visit the website:


Co.As.It Community Services also invite you to the Festa Della Repubblica (Italian National Day) three course luncheon and entertainment on Sunday 2 June at 12 noon at the Brisbane Abruzzo Club, 150 Fursden Rd Carina. Tickets are $35 per person.

Co.As.It is also holding 'La Giara', a variety show with music, costumes and folksongs of Sicilian country life at St Laurence's College, South Brisbane, on Sunday 9 June at 2:30pm. Tickets are $20 per person.

To purchase tickets or for more information on the Co.As.It events, please phone 3262 5755 or visit

http://www.coasit.asn.au/

Many of you would be familiar with CO.AS.IT, a non-profit Italian Australian Welfare Association which provides a range of community, health, educational and recreational services within Queensland.

The links for the above websites are also on the Holy Cross Italian webpage.