Dear Parent, Carers and Friends of Holy Cross

This week the beginning of our Lenten journey has been the key focus of school life in the following ways.

1. On Ash Wednesday each class commemorated the day with a prayer, led by Fr Fitz-Herbert, during which every student was marked with the ancient symbol of Ashes. There was a great sense of reverence in each classroom and the children responded so well to the question that is the challenge for all of us to take up – “Will you try to be a friend of Jesus?”

2. As staff we were also able to reflect more deeply on the Lenten experience at our Tuesday staff prayer where we read “As we enter this period of ‘fasting’ let us fast from the things that muddy our focus on God’s abundant love, Perhaps we could fast from making unkind judgements of comment - and ‘feast’ on saying things that build up and encourage instead. Doing this would truly reflect to everyone around us that our God abounds in ‘steadfast love’.

3. At our School Assembly on Ash Wednesday our Year 4/5 classes reminded us of the call to be Christ in our world. They based their message around the teaching of St Teresa of Avila “Christ has no body here on Earth but yours, No hands but yours, nor feet but yours; Yours are the eyes through which to look with Christ’s compassion for the world, yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

4. Finally all families and staff received a Project Compassion collection box to remind us of the call to “almsgiving” during Lent.

The three key aspects of the Lenten season of renewal and repentance (Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving) have been central to our week. Let us continue the journey as we began it.

In this week’s newsletter please note the invitation to parents to gather for Prayer on Friday afternoons from 2:20pm

Early in the week Mrs Mc Court and I attended our regional Admin Team days at which we worked on our time line and action plan for the many activities planned for 2012. It was good to spend time with colleagues from other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese to discuss our plans. It was affirming to note that many of the actions planned here are also endeavours being undertaken or just begun in other places. Some of the actions we planned were also presented in my report at the recent P&F meeting. They include:-

1. Further progress in the area of staff spirituality through our continued participation in the Brisbane Catholic Education “Catching Fire” initiative
2. Linking in to the BCE Multi Media Centre to enhance resourcing for the teaching of Religious Education.
3. Introducing opportunity for Prayer Time for Parents.
4. Staff Professional Learning in “First Steps” Reading
5. Developing a School Renewal Plan based on new Archdiocesan documents
6. Continuing our work in student assessment to support planning for all students.
7. Continuing School Wide Positive Behaviour Programme
8. Planning for continued access to IT for students
9. Advertising our school community to the wider community
10. Implementing Maths, English, Science and History documents ( all that are available) from the Australian Curriculum

A wonderful year ahead!
Have a wonderful week
Paul Drewniak
Principal
A.P.R.E.’s Report

“If you want peace, work for justice!” Pope Paul VI. This is the impetus that highlights the annual Caritas effort for 2012. Across the globe, many of our brothers and sisters live surrounded by conflict and instability. At the heart of violence and disharmony is injustice; a lack of food and clean water; the exploitation of people and resources.

In this season of Lent which began this week with Ash Wednesday, Caritas’ Project Compassion Appeal provides us with an opportunity to open our eyes to the plight of those struggling for justice in their lives. As followers of Christ, we are called to stand in solidarity with those in need and to do what we can to make justice a reality in their lives. During my time at Holy Cross, the generosity of the school community for the needy of our world has been outstanding and I have no doubt that this year will be no different! This week we have sent home the Project Compassion Boxes for your effort in helping to raise money for the people of Cerra Candela in Peru, in order that they can purchase tanks and equipment to ensure that they have water in their community. We are raising money this year under the title of TANKITAS and my dream is that we may be able to provide money enough for 3 perhaps 4 tanks for this community. Each tank system costs about $1 000, but let me assure you that every dollar will make an enormous difference in the lives of these people.

The Year Seven Social Justice Group will facilitate fundraising during the six weeks of Lent and we ask that you support their initiatives in any way you are able. We look forward to an exciting few weeks of outreach! God is with us!

Patty McCourt

MINI VINNIES

Many of our Year 6 and 7 students have opted to join Mini Vinnies this year. This is wonderful to see and reminds us that we are encouraging our students to be ‘with God for others.’ Most have now had an opportunity to visit the Mercy Centre Craft group and have enjoyed the experience. The last group goes next Tuesday. Next Wednesday, at Assembly, they will be inducted into the group for 2012. They will pledge their commitment before the whole school and Mrs Berenice O’Brien, from the senior St Vincent de Paul group, will accept their pledge by presenting them with their badges. Parents are most welcome to attend.

TOWELS AND TOILETRIES

Thank you again for all you have donated so far. This will be the last week for this collection. If each family sent in only one towel, in reasonable condition, we would make a great difference to a lot of young, homeless people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Angelina Daly, Francesca Hellmuth, Fletcher Finney and Sarah Melville

PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2013

Do you have a child ready to start Prep in 2013? Please collect Enrolment Application Form from the office and return together with:

An Application Fee of $25.00
From the Parish Priest

On the first day of Lent in this parish, multiple assemblies of believers (fifteen in fact!) gathered to celebrate the Ash Wednesday liturgy. The youngest to the oldest, the women, men, children and infants, all gathered in large and small groups to begin the annual forty day pilgrimage of Lent to Easter-Pentecost. The twelve classes gathered prayerfully for hearing the gospel and the signing with ash. Ash was smeared on each student’s forehead in the form of the cross, and words like these were spoken to each young believer:
- Repent, and believe the Good News
- Will you turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel?
- Will you try and be a friend of Jesus?
Many responses were given and some included:
- Yes!
- I will try.
- I will do my best.
- With God’s help, I will.
On Tuesday, I visited all twelve classes and mentioned to many of our Holy Cross students that the forty days of Lent is preparation for the fifty days of Easter. It is an annual cycle: Lent-Easter-Pentecost. Think not forty days of Lent nor fifty days of Easter but . . . ninety days.
Lent is preparatory. It moves our community of faith toward Easter. It is both a baptismal and penitential time. Note that it is firstly baptismal and then it is penitential.
As it is baptismal, we start with remembering who we have been made through God’s gift: Christians; beloved of God; sisters and brothers in Christ; a holy, royal and priestly people; servants of Christ in the world; compassionate prophets of God’s reign in the world. Who do you understand yourself to be as a parents who is a baptised Christian?
It’s also penitential. Only then do we allow the Spirit to scrutinize our blindnesses, compulsions, sin, and self interest over the common good through prayer, reflection, serving others, acts of penance, fasting and other acts of Christian discipleship.
One way of encouraging your child to ‘grow in baptism’ during Lent is to reflect with them at the end of their day before they go to sleep. A parent once told me that each night she asked her child to reflect on the good choices her daughter had made that day. The next question was about other good choices people around the daughter had made. This built an awareness of personal responsibility in her child and a sense of the common good with others.
But in Lent she also asked her daughter to reflect on the wrong choices her daughter had made that day and the wrong choices she had seen others making. This parent nurtured an appropriate sense of personal sin, literally meaning ‘missing the mark’, and the reality of communal sin.
What I found instructive was that this nightly reflection or ‘examen’ on good and bad choices was grounded in the mother’s deep belief about her daughter’s baptismal dignity: being a daughter of God; a friend of Jesus; a Spirit-filled child of the Gospel of life and forgiveness.

Fr John Francis Fitz-Herbert
Parish Priest

HOLY CROSS SWIMMING CARNIVAL YEARS 3-7

When: Monday 5th March, 2012
Where: Stafford State School,
Time: 9.30am – 2.00pm

The Zone 6 Swimming Carnival will be on Thursday 22 March at Somerset State School

SEE BACK OF NEWSLETTER FOR LUNCH

PACK ORDERS

The Catholic Guy Parish Event – St Michael’s Dorrington

Bruce Downes is known around the world as ‘The Catholic Guy’. In addition to his ground-breaking approach to presenting the Catholic faith on Foxtel, Bruce and his team hold events that are fresh, modern and relevant to today’s world. Bruce and his team will be running a series of sessions as a ‘Lenten Mission’ which will include talks, music and the arts. Come and discover for yourself the event that has changed thousands of people. It’s open to men and women of all ages and backgrounds and will take place at St Michael’s Church, 250 Banks St. Dorrington. Admission is free.

The first four sessions will be repeated, and the sessions (approximately 1 1/2 hours each) will run at the following times:

SESSION 1: Wednesday 7 March, at 7.30pm, OR Thursday 8 March, after the 9.00am Mass
SESSION 2: Thursday 8 March, at 7.30pm, OR Friday 9 March, after the 9.00am Mass
SESSION 3: Friday 9 March, at 7.30pm, OR Monday 12 March, after the 9.00am Mass
SESSION 4: Monday 12 March, at 7.30pm, OR Tuesday 13 March, after the 9.00am Mass
SESSION 5: Tuesday 13 March, at 7.30pm

For information on The Catholic Guy, see http://www.TheCatholicGuy.com/

ATTENTION:
2012 School Fees Account will now show BPAY for your convenience.
Parents who have been paying into the schools
account on line, could you now please pay by BPAY.

GOTCHA CARDS – Week 5

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:

Nick House
Oliver Rogers
Ashlynn Haywood-North
George Noone
Harry Moore
Rory O’Donoghue
Nick Bradley-Moore
Rhea Jaimon Joseph
Will Chester

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

We have had a request from one of our neighbours to ask that parents do not park on the vacant block or park too close to the driveway which prevents their being able to access to their driveway. Parking on the vacant block seems to occur when there is a meeting at school. Please respect this request.

CALLING ALL TUCKSHOP EXTRAORDINAIRES ….

Thank you to all those parents who have filled our homebake roster for this Term. We are seeking helpers in the Tuckshop for the following dates to ensure we can open:

7, 21 & 28 March.

Lunch, admiration from your kids and good time included free!

Contact Sharlene on 0401 665 318 or dash1099@hotmail.com with your dates.

Thank you!!

TUCKSHOP

Helpers for Wednesday 29nd February are:

Tuck-shop: Mary-Therese O’Sullivan, Natalie Finney, Misia Caulton, Melissa Newton-Turner, Kylie Quinn & Bronwen Wruck til 1pm.

Home bake: Meta Monaghan, Jude Noone, Monique Zappert, Kate Beal, Maria Celere, Leah Edwards, Karen Hind & Catherine Byrne

Please note our NUT FREE POLICY when preparing Homebake items.

THE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK IS HEADING OUR WAY!

Holy Cross families, to assist fundraising this year, our P&F Committee is planning to sell the popular Entertainment Book during this term. 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. For each book sold, $13 will go directly to our school. More information regarding price and delivery of the Entertainment Books will appear in upcoming newsletters.

1st Semester 2012 – Holy Cross

Tuckshop Rosterers & Homebakers Get Together.

Calling all Rosterers & Hoemakers – Past, Present & Future.

Date Claimer/Reminder

When: Friday 9th March 2012
Where: Albion Hotel – Wine Room
Time: 5.30pm onwards

Take the night off, order pizza for the kids and come and have some fun getting to meet and catch up with other HC Tuckshoppers.
Welcome to our first monthly update for 2012. This year our P & F Committee aims to keep you posted with an update of its projects and fundraising activities, as determined at our P & F meetings, via this column. Please remember that everyone is most welcome to attend these monthly meetings to help in our decision making process and that the minutes of each meeting can always be accessed by emailing a request to pfhcs@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Projects underway:

- Air conditioning upgrade: This sees almost 4 years of researching, quote gathering and negotiations come into fruition – thank you Stephen Murphy, Jamie Pelusi, Janice Cutajar and Paul Drewniak for your assistance with this lengthy process. A great outcome for our school!
- Window tinting in Year 4/5 classrooms to minimize glare and assist with efficiency of air conditioning and data projections.
- Welcome Barbecue: thank you to all families (about 2/3 of our school) and the many staff who were able to attend and enjoy the evening. Special thanks to our crew of generous volunteers who set up/barbecued/served/sold tickets/cleaned up: Stephen Murphy, Donna Murphy, Mark Gordon, Derek Hamblin, Toni Hickling, Matt Finney, Daniel Barichello, Paul Ryan, Sue Fenech, Karen Hind, Irene Elder and Steve Rowley.
- Fond farewell to Mrs Shelley Halverson: our P & F were grateful to have the opportunity to bid Shelley well at our school mass last Saturday evening, given her 7 years of outstanding service at HCS.
- A very special thank you to Mark Gordon for the donation of his time, materials and labour to build the wonderful new Prep lockers: the children are very happy to be able to fit their school bags in with such ease!

Projects completed:

- Class Coordinators: almost finalized. Special thanks to those who have volunteered for this role as it is integral to promoting connectivity amongst the Year levels within our school community.
- Volunteers Register – ‘at least one thing’ campaign: Have you returned your form to nominate your help this year? We would appreciate them returned by February 29.
- Estee Lauder shopping afternoon: please gather together your friends and come along to an exclusive shopping afternoon on March 24th.

Please pre purchase $10 tickets (this money goes directly toward fundraising) from Deanne Chester dandpchester@optusnet.com.au or via flyer distributed. Thank you to Deanne for organising this fundraiser.

- Election Barbecue and Cake Stall – March 24th (7am-2pm): Please support this fundraiser by offering to assist on the day and/or by baking goods. A roster is currently being compiled and will be circulated within the next week. Thanks to Natalie Finney, Angela Salintri and Toni Williamson for coordinating this project.
- HCS 2012 Festival (June 3) - preparations well underway. Sincere thanks to Brian Nally and the Festival Committee for their tireless efforts in coordinating this major fundraising event. Please lend them your support.
- Ongoing provision of our weekly Tuckshop service for our students. Many thanks to Sharlene Hamblin and the parent volunteers who provide homebake and make themselves available for duty, allowing Tuckshop to operate. Please consider volunteering on Wednesdays to assist with food preparation and service.

Projects in the pipeline:

- Sale of Entertainment Books in March/April/May to raise funds for P&F projects
- HCS Disco
- Mothers’ Day Stall – thank you Bonita Gerry for generously volunteering again to run this stall.
- HCS Mothers’ Dinner (May) – Can you help organize this ‘great night out’ this year? Bron Norris is seeking assistance to organize this lovely mothers’ event.

Grants update:

- Many thanks to Maree Patane, Mark Mammarella and Sharon Vogel for kindly taking on roles as the 2012 Grants Sub-Committee.

Funds allocated:

- $11 800 for IT building furniture (Funds raised from the ‘Night at the Casino’ covered this cost)
- $31 360 to complete air conditioning during school holidays
- $1500 for Music equipment/instruments for HCS instrumental programme
- $5000 to the Library

Fundraising activities:

- Estee Lauder shopping afternoon – March 24
- Election BBQ and Cake Stall – March 24
- Entertainment Book campaign running through to end of May
- 2012 Festival – Sunday June 3: a wonderful celebration of our school and a crucial fundraiser

Please support these fundraising ventures in any way you can. This will allow the P & F Committee to continue its financial contributions toward the improvement and maintenance of facilities and resources for our children and our entire school community.

NEXT MEETING: March 14, commencing at 6.30pm in IT building (ground floor).
We hope to see you there!

SWIMMING CARNIVAL LUNCH PACK INFORMATION AND ORDER FORM

Lunch pack: $3.50
Includes: Sausage in Bread with sauce and a Juice Pop top

To order, please enclose in an envelope **$3.50 with the completed slip below and return it to the school office no later than Wednesday February 28.**

Please note, there will not be any other types of food sold on the day. It is only the sausage sizzle – children need to bring their own morning teas.

Available for parents: Coffee; tea ($2.50 each); bottled water ($1.50 ea); morning tea free & sausage sizzle ($2.00).

We also want to have a morning tea for the teachers; parents; grandparents & carers who are there. If you could **bring a plate,** it would be appreciated.

Anyone able to help Sharlene with the BBQ or serving of lunch, please note it on the form. Sharlene would be most grateful for any help received. Thank you

☐ Yr 3-7 Swimming Carnival Lunch Packs

Name:________________________ Class:________________________

☐ 1x Student Lunch pack - $3.50 (enclosed)
☐ ___ extra lunch packs for parents/sibling etc (pay on the day – numbers for catering purposes)
☐ YES, I __________________ can help with the BBQ &/or serving of lunch.
  (Print parent’s name)

☐ YES, I __________________ can bring a plate for morning tea.
(Print parent’s name)