Dear Parents,

This morning at 11am we held silence. At this time we remembered those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in time of war. We prayed that the offering of their lives might not be in vain. We prayed that we would be a community and people dedicated to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and for the wisdom and strength to build a better world.

Tomorrow night’s Night at the Casino is shaping to be a wonderful event! This week the Pavilion has been transformed to a dazzling setting for the evening. Raffle tickets have been returning steadily. If yours are not in please bring them to the evening and return them to a committee member. Tickets are available on the night. I am very grateful to all those committee members and volunteers who have met each week for at least 12 weeks and who have worked so hard to bring this event to reality. We are looking forward to a fantastic event. The children are also very excited by the prospect of the auction of their class quilts.

Some staffing decisions for 2012 have been made based on the enrolment figures as at today’s date. 12 class groups will continue for the coming year. Class structures and teachers for the year will be announced later in the term. Next year Mrs Terry Wally will return to Mater Dei School as her secondment to the role of Support Teacher: Inclusive Education comes to an end. Terry has contributed so much to our school community in the 2 years that she has been with us and we are very grateful to her for all she is to us. Brisbane Catholic Education will reduce the hours to the Inclusion Role at Holy Cross next year. Hours will be added to the existing Support Teacher role to ensure that Mrs Sarah Bull continues in her full time capacity as Support Teacher: Inclusive Education. Verified students will continue to receive their hours in class support.

Today when Year 4 joined other parishioners for 9:15 Mass the prayers reminded us to “extend our cloak of compassion” as St Martin did in the 4th century. Today is also the anniversary of the death, 170 years ago, of Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters established Holy Cross School 121 years ago. Sisters who live in our parish generously presented Year 4 and Year 6 D with commemorative pins and Catherine’s Suspice; a prayer in which she declared – My God I will belong to You forever.

During November, together with the whole church we remember those friends and family who have died. I invite you to add the names of your loved ones and friends to the Book of Remembrance in the foyer of the school. These people will be held in our prayers during this month.

This week final fees accounts for the year were sent home to families. Please ensure that all payments are made by the due date so that the school can meet our financial commitments in December and January. If you are experiencing difficulty in paying please contact the school office to speak with me.

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

Those of you with older children may have already had to let them go, out of home, out of town, interstate, overseas. Both of my sons are heading off – one to Canada and one to Perth. It is a hard time, hard to watch as their dreams sometimes do not meet their expectations and they learn the invaluable lessons of life. Most of us want to protect them from these times, but, just as for us, the hard times are the growing times. And God knows the dark times are what mould us into the people we are challenged to become. The following story helped me, (I am not very good at letting go) and I share it with you.

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to squeeze its body through the tiny hole. Then it stopped, as if it couldn’t go further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bits of cocoon. The butterfly emerged easily but it had a swollen body and shrivelled wings.

The man continued to watch it, expecting that any minute the wings would enlarge and expand enough to support the body. Neither happened! In fact the butterfly spent the rest of its life as it was.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand: The restricting cocoon and the struggle required by the butterfly to get through the opening was a way of forcing the fluid from the body into the wings so that it would be ready for flight once that was achieved.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. Going through life with no obstacles would cripple us.

We will not be as strong as we could have been and we would never fly.

God is with us!

Patty McCourt

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**Pastoral Care Corner**

Dear Parents

We all worry and some of us worry more than others. I keep encouraging children to stop worrying by talking about their worries, by giving them away and by praying about them. Michael Grose offers the following tips on ‘worrying’. Parents don’t need to worry:

1. **When a child’s misbehaviour fits into the normal behavioural range.** Working out what’s normal is a challenge when you are inexperienced. You need to check in with friends from time to time and see what’s happening with their children.

2. **When a child is moving from one stage to the next.** Four-year-olds can get ‘kinder smart mouth’; boys can give mum a hard-time at five and again in early adolescence; some girls develop an ‘attitude at seven, and again at thirteen; boys’ vocabularies shrink to three words in early teens; and 14 year old girls will often have little time for the dads. These behaviours are indicative of different transition stages of development. Annoying yes, but not always worrying!

3. **When a child is displaying an independent streak.** Sometimes children put their foot down and say “NO! I’m not trying that. They don’t do the things that you wanted them to do such as play a particular sport or go to a certain club. A **show of independence** is **usually a healthy thing**, but it can be difficult for parents to swallow.

4. **When a child struggles periodically at school either socially or academically.** The ups and downs of growing up mean that children don’t always learn on an even trajectory. They have good years and bad years at school. They also have good years and bad years socially. That is, they have years where they sit next to their best friends and have a ball. And other years when finding and keeping friends can be a little tougher. Helping children ride the lows and the highs is part of the parenting job. Sometimes we worry at the first sign of a problem. Time and children themselves solve many problems when they get the chance.

In doubt, talk honestly and openly with some trusted parents, preferably those with some experience. Also talk with your child’s teachers who generally have had more experience of children of your child’s age group than you do.

God bless your families.

Sr Anne Cannon

School Pastoral Worker

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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

- Sib Fawcett, Grace Barrett, Matilda Barbour, Zach See to and Caitlin Hind

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

**PHOTOS: Sports & Choir Groups**

Order Forms have been sent home with Children. If you would like to purchase these photos, please send back form by Friday 18 November 11. There are extra forms in the office. Please contact MSP Photography on 3865 4291 if you have any queries.
CASINO NIGHTS – ABSENTEE BIDS
If you have submitted an absentee bid for the casino night and have not received confirmation it has been received, can you please email or call Tanya North tcnorth@bigpond.com or 0409 62621 to make sure it has been received.

MINDS & HEARTS:
A Specialist Clinic for Asperger’s Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Conditions

Information Night - November 23rd 5.30pm
After the Diagnosis - Autism Spectrum Conditions from 0-6 years by Professor Tony Attwood and Dr Louise Ford.

The aim of the information evening is to assist parents to better understand ASC and the emotional journey experienced by parents after a diagnosis, as well as scientific knowledge and practical advice on how to choose the early intervention approach that suit the unique profile of ability of a child with ASC. The speakers will briefly discuss approaches and rationales for early intervention, the principles and research findings on key intervention programs designed for children with ASC, key factors to positive intervention outcome, and information on local services and resources available for children with ASC and their families.

Minds & Hearts
P O Box 5675 West End QLD 4101
Ph.: 07 3844 9466 Fax: 07 3844 9533
Email: info@mindsandhearts.net Web: www.mindsandhearts.net

INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO PLAY THE PIANO?

My name is Danielle Price, to book lessons at the school for 2012 please call me either at Home: 3325 5414 or Mobile: 0413 330 665.

THURSDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2011
Christmas Carols Evening
Holy Cross Church
At 6.00pm
Every class will be participating, so please join us.

P&F AGM
WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 6.30PM
Lower Floor New Building
The finish line for the 2012 P&F Year is Approaching. The P&F Executive would like to warmly invite all parents as friends to attend the Holy Cross School P&F AGM to hear a report on the P&F Association’s achievements throughout this year, and to elect an Executive for 2012.

If you have never attended a P&F the AGM is a great time to do so. Join us in celebrating the last meeting of the year with some drinks and nibbles. We are always looking for new ideas, and we would be grateful if you could spend some time with us.

As per the nature of a P&F Association, each year nominations are sought for the following positions:
- President (Executive)
- Vice President (Executive)
- Treasurer (Executive)
- Secretary (Executive)
- Grants Team sub Committee (Non Executive)

(Nominations form is attached to the newsletter)

Any questions: please contact Toni Williamson via the P&F email address: pfhcps@bne.catholic.edu.au

We welcome your nominations and look forward to seeing you there! Kind Regards, Rebecca O’Brien, Maddie Barbour, Toni Williamson and Tony Artuso
School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

This week at assembly we had a special guest – our School Mascot, Buzzy Bee. Bee came to visit and listen to our wonderful Year 3’s explaining the importance of our school rules: Safety, Respect and Learning.

After Assembly everyone got into groups which had students from P-7 in them. Led by our fantastic Year 7 leaders, each group visited places around the school and focused on how we can show Safety, Respect and Be a Learner everywhere. It was a great morning and Bee was very proud of how well Holy Cross is trying to follow the school rules.