Dear Parent, Carers and Friends of Holy Cross

This evening our school community will gather for the Parents and Friends “Welcome BBQ”. The annual event is always a great occasion to renew old friendships and greet new families to the school. Thanks to P&F for their work to organise tonight. I look forward to catching up with many of you there.

This year our school will be involved in the LIFE initiative in partnership with Brisbane Catholic Education. The program is an online resource for students and teachers aimed at engaging students in technology as a learning tool. A staff team has been established and will receive Professional Learning this term to implement the resource in their classrooms with the new Australian Science Curriculum. That team will then mentor peer teachers in Term 3 and 4 in its use and implementation. I am looking forward to classes sharing more of this resource with you throughout the year.

I am aware that some families in the school have close relatives whose homes and properties were severely affected by the January flooding in Bundaberg, Maryborough and Gympie. This weekend our parish is running the St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal. Envelopes will be available at all Masses. Envelopes for your donations are also available at the school office. You can also donate online at the St Vincent de Paul website: www.vinnies.org.au

Please be generous in your response to this appeal. So many people have lost everything.

On Wednesday I had the privilege of being part of the Year 7 Leadership Reflection Day. During the day the boys and girls reflected on their new role as Student Leaders at Holy Cross. Every Year 7 student will play their part during the year as Student Leader. During the day it was marvellous to see how our young people are already stepping up to the expectation that they will be great role models for their fellow students. It was also wonderful to listen to their discussions, read some of their prayer reflections and journaling, and witness them helping each other and their teachers throughout the day. After that experience I realised again how graced we are with the gifts our young people have to contribute. Well done Year 7.

This week has also seen the first full week at Holy Cross for our Prep students. Though tired by the experience the photos below show the wonderful enthusiasm and joy our new students have brought to the school community.

Now is the time to remember that all that you do is sacred - Hafiz

Paul Drewniak
Principal
Ash Wednesday – 13 February

Next week, we celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent in our Church. Lent is a time to prepare for Easter and a time of penance observed with fasting and abstinence. The Lenten period lasts for 40 days ending on Holy Thursday.

The mark of ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday is a symbol of repentance and a sign we are ready to begin our Lenten journey towards Easter.

Children in years 1-7 will attend the Holy Cross Parish Mass at 9:15am on Ash Wednesday. Preps will celebrate Ash Wednesday with a special liturgy in their classrooms. The liturgy for Ash Wednesday tells us what to do during Lent:

1. Help the poor
2. Ask for God’s forgiveness
3. Do without something during Lent

CARITAS – Project Compassion

Lent also marks the beginning of Project Compassion for our school community. We help Caritas Australia (Catholic agency for International aid and development) raise money and offer hope to the millions of families who fight for justice, peace and survival every day. This year the message: “Open doors into the future” is taken from Pope Benedict's XVI's 2007 encyclical Spe Salvi, 35, “We work towards a brighter and more humane world so as to open doors into the future”.

Today your family will take home a CARITAS Money box to use during lent. Help us “Open doors into the future” by supporting our Lenten project. Our school community, we work together during Lent to raise money through:

- School raffles led by the Year 7 Social Justice Committee
- Free dress day + sausage sizzle for a gold coin
- K’s for Caritas – children will be sponsored to walk/run a distance to help raise money and awareness for the many families who walk long distances daily for water, or flee from war-torn countries.

Please keep reading the school newsletter for updates on these fundraising events. And remember ‘Future-tis- us’ – if we want to ‘open doors into the future.’

Download the free CARITAS Lenten APP from the Apple Store – Use the app to learn, pray and act with your family during Lent.

Welcome Mass & Year 7 Commissioning Ceremony

We will gather together as a school community at 9:15am on Friday 22nd of February in the Holy Cross Church to celebrate the start of the school year. Our Year 7 students will be commissioned as our school leaders during the mass. Parents, friends and family are invited to both these school celebrations.

Religious Life of the School Timetable – Term 1

Classes will take turns to present at assembly on Wednesdays, and celebrate the Eucharist at Mass on Fridays. Please see the timetable below for your child’s turn.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Week</th>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Assembly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 9:15am</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>School Mass</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Feb – 15th Feb</td>
<td>Friday 22nd Feb @ 9:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7G &amp; Year 1W Mass</td>
<td>4W</td>
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<td>Friday 1st March</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Year 4/5G, 5/6G, 1/2G Mass</td>
<td>3W</td>
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<td>23rd Feb – 1st Mar</td>
<td>Friday 8th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Year 4W &amp; Year 2G Mass</td>
<td>5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Mar – 8th Mar</td>
<td>Friday 15th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Year 3 Mass</td>
<td>4/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Mar – 15th Mar</td>
<td>Friday 22nd March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Holy Week Celebration – Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>’That we might Live’</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th Mar – 22nd Mar</td>
<td>1:30-2:30pm in the Pavilion</td>
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School dates; including class assemblies, class mass and other school events are posted on the school’s website calendar. Visit http://www.hcpswooloowin.qld.edu.au

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

Dear Parents

I received this ‘chain email’ during the week and thought it was worth sharing. What a great approach to family life! Enjoy your children, each in his/her own individuality and enjoy your parenting.

We had been happily married (most of the time) for five years but hadn’t been blessed with a baby. I decided to do some serious praying and promised God that if he would give us a child, I would be a perfect mother, love it with all my heart and raise it with God’s word as my guide. God answered my prayers and blessed us with a son. The next year God blessed us with another son. The following year, God blessed us with yet another son. The year after that we were blessed with a daughter. My husband thought we’d been blessed right into poverty. We now had four children and the oldest was only four years old. I learned never to ask God for anything unless I meant it. As a priest once told me, “If you pray for rain make sure you carry an umbrella.” I began reading a few verses of the Bible to the children each day as they lay in their cots. I was off to a good start. God had entrusted me with four children and I didn’t want to disappoint. I tried to be patient the day the children smashed two dozen eggs on the kitchen floor searching for baby chicks. I tried to understand when they started a hotel for homeless frogs in the spare bedroom, although it took me nearly two hours to catch all twenty-three frogs. When my daughter poured tomato sauce all over herself and rolled up in a blanket to see how it felt to be a hot dog, I tried to see the humour rather than the mess. In spite of changing over twenty-five thousand nappies, never eating a hot meal and never sleeping for more than thirty minutes at a time, I still thank God daily for my children. While I couldn’t keep my promise to be a perfect mother - I didn’t even come close – I did keep my promise to raise them in the Word of God. I knew I was missing the mark just a little when I told my daughter we were going to church to worship God, and she wanted to bring soap along to “wash up” Jesus, too.

Something was lost in the translation when I explained that God gave us everlasting life, and my son thought it was generous of God to give us his “last wife.” My proudest moment came during the children’s Christmas play. My daughter was playing Mary, two of my sons were shepherds and my youngest son was a wise man. This was their moment to shine. My five-year-old shepherd had practised his line, “We found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes.” But he was nervous and said, “The baby was wrapped in wrinkled clothes.” My four-year-old “Mary” said, “That’s not wrinkled clothes, silly. That’s dirty, rotten clothes.” A wrestling match broke out between Mary and the shepherd and was stopped by an angel, who bent her halo and lost her left wing. I slouched a little lower in my seat when Mary dropped the doll representing Baby Jesus, and it bounced down the aisle. Mary grabbed the doll, wrapped it back up and held it tightly as the wise men arrived. My other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe and a paper crown, knelt at the manger and announced, “We are the three wise men, and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense and fur.” The congregation dissolved into laughter, and the play got a standing ovation. “I’ve never enjoyed a Christmas program as much as this one,” laughed the pastor, wiping tears from his eyes. “For the rest of my life, I’ll never hear the Christmas story without thinking of gold, common sense and fur.” “My children are my pride and my joy and my greatest blessing,” I said as I dug through my purse for an aspirin.

Anne Cannon
School Pastoral Worker

TUCKSHOP

 Helpers for Wednesday 13th February are:

**Tuck-shop:** Jane Vincent (until 1 lam), Britt Pradella, Sharon Vogel, Misia Caulton & Alison Strong

**Home bake:** Deanne Jebreen, Toni Williamson, Kate Beal, Tina Heath & Scott Johnson

Please note our NUT FREE POLICY

When preparing Homebake items.

**PLEASE FIND ATTACHED TO NEWSLETTER, ASH WEDNESDAY MENU FOR THIS WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY, ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY ONLY.**

ZONE 6 SELECTION CRITERIA

HOLY CROSS WILL BE HOLDING THREE MAIN CARNIVALS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

1. **Swimming - Term 1 (Yrs 3-7)**
2. **Cross Country - Term 2 (Prep-7)**
3. **Track and Field - Term 3 (Prep-7)**

These carnivals will be used as a selection process for Zone 6 carnivals. School carnivals are regarded as another school day and all students are required to attend and participate in events. If children do not participate on the day, they forfeit the chance of making the Zone 6 team. The Prep students will not be able to qualify as the Zone 6 starts from Year 1 only.

City Districts Selection Criteria

Children 10-13yrs old may be eligible to represent the school at a State level. This type of format is more competitive than the Zone 6 carnivals. Children must be training under a coach or train and compete frequently at club level. Only a small number of children will be selected to compete at City District events. Parents are responsible to manage teams and supply transport to and from these events.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The school community wishes

**Sasha Macaulay**

who celebrated her birthday this week, many happy returns!
Fancuts 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.

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. Starts Sat. 2nd February.

Restrings – a 24hr. service or possible emergency restring while you wait. 

All enquiries, please contact Fancuts 38572922 in office hours or email admin@fancuts.com.au

AWARDS
Congratulations to all students who received awards during assembly.
PG  James Milner & Ryan Stewart
PW  Juliana Luongo & Jack Turner
1W  Marni Braine & Samuel Ryan
1/2G  Amber Church & Harry Thornton
2G  Grace Dunn & Theodore Tsangari
3G  Isabella Gonzalez & James Hackett
3W  Gabby Bonavia & Bennett Boyd
4W  Bianca Besly
4/5G  Ian Bagkus & George Williamson
5/6G  All of 5/6G
7G  Lily van der Wal & Matthew Morris

Holy Cross Mothers Drinks and “Catch Up”
(Prep - 7)
Albion Hotel - Friday 15 February From 6.30
Calling all Holy Cross Mums. If you are free please join us at the Albion Hotel on Friday 15th February from 6:30 onwards for an informal gathering. Looking forward to sharing a drink and catching up for the 2013 year. No Bookings or RSVP necessary -- See you there.

CONGRATULATIONS
To the Denning Family who welcomed a new baby girl to their family. Bridget Grace is a little sister for Ryan in 1W. We welcome Bridget to the Holy Cross Community.

NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT
Holy Cross School has students who have a severe allergy to nuts, nut by-products and raw eggs. We promote a NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT.
We ask you not to send to school anything on the list below for your child’s lunch. Nut products can be deadly for these children.

Our staff have been trained in the use of the Epipen which the students will need should they come in contact with nut products or raw eggs. Students have already been spoken to about the condition.

So please NO NUT PRODUCTS.
Please refrain from sending to school:

• sandwiches containing peanut or other nut butters and pastes,
• peanut paste,
• satay sauce,
• Nutella,
• nuts in salads such as Waldorf salad,
• nut meats or nut rissoles or pesto.

Other lunch items include:

• nut biscuits,
• baklava and other nut pastries,
• crushed nuts on cakes, buns, desserts,
• praline,
• carrot cake and muffins; and
• marzipan.

Please also check the labelling of muesli bars as many contain nuts or nut by products.

We thank you for your support in this matter.

Free assessment and treatment of fears and anxiety in children

Parents, is your child fearful of certain situations or do they seem to experience ongoing feelings of anxiety? Griffith University is conducting a large-scale study for children (7 to 13 years of age) with anxiety that includes a thorough assessment and a novel, home-based treatment using computers and telephone contact from a trained clinician.

We are providing this service at no cost to families. To find out more about this study, please contact our team on 07 3735 3418 or cadrp@griffith.edu.au. See Sarah Bull, Support Teacher-Inclusive Education, for more details.

PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2014
Do you have a child ready to start Prep in 2014? Please collect Enrolment Application Form from the office and return together with:
An Application Fee of $25.00
**GOTCHA CARDS – Week 2**

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:
- Caitlin Hodda
- Alex Cutajar
- Eddie Adler
- Kiara Mammarella
- Mia Kirkegaard
- Ella Zappert
- Zac Seeto
- Emma Whittle
- Akanksha Parackal

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

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**SWIMMING EXCLUSION POLICY**

To help us keep the pool clean and the children healthy this swimming season, all parents will need to be aware of the following rules. Children who are physically unwell or show any symptoms of the following conditions will not able to enter the water (with most of these conditions children shouldn’t be at school until the symptoms have improved).

- conjunctivitis
- Diarrhoea—should not enter the pool until 14 days after the symptoms have ceased.
- infected open sores and cuts
- cold sores
- school sores
- influenza
- ringworm
- whooping cough

Despite good chlorine levels, germs from sores and infections can be passed on to other swimmers causing further health problems.

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**Twilight Walk & Reconciliation Showcase**

To celebrate the National Apology

**Hill to Wes E Wlk**

On Sunday 10th February 2013, Reconciliation Queensland will be coordinating and participating in a Twilight Walk “Boundary to Boundary” in commemoration and celebration of the 5th anniversary of the Apology handed down by the Australian Government in 2008. You are invited to join the walk which starts at 3:00 pm and is a slow, police supported walk from St James College, Boundary Street, Spring Hill to Boundary Street, West End (approx. 4km) which recognises the boundaries of indigenous exclusion at twilight from the Brisbane settlement during the 19th century.

The walk ends at the State Library where participants gather to share stories and enjoy a Barbeque and the music of local artists.

Walkers to meet at St James College
201 Boundary St, Brisbane at 2.00pm

Please wear comfortable walking shoes, catch public transport and bring wet weather gear in case of rain. This is an important day for all Australians and we look forward to walking alongside you on the day!

**RECONCILIATION SHOWCASE**

On Sunday 10th February 2013, Reconciliation Queensland Inc is hosting a display of market stalls in the kuril dhagun, at the State Library of Queensland. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and craftspeople will be demonstrating their skills and sharing their cultures. Organisations committed to Reconciliation will be illustrating their contribution to the journey.

The display will run from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm and is open to the public, this is a free event to attend.

For further information on these events contact Rosalie Raciti. Ph: 3857 2373
Email: rosalieraciti@gmail.com

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**SCHOOL SWIMMING – TERM 1 & 4 LESSONS**

Mr Cannell has asked that students be reminded about the need to have swimming cap, sun shirt, sunscreen, togs, towel, underwear and a pair of thongs to wear to and from the bus. We use another school’s pool and it is important that we follow their regulations regarding its use.