25 November 2011

Dear Parents Carers and Friends of Holy Cross

Congratulations to all on such a successful Carols Evening in the Pavilion last night. Well done to all the children for a great performance, to staff for their work in preparation and to Mrs Sang our Music Teacher and Mrs McCourt our APRE for creating and co-ordinating a fantastic evening. We estimate that more than 500 parents and friends attended the evening.

Last night we officially bid farewell to Mrs Wally who returns to her position at Mater Dei in 2012, to Mrs Andersen who leaves Holy Cross to take the next exciting step in her career, to Mrs Harding who is on transfer to Our Lady of the Way, Petrie and to Miss O'Reilly who takes up a full-time position at St Finbarr’s, Ashgrove. Mrs Carol Caruana will join her husband in retirement in 2012. Join me in wishing Carol a wonderful next stage in her journey. Mrs Caruana has been a dedicated staff member at Holy Cross for 15yrs.

Miss Josephine Tuttobene will also be leaving Holy Cross at the end of 2011. Please join me in thanking Josephine for her dedication to the Italian programme here and for her contribution to the school community. Mrs Dina Nordone will teach Italian next year. Due to a reduction in funding from CoASIT, at this stage Italian will be taught from Year 4 -7 in 2012. This situation will be reviewed before the beginning of the 2012 school year in the hope that the programme can still be offered throughout the entire school.

Today I can announce the class structures for 2012. As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter there will be 12 classes next year. The classes and teachers are published below.

Prep Mrs Irene Elder
Prep Miss Jaime Small
Year 1 Miss Leisa Clark
Year 1 Mrs Glenda Sullivan
Year 2 Mrs Melissa Moehead
Year 2/3 Mrs Kerry Laube
Year 3 Mrs Teisha Dunne
Year 4/5 Mrs Conor Wilson/Mrs Rebecca Somerville
Year 4/5 Mr Dean Estreich
Year 6 Mrs Carmel Tracey
Year 7 Mrs Patty Mc Court
APRE Release Sem 1 to be advised
Sem 2 Mrs Lauren Francis

Music Mrs Sharon Farne Sang
HPE Mr Duanne Cannel
Art Mrs Marita Artuso
Italian Mrs ‘Dina Nardone
Teacher/Librarian Mrs Leanne Forsyth
Curriculum Support Teacher Mrs Cheryl Bailey

We will welcome back all current school officers to Holy Cross in 2012. Mrs Leanne Warfield, Mrs Sue Shaw, Mrs Rhonda Wood, Mrs Sharee Langguth, Mrs Shelley Halverson and Mrs Colleen Jong.

On Tuesday next week School Reports on student’s achievement for Semester 2 will be sent home. This will also contain the letter informing you of the class and teacher for 2012.

Next Friday at 9:15am we will gather for a final time in the Holy Cross Church for our end of year Liturgy. Please join us as we give thanks for all the blessings of the 2012 school year.

School finishes at 12 noon on Friday 2nd December 2011
School resumes for 2012 on Tuesday 24th January 2012
**A.P.R.E.’s Report**

I had a wonderful experience the other day. I met up with Coralie, Lily Nichols’s grandmother and two of her North Coast friends, Paul and Lorraine, who had come to her house for one of their regular ‘sleep-over’ (their words!) It was beautifully obvious that these three people have forged a forever friendship and were delightfully excited about being together. I could only imagine their conversations but also their comfortable silences. There was no doubt that these three wonderful people share a unique friendship that goes back a long, long time!

This brought my thoughts to our year seven students and what they are feeling at the moment. They are aware that their time together as a class is coming to an end and naturally, they have questions about the future.

I want to tell them that I am still very close friends with a girl I met my first day at school and I want to assure them that our lives are interwoven with every person we meet. I am sure that God is smiling on this special group of students as they say good-bye to what they know and of course, God has a plan for each one of them.

For these young people, what they have shared with each other has already become part of their story and that cannot be taken from them, just ask Coralie, Paul and Lorraine!

God is with them and with each one of us!

Patty McCourt

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**Pastoral Care Corner**

**Dear Parents**

Christmas is upon us, already – and again! Christmas is a time for peace and joy and gift giving in that spirit, not a time for rush and bother and crazy spending. It’s a time to look at family rituals and see what really has meaning for your family (not for Coles or Myer or some such body!). Staff has recently shared some lovely customs from their families, especially those originating in another culture. Whatever your family circumstances, it is possible to create your own rituals. Mini Vinnies have taken Christmas gifts to the Mercy Centre this week. They thoroughly enjoyed making them and they cost less than 50c, yet were given and received with great joy. A tree can be cost-free and create many shared family moments. At the same time, you can talk about the meaning of the tree:

- evergreen – life is always with us and is a gift from God
- the cross was a tree and is often called the ‘tree of life’
- reminder of the apple tree – the first tree mentioned in the Bible, signifying the life God gives us
- balls on the tree represent the planets
- the star reminds us of the Star of Bethlehem when Jesus was born
- red, a traditionally Christmas colour, is a reminder of the fire of the Holy Spirit.

I could go on and on. Why not ‘google’ it. There are many ideas available. Why not try your own ‘Christmas tree poem’ relating all that is good in your family?

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Lord our God
the heavens are
the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars you
made:
the earth and sea and every
living creature came into being
by your Word. And all of us, too.
May this tree bring cheer to our house
Through Jesus Christ our brother and friend
who brings life
and beauty to us
Sharing in this tree we brings love to our family.
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God bless you and your families

Patty McCourt

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**TUCKSHOP**

Helpers for Wednesday 30th November are:

**Tuck-shop:** Natalie Finney, Celia Mason, Lisa Evans, Rebecca Sampson & Kate Beal

**Home bake:** Toni Williamson, Kate Beal, Maddie Barbour, Kim Hodda, Debbie Birthsel, Karen Hutchings, Marie Zitney & Maria Celere

Please note our NUT FREE POLICY when preparing Homebake items.

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**MINI VINNIES**

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to our Christmas Appeal. Many families will have a brighter Christmas, thanks to you.

**FOUND:** Child’s rose gold bracelet.

Please contact Mrs McKee in the office.

**LOST:** Pair of Oroton Sunglasses belonging to Mrs Lyn Thomas. Please return to office.
GOTCHA CARDS – Week 8

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:

Stella Artuso
Declan Stewart
Grace Gordon
Callum Ryder
Phoebe Quinn
Liyan Philip
Olivier Vlug
Kyle Trickey
Lauren Birthsel

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Dakota Joyce, Ross O’Brien, Gabrielle Bonavia, Tomos Edwards, Jack Bell & Jackson Cameron

AWARDS

Congratulations to all students who received awards during assembly.

PE  Lauren Stewart, Jade Mercer, Zosia Caulton & James Mason
PS  Alan Joe & Sofia Coco
1D  Nathaniel Wardrobe & Emma Whittle
1/2H  All of 1/2H
2M  Emma Sinclair, Lilly Watson & Alisha Pereira
3L  Samantha Slater & Olivier Vlug
3S  Ella Lewis & Shom Philip
4A  Phoebe Quinn, Will Grant & Jackson Cameron
5E  All of Year 5
6D  Shaun Gray & Bridie Swain
6F  Tomas Edwards & Laelah Dunn
7M/T  Monique Brown & Michael Nicotra

CONGRATULATIONS

Nicholas & Daniel Egan have been selected to represent Metropolitan School Sport in the State Aquathon Championships in February.

Well done boys and best of luck!

Anna Sharpe, Evie Lyons, Lily van der Wal and Zoe Eyndhoven’s U/11 netball team BrizBombs played in their Grand Final on Tuesday night and won (by the narrowest of margins (1 goal)). Brizbombs are part of the Queensland Catholic Netball Association. This was the team members’ first competitive season and it was a wonderful result to a fantastic season.

Congratulations Girls.

OSHC VACATION CARE

All Vacation Care Bookings should already be in. If you still need care please see Rhonda NOW to be assured of a place.

Rhonda Wood

PREP TO YR 2 SWIMMING CARNIVAL– MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER
REMINDER: – we will be having a morning tea for teachers; parents; grandparents & carers who attend swimming carnival. Please bring a plate to share.
Fancutts 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.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS PROGRAMS will be held at Fancutts Tennis Centre, Lutwyche Mon to Fri from Dec 5-9,12-16,19-23 & Jan 9-13,16-20&23-26 for children up to 16yrs. A Separate Morning or Afternoon program is available. The full day program includes a Tennis Clinic 9-11am. (Beginners, Players, Advanced taught separately), lunch break, followed by Tournaments for a Trophy, Doubles from 11.30-2pm, Singles 2-4.30pm. Hot Shots Tennis is held 8.15-9am for 3-6yrs.

FANCUTTS ANNUAL GRADE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (for trophies) is being held at Fancutts on Saturdays 26th November & 3rd December from 1-6pm. Players are representing their school. Raffle will also be held with a Xmas party sausage sizzle. CocaCola/McDonald’s Voucher & free Hot Shots t-shirt is given to every player.

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. New season starts 28th January,2012.

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

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

**THANK YOU**

.... to all the Holy Cross Families who donated items to the fundraiser: A Night at the Casino.

**CONGRATULATIONS to PREP E**

.... who won the class prize for the most donated items. Each student from Prep E will be taking home a fun stationery goodie bag this week!

Thank you again to the families who supported this fundraising event.

**CHIOR NEWS**

It is difficult to believe that we have come to the end of the year already! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making me feel so welcome this year. The children have made a fantastic effort throughout the year and both choirs have achieved some great results. I would particularly like to thank all the parents who have managed to get their child to rehearsals on time during the year. I fully appreciate how difficult this can be at times! Please have a sleep in next week. There will be no choir during the last week of school.

I hope you all have a great holiday and I am looking forward to working with your children again next year.

Sharon Farne Sang

**MUSIC MATTERS**

As a proud parent of a music student, I’m sure you would share with me in congratulating your children on a great performance on assembly. If you reflect on those first few weeks of band’s inception – home practice endured and patience won out and now your child can not only read music but has become quite skilled in their chosen instrument. I know there has been a great sense of belonging and fun amongst the members and we all look forward to the band flourishing next year. For 2012 it is anticipated that band rehearsals will continue Wednesday morning and lessons throughout that day. In this way the students will have more opportunity to practise performing.

Now for some house-keeping:-

Next WEDNESDAY is absolutely the last day for instrument and book return.

We need to gather, sign off and administer for the instruments to be serviced over the holidays.

Students remember we are having Breakfast Breakup during this final rehearsal!!!

Thank you students and particularly parents for ensuring your child was prepared, ready with book and instrument every music day. A very BIG Thank You especially to Kathryn Lyons and Jason Boyd, who together prepared the room, encouraged students, liaised with teachers and music-corp., fixed instruments and dealt with “spit” valves!

Warmest wished for a happy and safe Holiday

Maria Crawford

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**February**

Please mark Friday 3rd February (5.30pm – 7.30pm) in your diary for the Holy Cross Welcome BBQ.

Please join us on the “green” for a social BBQ. Free sausages for the Family!! Free cordial and ice blocks for the kids!! One free beer/wine for the adults!! Raffles!!

Catch up with old friends and welcome the new families to our school community.

No need to cook dinner – See you there.

Holy Cross P&F Association.