Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Holy Cross

This week the People of God celebrate All Saints and All Souls Days. These consecutive feasts call us to reflect on our living and our dying in Christ.

On the first we remembered those heroes in our family of the church whose example inspires us to live deeply in the love of God.

The second solemnity was reassurance of the mercy of God for us and for our loved ones whom we have had to farewell into God’s care. I once heard a very comforting description of our final journey to God – at death God allows us to whisper our entire life to him – death is a deep listening by God to all we are and a final affirmation of us in God’s boundless mercy. In our community this year many of us have had to face, or are facing, the death of a family member. Today my prayer is that we can stand in faith with those members of our community (especially this week Patty McCourt) confident of God’s mercy for our loved ones and for us is boundless. “And may the Holy Cross strengthen us.”

Today we welcomed to our community new families whose sons and daughters join Holy Cross Prep in 2012. It was wonderful to see the anticipation and excitement on the faces of the children and their parents. Thank you to P&F members who were able to join the orientation and to parents who volunteered to assist with Uniform Shop. Today our new little ones and their parents savoured a taste of the welcome that characterises our community.

On Wednesday at Assembly I set every student at Holy Cross some special homework which I am now publishing below:

Saturday the 12th

1. Remind Mum and Dad and everyone at home that they have a special invitation to attend this fantastic evening of fun – BUY YOUR TICKET this week – don’t miss out!
2. Remind the family that there is a tremendous raffle for the night and that tickets (sent home a couple of weeks ago) should be sold and returned early next- HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE TREMENDOUS PRIZES including a weekend away!
3. Remind the family to send in DONATIONS of wine and chocolate for the evening
4. Remind the family about the beautiful class QUILTS that are on display in the foyer. These were created by each class and will be auctioned on the night!

So…. Have your children completed these 4 homework tasks this week????

It is always great to hear about the achievements of past students of Holy Cross. At Mary Mackillop College both Stephanie Martinz (Year 7 2006) and Charlotte Martinz (Year 7 2009) received Academic Awards for achievements this year. We also received great news about the achievements of some of last year’s Grade 7’s. Michael Palmer and Jonathon Egan have each received awards for Academic Excellence in Year 8 at St Joseph’s College, Gregory Terrace. Xavier Taylor, who was also in Year 7 at Holy Cross last year and a now attends Terrace, received an award for Music. Congratulations to all those past pupils.

Parents and Friends AGM will be held on Wednesday the 16th of November. At that meeting we will reflect on and celebrate the achievements of the past year and the Executive for 2012 will be formed. Nomination forms are attached to this newsletter. Please consider how you can help the P&F in their crucial work supporting our community and through fund-raising!

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

God and I have been friends for as long as I can remember, and perhaps never more than now, do I need to be able to rely on that. God is taking back someone loaned to me for all my life and though I have faced many difficult times in my life, not for one moment could I have prepared for this. How could anyone prepare me to say good-bye to my Mother – whose body nurtured mine, whose love I have never for a second questioned, whose hug has always been able to make anything right.

As you know, Mum has not known me for a number of years, but I know her and even now, for just for that moment when I meet her and she gives me a kiss and looks right at me, I feel as though I am the most special person in the world!

As my Mum slowly travels the last part of her life on this earth, my thoughts are with all of us who have had to say good-bye to someone special in our lives. I do not wish to prolong this time, but I can’t help but be fearful that never again will I be hugged in quite the same way as she has done for me all these years.

Without doubt, Mum has accomplished all that was asked of her and I am so grateful that she introduced me to her God who will know how to be with me when the time comes for Mum to leave me. God is with us!

Patty McCourt

Pastoral Care Corner

Dear Parents

Tuesday was All Saints Day. One of our student teachers led staff prayer. She defined a saint as one who “acts or lives like a saint, one who is an exemplary model, an extraordinary teacher; a wonder worker or source of benevolent power; an intercessor, one who refuses personal comforts”. Does most of that definition fit you? I think it does! Maybe we are not all saints all of the time, but parents and carers, in my experience, are very saintly people. Take a few moments this weekend to look at yourself and just see how much you do for your children - not just the cooking and washing and ironing and providing material goods, but loving and nurturing and ‘interceding’ on their behalf with teachers, relatives, friends, coaches, etc. How often do you go without yourself, to ensure you can afford something you want to give your children, or forego your relaxation time to spend more time with them? How often do you work ‘wonders’ to fulfil a request? I could fill the page with reflection suggestions, but I think you get the idea. You are saints! Recognise and celebrate your own goodness. This week we also celebrate Grandparents Week. They obviously fit the category of ‘saint’. Thank you for all you do for your children. They will thank you one day. (Make sure you have thanked your parents – their grandparents!)

God Bless your families.
Sr Anne Cannon
School Pastoral Worker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Marcus Caulton and Cassie Martinez

Congratulations to our Holy Cross Irish Dancers who excelled in an Irish Dancing Competition last Saturday at Lourdes Hill.

Mary Stickley - First Premiership Division
Emma Melville - Third Premiership Division
Lia Walsh - First Premiership Division
Philippa Piper - Second Premiership Division
Hilary Piper - First Premiership Division

Each child did extremely well! The girls and their teacher were absolutely thrilled with their win. Well Done Girls!

SCHOOL PHOTOS NEEDED...

for the SCHOOL MAGAZINE

If you have photos from school events this year that you think would be great for the school magazine, please submit them ASAP to the school office (CD/DVD or USB preferred) or e-mail bmckee@bne.catholic.edu.au for approval and possible inclusion. Thank you.

NOTE: Photos need to be in a high resolution format to ensure quality photographic reproduction.
**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:

- Issy Grellman
- Cassie Martinz
- Oliver Davies
- Nihshon Pereira
- Nick House
- Hamish Quinn
- Lara Sarri
- Chloe O’Sullivan
- Francesca Hellmuth

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

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**COLES VOUCHERS RESULTS 72,000 Points and still counting!!!!**

Thank you to everyone for all of your effort in collecting vouchers in the Coles Sports for Schools Program.

The final tally will be in excess of 72,000 vouchers which is **enormous** for our school community. (Last year our tally was 45,500).

Thank you to all who provided vouchers from their own shopping and gained extra vouchers, from neighbours, friends, relatives and work colleges, as you can see it all added up!

Thank you to Sister Anne, Kim Hodda, Debbie Birthisel, and Maddie Barbour who assisted with the collection of vouchers and counting.

Our vouchers are now being sent to Coles for validation and our new sports equipment is due to start arriving in January 2012. The list of equipment is too long to list but it includes, balls, athletics equipment, agility equipment, throwing games, stop watches, First Aid, pop up soccer goals, AFL balls, classroom kits, soccer training kit, megaphone, swimming equipment etc.


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**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
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

Child Safety Handbook
Today all Year 7 Students have been given a Child Safety Handbook to bring home. This book is compiled and published by Queensland Police Legacy. It contains information on a wide range of issues ranging from First Aid to Cyber-bullying. Please take the time to look through this book and encourage your child to do the same. There are some issues covered that could be great discussion starters!

Thank you to Jesmond Cutajar for carving out wooden shapes to fix some of our prep wooden puzzles. The children are now enjoying 20 more puzzles that could not be used before. Thank you so much Jesmond!

All the little Preppies