Dear Parents,

**QUALITY SCHOOLS SURVEY**

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) in 2015, which will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

From 9th - 20th March all staff, students from Years 5 and 6, and 60 randomly selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report in June to inform their planning.

If you are nominated to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation, as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please contact either Marina Hardy or Sarah O’Rourke.

**PBS4L Update**

At Holy Cross we believe that families play an essential role in their children’s social and educational development and learning. Just like looking for Maths to share during everyday activities - such as the learning conversation you might have about money as you go through the checkout at the supermarket or looking at the clock together to determine the time - we can look for opportunities to discuss being safe, respectful and doing our personal best.

The use of a consistent language at home and school is a fantastic strategy to reinforce positive behaviour. Some talking points, which use the language of our school agreements, are outlined below. These talking points provide a link between the agreements within the school and home settings.

**Personal Best**

How can you do your personal best when helping out around the house?

Have I done my personal best when completing my homework?

**Respect**

What words do you use to show respect when buying groceries at the supermarket?

How do you show respect to people at home and in the community?

**Safe**

How can we be safe when leaving the school each afternoon?

How can I be safe when travelling in the car? Do I need a booster seat?

How can I be safe when playing on the play equipment at the park?

At Holy Cross we learn together – we do our personal best, we are respectful and we are safe.

**John XXIII Mass Times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Vigil</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Masses</td>
<td>7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekday Masses</td>
<td>Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sat at 9.00am</td>
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</tbody>
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Holy Cross Community News Update

“Learning Together”

Term 1

Week 7

Tuesday 10th March, 2015

Author: Unknown

And when at last their work was done, they were proud of what they had wrought

For the things they had moulded into the child

Could neither be sold or bought.

And each had agreed he would have failed

If he had worked alone,

For behind the parent stood the school,

And behind the teacher, the home.

At Holy Cross we agree to learn together

We do our personal best

We are respectful

We are safe
Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthdays this week

Amelia Tofts, Dominic Koncurat, Matilda Newsome, Hayden Nadwie-Smith, Michael Sekulic, Ashlee Tungol, Cooper Nadwie-Smith, Zachariah Cauchi, Lia Jabson, Joshua Capps & Ben Inns

Catholic Schools Week - Harmony Day Monday Morning Prayer

Yesterday morning, children from every grade led the school in a special Catholic Schools Week prayer, representing their family’s country of origin by wearing traditional dress. The theme of our prayer was Harmony.

Although Harmony Day officially falls on March 21st, the values found in celebrating cultural diversity are so important to our school, and were a great way to begin Catholic Schools Week.

Thank you to all the children who went above and beyond to dress for the morning as well as all parents who assisted and were able to stay.

The Federal Member for Greenway, Michelle Rowland joined us and then spent time talking to our Year 6 students about democracy as well as leadership.

Through the day, each grade circulated through a series of internationally based activities including traditional dances, stories, outdoor games as well as participated in a reflection on Harmony Day.

It was a beautiful prayer and a wonderful day.

SOCIAL JUSTICE at Holy Cross

Last week a huge number of children attended our first Mini-Vinnies meeting, putting their hand up to help lead the numerous Social Justice initiatives throughout the year.

Our veteran members from last year were heavily involved in 2014 assisting with our Pyjama Day Winter Appeal, our Catholic Mission Pop-Up Stall at Parklea Markets and later at school, as well as our Matthew Talbot Winter Appeal.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 students met as a stage earlier in the term and discussed a broad range of ideas to promote social justice and how to make a difference. Ideas ranged from school wide games, a walk for justice, inviting representatives of social justice groups to visit and many different ideas for fundraising.

With such committed students, this year looks very promising as a year that we can continue to make a real difference.

Lent - Project Compassion

Our first Social Justice initiative (of course) is the Caritas Australia - Project Compassion. Almsgiving is one of the three practices of Lent and during this time we encourage students to collect small amounts of money to contribute to Caritas. Caritas does much needed work with some of this world’s most needy communities and every year the demand for help grows.

Parish Mass This Week

This week Year 4 will assist in leading mass. Mass is at 9am in our library space. Next week, Wednesday 18th March, Year 5 will celebrate mass. Please join us if you are able.

PARENT COMMUNITY

THANK YOU TO MR & MRS PARK

Thank you to Mr & Mrs Park, parents of Ian (Year 2) who kindly donated a set of soccer posts and a number of soccer balls to our school. These posts will be assembled and ready for use over the coming week.

BOOK CLUB

Thank you to Mrs Wearing, Mrs Burakowski, Mrs Walton, Mrs Irving & Mrs Baird for organising our Book Club. The students are always excited to purchase and receive new reading books.

KISS AND DROP

Thank you to Mr McAlary, Mr Burakowski and Mr Robey for your great assistance in supervising Kiss and Drop each morning. Your help allows the traffic to run smoothly and the students to leave their vehicles safely each day.

Applications are now being accepted for Kindergarten 2016. Parents are asked to obtain an Enrolment Form from the school office or downloaded from our website. Please inform family or friends if they have children who are eligible to attend.
Focus Groups for Terms 1 & 2
At Holy Cross we are very fortunate to have many parents assisting our school community in various ways. This year we invited parents to join one of the following Focus Groups for a period of 6 months (Term 1 & Term 2): Fundraising Focus Group or Wellbeing Focus Group.

The role of the Fundraising Group will be to plan and organise fundraising activities throughout Terms 1 & 2. The first meeting is to be held on Monday 16th March, 2015 at 9.30 am.

The role of the Wellbeing Focus Group is to assist in promoting good mental health and wellbeing in our children. The first meeting is to be held on Monday 23rd March, 2015 at 2.30 pm.

If you would like to join one of these Focus Groups during Term 1 and 2, please join us for our first meeting.
Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

OPEN DAY

- Meet the principal and teachers
- Tour our modern learning spaces, grounds and facilities

SUNDAY 8th MARCH, 2015

Harmony Day at Holy Cross - Together As One
**LOOP** is the **NEW** Scholastic Book Clubs **Linked Online** Ordering & Payment platform for Parents

WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR NEXT ISSUE OF BOOKCLUB, MAKE SURE YOU ORDER AND PAY ONLINE USING LOOP.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or download our new **FREE** iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!

**THEN** select State and School and you will be advised your school has registered for LOOP and you will be redirected to the new website. Follow these steps to order:

- For a quick start, just click on **ORDER** in the top menu or **REGISTER** first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
Parents love their children and want the best for them. However, after separation, parenting often gets much tougher.

Keeping Kids in Mind is a 5 week course for separated parents who are experiencing ongoing conflict. The course is designed to:

- assist parents to see through their children’s eyes the experience of parental separation.
- develop greater understanding about how to support children following family separation.

The course covers the following topics:

Grief and Loss after Separation
The Hidden World of Children
Rebuilding Resilience
Bridging the Gap
Looking Back, Moving Forward

Dates: Term 2 2015 Evening group
Over 5 Wednesdays
6 May to 3 June 2015

Time:
6:00pm to 8.30pm

Venue:
CCSS Parramatta
2A Villiers Street,
Parramatta NSW 2150

Fee:
$100 includes handbook
(Concessions can be negotiated)

Bookings Essential:
02 9933 0222

All participants must register their interest in attending the course and participate in a pre-group interview prior to the course.

Keeping Kids in Mind is facilitated by qualified and experienced educators and counsellors.

Certificate of Attendance provided