Dear Parents,

**Dr Ann Downton visits Holy Cross**

This year our school numeracy goal is to increase students understanding of multiplication and division. We held a parent workshop last term with many parents having the opportunity to experience and explore multiplication and division tasks. The feedback from the parents was very positive with a majority of parents feeling more confident in helping their child at home with multiplication and division after the workshop.

Here are some of the comments from the parent evaluations of areas that they found helpful at the workshop:

- The investigation about arrays and the explanation of the different multiplicative thinking strategies.
- Parents participating in the activities and learning different ways to solve maths problems.
- Better understanding of the purpose behind what is being taught and daily techniques used in the classroom and how we can apply at home.

Throughout the year our school has worked in partnership with Professor Peter Sullivan and Dr Ann Downton. Professor Sullivan is currently a Professor of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education, Monash University. He was also the lead writer of the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics.

Dr Ann Downton is a lecturer in mathematics education at Monash University Melbourne. She is also an experienced primary school teacher in both general classroom and as a part-time mathematics and science specialist.

Last week we had the privilege of Dr Ann Downton visiting Holy Cross to work with teachers and students in the area of numeracy with a focus on multiplication and division. Dr Downton was very impressed with the tasks looking more authentic and efficient strategies that the students were using to solve complex problems as well as their skills in collaboration, problem solving, persistence and perseverance with challenging tasks. Dr Downton also noticed how the students have developed ways of clearly explaining their reasoning. We look forward to continue working with Professor Sullivan and Dr Ann Downton in 2017.

**2017 DATES**

*Years 1 to 6 commence Tuesday 31st January, 2017*

*Kindergarten start at 9 am commence Wednesday 1st February, 2017 (whole day)*

In 2017 teachers will be administering the Mathematical Assessment Interviews on Friday 27th January and Monday 30th January, 2017. These are both Staff Development Days and therefore Pupil Free Days. COSHS will only be open on Monday 30th January, 2017. If your child is attending COSHS on this day we are able to organise for the students to have their Mathematical Assessment Interviews during this time.

Information on how to book Mathematical Assessment Interviews online will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Regards,

**Marina Hardy**

**Principal**

**Address:**
49 Meurants Lane
GLENWOOD NSW 2768

**Postal Address:**
PO Box KL 927
KINGS LANGLEY NSW 2147

**Phone:**
9629 8742

**Fax:**
9629 8745

**Website:**
www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au

**Email:** holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

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**John XXIII Mass Times**

*Saturday Vigil*
6.00pm

*Sunday Masses*
7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm

*Weekday Masses*
Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00am
November - The Month of The Holy Souls

Please remember that through the month of November, we have a book of remembrance in our front foyer. You may like to include a note of specific reference to a loved one in the book so that they can be especially remembered in mass over the next few weeks.

Parish Mass at School This Week

Mass this week will be in our school library at 10:00 am and Year 6 & Kindergarten will be attending.

EXPAND YOUR IMAGINATION BY READING THIS SUMMER

These summer holidays, Mr Whitby has once again launched his Summer Reading Challenge and is encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it’s a comic, play, piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and provided students with more chances of winning a prize.

Enter online at www.parra.catholic.edu.au
Entries close 7 February, 2017

Year 6 Reflection Day

On the 11th of November, Year 6 had their Reflection Day. This was a time where we remembered the journey we had from Kindergarten to Year 6. We appreciated our peers and teachers who have guided us along the way.

In the morning, we wrote down all of our memories we had with our friends and teachers. Some of them included excursions, dance fever and funny memories. After lunch, we split into two groups where we started to assign roles for our graduation. One group read through the Gospels while the other group picked the music and created their own prayers. Throughout the day the teachers gave us a piece of paper with someone’s name written on it and in the afternoon we sat in a circle and went around saying something we appreciated about that person. This was a chance to compliment and appreciate our peers. As a result, we all had a great day and learnt new things about our peers and teachers.

By Henrietta Boateng and Mihir Gaunder
Innovation and Creativity through coding

Innovation, creativity and ideas are encouraged through the diversity offered at Holy Cross School. Students in Years 3–6 have been participating in coding challenges using robotic devices such as Sphero, Blue Bots and Scratch, while students in K–2 have been coding using the Blue Bots.

The students are learning how coding helps them learn how to think in a critical and analytical way. They are enjoying the experience of persisting through difficult challenges, taking risks, learning through making mistakes and evaluating and sharing their successes and mistakes with their peers.

At our recent Kindergarten Transition Parent Workshop some of our Year 4 students showed the parents how they code using the Sphero.

Blogging in Year 1

Year 1 teachers and students have been experimenting with learning how to blog over the last two terms. Blogs (short for Web logs) are an online thinking space where students can write about things that are important to them, share information or write about events in their lives. One of the most important aspects about blogging is the opportunity for students to learn about online safety and how to comment on each other’s writing respectfully. Our Year 1 students love that their writing has an audience and that they can share their thoughts with others!

Here is one of the blogs that they wrote last week about the Publishing Party in Year 1.

Publishing Party Year 1

For the past few weeks Year 1 have been publishing their Me on the Map book. We have been learning all about the world we live in and have learned interesting facts about the 7 continents. Did you know that Australia is 1 of 25 islands in Oceania and Australia is the largest island in the world? We wrote informatively about our room, house, street, town, state, country, continent and world. Once we completed publishing our books, Year 1 had a PUBLISHING PARTY! We invited our mums, dads, siblings and grandparents into our lovely classroom to share our magnificent books. They were all so impressed with our hard thinking and how much effort we had put into the books.

Love 1M

Help Wanted Covering Library Books

We have recently purchased some new books for our school library. We would appreciate it if any parents are able to assist in covering the books. If you are able to take some books home to be covered, please see Mrs Bridget Morgan in the Library between 9.00 am and 2.00 pm Monday and Friday. Alternatively, contact the school office and Mrs Morgan can arrange to leave some books and contact paper at the office to be collected.
Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthdays this past week

Tyler Minahan, Indie Dreyer, Atticus Dreyer, Aaron Verhoven, Zachary Mason, Sienna Williams, Joel Justin, Sam Stennett, Matthew Mifsud-Hall & Joshua Gobbo

Are you moving at the end of 2016?

To assist with 2017 enrolments we would be grateful if the school could be notified in writing of any children who may be leaving Holy Cross at the end of the year from grades other than Year 6.

If your child is changing schools for 2016 please let us know. You are reminded that CEO policy is that families need to give the school one full terms notice in writing in these circumstances.

Change of Family Details

Please ensure that your family details, especially contact numbers are updated at the office when they change. This is very important in cases of accident or illness when we need to urgently contact parents. Please also ensure that all email addresses have been updated.

Swimming Carnival

Our School Swimming Carnival for Years 2 - 5 will be held on Friday 9th December, 2016. The main purpose for the carnival is to select a school swimming team for the Blacktown Zone and to have fun and encourage school spirit.

Attendance at our School swimming carnival will be optional. Students who are unable to confidently swim 50m or 25m in Years 2 - 5 will remain at school.

UNIFORM SHOP OPERATING HOURS

The last day of trading for the year is Wednesday 14th December, 2016. The shop will re-open on Saturday 28th January, 2017.

Below are the dates for holiday trading during January.

Friday 13th January, 2017 3.00 PM - 5.00 PM
Thursday 19th January, 2017 2.00 PM - 3.30 PM
Saturday 28th January, 2017 11.00 AM - 12.30 PM

Kinder 2017 Orientation

Our Orientation Day for all parents and children commencing Kindergarten in 2017 will be held next Wednesday, 23rd November, 2016 between 9.00am and 10.00am. We warmly welcome them to our Holy Cross Community.