Parents and Caregivers,

You are invited to our

Opening School Year – Ash Wednesday Mass

Kindergarten’s First Official School Celebration and Welcome

Wednesday 18th February 9am in our MPLC

Followed by our PBS4L Launch for 2015

All students are asked to wear full summer uniform on Wednesday 18th February

Year 6 Leaders

A significant role of Year 6 leadership is to support, guide and welcome their Kindergarten buddies into Holy Cross.
Ash Wednesday and Lent
Our Year 4 students led yesterday’s Monday morning prayer reminding us that this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, begins the period of Lent - a time of preparation and self reflection leading up to Easter.

The name of the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, comes from the old custom of blessing ashes and marking the foreheads of the people with ashes on this day. The ashes are prepared by burning palms from the preceding Palm Sunday. The idea comes from the Old Testament times when mourners or penitents clothed themselves in sackcloth and sprinkled their hands and faces with dust or ashes.

As we receive a cross of ash on our forehead we are encouraged to “turn away from sin and follow the Gospel” - both a good motto to follow throughout the 40 days of Lent as well as further through the year.

First Eucharist (Holy Communion) Enrolment Form
Later this week parents in Years 4, 5 and 6 will receive the First Eucharist Enrolment Form. This is primarily for students in Year 4 who have received Reconciliation, though children who have not participated in the Eucharist Sacramental Program previously and are older, are able to enrol.

Enrolment forms will need to be brought to one of the masses of the weekend of the 21st and 22nd of March. Mass times are Sat 6pm, Sun 9am, 10:30am, 6pm.

Monday Morning Prayer next week will be led by our Year 3 students.

PBS4L Update
You are invited to the Official PBS4L Launch for 2015, this Wednesday 18th February.

The launch will follow the 9.00 am Ash Wednesday Mass in the MPLC.

This is such a special day for our school so please come and join us.

Why do we have a PBS4L wristband?
During the launch of PBS4L in 2014 the teachers and staff at Holy Cross, the students and the parents made a commitment to our school agreements – To be respectful, safe and to do our personal best. With this commitment the students and staff each received a special token – a PBS4L wristband.

This year, on the day of our 2015 launch the students in Kindergarten along with the new staff members at Holy Cross will have the opportunity to make this same commitment to being safe, respectful and doing their personal best.

At Holy Cross our PBS4L wristband symbolises the commitment that we have each made to uphold our school agreements. The wristband also acts as a reminder for the staff and students of these agreements. Over the next few days the teachers will be putting procedures in place to store the students’ wristbands at school, ensuring they are able to wear them each day as part of their school uniform.

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

CAPTIVATE CHOIR 2015
This year students in Year 4, 5 and 6 will again have the opportunity to be involved in Captivate, a Creative Arts initiative of the Catholic Education Office. Our students will form part of a Primary Choir, which will perform in a Showcase on the evenings of 15th June and 17th June at Nagle College. Participation of the students is voluntary.

In order to learn the songs, the students will visit nearby schools for two half day rehearsals. There will also be a final rehearsal at Nagle College prior to the performances in June. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to showcase their creativity and talents.

If your child is interested in participating in the choir please see Mrs Gilmore for a permission note by Wednesday 18th February, 2015.
Congratulations to the following students who will be representing Holy Cross at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival on Thursday 19th February at Mt Druitt Pools.


Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week

Lucas Mamic, Christian Mamic, Shirin Kattukaran, Emma Baird, Devansh Singh, Ella Wood, Michael Makarous & Daimon White

18th Feb Opening School Mass
Ash Wednesday
19th Feb Zone Swimming Carnival - Mt Druitt Pools
23rd Feb Year 3 Monday Morning Prayer
27th Feb Diocesan Swimming Carnival
KISS AND DROP ROSTER FOR 2015 – Term 1

As you are aware our Kiss and Drop area is available every morning to assist our families, traffic flow and more importantly the safety of all our students. We would like to organise a roster of parent volunteers to assist students getting out of the car each morning in the “Kiss and Drop” area. You must have completed the Child Protection Course in the last two years. Details of completing this course are below.

2. Under “For Volunteers” click on “Start the module”
3. Read through the presentation
4. Complete and submit quiz questions – this will take approximately 45 minutes
5. After successful completion of the module, fill out the form by typing name, email address, contact number, contact address and the school.
6. A notification of successful completion of the module will be sent via email to the school and also the volunteer’s email address

I, __________________________________________ am willing to assist in the “Kiss and Drop” area on the following morning/s:

_____________________________________________________________________________________

(Please write the day/s of the week you would be able to assist)

________________________________________
(Signature)

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Parent Community – 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 are inviting 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 complete the slip below and return to school by Monday 2nd March, 2015. Please contact the school if you require further information about these groups.

Focus Group

I would like to join the: ☐ Fundraising Focus Group
☐ Wellbeing Focus Group
(Please tick one box only)

________________________________________
Parent Name

Book Club

I am able to assist with ☐ Book Club once a term.

________________________________________