Parents and Caregivers,

Social Media, the Internet and Cyber Safety  
Last Thursday evening Constable John Bollard, Youth Liaison Officer, from Quakers Hill Police gave an informative and illuminating presentation to our parents on the potential dangers of internet use and how to maximise online safety for children. In both his earlier discussion with students and last week with parents, it was very apparent how often we take for granted the many ways in which we access the world online, on many different devices, and in turn, how the world accesses us: furthermore, how frequently children can access the internet when alone.

Over the next few weeks we will outline different strategies for parents to help ensure their children are safe online and discuss how some particular Apps can be unsafe.

Internet ready devices
When considering online devices we often visualise laptops and desktops. More common though are smart-phones, iPods and iPads, tablets, as well as the vast assortment of game consoles that children use.

What can you do to protect your children?
Have the computer in a family room where you can monitor your children's access - the best filter is your own line-of-sight

Understand the technology you are giving your children access to.
  i.e. does the computer have a webcam. How does it connect with the world?

Monitor your children's internet usage. When, where and why are they using it?

Look at the internet history and access the sites you are not familiar with. If there is no history, start to ask questions. As a parent, this is protecting your child not an invasion of privacy.

Ensure your children are not sharing their passwords with friends. Do you know your child's passwords? If not, then you should.

Try not to punish your children for bringing inappropriate material to your attention i.e. banning them from the internet. Establish open communication with your child and acknowledge their questions and concerns.

THINKUKNOW.org.au is a website specifically created to assist both parents as well as young people 11 - 17 years old access the internet safely. It comes highly recommended by the NSW Police and not only provides excellent advice for caring for our children, but also guides adults as to how to use the internet such as social media and maximise privacy and safety.

Staffing Update
I wish to advise that Mrs Sarah O'Rourke will be taking Long Service Leave from 24th August until 18th September, 2015. During this time I am pleased to announce that Mr Simon Stennett will be Acting Assistant Principal. As Mr Stennett will be Acting Assistant Principal, Mrs Fogg will be teaching Year 6 during this time with Miss Kenny.

Regards,
Marina Hardy
Principal

John XXIII Mass Times
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Vigil</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Masses</td>
<td>7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekday Masses</td>
<td>Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00am</td>
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PBS4L Update
Maryanne and Ruva from the PBS4L leadership team went to visit Year Three, Year Five and Year One and asked some students what they thought being safe, respectful and doing their personal best on the playground looked like.

Year One explained that you are being safe when you walk, use your words to solve problems and watch for people around you. They said it was respectful to pick up rubbish, wait your turn, say nice things to each other and congratulate others when they win.

Year Three said being safe looks like keeping your hands to yourself and staying in the area that your grade is playing in. They said being respectful looks like including others in games when they are lonely, saying nice words to others and being fair.

Year Five said that being safe is walking around the playground, playing appropriate games in the appropriate area, keeping your hands to yourself, listening to what the teacher asks you to do and using your manners.

Make sure you are being safe, respectful and doing your personal best in the playground!

By Ruva and Maryanne

WORLD YOUTH DAY RAFFLE

In July 2016, thousands of young pilgrims will follow in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II and walk the streets of Krakow Poland, gathering in the name of their faith. Members of our community and parish will also make this pilgrimage, representing Holy Cross and our Parish of St John XXIII. Each family will be receiving a raffle book to assist in raising funds to support our pilgrims. This is a small investment in the formation, faith development and leadership of our young people through the Diocese. Tickets are $2 each or a book of tickets can be purchased for $20. The raffle will be drawn on Palm Sunday/World Youth Day 2016.

Wednesday Parish Mass @ Holy Cross

Each week a particular grade will attend mass in our school library. The library is the original site of our weekend parish masses and maintaining this has been a tradition. Students will assist in leading the mass through proclaiming the Word, leading the prayers of the faithful or through song. We are very fortunate to have a weekly mass on site that students are able to join as many schools are often without an adjacent church or without a parish priest that regularly visits.

As Fr Robert is currently on leave, Fr John will be leading mass at 10am both this week and next. Kindergarten will be attending mass this Wednesday and Year 1 will be having mass next Wednesday 26th August.
ICAS - SCIENCE COMPETITION

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the ICAS Science competition and on achieving excellent results this year.

The student received a certificate in recognition of their achievements and to congratulate them on their efforts.

Congratulations to the following students who received:

**High Distinction**
Year 3 Dylan Fernandez, Year 4 Darshanik Aryal, James Kitcher, Year 5 Jacob Salkovic, Jacob Burakowski

**Credit**
Year 6 Franchesca Samonte, Tiana Latt, Aiden Irving, Year 5 Allyson Barroga, Year 4 Aaron Torres, Alex Pantaleone, Ella Burakowski, Nathan Baird, Rosie McAlary, Year 3 Nikita Verghese, Anika Shetty, Samuel Jo & Sophia Ettehad

**Voice of Youth at Holy Cross**
Last Friday our school hosted the cluster final of the Voice of Youth public speaking competition. Students from St Madeleine’s Kenthurst, St Bernadette’s Castle Hill and Our Lady of the Rosary Kellyville joined our Year 5 and 6 students to listen to the final eight speeches from all four schools. It was a daunting experience speaking to over 400 audience members and being judged by three expert, independent adjudicators. Holy Cross was represented by Sarah with her speech “Music - There’s No Escape” and Madeleine with her speech “Inspiration Can Be Ordinary”. Both students did an amazing job and did our community proud. Sarah has given us an insight into her own Voice of Youth experience.

**The Voice of Youth Adventure**
“I’m shaking from head to toe. I approach the microphone. It all comes down to this. All those weeks of preparation: the writing, the practicing. It all comes down to this.

From the day the teachers announced that start of the Voice of Youth preparations, to the day they announced the winner of the cluster finals, Voice of Youth has been an amazing, exciting and nerve-wracking adventure: one that I will never forget.

Nerves are never a bad thing as they push you to do your best. It feels wonderful to have so much support from not only teachers but peers as well, who you know will cheer you on to the end. I’d like to thank all those people who have supported me: my family, teachers and friends who built up my courage I needed.

I’d like to conclude by saying that if you do your best and put your mind to it, you can truly achieve anything, because you are unique and amazing in everyway.”

Congratulations to all Year 6 students for their preparation and participation in Voice of Youth. In particular, congratulations to Sarah and Madeleine.
Zone Athletics Carnival
Last Tuesday 11th August 32 students from Holy Cross competed at the Zone Athletics Carnival which was held at Blacktown International Sports Park, Rooty Hill. The students competed in a number of track and field events throughout the day including 100m, 200m, 800m, 4x100m relays, long jump, discus and shot putt. All of our students participated enthusiastically on the day with many even recording personal best times. The support on the day from both students and parents was fantastic and made for a thoroughly enjoyable time. A special congratulations goes to Leticia Zec of Year 5 and Christina Kiceec of Year 3 who both qualified for the Diocesan Carnival this Friday in the Junior Girls 800m and 100m respectively. We wish you all the best for Friday.

Wrapping Father’s Day Gifts
On Monday 24th August, we will be wrapping over 300 gifts after Monday Morning Prayer in the MPLC. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible to come and help.

If you would like further details, please contact Marthese Scott on 0412 122 972

2016 Kindergarten Children
Tomorrow evening 19th August at 6.30pm a special event is being held in our Library for those children who are attending Kindergarten in 2016. Parents and their children can enjoy an evening story time in the library “Reading Under the Stars”. All 2016 Kindergarten children and their parents are warmly invited to attend.

BOOK CLUB
Just a reminder that Issue 6 of Scholastic Book Club is due by Thursday 20th August. To order and pay by credit card, visit www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP. If you pay by credit card, you do not need to return the paper order form.

Diary Events
Wed 19th Aug Reading Under the Stars
Fri 21st Aug Diocesan Athletics Carnival
Mon 24th Aug Year 4 Monday Morning Prayer
Mon 24th Aug Father’s Day Wrapping
Fri 28th Aug Book Week Parade
Mon 31st Aug Father’s Day Stall

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday
Alexandra Mason, Jessica Ratcliffe, Daniel Driscoll, Pravjot Singh, Lyle Keith, Leayah Leano & Anthony Surace

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS THIS TERM
Friday 11th September, 2015
THIS IS A PUPIL FREE DAY
Please contact COSHC on 0418 115 483 to arrange care for your child as soon as possible