Holy Cross Community News Update

“Learning Together“

HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER - 6:30pm

Students and staff are excited to prepare for this year’s Holy Cross Christmas Celebration!

All classes will gather to begin at 6:30 pm on Thursday 1st December on our Basketball Court. Seating will be provided though there will also be space in front for families that would prefer to bring a small blanket to sit on.

Please make sure that you save the date on your calendar so that you come along.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Starting next week we will be collecting for this year’s St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal and invite everyone in the community to contribute. Hampers will include non-perishable food which would contribute to a nice meal on Christmas day or over the Christmas season.

Please keep in mind the many families who are struggling and will not be able to afford any kind of Christmas celebration without the support of their community.

Contributing to the appeal gives children a real and tangible opportunity to help others. We are teaching our children the importance of charity and this is a very real way in which we can live like Jesus taught us.

You are invited to please bring in Christmas food items for our hampers.

Parish Mass at School This Week

Parish Mass returns to its normal time this week at 9am in our school library. Year 5 will attend mass and we invite all mums and dads to come along for a lovely start to the day. Next week Year 4 will gather for mass on Wednesday.

November - The Month of The Holy Souls

In these last two weeks of November please remember that 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.

Music Enriches our Learning

At Holy Cross School we love music because we believe it is personally enriching. Music promotes thoughtfulness and enjoyment. It has been clear for much of history that music is one of the most complex art forms. It has many connections to the worlds of Mathematics and Science. Yet music connects naturally to each of us. Through music we connect to the world.

Our music curricular program offers varied opportunities to broaden knowledge and engage with many musical pursuits. All year levels have a scheduled music lesson weekly with Mr Komorowski, our specialist music teacher.

John XXIII Mass Times

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<tr>
<th>Day</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, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sat at 9.00am</td>
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Composing Music on Ableton Live @ Holy Cross

In January this year, Holy Cross Primary School became one of about 12 schools worldwide participating in a music technology/composing project through the use of Ableton Live Software and the Push music controller.

The best way to describe this music software and hardware is as a special music computer. Rather than a music keyboard, melodies and beats can be created by students using a matrix of touch sensitive pads which controls the sounds and recording/playback to enable students to create their own music.

Ableton in Berlin, is a well known music technology company. Their ‘Live’ software and ‘Push’ Music Controllers are used extensively by professional music producers, composers and DJs throughout the world; in recording studios as well as in professional live performance.

Ableton has donated a set of 10 Push Music Controllers along with the software to run them to this project at Holy Cross and also provided training from their leading Ableton Industry Practitioners to our teachers.

This project is led in the classroom by Mr Komorowski and supported by Mr Rooke. Already, Year 6 are composing some great music and learning to work together to learn about music creation. Using the Ableton Live and Push system also gives students an experience of what working in a real recording studio might be like.

Mr Komorowski and Mr Rooke are also working with teachers in Los Angeles, Berlin, New York and Melbourne on designing the learning materials to enable this learning through the Ableton online collaborative learning community.

Linking Science & Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Through connected learning, the students have been able to learn Mathematics and Science and apply their understanding into creating a program.

The Learning:

This term Year 4 have been engaged in their learning, familiarising themselves with robotics and how to program technology to move in a desired direction. Year 4 began this investigation by identifying the learning that could take place whilst programming the Sphero’s. They were able to identify that they needed to know about shapes and their properties, direction, speed, time, length, angles (that includes understanding and identifying a variety of different angles) and also using a protractor to measure these.

The Task:

The students needed to create a maze that they could program the Sphero to travel, however they did have a set criteria and guidelines that they needed to include in their maze; quadrilaterals, triangles, parallel lines and include a right angle. The children needed to identify these on their maps and also record the distance.

The students have been using an app called “Lightning Lab” and using this to control the robot. Through investigation and trial and error, the students soon came to the realisation that the speed of the Sphero needed to remain constant if they were to correctly calculate the distance travelled in seconds. They also needed to visualise the direction the Sphero would take before programming had begun. The students are working cooperatively with each other, taking on and giving feedback using mathematical reasoning skills to prove their thinking, in an appropriate and constructive manner. They are also applying the feedback to improve their learning and further develop and enhance their understanding. Coding also develops teamwork and collaborative skills.

The End Result:

The Year Four students are still continuing to work on their projects and have enjoyed the learning journey so far. Upon completion of this task, the students will have a deeper and more thorough understanding of Geometry, Measurement, Number, Working Mathematically, Working Scientifically and Working Technologically.

Student Reflection from their learning:

Samuel: “I’m having the best time…….This is the best learning ever!”
Juan: “I’ve never programmed anything before… I’m excited when Friday comes because I know that I will be working on my Sphero maze with my group!”
William: “I really like working within a group and sharing ideas because you might hear ideas and strategies that other students are using which I can also use.”
School Facilities Upgrade

At Holy Cross, we are very fortunate to have our wonderful school facilities. It is important that our learning spaces and facilities are always up to date, encouraging and allowing students to do their personal best. Learning spaces are designed to enable different ways of working. Each learning space has a variety of options for the way their space is configured, and is particularly mindful of the age of the students and the types of learning that occurs in the space. Students need to be able to work independently or work with their peers collaboratively on tasks and projects. Desks and chairs are all designed to move as needed.

Learning Spaces

Recently our Years 3, 4 and 5 learning spaces had new carpet laid and pin boards installed around all the walls to display students new learning, strategies and information that they can access. The students have easy access to information that will assist them in their learning.

Technology

All learning spaces have either an Apple TV or Interactive Whiteboard in their learning space. Last week Kindergarten, Years 1, 4, 5 and 6 had additional new Apple TV’s installed which connect to the chromebooks, laptops and iPads. Students and teachers can share their learning and connect to the school’s wifi network which has been designed to provide school-wide access for students and staff. Additional new Apple TV’s and digital devices in other learning spaces will be installed early next year. These technical devices are tools which continually enhance student learning.

Outdoor learning spaces

We are currently installing hardcover awnings on both sides of the building outside Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6. Students will be able to work collaboratively outdoors under cover on many tasks such as Science and Technology. This will also be a great area for the students to sit under cover for lunch and recess on wet weather days.

Music Studio

Our School Music program continues to expand with additional musical instruments and programs for our students to access. To support the additional music programs we have established a Music Studio to enable:

- Students to compose and record their music
- Junior and Senior Band rehearsals
- String ensemble rehearsals
- Group and individual strings lessons

2017 Staffing News

We say farewell to Mrs Anne Porteous, who will be leaving at the end of this year. Mrs Porteous has been teaching at Holy Cross for 15 years and will soon be moving to Wollongong. She has been a valuable member of the School Leadership Team and has made outstanding contributions to our school community. Mrs Porteous has done an amazing job coordinating the Kindergarten Transition Program, while welcoming new families and students to our school. She has taught many children at Holy Cross during this time.

Mrs Alison Maunder, will be leaving Holy Cross at the end of 2016. Mrs Maunder has taught many students over the last 12 years at Holy Cross. Mrs Maunder specialises in the area of literacy and has been the Literacy and Learning Support teacher for many years. Mrs Maunder is very passionate about teaching literacy and has always encouraged the love and joy of reading and writing with our school community. Mrs Maunder will be spending more time with her young family.

We farewell Mrs Sue Gilmore who will be retiring at the end of this year. Mrs Gilmore has been teaching at Holy Cross for 8 years. During this time Mrs Gilmore has shared her many gifts and made many contributions to our school. Over recent years Mrs Gilmore has also coordinated the CAPTIVATE Choir program encouraging and providing many students with the opportunity to perform on stage. Mrs Gilmore also established our school veggie patch. Many students really enjoy watering, gardening, picking and eating the lovely veggies, including the strawberries at the moment.

On behalf of the students and staff we would like to thank Mrs Porteous, Mrs Maunder and Mrs Gilmore for their contributions and wish them all the best.
Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthdays this week

Jake Arakelian, Mathea Estaca, Nirvana Maharaj, Edward D'Silva, Ethan Tran, Samiya Lakhani & Rianna Arcega

2017 DATES

Years 1 to 6 commence
Tuesday 31st January, 2017

Kindergarten 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 will try 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.

UNSW Assessments

We would like to congratulate the following students on their wonderful achievements for the Mathematics UNSW Assessments held earlier this year.

The following student received a **High Distinction**: Eric Burakowski

The following students received a **Distinction**: Jamie Chin, Christopher Morgan, Emma Baird, Dylan Fernandez, Stefan Fernando, Jayden Jones, James Kitcher and Mikelah Cauchi.

The following students received a **Credit**: Samiya Lakhani, Ethan Tran, Rianna Arcega, Ashlee Tungol, Samuel Jo, Dominic Lim, Anika Shetty, Aaron Torres, Allyson Barroga, Jake Christie, Ryan Pacchini.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the UNSW Assessments throughout the year.

**STAFF CAR PARK - IMPORTANT NOTE**

Recently there have been a number of parents who are using the staff car park to drop off and pick up. It is extremely important that parents **DO NOT ENTER** the carpark even when the gate is open as this puts the safety of all our children at risk.

Thank you to all the parents for taking care when dropping your children off at school and picking them up at the end of the day.

**Swimming Carnival**

All swimming notes were due at school last Friday. Mrs Richardson will now be organising heats for the children. Parents are encouraged to offer assistance on the day so that the carnival can run safely and smoothly. If you are able to assist please ensure that you complete the Child Protection module.

**Student Transition from Year to Year at Holy Cross**

Staff at Holy Cross spend significant amount of time ensuring that all students have a positive transition from one year to the next. This includes teachers meeting with each other to learn about all the students that they will be teaching the following year. This is a very thorough and thoughtful process.

Last week we held a Transition Information Session for parents of students in Year 2 moving into Year 3 in 2017. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the meeting. Parents had the opportunity to view the learning space and ask questions. The parent feedback was very positive. Here is some parent feedback from the meeting:

*“I have a better understanding of how the students will be learning in Year 3 next year and it is very exciting. I know it will be great for the children. The information was very clear and it sounds fantastic. Thank you!”*