Dear Parents,

**Extending Mathematical Understanding at Holy Cross**

During this year at Holy Cross we continue our professional learning focus on Mathematics with the view to continually improve the learning outcomes of all our students. We are involved in the Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) program, with the Australian Catholic University (ACU), which provides professional learning for teachers. We are also extremely fortunate to have Melissa King, Teaching Educator who has been appointed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, to support our learning and model effective learning and teaching strategies for our staff and students.

There are many ways that parents and the home environment can support their child's mathematics learning at school. Parents can help their child to gain confidence, practise their skills in real life situations and help to develop a positive attitude towards Mathematics. In the newsletter you will see some ways that you can help your child at home with Mathematics.

**Twitter**

To allow our students the opportunity to share their learning and achievements we have joined twitter. You are welcome to follow us on: @holycrossglen

**Year 6 Canberra Excursion**

On Wednesday 23rd May, Year 6 students will be travelling to Canberra on their excursion and will return on Friday afternoon. Some of the places they will visit over the three days are the Australian War Memorial, Australian Institute of Sport, Parliament House and the National Film and Sound Archive. The students have worked hard during their unit of work and are well prepared to visit these places. I would like to thank the following staff members who will be supervising the Year 6 students Miss Sheehy, Mr Stennett, Miss Whittle, Mrs McCully, Mrs O’Rourke, Mr Buckley and Mr Robey.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We wish the students and staff a safe and enjoyable trip and we look forward to hearing about the many wonderful experiences that they have had. The teachers and students are certainly excited about their time away together. For the first time you will be able to follow their trip on twitter: @holycrossglen

Regards,

Marina Hardy
Principal

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**John XXIII Mass Times**

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<tr>
<td>Saturday Vigil</td>
<td>6.00p.m.</td>
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<td>Sunday Masses</td>
<td>8.30a.m., 10.30a.m., 6.00p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekday Masses</td>
<td>Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00a.m.</td>
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We are creating in our parish a “Special Needs Fund”. Money raised for this fund will be distributed to families in our Parish and School of children undergoing treatment for serious health problems. At present we have four children ranging from 13 years to 2 years who are seriously ill with cancer. Money raised will be distributed evenly to help these families cope with the cost of medical bills. Any consideration to this request would be welcomed and appreciated. Money raised can be sent to “Special Needs Account”, Blessed John XXIII Catholic Church Stanhope Gardens. P.O. Box 23 Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768. You may also make this donation at the parish office or place an envelope in a collection with the Special Needs Account addressed on the front.

This weekend we begin the Year of Grace. The Australian Catholic bishops call the Catholic people in Australia to a Year of Grace, to commit ourselves to start afresh from Christ. They recognise, firstly, God’s abundant blessings to us and acknowledge with sadness that we are a Church in need of healing. Most deeply, they desire for the light of Christ to burn more brightly in the heart of each Australian. We launch this in our parish at all masses this weekend. Live Jesus In Our Hearts, Forever Father Dave.

ENROLMENTS
2013 enrolments are now being taken. If you have a child commencing school next year it is important that you come and collect your Expression of Interest Form. Our families are the best source of advertising for our school. If you know of any families seeking a Catholic education for their children it is time for them to come and collect the forms now.

National Simultaneous Story time –
“The Cranky Bear”
On Wednesday May 23, the students in Kindergarten to Year 2 will be joining libraries and schools across Australia to participate in a National Simultaneous Story time to celebrate the National Year of Reading.
So How Do Children Learn to do Mental Calculations?

Children begin by counting things that they can see, and using objects to add and subtract. Through practice, children will begin to think of ways to add and subtract without having to use objects. As children begin to deal with larger numbers, they develop a range of ways other than counting by ones.

For example, to find the answer to 25 + 89, children could:

- Make the 89 up to 90, then add 10 and then 14
- Add 20 and 80 to make 100, then add 9 and 5, then add 100 and 14
- Add 10 twice to 89 and then add 5 more. One of the interesting things about mental calculations is that we do not all think the same way.

What you can do at home?

- Ask your child how he or she mentally worked out the answer to a question. Explain how you would mentally work out the answer. If your child can not work out the answer mentally, give him or her objects to use for counting.
- Ask your child how much change he or she will get when paying for an item at the shops.
- If your child is saving to buy an item, ask how much more money he or she will need to save before being able to buy it.
- Ask your child to estimate the cost of two items when shopping.
- If watching a game involving two teams, ask your child to work out mentally the difference in the scores.
- When playing games that use two dice, replace dot dice with ones that have numbers on them.

Premier’s Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who have already completed their Premier’s Reading Challenge:

Year 3
Sarah Eltehad, Ruby Villiers, Alistair Gleenon, Abbey Mey, Natasha Sullivan, Ethan Tarry, Hannah Arevalo

Year 6

A very special mention to Emily Harper (Yr 6) and Michael Harper (Yr 3) who completed their challenge at the very beginning of Term 1.

Well done to all of the boys and girls. We know that all of the other students are reading everyday and are working towards completing their quota of books.

Keep reading!

Library Land

Parent Helpers Needed

If you could spare some of your time Library Land would love for you to come and help cover books. Please pop into the library and see either Trudie or Gloria.

School Fees

Just a reminder if you are paying school fees by the term that the due date is by Friday 25th May.

If you would like to discuss your fees please contact the office to arrange an appointment with Miss Hardy.

Entertainment Book

Thank you to all the families who have supported this fundraiser. Last orders for the fundraising book will be taken on Friday 25th May. The cost of this book is $65 with the school receiving $13 for every book sold. Please contact the school office for any further information.

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week
Krrish Maini, Estelle Assam, Ethan Tarry, Melanie Aiello, Renee Gogarty, Triana Fernandez, Harrison Capps and William Toates

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2012
**Upcoming Events**

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<td>Wednesday 23rd</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra</td>
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<td>Thursday 24th</td>
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<td>Friday 25th May</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29th May</td>
<td>Year One</td>
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<td>Zoo Mobile</td>
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<td>1st June</td>
<td>Year 5 Bathurst Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday 8th June</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<td>Monday 11th June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12th June</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Full Winter Uniform</td>
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<td>No Sports Uniform</td>
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**Glenwood Family Gala**

**Valentine Sports Park**  
(235-257 Meurants Lane, Glenwood)  
**Thursday, 24th May**  
2pm - 5pm

Join us for a FREE  
sausage sizzle  
fun & games  
give aways  
special guests