Dear Parents

We celebrate Catholic Schools Week at Holy Cross – come and join us………

‘A learning adventure, a journey of faith’ is the theme of Catholic Schools Week - a celebration across NSW and the ACT of Catholic Education, May 1 – May 7.

This theme captures the commitment that Holy Cross has to quality learning and teaching. This is a commitment that we share with you, our parents and our wider faith community- a commitment to the holistic development of all our children through the provision of creative and innovative learning experiences that prepare our children for a modern, technology-rich world. We articulate this in our vision statement

"The overall aim of Holy Cross is the development of Christian leaders who will be an influence for good in society. Our aim being to provide students with positive attitudes and a love of learning, so that they will be flexible, adaptable, life long learners."

Together we strive to bring Christ into the lives of our students, and to provide learning experiences for all our students that allow each of them to grow and thrive. Our parish and school community work in partnership to ensure every student grows in faith and wisdom.

Together with our parish community we lead our children in their faith development. Prayer is an important part of our school and integrates the richness of the gospel with the life of the community. We commence our school week at Holy Cross with a prayer assembly for the whole school and each Friday our Parish Priest Father Dave leads our parish community in the celebration of mass with one of our class groups. He then takes one of our class groups in the celebration of reconciliation.

This week you are invited to join us for one or all of the events planned for our celebration of Catholic Education.

Yours sincerely,

Leanne Nettleton
Principal
**Catholic Schools Week**

**What's on**

**Tuesday**  Diocesan Cross Country at Eastern Creek

**Wednesday**  9.00am Mother’s Day Liturgy followed by Open Classrooms
6.30pm Reading Under the Stars for 2012 Kindergarten

**Thursday**  12.00pm Michelle Rowland, MP Member for Greenway visiting
Stage 3 AFL GALA DAY

**Friday**  6.00pm – 8.00pm Back to Holy Cross Evening for past Holy Cross Students now in Years 7 and 8

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**2011 NAPLAN:**

**Tuesday May 10, Wednesday May 11 and Thursday May 12**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

On Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May, our students will undertake the 2011 NAPLAN tests.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children.

All students are encouraged to participate in the tests.

Students with disability may qualify for special provisions that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au)

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**Welcome**

This term we welcome

- Miss Rachel Lau as our Music teacher for the remainder of 2011 while Mrs Raspopova takes leave. The children have already enjoyed Music lessons with Miss Lau.
- Miss Collins who will be joining the Year 3 team for the next 4 weeks while Mrs Gregory is on sick leave.
- Miss Melissa Kershaw who has joined the Year 6 teaching team, teaching with Mrs O’Rourke and Mrs Clements, and allowing Mrs O’Rourke to fulfill her responsibilities in the role of Assistant Principal.
- Mrs Denise Nasser who be teaching in the Year 5 learning space each day until midday to support the learning programme.
- Student Teachers from the Australian Catholic University.

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**Winter School Uniform**

The following 3 weeks are a uniform transition period. The children can continue to wear their summer school uniform or choose to change into their winter uniform.

The official changeover date is Monday of Week 4 of this term. Please do not send your children to school in a blend of the two uniforms – if girls wish to wear tights then they should be wearing winter uniform. If boys want to wear long pants they should be wearing their full winter uniform which includes the long sleeve shirt and tie. Ties and winter jackets are available from the office. All other uniforms are available at PSW in Castle Hill. Unfortunately, the winter track pants are on back order. PSW is waiting for a confirmation date as to when these will be available. We will endeavour to let you know of this date asap.

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**Enrolment Interviews for Kindergarten 2012 commence next week.**

If you know of a family with a school age child ready for Kindergarten in 2012 please take an Expression of Interest Form for them and advise them to return this to the office as soon as possible.

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<th>Tuesday 10 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 May</th>
<th>Thursday 12 May</th>
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<td><strong>1. Language Conventions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td><strong>Numeracy</strong></td>
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<td>Yr 3: 40 mins</td>
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<td>Yr 5: 40 mins</td>
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**Mother’s Day**

This Friday 6th May children are invited to bring $2 to school to purchase a gift from the Mothers Day stalls being run by each grade. If you are able to assist with the stall please contact your class teachers who will be very appreciative of your assistance.

On Wednesday 5th May we invite all mothers, grandmothers and mother figures to join us for prayer at 9.00am in the MPLC. This will be followed by morning tea.

**Staff Development Day**

The last day of Term 2 and the first day of Term 3 will be staff development days. These days are pupil free days. The staff will be reviewing learning programmes and making the final preparations for the school’s Compliance Audit which will be conducted on August 9.

**SPECIAL CANTEEN DAY**

**WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY**

We are having a HOT DOG DAY!!!

Online orders only—no bag orders will be accepted.

Orders will open Wednesday 4th May. Orders to be placed under “School Shop”

1/2 Hot Dog options will be available.

No other hot option will be available on this day.

Sandwiches, wraps etc. still available

**SCHOOL DISCO**

Come along and join us for a night of movin’ and groovin’

WITH OUR GUEST DJ’s

**FRIDAY 20TH MAY, 2011**

KINDERGARTEN - YEAR 2
5.00PM TO 6.00PM

YEAR 3 - YEAR 6
6.30PM TO 8.00PM
RE NEWS

5th National eConference: Thursday 19 May
Theme: The Holy Spirit, Giver of Life. Keynote speakers for this eConference are Fr Denis Edwards, senior lecturer in Theology at the School of Theology at Flinders University, Victoria, and Sr Janette Gray RSM, lecturer in Systemic Theology at the Jesuit College of Theology in the United Faculty of Theology, Melbourne. Fr Denis has written extensively on theology and science subjects while Sr Janette is known for her teachings in the area of theology of the human person, the interface between Church and contemporary society and Christian and Muslim relations. A joint project of the Australian Catholic Bishops and The Broken Bay Institute. Time: 10.30am-3.15pm. Free registration. To find out more and register go to http://holyspirit.vividas.com

Sisterhood Catholic Women’s Conference: 13-15 May

Theology on Tap: Tuesday 17 May

Catholic Family Day: Sunday 22 May
The National Association of Catholic Families is holding a Family Day on 22 May at Campion College. Guest speaker Fr Warren Edwards will be speaking on The Civilisation of Love (John Paul II). Children’s Adoration will be held in the chapel starting at noon with shared lunch (BYO everything) followed by family rosary and talk. All welcome - plenty of parking. Campion College, 8-14 Austin Woodbury Place, Old Toongabbie. Inquiries: Mary Clare 0437 781 464.

Patrician Brothers’ Blacktown Old Boys’ Reunion: 24 June

Over the next week children will be receiving a username and password for the Study Ladder literacy and numeracy website. All students will now have home access to activities on Study Ladder. Teachers will send home a parent letter explaining the process for using the website and logging onto the website. As with all internet based usage, parents are reminded that your child’s password is to be secure and not shared with any one.