Dear Parents,

The Parable of a Child
by Steve Goodier

There is a difference between education and experience. Education is what you get from reading the small print. Experience is what you get from not reading it! But isn’t it true that great learning comes from both education and experience? Let me tell you a parable:

A young school teacher had a dream that an angel appeared to him and said, "You will be given a child who will grow up to become a world leader. How will you prepare her so that she will realize her intelligence, grow in confidence, develop both her assertiveness and sensitivity, be open-minded, yet strong in character? In short, what kind of education will you provide that she can become one of the world's truly great leaders?"

The young teacher awoke in a cold sweat. It had never occurred to him before—any one of his present or future students could be the person described in his dream. Was he preparing them to rise to any position to which they may aspire? He thought, ‘How might my teaching change if I knew that one of my students were this person?’ He gradually began to formulate a plan in his mind.

This student would need experience as well as instruction. She would need to know how to solve problems of various kinds. She would need to grow in character as well as knowledge. She would need self-assurance as well as the ability to listen well and work with others. She would need to understand and appreciate the past, yet feel optimistic about the future. She would need to know the value of lifelong learning in order to keep a curious and active mind. She would need to grow in understanding of others and become a student of the spirit. She would need to set high standards for herself and learn self discipline, yet she would also need love and encouragement, that she might be filled with love and goodness.

His teaching changed. Every young person who walked through his classroom became, for him, a future world leader. He saw each one, not as they were, but as they could be. He expected the best from his students, yet tempered it with compassion. He taught each one as if the future of the world depended on his instruction.

After many years, a woman he knew rose to a position of world prominence. He realized that she must surely have been the girl described in his dream. Only she was not one of his students, but rather his daughter. For of all the various teachers in her life, her father was the best.

I’ve heard it said that "Children are living messages we send to a time and place we will never see." But this isn’t simply a parable about an unnamed school teacher. It is a parable about you and me—whether or not we are parents or even teachers. And the story, our story, actually begins like this:

"You will be given a child who will grow up to become...." You finish the sentence. If not a world leader, then a superb father? An excellent teacher? A gifted healer? An innovative problem solver? An inspiring artist? A generous philanthropist?

Where and how you will encounter this child is a mystery. But believe that one child's future may depend upon influence only you can provide, and something remarkable will happen. For no young person will ever be ordinary to you again. And you will never be the same.

Yours sincerely,
Leanne Nettleton
Principal
Lord Jesus, thank You for all the gifts You have given me. Help me to be aware of these gifts, that I may surrender them to You and use them cheerfully and generously to build up Your Kingdom. Amen.

Expressions of Interests have been called for the position of Acting Principal for Holy Cross for Term One 2012.

The Catholic Education Office has decided that the permanent position of Principal for Holy Cross will not be advertised until Term One 2012. Meanwhile Expressions of Interest have been called for the Acting position of Principal for Term One and our leadership team and teachers have plans well underway for the 2012 year as you have been witnessing from the “Learning Together News” in recent weeks newsletters. If you have any questions related to 2012 or about the process of appointing the new Principal please call in and have a chat with Mrs Nettleton.

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthdays:-

Logan Doubell, Zachary Mason, Nikitha Prasad, Joshua Gobbo, Isabelle Battese, matthew Gonzales, Nicole Fisher, Ysabella Nieves, Thomas Webster, Aaina Singh, Isabella Valenti, Kristen Smith, Paolo Rodil, Jaidyn Wright

LEARNING TOGETHER

Please note that school will return for Year One to Six on Tuesday 31st January 2012. Kindergarten will commence school on Wednesday 1st February 2012.

Kinder 2012 Transition Programme

Today our new 2012 Kinders completed their Transition Programme. The children were happy and enthusiastic over the last 2 weeks to be at BIG School and they very much enjoyed getting to know the Year 5 helpers and the volunteer parent helpers. These children will now come to school for their ORIENTATION MORNING ON TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER

Year 6 ENVIRO EXPO

Last Wednesday evening our Year 6 students showcase their learning about the environment for their parents. The students held information stalls, made and sold environmentally friendly cleaning products and conducted experiments. The students also reflected on their stewardship of God’s creation.

CONGRATULATIONS to the girls and boys on all their hard work throughout this unit.

EARLY YEARS ASSESSMENTS IN KINDER AND YEAR ONE

Over the last two weeks every child in Kindergarten and Year One has been assessed for their literacy skill development over the past year. This information offers a comparative for the past year and how programmes can be designed to enhance this gain for every student over the next twelve months.

Girls Night In

Congratulations to the group of mothers who gathered in our MPLC last Saturday evening to make cards and support the Breast Cancer Foundation. A big thanks to Donna Inns and her helpers for all their hard work and organisation.

SPORTS NEWS

School Swimming Carnival

Mrs Clark is organising heats for the children. Parents are encouraged to offer assistance at the carnival so that it can run safely and smoothly. If you are able to assist please ensure that you have completed the Child Protection Module.

Parish News

ADVENT PARISH REFLECTION MORNING

Saturday 10th December

Time: 9am Mass until shared lunch at 1pm. On Saturday 10th December Fr Dave Hume will offer a Reflection Time in “Preparation for Christmas” starting with the 9am Parish Mass, followed by reflective times based upon Lectio Divina.

The Reflection morning, after Mass in our parish church, will adjourn to St Mark’s Staffroom.

Program:

9.00 am Parish Mass
9.30 am Morning Tea in St Mark’s staffroom.
10.00 am Prayer
10.15 am Lectio Divina: John 1:6-8 & 19-28
11.15 am T E A B R E A K
11.45 am Prayer
11.50 am Fr Dave’s talk: A Hidden God.
12.10 pm Fr Dave: Guided Meditation
12.30 pm U N C H (Bring a plate to share)

We pray for our children making for the first time the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We had two groups this week on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and two next week on the respective days. I thank Sue Andruskin and her twenty facilitators for preparing the children. I thank the parents for being involved in the preparation and your presence at mass with your children leading up to the sacrament was a true witness of our faith. As usual the support from our schools was tremendous and in particular I thank, Maureen Whittle, Kylie Carroll and Louise Dalton for their help and the school principals for your support.

RE News

STAFF SPIRITUAL FORMATION DAY

This Friday 18th November 2011 the staff will be led by Father Dave through a Spiritual Formation Day to be held at Mamre House Mulgoa. This will be a pupil free day. Each year the Catholic Education Office asks schools in the Diocese to set aside one of our staff development days for religious and spiritual formation. This year Father Dave will be guiding the staff in an approach to scriptural reflection called “Lectio Divina”.

November - Prayer for those who have died.

November is traditionally a time in the church when we pray for relatives, friends and all people who have died. There is a Remembrance Book on the Prayer Focus in the office foyer. Families are invited to write the names of family members who have died in this book. We will take this book to Friday Mass each week in November.

Reconciliation

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week our first two groups of students from Holy Cross will join with children in the Parish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These students have been working with their parents as well as attending meetings in the parish to prepare for this sacrament. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers.

End of Year Mass

Our End of Year Mass to give thanks for the blessings of this year will take place at Blessed John XX111 church on Friday 9 December, commencing at 10.00.

Also, this mass will be a special time to thank Mrs Nettleton for her work at Holy Cross and to wish her happiness and success in the future.

Mass will be followed by a picnic lunch and FUN AFTERNOON back at Holy Cross. Families are warmly invited to attend the mass and the picnic. The children will travel to and from the church by buses which will leave from Holy Cross at 9.00am. A permission note will be sent home next week. Please complete and return this to your child’s class teacher by Tuesday 29th November 2011.
HEALTH ALERTS

WHOOPING COUGH
If your child has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as a dry or persistent cough, which may be especially bad at night, a runny nose and fever, please see your doctor. If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics given early in the illness are effective in stopping the cough and in preventing spread to other people. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please advise the school and keep your child at home until they have taken at least 5 days of antibiotics. Vaccination is the best protection against whooping cough. For further information please visit www.health.nsw.gov.au

HAND FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
The symptoms of this illness include:
Blisters that start as small red dots which later become ulcers. Blisters appear inside the cheeks, gums and on the sides of the tongue as well as on the hands and feet. Blisters usually last for seven to ten days.
If your child has any of these symptoms and a low fever, sore throat, tiredness, feels off colour and maybe off their food for a day or two please consult your doctor.

SLAPPED CHEEK
It is very important for you to seek medical advice if your child presents with any of the symptoms of this illness - runny nose, fever, aches and pains, a rash and red cheeks. Please keep your child home from school if they are sick.

Change of Family Details
Please ensure that your family details, especially contact numbers are updated at the office when they change. This is very important in cases of accident or illness when we need to urgently contact parents.

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES
Thank you to all those families who have finalised their 2011 School Fees. If your account is still outstanding and you have not contacted Mrs Nettleton or you are not on an arrangement you are requested to bring it to finalisation before Friday November 18th 2011. Please contact Vanessa if you would like to discuss fees with Mrs Nettleton.

Second Hand Uniform Shop
The second hand uniform shop will be open tomorrow, Wednesday 16th November from 2.30pm - 3.15pm

DATES TO REMEMBER
Friday 18th November - 2011 Staff Spiritual Formation Day (Pupil Free Day)
Thursday 1st December - School End of Year Concert
Wednesday 7th December - Swimming Carnival Years 2 - 5
Friday 9th December - Whole School End of Year Mass followed by picnic
Wednesday 14th December - Year 6 Graduation Mass
Friday 16th December - Last day of school for students in 2011
At Holy Cross Primary School we focus on one of the 10 important attributes of gr8 people. This fortnight we are focusing on being fair.

Being fair is about the way that we treat other people. The old saying of “Treat other people, the way that you would like to be treated,” is certainly true.

People who are fair know about their responsibilities as well as their rights. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) have agreed a list of children’s rights. These were developed to protect children throughout the world.

A right is a commitment that is owed to you. Whilst it is important that we have rights, we need to also be aware that we have responsibilities as well. A responsibility is a commitment that you owe to other people. We all have rights AND responsibilities.

People who are fair, believe in justice and a fair go for all. Fair people are aware and accepting of people’s differences. They don’t “judge a book by it’s cover”. They judge people by their character and behaviour not by what they look like. Fair people don’t judge others on their race, religion, gender, disability, appearance, the clothes they wear or how much money they have.

Fair people recognise that all people have feelings, needs, hopes and dreams. Being fair is about being understanding and including others whom may be different.

Fair people aren’t prejudiced, they see people as individuals.

Being fair is about believing in justice. It’s about solving problems fairly according to the rules or laws of society. These rule or laws are made to make the world a fair place to live.

People who are fair believe in justice and ‘doing the right thing’. They do what is ‘right’. They don’t accept bullies, cheats or liars. They are courageous and forgiving. They cooperate and share the load.

Fair people realise that rules were made to keep everyone safe. They know that together we can accomplish great things, if everyone is given a fair go.

Never look down on anybody unless you’re helping them up.