Dear Parents,

We were very proud to host the 2011 Voice of Youth Cluster Final at Holy Cross on Thursday 25th August. We were represented by Bridget Surdich, Caitriona Lunn with Ishita Verghese as our reserve. Caitriona was awarded the Social Justice Award for her speech which I include in the newsletter today.

Dangers of Racism
Written by Caitriona Lunn

"I believe we are in danger of being swamped by Asians… if I can invite who I want into my home then I should have the right to say who comes into my country. A Truly multi-cultural country can never be strong or united.”

You don’t like it do you?
This is what Pauline Hanson said in her speech to the House of Representatives in 1996. It was wrong, it was racist. Racism is where people put other people down because of their culture.

This is wrong … everyone is different and unique in their own way. Racism is something that has been around for centuries and yet still goes on. In the beginning it was usually white vs. black people or country vs. country. There was hatred all over the world back then because of racism. Racism can be caused by someone’s skin colour or even because of their accent. For example, my Mum has an Irish accent and when she meets someone new they often comment on it. And although she has not been put down about it, I always fear that she could get laughed at because of the way she says something. Sometimes cultures will get laughed at because of their accent, or people in the bush will get bullied because of what they eat. Skin colour is the most common way to be racist today.

Comments like “just because you’re black doesn’t give you the right to be rude”, is a way to be racist. It’s wrong and no one should be judged about it. Racism can also be in schools, this means that children will be affected. The children might not tell their parents or teachers and if they don’t tell anyone, it can’t be fixed. The children may be put down and they are letting the racists get away with it. This is making the students lose their confidence so they won’t stand up for themselves and say “everyone is different and unique in their own way.” It is said that Australia is made up of people from 52 different cultures. We know that the indigenous Australians are the Aboriginal people and the rest of us all come from somewhere else. According to an internet site, there are just over 500,000 aboriginals in Australia today, not many.

It’s how Australia is made and even though we are all from different cultures it doesn’t mean we can’t unite as one. So children shouldn’t go home upset, they should go home proud of where they come from.

If I suggested you look at the person next to you, he or she is most likely from a different country, it could be where their Great Grandparents lived but all the same they are different. Just like you are different or I am different … just like the Lebanese or Middle Eastern people are different. And they can be affected by racism. This brings me to the Cronulla riots in 2005. The Cronulla riots were a time when Australians of Middle Eastern descent were fighting with Anglo-Saxon Australians (people of mainly English descent). The riots were caused by racism, which goes to show how badly people react to racism. So in schools we should object to racist jokes and insults, invite guests to speak on racism and human rights and examine the contents of the media for stereotypes. Racism is wrong and should be stopped, that’s why I am here today, to be their voice and say “stop the insults, stop the jokes and stop racism”.

Yours sincerely,
Leanne Nettleton
Principal
Come Along and Join us.  It's Our Annual Trivia Night    This Saturday 10th September

Tickets $10.00 Each.

Organise your table or we can organise one for you. All we need you to do is purchase a ticket.

The evening includes:

games
raffles
silent auctions
auctions of sporting memorabilia
including a selection of Footie Jerseys and
some zany but clever Trivia questions.

Come along and join the fun in our MPLC. Thank you to those families who have donated prizes for the evening.

If you are still able to donate a prize we would gladly receive any donations.
NUMERACY WEEK

Congratulations to Meghan Torres who won the Jellybean Guessing Competition and now gets to share the Jelly Beans with her classmates. Thank you to Mrs Salkeld, Miss Sheehy and all the teachers who presented such fabulous mathematical activities for our students to be involved in throughout last week.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

This week we welcome parents into our classrooms to share in their children’s learning through their Student Led Conference. The children are really looking forward to your visit.

YEAR FOUR - CAPTIVATE PERFORMANCE

This Friday 9th September our Year 4 children will be joining children from across the diocese in a Choral Performance at The Hills Centre. We are very proud of these children who have been preparing and rehearsing over the last 2 terms for this special night. On the evening the children will participate in two performances. We wish them the very best.

FATHER’S DAY STALL FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND 2011

Thank you to Mrs Surace, Mrs Inns, Mrs Mey, Mrs Aouchan, Mrs Baird, Mrs Robles, Mrs Bivona, Mrs Harper, Mrs Scott and Mrs Inglis who sold gifts at our Father’s Day Stall last Friday. We were able to raise just on $400 for CARITAS as a result of this stall. Thank you to everyone.

WALKATHON

This week the children will be receiving certificates for their participation and fundraising in the school WALKATHON. As children bring in their sponsorship money they will also be eligible for a raffle ticket in the draw for a Wii Bundle with every $10.00 that they raise. To receive a ticket all monies need to be in by this Friday. The raffle will be drawn at next week’s Monday Prayer Assembly.

School Feast Day Mass & Celebrations

On Friday 16th September our school community will celebrate our school Feast Day commencing with a liturgy at 10.00am in the Multi Purpose Learning Centre, followed by a picnic lunch with families in the playground and an activities afternoon. On the day we will have a Special Can-teen Hot Dog Meal Deal that can be purchased for $5.00. Be sure to put this date aside in your diary so that you can come along and join us.

SUMMER UNIFORM

The children may commence wearing their summer uniform from next week. Please ensure that your child is wearing the full summer uniform which includes short white socks with one cuff roll over NOT cut off socks that sit below the top of the shoe and black school shoes NOT joggers. Thank you for your attention to these details.

Helping your child with additional needs to make the transition

For parents with children starting school, moving into a new grade or starting high school.

Guest speakers: Representatives from Catholic Education student services team, Amy Gill, Learning Support Teacher at Marian College, Kenthurst and ucann parents

13 September 2011
7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start
Diocesan Assembly Centre
Cnr Marion St and Flushcombe Rd  Blacktown
Enquiries to Marie Coddington – 0407 121 967 or
Venessa Ward – 0408 100 909

EMILY RODDA AT BLACKTOWN CITY LIBRARY

Yesterday a group of 40 students met children’s author Emily Rodda at Blacktown library. This was a great experience for our budding authors. They were amazed to hear that Emily has written and co-written approximately 90 books, that she keeps a notebook where she writes down all her “Story ideas” so that she never forgets them and that it can take between 4mths and one year for her to write a book. Emily answered questions from the students and signed copies of her books for the children. We are grateful to Margaret Redrup from Blacktown Library for her generous invitation to our students to attend this workshop. Children are invited to keep their eyes out in our school library for copies of Emily’s newest book, The Golden Door, the first in her latest trilogy. Photos of this event can be seen on the school website in the photo Gallery section.

TODAY, AUTHOR AARON BLABEY, ENTERTAINED THE CHILDREN AS A PART OF OUR CELEBRATION OF LITERACY WEEK

In our school library today the children enjoyed interactive workshops with Aaron Blabey the author of Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley, Stanley Paste, Sunday Chutney and The Ghost of Miss Annabel Spoon. A fun time was enjoyed by all.

INFANTS SPORTS CARNIVAL

The Infants Sports Carnival will be held next Monday 12th September. This is a great day for parents and children. If you are able to assist on the day please let your class teacher or Ms Porteous know so that we can organise the groups of children. There will be a briefing session on the day and if you are able to help out please meet Ms Porteous on the COLA at 9.00am. If you have not yet completed the Child Protection online training and you would like to help out on the day please do so before Friday 9th September 2011. The training can be found at www.parra.catholic.edu.au/childprotection

CONGRATULATIONS CAITRIONA LUNN!

Social Justice Award Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition

Thank You

Thank you to all the Year 5 families who sent in cakes for the cake stall last Monday. As a result of your generosity Sophia was able to raised almost $350 towards research into finding a cure for Multiple Sclerosis.

Library Thank You

Thank you to Mrs Lim, Mrs Considine and Mrs McAlary for covering so many of our new books for the library. The children will enjoy reading these books

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.

STRANGER DANGER

You are reminded to regularly discuss with your children the importance of STRANGER DANGER. Please be particularly mindful that your children have a safety plan should they be approached by a stranger when they are on their way to or from school.
RE News

Reconciliation
If there are any parents of children in Years 3—6 who would like their child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year please contact Miss Whittle at school.

Confirmation
We have a small group of children who will join with children of the parish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Friday at 7.30pm. We pray for these children and their families.

Feast Day
The celebration of our feast day is fast approaching. We hope you can join us on Friday 16th September at 10.00am to celebrate Mass. This will be followed by a family picnic

Child Protection Week
4 -11 September
The theme for this year is Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lord,
You asked that the little children be allowed to come to you;
For it is such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.
You entrust them to the care and protection of our communities of faith.

Guides us
As we strive to ensure that our Catholic communities provide a safe environment for each child.

We pray especially for all those who have been harmed in their childhood. Give them courage in facing the past and lead them to your healing protection.

HOLY CROSS SPECIAL FEAST DAY CANTEEN MEAL DEAL
FRIDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

$5.00 HOT DOG MEAL DEAL
includes hot dog, drink, lollipop and iceblock