Dear Parents,

The Lord God is continually creating me. God is making and moulding me into the someone who is worthwhile, loveable and able to make a special contribution to our world. God gives me strength and wisdom like his own. God gives me a mind for thinking, a heart for loving and hands to help those in need. God calls me to be his friend and promises to be with me always and everywhere.

We can never tell or show our child enough how much they are loved and are precious. As parents and teachers we commit to this each and every day. While there are occasions when we get caught up in the hectic pace of life it is the overall commitment to the goal of bringing our children to the understanding that they are unique and wonderful individuals that we all strive to bring to life.

The international events of this past weekend, bring this home to us very clearly and help us to strengthen our resolve as parents and teachers to enable our children to truly believe that each of them is precious in God’s sight and they will come to truly know this when we continually create and nurture an environment that radiates love, acceptance and understanding. Today I include a reflection for your consideration:-

When we hold a piece of crystal to the light, it paints rainbows on the wall. When we tap it lightly with a spoon, it sings like a bell. But when we drop it, it shatters into colourless, silent pieces on the floor.

Human beings, sometimes to our amazement, can be as fragile as glass. Especially with people we live with or have known for a long time, it’s easy to forget what makes them shine or sing. We take for granted the very qualities that made us love them in the first place.

When we forget how to see and hear the people we love, how to appreciate them, we grow careless. Too often, from sheer neglect, the relationship between us grows dull and silent, then slips, falls and shatters. Paying attention to other people’s needs and feelings can prevent this.

Whose presence can I appreciate today?

Yours sincerely,
Leanne Nettleton
Principal
Preschool Playgroup Sessions

All 2012 preschool children and their families are warmly invited to attend our informal playgroup sessions. They will be held:

Monday 9.30am – 10.15am directly following the Prayer Assembly

Wednesday 2.30pm – 3.15pm

Both sessions will be held on the pavers near the fixed equipment. Come along and meet some new friends.

Walkathon Friday August 19th August 2011

Remember to mark your calendar with the date of our School WALKATHON. Proceeds from our walkathon will be used to purchase literacy resources for our for our children. For each $10 collected, children will receive a raffle ticket in a raffle for Wii bundle. If you are able to assist by walking with the children to and from the park or by being at a Walkathon Station please leave your name in the office or with your child’s class teacher. We are all looking forward to a day of fun.

Celebrating Literacy and Numeracy at Holy Cross

This term the children across the school will have a number of opportunities to celebrate literacy and numeracy.

- Year One will visit Blacktown City Library – a reward for their completion of the “Teachers Holiday Reading Challenge”
- Mrs Bohan and Mrs Surdich will host a BOOK FAIR in the library for K-6 and their families
- Author of “Sunday Chutney”, “Stanley Paste” and “Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley”, Aaron Blabey will visit K-6 to celebrate BOOK WEEK
- Holy Cross will host the Year 6 Cluster final of the Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition on August 25 in our MPLC.

Children K-6 will participate in Maths Workshops August 30 and 31

Year 5 Parent Evening regarding the Year 5 Personal Development Programme

Next Wednesday evening the Parents of Year 5 children are invited to attend a Parent Meeting about the Personal Development Programme their children will be engaged in later this term. A note will be sent home later this week and parents are asked to return this to the grade teachers indicating their attendance at the meeting.

Message from Library

If you have some spare time to cover library books please come to the library see Trudie or Gloria.

Sports News

Zone Athletics Carnival 16th August

This year our school has the responsibility of organising and coordinating this event. Mrs Clarke will require significant parent assistance and would appreciate hearing from the parents of those children in the team who are available to help out. Please contact Mrs Clark at school ASAP to let her know of your availability.

RE News

If you were present at Monday Morning Prayer this week you would have seen the beautiful blankets that have been put together from our knitted squares. Two more parents have offered to help sew our squares together. If you can sew and would like to help in this way could you contact Ms Whittle.

Parents and friends are welcome to join Year 5 at Mass on Friday.

Happy Birthday to the following students who have celebrated Birthdays this month

Jayden Jones, Jack MacKenzie, Jade Howe, Isabella Portelli, Anthony Parada, Gurnoor Singh, Michaela Cotter, Kayleigh Horan, Joel Finlay, Alexis Tam, Jacob Burakowski, Francheska Samonte, Jared Sitaramayya, Nicholas Gasson, Emma Guimelli, Camron Irving, Adrian Chalhoub, Liam Gleeson, Nerita Baylong, Irene Boateng, Rangi Ferguson, Meghan Torres, Finn Rattigan, Ameilia Miziewica, Michael Constantinou, Brittany Nichol, Joshua Borazio, Jason Stephens, Jo Salame, Jacob Aouchan, Jade Quisumbing, Samantha Reyes, Anthony Khalife, Gabrielle Bebk, Kirsten Mrazek, Joshua Bishop and Lachlan Smith

Congratulations

Jaidyn Wright of Year 6 will be touring St Louis, USA with the NSW Junior Baseball team from 1st August for three weeks. Good Luck Jaidyn.

Special Group Photos

In Term 2 when the School photographs were taken we organised for some sport photo groups to also be taken – Girls Soccer Gala Day, Touch Football, Zone Cross Country and Zone Swimming. If you would like to order one of these photos they are on display in the office. Orders will be taken on a pre-payment basis and need to be finalised by 5th August. Photos are $14 each.
What is D.E.A.R.?

Everyday at Holy Cross the children engage in a sustained silent reading programme in Years 1 - 6 called D.E.A.R. this stands for Drop Everything and Read.

Reading is a basic learning tool across the school curriculum. Teachers know that students will benefit if they are encouraged to read material of their own choice without interruption for a sustained period. The reading of fiction, non fiction and printed media will improve students’ vocabulary, comprehension, general knowledge, speech and writing and therefore help children with learning across the curriculum.

D.E.A.R. provides a calm, undisturbed environment and the encouragement to read with the presence of positive adult and student role models. D.E.A.R. promotes reading as a leisure activity with the emphasis being on the students choosing their own reading material. Teachers encourage the children to read increasingly more challenging material. Therefore in all classrooms across the school, a regular time is set aside each day for the children to read without interruption for a sustained period and for pleasure. (this is in addition to their formal reading instruction)

Class libraries and the school library are heavily resourced with magazines, short stories and high interest level reading material suitable for D.E.A.R.

If you would like to know more about D.E.A.R. or your child’s reading skills development please contact your child’s class teacher.

CAN YOU HELP US EARN EQUIPMENT FOR OUR VEGETABLE GARDEN??????

McCain are again running their promotion to help schools earn a range of equipment to be used in school veggie patches. We can earn many things, from wheelbarrows and worm farms to seeds and gloves. With our children planning for the spring planting of our veggie garden, this is a very timely promotion.

All we need from you is the BARCODE from any McCain frozen vegetable or Purely Potato range of products. The barcodes can be sent to school with your child or left in the collection box in the office.

This promotion runs for a limited time, so please check your freezer and see if you can help.

Do your shopping at Coles and let your dollars work for Holy Cross. From Thursday 11th August, every $10 spent at Coles Supermarkets will earn customers a Coles Sports for Schools voucher worth 1 point. For as little as 85 points Holy Cross will be able to choose some brand new sporting equipment for our school! Students can collect vouchers from their family, friends and neighbours and drop them into the voucher collection box located at the school office. There are over 100 different items of sporting equipment up for grabs such as soccer goal posts, cricket sets, footballs, beginning juggling sets just to name a few. Help all our children at Holy Cross get more motivated and active at school and invest in our sporting champions of the future. Coles Sports for Schools – sporting support for everyone.

Woolworths Earn & Learn is our biggest community program ever!

From July 18th to September 18th 2011 help our school to earn points for educational resources. Points will automatically appear on your shopping docket, which you simply bring to the school office or give to your child’s class teacher.
“One World Many Stories” – Children’s Book Week 2011
Celebrate Book Week 2011 at Max Webber Library, Blacktown.
Come and join in the storytelling featuring short-listed books.
Fun for the whole family.
FREE!
Thursday 25 August
6.30pm to 7.30pm
Children’s Area, Max Webber Library
Cnr Flushcombe Road and Alpha Street
(Parking is available underneath the library. Enter from Alpha Street.)

Should you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Council’s Outreach Programs Team Leader, Margaret Redrup-May on 9839 6609.