**Welcome back to School**

Our children have returned to school after the school holidays energetic, eager to learn and proudly wearing their school uniforms. Thank you to our parents for attending to your children’s uniform needs and welcome back to all our families. We particularly extend a warm welcome to those new families that join us this term. There is much to look forward to this term, including: netball gala day, Zone Athletics, Stage 2 Touch Football Day, School Walkathon, our prayer assemblies, parish masses and School Feast Day celebrations, Kindy’s Farm visit, the visit from the Cosmodome to Year 3, the Year One visit to Blacktown City Library, Year 6 Voice of Youth competition, Year 5 Personal Development Parent Information Evening, The Year 4 Captivate Presentation, Maths Workshops for all grades K-6, Book Week activities, Preschool Playgroup, and our Parent Trivia Night. Please take the opportunity to become involved.

We warmly welcome Mrs Paula Murphy who has joined our Year 3 teaching team.

**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. These are informal play opportunities for our 2012 Kindergarten children.

**Sports News**

**Netball Gala Day**

Next week approximately 60 students will be representing Holy Cross at the St Bernadette’s Netball Carnival. We especially thank Mrs Clarke, Miss Sheehy, Miss Robertson, Mrs Batiste, Mrs Whitton, Mrs Mrazek, Mrs Corrigan, Mrs Melican, Mrs Baker, Mrs Pritchard and Mrs Inglis who will be assisting by coaching, umpiring, scoring and supporting the teams on. Thank you also to those parents who will go along to encourage our teams. We are still in need of 4 umpires and 5 coaches to help on the day. We will not be able to take children to the carnival if we do not have coaches or umpires.

**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.

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**RE News**

**Knitting—Mini Vinnies**

Thank you to all the families who have been knitting squares for our Winter Appeal. We have a number of squares that have been donated by community members as well.

We are now in urgent need of sewers who can help us put the squares together. We have instructions on how to do this. If you help in this area could you please let Miss Whittle know.

**Parish/Sacramental**

There is a parent meeting in the church at 7.30 Wednesday 20 July for any parents wishing their child to be confirmed. Children must be 10 years of age and have already made their First Reconciliation and First Communion.

**Mini Miracles Oosh**

Parents are invited to enrol their children in this service. Supervision for children before school commences at 8.30am therefore the MiniMiracles service is a great onsite option for parents who need care for their children before 8.30am.

**2010 Year Book**

The 2010 Year Book is currently at the printers, we are expecting it within the coming weeks.

**Year 6 Camp**

Year 6 would like to acknowledge the Federal Government funding through the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) that supported our excursion to Canberra in May this year.

**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 dockets, which you simply bring to the school office or give to your child’s class teacher.
Information for Parents/Carers

In 2010 there were changes to several pieces of legislation that relate to children attending school.

1. The Education Act 1900 stipulates how often and what age children must attend school in NSW.
   - Children must attend school between the ages of 6 and 17 years.
   - Children may leave school at the end of Year 10 (if they are younger than 17 years) if:
     - they have employment (at least 21 hours per week)
     - they have an apprenticeship
     - they have enrolled in an approved register training organisation – for example TAFE

2. The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 identified children and young people who habitually did not attend school as a reason to make a report to Community Services (CS) under Education Neglect (Section 23 (b) 1). It also identified children who were not enrolled and also classified this as educational neglect.

3. The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) have stated that habitual unexplained non attendance as notionally 30 days out of 100 days.
   Principals will be contacting parents if their child has more than approximately seven days of unexplained absences. This will be to see if the school or the community can assist you to maintain your child’s enrolment Please direct any questions about the above to Mrs Nettleton

The Education Tax Refund (ETR)

With the financial year at end, now is the time to start collating your receipts from education expenses to take advantage of a federal government tax initiative. The Education Tax Refund (ETR) gives parents and caregivers a 50% refund on a range of primary and secondary school education expenses. For the 2010-2011 financial year you may be eligible for the following:

**Primary school child**
You can claim a maximum of $794 for each of your primary school children and receive a maximum refund of $397 per primary school child.

**Secondary school student**
You can claim a maximum of $1,588 for each of your secondary school children and receive a maximum refund of $794 per secondary school child.

**Items you can claim** - You can claim the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:
- home computers and laptops
- computer repairs
- home internet connections
- computer software for educational use
- computer-related equipment, such as printers, USB flash drives and disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- school textbooks and other printed learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery
- prescribed trade tools for secondary school trade courses

**Items you can’t claim** - The types of items you can’t claim include:
- school uniform expenses (though uniforms purchased after 1 July 2011 will be claimable in the 2011-12 financial year)
- school fees
- sporting equipment
- musical instruments

See the Education Tax Refund website for a full list of items you can’t claim.

You can claim the ETR if you have eligible education expenses and receive Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for the child that the expenses relate to. You may also claim the ETR if you don’t receive FTB Part A because your child receives certain payments or allowances, including:
- Youth Allowance
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- the Veterans’ Children Education Scheme
- Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- the scheme to provide education and training under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 200

For more information, including details of how you can claim the refund, visit the Education Tax Refund website