Dear Parents and Caregivers,

2013 Staffing

Farewell and thank you
As we come to the end of 2013 we say farewell and thank you to members of Holy Cross staff who have made a wonderful contribution to our school community and will be leaving us at the end of this year.

We say farewell and thank you to:
Miss Louise Desira, Mrs Deb Lang and Mrs Gabriella Attard who have been part of our Learning Support team for many years. They have all been a magnificent support to all our students, especially those with additional needs, as well as the parents and staff in our school community.

Mrs Beddell and Miss Fredericks who have been teaching in Kinder and Year One at Holy Cross over recent years. Both teachers have shared their great gifts and expertise with our school community, especially those students in the early years.

We also thank, Miss Kershaw, Mrs Khalifeh and Miss Morgan who took up temporary positions in 2012. We sincerely thank them for their hard work, dedication and contributions to our school community.

Welcome
In 2013 we welcome Miss Laura Abela, Miss Jessica McHugh, Mr Brent Hughes, Mr Scott Ingram, Miss Ashleigh Sarasola, Miss Daniella Perri and Mrs Paula Mitchell who will be joining Holy Cross in 2013.

We welcome back Mrs McCarthy as she returns from Maternity leave.
These teachers are extremely excited about joining our learning community in 2013.

LEARNING GROUP ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2013

This year we have families who are moving from the Glenwood area and relocating. Some families are relocating to Queensland and Victoria. We thank these families for their contributions to Holy Cross and wish them all the very best in their new locations.

In 2013 we will be having numbers equivalent to three learning groups in Kindergarten, Year One, Year Two and Year Four and numbers equivalent to two learning groups in Year 3, 5 and 6. Next week you will receive the names of the teachers who will be teaching each of the grade groups. Please contact Miss Hardy if your child will not be returning to Holy Cross in 2013.

Kind regards,
Marina Hardy
Principal

Dates for your diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival Years 2 - 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass at 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17th</td>
<td>Parent Helper Morning Tea at 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Dance Fever Concert at Homebush Years 3 - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th</td>
<td>Creative Arts Showcase at 9 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Last Day of Term for students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th</td>
<td>Students 1– 6 commence Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Kindergarten welcome gathering 5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4th</td>
<td>Kindergarten commence Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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Applications are now being accepted for Kindergarten 2014. Parents are asked to obtain an expression of interest form from the school office or downloaded from our website. Please inform family or friends if they have children who are eligible to attend.

John XXIII Mass Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8.30am, 10.30am, 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekday</td>
<td>Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00am</td>
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DanceFever
The students are continuing to enjoy their dance lesson and are excited about performing at Homebush for the DanceFever Challenge on Monday 17th December 2012.

As this is a school event, parents and families are strongly encouraged to attend this event to support their children and our school. This is also the perfect opportunity for parents to witness the skills their children have acquired - you will be impressed.

Date: Monday, 17th December, 2012
Time: Doors open 4.30pm for a 5.30pm start - finish 9.00pm
Venue: Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, Homebush
Cost: $5.00 per person (including children competing)
EFTPOS NOT AVAILABLE

UNIFORM SHOP OPERATING HOURS
Location: Holy Cross Primary School
Open: During school term,
Wednesdays 2 - 4pm and Saturdays 11am - 2pm

Additional hours are offered in the upcoming school holidays
Saturday 19th January, 2013 9am - 2pm
Thursday 24th January, 2013 9am - 2pm
Friday 25th January, 2013 9am - 2pm
Tuesday 29th January, 2013 2pm - 4pm
Wednesday 30th January, 2013 12 - 3pm
Thursday 31st January, 2013 12 - 3pm
Friday 1st February, 2013 12 - 3pm
Saturday 2nd February, 2013 11am - 1pm

All school uniforms are sold at the uniform shop

Learning during the holidays –
A reminder that whilst it is important that the children have a rest and refresh themselves for a new school year we do encourage them to keep learning during the holidays. Here is a suggestion:

Reading Challenge:
Bust the boredom of summer holidays with a book and you could win an iPad Mini. The holidays are a perfect time to discover the fun and pleasure of reading and as an added incentive, Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whithby, is once again running the Summer Reading Challenge for all students enrolled in a Catholic systemic school in the Parramatta Diocese. By independently reading 15 or more age appropriate books during their summer holidays, students from each category will go into the draw to win an iPad Mini.
The categories are: Ages 5 – 8, 9 – 12 and 13+. The draw will take place on Friday 8 February 2013. Students must record all books they read on a log sheet, which is signed off by a parent or guardian. Entry forms, terms and conditions and log sheets can be downloaded from www.parra.catholic.edu.au.

End of Year Reports
End of Year reports are now available to parents. Parents may collect these reports from the class teachers either before or after school. Alternatively parents may provide written permission for the report to be sent home in a sealed envelope or be collected by another adult.
2013 School Fees
While there will be a small increase in tuition fees for primary grades, the Kindergarten tuition fee will remain unchanged at $19 per week. This is the third consecutive year we have not increased the Kindergarten tuition fee recognising the additional costs young families face with children commencing school.

Tuition fees for Years 1 – 6 will increase by 3.9% to $24 per week. This increase is significantly less than the average educational CPI (inflation rate) of 6%. Sibling discounts, which benefit over 60% of families, will remain the same for 2013 (as per the table below).

TUITION FEES OVER TERMS 1, 2, & 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Child</th>
<th>2nd Child</th>
<th>3rd Child</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>$332</td>
<td>$249</td>
<td>$166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 1 – 6</td>
<td>$413</td>
<td>$309</td>
<td>$206</td>
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Diocesan Building Levy
The building levy supports the capital works of all Catholic schools in the diocese and is payable per family. In 2013, the building levy will be increased by $30 per annum to $645 per family.

Maintenance Fee (non-refundable)
This is $37.00 per family per year and assists with the ongoing maintenance and development of the school’s extensive facilities such as:

- Playgrounds
- Gardens
- General ground and equipment maintenance

This fee will be charged in Term 1.

Resource and Administration Fee (non – refundable)
This is $135.00 per student per year and covers the cost of books, paper and stationery that each child needs over the year supply and printing of Student Reports, stationery and mailing costs.

This fee is charged in Term 1 - families of children in Kindergarten are charged this fee the year before their child commences school.

Activity Fee (non-refundable as bookings are made on the basis of numbers in the school)
This is $35.00 per student per year and covers the cost of a variety of whole school activities organised for the students to enhance their learning and or offer wider experiences. These include activities related to Book Week, Literacy and Numeracy Week, Sporting Carnivals and cultural experiences. This also includes our Feast Day and End of Year Mass and entertainment. No Profit is made by the school and this arrangement prevents endless collection from the parents and is a valuable saving of administration time. This fee is charged in Term 1.

N. B. This fee DOES NOT include the cost of external excursions, individual class excursions, voluntary extra curricular activities or representative sporting activities which will be billed to parents as the excursion occurs.

School Year Book Fee (non-refundable)
This is $15.00 per family. The school has successfully produced a Year Book for the last 5 years and as a result of requests from the parents the Year Book will now be supplied to all families thus making the cost of the Year Book more affordable. The cost has been determined by the number of families in the school.

This fee is charged in Term 1.

Technology Fee (non-refundable)
This is $60 per student. This fee $20.00 for Terms 1, 2 and 3 covers ongoing upgrading of the technology of the school, including computers, ipads, laptops and desktops, digital cameras and licenses.

Dance Fever (non-refundable)
This is $38.00 per student. Parents decided to engage this external provider to teach K-6 weekly dance sessions during a term that culminate in a Dance Concert at the end of the term.

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**Sign the petition**

It is vital that we continue to make the NSW Government aware that their decision to cut $1.7 billion from school education is poor educational policy.

Catholic schools across New South Wales are united in their opposition to any reduction and capping of school funding and are petitioning Premier Barry O'Farrell to have this decision overturned.

Make your voice heard, sign the petition today.

Simply visit [www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding) to sign the petition and let your voice be heard. You are also encouraged to spread the word among our school community.
As Christmas is the most family-focused time of the year, parishes are encouraged to invite families who have had a child baptised.

Fertility Educators Needed
Natural Fertility Services is looking for suitable applicants in Parramatta and Western Sydney to train as Fertility Educators. Thorough, in-depth training over a 12-month period is provided. Some prior experience of Natural Family Planning is desirable but not essential. Sessional work is available to those who complete the training and become accredited educators. For more information and application forms call: The Manager NFS (02) 9390 5156.

The Sisters of Life Retreat Day for Women: 13 December
All women are invited to The Sisters of Life Retreat Day for Women, ‘Behold I Make All Things New’. This retreat is for all women seeking to deepen their prayer life and be inspired in their faith. Includes Mass, Adoration and talks by the Sisters of Life and Fr Greg Morgan. From 9.15am-4pm with complimentary morning and afternoon tea provided, lunch by donation. Venue: University of Notre Dame, 104 Broadway, Broadway. Registration essential. To register or for more information: 02 8204 4135 or sydney.chaplaincy@nd.edu.au

Music and Readings for Christmas: 16 December
St Finbar’s Church at Glenbrook will once again open its doors to the community for this wonderful celebration of Christmas. Massed Choir, St Finbar’s Children’s Choir, Penrith Symphony Brass (trumpets, trombones, timpani), Harp, Soprano and Tenor soloists. Come and join in the Hallelujah chorus, and hear the Christmas story in words and music with special arrangements of carols for all to sing. Please be early to secure a seat – starts 7.30pm.

Schoenstatt Girls ‘Challenge’ Weekend: 14-16 December
Girls aged 14-16 are invited to a weekend retreat at Mt Schoenstatt. Program includes discussion, prayer, craft and outdoor fun activities. Time: from 7pm on Friday 14 December to 3pm on Sunday 16 December. Venue: ‘Home of Light’ @ Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Cost: $80 (includes food and accommodation). RSVP: 4 December 2012 (registration form and deposit required). Inquiries: Sr Luka sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

Schoenstatt Girls’ Camp: 9-12 January
Camp in the Year of Faith and Grace for girls aged 10-13. Program includes discussion, prayer and singing, craft, outdoor and fun activities. Time: from 4pm on Wednesday 9 Jan to 4pm on Saturday 12 Jan. Venue: Home of Light, Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Cost: $120 (includes food and accommodation). RSVP: 28 December 2012 (registration form and deposit required). Inquiries: Sr M Luka sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

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Carols by Candlelight & Christmas Festival: 17 December
This Christmas celebration in The Hills starts with carols at 7pm followed by fireworks Bella Vista Farm. There will be games for children and a Christmas Craft Market. Festival program includes Shakespeare in the Park, Sister2Sister School of Singing and Rock ‘n Soul Choir, as well as the Salvation Army Band from Parramatta. Come along and share in a real Christian Christmas with the family. Tours of the Historic Bella Vista Farm also be on offer. Tickets available from 12 November at: www.christmasinthehills.com.au

Brandenburg Choir Noël! Noël! Concert: 18 December
Now in its 14th year, Noël! Noël! is one of the hottest tickets in town, featuring the sound of pure angelic voices from the Brandenburg Choir, medieval chanting, folk songs, much-loved carols and period instruments. Described by Brandenburg audiences as ‘magical’, ‘fantastic’ and ‘superb’, Noël! Noël! is a not to be missed concert experience. Starts 7.30pm in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta. Adult tickets $65 through Brandenburg tel 02 9328 7581 or www.brandenburg.com.au

Children’s Mass: Christmas Eve
As Christmas is the most family-focused time of the year, parishes are encouraged to invite families who have had a child baptised during the Year of Grace to return to their parish church to receive a special blessing for their children on Christmas Eve. Carol Singing at Mt Schoenstatt: 27-28 December Come and enjoy the Christmas Season with Carol Singing at Mt Schoenstatt. Thursday 27 December and Friday 28 December. Time: 7.30-8.30pm. Address: Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Children are invited to come dressed as angels, shepherds, sheep and kings! For more info: Sr Luka tel 02 4773 8338 or 0439 537 843.

Schoenstatt Girls’ Camp for ages 10-13: 9-12 January
Camp in the Year of Faith and Grace for girls aged 10-13. Program includes discussion, prayer and singing, craft, outdoor and fun activities. Time: from 4pm on Wednesday 9 Jan to 4pm on Saturday 12 Jan. Venue: Home of Light, Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Cost: $120 (includes food and accommodation). RSVP: 28 December 2012 (registration form and deposit required). Inquiries: Sr M Luka sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

Campion College Summer Program: 13-18 January
Come to Campion College for a life-changing summer experience. Open to Year 11 & 12 students and anyone considering studying the Liberal Arts at Campion. Learn essential study skills for school and university: Leadership Training; Personal, Spiritual and Social Development. For further details go to: www.campion.edu.au

Schoenstatt Girls’ Camp for ages 14-16: 22-25 January
Camp in the Year of Faith and Grace for girls aged 14-16. Program includes discussion, prayer and singing, craft, outdoor and fun activities. Time: from 4pm on Tuesday 22 Jan to 4pm on Friday 25 Jan. Venue: Home of Light, Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Cost: $120 (includes food and accommodation). RSVP: 12 January 2013 (registration form and deposit required). Inquiries: Sr M Luka sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

World Congress of Families: 15-18 May

Speakers include:
Bradford Wilcox, Director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, US. His research focuses on marriage, parenthood, and cohabitation, and on the ways that gender, religion, and children influence the quality and stability of marriage and family life;
The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP, Secretary of State for the UK’s Department for Work and Pensions. In 2004, he founded the influential think tank, the Centre for Social Justice, which worked to develop innovative policies on tackling poverty and welfare reform; and
Prof Patrick Parkinson, a specialist in family law, child protection and the law of equity and trusts, Chair of the Family Law Council (2004-2007). He is President of the International Society of Family Law.
Early bird registration closes 28 February. For more information and to register: www.wcfsydney2013.org.au/registration