Dear Parents and caregivers,

As I write the last newsletter for 2012, I reflect on the wonderful achievements and the highlights of the time in our school life. It is wonderful to think about the great successes and celebrations, the learning and growth that the children have achieved, the relationships and the opportunities to work together.

I sincerely thank our dedicated and committed staff, who work extremely hard to provide our students with a quality education and a caring learning environment; our students who strive to be the best person they can be; and to the parent community who support our school community. The positive contributions continue to build our school faith and learning community.

Year 6 Graduation Mass

Congratulations to our Year 6 students on their Graduation Mass on Thursday evening. We are all very proud of what you have achieved, not only this year but also over the last 7 years at Holy Cross. We wish you every success for your time in High School.

Staffing Arrangements for 2013

I am pleased to inform you of our staffing arrangement for 2013. I would ask you to understand that unforeseen circumstances can and sometimes do arise meaning that changes may be necessary before the beginning of next year, although this is very unlikely. Included in the newsletter is the 2013 staff.

I would especially like to thank you all for your support, especially in my role as Principal. It has been a privilege to work with you all and I look forward to working with you once again in 2013.

May your hearts and homes be filled with the spirit of Christmas.
HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Kind regards,

Marina Hardy
Principal

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>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Vigil</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Masses</td>
<td>8.30am, 10.30am, 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekday Masses</td>
<td>Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00am</td>
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Staffing 2013
I am delighted to let you know the staff for 2013. The children have also been informed of their grade teachers for 2013.

2013 Staff

Principal       Miss Marina Hardy
Acting Assistant Principal      Mrs Sarah O’Rourke
Kindergarten - Miss Perri
          Mrs Hillard
          Mr Buckley
Year One - Miss McHugh
          Ms Porteous - Coordinator
          Mrs Salkeld
          Mrs Mitchell
Year Two - Mrs Clements
          Miss Robertson
          Mrs Richardson-Coordinator
Year Three - Miss Leano
          Mr Ingram
Year Four - Miss Abela
          Mrs Gilmore
          Mr Hughes
Year Five - Mr Lee
          Mrs Te Hiwi
Year Six - Mr Stennett
          (Religious Education Coordinator)
          Miss Sheehy
Learning Support
          Mrs Villiers
Gifted & Talented
          Miss Whittle
Literacy
          Mrs Oxford
          Miss Maunder
          Miss Whittle
Sport
          Miss Sarasola
Music
          Mrs Raspoppova
Japanese
          Mrs Leow
Coordinator Release
          Mrs Whelan
REC Release
          Mrs McCarthy
Teacher’s Assistance
          Mrs Perrin
          Mrs McCully
          Mrs Surdich
Administration
          Mrs Burke
          Mrs Batiste
          Mrs Bohan
Library
          Mrs Bohan
          Mrs Surdich
Maintenance
          Mr Robey
Cleaning
          Mrs Rickett

Parish News
Mass of the Rooster begins this Sunday at 6.00am, 16th December and continues to and including Christmas Eve. This is a nine day novena mass to prepare for Christmas. Bring a plate to share to have after mass for breakfast. All are welcome. The normal mass times will continue during this Novena time. This is an extra mass for those nine days. Thanks to Bart, Techie and the Events committee for organising the Parish Thankyou Dinner last Saturday Night. It was a great success! The Cinque Centro Club Big Draw: Congratulations to the winners of the Big Draw. The first prize was $25,000, Second: $15,000; Third: $10,000; Fourth: $2, 500 and the Fifth: $1,000. Thanks to all who have supported the club this year. In particular I thank Anthony Zec, Tim Gilmore, Neville Zammit and Mila Lamas. We have raised about $180,000. I hope to continue the club to begin Air Conditioning the Church and to help pay the debt. The winners of the $25,000 were a syndicate who each received $12,500; not bad for and investment of $600. Would you please consider getting a syndicate organised over Christmas with your friends and relatives. This is proving to be a great way to invest in our church. If we get the club going again next year we will achieve our two objectives: Air Conditioning and Debt! From next week the Friday Morning Mass will be in the church.
Second Rite of Reconciliation: Wednesday 19th December at Quakers Hill and Thursday 20th December at Richmond. Both at 7.30pm. Come back to God at Christmas.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
St Vincent De Paul
Sincere thanks for your generous donations of food and gift items for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas hampers. These will be distributed to families and bring great joy and cheer to those who receive them. Thank you to our Mini-Vinnies for co-ordinating this event, as well as all your help throughout 2012.

School Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to all our students who participated in the school swimming carnival last Thursday. It was also wonderful to see the students encourage their peers in their swimming events.
Many thanks to our parents who assisted on the day as timekeeper, recording, place judges, ribbons, marshalling or helping out in the pool for our 25 m races. The day would not have run as smoothly without your help – thank you!
Thank you to Miss Morgan for co-ordinating the day and the staff for ensuring that the day ran smoothly as well as safely.

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week and will be celebrating their Birthday next week
Brock Logan, Isa Wu, Lachlan Fevre, Darshanik Ayal, Jaiden Selvan, Allyson Barroga, Daniella Siljeg, Ryan Bratovic, Jacob Salkovic, Geremy Muhlwich, Maryanne Constantine, Tayla Pavlovic, Harout Balassian, Vanessa Alexandrakis, Marie Mathew, Rohin Loveday, Hannah Arevalo, Tayne McKnight, Sophie Caleta, Paige Gornall, Angela Boachie, Jackson Basha, Matthew Considine, Jaizle Guerrero and Manaia Tito

Staff Development Day 29th April, 2013

Sports Days 2012
The children need to wear their sports uniform on the following days in Term 1 2013.
Kindergarten: Wednesday & Friday
Year One: Thursday & Friday
Year Two: Wednesday & Friday
Year Three: Tuesday & Thursday
Year Four: Tuesday & Thursday
Year Five: Wednesday & Friday
Year Six: Wednesday & Friday
UNIFORM SHOP
All school uniform items are sold at the uniform shop which is located near the staff car park. Please park on the street and walk into the car park and please be aware of staff vehicles entering and leaving the car park.

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

Reading Challenge
Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby, 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.

Michelle Rowlands (MP) – Leadership Award
Congratulations to Mitchell Surace for receiving the “Michelle Rowlands Leadership Award” on Thursday evening at the Year 6 Graduation. Mitchell received the award for:
♦ Demonstrating great leadership skills within the school community
♦ Being a quiet achiever
♦ Always willing to help others
♦ Whenever he sees a need he does something about it

Congratulations and thank you “Mitchell Surace”
It was wonderful to have Mrs Michelle Rowlands join us this morning to congratulate Mitchell.

Parent Helper Morning Tea
Here at Holy Cross we are extremely fortunate and grateful to receive support and help from our parents in our classrooms. Today we had the privilege of expressing our appreciation to our parents for their generous involvement as: classroom helpers, reading support groups, a-thon days, library assistance, sport carnivals, excursions, creative arts, religious events, canteen, Mother’s and Father’s day stalls, book club as well as many other ways. We look forward to having you join us again in 2013!
Thank you!

It's a girl
Congratulations to Mrs Natalie Fogg and Adam on the arrival of their baby girl “Charlotte Jacqueline Fogg” both Mrs Fogg and Charlotte are doing very well. We look forward to seeing Charlotte in 2013.

School Calendar – Term 1, 2013
Please find attached the Term 1 Calendar for next year. Other dates may need to be added as we settle into Term 1 but we trust this will help you with your planning for early 2013.

Mathematical Assessment Interviews
January 24th 2013
Prior to starting the school year in 2013 we will be interviewing all our students using the Mathematical Assessment Interviews. If you are unsure of your child’s interview time please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Dates for your diary
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th Dec</td>
<td>Last Day of Term for students</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30th Jan</td>
<td>Students 1 – 6 commence Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 31st Jan</td>
<td>Kindergarten welcome gathering 5.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4th Feb</td>
<td>Kindergarten commence Term 1</td>
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<td>WEEK</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 JAN/FEB</td>
<td>28th Public Holiday</td>
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<td>2 FEB</td>
<td>4th Kinder commence school</td>
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<td>3 FEB</td>
<td>11th Shrove Tuesday</td>
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<td>4 FEB</td>
<td>18th</td>
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<td>5 FEB/MAR</td>
<td>25th</td>
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<td>6 MAR</td>
<td>4th</td>
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<td>7 MAR</td>
<td>11th Catholic Schools Week</td>
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<td>8 MAR</td>
<td>18th</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 MAR</td>
<td>25th Holy Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 APR</td>
<td>1st EASTER MONDAY</td>
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<td>11 APR</td>
<td>8th</td>
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