School's today are going through a great deal of change. Just as the rest of the world has been altered by rapid advances in information and communication technology, so too has education. Schools are being challenged to harness the unfamiliar, at the same time ensuring students emerge with the skills they need to survive and thrive.

The philosophy at Holy Cross is to ensure everyone has the opportunity to learn, including staff and parents. The curriculum is designed to ensure the learning is personalised, individualised, motivating and engaging.

Holy Cross learning spaces are flexible and inviting and they support multiple learning styles and learning levels. The learning spaces provide seamless opportunities for students to collaborate, be comfortable and part of a learning community.

In the past, teachers taught and students learned. However, at Holy Cross it is evident everyone is engaged in the learning process. Learners move from beyond merely retrieving information to constructing personal meaning collaborating with others to test, confirm and enrich their learning.

Through the multiple learning experiences students are exposed to at Holy Cross, students develop the ability to transfer their skills from one context to another. As students experience learning success, their self-esteem and confidence increases, both vital ingredients, needed to lead a successful life.

Holy Cross is committed to an educational partnership with parents to enable students to develop their full potential LEARNING TOGETHER in a Catholic community.

God bless you and your family,

Jenny Bellenger
Acting Principal

Parish and School RE News

The Bishop's Office has done a maintenance report on our Church, Parish Office and Presbytery. I thank Ray Mandla for completing most of the tasks but I need a painter and someone who can reset Paving Stones that have sunk. I also need a handy man that I can call on to help at times around the church. Please let me know if you can help. Fr Joy will be on his annual holiday in India during the month of February. ASH WEDNESDAY MASS IS WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY: MASS TIMES: 9.00AM & 7.30PM. No meat should be eaten on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is a good practice not to eat meat on Fridays during Lent but not obligatory. It is not too late to join a Lenten Prayer and discussion group. Please phone Tanya at the parish office.

What happens during Lent today? The Christian church no longer imposes a strict fast. Lent is a time when we try to overcome our own faults because we believe that it was man's sin which led Jesus to be crucified. We try to follow the example of Jesus in the desert by giving up luxuries and practising self-discipline. And we try to put aside more time for prayer and religious acts so that we can really let God into our lives. In the Roman Catholic Church, Lent officially ends at sundown on Holy Thursday (Maudy Thursday), with the beginning of the mass of the Lord's Supper.

Opening School Mass

Please come along and join us for our opening school mass this Friday 17th. Mass will begin at 9:15am in our multipurpose area as we celebrate our school and the year ahead.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Ash Wednesday begins the Church season of Lent and falls on February 22nd this year. Representatives of Holy Cross will join in the parish morning mass and bring the blessed ashes back to school. As a school we will gather for a special liturgy where we will celebrate the feast day together. Please come along and join us if you are able to at 12 noon in the multi purpose area.

On Ash Wednesday ashes are used to mark foreheads with the sign of the cross. This is a reminder that our lives on earth are only transitory and our bodies, originally from the earth, will return to the earth once more. The mark of the cross is also used as a testament to others of our faith in Christ. The palms used from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations are burnt and the ashes from this are used for Ash Wednesday.

CINQUE CENTO CLUB 2012

Last week you would have received an invitation to the Cinque Cento Club. This is an exciting fundraising initiative of the Catholic Parish of Blessed John XXIII. If you are interested in joining the Club please return the membership form to the school office by 29th February, 2012. Membership forms are also available to download from our school website under the newsletter section.
Parents Count Too
Helping your child with – Mental calculations

Most calculations that we carry out each day, we do in our heads. With some calculations we feel the need to reach for paper and pencil or a calculator. Yet when we play a game of darts or cards or even watch a league game, we rely on carrying out lots of mental calculations. How many points are needed to win, how many converted tries will put us in front and is there enough time?

Travelling, sharing a bill, shopping, playing or watching a sport and preparing a meal all involve mental calculations. The methods that we use when we work things out in our heads are often not the same methods that we use when we write down a sum.

The processes involved in mental calculations have remained a mystery for many children and even for many adults. Working out 998 x 3 is a difficult task, even when using pen and paper, if you do not realise that you can find the answer mentally by subtracting 6 from 3000.

So how do children learn to do mental calculations?

Children begin by counting things that they can see, and using objects to add and subtract. Through practice, children will begin to think of ways to add and subtract without having to use objects. One of the early ways in which children learn to add two numbers mentally is to start with the larger number and count on by ones to add the second number. This is an effective way when adding on small numbers. As children begin to deal with larger numbers, they develop a range of ways other than counting by ones.

For example, to find the answer to 25 + 89, children could:
- Make the 89 up to 90, then add 10 and then 14
- Add 20 and 80 to make 100, then add 9 and 5, then add 100 and 14
- Add 10 twice to 89 and then add 5 more.

One of the interesting things about mental calculations is that we do not all think the same way.

What can you do at home?
- Ask your child how he or she mentally worked out the answer to a question. Explain how you would mentally work out the answer. If your child can not work out the answer mentally, give him or her objects to use for counting.
• Ask your child to work out how much change he or she will get when paying for an item at the shops.
• If your child is saving to buy an item, ask how much more money he or she will need to save before being able to buy it.
• Encourage your child to estimate the cost of two items when shopping.
• When playing games that use two dice, replace dot dice with ones that have numbers on them.
• If watching a game involving two teams, ask your child to work out mentally the difference in the scores.
• Involve your child in working out costs associated with holiday travel. For example, We will stay five nights and the cost per night is $70.

Happy Birthday to the following students
Lachlan Ditch, Jeline Dulalia, Connor Little, Daimon White, Amekav Samra, Abbey Holmes, Matteo Bekes, Ferdaus Said and Devansh Singh

Canteen News
Please be advised that the Special Canteen Day originally organised for tomorrow has been postponed until Wednesday 14th March, 2012. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Glenwood Cafes
@ Holy Cross Primary School
Child and Family Education
Sessions
Session 1: Beginning the School Journey
Wed 14th March @ 7.30 - 9.30pm
Exploring the parent perspective on children starting school. Ideas to support your children as they begin their school journey.

Session 2: Helping Your child Learn
Wed 21st March @ 7.30 - 9.30pm
Practical ideas for parents to enhance their child’s learning. Free resources will be available.

Session 3: Recipe for a Happy Family
Wed 28th March @ 7.30 - 9.30pm
Ideas and strategies to build

Parent Information Evenings
This year the teachers will be holding Information Evenings throughout Week 3. This is an opportunity for families to hear grade specific information and to ask any questions about the learning in each grade. The dates and times are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15th 2012</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 16th 2012</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
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