Thank you

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Holy Cross community - students, staff and parents for the support shown to me following the announcement made on Friday that I will be taking up the Principalship at St Bernadette’s Primary School Castle Hill in 2012. I have had 12 wonderful years at Holy Cross and I have watched the school grow from very humble beginnings which commenced in a paddock behind a fibro cottage to the magnificent school that we now enjoy with 21st century learning facilities and pedagogy. This is a catholic community that we can all be very proud of, one which is Christ centred and focused on the growth and development of our children who have the capacity to not only live out the gospel values but who will be able to bring about change for good in our world. I will take with me many memories of the beautiful children, families and the staff who make up this very special and unique community. I have been truly blessed to have been a part of Holy Cross in its foundation and developing years. I will always keep this community in my prayers.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Mathematical Assessment Interviews for all students at Holy Cross in January 2012

As you are aware this year we have embarked on a Numeracy Project “Extending Mathematical Understanding” (EMU) The teachers and students have been engaged in mathematical learning that focuses on assisting children to develop through identified Growth Points in Mathematical Understanding. Each of our Year One students has been assessed in mathematics using the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) which is an individual interview between teacher and student that lasts approximately 30 – 40 mins. The results of these interviews has informed the individual programmes for these students throughout the year. In 2012 we will be extending this assessment to all grades Kinder to Year 6. In order to implement the assessment interviews with the least disruption to student learning the teachers will be returning to school on the 24th January in the school holidays to administer some interviews and then the first 2 days of the school term – the teachers day on Friday 27th January (children do not return on this day) and the first day that the children would normally return to school Monday 30th January - and this day will be allocated as a Staff Development Day. The Kinder teachers will also use the next day Tuesday 1st February to conduct more interviews, with the Kinder 2012 students commencing school on Wednesday February 1st 2012. The teachers will be sending home appointment notes in Week 7 for you to return to school requiring you to book your child in for a MAI on one of the three days on which the interviews will take place – Tuesday Jan 24, Friday Jan 27 or Monday Jan 31. Please return these notes ASAP so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Please note that Year One to Six will therefore commence school in 2012 on Tuesday 31st January 2012.

STAFF SPIRITUAL FORMATION DAY

On Friday 18th November 2011 the staff will be lead by Father Dave through a Spiritual Formation Day to be held at Mamre House Mulgoa. This will be a pupil free day. Each year the Catholic Education Office asks schools in the Diocese to set aside one of our staff development days for religious and spiritual formation. This year Father Dave will be guiding the staff in an approach to scriptural reflection called “Lectio Divina”.

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthdays:-

Lorenzo Ferguson, Nayte Odgers, Akuec Deng, Carol Gonzales, Jack O’Keefe, Ruby Villiers, Emma Agius, Madelyn Agius, Kristian Oreskovic
Year 6’s Excursion to the Youth Eco Summit!

On the 19th of October, Year six went to the Youth Eco Summit.

At the summit, we participated in many science experiments about the environment. We discovered what type of light bulb was brighter and what was the most environmentally friendly. We learnt that if we do not change our ways and reduce carbon emissions, then our oceans could turn acidic. We had so much fun and were very excited to plant radish seeds. We learnt a lot when doing these activities.

Year 6 was then given the chance to build their own solar cars and test their success. We learnt that the solar car could only move when the car is in the sunlight. When the car was in the shade or covered by a shadow, the solar car wouldn’t move. Anything that uses solar energy is using a sustainable resource, which is the sun. A Sustainable resource is a resource that will not run out.

One group of students had the opportunity to program Lego robots, finding ways and strategies to make them move in different patterns, sequences and demonstrations. They were also shown how the effects of solar energy can alter the performance of a car and how much power is needed to generate their movement.

Throughout the day, we went to different stalls where we could interact, with many different organisations and companies. There were hands on activities like making slime, making our “secret” messages disappear using household products, smelling and guessing what different substances smelt like and if you got them all right, you got to choose a prize!

When it was time to go, everyone was happy but very tired after our big, long and fun day at the Youth Eco Summit.

Change of Family Details

Please ensure that your family details, especially contact numbers are updated at the office when they change. This is very important in cases of accident or illness when we need to urgently contact parents.

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to all those families who have finalised their 2011 School Fees. If your account is still outstanding and you have not contacted Mrs Nettleton or you are not on an arrangement you are requested to bring it to finalisation before Friday November 18th 2011. Please contact Vanessa if you would like to discuss fees with Mrs Nettleton.

HEALTH ALERTS

WHOOPING COUGH

If your child has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as a dry or persistent cough, which may be especially bad at night, a runny nose and fever, please see your doctor. If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics given early in the illness are effective in stopping the cough and in preventing spread to other people. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please advise the school and keep your child at home until they have taken at least 5 days of antibiotics. Vaccination is the best protection against whooping cough. For further information please visit www.health.nsw.gov.au

HAND FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

The symptoms of this illness include:
Blisters that start as small red dots which later become ulcers. Blisters appear inside the cheeks, gums and on the sides of the tongue as well as on the hands and feet. Blisters usually last for seven to ten days.

If your child has any of these symptoms and a low fever, sore throat, tiredness, feels off colour and maybe off their food for a day or two please consult your doctor.

SLAPPED CHEEK

It is very important for you to seek medical advice if your child presents with any of the symptoms of this illness - runny nose, fever, aches and pains, a rash and red cheeks. Please keep your child home from school if they are sick.