Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent, when the sign of the Cross is marked in ash on our foreheads. Hopefully, your children came home following our liturgies at school on Wednesday and had an opportunity to talk about this with you.

What will you see during Lent?
The colour purple will adorn the prayer focus in your child’s classroom. The church will have many purple banners and cloth displayed. Father Dave will wear purple garments at each of the Masses that he celebrates.

How are the ashes made?
The ashes come from the burning of last year’s palm leaves and the blessing of these ashes at Ash Wednesday Masses.

What will children learn during Lent?
Religious Education units of work from Kinder to Year 6 focus on the message of Lent and stories from the Bible that lead up to the death and resurrection of Christ. We will come together in Holy Week to reflect on what we have learnt.

What is a Lenten promise?
During the season of Lent Catholics focus their attention on prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Fasting is often associated with fasting from something that is indulgent on our behalf such as, watching endless hours of TV, enjoying chocolate and confectionary. We are asked to make a promise to God to show our commitment to Christ, just as Jesus did for the forty days he spent in the desert. What might you give up this Lent or work harder to do?

Would you like to do something different this Lent?
Take a look at the Lenten programs that Blessed John Paul 23rd has to offer our Holy Cross community. Spend some time with God and come along to one of these wonderful opportunities.

I hope you that as you journey through Lent, reflecting on the Gospels, you are drawn into a greater awareness of what is central to our identity – a belief in God, who calls us, as St Paul says, to a transformation “until we are turned into the image that we reflect” (2 Cor:18).

Lent is an opportunity to grow in our relationship with God as we prepare for Easter.

Fasting for Lent
- Fast from criticism and feast on praise
- Fast from self-pity and feast on joy
- Fast from ill-humour and feast on peace
- Fast from resentment and feast on contentment
- Fast from jealousy and feast on love
- Fast from pride and feast on humility
- Fast from selfishness and feast on service
- Fast from fear and feast on faith

God bless you and your family,

Jenny Bellenger
Acting Principal

Parish News

Faith In Our Future
Bishop Anthony Fisher OP has initiated a process of pastoral planning for our future as a Diocese and invites you to share your faith and vision.

Our consultation session is on: Thursday 8th March at 7.30pm in St Mark’s Staff Room. (Enter from the middle of the large Carpark)

Please read through the “Diocesan Information Guide” made available in the February Catholic Outlook and available at www.faithinourfuture.org.au and come along and be part of our planning for a faith-filled future.

Project Compassion
On Monday, our school’s “Mini Vinnies” group led our whole school prayer and launched this Lent’s Project Compassion appeal. All money collected goes towards Caritas Australia, a Catholic aid organisation, which assists in helping the needy across the world.

Project Compassion is the largest appeal that Caritas runs and is its largest source of funds. Please support Project Compassion throughout Lent by putting a little aside when possible and thinking of others.

Ash Wednesday
Thank you to our mums and dads who were able to join us for our Ash Wednesday liturgies in our infant’s classrooms or in the MPLC with our primary classes.

Year 3 Parish Mass
Our Year 3 students will lead this week’s parish mass in their learning space at 9.00am on Friday. Please join us if possible.

School RE News

KINDER 2013 ENROLMENTS

Applications are now being accepted for Kindergarten 2013. If your turns 5 or on before the 31st July, 2013 and would like them to attend Holy Cross Primary School, you are welcome to collect an expression of interest form from the school office. Please inform family or friends if they have children who are eligible to attend.

Address: 49 Meurants Lane
GLENWOOD NSW 2768

Postal Address: PO Box KL 927
KINGS LANGLEY NSW 2147

Phone: 9629 8742
Fax: 9629 8745

John XXIII Mass Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Type</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Vigil</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Masses</td>
<td>8.30am, 10.30am, 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekday Masses</td>
<td>Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00am</td>
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Kinder and Year One Assessments
Over the next few weeks the teachers in Kindergarten and Year One will be assessing the students. The Kinder teachers will administer the SEA (School Entry Assessment) and Year One (Observation Survey). These assessments will be done one-on-one with each child. The assessments will provide valuable information to assist the teachers in planning the teaching program for the students. A usual teacher will release the teachers so they can administer the assessments.

Quality, Catholic Schooling Project 2012
All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) project in 2012. QCS will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

From the 12th-23rd March all staff, approximately 50 students from Years 5 and 6, and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete. A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report at the end of May and will use this report to inform their planning.

If you are selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please contact Jenny Bellenger

How can I help my child to read?
As a parent, you are your child’s first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning.

Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in reading. Before long they will grow to love stories and books. Eventually they will want to read on their own.

With the help of parents, children can learn how to read and can practise reading until they can read for their own enjoyment. Then they will have a whole world of information and knowledge at their fingertips!

Reading can be a family activity. Spending time with word games, stories, and books will help your child to:

◆ gather information and learn about the world
◆ learn how stories and books work – that they have beginnings, endings, characters, and themes
◆ build a rich vocabulary by reading and talking about new words
◆ learn how to listen and how to think
◆ learn the sounds of language and language patterns
◆ fall in love with books

It’s natural to want to compare your child’s reading abilities with those of other children of the same age, but not all children develop reading skills at the same pace.

Congratulations to the students who represented our school at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival. We were placed 2nd overall which is a fantastic effort. We wish all the students well who have moved to the Diocesan Level on Friday 2nd March.

Happy Birthday to the following students
Kendall Watkins, Daniel Arakelian, Alex Pantaleone, Marc Tepes, Jacinda Caruana, Nathan Catabs, Jarred Bratovic and Isabella Whittton

CANTEEN NEWS
Special Canteen Day Friday 30th March, 2012. It is ONLINE ONLY so if you don’t have a munch monitor account sign up now so you can participate. You need to order under SCHOOL SHOP for the special. Orders open Wed 20th Feb. Please order early to assist with catering.

- 6 nuggets, sauce & juice $4.00
- 6 nuggets, sauce & milk $4.50
- 12 nuggets, sauce & juice $5.00
- 12 nuggets, sauce & milk $5.50

NO BAG ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE SPECIAL. No other hot option available this day.

Sandwiches/wraps etc will still be available to order online or by bag.

Parking
Parents and families are reminded that the car park at the front of the school is for staff parking only. Please do not enter the car park even when the gate is open because this puts the safety of all our children and the teachers exiting the car park at risk. Parents are also urged to obey the parking signs in the local streets and to be mindful of our neighbours.

E Newsletter
Thank you to those parents who have returned their forms indicating whether they would like to receive the newsletter by email.
Just a reminder that the newsletter will not be distributed as a hard copy unless parents have requested this. Please return your forms by the end of this week to ensure you will receive your newsletter next week.

School Crossing
I have had many parents enquiring about a School Crossing Supervisor for the crossing at the front of our school. Unfortunately, Holy Cross does not fit all the necessary requirements of a minimum of 50 unaccompanied infant and/or primary school children per hour across a road carrying 300 passenger car units per hour within the morning and afternoon school zone times. For more information please go to the Roads and Traffic Authority website: www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety

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 positive relationships with your children.

To register please contact Katy Eves 8805 7288
e-mail: katy.eves@weslymission.org.au

Session 3:
Recipe for a Happy Family
Wed 28th March @ 7.30 - 9.30pm
Ideas and strategies to build positive relationships with your children.