Dear Parents and Carers,

**EXTENDING MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING**

**PARENT WORKSHOP AT HOLY CROSS**

On Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd August 2012, approximately 100 parents from Holy Cross Primary School, Glenwood participated in a numeracy workshop aimed at helping parents support their children with learning at home.

Holy Cross is one of many schools across the Parramatta diocese involved in the Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) program. EMU is an academic partnership with the Australian Catholic University (ACU) providing professional learning for principals and teachers to ensure that they are highly qualified educators of Mathematics and numeracy.

Melissa King, Teaching Educator from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta ran the numeracy workshop for parents and emphasised the need for students to develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and numeracy skills. Mrs Barbara McHugh, who is also a Teacher Educator from the Catholic Education Office, joined the workshop to share her expertise and skills in Numeracy.

A number of staff members joined the workshop to assist parents with the learning tasks and to explain how the tasks meet the learning needs for all students.

Melissa King explained to the parents that we are moving away from repetition or rote learning towards a deeper understanding of numeracy. The role as teachers is to ensure that students are using the most efficient strategies and that they understand numbers on a deep level.

The parents were involved in a number of mathematical games aimed at demonstrating how teachers work with students to develop their numeracy skills. These games demonstrated how teachers reinforce deep thinking and the importance of using the most efficient strategies.

At the workshop, parents were given a maths home learning bag containing counting beads, pack of cards and other resources so they could use with their children at home.

Regards,

*Marina Hardy*

*Principal*
Sacramental Program 2012 – 2013

A note is going home over the next couple of days to all students in Year 2 as well as older grades who have not received Reconciliation for the first time. If you would like your child to be a part of the program, please read the note carefully or check on the parish website for information. Reconciliation is a mandatory sacrament to have received before a child can receive Holy Communion or be Confirmed. Please contact Mr Stennett if you have any questions about this.

Privacy Information

Privacy Information and Photo Permission

From time to time we publish children’s results in the University Competitions, i.e. Maths, English, Science Competitions. We also publish names of students who have participated in various sporting events. If you have any concerns about your child’s name appearing in our School Community Newsletter or on our school website, please notify the school office.

At times the school also sends photos of our children to newspapers or to the Catholic Education Office for inclusion with an article about Holy Cross. We also include photos in our school newsletter and on our school website. As well as videos of students learning If you do not wish videos or photos of your child to be used in any publications at school, Catholic Education Office or newspapers please contact the school office.

Finally, if your personal details (address, telephone, etc) change please inform the school office. It is important that we have up to date information for the safety of our children.

Student Led Conferences

Next week we welcome parents into our classrooms to share in the children’s learning through the Student Led Conference. The children are really looking forward to your visit.

Year 3 & 4 Captivate Performance Tickets

On Thursday 6th September our Year 3 & 4 children will be joining children from across the diocese in a Choral Performance at St Dominic’s College. We are very proud of these children who have been preparing and rehearsing over the last 2 terms for this special night. This year you will need to purchase your tickets online prior to the performance.

Celebrating Father’s Day

Father’s Day Stall

The Father’s Day Stall will be held this Friday 31st August. The cost of each gift will be $5.00, which includes wrapping and a label. Please remember to send along $5.00 with your child on the day so they can purchase their gift. We will also require parent helpers on this day to assist with selling. Please contact Mrs Julie Surace if you are able to help.

Father’s Day Prayer

You are all invited to our Father’s Day prayer on Monday 3rd September at 9 am in the Multi-Purpose Learning Centre.

School Fees

Thank you to all the families who have paid their school fees. A reminder that school fees are now overdue. We would be grateful if all fees were finalised by this Friday 31st August.

Please contact Mrs Vanessa Burke if you have any questions regarding your account or to arrange an interview with Miss Hardy.
Author Visit: Christopher Cheng

From the year 1989 to 2012, Christopher Cheng has been the master of children's books. Christopher is a one man army because he is his own boss and treasures it. But his love for writing started LONG before that...

Even though Christopher has been a writer for almost 23 years, he has been through a few other jobs. Chris has been a scientist, worked in a basement, and a few other things, but his favourite was definitely being a teacher. Chris used to work as a teacher in an animal-filled classroom at Taronga Zoo. He always had bats, possums and snakes hidden in trees all around the room.

Christopher Cheng has written 43 published books, his first being 'Night Creatures', which was inspired by how he used to care for bats, and most recent being 'Python', which was inspired by Chris' old classroom which contained one or two snakes. Some of his other titles are 'New Gold Mountain', 'Endangered Animals', 'Party Animals', and 'Sounds Spooky'.

For further information about the author visit please see Christopher Cheng's blog [http://chrischengauthor.blogspot.com.au/]. Christopher has written about his visit to Holy Cross School.

By Branden Lawson and Emily Dowd (Year 5)

BOOK FAIR

Thank you very much to everyone for your wonderful support of our “Book Fair” last week. It was great to see lots of children and parents purchasing new books. A percentage of the sales from the fair are returned to the school so that we can purchase more resources for our library.

Exemption from School Attendance

There are new Government guidelines for schools to follow when marking the school rolls. These guidelines require parents who are taking their children on holidays, during the school year, to complete a request of 'Exemption from School Attendance' form. These forms are to be completed prior to your holiday. The school principal can only approve up to 50 school days leave. Longer periods require the approval of the Director of Schools and the Catholic Education Commission.

Once the form has been completed and returned and if acceptable you will be issued a certificate allowing the exemption from school. This certificate needs to be kept with you while on holidays in case you are requested to present it. Please note that if the planned holiday is longer than 20 days a copy of your flight/travel details will also be required. Exemption forms are available at the school office.
**SPORTS NEWS**

**DIOCESAN ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

Last Friday five students from our school represented the Blacktown Zone at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival. Congratulations to the following students who will represent the Parramatta Diocese at the MacKillop Athletics Team Trials on 13th September 2012.

Michael Osei-Adomako  –  Relay team
- 100 m
- 200 m
Nicholas Reetov  -  100 m
- 200 m
Relay Team
Adam Mrazek   -  Relay team
Lachlan Inglis  -  Relay Team

**Special congratulations to:**
Michael Osei-Adomako - 11 Years Boys Age Champion – Parramatta Diocese. What a wonderful achievement Michael! Well Done!

**Infants Sports Carnival**
The Infants Sports Carnival will be held next Tuesday 4th September. This is a great day for parents and children. If you are able to assist on the day please let your class teacher or Miss Robertson know so that we can organise the groups of children. If you have not yet completed the Child Protection online training and you would like to help out on the day please do so before Friday 31st August 2012. The training can be found at www.parra.catholic.edu.au/childprotection.

**NETBALL GALA DAY**

Yesterday 7 teams represented our school at St Bernadette’s Netball Gala day. Thank you to Mrs Inglis, Mrs Whitton, Mrs Pritchard, Mrs Zaia, Kate Inglis, Molly Maguire, Taylor Speechley, Abbey Coleman, Shae Reibelt, Melanie Vella and Selena Coleiro for your wonderful help with coaching and umpiring on the day. Congratulations to Kyah Reibelt, Abbey Mey, Alicia Hartley, Sophie Salkovic, Hannah Bloodworth, Anna Caitlyn Assam, Caitlin Gallacher, Tayla Pavlovic, Brianna Saad, Elizabeth Bell, Georgina Corrigan, Olivia Bradasich, Sophie Baker, Brittany Nichol, Madeleine Caleta, Elizabeth Murray, Clara D’Aprile, Elijah Joaquin, Breannan Carney, Maddison Pritchard, Chloe Encarnacion, Tia Condon, Chloe Christie, Madelyn Agius, Chanel Assam, Anna Diaz, Isabella Whitton, Emma Agius, Priscilla M, Samantha Hewitson, Sophie Caleta, Emma Giumelli, Chelsea Davies, Faith Bockarie, Rheaanna Gibson, Brianna Zaia, Alicia Hoare, Renee Gogarty, Ysabella Nieves, Monica Liu, Isabella Curran, Alexandra Dobrecovic, Briana Clements, Nicole Fisher, Lachlan Inglis, Finn Rattigan, Adam Mrazek, Gideon Boachie, Ben Kwok, Max Kwok, Jacob Mulholland, Kristian Oreskovic, Nick VaIdmanis, Anthony Ferfiris, Gemery Muvhich, Hayden Laurence, Jerrick Bravo, Anthony Surace, Callum Scott and Jack Bradasich.

**Upcoming Events**

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**Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week**