LEARNING TOGETHER

End of Year Reports

The teachers have taken considerable time analyzing and discussing student performance in each of the Key Learning Areas that are included on the End of Year reports. In the End of Year Report the children’s learning is reported on by both a grade within the range of E-A and in terms of the Learning Continuum as displayed on the school website in the Learning and Teaching drop down menu under Curriculum. Parents are reminded that the “C” grading indicates that your child has “a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.” This means that your child has met the syllabus requirements. The continuums help you to more fully understand how your child is working in each of the learning areas. Grade cohort distributions also appear on all reports from Year One to Year 6. This means that on your child’s report their will appear a table indicating how the E- A grades were distributed across the grade. The table will look like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Please be reminded that the distribution of E-A gradings is not limited by a % or a Bell’s curve principle but allocated according to the children’s standard of work as measured against the syllabus standard.

If you have any questions about the End of Year reporting please do not hesitate to approach your child’s teacher or Mrs O’Rourke or Mrs Nettleton.

Mathematics Assessment Interviews

During this year throughout the school we have been focusing on Maths/Numeracy and in particular the number strand of this Key Learning Area. A number of staff have had special training and all staff have been trained in the use of a special assessment tool called the “Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI)”. This is a one to one interview with a student which takes approximately 40 minutes. The information gathered from this assessment is extremely useful in helping teachers understand where students are in their understanding of number. As this interview takes a long time, we are going to assess a number of the children on the 24th, 29th and 30th of January 2012. To assist with this process, there will be no school for children until Tuesday January 31st 2012. Tomorrow families will receive a letter identifying an interview appointment time for their children. If there is more than one child in your family, we will organise to have all the family done at the same time. The children who are not assessed during these three days, will be assessed as quickly as possible in the first 2 weeks. The hope is that every student will be assessed in the first 2 -3 weeks. If you do not receive a letter, it means that your child will be assessed when he/she returns to school.

Please note that school will return for Year One to Six on Tuesday 31st January 2012. Kindergarten will commence school on Wednesday 1st February 2012.

We have a very busy two weeks together celebrating our year of learning together:

Dec 1 @ 7.30PM School Dance Concert
Dec 5 @ 9.00am Monday Morning Prayer and Parent Helper Thank you morning tea
Dec 6 @ 9.00am Kindergarten Orientation and Parent Meeting
Dec 7 @ Nirimba  Years 2 -5 Swimming Carnival
Dec 8 K-6 Questacon Science Workshops
Dec 9 @ 10.15am @ BJXIII END OF YEAR THANKSGIVING MASS
Dec 12 @ HOMEBUSH Dance Fever Interschool Challenge
Dec 14 @ BJXXIII YEAR 6 GRADUATION
Dec 16 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

RE NEWS

Mass of Thanksgiving

Our end of year Mass will be Friday December 9 @ 10.15 at Blessed John XX111 church. This will be followed by a picnic lunch and FUN AFTERNOON back at Holy Cross. Families are warmly invited to attend the mass and the picnic. A permission note will be sent home today with this newsletter. Please complete and return this to your child’s class teacher by Tuesday 29th November 2011.

Reconciliation

We congratulate the following children who made their first Reconciliation last week: Hannah Arevalo, Anna-Caitlin Assam, Chanel Assam, Luke Bebek, Mathew Clements, Jayden Faint, Aiden Irving, Madeleine O’Rourke, Tamara Seckold, Jared Sitaramayya, Nicholas Taylor, Vanessa Alexandrakis, Hannah Castueras, Ned Connolly, Crystal D’Cunha, Jonathan D’Cunha, Ysabella Festejo, Samantha Hewitson, Abbey Holmes, Peter Martin, Beatriz Matias and Natasha Sullivan, Triana Fernandez

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week a further two groups of students from Holy Cross will join with children in the Parish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We pray that these children will always experience the peace that comes with this sacrament.

SPORTING NEWS

School Swimming Carnival

There are only 2 more weeks until our School Swimming Carnival. Hopefully all the children competing are taking this opportunity to practice. We still do not have enough parents who have offered assistance at our swimming carnival so that the carnival can run safely and smoothly. We need your assistance so that all the events can be run on the day. Please leave your name at the office if you are able to assist.
Happy Birthday to the following children:
Miguel Sanchez, Lori Hadjetian, Jake Arakelian, Hanah Bloodworth, Mathew Clements, Natasha Sullivan, Emily Huynh, Adam Mrazek, Bridget Surdich,

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.

Summertime Stories
10th December 1.00 - 4.00pm
This is an afternoon of creative fun for kids of all ages and their families, featuring some of Australia’s favourite children’s books, writers and illustrators.

Afternoon tea will be served and there will be book signing by the authors
Email: literature@blacktown.nsw.gov.au or Telephone: 9839 6329

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