Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Advent**

Last Sunday was the Feast of Christ the King and marked the end of the Church’s year. This Sunday marks the beginning of a new Liturgical Year and the start of Advent. A wonderful time of year when we prepare ourselves spiritually and religiously for the birth of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is also a time of joy and celebration and to encourage each other to reflect on the meaning of Christmas as well as reflect on the weekly Gospel message of the four Sundays of Advent.

**What will we do to prepare ourselves for this special time?**

> Lord, make us strong enough to do what we need do, 
> calmly, simply, 
> without wanting to do too much, 
> without wanting to do it all ourselves. 
> In other words, Lord, make us humble 
> in our wish and our will to serve. 
> Help us above all to find You in our commitments, 
> For You are the unity of our actions; 
> You are the single love, 
> In all our loves, 
> In all our efforts.
> You are the well spring, and all things are drawn to You. 
> So, we have come before You, Lord, 
> To pause and gather our strength, 
> and to await with hope and anticipation the celebration 
> and joy of the birth of the baby Jesus

**“ PARENT/GRANDPARENT HELPERS MORNING TEA”**

On Monday 17th December at 9.45am we will be having a “Thank You” Morning Tea in the Multi-Purpose Learning Centre. The purpose of this Morning Tea is to express our appreciation for the generous involvement of parents of classroom helpers, in the reading support groups, -a-thon days, library assistance, sport carnivals, excursions, creative arts, religious events, clothing pool, canteen, book club as well as many other ways. It will also give all our parent helpers an opportunity to meet others who are part of this important work.

We are looking forward to seeing you on the 17th December at 9.45am. Please reply to the office by Friday **26th November**, for catering purposes.

Kind regards,

Marina Hardy

Principal

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**KINDER 2014 ENROLMENTS**

Applications are now being accepted for Kindergarten 2014. Parents are asked to obtain an expression of interest form from the school office or downloaded from our website. Please inform family or friends if they have children who are eligible to attend.

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**John XXIII Mass Times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Vigil</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
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<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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Air Conditioning: The revised quotes for a cheaper option have come in. The cost now would be around the $240 000 mark and not the estimated $365,000. This is achievable and the cost of running this plant would be economical. Therefore I am proposing to run the Cinque Cento Club next year for two purposes. Firstly, by July we would have the money to pay for the Air conditioning and could begin installing it by August of next year. Then after July, the money raised from the Cinque Cento Club would go on the debt and for years later would be our major fundraiser addressing the debt. So what I thought was impossible now becomes possible. We would not be dipping into our funds and we would have the best of both worlds, an affordable Air Conditioning Plant and Money in the bank. However, I still have to put a submission into the Diocese to get permission to spend this money. The submission needs to go to Michael Diggs, the business manager of the Diocese and he presents it to the Bishop’s consulters for approval. If or when we get the Cinque Cento club for another year I will make the application. I will keep you updated. This approval is not guaranteed but we will do our best to present a comprehensive process to the Consultants. We need the Cinque Cento Club to continue to achieve these goals of air conditioning and paying the debt.

Live Jesus In Our Hearts, Forever Father Dave

SCHOOL UNIFORM
As mentioned in previous newsletters, our school is currently changing our uniform supplier, as our previous supplier has closed their outlet at Castle Hill. We have therefore decided to open up a small uniform shop in our school grounds to assist parents with purchasing school uniform items. This shop will be set up over the coming weeks and will be open for business in January 2013, prior to the commencement of school.

The uniform will essentially remain the same with the exception of the following items. The sports uniform: including polo shirt, shorts and track pants are the same colour and style, however the material has changed. It is NOT compulsory that all students are wearing the new items at the commencement of the school year. The students will be able to wear the current items of clothing until a new item is required.

Location: Holy Cross Primary School
Open: During school term,
       Wednesdays 2 - 4pm
       and Saturdays 11am - 2pm

Additional hours are offered in the upcoming school holidays
Saturday 19th January, 2013 9am - 2pm
Thursday 24th January, 2013 9am - 2pm
Friday 25th January, 2013 9am - 2pm
Wednesday 30th January, 2013 12 - 3pm
Thursday 31st January, 2013 12 - 3pm
Friday 1st February, 2013 12 - 3pm
Saturday 2nd February, 2013 11am - 1pm

All school uniform items are sold at the uniform shop

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week
Miguel Sanchez, Kyah Reibelt, Aiden Irving, Benjamin Reetov, Elizabeth Bell and Clara D’Aprile

St Vincent DePaul Appeal: Our school’s Mini-Vinnies group is leading our St Vincent DePaul Christmas appeal. They have given each grade two washing baskets to fill as Christmas hampers. The Mini-Vinnies team spoke to each grade about the people in our community who are experiencing hardship as well as how we can help them. Please take a moment to see what food or drink you could donate. We are asking for Christmas food or non-alcoholic drink that will not perish.

Christmas Celebration: Reminding all mums and dads that next Thursday 8th December will be our school’s Christmas celebration. We are hearing snippets of songs about shepherds, angels and drummer boys across the school so it is clear that classes are in full swing preparing. We will start at 6:30pm so please make a note so you can come along.

Thanksgiving Mass: On Monday 10th December the school will celebrate our end of year thanksgiving Mass at Blessed John XXIII. Students from across the school will lead this significant celebration as we reflect and give thanks for the year, as well as farewell those who are leaving. Please join us for this occasion.

Simon Stennett

SPORTING NEWS
School Swimming Carnival
There are only two more weeks until our School Swimming Carnival. Hopefully all the children competing are taking this opportunity to practice. We would really appreciate as many volunteers as possible to assist on the day so that our swimming carnival can run safely and smoothly. Please leave your name at the office if you are able to assist.

1.7 billion ways to get it wrong in planning for Australia’s future
Welcome to the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta School Funding website which has been created in response to the NSW Liberal Government’s plan to cut $1.7 billion from school education funding in New South Wales.

At a time when there is general agreement that we need to invest more into the education of our young people, it is mind boggling that the NSW Government plans to reduce funding to all schools in New South Wales by 3% and cap the level of funding to non-government schools over the next four years.

There is no more important investment in society than the one in education. Education is the cornerstone upon which the next generation of ideas and innovation will emerge. Schools are integral in shaping our future leaders, teachers, economists, inventors, scientists, doctors, nurses, carpenters, mechanics and for the many jobs that haven’t been created yet. We must deliver an experience of schooling that meets the learning needs of students in today’s world and prepares them to respond creatively to the opportunities and challenges we will face in the future.

To do this, all schools require the ongoing support of both the state and federal government through fair and equitable funding. Here, you will find resources including sample letters to MPs, slogans for school/parish talking signs and newsletter/bulletin items for inclusion in your local communication to raise awareness of this issue and lobby the NSW Government to overturn this decision. I encourage you to let your voice be heard on this critical matter and share your comments and ideas with colleagues via this website. www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding

Dates for your diary
6th December Whole School Christmas Celebration Multi-Purpose Learning Centre at 6.30 pm
10th December Thanksgiving Mass at 10.15 am
13th December Swimming Carnival Years 2 - 5
13th December Year 6 Graduation Mass at 7.30 pm
17th December Dance Fever Concert at Homebush
19th December Last Day of Term for students
30th January, 2013 Students return