Project Compassion story:

KHIN’S STORY

Khin, 10, her mother and younger brother live together in a rented room in Ranong, Thailand. Her family is just one of an estimated two million people who have fled poverty, violence and instability in Burma. But despite their hopes of a better life in Thailand, Khin’s family are amongst the poorest in their community.

Along the Thai-Burma border, Caritas Australia supports a range of programs for those communities made vulnerable by displacement, violent clashes and inadequate social services. One program, coordinated by our partner – Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), focuses on the unique vulnerability of Burmese children whose parents have migrated for work. For many children, language barriers, a lack of documentation, and costly fees prevent them attending Thai schools. JRS’ community-based learning centres offer migrant children primary education and a bridge into Thailand’s school system.

As we draw closer to Holy Week in this season of Lent, we might take the opportunity to stop and think about our lives and that of our children.

If Lent is a time of reflection…of soul searching…of taking stock….then has it had an impact on us and our family? Has Lent made any difference at all? Does it really mean anything to us?

What about the children? Do they get $2 from you, take it to school, put it in the project compassion box and think that they have made a difference? Do they really know how other people suffer and experience real hardship? Does it “touch their heart”?

Empathy or compassion are easy when it does not have an impact or where you cannot actually see, hear, feel others’ pain.

Thanks to your solidarity with Caritas Australia, our local partner JRS continues to advocate for Burmese children’s right to education.

There is much use of ‘Light’ in our Catholic faith traditions. It plays a powerful role in the Easter Vigil celebration – when the priest and the congregation enter the darkened church illuminated by flame from the Easter fire. How do we use that symbolism in our own life? In the Gospel reading last Sunday from John, the light of the world refers to Jesus the only Son, sent by God the Father, the Saviour. It is suggested that the person who lives by the truth comes into the light - the light is truth and goodness. The other side of the coin is the notion of the darkness -symbolising the preferred atmosphere of one who does wrong – and the darkness of turning away from God. As we journey through Lent, let us reflect on how much time we spend in the light – and how much in darkness, turning away from God. We need to be mindful that the light of Jesus Christ continues to shine from within us for others to see.

God bless you and your family,
Jenny Bellenger
Acting Principal

Thanks for those who have taken up the opportunity to look after a garden. There are many numbers left to claim and we will put your name on your claim and look forward to you caring for that garden. To be part of this volunteer good work, all you have to do is phone Tanya at the parish office, to give your name and number and the garden is yours. Please feel free to dig out and plant what you want in your area.

We pray for our children entering the First Communion programme. We look forward to you joining us in a few weeks to receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. I thank Sue Andruskin and her many helpers in guiding the parents to prepare our children for this sacrament.

Harmony Day Tomorrow!

We are looking forward to a great Harmony Day tomorrow as we celebrate diversity at Holy Cross and across Australia. Classes will be involved in a range of activities throughout the day. If you are able to, please send in a simple dish of food representing your family’s background that can be shared easily at lunchtime. Please don’t bring in any food that contains nuts and if possible, write a simple list of the ingredients that were used. We encourage children to think of clothes that represent their nationality of origin and bring in something that they could quickly put on during recess and wear to an afternoon of sharing with the school. All students need to wear their school uniform through the day as well as going home in the afternoon.

Friday Mass

Our Year 6 will lead Mass this Friday in their learning space. All welcome to attend

KINDER 2013 ENROLMENTS

Applications are now being accepted for Kindergarten 2013. If your turns 5 on or 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

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday Masses 8.30am, 10.30am, 6.00pm
Weekday Masses Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00am
OPEN DAY

Our Open Day will be held on Wednesday 28th March. We particularly invite any new or existing families who have a child eligible to enrol in Kindergarten to come along and see what a wonderful school we have.

There will be an Information Session held in the library at 9:30 followed by classroom tours. Our Year 6 students will be the hosts for new families, conducting tours of the school, answering questions and pointing out the many wonderful features of our school.

Maths-a-thon

A big thank you to all the children and parents who have gained sponsors already!

We have already collected $4702.00.

Please keep your donations coming in to collect your raffle tickets to be in the draw for the iPod Nanos which will be drawn on Friday 30th March. The small prize draws will begin next week.

Happy Birthday to all students who have celebrated their Birthday

Lilia Valdmanis, Marc Hadjetian, Nisha Mautsa, Ellie Whitton, Hayden Laurence, Pallavi Reddy, Ethan Watkins, Mark Siljeg, Mabel Paz and Cameron White

Children recognised as Gr8 People demonstrating the “Caring” Attribute


Cross Country

Congratulations to the following students who will represent Holy Cross at the Cross Country Carnival at Eastern Creek early next term

Adam Mrazek, Jackson Basha, Lachian Inns, Matthew Considine, Lachlan Inglis, Michael Constantinou, Eliyah Joaquin, Emily Harper, Aaina Singh, Fernanda Didic, Isabella Valenti, Brittany Nichol, Daniel Sekulic, Michael Osei Adomako, Nicholas Reetov, Gideon Boachie, Cameron Driscoll, Riley McDougall, Maddison Pritchard, Chanel Assam, Chelsea Hartley, Karina Gatt, Chloe Christie, Priscilla Mutsonziwa, Anthony Shalala, Ben Considine, Ryan Zammit, Ben Reetov, Jaden Arnold, Tami Mahachi, Samantha Hewitson, Angela Boachie, Emma Giuemelli, Jorja Darling, Chelsea Davies, Kiara Pereira, Nicholas Taylor, Hayden Laurence, Callcum Scott, Geremy Muhvich, Chan Deng, Ben Inns, Marie Mathew, Joyce Diaz, Madeleine O’Rourke, Caitlin Gallagher, Jessica Hope, Sarah Ettehad

Quality Catholic School Survey

60 Families have been randomly selected by Parramatta Catholic Education Office to give a snapshot of our school’s culture. All staff and 50 students from years 5/6 will also give their insights.

If your family has been selected, the final date for collection of information is this Friday 23rd March.

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

Public libraries are great resources for books, helpful advice and often have fun and enjoyable activities.

If your child is not interested in reading perhaps they just haven’t found the right book, magazine, comic, or journal yet.

It’s good to keep an open mind on reading - the book that comes hole from school is one example of reading material.

As an adult, if you think about all the reading you do during the day, the major part of it is probably not from a book (unless you’re very lucky!) Try to involve children in every day reading - here are a few examples: traffic signs and directions, grocery lists and grocery items, timetables and instructions for footy training, dance classes, TV guides, articles in the newspaper, and advertising and promotional material that comes in the mail.

Happy Reading.

Holy Cross Primary Bingo Night

Come along for a night of family fun
Lots of games and Loads of prizes to be won for everyone

When: 11th May Where: Multipurpose Learning Centre

Games will begin at 6.00pm.
University of New South Wales Assessments

At Holy Cross we offer students in Years 3 – 6 the opportunity to sit the Science, Writing, English and Mathematical Assessments. These assessments take place during the day and the children sit for them at Holy Cross.

If you would like your child to participate in one or all of these assessments, please complete the form below and return it with the money to your child’s class teacher marked ‘University of New South Wales Assessments’.

The cost is $7.00 each for Science, English and Mathematics and $15.00 for Writing.

The assessments will be held on the following days: Science – 6 June, Writing -18 June, English – 31 July and Mathematics – 14 August.

Enrolments will close on 5 April (last day Term 1). If you have any queries regarding these assessments please contact Miss Whittle at school.

I would like my child ____________________________

In class ____________________________ to sit the:

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<td>Science Assessment</td>
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<td>Writing Assessment</td>
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I have enclosed $ __________

Parent’s name: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________

Australian Mathematics Competition

We have the opportunity to participate in the 2012 Australian Mathematics Competition.

This competition is organised by The Australian Mathematics Trust.

It is open to students in Years 3-6.

The date of the competition is Thursday 2 August 2012.

The entry fee is $5.00.

If you would like your child to participate in this competition please complete the form below and return it to your child’s teacher marked Australian Mathematics Competition.

If you would like further information please contact Miss Whittle at school.

I would like my child ____________________, in class ________ to participate in the AMC.

I have enclosed $ __________.
Important information about accident protection for students*

Every day there are accidents involving children. To assist parents with costs associated with those accidents, we have SchoolCare Accident insurance provided by Catholic Church Insurances Limited. The SchoolCare Accident policy provides protection to all students attending our school.

The 24 hour cover includes accidental injury cover 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and provides lump sum benefits under Section 1 of the policy. Non-Medicare medical expenses are only payable in relation to activities such as:

- Attending school, engaging in a sporting activity, a secondary student undertaking a work experience program
- Voluntary services to a religious, charitable, educational or benevolent organisation, youth activities organised by a voluntary association such as Guides or Scouts or travelling to or from the above activities.

Cover is worldwide.

Our policy covers three important areas of care and any one accident may be claimable under one or more of these areas.

Cover includes:

- **Up to $7,500 inclusive per accident** for medical costs (excluding any Medicare expenses or the Medicare Gap) from the following registered medical practitioners:
  - Dentist,
  - Chiropractor,
  - Osteopath,
  - Physiotherapist,
  - Remedial massage,
  - Podiatry,
  - Acupuncture,
  - Also costs from a Chemist, and,
  - Hospital accommodation and facility fees.

  **Please note:**

  Federal legislation in Australia prohibits Catholic Church Insurances from covering:

  - The cost of any medical service for which a Medicare benefit is payable the Medicare Gap or
  - The cost of any hospital treatment or other benefit unless the cost arises from an injury while taking part in certain activities, such as:

  - Attending school, engaging in a sporting activity, a secondary student undertaking a work experience program, voluntary services to a religious, charitable, educational or benevolent organisation, youth activities organised by a voluntary association such as Guides or Scouts or travelling to or from the above activities.

  **Fixed amounts for defined events.** For example, when a student accidentally receives a fracture of the hand the policy will pay a fixed amount of $250. The full table of benefits lists all the defined events covered under the policy and the fixed amount payable. The full table of benefits is shown in the information sheet available at [www.ccinsurances.com.au](http://www.ccinsurances.com.au)

  **Other benefits related to the injury sustained including:**

  - Emergency transport resulting from an accidental injury,
  - Home tuition,
  - Hospital inconvenience allowance,
  - Nursing allowance,
  - Professional counselling fees and Assistance with payment of school fees in the event of the accidental death of a parent or guardian.

  These are all limited to **specific amounts per accident**. These amounts are detailed in the table of benefits contained in the policy, and are subject to the policy wording, terms, conditions and exclusions.

  Your child may have an accident so please cut out the information below and keep it on your fridge or in a handy place. Please personalise the text box beside the opening paragraph (Name of school: etc.) with your relevant policy information.

*Summary only. See the policy document for full terms, conditions and exclusions.*