Dear Parents,

Being a parent is such a rewarding privilege and at times it can also be challenging. Included below is an article that makes tremendous sense, written by an outstanding educator, father and grandfather, the late Barry Dwyer.

“The development of a strong character in children is a great preparation for dealing with the inevitable pressure of modern society. People with strong character and not easily led by others into destructive and foolish behaviour. Here are some suggestions you may like to consider:

1. Build character on the foundations of love and acceptance. A child who feels loved is more likely to reach out to the world with confidence and security.

2. Show respect to a child and expect respect in return. Children learn to respect through example and encouragement. A child, who has not learnt to control the urge to make hurtful comments to companions and to adults, will find it progressively harder to exercise control of other destructive impulses.

3. Have high expectations of conduct. Calmly and consistently enforce limits on behaviour. Give children plenty of opportunities to make personal choices and let them see that all choices have consequences.

4. Recognise and encourage acts of generosity, tolerance and thoughtful decision-making whenever you see them.

5. Give the child plenty of opportunities for success in a variety of activities. This builds self-esteem which is an important element of strong character.

6. Talk openly about your beliefs and values. Whilst being understanding and compassionate, be quite clear in the stand you take on issues of right and wrong.

As we work together as a learning community let us build strong characters in each and every one of our children.

Last weekend we moved into the Fifth Week of Lent and as we listened to the Gospel of John, we were invited to see Jesus as the seed that must die for all humankind, so that all can be raised to new life. His single death yields the rich harvest of eternal life for all who believe.

God bless you and your family,

Jenny Bellenger
Acting Principal

Parish News

Youth Group on this Sunday: Yr5 – Yr12 – 4.30pm – 7.30pm at the Parish Church Kitchen. All Welcome

Welcome to the beginning of Holy Week, a very spiritual and reflective time in the life of our church and in the personal lives of each other. Don’t let this week become a mad rush to finish everything before Easter! We do that at Christmas but we don’t have to: there is life after Easter! The life that Christ offers each of us is the New Life that he won for us by his life, death and resurrection. So let us focus this week on the mystery that is our faith. Turn off the TV, pray the rosary as a family, read John’s Gospel, journal our thoughts, draw the passion, find time to let Jesus speak to you. Our church is opened all day every day from 8.15am till 7.00pm at night. Come through the side door and exit by the same door. Come and spend some time with the Lord and if we encounter him in a relationship that is real then our lives will be changed from being self-centred to other-centred. Use the prayer books in the bookcase at the rear of the church. Tuesday night is our night for the Second Rite of Reconciliation at 7.30pm There will be no Novena this week. Come as a family to venerate the cross on Good Friday from 4.00pm to 10.00pm. Our parish team wishes you a Happy and Holy Easter.

School RE News

Harmony Day

On Harmony Day last Wednesday we celebrated the cultural diversity in Australia and at Holy Cross. Throughout the day children participated in activities which helped them to understand the relevance of Harmony Day. We finished with a liturgy and sharing of all the wonderful activities the children had participated in earlier in the day. It was an opportunity for students of Holy Cross to celebrate and reflect upon the different people and cultures that make up the Australian community and our own school community. We reflected on and learnt what makes us Australian and what our valuable community members from other cultures hold as significant in their traditions. Harmony Day gives us the opportunity to name our differences and to celebrate what unites us.

Holy Week

Next week is Holy Week, one of the most important liturgical weeks of the year! Through the week, we will reflect on Jesus’ journey to the cross and his resurrection. Different grades will lead each liturgy. On Monday Year 3 will lead us for Palm Sunday. On Tuesday we will celebrate Holy Thursday led by Year 1 and 4. On Wednesday, Year 5 and 6 will lead us for Good Friday and Kinder and Year 2 will lead us for an Easter celebration on Thursday. These Liturgies will be at 9am each morning in the hall.

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.

John XXIII Mass Times

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<tr>
<td>Saturday Vigil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Masses</td>
<td>8.30am, 10.30am, 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekday Masses</td>
<td>Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00am</td>
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HELPING YOUR CHILDREN LEARN

Children’s first teachers are their parents and this role does not diminish when children come to school. School works in partnership with parents by providing a more formalised approach to learning. Children will learn many skills and knowledge in new ways but your place as parents is crucial.

Some ideas for helping children learn include:
♦ Stay in contact with your child’s classroom teacher and follow her individual guidelines for helping at home
♦ Read regularly with your child. Let children see you reading books, newspapers, etc.
♦ Set aside a regular time for homework
♦ Promote self-confidence in your children as learners by valuing their efforts
♦ Encourage children to “have a go”
♦ Make the most of informal learning opportunities e.g. cooking a meal, shopping, watching television etc as these can promote the children’s language and maths.

MOTHERS DAY WRAPPING

On Monday 2 April after Monday morning pray we are needing helpers to wrap the mother’s day gifts for our mother’s day stall in May. If you have a couple of hours free please come along and help, it’s lots of fun.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

Mother’s Day Stall will be held on Tuesday 8 May. Cost of each gift will be $5.00. More information to come.

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.

Canteen News

Friday 30th March Sausage Sizzle only $2-00. Please pay money on Friday to class teacher who will bring the children down at lunch time to collect. Normal canteen menu will still be available EXCEPT for hot food. Order online or by bag.

Happy Birthday to the following students
Jessica Aye, Ajaydeep Gill, Sebastian Kiceec, Joshua Taylor, Gabriel De Castro, Sophie Salkovic, James Siderovski, Campbell Wood, Karina Gatt, Jay Nelson, and Jack O’Reilly

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta would like to invite Year 7, 2014 families to attend our Enrolment Information Evening.

This is an opportunity for you to collect your daughter’s enrolment pack, enjoy a tour of the College campus and meet the Principal, College Executive and staff.

We look forward to welcoming you to the OLMC community.

Monday, April 2, 2012
• Registration 4.45pm • Tours 5.00pm-5.45pm
• Information session 5.45pm • P&F Sausage Sizzle 6.30pm

Enquiries:
Roselba Sorgiovanni Yee
Enrolment Officer
Tel 02 9634 1222
Email enrolment@olmc.nsw.edu.au
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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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<td>English 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 $__________.

Parent’s name________________________ Parent’s signature________________________.
Order your new 2012 | 2013 Entertainment™ Book TODAY, and you will receive...

Sydney Greater West – Over $260 in value
Supplies are limited. Subject to availability.

Sydney North – Over $200 in value
Supplies are limited. Subject to availability.

Sydney –
Over $180 in value
Supplies are limited. Subject to availability.
Entertainment™ Books are coming to Holy Cross Primary School!

Books will be sent home to families in Term 2 with $13 from each Book sold contributing to our fundraising.

The new Entertainment™ Books contain hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from the area's top restaurants, cafés, take-away chains, attractions, activities and hotel accommodation. This year we are also featuring a brand new retail section to help families save even more money on everyday items such as groceries and petrol.

Pre-Order your new Book now and receive 6 Bonus Offers!

Be one of the first to order and pay for your new 2012|2013 Entertainment™ Book and you will receive over $250 worth of Bonus Offers you can use straight away!*

Bonus offers are in limited supply! Purchase your Entertainment™ Book now by filling in the order form below and returning it so you don't miss out!

*while stocks last

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Holy Cross Primary School – Pre-Order Payment Form

Child's Name: (please print) ___________________________ Class/Group: ___________________________

I would like to order:

- [ ] x Sydney Greater West @ $65 each (GST incl.)  =  $_________
- [ ] x Sydney @ $65 each (GST incl.)  =  $_________
- [ ] x Sydney North @ $65 each (GST incl.)  =  $_________

Total amount enclosed  =  $_________

Method of Payment:

[ ] Cash
[ ] Paid online at: https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/1231h79
[ ] Visa
[ ] MasterCard

Or please charge my:

Card Number: ___________________________ Exp Date: / Signature: ___________________________

Cardholder's Name: ___________________________ Daytime Tel: ___________________________