FAREWELL AND THANK YOU
This is my last newsletter as Principal of Holy Cross and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support and encouragement over the years. Holy Cross is a unique community of which we all should be very proud. Clearly our children love learning – a visit to any of the learning spaces provides evidence of this. The teachers love teaching - the learning programmes have been recognised as reflecting the teachers’ professionalism, expertise and diverse strategies. Our parents value Catholic education and the partnerships that they share with the teachers. These elements all make for a powerful combination. I will take many happy memories of this community with me and ask that you keep my name in your prayers as I will always keep the Holy Cross community in my prayers. God Bless.

Mrs O’Rourke will be Acting Principal for the last week of the School Term.

END OF YEAR DANCE CONCERT
Everyone enjoyed a fabulous evening of Dance last Thursday as our Basketball court and MPLIC came alive with the children showcasing their Creative Arts Skills. It was fantastic to see not only the children but also the adults enjoy themselves so much!! Mrs G and Mr D did an outstanding job leading us all. Thank you to Mrs Buckley, Mrs O’Rourke, Louis, Mr Robey, Mrs McCully and all the class teachers for all the work that lead up to the evening.

LEARNING TOGETHER
Last week you will have noticed, displayed on our front lawn, the colourful green sails that we have purchased to promote our school and its motto of “Learning Together”. We have also purchased similar sails to advertise the attributes of the gr8 people programme. Keep your eyes out for them next year.

STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 2012
Last Friday Mrs Bellinger the Acting Principal for Term One 2012 and Mr Stennett the newly appointed Religious Education Coordinator for Holy Cross visited the staff and students in their classrooms. Both are very excited about joining our learning community and are looking forward to 2012.

Mrs Fowler will be leaving Holy Cross at the conclusion of this year to pursue her interests in Early Childhood Education. Mrs Fowler has made a significant contribution to the Holy Cross community over the last 10 years – having taught Years 1 and 5 and more recently Kindergarten. We wish her every happiness in this new phase of her career.

Mrs Dowd has announced that she will be retiring at the conclusion of 2011. Mrs Dowd has been at Holy Cross from its beginning days and has been instrumental in establishing the literacy programmes in the school, educating not only our children but also the staff and parents. We are very appreciative of all her work over the years and wish her much happiness as she enjoys her grandchildren and retirement years.

Mrs McCarthy will be accessing maternity leave in 2012. We wish her family much joy as they eagerly await the birth of their baby. Miss Allen has decided to extend her leave for another 12 months to spend time with her twins Alex and Adelaide. Mrs O’Rourke will continue her role in 2012.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Mrs Nasser, Mrs Murphy, Miss Kershaw, Mrs Lau and Mrs Meredith who took on temporary teaching positions across the grades in 2011. Their dedication and professionalism has been magnificent.

We would also like to farewell and thank Louis Tuma our IT trainee from the Catholic Education Office who has completed his traineeship at our school and will now be moving into the broadcasting field to use his skills. Louis has been a fine role model to our children always assisting us whenever he has seen a need and offering professional support to staff in order that they can use technology effectively in their teaching. Louis has been instrumental in organising our laptop and ipad programme.

END OF YEAR MASS - MASS OF THANKSGIVING
Our End of Year Mass to give thanks for the blessings of this year will take place at Blessed John XXIII Church on Friday 9th December, commencing at 10.00 am.

Also, this mass will be a special time to thank Mrs Nettleton for her work at Holy Cross and to wish her happiness and success in the future.

Children will return to Holy Cross after the Mass.

We extend a very warm welcome to parents and friends to join us at Mass.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS
Every year at this time we invite families to donate food items to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers.

If you are able to help, many families will benefit from your generosity and kindness.

Food items can be given to your child’s class teacher.

The Mini Vinnies will be coordinating this activity.

Kindergarten: tinned ham, tinned salmon, Christmas pudding

Year 1: pasta, pasta sauce, Christmas cake

Year 2: soft drinks, coffee, tea

Year 3: tinned fruit, tinned baked beans, tinned spaghetti

Year 4: long life milk, long life custard, fruit juice

Year 5: tinned vegetables, rice, pasta

Year 6: lollies, milo, coffee,

The final date for donations will be Monday, 12th December.

Thank you for your support

ADVENT
As we enter the second week of Advent – a prayer to remind us of this special time.

Christ our companion, you are ever-coming into our days and our world,

calling us to recognise you in often-surprising ways.

May your spirit awaken us to signs of your presence, and encourage us to act where we see a need, for we are doorkeepers who await your reign with Advent hope.

Amen

PARISH NEWS

ADVENT PARISH REFLECTION MORNING
Saturday 10th December

Time: 9am Parish Mass, followed by reflective times based upon Lectio Divina.

The Reflection morning, after Mass in our parish church, will adjourn to St Mark’s Staffroom.

Program:

9.00 am Parish Mass
9.30 am Morning Tea in St Mark’s staffroom
10.00 am Prayer
10.15 am Lectio Divina: John 1:6-8
11.00 am T E A  B R E A K
11.45 am Prayer
11.50 am Fr Dave’s talk: A Hidden God.
12.00 pm Fr Dave: Guided Meditation
12.30 pm L U N C H (Bring a plate to share)

Alone this Christmas? So many people and maybe some in our parish spend Christmas Day on their own. I am inviting parishioners to make an extra place at their Christmas table and phone the parish office so we could put you in touch with people who may be on their own this Christmas. If anyone who is spending Christmas alone please phone our parish office and we will put you in touch with one of our families who would love to have you join them this Christmas.
SPORTING NEWS
SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Tomorrow will be our swimming carnival for Years 2 – 5. We hope to have weather that allows all our races to be conducted. Please send your child to school with their swimmers under their uniform, plenty of sunscreen, a towel, and sufficient food and drink for the day.

TEENNS
Congratulations to Andre D’Aprile who has been invited to play in the 12 Boys Australian Tennis Open in Melbourne in December. This is a fine achievement and as you would know from these newsletters Andrea has made a number of achievements in the sport over the last year.

CONGRATULATIONS
On the weekend Hannah Bloodworth from Year 2 was baptised at our church Blessed John XXIII. We will keep you in our prayers Hannah.

CSIRO ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD
Congratulations to Shannon Seckold in Year 6 who has been awarded the CSIRO Carbon Kids Award for her innovative sustainability ideas. Shannon won a $100 donation for our school to pursue sustainability innovations in 2012. Shannon was able to enter this competition as a part of the ECO SUMMIT attended by the Year 6 students earlier this term. Well done Shannon we are very proud of you.

FUNDRAISING IN 2011
Due to the magnificent fundraising of our families in 2011 we have been able to purchase significant teaching resources for our classrooms and the library. In particular we have purchased equipment to make beadstrings and bead kebabs in numeracy, and magazines and books to promote reading across the Key Learning Areas. We have also ordered new readers for our home reading programme, numeracy kits for assessment and teaching, ipads, flip cameras, and equipment for the set up of our school radio station. In addition we have been able to set aside the necessary funds to replace laptop computers as they reach their use by date. Thank you for your continued support of the school.

LEARNING GROUP ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2012
Each year a number of families move from the Glenwood area. This year we have families relocating to Cranebrook, Plumpton, Queensland, ACT, Singapore, and Wollongong to name just a few destinations. We thank all these families for the contribution that they have made to Holy Cross and wish them much happiness in their new locations.

These moves do affect class groupings in various grades across the school. In 2012 we will be having numbers equivalent to 3 learning groups in Kinder, Year One and Year 3 and numbers equivalent to two learning groups in Years 2,4,5 and 6. Later this week you will receive the names of the teachers who will be teaching each of the grade groups.

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthdays:-
Zac Northey, Fahiem Fredericks, Jeremiah Albina, Brianna Saad, Talijah Tietie, Alicia Hoare, Preston Hadid

From 2012 the school newsletter will be distributed via the school website. Families will be invited to log on to the website and download a copy to read. The school website address is www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au.

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 an 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 immediately.

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

WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER
SPECIAL HOT DOG CANTEEN DAY FOR KINDER, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 6
Children in these grades will be able to purchase a hotdog from the canteen at $2. Just bring your money into school on Wednesday and give it to your class teacher. Hot Dogs will be collected by the children from the canteen window. Drinks can still be ordered online as usual. NO OTHER LUNCHES CAN BE ORDERED this WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER
SAUSAGE SIZZLE – ALL CHILDREN WILL BE TREATED TO A SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND ICE BLOCK AS PART OF OUR FUN DAY ON FRIDAY. THERE IS NO COST TO FAMILIES. Please inform class teachers of any allergies that your child may have.

FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER
CANTEEN CLOSED - no lunches will be sold.

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