Dear Parents and caregivers,

**LEARNING TOGETHER - End of Year Reports**

The teachers have taken significant amount of time analysing and discussing student achievements in each of the Key Learning Areas that are included on the End of Year reports.

In the End of Year Reports the children’s learning is reported on by both a grade within the range of E-A and in terms of the Learning Continuum. 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.

The grade cohort distributions also appear on all reports from Year One to Year Six. 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:

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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 Miss Hardy.

**2013 School Fees - Technology Fee**

The 2013 Diocesan School fees were sent home recently outlining the tuition and building levy fees for all students Kindergarten to Year Six. In 2013 we will be including a **Technology Fee**. The Technology Fee will be charged per child each year. This fee $20 for terms 1, 2 and 3 ($60 per child) covers ongoing upgrading of the technology of the school, including computers: iPads, laptops and desktops, digital cameras and licenses. A 2013 Fee Schedule is available on the school website.

Regards,

**Marina Hardy**

**Principal**

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**Dates for your diary**

- **Monday 10th December**
  - Thanksgiving Mass at 10.15am
- **Thursday 13th December**
  - Swimming Carnival Years 2 - 5
- **Thursday 13th December**
  - Year 6 Graduation Mass at 7.30pm
- **Monday 17th December**
  - Parent Helper Morning Tea at 9.30am
  - Dance Fever Concert at Homebush Years 3 - 6
- **19th December**
  - Last Day of Term for students
- **Wednesday 30th January**
  - Students 1– 6 commence Term 1
- **Monday 4th February**
  - Kindergarten commence Term 1

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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.
The Faith Formation Committee invites you to spend half a day with the Lord in preparation for this Christmas at our Advent Retreat to be held on 8th December. Beginning with the 9:00am Mass at the BJ23rd Parish, it will be followed by Reflections at St. Mark’s Hall until 12noon led by Fr. Joy. Please bring a plate to share for a light lunch afterwards.

SOS HELP BILL! Bill is one of our gardeners who needs help. If you can help Bill with his garden (Side Gate) then please phone Tanya at the office. I also thank Albert Mendoza for reattaching the drip sprinkling system in our gardens. It is going to be a hot summer and Albert’s efforts are appreciated. Colin’s veggie patch is doing well (don’t tell the rabbits) as Dorothy’s, Jun’s, Carmen’s Mary’s Maureen’s. Chris, Jessper, Gomez’s and Stella’s Gardens. Thank you for your time and efforts. Anyone who would like a garden to look after please phone Tanya at the office. Would the person who removed the rosary beads around the hands of our Lady’s statue, please have a conscience and put them back. You will not have any luck doing that! We are able to keep our church unlocked during the day and I need you to help me look after it. If you want to visit during the day then enter via the side door and keep it closed. Please exit via the side door and close it. Please do not go out the main doors. I lock the church at about 7.30pm most nights.

Live Jesus In Our Hearts, Forever Father Dave

Compeer: a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society

Just one hour of your time each week can have a positive impact on someone who is lonely because of mental illness.

Mental illness is more common than you might think. Almost 1 in 2 Australian adults will experience a mental illness at some point in their life. The symptoms of mental illness can make people become isolated and the stigma of having a mental illness diagnosis can often make connecting to the community very difficult.

You can help by volunteering for the Compeer program, a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society. By spending an hour a week enjoying a simple social activity with your new friend, such as chatting over a cup of coffee or taking a walk in the park, you can really make a difference.

Volunteers are matched with a friend of the same gender, similar age and who lives in their local area. You don’t need to have prior experience with mental illness – full training and ongoing support is provided by Compeer staff. For further information, call 9622 2411 or email compeer.westernsydney@vinnies.org.au. Men and women over the age of 30 are encouraged to apply.

Compeer: Friendship makes a difference.

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week
Juan Groenewald, Zac Northey, Faihren Fredericks, Mihr Gaunder, Ysabella Festejo, Talijah Tietie, Alicia Brew and Alicia Hoare

School RE News

ADVENT - What's it all about?
Advent is often likened to Lent, which is a time of preparation for celebrating Christ’s resurrection at Easter. But Advent is a little different. Like Lent, Advent is also a time of preparation for the coming of Christ, though through the birth of Jesus as well as in Christ’s second coming in the judgment of nations. But unlike Lent, which is sometimes referred to as a time of self reflection and penance, Advent is a time of anticipation.

At mass we hear scripture from the Old Testament where the people of Israel were waiting in faith and expectation for the coming of a saviour. As well, we hear of John the Baptist, Jesus’ cousin, who preached about the coming of the messiah. During Advent we aim to capture the same anticipation that was felt in the faith of the Israelites.

Like Lent, we are encouraged to pray, to be charitable and to make reconciliation with others, as we prepare for Christ’s birth. Having an Advent wreath at home is a wonderful way of sharing this time of preparation with your family and counting down the weeks leading up to Christmas Day.

St Vincent DePaul Appeal
Our Mini-Vinnies team have given all classes baskets to collect Christmas food for our parish Vinnies group. Thank you to everyone who have been able to donate food, though there is a lot of room in many of the baskets still. Please make a note to send in something through the week if possible.

Christmas Celebration - this Thursday!
Come along to our school’s Christmas Celebration evening this Thursday night at 6:30pm. Either come early enough to secure a front row position with a picnic rug or bring your own fold-up chair.

Thanksgiving Mass - next Monday 10th Dec!
Please come and join us for our school’s end of year Thanksgiving Mass next Monday 10th Dec at 10:15am at our Blessed John XXIII Parish Church. The school celebrates mass at our parish church once a year. Students from different grades will lead mass as we give thanks for our year together and farewell those who are moving on.

Simon Stennett
Religious Education Co-ordinator

Afternoon Dismissal
Thank you to all the parents for taking care when dropping your children off at school and picking them up at the end of the day.

Parents and families are reminded that the car park at the front of the school is not accessible for parent parking either before or after school. Please DO NOT ENTER the car park even when the gate is open as this puts the safety of all our children at risk.

As you are aware, parents are asked to collect their children from their learning spaces each afternoon. If you are running late on a particular day the children will now be waiting for parents under the COLA. A reminder that there are places available at Mini-Miracles should you find it difficult to pick your children up straight after school each day.

Leaving Families
If you know that you will definitely not be returning next year would you please notify the office in writing as soon as possible.
**Sports News**

Congratulations to Michael Osei-Adomako who represented NSW at the School Sports Australia-National Championships for Track and Field which was held in Adelaide last week. Michael's results:

Michael came 5th overall in the 100m 11 year old events and won a GOLD MEDAL in the 4 x 100m relay. An outstanding achievement. Once again Michael, we are all extremely proud of you!

On behalf of Michael, his family and the school, we are extremely appreciative of the generosity and support from our school community in assisting Michael with his fundraising activities to go towards his expenses to represent NSW at the championships in Adelaide. THANK YOU EVERYONE!

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**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

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.

**OPENING HOURS**

There has been a change to the opening hours on Tuesday 29th January, 2013. The shop will now be open from 2 - 4 pm on Tuesday 29th January, 2013. Please see all opening times below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Holy Cross Primary School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Open:</td>
<td>During school term,</td>
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<td>Wednesdays 2 - 4pm</td>
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<td>and Saturdays 11am - 2pm</td>
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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
- **Tuesday 29th January, 2013**: 9am - 2pm
- **Wednesday 30th January, 2013**: 12 - 3pm
- **Thursday 31st January, 2013**: 12 - 3pm
- **Friday 1st February, 2013**: 12 - 3pm

**VENUE FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP**

The School Uniform Shop will now be opening at Holy Cross Primary School. Parents can access the shop via the Staff Car park, where the shop will be on the right hand side at the end of the car park. Parents will need to park on the street and walk into the car park. Please be aware of staff vehicles entering and exiting the car park.

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**Dancefever Interschool Challenge**

**What to wear:**

**Boys**

**Outfit 1**
- Black pants
- White Collared Shirt (optional school white shirt)
- Tie (optional school tie)
- Black School Shoes

**Outfit 2**
- White School Shirt (short or long sleeve)
- Black Pants
- School Tie
- Black School Shoes

**Girls**

**Outfit 1**
- Dress or Skirt & Top
- Sandal Style Shoe

**Outfit 2**
- Black Tights or Bike Shorts
- White School Blouse
- School Tab Tie
- Sandal Style Shoe
Invitation to End of Year Celebrations!

Christmas Celebration! – Thursday 6th December, 2012 - 6.30pm

Every grade will be leading a different traditional Christmas carol as well as joining in leading some Christmas favourites. This will be held under the basketball COLA. Please bring along a chair! Students will be sitting in grade groups. The evening is intended to be an informal, fun night to celebrate Christmas.

Thanksgiving Mass
Monday 10th December at 10.15 am
The school will travel by bus to our parish Church of Blessed John XXIII

Years 2 - 5 School Swimming Carnival
Thursday 13th December

Parent Helper Morning Tea
Monday 17th December, 2012 at 9.30am

If you have been able to support our school as a parent helper in any way throughout the year we want to say thank you, so please come along and enjoy morning tea on us.

DANCEFEVER CHALLENGE
Monday 17th December, 2012

This Term our children have had the opportunity of experiencing the DanceFever program. The children are thoroughly enjoying the program and have learnt wonderful new dance skills as well as very good social skills. Dancefever will host an Interschool Dance event, which will involve other schools that have also participated in the program this term. This will be a very exciting event for the children as they have the opportunity of representing their school and perhaps win trophies and prizes.

As this is a school event, parents and families are strongly encouraged to attend this event to support their children and our school. This is also the perfect opportunity for parents to witness the skills their children have required - you will be impressed.

Date: Monday, 17th December, 2012
Time: Doors open 4.30pm for a 5.30pm start - finish 9.00pm
Venue: Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, Homebush
Cost: $5.00 per person (including children competing) EFTPOS NOT AVAILABLE

The challenge is open to students from Year 3 to Year 6. The atmosphere will be fantastic and it will be a wonderful occasion for our whole school community. Entry fee has been kept to the lowest price possible.

Creative Arts Showcase
Tuesday 18th December at 9.00am

Many students from across the school have been working on numerous performances over the past term.

The Showcase includes:
- Primary choir
- Primary expert music groups
- Dance group
- Dancefever extravaganza!