



Holy Family Primary School Newsletter

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10th December 2014

Term 4

Week 10

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Dear Families and Friends of Holy Family,

As we come to the final newsletter of 2014, we pause to celebrate all that we have shared. Throughout all events and experiences our guide has been our school motto 'In Christ we live, love and learn.' We celebrate the many experiences we have shared as a faithful school community:

In Christ we live... Opening School Mass, Ash Wednesday Mass, Mothers' Day Mass Fathers' Day prayer, ANZAC ceremony, sacramental program, Catholic Schools Week, Feast of Mary MacKillop, Grandparents Day, remembering Barbara Maatouk, remembering Fr Stack and the dedication of the library in his honour, & next week's Andrew Chinn concert.

In Christ we love... Harmony Day, Anti Bullying Show, parent/teacher meetings, Quality Catholic Schools survey, Year 5 Camp, Book Week mask parade, student awards, Yr 6 Mini Fete, social justice initiatives - Junior Joeys activities, St. Vincent de Paul, CARITAS, Josephite Community Aid.

In Christ we learn... focus on Literacy & Numeracy teaching, CWA project, chicken hatching in Kinder, parent learning walks, Holy Family Playgroup, K-6 use of technology, excursions and special events, sport teams, school sport carnivals.

All of these events, programs and activities would not have been possible without the parish school community working as one for our children. As my time here as principal of Holy Family comes to an end, I would like to personally thank:

- ♦ The wonderful staff for their continued care of, and dedication to, the students.
- ♦ The Leadership Team—Mr Munday, Mr Bawden, Mrs Bratby, Mrs Coleman & Mrs El Hawzi for sharing their leadership skills to support all students and staff
- ♦ Fr Clifford, and Fr Stack (RIP), for their care, guidance and advice.
- ♦ Our parent community for entrusting me to work beside you in guiding your children
- ♦ My CEO colleagues and fellow principals for their support and assistance to Holy Family, and to me in my leadership
- ♦ My husband Terry, and daughters Jessica and Hannah, who support and encourage me in my mission in Catholic education
- ♦ and most of all to the beautiful children of Holy Family who each day remind me of God's plan for our world.

Holy Family is indeed a special place that will remain in my heart as I begin life's next phase. I wish each family a blessed and safe Christmas, and may 2015 filled with every happiness,

Yours in family,

Mrs Sue Guilfoyle
Principal



2015 Return to School Dates

Tuesday 27th
January
Staff return

Wednesday 28th
January
All students K-6
return

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.

Student Awards

We congratulate this week's Student of the Week Award recipients:

*Dylan Vu
Daniel Ghattas
Rosie Faddoul
Mikhail Amelson
David Faalogo
Alain Limos
Isabella Shamoun*

*Lael Mbula Ekamba
Elizabeth El Boutty
George Maatouk
Harrison Edwards
Christina Awad
Jorja Le Claire
Awok Aguer*



Religious Education Matters

Josephite Community Aid Hampers

A big thank you to everyone who was able to contribute to filling the class baskets with goodies to make Christmas a bit brighter for some unfortunate families. Last week, Holy Family staff gave up some of their afternoons and Saturday morning to help pack and deliver hampers for these families. It was a very humbling experience to be able to reach out to these families on your behalf.



Lights of Christmas 2014 St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney will be putting on their annual, Lights of Christmas 2014 presented by Payce. The lights will be switched on December 9, by Sydney's Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and beautiful images will be projected onto the English-style Gothic Cathedral with themes such as - the joy of giving, the twelve days of Christmas and the Madonna and Child.



Lights of Christmas welcomes everyone to reflect and celebrate Christmas. Lights of Christmas runs from December 9 – 25, 2014, starting each evening at 7:30pm with a choir performance, the light show comes on just after dusk and stays on until midnight.

Holy Family School Christmas Evening

We invite all families to join us next Monday night, 15th December, at 6pm in the school playground for an evening celebrating Christmas with our favourite religious singer/songwriter, Andrew Chinn. All children will be involved in this special evening. Bring along your fold up chairs and your singing voices.

I would like to wish all the families and friends of Holy Family a Holy, Safe and Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing and celebrating with you in the New Year.

Thank you,
Stephen Bawden
Religious Education Co-ordinator



Please join us in the school hall on Friday 12th December for our End of Year Awards.

9:15am Kinder, Year 1 & Year 2

10:00am Years 3,4,5,6

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.

Learning Matters from the Assistant Principal

As the school year draws to a close I'd like to add my thanks to all those who have made 2014 a great year of living, loving and learning together at Holy Family.

I'm keen to begin 2015 with lots of energy and stories to tell about Christmas, New Year, and the holidays. That means I need to be doing some interesting things! Hopefully you and your children will have lots of stories to tell too.

Here is the list I shared at the end of last term, full of the fun, easy, low-cost ideas for family activities this school holidays.

- Collect a bunch of boxes of different sizes and create a life-sized robot or dinosaur.
- Borrow some informative DVDs from Granville Library. Watch them together then make a quiz for each other with prizes for the winner.
- Borrow some fun DVDs from Granville Library. Make some tickets, pop some popcorn and squeeze some fresh juice, draw the blinds, turn out the lights and have a movie afternoon in your living room.
- Hop in the car and go to Lizard Log – one of Sydney's best parks (right where the Horsley Drive meets Cowpasture Road, you can't miss it).
- Take the train into the city and visit the Art Gallery of New South Wales.
- Make a comic strip of the most incredibly interesting, best, greatest, most exciting, jaw-dropping, fantastic story ever.
- Drop into Central Gardens at Merrylands and see what a great job they've done updating all the animal enclosures.
- Take the children's bikes and scooters to Holroyd Gardens in Merrylands and ride on the miniature roads.

Don't forget to do a couple of things to model the spirit of Christmas to your children too, like giving blood, taking a car-less friend shopping, visiting an elderly neighbour or picking up some litter in the park. Your children will grow into the people you teach them to be!

Thanks again for this year. May you be deeply aware of God's presence in your life and family during this Christmas break, and may the break be an enjoyable one for you all.

Peace and God Bless,
Mr Benjamin Munday

2014 Parent Survey

Thank you to the forty families who took up the opportunity to give feedback regarding the year we have shared and to assist with planning future directions. It is always encouraging when families express their opinions, hopes and ideas. All the families who responded were very positive about the directions of our school, all strongly agreeing, or agreeing, with the school's directions.

Some quotes to share include:

- 2014 was a fabulous year!
- Teachers and staff are approachable, professional and knowledgeable.
- Our children are happy learners.
- Thank you for all the kind support, love and care, you give our children.
- HFS reading program is wonderful.

Some suggestions for the future:

- Continuing focus on numeracy skills, especially comprehension of word problems.
- Developing public speaking skills
- Strengthening and development of the Parent Representative Group (PRG)
- Extended use of the Skoolbag App

As promised, the names of all families who responded to the survey were placed in a draw to win the cost of one child's 2015 resource fee—a saving of \$130. The lucky family is..

the Tembo-Sievers Family



Staff Changes in 2015

With the end of each school year there always comes the news of staff who are leaving Holy Family. This year we will farewell:



Mr James West who has accepted a new position at Holy Family Primary, Emerton. This is a great new opportunity for James, with the bonus of it being much closer to home for him. Like our school, there are students with high needs who face great challenges so we know that they will be very blessed to share in James' gentleness, care and deep lived faith. No doubt Mr West will be missed every Monday morning when it is time for the national anthem!

Mrs Clare Laws has concluded her temporary contract here at Holy Family but Holy Family may see her again in the future as she will be returning to casual teaching. We have been very lucky to have Mrs Laws working with the school choir throughout her time at Holy Family.



Mrs Mohan-Ram has also concluded her temporary contract with us. Every student of Holy Family has been able to share in her special talents this year through the Drama program. Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 have also been blessed to share in her classroom teaching.

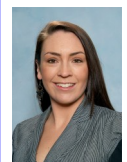


Mrs Vanessa Elias is preparing for the birth of her second child and will be taking maternity leave during 2015. We wish her every blessing during this very special time.

We take this opportunity to thank each of these teachers for all that they have given to the school community of Holy Family, Granville East. We pray that our loving God will protect and guide them on the next stages of their professional and personal lives.

When we say goodbye, there is equal opportunity to say "Welcome" to new members of our community in 2015. It will be a great to get to know:

Mrs Yvette Baird our new principal. Mrs Baird brings to Holy Family a great passion for the development of all students in their spiritual, academic and social needs—and she enjoys a good laugh! Exciting opportunities will continue for the students and staff of Holy Family.



Mrs Bernadine Van Eyk will be returning to Holy Family after three years of leave to care for her two beautiful children. She will be working two days a week leading our drama program.

We will also welcome three new teachers: **Miss Nicole Merchant**, **Miss Jennie Ingegneri** and **Miss Natalie Kehris**. Each of these teachers will enrich Holy Family with the skills they have gained from their past teaching experiences.



School Captains

As our year comes to a close we thank our outgoing School Captains - Isaac Ishac, Linisei Mohenoa, Isabella Shamoun and Paris Youssef, for all that they have done this year in serving the Holy Family community. We wish them continued success in their school lives.

It is a great pleasure to announce that our 2015 School Captains will be:



Elias Daher



Brandon Faddoul



Jorja Le Claire



Jacinta Nakhoul

Congratulations to Miss Chammas who gets married during the school holidays. She will still be on her honeymoon during the first week of Term 1, 2015 but will then return to us as Mrs Michael. We wish her every joy and happiness during this exciting time.



Holy Family Staff 2015

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal:
Assistant Principal:
Religious Education Coordinator:
Coordinator (ES1 & S1)
Coordinator (S2 & S3)

Mrs Yvette Baird
Mr Benjamin Munday
Mr Stephen Bawden
Mrs Natalie Bratby
Mrs Lynn Coleman

CLASSES

Kindergarten Beetles:
Kindergarten Meerkats:
Year 1 Monkeys:
Year 1 Starfish:
Year 2 Echidnas:
Year 2 Iguanas:
Year 3 D:
Year 3 F:
Year 4 C:
Year 4 T:
Year 5 B:
Year 5 K:
Year 6 C:

Miss Theresa Bainy
Miss Nicole Merchant
Mrs Diane Michael (Miss Chammas)
Miss Rebecca Sargent
Mrs Amanda El Hawzi
Miss Jennie Ingegneri
Miss Simone D'Argent
Mrs Julie Floyd (Miss Gray)
Miss Angela Camilleri
Mrs Jessica Tredinnick
Mrs Natalie Bratby & Mrs Jessica Chiha (Tues & Fri)
Miss Natalie Kehris
Mrs Lynn Coleman

LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM:

Mr Benjamin Munday
Mrs Dorothee Wallis-Baker
Miss Jennifer Warwick
Miss Delcie D'Mello
Miss Marese Peachey

Reading Recovery:
EMU:

Mr Steve Bawden & Miss Jennifer Warwick
Miss Theresa Bainy & Mrs Diane Michael

School Counsellor:
Community Liaison Officer:

Mrs Jacqui Shoobridge
Mrs Fadia Rizk

Teacher Assistants:

Mrs Cindy Celik Mrs Sue Issa Mrs Julie Sampson

Library Resource Teacher:
Library Assistant:

Mrs Fiona Ardus
Mrs Lynette Gordon

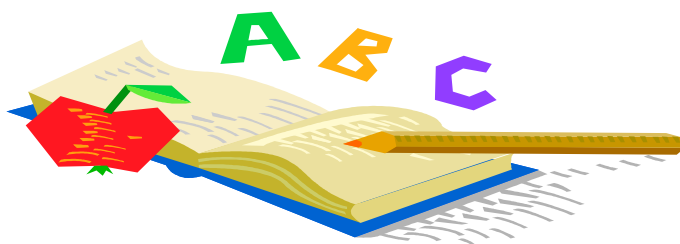
Learning Technologies:
L.T.S.T Trainee:
RFF Drama Teacher:
RFF PE Teacher:
Stage 3 Concert Band Teachers:

Mrs Amanda El Hawzi
Mr Christian Khattar
Mrs Bernadine Van Eyk
Miss Marese Peachey
Ms Francoise M d'Unienville & Ms Samantha Hopwood

ADMINISTRATION

Office Administrator & Finance:
School Administration & Fees:
School Administration:
Office Clerical Support:
Maintenance:
Cleaning:

Mrs Laraine Maskell (Mon-Wed)
Ms Heidi Ali
Mrs Debbie Smith (Thurs & Fri)
Mrs Sue Issa
Mr Ken Beardsley
Mrs Carmen Borg & Mr John Nohra



Calendar



December

Friday 12th December	9:15am Kindy—Year 2 End of Year Awards Presentation 10:00am Years 3-6 End of Year Awards Presentation
	7:00pm Year 6 Farewell Mass
Saturday 13th December	Year 6 Farewell Dinner (parent activity)
Monday 15th December	Andrew Chinn Workshop Day
	6:00pm School Community Celebration
Tuesday 16th December	Year 6 Activity Day to Manly
Wednesday 17th December	Last Day of School Year



Birthday Wishes!

*Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week and next:
Joshuwa Roughley, Prince Nyakoi, Avaani Prakash, Daniel Ghattas,
Christy Ters, Justina Boudelh, Ayush Gyawali, Peter Elters, Brandon Jbarah, Ajang
Kur, Suzanna Hannouch, Michael Kailahi and Rania Marcos.*

School Fees 2015: Included with this newsletter is the Catholic Education Office's 2015 schedule of fees. We also take this opportunity to advise that the School Resource Fee will rise from \$125 to \$130—the first rise in five years. As always, any parents who require support with the payment of fees, should make contact with the principal as soon as possible so that options can be discussed.



Community News

Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts

St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre in Parramatta publishes religious books, CDs and DVDs for adults, teenagers and children in the following areas: Bibles and biblical studies, liturgy and liturgical resources, parish bulletins, theology, spirituality, Australian Church, ecumenism, prayer, devotions, Vatican documents, educational resources for schools and parishes. Visit St Pauls for all your Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts.

Where: St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre, 238 Church St, Parramatta.

Mass: Mass from 1pm-1.30pm, Monday to Friday, in the Mary MacKillop Chapel above the Centre.

Contact: Ph: 02 9126 8912, bookcentreparr@stpauls.com.au Order online: www.stpauls.com.au

Noël! Noël! Christmas concert

The Brandenburg Choir and Australian Brandenburg Orchestra will perform this annual concert in St Patrick's Cathedral. *Noël! Noël!* features Gregorian chant, medieval carols, French and German hymns, English Christmas songs and many favourites such as *Christmas Night*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Once in Royal David's City*, and *Stille Nacht*. With its timeless and ageless appeal *Noël! Noël!* is the perfect gift to share with family and friends.

Date: Thursday 18 December, starts 7.30pm. **Venue:** St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.

Tickets: Adults \$72, Concession \$52, Under 30 \$45, Student \$42, Child \$25. Transaction fees apply.

Bookings: www.brandenburg.com.au

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