



Holy Family Primary

Emerton

Emert Parade, Emerton
 PO BOX 261
 MT DRUITT 2770
 Phone: 9628 9232
 Fax: 9628 9589

Term 1 Week 8

19th March 2015

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

With less than two weeks before the state election, I urge you to contact your local MPs and candidates to talk to them about the importance of capital works funding for Catholic schools in western Sydney. Without capital works funding for Catholic schools, it will be difficult to meet growing enrolment demands for Catholic schooling. This will place an even greater burden on the tax payer if places for these children need to be found in government schools.

Recently, our Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby met with Minister Adrian Piccoli to urge him to consider the needs of the 25% of children and young people who attend Catholic schools in western Sydney. Although the meeting was positive, no commitment to capital works funding was made. I urge you to email your local STATE Candidates to tell them that capital works funding is an important issue for you in the upcoming election.

Mt Druitt

Christian Democrats - Josh Green
 Greens—Brent Robertson
 Labor—Edmond Atalla
 Liberal—Olivia Lloyd

Londonderry

Greens—Shane Gorman
 Labor—Prue Car
 Liberal—Bernard Bratusa

Non-government schools educate more than one-third of all NSW students, yet receive just 12% of the capital funding provided to schools by the NSW Government. Furthermore, non-government schools will receive almost 20% LESS funding in 2014/15 than they did six years ago – despite educating 33,600 more students in that time. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

Sr Brenda Kennedy
Principal

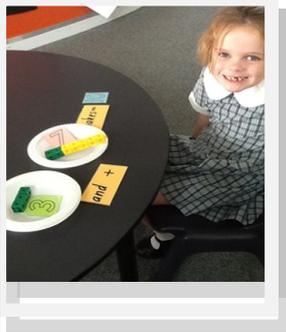
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The Learning Corner

Numeracy

In Kindergarten, we have been learning to number bust the number 10. The focus has been developing the mathematical language 'and' and 'makes' – 6 and 4 makes 10 etc. Students are recognising that two numbers added together 'makes' a larger quantity.



Mrs. Leonie Preston
Kindergarten

Building Vocabulary In Year One



Through the use of an 'Author's Chair' Year One students have the opportunity to read their writing, share interesting words and experience the delight of an appreciative audience.

On Monday, Matilda used powerful words when writing about her adventure to Healthy Harold.

Jasmine used one of our 'wow' words this week to describe her weekend.

In Year One we actively engage with a wide range of books. We also have lots of fun playing with words using challenging and engaging vocabulary games.

Congratulations to all Year One students who attempt to use sophisticated language in everyday experiences. Keep up the hard work!

Mrs. Alexandra Ali
Literacy Co-ordinator



Sports Update

Cross Country Reminder



Our school cross country will be held on **Monday 23rd March**. Thank you to all those parents that have notified the school that they are able to assist on the day. We do need more helpers so if you have completed your **Working With Children Check** we would love your help. If you haven't completed it yet, you still have time – it doesn't take long. The ladies in the office will let you know what you need to do. Please also ensure your children are being safe with their sponsorship raising and do not go door to door without supervision.

Diocesan Representative Trials

Well done to the following students that have trialled to represent the Parramatta Diocese in various sports: *Oscar Sultana* – Cricket, *Brock Hackett* – Soccer, *Ares Siega* – Basketball, *Jack Leota* and *Paulo Tauiilili-Pelesasa* Rugby League. Congratulations to *Jack Leota* and *Paulo Tauiilili-Pelesasa* for their selection in the Parramatta Rugby League team and to *Ares Siega* for making the MacKillop Basketball Team to play in Wollongong at the State PSSA Championships in May. We wish those boys all the best for their next games.



Dates for the Diary:

Stage 3 Girls Soccer: 23rd April

Greg Alexander Shield (Stage 3 only): 30th April

Diocesan Cross Country: 5th May

Panther Trophy: 19th May

Stage 3 Boys Soccer: 21st May

Mrs. Leonie Preston

Sports Co-ordinator

School Photo Day

School photo day is tomorrow. Please send in your envelope with the correct money. We ask you not to come to the office expecting us to give change in the morning. We really would appreciate if you organise this tonight and have it ready in the morning. There are so many other important things the ladies need to do. It certainly would help if the children come ready with the correct money in their envelopes.



School Disco

What a wonderful night we had last Thursday! Thank you to our teachers and volunteers for their assistance during our twilight disco. An incredible \$ 1,120.00 was collected during the evening which will go directly to resources for the school.





St Patrick's Day

Thank you for your contribution of \$204.50 on St Patrick's Day. The money will be donated to Rod Matthews at our assembly tomorrow. Rod is a past student of Holy Family who has been chosen to represent Australia on the under 17 Indigenous Football team to play in England later in the year. We are very proud of Rod's achievements and happy to be able to support him with a cheque for \$ 500.00. Assembly will start at 2.15 and will be led by Year 5. Please come along and join us.



Quality Catholic Schools Survey

Sixty families received a survey. These families have been given to us randomly by the Catholic Education Office. If you received a survey please fill it out and return to the office by **tomorrow the 20th March**. All school staff and students from Years five and six have also filled out the survey. The results of this survey will of great assistance to us as a school community to plan for our future.

Anti-Racism Policy

I heard a wonderful phrase the other day.....**There is only one race...the human race.** Wouldn't this world be a great place if we all thought like that? Just a reminder to everybody that racism in any form will not be tolerated at any time at Holy Family. If your child reports that somebody says or does something to them because of race, colour or creed , please report this to his/ her teacher and if it continues please see Sr Brenda.

 * **Toys** *
 * A reminder that children are not allowed to *
 * bring electronic or expensive toys to school, *
 * either for news or play. There are too many *
 * disagreements over these toys and teachers *
 * waste valuable time in solving these prob- *
 * lems. Your child may bring a small toy to *
 * school but please remind them that they are *
 * responsible for looking after it. *

Breakfast Club and Share- a-book

As the reading that parents and grandparents did last Thursday morning with their children was so popular, we are going to make it a regular event! From now on, every Thursday morning before school and as part of Breakfast Club, parents and grandparents are encouraged to come to the library to get something to read for their children! Boxes of books, with assorted titles will be left on the multi-coloured table outside the library. Simply come and pick a title or two or three to read out in the playground, to your child. Children love being read to. By reading to your child, you are encouraging your child to love books and to become a better reader!



Easter Raffle

Our Easter fundraiser for 2015 will be our raffle which will be held on **Wednesday April 1**. Please continue to send in your donations of Easter eggs and baskets. Raffle tickets have been sent home. this week, so we ask you to sell as many raffle tickets as possible to help with our fundraising goal for this year. Extra tickets are available from the office. If you did not receive tickets it could be because you have not sent back your consent form for us to send them home. Unfortunately we do need that now as this is new government regulations. Please contact the office if you have any questions. You may of course buy tickets directly from the office. You have to be in it to win it.



Easter Hat Parade

This year the parade will take place on **Wednesday April 1 at 2pm** on the basketball court. The children are asked to come with an Easter hat. This is not a competition just a bit of fun but we see some very creative hats each year. They do not have to be elaborate, the simpler the better. Take the time to decide and design with your children and make it a fun family time. Obviously this is not compulsory, only if the children want to. All parents are welcome to join us for this fun time. Of course parents are also welcome to wear an Easter



Staff Development Day

Our first Staff Development Day for 2014 will be held on **Friday March 27**
THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN ON THIS DAY



Dates for your Diary

- March**
 - 20 School Photo Day—Tomorrow
 - 20 School Assembly at 2.15
 - 23 Cross Country
 - 27 Staff Development Day
- April**
 - 01 Easter Hat Parade & Easter Raffle - 2pm
 - 01 Holy Week Liturgy
 - 02 Term 1 Ends
 - 20 First Day of Term 2**



Congratulations

Congratulations to the Deng Family (Adut year 6, Veronica Year 5, Nyibol Year 3, Apiu and Akout Year1) on the birth of their new baby brother. May he be blessed by God as he starts his journey in life.



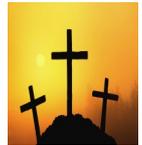
Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy and prayers to Theresa Aldwell (Jeremy year 6) on the recent death of her Father. May he rest in peace.



Holy Week Liturgy

This year we will celebrate HOLY WEEK on Wednesday April 1 with a re enactment of the STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 10.00 am in the school Hall. The children will help us to reflect on the journey of Jesus to his death on the Cross. You are invited to join us for this very solemn Liturgy.



Holy Family Value of Trust

Our Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, teaches us **Trust in God and the importance of trusting each other.**

Mary, Joseph and Jesus faced many challenges in their life as family; right from the beginning. For example, in Mt 2:13 -15 Jesus' life is in danger from Herod. Upon hearing the news from an angel, Joseph has to gather his wife and son and flee to Egypt. They were already away from their home in Nazareth; now they have to leave their native soil to go as strangers in a foreign land. Yet they go; and they go with trust in God's word and with trust in each other. The loving relationship among the three members of the Holy Family together show us the importance of trust in building and developing positive relationships.

Please take a few minutes to discuss trust with your child/ren. Remind them that trust involves being reliable and trustworthy, using good judgment and acting with fairness. Keep communication open between you and your child/ren and allow them to ask questions and get honest answers. Be honest with your child/ren whenever possible in order to build trust in your child/ren. As you and your child/ren continue to be honest with each other, trust will continue to grow. No family can thrive and grow without trust and constant work.

We must also have faith and trust in God. Placing our trust in God means believing that God will provide whatever is needed in all aspects of our lives and the strength to face difficult times and situations in our lives.

So over this fortnight let us pray together asking for the strength to trust in God, and to build trusting relationships with our families and friends, and with others in our community.

Our Holy Family prayer for the Value of Trust

We pray that we may learn to follow the example of the Holy Family and work together to build positive relationships within our Holy Family community based on trust; by treating people the way we would like to be treated, by being honest and truthful, acting with fairness, caring for others, owning our mistakes, playing by the rules and making good choices in all aspects of our lives.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Mrs Michelle Smith

Religious Education Coordinator

