Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back for another school year at Holy Family. I welcome in particular all new families to our school. I hope that your time with us will be enjoyable and rewarding.

Our formal Welcoming Ceremony will take place **Friday February 21 at 9:15am** in the Church. We hope you can join us for this very special ceremony.

I welcome our new staff members - Mr Andrew Lehmann, Mrs Michelle Beck, and Miss Anne Andruskin.

Let us hope that 2014 will bring many blessings to all staff, parents and students.

Education is very important as we all know. I know that you want your children to do well at school, so that they can make good choices in life. However, if they are missing days at school and/or arriving late and leaving early, their chances of success are hindered. I plead with you at the beginning of this year to make sure your child attends every day and is here on time. Obviously, there may be times when attendance is not possible so I ask you to make sure you send a note to his/her teacher about this.

If you need to take your child out of school, even for one day, you must apply for an exemption. This change came into operation in 2012. Any prolonged unexplained absences will be followed up and unfortunately have to be reported if considered too many. Food for thought!

Have a great year and wishing your families God’s blessing in abundance.

Sr Brenda Kennedy  
Principal
Fees
School fees invoices will be sent home soon. If you had a meeting with Sr Brenda at the end of 2013 and are paying through Centrepay or direct debit, you do not have to worry about this as yours is an ongoing arrangement. If you would like to pay through this system, please contact Mrs Carroll (Financial Secretary) to arrange this. On the other hand if you think, because of your circumstances, that you will not be able to pay full fees, please make an appointment to see Sr Brenda. Reductions are available for genuine hardship. All difficulties can be resolved. All resource fee payments must be paid as soon as possible unless you are paying through Centrepay or Direct Debit. If you have any questions at all re fees please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Carroll or Sr Brenda.

Welcoming Ceremony
We invite you to come and celebrate the start of the 2014 school year at our Welcoming Ceremony on Friday 21st February. We come together to welcome our new teachers, students and Kindergarten children to our Holy Family Community. Everyone is also welcome to join us for our first School Mass for 2014 on Friday 28th February. During our Opening Mass we celebrate the new school year and we present the leaders with their badges.

Both ceremonies will take place in the Church at 9:15am. All welcome to morning tea in the multi-purpose hall.

Staff Development Day
• Our staff development day for Term 1 will take place on Monday March 31.
• The staff will be focussing on Literacy.
• There will be no school for children on that day.

Staff List 2014
Principal Sr Brenda Kennedy
Assistant Principal Mrs Mary Kelly
(Literacy Coordinator)
KA Miss Anne Andruskin
KM Miss Ashleigh May
1F Mrs Margaret Ferguson - Coordinator
1C Miss Alex Clark
2W Mrs Pat Wicks
2B Mrs Alex Boss
3M Miss Cecilienne Matienzo
3P Mrs Leonie Preston
4L Mr Andrew Lehmann
4S Miss Katelyn Sweeney
5W Mrs Angela Alonzo
5AG Mr Mark Aggar - Sports Coordinator
6S Mrs Michelle Smith - R.E. Coordinator
6W Mrs Sharon Williams - Coordinator
Teacher/Librarian: Mrs Janet Marie
Library Assistant: Mrs Rose Ragen
Office Administration: Mrs Denise Carroll
Mrs Marie Goracz
School Counsellor: Mrs Ann Michell
Executive Release: Mrs Lisa Powderly
IT/Learning Support: Mrs Leonie Preston
LEARNING SUPPORT:
Miss Belinda Canderle Mrs Wilma Clenton
Mrs Marilyn Bestetti Miss Faith Jessel
Mrs Julie McLean Mr Andy Singh
Mrs Maureen Cahill Mrs Michelle Bragg
Mrs Jenny Archer Mrs Chris Cadman
Mrs Maite Fallon Mrs Sue Garland
Mrs Linda Keating Mrs Maree Whiting
Maintenance: Mr Michael Morgan
Mr Ray Donaldson

Assemblies for Term 1
Assemblies for Term 1 will be held in the following days:
Friday March 7th Year 5
Friday April 4th Year 2
Assemblies are held in the hall at 2:15pm and all are welcome!
Supervision of Children
The school gate opens at 8:25am and the children are supervised from that time. It is important that children are not sent to school before this time. On arrival at school the children put their bags outside their classrooms and go to the basketball court or back playground where they are supervised. The children must not stay with parents but go to join their friends on the court. It is very important that this happens so that we know where the children are in the mornings.

School finishes at 2:55pm and the children are taken to the entrance. Parents, please park on the surrounding streets and walk to the school entrance to meet your child/ren.

For the older children particularly, it is quite alright for them to walk out to meet you at a spot on the street, if you wish. Children are supervised until 3:10pm. If you are going to be very late because something unforeseen has happened, please phone the school and let us know. Your children will always be cared for.

Sports Days for 2014

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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Student Awards
Congratulations to the following students who were awarded the following awards in 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Merit</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Holy Family</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Rachelle Wilson-Stubbbs</td>
<td>Cecilia Lautuanuu</td>
<td>Blake Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>William Ursu</td>
<td>Kody Pitt</td>
<td>Jeremy Cheowiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Nadia Cunningham</td>
<td>Malcolm Maclean</td>
<td>Kairaen Atera-Chapman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Trishna Naidu</td>
<td>Luke Hindwood</td>
<td>Samipeni Otukolo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Samuel Brooker</td>
<td>Helen Tuimavave</td>
<td>Shanaya Donovan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Zachary Pilcher</td>
<td>Jacob Luatuanuu</td>
<td>Joanna Seia</td>
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Fundraising
Last year we had a very successful year in the area of fundraising with about $10000 raised. This was achieved with the help of many generous parents and grandparents. We are asking for your support again in 2014. We have many different activities during the year and even if you can help with one event we would be very grateful. All money raised is of great assistance to us in providing important resources for your children.

Please come along to our first chat on THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 at 9.00am in the hall. This is also a good way to get to know other parents. Please do not leave it to somebody else. Your children love to see you around the school and research tells us that the more you are involved in the school, the more successful their education will be.

Parent/Teacher Information Evening
Will be held on Tuesday February 11

6:30pm Kindergarten, Year 2, Year 3
7:30pm Year 1, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6

The meeting with Year 6 teachers will start at 7.30pm. However, the Principals of our local High Schools St Agnes and St Clare’s will be here at 7pm to talk about enrolling for High School in 2015.

Please do not bring the children to these meetings.

Garden Volunteers
We are in need of volunteers to help us keep our gardens free from weeds. Please contact Sr Brenda, if you would like to help, even if only for an hour each week.
**United in Faith, Love and Learning**

## Dates for your Diary

### February
- **10** Kindergarten children start full days
- **11** Information Night - Kindergarten, Years 2, Year 3 - 6.30pm
- **11** Information Night - Years 1, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 - 7.30pm
- **12** School Swimming Carnival
- **13** Fundraising Meeting at 9.00am in the School Hall
- **21** Welcoming Ceremony at 9:15am in the Church
- **28** Opening School Mass at 9:15am in the Church

### March
- **9** 1st Sunday of Lent

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### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a Marriage Enrichment experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset... your Marriage!

**Weekend Date:** 21 – 23 March

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

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### Family Rollercoasters Program

The CATHOLICCARE Social Services will be conducting a new **Rollercoasters** program for children aged between 6–11 yrs of age whose families are experiencing change through separation and divorce. The next program begins on **Monday 24 February 2014** at The All Saints of Africa Centre - 63 Allawah St Blacktown.

We meet after school from 4pm till 5.15pm for six Mondays, ending on March 31st.

Using information, activities and games we explore areas such as:

* **CHANGES** that have resulted from the parent’s separation
* **FEELINGS** and the grief children experience around the parent’s separation
* **ANGER** and ways children can express it constructively
* **PROBLEMS** and situations children can and cannot change.

The program allows children to explore, understand and talk about his or her experience, feelings and concerns in a safe environment with other children with similar experiences. There is a nominal charge of $10 per child per session. Reduced fees can be negotiated.

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### Congratulations

Congratulations to the following children and their families on the birth of their little ones:
- Cooper Lee (1C)
- Rhys (Y3) and Shauna McCaskill (5A)
- Brodie D’ugu-Gillette (1C)

May God bless them as they start their journey in life.

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### Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy and prayers to Linda Keating and her family on the recent death of their her father. May he rest in peace.