Dear Parents/Guardians

It is with a great deal of sadness that I let you know that my time as Principal of Holy Family will come to an end at the end of term two this year. This has not been an easy decision for me to take in light of the fact that Holy Family has played a big part in my life since we started in 2004. I know you will understand that nobody goes on forever so after 45 years in teaching I think it is time to hand over to somebody else.

The past eleven years have been a wonderful experience for me. I still remember the moment I stood in front of an empty paddock and wondered where I would start! What a great journey it has been! I have worked with wonderful staff, supportive families and beautiful children. It is a part of my life I will never forget.

The position of principal will be advertised in the next few weeks so I pray that the person given the responsibility of taking Holy Family to the next stage will have as much fulfilment in their job as I have experienced. I will continue to do some part time work with the Catholic Education Office in 2016 after a break with my family later this year.

I ask you to keep me in your prayers as I get used to a new stage of my life.

Sr Brenda Kennedy
Principal

Emert Parade, Emerton
PO BOX 261
MT DRUITT 2770
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The Learning Corner

Expanding Your Child’s Vocabulary

Talking to your child helps expand vocabulary, develop background knowledge, and inspire a curiosity about the world – all of which help with learning to read!

Here are some easy activities you can do at home to get your child ready to read.

1. Read stories such as The Three Bears or Three Billy Goats Gruff. Act out the stories using small, medium and large stuffed animals. Find other items in your home that are large, medium and small. Ask your child to classify the items according to size.

2. Play "I Spy" with your child using words that describe an object's position. ("I spy something on the carpet, in front of the couch, next to the dog.") Expand this activity by playing "Simon Says" using directional words. ("Simon says put your hand above your head.")

3. Keep a journal. Spend some time every night discussing your activities from the day. Introduce new vocabulary words by elaborating on the day's activities. Write down your child's impressions of the day.

These and more exciting ways to develop your child's vocabulary can be found at http://www.readingrockets.org/article/oral-language-expanding-your-childs-vocabulary

Stay tuned to find out some interesting activities each class engage in to expand vocabulary.

Kind regards,
Mrs. Alexandra Ali
Literacy Co-ordinator

Class Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as class leaders for 2015:

- **Year 1**: Brandon Cheowirry, Sepuita Graf
- **Year 2**: Tyrone Campbell, Rayne Siega
- **Year 3**: Jyela Tinao, William Ursu
- **Year 4**: Emma Manas, Marius Magisa
- **Year 5**: Sui Vave, Aiden Priestly

Safety On The Road and in the Car Park

The number of people in our community who really do not care about the safety of our children is quite disturbing. I am talking about those who double park in the school zone, those who park illegally in order to be close to the school and those who speed around the areas in which our children are walking. What people do on the road is not part of my job to monitor but I do care about your children even if some people do not!

I ask each of you to really do the right thing on the road. We had the police here on Monday morning giving out parking fines if you are caught doing the wrong thing the police will fine you. Isn't it more important that our children are safe even if it means you have to walk a little distance to get to school? Please do the right thing for the sake of all children!

Sr Brenda

St Patricks Day

On St Patrick's Day **Tuesday March 17**, we have a tradition at Holy Family to have a mufti day in return for a gold coin towards school funds. The children are encouraged to wear something green if they have it, but they are not expected to go out and buy something. They must come dressed in sensible clothing and closed footwear, no beach wear.

Assembly

Our first assembly for the year will be held tomorrow **Friday March 6th at 2.15pm**. Year 2 will lead this assembly. All are welcome to join us in the multi-purpose hall for this event.

Easter Raffle

Our Easter fundraiser for 2015 will be our raffle which will be held on **Wednesday April 1**. We ask for donations of eggs and/or baskets to help the committee make up some Easter egg baskets. Raffle tickets will be sent home very soon so we ask you to sell as many raffle tickets as possible to help with our fundraising goal for this year.

Raffle Consent Forms

If you have not returned your raffle consent form, we will not be able to send tickets home. Please return your form as soon as possible and support our fundraising efforts. If you have lost your form please ask at the office.
**Staff Development Day**
Our first Staff Development Day for 2015 will be held on

**Friday March 27**

**THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN ON THIS DAY**

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**School Cross Country**
For various reasons we have had to change the date for our cross country. It will now be held on **MONDAY MARCH 23**. All the children should have received their sponsorship forms so we encourage you to get as many sponsors as possible to help with school fundraising. We would still like all money to be in by the end of term or the beginning of term 2 at the latest. Please mark this date in your calendar as we will need lots of helpers.

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**Sports Update**
Congratulations to our swimming representatives at the Blacktown Zone Carnival. The team was very well managed by Mrs Keating and Mr Van Gend. Congratulations to Lauren Reason for taking out the runner up 11 year girls age champion.

- **Avalon Boylan**
- **Emily Gibbons**
- **Alannah Martin**
- **Kyle Bright**
- **Max Reason**
- **Naomi Dickson**
- **Paris Kojogian**
- **Lauren Reason**
- **Aiden Montgomery**

At the Diocesan Carnival we were represented by Lauren Reason, Paris Kojogian and Aiden Montgomery, such a huge achievement to make it to this carnival. Well Done!

Age Champions for our swimming carnival were as follows:

- **Junior Boy**: Max Reason
- **Junior Girl**: Naomi Dickson
- **Senior Girl**: Lauren Reason
- **Senior Boy**: Aiden Montgomery

Congratulations to all!

Regards,

**Mrs. Leonie Preston**
Sports Co-ordinator

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**Catholic Schools Week**
Next week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The children will engage in a range of different activities to highlight this important time. On **THURSDAY MARCH 12** you are invited to come and have breakfast with your children before school while you read a book with them.

Breakfast will be followed by a special prayer in the school hall to celebrate this week after which you are invited to spend time in your children’s classrooms.

On **Sunday March 8th** a special Mass will be celebrated in the church with students from our local primary and high schools attending. Mass will start at **10.30 am**. We encourage our families to attend.

**Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey**
All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be once again participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey. The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement.

As a parent if you are randomly-selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

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**School Disco**
**Thursday 12th March**
**5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**

Holy family Primary School will hold our school disco next Thursday evening. Please note that the event is strictly for our students. We ask parents to drop the children off at 5pm and pick them up at 6:30pm. You are welcome to come back from 6:15pm to join in the last few dances. The cost is **$5.00** which includes a drink, payable on the night.

There will also be disco items available for purchase on the night, items range from 50 cents to 3 dollars. Hope to see you all there.

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Holy Family Primary School, Emerton
United in Faith, Love and Learning

Dates for your Diary

March
4  Life Education Visit—6A, 4M, 2W
6  Assembly at 2.15 - Year 2
6  Year 6 visit to St Clare’s High School
9  Life Education Visit—6W, 4W, KP
10 Life Education Visit—3V, 3J, KSM
11 Life Education Visit— 5S, 5B, 2V
12 School Disco
16 Life Education Visit— 1A, 1S, Parent Session
17 St. Patrick’s Day

School Photo Day
Our school photo day will be held on March 20.
You will receive an information package soon.
Photos must be paid for before the event.
Envelopes with payment can be given to your child’s teacher during the week of the photos, that is from Monday March 16.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Kingston Tagivetaua and his family on the birth of new baby brother born on Valentine’s Day.
Congratulations also to the Mawson family (Jordan 2V and Aliyah KP) on the birth of a new baby sister.

Alter Servers at Holy Family Parish
Alter server training will be held on March 14th from 10.30—11.30 in the church. This is for all new and existing alter servers. All new alter servers must have had their First Holy Communion to be eligible.
Please contact the Parish Centre on 9628 7272.

Holy Family Value of Responsibility
During this fortnight we are focusing on our Holy Family value of Responsibility.

RESPONSIBILITY is “knowing and doing what is expected of you”. Our Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, modelled for us responsibilities within a family and the wider community.

Mary and Joseph were responsible for Jesus when he was a child - Mary and Joseph, tried to raise Jesus the best way they could and with great love. Joseph was responsible for teaching Jesus his carpentry skills and the Jewish traditions. Mary was responsible to Jesus as a mother, cooking, clothing and loving him. Joseph was responsible for bringing the message of God’s great love to the people. They showed a sense of responsibility to God even when it was difficult.
The Holy Family reminds us that responsibility isn't just doing chores; it's following through on commitments, answering for our actions, being reliable and trustworthy, using good judgment and taking care of our things. Be sure to praise your child/ren for responsible behaviour and motivate them to do more in the future. Let us pray and work together to promote and teach our Holy Family value of responsibility to our children.

Our Holy Family prayer for the Value of Responsibility
We pray that we may learn to follow the example of the Holy Family and become responsible members of our Holy Family community; by working to the best of our abilities, being fair, taking responsibility for our actions, helping others when they need help, and by taking care of others and our environment, to help make our world a better place. Lord, hear us.

Kind regards,
Mrs. Michelle Smith
Religious Education Co-ordinator

Email: emerton@parra.catholic.edu.au     Website: www.holyfamilyemerton.parra.catholic.edu.au