Greetings!

We are in the midst of some very important feasts and sacramental preparation. Last Friday we celebrated the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius was of course the founder of the Jesuits. Friday was also the feast day of our local priests, so Happy feast day Fr. Greg, Fr. Pat, Fr. Brendan and Fr. Stan. I hope you had a lovely day. Thank you for all that you do for our parish and in particular Holy Family School.

This week we celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord and the Feast of Mary MacKillop. Happy feast day to Sr. Naomi and anyone who attended a Josephite school. I am sure that there are many of you.

Congratulations to the children and families who are participating in the preparation program for First Communion. I hope that this is a special time for you and your family.

Congratulations also to the children who participated in the Soccer Gala Day last week, the Zoo excursion and our circus performers in the Year 4 assembly. Thank you to the staff and parent helpers for your assistance.

Hopefully you received the note on Friday about the new procedures for the Afternoon Dismissal. We have made these changes to ensure that the afternoon dismissal is ordered and safe for all children.

In short:
- All children will be dismissed from the hall.
- Parents will be asked to come into the hall via the doors from the carpark, collect your children and walk via the main gate.
- Children who walk home alone will be taken to Weber Cres and Luxford Rd by staff. Staff will assist them to cross these roads.
- Parents are free to park in the church car park off Luxford Rd. We ask you to come up to the hall to collect your children. Please let me know if this is a problem for you.
- Parents are asked not to enter the school car park - through the locked gate. I am aware that some people have the code. I am asking that you do not come into this car park, as it is too dangerous to have children moving through the car park while cars are trying to get in and out of this space.

Thank you for your help with this. Please remember that the safety of the children is our primary concern in introducing these new procedures.

I have had a number of discussions with council about the parking signs around the school in Emert Parade and Weber Crescent. The existing parking signs are used around all schools to allow parents to drop off and collect their children. Please ensure that you check the restrictions around these signs as the penalties are quite severe.

I have applied for a Crossing Supervisor to assist on Weber Crescent. After being informed of the traffic and pedestrian requirements for this position, I am confident that our school will not qualify for a Crossing Supervisor.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you and best wishes,

John Spradbrow
The Learning Corner

The Magic of Books
In Term 3 Holy Family has launched their home reading program with a magic show...
“I thought that Lindsay was great. My favourite trick was when he changed Mary Poppins’ umbrella to handkerchieves, I wonder how he did that? Another trick that wowed me, was when he turned those playing cards into a hat, it was so cool! However, my absolute favourite was his version of Alice in Wonderland, because I starred in it with Brooke and Shantay. Lindsay inspired me to read more and to make books come alive.”

By Luke Dimech

The time you spend creating an enjoyable experience in which children can practise skills and strategies they have learnt at school is important and appreciated.
One of the most important things you can do to support language development is to read books together with children. Texts can be read by your child and you can discuss the content of the text by asking these questions • What happened in the story? • Where could we go to find some more information about that? • What did you learn? • Why do you think that character did that? • Why do you think the author chose that title? • How did the illustrations help the story?
Enjoy the magic of books!

Library News

Borrowing
Parents - don’t forget you are welcome to borrow from the school library to support your child’s reading development. Please come in and select from our wide range of resources.
Regards,

Mrs Janet A. Marie
Librarian Teacher

Fundraising News

Our major fundraiser for Term 3 is Billy G’S Gourmet Cookie Dough and Heather Brae Shortbread. Order forms have been sent home with your children. All orders and monies are to be paid by August 14th. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Enrolments - 2016
This is a reminder to all families that your child is not enrolled until the enrolment form is handed in and a letter of offer returned. This particularly applies to students for Kindergarten 2016 & Year 7 in High School. Please do not leave it too late and miss out.

Sports Update

Stage 2 Royce Simmons Shield
Our boys competed in the Royce Simmons on Tuesday 4th August. Congratulations to our boys for a great competition and their commitment to working hard.

Zone Athletics Carnival
Notes have been sent out to all those students who have been selected to represent the school at the Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival. Please return your permission note as soon as possible. If you are unable to make it, please advise Mrs Preston as we can offer the position to another person. We are also asking for 2 parent helpers for the day, as you know athletics requires a lot of organisation and people to ensure the day runs smoothly and sticks to time, so if you are able to assist on the day, please notify the office, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Dates for the Diary:
Zone Athletics Carnival: 11th August
Netball Gala Day: 25th August

Kind regards,

Mrs Leonie Preston
Sports Co-ordinator
School Census - 7th August 2015
With the school census this week, we ask for your assistance with ensuring that all outstanding partial and full day absences are explained to the office in writing. If you are planning to take your child out of school for more than one day before 7th August, please come to the office and complete an exemption form.

Second Hand Uniform Sales
A very big thank you to the parent helpers Clare Gibbons, Heather Ann Broomham and Jenny Bird, These ladies have spent many hours laundering and organising second hand uniforms. The sale of these uniforms has been hugely successful.

In Term 3 second hand uniforms will continue to be sold in Week 5, 7 & 9 on Thursday morning from 8:30—8:55am.
Girls winter/summer dresses—$10.00
All other articles of clothing—$5.00
Shoes—$2.00

Congratulations
To the following students who have had 100% attendance during Term 2:
Anna Antakley Kairaen Atera-Chapman
Sophia Clarke Ethan Cox
Nadia Cunningham Annalyse Draper
Tomika Harley Chloe Hart
Emelia Lepoualii Samuel Lepoualii
Matilda Nicholls Aiden Priestley
Shay Punter Makayla Stuart
Nateih’a Teika Bailey Wright

Class Mass Timetable
This Term the following children prepare and participate in a grade mass in the Church at 9:15am
Year 5 Mass—21st August 2015
Year 3 Mass—28th August 2015
Year 6 Mass—3rd September 2015

Pyjama Day
Friday 7th August is Pyjama day at Holy Family. This is an annual event to raise funds for the homeless in our community.

Thursday night many of the staff will be sleeping in the hall for his cause and will be getting sponsors to support them for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Sleepout Appeal.

We ask the children to bring in a gold coin donation. They may wear their pyjamas or track suits but the must wear joggers on their feet for safety reasons

Parent Contact Details
Please ensure that the school has your updated emergency contacts and phone numbers. There have been a number of times where we have not been unable to contact parents during an emergency. We ask this for the safety and well-being of your children.
United in Faith, Love and Learning

During this fortnight we are focusing on our 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. They trusted in God’s word and had 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.

On the 8th August we celebrate the Feast day of our very own Saint, Mary of the Cross Mackillop. Saint Mary Mackillop placed her trust in God, believing that God would provide whatever was needed in all aspects of her life, be it a fare for a boat, food or homes for the Sisters, strength to face opposition, or a way through a difficult situation. In her words: 

*Make no reserves with God, place your trust in God’s care. You never know what grace can do.*

**We must also have faith and trust in God. Let us place our trust in God - believing that God will provide whatever is needed in all aspects of our lives, including the strength to face difficult times and situations in our lives.**

Let us think about how we can follow the example of our Holy Family and Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop to help the poor and homeless in our community. This Friday 7th August the children are invited to wear their pyjamas for a gold coin donation to remember and raise money for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Sleep Out Appeal. This money will be going towards helping the homeless in our community who put their trust in us for our help.

Please take some time 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.

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*