Dear Parents and Guardians,

This has been a week of celebrating our students talents! Earlier in the week our school finalists represented Holy Family in the Voice of Youth cluster final. This is a speaking contest held annually across the Diocese for Year Six students. Our finalists were Katalina Vave, Jacob Luatuanuu, Maddison Lambert and Liliana Degei. We are very proud of their efforts and congratulate Katalina for being awarded the Social Justice Award for her speech on Nelson Mandela.

Tonight we celebrate our students' skills in Creative Arts at the 2014 Creative Arts Expo. It is the culmination of many weeks of auditions, rehearsals and workshops. There are 76 students participating in either our school item or the combined schools choir. Their hard work pays off tonight in what promises to be a wonderful experience on stage in front of family and friends.

For our students to achieve their best in all endeavours- academic, sporting, cultural- they need to put their best effort in. Coming to school every day is a significant component of success. The Sydney Morning Herald recently printed an article on the importance of daily school attendance. Research shows a direct correlation between school attendance and student performance in such things as NAPLAN but also in their ability to read, write and engage in mathematical tasks. Students who are frequently late to school are similarly affected.

Let's give our students the best possible future. Please make every effort to ensure that your child/children are here ready to start the day at 8:55am every day of the week. Of course, if they are sick then the best place for them is to be at home, but if they are well, school is where they should be.

Blessings on you and your families

Mrs Mary Kelly
Acting Principal
The Learning Corner

Year Two Numeracy
Year Two are investigating how 2D shapes can tessellate. We are making interesting designs which have no overlapping and no spaces.

Year Three Numeracy
Learning Intention: WALT: Use the language of chance to describe everyday events
Success Criteria: Record data in many ways e.g. number lines, tables. Explain our thinking to a learning buddy. Use the language of chance in our reflections.

Sports Update

Athletics News
Congratulations to the students who competed at the Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival last Tuesday. It was a very successful day with 14 students making it through to the Blacktown Diocesan Carnival. A very special acknowledgement to Alannah Martin. Alannah competed in five events and won the Junior Girls Age Champion. Congratulations!

Football News
Last Thursday 11 students represented Holy Family at the Royce Simmons Shield in Colyton. The boys and girls played tremendously and made it all the way to the finals. A big thanks to Mr Lehmann for assisting on the day.

Miss Alex Clark
Acting Sports Coordinator

Fundraising News
Fathers’ Day Stall
Our next fundraiser will be the Fathers’ Day Stall on Wednesday 3rd September.

Library News
Book Week 2014
Connect To Reading

Week 7, 25 August – 29 August
Parents, we have an action packed week for the children. On Monday 25 August our visiting Author, Frances Watts coming to talk to the children about her books. Frances is the author of such favourites as Kisses For Daddy and Parsley Rabbit’s Book About Books, as well as Sword Girl, and The Gerander Trilogy for primary aged children and The Raven’s Wing for older children. All children will get the chance to see and hear Frances, and to ask her questions. Frances’ books will be available for sale in the week prior to, and on the day of her visit.

Premier’s Reading Challenge 2014
The last day of the Challenge is Thursday 28 August, right during our Book Week! Primary aged children who wish to enter the Challenge must hand in their forms to their teachers by the above date. Please encourage your primary aged children to keep reading for the Challenge!

Mrs Janet A. Marie - Librarian Teacher
Value of Trust

During this fortnight we are focusing on our Holy Family value of Trust. Trust is telling the truth, even when it is difficult, and being honest, open, authentic, and trustworthy in your dealings with others. Building trust helps us to develop mutual respect, openness, understanding, and empathy, as well as helping to develop good communication and teamwork skills.

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 relationships that existed in the home of Nazareth; the relationship between Mary and Joseph, the relationship between Mary and Jesus and between Joseph and Jesus; and the 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. Ask them what was discussed in the classroom and see if they can give an example of what contributes to building trusting relationships.

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. When your child/ren are acting in a responsible manner, reward them with extra privileges that are extended to them because that trust has been forged. When your child/ren do something to erode that trust, it should be made clear to them that trust has been damaged and that the same privileges extended during times of trust will not be extended. This is an important aspect of your relationship that will serve as a model for later relationships. It shows them acts that they can emulate as well as allows them to engage in a trusting relationship that future relationships can be built on. 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 – written by the Year 5 and 6 Religious Education Committee

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
United in Faith, Love and Learning

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Dates for your Diary

August
22    Diocesan Athletics Carnival
22    Year 3 Mass in Church - 9.15am
25-29  Book Week
26    Netball Gala Day
28    Book Week Parade
29    Kindergarten Excursion - Taronga Zoo
29    Year 4 Mass in Church - 9.15am

Creative Arts Expo
Tonight 76 students will be performing in the Creative Arts Expo at Penrith Panthers. We are grateful for the amazing efforts both teachers and students on the development of routines, costumes and props. Everyone involved has been working extraordinarily hard in order to prepare for opportunity to perform. We wish you the best of luck!

Student Focus
Over the past few weeks, we have had a recent focus with students on how our behaviour and choices effect others. Our main focus has been:
✓ Respect the teachers
✓ Be a learner
✓ Be friendly
✓ Be safe

If you have any concerns, please contact your class teacher to discuss further.

Summer Uniform
Parents are reminded that after the Term 3 holiday break, the children should return to school in summer uniform.

Voice of Youth
Congratulations to the children who spoke at the finals of the Voice of Youth on Wednesday 20 August at St Clare Catholic College:

Maddison Lambert
Katalina Vave
Jacob Luatuanu
Liliana Degei (reserve)

Well done to Katalina Vave who was awarded The Social Justice medal for outstanding public speaking.

Lost Property
Please check your child’s uniform and ensure that all pieces are labelled and that your child has their own hat and jacket and not someone else’s. The lost property hamper is overflowing with unlabelled items and we don't know who to return them to!

Webber Crescent Gate
Parents, please be advised that in the interests of child safely, the gate on Webber Crescent will now be closed permanently. There is no direct access to the playground. Please use the main entrance.

Auction: Aboriginal artwork by Colin Wightman
Auctions: Will be listed on our Facebook Page

Pink Ribbon High Tea
10am September 26th 2014
Kelli’s Catering & Kerrie Dowding presents
A unique blend of savoury and sweet treats
$45.00 per ticket
All money raised donated to the NBCF

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A unique blend of savoury and sweet treats
$45.00 per ticket
All money raised donated to the NBCF
Please make payment to: PJ & KE Dowding
Bank: 012-125
ACC: 9054-3675-9
Please add your name when posting and email receipts to kerrie.dowding@gmail.com

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