Greetings!

Happy Father’s Day to all of the Holy Family dads. I hope you enjoyed the day and sense of joy that comes from being with children and family.

Thank you to the mums who organised the Father’s Day Stall, your help is appreciated.

Thank you to Mr. Baird for organising the Father’s Day Liturgy.

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the liturgy. My apologies to everyone for the need to move the liturgy from the hall. I am sorry that the PA system didn’t work as we would have hoped.

We are still looking for help with the Breakfast Club. Are you able to spare some time before school to assist with this valuable program? Your help would be appreciated. Thank you to the parents who are currently running the program.

Congratulations to our Year 6 Voice of Youth participants and our three finalists: Veronica Deng, Reanna Dakic and Aiden Tran. An incredible result taking us to the Western Divisional Semi Finals at Our Lady of Lourdes in Seven Hills.

Congratulations also to Alannah Martin and Phoenix Tauasa who have gone through to the next level of representation at the MacKillop Athletics Trials. Well done.

Mrs. Marie has been very busy organising our Book Week activities. I hope you had the opportunity to join us throughout the week and experience the joy that can come from the world of books. Thank you to our parents and staff for all that you do assist the children with the joy of reading.

John Spradbrow
Principal
The Learning Corner
Voice of Youth

On Thursday the 25th August three Year Six students, Veronica Deng, Reanna Dakic and Aidan Tran, represented Holy Family in the Voice Of Youth Cluster Final. Three students were chosen from each of the four schools competing in this final, each presenting their self-written speech on a topic of their choice. There were three possible awards on offer: First Place, Runner Up and a Social Justice award. On the day twelve students presented their speeches and the standard of all speeches being incredibly high. Aidan was awarded the Social Justice award, Reanna was given the Runner Up award and Veronica claimed First Place! An incredible result for these three students which reflects the amount of hard work and effort they each put into this competition! Congratulations to Veronica, Reanna and Aidan!

We wish Veronica Deng the best luck as she represents Holy Family at Western Divisional Semi-Final at Our Lady Of Lordes, Seven Hills on 13th September.

Sports Update

Netball Gala Day
We were very lucky to have fantastic weather for our 2016 Netball Gala Day. We took five teams on the day and all teams performed to the best of their ability. Many girls were playing netball for the first time and were able to develop their skills of catching, passing, changing direction and team cooperation. It was wonderful to see all students having fun as well as displaying their competitive spirit. We would like to thank our parent coaches: Mrs Leonie Bright, Mrs Amber Hart, Mrs Clare Gibbons and Mrs Heather Broomham. We would not have been able to do this without your help. We also thank our student umpires that supported us on the day as part of their community service commitments. A big thank you to Mrs Vogt who helped to train and coach our teams for the day.

Diocesan Athletics Carnival
The Diocesan Athletics Carnival was held on Friday 26th August at Blacktown International Sportspark. We had seven students represent us on this day (Meroma Peti, Abbi Collins, Phoenix Tausa, Aidan Tran, Alannah Martin, Siui Vave, and Somtochi Igbojaku). Congratulations to Phoenix and Alannah who will progress through to the MacKillop Athletics Trials on Monday 19th September at Sydney Olympic Park. Congratulations also to Alannah Martin who was Runner-Up Senior Girls Champion on the day. We wish both Alannah and Phoenix the best of luck at the next carnival. This is a tremendous effort.

Dates for the Diary
MacKillop Athletics Carnival: 19th September
Basketball Gala Day: 17th October
Parramatta Gymnastics Competition: 4th November

Regards,

Mrs Leonie Preston
Sports Coordinator
**First Communion—Congratulations**

To the following children who received the sacrament of First Communion during the month of September, may God’s blessings be upon you:

- Pulu Nimmo
- Samuel Lepoualii
- William Bell
- Kane Grayson
- Lachlan Grayson
- Annabella Hanna
- Samuel Suarez
- Marius Magisa
- Noah McNally
- Allison Zuniga Terrey

**Holy Family Preschool**

Holy Family Preschool, Emerton is now accepting enrolments for 2017. There are special rates for indigenous families. The Preschool has received an exceeding rating in its assessment against the national standards. For full details on the report and to discuss enrolment, please contact Natalie Bugelli on 9628 7844.

**Fundraising News**

**Cookie Dough Orders**

Thank you for the overwhelming response to the Cookie Dough and Heather Brae Fundraiser. There is still time to get your order in. We will submit all orders on Monday 12th September and we expect orders to be delivered the week of the 10th October.

**Fathers’ Day Stall**

Our Fathers’ Day stall was a great success and we hope all the dads and grandfathers enjoyed their special day. Thank you for all your support, we raised $789.00.

**Pyjama Day**

We raised $248! All monies will be donated to the Vinnies Winter Sleepout Appeal. Thank you for your generosity.

**School Holidays**

Term 3 finishes on Friday September 23
Term 4 begins on Monday October 10

**Achievement Award Recipients**

Congratulations to the following students who received an Achievement Award in Week 6.

- Koby Doolin
- Corey Weston
- Joshua Labbad
- Ethan Petaric
- Aiden Assenheim
- Trae Campbell
- Sanele Polu
- Zaraiah Elekana
- Keegan Duncan
- Aaliyah Gardiner
- Ian Smith
- Annalyse Draper

**Lost Property Volunteer Needed**

Lost property continues to be a problem at the school, therefore we are looking for a parent volunteer who would be able to spend some time sorting through and returning lost jumpers, hats and other items to the correct students. Please contact the school office if you are available to help out.

**Spring Holiday Program**

Winter is over and Spring has sprung! Come and explore the outdoors with us at two of Sydney’s great Botanical Gardens!

**Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney**

Wednesday 28th September

The Royal Botanic Gardens is a oasis in the heart of Sydney. Established in 1816, it is the oldest scientific institution in the country and home to an outstanding collection of plants from Australia and overseas. People still the Garden for peace, relaxation, education and to learn more about plants and their cultures. So, gather the family, pack your picnic baskets, and join us!

Check out the Royal Botanic Garden website for more information: [https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/](https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/)

**Mt Tomah Botanic Garden, Blue Mountains**

Thursday 5th October

The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah is the spectacular cool climate garden of the Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust. Located in the Blue Mountains, just 90 minutes from Sydney, the garden features thousands of plants from the southern hemisphere and around the world. At 1,000 metres above sea level, the garden at Mount Tomah overlooks the Grose Valley, Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and boasts stunning panoramic views. A walk around this 28-hectare estate is a botanical journey with many formal gardens and The Jungle to explore. Facilities include visitor centre, garden shop, exhibitions, restaurant, kiosk, conference/venue hire, weddings, accommodation, picnic areas, guided tours, community workshops and education.

Check out the website for more information: [https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/](https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/)

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PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary time considers the story of the Lost Sheep. Jesus told this parable when the Pharisees criticised Him for socializing with sinners.

“Then Jesus told them this parable: ‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, “Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.” I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent’” (Luke 15:3-7).

The parable begins with a straying sheep. A sheep apart from its shepherd is defenceless and in grave danger. Jesus views any person apart from Him as lost. How is he lost? His sins alienate him from the holy God.

The shepherd in the story, however, didn’t despise his straying sheep. With a heart of compassion, Jesus also values each sinner the Father entrusts Him:

“And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given me, but raise them up at the last day” (John 6:39). Jesus is intent upon rescuing the sinner not only because the Father gave them to Him but also because He loves them. His love led Him to sacrifice His life on the cross to take their punishment for sin.

The parable of the lost sheep offers an extraordinary glimpse of heavenly emotions. The shepherd calls his friends and neighbours together, saying, “Rejoice with me.” The rescue of the lost sheep was a cause for proclamation and celebration. Similarly, Heaven rejoices when a sinner repents and is restored to fellowship with God. This joy is cheerfulness; it is calm, considered delight. It is a deliberate emotion -- thoughtful and sustained. This is not a picture of raucous dancing and carousing but of lasting pleasure and heartfelt satisfaction. Why? A sinner has come home!

Since the beginning, God has been the Good Shepherd who rescues His lost sheep. When Adam and Eve were hiding in shame because of their sin, He sought them out. Yes, He disciplined them. But He promised a Rescuer. Until Christ’s death for their sins, He forgave them by their faith and covered them with animal skins. God still reaches out for the lost to cover and recover them through the blood of Jesus Christ.

We have many around us every day who are lost. Do we look for them and help them heal? Who do you know who needs your prayers and direction?

Regards,

Mr Mark Baird
Acting Religious Education Coordinator