Dear Parents/ Guardians

Traditionally the month of October is dedicated to the Rosary, a special prayer to the mother of God. During this month we say a decade of the Rosary each day as a school community. October is one of two months dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother also. Praying the Rosary is one way of honouring this special woman in our lives. I encourage you to take some time at home to do the same. There is an old saying that the family who prays together stays together. I have very happy and vivid memories praying the Rosary as a child with my parents.

We will celebrate WORLD TEACHERS day on Friday October 25. The teachers here at Holy Family, who look after your children, are some of the most committed and caring people I have ever worked with so I encourage you to take the time to say thank you to them on this special day. You do not have to do anything except simply say those words in person or write a note of thanks to them. As human beings we all benefit from words of gratitude in our daily lives. The job of a teacher is very rewarding but can be difficult at times. Just think about how you feel when somebody takes the time to say thank you to you when you have done something for them.
To the staff here at Holy Family, whom I have the privilege of working with I say a very sincere thank you for their dedication and commitment to the children in their care.

Blessings on you and your families.

Sr Brenda Kennedy
Principal
**New Year 1 Classroom**
We are delighted with our new classroom which the children are now enjoying. It is a wonderful learning space for them and will be for many children in the years to come.
If you would like to see it you are welcome to have a look as school begins or straight after school on any day next week.

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**Staff Development Day**
Our last staff development day for 2013 will be held on **Friday November 15**. The staff will focus on spirituality and will be joining St Michael's Baulkham Hills for a day given by Fr Richard Leonard SJ. **There will be no school for the children on this day.**

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**Fundraising News**
Sincere thanks to Lisa McNally for her effort with the Family Photo day last Sunday. We made a profit of $320.

Our next major fundraiser will be our Creative Arts night on **November 6**.

On **November 24** we have been given a spot for a Bunnings BBQ which is always a very successful one. We need your assistance in giving some of your time on this day to help cook and serve. We particularly need somebody to coordinate it. Please let Sr Brenda know if you are willing to do this. There is not a lot involved just your generosity in giving your time. Please think about it. As mentioned many times we need all the help we can get with fundraising to continue providing the best resources for your children at Holy Family.

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**Summer Uniform Reminder**
At Holy Family, we are very proud of our uniform and each student is expected to wear it at all times with pride. As a reminder about what is appropriate please read the following and please make sure that your child/ren comes to school each day with the proper uniform. If your child is ever picked to represent the school at sport or for any other purpose, they will not go if not dressed in the appropriate uniform.

- **Hair**
  - Natural colour
  - No fancy hair cuts
  - Accessories must be in school colour – white, blue, navy
  - If long, hair must be tied back at all times

- **Jewellery**
  - Jewellery is not allowed except for the following:
    - Sleepers or studs in ears
    - Signet ring
    - Watch
  - Children must not wear anything around their necks

- **Shoes**
  - Black shoes must be worn with uniform
  - Sneakers (black or white) **must only** be worn on sports days

- **Hat**
  - School hats must be worn at all times (no other hats appropriate)

Please label all parts of uniform likely to be removed, in particular hats and track suit tops.
If, for some reason, your child is not dressed in school uniform please send a written note to his/her teacher explaining the reason.
Your cooperation with all of the above would be very much appreciated.

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**Silly Socks Day**
On Friday **October 25** we will be having a silly socks day to raise money for the missions in Mongolia. The children have been generously donating money during their unit on Missions and this will be the culmination of their efforts. We ask them to bring a gold coin for the privilege of wearing their silly socks. The theme of Mission week this year is **SOCK it to the HOMELESS.**

**Congratulations**
Congratulations to the Cheowiry Family (Jeremy Year 1C) and the Cordell Family (Bianca 3M) on their recent births. May their new family members be blessed as they start their journey in life.

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**Head Lice Alert**
Please be aware that this is the season for head lice. It is important that children are checked regularly and treated as quickly as possible.
Creative Arts Night
Holy Family will be holding a Creative Arts Night—Week 5 Term 4 (**6th November**). This event will be held in the evening, starting at 5pm and concluding by 8.00pm. Parents, grandparents and friends of family are all welcome to join us on this evening to experience the different types of creative arts carried out by our talented students.

The night will begin with a sausage sizzle, cakes and drinks before performances by our school band, choir and dance group. Everyone will be invited into the classrooms to view visual art pieces inspired by many famous artists and created by our students. As this is a fundraising event, the artworks completed by the students will be available to purchase with gold coin donations.

As this is the first time we have held this event at Holy Family, we are looking for some parents who would be able to donate a cake to the cake stall.

Any donations or offers of assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Denise or Marie in the office to leave your name.

Attendance Awards
Congratulations to the following students who will receive awards for 100% attendance at school in Term 3:

**Kindergarten**
- Joseph Antakley
- Corey Weston
- Tahlia Broomham
- Yar Athieu
- Rayne Seiga

**Year 1**
- Max Reason
- Hannah Nicholls
- Deng Maluk
- Megan Fuimaono
- Allison Zuniga Terrey
- Kizito Mutebi

**Year 2**
- Graeme Otukolo
- Breanna Ross
- Allen Drake
- Cameron Smith
- Kevin Altamirano
- Bailey Lumsden
- Nadia Cunningham
- Nyanjok Athieu
- Kairaen Atera-Chapman
- Vonzelle Acuesta-lowe

**Year 3**
- Annalyse Draper
- Lauren Reason
- Taylah Newton
- Reanna Dakic
- Biar Nyok
- Kyle Bright
- Ethan Cox
- Samipeni Otukolo

**Year 4**
- Mac Athieu
- Bianca Smith
- Samuel Fuimaono
- Samuel Brooker
- Matthew Altamirano
- Oscar Sultana
- Akekaro Atera-Chapman

**Year 5**
- Grant Pilcher
- Elie Atihe
- Blake Lumsden
- Luke Miller
- Michael Atihe
- Faith Nimmo
- Tauvao Falaniko
- Selenna Fuimaono
- Keanu Amiatu
- Malia Otukolo

**Year 6**
- Jonathan Nansen
- Lachlan Boylan
- Brianna Smith
- Kitiibwa Mutebi
- Adut Maluk
- Riley Tydeman
- Chloe Gibbons

Dates for your Diary

**October**

- 22nd Diocesan Basket Ball Gala Day
- 24th Kindergarten Transition
- 25th Silly Sock Day
- 31st Kindergarten Transition

**November**

- 01st All Saints Day
- Diocesan Gymnastics Gala Day
- 02nd All Souls Day
- 06th Creative Arts Night
- 15th Staff Development Day
Library News

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR is coming to our school and all classes will get an opportunity to look at the books for sale. Children will come home with a wish list, but please remember that you are under no obligation to buy these, or any books.

The Fair will be open to parents on:

Tuesday 5th November, 8.00am - 4.30pm
Wednesday 6th November, 8.00am - 4.30pm
Thursday 7th November, 8.00am -12.00noon.

ONLY CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR PARENTS CAN ATTEND THE BOOK FAIR BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL.

Children (without parents in attendance), who wish to purchase books can do so at designated times throughout school hours.

Parents are welcome to come to the library at any of the above mentioned times to purchase books for their children. Volunteers will act as Book Fair assistants and will be on hand to help parents with their purchasing. Purchases can be made with either cash or EFTPOS.

All Book Fair purchases benefit our school. A percentage of total sales is reimbursed back to our library as new resources. This is a great opportunity to buy quality children's books at reduced prices. Books make great Christmas gifts!

Any books which are not available at the Fair can be ordered for you and will be delivered to the school well before Christmas.

Further information will be available re the Book Fair in the coming weeks. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me on the school phone number ( Wednesday—Friday)

Janet A. Marie (Teacher Librarian)

Stage 2 and 3 Touch Football

Congratulations to both the Stage 2 and 3 Touch football teams who competed in the Kingsway Touch Football gala days last term. The boys and girls showed great sportsmanship and excellent behavior. All of the children represented Holy Family with pride and are to be commended for their efforts on the day. Congratulations to the Stage 2 girls who were undefeated and came first in their division. A big thank you to all our supporters on the day.

Miss Sweeney & Miss Clark

Quality Catholic Schooling Survey

Earlier this year a group of parents were selected randomly by the Catholic Education Office to participate in a survey to give feedback about our school. This survey took place in every school in the Parramatta Diocese.

The results from our survey were extremely positive and we were delighted with the parents’ positive attitude to Holy Family.

Parents were particularly positive about the stimulating learning that takes place at Holy Family. They believe that their children enjoy and are motivated by the teaching and learning that their children participate in each and every day.

The Parents also indicated that the Catholic faith was important to them and they were pleased with the compassion taught and the opportunities the students are given to act in a compassionate manner.

The students’ results of the survey also showed that they saw their Faith as important and they felt a strong connection to the school. The students also saw themselves as motivated learners.

This survey will be conducted again next year and again a random selection of parents will be asked to take part in the survey. If you were one of the parents who conducted the survey this year, thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. These surveys give us insight into what is working well and areas we can improve.