Dear Parents/ Guardians

The last couple of weeks have been devastating for many people with the loss of their homes due to the terrible fires. We have also witnessed the best of people with the great generosity in giving to help those in need. We have been overwhelmed here at Holy family by the concern and generosity shown to Mrs Le Breton who lost her home on that terrible Thursday. Other members of her family also suffered loss. She is extremely grateful for the support and hopes to return to school next week. The selflessness of the firefighters is also amazing and let us not forget also the kindness of employers who allow staff to be volunteers, often at great cost to their own business. So many people have shown great generosity.

One of the nicest gestures I have heard for a long time is the suggestion from our year 6 students that they do without spending money for their fun day, at the end of the year, by staying at school and having something less expensive in order to donate to the homeless in Mongolia. This suggestion was their initiative completely and I really salute them for it. We often do not expect children to be as generous as that. They are also organising a couple of events to raise funds for Mrs Le Breton. To all the students in Year 6, I am very proud of you and thank you for your thoughtfulness. We applaud you! Your parents should be very proud. I certainly am!

Blessings on you and your families.

Sr Brenda Kennedy
Principal
**Returning to Holy Family in 2014**

Thank you to those families who have informed us that they will not be returning to Holy family in 2014. We have a number of enquiries for places next year but Sr Brenda cannot make final decisions for some of these families without this information. If you know for sure that you are moving on please let the office know ASAP. We also need the name of the school your child will be attending. This is a legal requirement for the school register.

**NOVEMBER the Month of The Holy Souls**

In our Catholic tradition we remember our departed brothers and sisters in a special way during the month of November. Each family should have received a letter with a cross attached earlier this week. If you would like your family and friends remembered in prayer during the month of November please return these crosses, to school with their names on it, as soon as you can. We will display them in the community notice board outside Kindergarten. You are welcome to join us for a special prayer for those who have died at 9.00am tomorrow in the hall.

Mrs Michelle Smith
Religious Education Coordinator

**End of Year Disco**

The Disco will be held on **Thursday November 14 from 5pm - 6:30pm.**

This disco 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. Parents do not stay for the disco as the staff will supervise the children. Thank you for your cooperation with this. Cost is $5 which includes a drink.

**Bunnings BBQ Fundraising**

We are desperately in need of people to help set up the BBQ at Bunnings on **November 24.** Please let the office or Sr Brenda know if you can help. This is a great fundraiser and it would be a pity if we had to let it go. Very soon we will send home a letter asking for helpers during the day. We ask you to think seriously about spending even an hour to help out.

**Back to School 2014**

Parents, if you intend travelling overseas or interstate during the Christmas holidays and your child/children will be returning to school late in 2014 due to extended holidays or any other reasons, could you please notify the office, in writing, that this will be happening and noting the date your child will be returning for the 2014 school year. This information impacts on the February Census and our funding. Please also remember to pick up, complete and return the Application for Exemption form which is mandatory for leave during any school term.

**End of Year Christmas Concert**

To celebrate Christmas this year we are doing something different from previous years. On **December 11** there will be a concert that night involving all the children. The children will spend the day working with renowned songwriter, Peter Kearney who will be present for the concert that night. There will be more details later.

On **Friday December 13** we will have our usual prize giving, announcement of school captains, Christmas raffle and some carol singing. Please mark these two dates in your diary.

**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.**
Creative Arts Night
Asks mentioned a few times already we are holding a CREATIVE ARTS NIGHT on WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6 starting with a sausage sizzle at 5 pm. Thank you to those people who have let us know whether or not they will be attending as we need numbers for catering. If you are coming could you please send back your form by tomorrow. If your child is part of the performances we ask that you make every effort to have them here by 5.45pm at the latest. This is a great opportunity to experience some of the talent of your children in various forms of the Arts and also a great chance to socialise with other families.
Any donations or offers of assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Denise or Marie in the office to leave your name.

Assembly Term 4
Our last assembly for the year will take place on FRIDAY DECEMBER 6 This is a special one when we will be treated by year 6 to a trip down memory lane! They will recall their memories of the past 7 years here at Holy Family. Please put this date in your diary.

Basketball News
On Tuesday 22nd October, 36 students from Year 5 & 6 competed in the Basketball Gala day at Penrith Sports Stadium. Over the day the four teams played at total of 24 games. Each team member displayed great sportsmanship and it was great to see our students encouraging each other to do their best. I would like to thank Maroine Seiga for taking the time to coach our teams, as well as our other volunteers for assisting on the day.
Angela Alonzo

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)
STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED
On the last Tuesday of each month CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry invites those who have been separated or divorced to an evening for sharing and support. The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Shared personal experiences are prompted by the questions: “How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?”

Mercy Scholarships
Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta is now accepting applications for Mercy Scholarships for Academic Excellence and Music Excellence. Girls entering Years 7, 9 or 11 in 2015 are invited to apply. Visit the College website www.olmc.nsw.edu.au for more information.

Take Home a Big Brother or Sister
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from Germany, Italy, Finland, Colombia and Mexico will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

Lunch Packaging
Parents, please note that the children are not to bring any glassware or tins into the school grounds. These include glass bottles, glass jars, tins of tuna etc...

Car Park
This is a reminder to all parents that no cars should come into the school car park before or after school. We have this rule for the safety of your children. There is plenty of street parking plus the car park at the church. Why is it that people always have to get as close as possible to their destination when parking? Use this opportunity to get some exercise by walking the last part of your journey. Remember we are concerned about safety and also there is very limited space. Double parking is not allowed at any time. Please be aware also of road rules when parking on the street. Do not park across peoples' driveways and check for limited parking close to the school. The police are regularly checking for these offences.

Dates for your Diary

November
01st  All Saints Day
      Diocesan Gymnastics Gala Day
02nd  All Souls Day
06th  Creative Arts Night
07th  Sports Hero Mufti Day
08th  Year 6/Teachers
      Sports Challenge
14th  School Disco
15th  Staff Development Day
24th  Bunnings BBQ

December
06th  Final Assembly
12th  Kindergarten 2014 Morning Tea

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