



Holy Family Primary

Emerton

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Term 1 Week 2

8th February 2016

Greetings Parents!

Welcome to the start of the school year. A special welcome to our new students and their families. I hope that you have felt a sense of welcome and belonging. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you and your child settle into Holy Family. Welcome to our new staff this year:

- ◆ Miss Leano and Miss Said who will be teaching Kindergarten.
- ◆ Mrs. Long who will be teaching Reading Recovery and Numeracy.
- ◆ Mr. Lehmann and Miss. Mitchell who are teaching Year 4.
- ◆ Mrs. Bolt who will be assisting in Years 5 & 6.
- ◆ Miss. Theoharus who will be teaching Sport and Creative Arts.
- ◆ Sr. Katherine who will be assisting families across the school.

Thank you for accepting the offer to work at Holy Family and I hope you enjoy your time with us.

This Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the church season for reflection on our life and the constant struggle to be a better person. During Lent we are encouraged to pray, assist others and to do things that help us to be mindful of our needs and the needs of those around us. The end goal is to deepen our relationship with God. The children have been learning about Lent during their RE lessons. It would be great if they shared with you some of the things they have been learning. Please ask them.

During this part of the term all classes have been taking time to practice the art of learning. This might seem a little odd, however, we are being quite deliberate in ensuring that the procedures we use every day in Reading, Writing, Maths and Religious Education are understood by all students. In a way we are learning to be learners. Again, please encourage our children to tell you about what they are learning. For example—how they know a book is “just right” for them, how their writing stamina is going or what they can do if they “get stuck” in Maths.

You may have noticed that we had some artificial turf laid and extra concrete put down during the holidays. This has certainly improved the look of the playground and will help make some extra useable space in wet weather. We have had a path put in from the playground to the footpath on Weber Cres. This will be open before school to allow parents to drop children off in the “Kiss and Drop” zone.

The majority of the cost for this work was covered by the Catholic Education Office.

A reminder - supervision does not begin until 8.25am and children should not be left at school before this time.

Best wishes for the weeks ahead,

John Spradbrow
Principal



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The Learning Corner

Ignite Activity – Mathematics Treasure Hunt



During the first week of 2016, the students from Years 1-6 participated in a Mathematical Treasure Hunt. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to work cooperatively with their peers to solve number problems. Well done to everyone who participated in this event. Congratulations to the following winners from each grade who have won a prize for their class.

Mrs Angela Alonzo
Stage 3 Coordinator

Year 1	Tatanoa Tapaitau-Hunt Joshua Ursu
Year 2	Mercy Polu Akuot Deng Janius Magisa Levi Harley
Year 3	Jedi Nifo Corey Weston Rhys Phillips Joseph Antakley
Year 4	Ethan Martin Max Reason Tanisha Wards
Year 5	Tarrell Savaiinaea Caleb Wards
Year 6	Aidan Tran Ethan Cox Layton Reardon

Literacy Learning at Holy Family

The Literacy Block occurs daily for a minimum of 100 minutes and consists of three components, that includes integration across other Key Learning Areas:

Speaking and Listening Reading and Viewing Writing and Responding

What is Speaking and Listening?

Students in all classes participate in purposeful discussions about their learning with their peers. This involves both speaking about their learning and actively listening to others.

So how can you help? Speaking and listening to children does lots of important things. It improves your bond with them, and encourages them to listen to you. It helps them to form relationships and to build self-esteem.

- ✓ Top tips for speaking and listening
- ✓ Set aside time for talking and listening to each other.
- ✓ Listen to your children when they want to talk
- ✓ Let your child finish talking and then respond. When listening, try not to jump in, cut your child off, or put words in your child's mouth – even when your child says something ridiculous or wrong or is having trouble finding the words. Children appreciate this as much as grown-ups!
- ✓ Watch your child's facial expression and body language. Listening isn't just about hearing words, but also trying to understand what's behind those words.
- ✓ To let your child know you're listening, and make sure you've really understood, repeat back what your child has said and make lots of eye contact.
- ✓ Show your interest by saying such things as, 'Tell me more about ...', 'Really!' and 'Go on ...'. Ask children what they feel about the things they're telling you about.
- ✓ Ask your child questions that require more lengthy use of language. Encourage your child to tell you about events that did not involve you. This helps students work out what a listener needs to know and prepares them for writing.
- ✓ If you speak a language other than English at home, it is important that you continue to support your child in maintaining the home language. Being able to speak more than one language is a good thing.

Mrs Alex Ali
Literacy Co-ordinator

Staff List for 2016

- KSA Miss Sarah Said / Mrs Alex Ali –**Stage 1 Coordinator Literacy**)
- KL Miss Jenny Leano
- 1M Miss Brooke Mackay
- 1S Miss Katelyn Sweeney
- 2S Mrs Michelle Smith – **R.E. Coordinator**
- 2V Mrs Cathy Vogt
- 3J Mrs Amanda Joseph
- 3W Miss Patricia Walewska
- 4M Miss Samantha Mitchell
- 4L Mr Andrew Lehmann
- 5B Mrs Alex Boss
- 5P Mrs Leonie Preston – **Sports Coordinator** / Kalinda Bolt
- 6A Mrs Angela Alonzo – **Stage 3 Coordinator (Maths)**
- 6W Mr James West - **LTST**

- PRINCIPAL:** Mr John Spradbrow
- ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:** Mrs Mary Kelly - Stage 2
- R.E.C.:** Mrs Michelle Smith
- OFFICE FINANCE:** Mrs Denise Carroll
- OFFICE ADMIN:** Mrs Monika Cunningham
- TEACHER LIBRARIAN:** Mrs Janet Marie
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Mrs Leonie Preston
Tamara Theoharous
- LIBRARY ADMIN:** Mrs Rose Ragen
- COUNSELLOR:** Mrs Ann Michell
- PARENT /HOME LIASON:** Sr Katherine Tyrrell
- EXECUTIVE RELEASE:** Mrs Lisa Powderly
- LEARNING SUPPORT:** Miss Belinda Canderle
Miss Faith Jessell
Mrs Janet Marie
Miss Cecillienne Matienzo
Mrs Debbie Long
Kalinda Bolt
- SCHOOL ASSISTANTS:** Mrs Chris Cadman
Mrs Maite Fallon
Mrs Sue Garland
Mrs Linda Keating
Mrs Maree Whiting
Mr James West
Miss Faith Jessell
Tamara Theoharous
- IT SUPPORT/RELEASE:**
- CREATIVE ARTS:**



Sports Update

Welcome back to 2016! We have already had our first sporting event of the year – our swimming carnival!

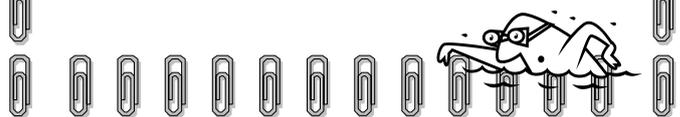
Congratulations to our swimming representatives that will compete at the Zone Swimming carnival on Thursday 18th February: Lauren Reason, Max Reason, Naomi Dickson, Tahlia-Ruth Broomham, Keith Alunday, and Alannah Martin. Good luck to all of our swimmers we know you will do the best you can and as always display your Holy Family Values.

Diary dates:

Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival: 18th February, 2016

Diocesan Swimming Carnival: 22nd February, 2016

School Cross Country: 11th March, 2016





Fees

Accounts for Term 1 school fees will be posted out within the next couple of days and payments will be due March 2016.

Arrangements made for 2015 are now finished and any families having difficulty completing term payments on time and who wish to make payments by installments using cash, Centrelink or Bpay etc, please contact Mrs Carroll in the school office for an appointment or to set up a new arrangement. Catholic Education Office is also offering a Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) for your 2016 School Fees - details will be included with your school fee statement.

All resource fee payments must be paid as soon as possible unless you are paying through Centrepay or Direct Debit. If you have any questions at all regarding fees please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Carroll on 9628 9232.

Fundraising

Last year we had a very successful 2015 year in the area of fundraising with about \$10000 raised. This was achieved with the help of many generous parents and grandparents. We are asking for your support again in 2016. We have many different activities during the year and even if you can help with one event we would be very grateful. All money raised is of great assistance to us in providing important resources for your children.



Please come along to our first chat on

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17 at 9.15am in the hall. This is also a good way to get to know other parents.

Please do not leave it to somebody else. Your children love to see you around the school and research tells us that the more you are involved in the school, the more successful their education will be.

LIBRARY NEWS:

I would like to welcome everyone to the library for 2016. We have been making some changes in the library, so pop in and have a look! I work Tuesday to Friday, each week and am usually in the library from before and after school from 8.30 in the morning until at least 3.30 in the afternoon. So parents, if you wish to borrow extra materials for your children please come in!

Volunteers in the Library

I invite any of you who would like to become involved in volunteer work, to come to the library. We are always on the lookout for people to assist in covering books, assisting with the Scholastic Book Club, accessioning work and a host of other jobs. At present we have a very committed and able team, but I know that the ladies would love some extra help. If you are interested, please drop in and see me anytime. No prior experience necessary!

Library Loans

Class Borrowing

Class borrowing will commence this week. Students are able to borrow each week, (up to the number of the grade they are in), as follows:

- K - 1 book
- Year 1 - 1 book
- Year 2 - 2 books
- Year 3 - 3 books
- Year 4 - 4 books
- Year 5 - 5 books
- Year 6 - 6 books

Parents please assist your children to return their books **each** week. If a child has an overdue, they cannot borrow again until the loan is returned! Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated.

For the Family Diary!

Library Borrowing Days at Holy Family

For Term One, Library days are as follows

- K - Monday
- Year 1 - Tuesday
- Year 2 - Friday
- Year 3 - Friday
- Year 4 - Friday
- Year 5 - Thursday
- Year 6 - Friday

Parents please remind your child of their library day the night before. In this way the children can be prompted to put the books in their bag that are going to be returned to the library the next day. Again, your assistance in this matter is much appreciated.

Please remember parents, that you can borrow extra books for your child, if you wish, either before or after school.

Thank you,

Janet A. Marie (Teacher-Librarian)

Sports Days for 2016

Kinder	Wednesday	Friday
Year 1	Tuesday	Wednesday
Year 2	Thursday	Friday
Year 3	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 4	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday	Friday
Year 6	Tuesday	Friday

Skoolbag App

Schoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smart phones. It is a free app for the communication of information from school to parents. It will deliver notices directly to parents, including school events, newsletters, notes, documents and updates. It is a great way for the school to keep you up to date with what is happening at school. See the information flyer to download the app now!

Welcoming Ceremony

We invite you to come and celebrate the start of the 2016 school year at our Welcoming Ceremony on **Friday 19th February at 9:15am**. We come together to welcome our new teachers, students and Kindergarten children to our Holy Family Community.

Everyone is also welcome to join us for our first School Mass for 2016 on **Friday 26th February at 10am**. During our Opening Mass we celebrate the new school year and we present the leaders with their badges.

Both ceremonies will take place in the Church.

**Dates for your Diary**

February	9	Shrove Tuesday
	10	Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ 9:15am
	17	Fundraising Meeting @ 9:15 in the Hall
	18	Blacktown Zone Swimming
	19	Welcoming Ceremony @ 9:15 in the Church
	26	Diocesan Swimming Carnival

**A Student's Prayer at the Beginning of School Year**

*We give you praise, O God, for everything that is new and beautiful,
for everything which holds promise and brings us joy.*

Bless us as we start this New Year with our friends and teachers.

Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start afresh.

May we show love to one another and to all

May the new beginning of this school year remind us that you give us chances to start over again and again.

Help us to forgive others as we receive your forgiveness.

Help us to learn and to work together.

Help us to listen when we should and to know the best words when we speak and when it is better not to speak.

We thank you for our friends

Help us to be good friends this year.

Help us to be patient with ourselves and with others.

Bless our school and keep us safe.

Be with us as we travel each day.

Help us to be aware of your love shown to us in the people around us.

Bless all those who care for us in school and at home.

Help us show our care for them and to say sorry when we need to.

May the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph protect us.

And help us to live as well as we can,

Giving thanks and glory to God as they did.

Amen.

I would like to welcome all students, families and staff back to school for the 2016 school year.

Last year together we worked to live our Holy Family Values;

- ◇ Respect
- ◇ Responsibility
- ◇ Compassion
- ◇ Trust
- ◇ Forgiveness

These values underpin all that we do at Holy Family now and into the future. The classroom teachers have spoken to the students about these values and they will continue to develop their classroom expectations with these values in mind. Please talk to your child/ren about our Holy Family values, as they are very important to all of us.

Mrs Michelle Smith

Religious Education Coordinator



