Listen to God’s Word

Our theme for this year is Listen to God’s Word. We will be exploring the ways that God speaks to us through the scriptures and through those around us. He is always calling us to talk but we need to be open to listen.

‘God Speaks’ Billboards from Arizona in 2002:

1. "Let's Meet At My House Sunday Before the Game" - God
2. "C'mon Over And Bring The Kids" - God
3. "What Part of "Thou Shalt Not..." Didn't You Understand?" - God
4. "We Need To Talk" - God
5. "Keep Using My Name in Vain And I'll Make Rush Hour Longer" - God
6. "Will The Road You're On Get You To My Place?" - God
7. "Follow Me." - God
8. "Have You Read My #1 Best Seller? There Will Be A Test." - God

Reconciliation:
Monday 9th February – Letter given to both schools this week
Thursday 5th March – Parent Meetings 3:30PM – Holy Family
Saturday/ Sunday 8th – 9th March – Commitment Weekend
Thursday 12th March – Holy Family Lesson 1
Thursday 19th March – Holy Family Lesson 2
Tuesday 24th March – Holy Family First Reconciliation

First Communion:
Monday 20th April – Letter given to parents this week
Thursday 30th April – Parent Meeting
Saturday/Sunday 2nd – 3rd May – Commitment Weekend
Thursday 7th May – Lesson 1
Thursday 14th May – Lesson 2
Thursday 21st May – Lesson 3
Saturday 30th May – First Holy Communion Rehearsal
Sunday 31st May – First Holy Communion
Principal’s Message

It is with a humble heart that I say thank you to the staff, students and parents for the very warm welcome I have received this week.

After five weeks of relaxation, the energy and enthusiasm of our students as they walked through the gates on the first day of school was energising even with the rain pelting down all day.

I wish to congratulate our newest members to our school family, our Kindergarten students. They have settled into school routine extremely well. I wish to thank our wonderful parents for their continued support in ensuring the students are ready and well prepared for school life.

I officially welcome to our school community Miss Merchant, Miss Ingegneri and Miss Kehris. We also have several new students starting this year. We will welcome them into our school family at our first school assembly. I congratulate our Year 6 students as they take up their new role as school leaders. We officially installed them as leaders of Holy Family on Tuesday. I am looking forward to working along-side all our leaders and all members of our community this year.

The word ‘community’ means different things to different people. Our community of Holy Family is built on the Gospel values and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is true, not just in words, but also in action. The relationships we foster, and the interactions we have with others, confirm our identity as Jesus people. As a staff, we have many opportunities to pray together. Each week, a member of staff organises a special prayer experience that enables us to continue to build our relationship with God. As part of my own spiritual reflection, I focused on a reading from the Letters of St Paul to the Corinthians 12: 4-1. The reading teaches us that we have been given many gifts; wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing. All gifts are given to us by the same Spirit from the same Lord. When we reflect on this passage from St Paul we begin to understand the importance of community. We have all been given special gifts unique to us. It is by sharing these gifts that communities flourish and grow, allowing the Grace of God and the relationships we have with God to be visible to others.

Let us reflect on the words of Pope Benedict XVI as he reminds us: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.”

Live Jesus in our Hearts

Mrs Yvette Baird

Parent Representative Council

PRC Parramatta President would like to encourage parents to attend a meeting to take advantage of a free presentation. The cyber lady, Leonie Smith will be giving parents as insight into safeguards to allow us to protect and enjoy cyberspace. Active, enthusiastic and keen parent involvement from each school is essential in ensuring that parents from all of our 80 Catholic schools are in touch with upcoming event and strategies regarding the education of our children. All parents involved with PRC are volunteers and so, all of us devote some time away from our families on nights like these to help stay in touch.

Meeting Details: PRC AGM on Mon 16 Feb 2015, 7pm to be held at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, Grd floor, Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marion St, Blacktown (behind Patrician Brothers College).

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
What a pleasure it was to come back to school this year and see so many familiar faces, and plenty of new ones too, ready to learn!

I am filled with excitement about the possibilities this year brings. Already, I have had students ask me about writing competitions, basketball tournaments, poetry slams and some of the other great things we did last year. The answer is: YES! We’ll do all of these things in 2015. And...this question is for both students and parents.

Do you have any bright ideas that would get children excited about learning at HFS?

If you do, let me know! Children learn best when they are excited, interested and making real-world products for real audiences. Let’s make that happen!

Also, if your children are attending speech therapy, occupational therapy or any other out-of-school support services, let me know and we can work with the class teachers to make sure we’re all working towards the same thing.

Looking forward to spending the year with you,

Mr Benjamin Munday
Assistant Principal

Commissioning of School Leaders For 2015

Congratulations to the following students who were commissioned on Tuesday as Student Leaders for 2015.

**Captains**
Jorja Le Claire
Jacinta Nakhoul
Brandon Faddoul
Elias Daher

**Junior Joeys**
Abraham Youssef
Vanessa El Hayek
Julie-Anne Habib
Rita Nohra

**Sports Captains**

**Blue—Mackillop**
Najd Youssef
Chenise Nehme

**Red—Martin**
Aushlesa Ghale
Hugo Ng

**Green—Stack**
Bianca Wehbe
Christian Frangie

**Gold—Kerrigan**
Alain Limos
Milad Daher

Special thanks to Mr Bawden for coordinating such a reverent ceremony. I also wish to thank Fr Clifford for sharing this special event with our community.

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
Holy Family Swimming Carnival

Our annual Swimming carnival will be at Granville Pool this Friday 6th of February beginning at approximately 9.30am for children in Year 3 to Year 6. As this is a school event, all children will travel from school to the venue. We ask parents to comply with this arrangement and drop the children at school before 8.50 for prayer and roll call. Parents may take their child from the pool only after the conclusion of our carnival, after a release note has been signed and given to the class teacher. This is a school day so children are expected to be present at the carnival until the end. Please return the swimming note sent home last week as soon as possible. Only children who have returned their permission note will be able to attend as the office will not call parents on the day for permission. The children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 will remain at school for normal lessons.

I wish to sincerely thank Mrs Peachey and the staff committee for their commitment and passion in ensuring the children have an opportunity to participate, compete and showcase their talents in the pool. The children who qualify will be invited to compete at the Zone Athletics Carnival on Tuesday the 17th of February at Parramatta Pool.

School Banking

A school banking service is available to students who hold Commonwealth Dollarmites or Youth Saver accounts. Encouraging children to make small regular deposits to a bank account helps them to develop good savings habits and an awareness of the value of money. Students who wish to deposit money should bring bank books (with the deposit slip filled in) and money to school on Tuesday morning. The deposits are processed during the morning and the bank books returned to students by their class teacher. Please note that we are unable to process cheques. For every deposit you make, you will receive a Token. When you receive 10 tokens you can redeem them for a prize.

Any parent wishing to open a Commonwealth account for their child may collect an information package from the school office.

Parent Information Booklet

Our Parent information booklet is located on our website. Please refer to it as policies are updated each year. Our priority is to ensure the safety of students, teachers and families who attend Holy Family. Our mission has always been to create an authentic Catholic community, where the values of our Lord Jesus is visible in every interaction. Parents are always welcome to discuss any matter they are concerned about with the Principal, Mrs Baird or in my absence, Mr Munday, Assistant Principal.

Together we can make a difference, create a community that works together and provide the best educational opportunities for all our children so they achieve success.

The following are a few reminders for all parents.

- Administering medication at school. Completed forms need to be presented to Ms Ali before medication will be administered at school. I thank you in advance for your continued support in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students at Holy Family.
- School starts at 8.50am and concludes at 3.10pm. If your child arrives late to school a parent must walk the child into the office and sign their child in. Children leaving early will only be discharged to a parent unless prior arrangements have been made with the office.
- Parents are to report directly to the office when they have entered the school grounds. Under no circumstances are parents to go directly to the their child’s classroom. The safety of all our students is a priority.
- If students are absent from school due to sickness, a note must accompany the child when they return to school.
- Parents and friends are expected to conduct themselves respectfully at all times while on the school grounds. Appropriate language and behaviour should reflect our Gospel values.
- Parent concerns regarding school issues are to be handled respectfully at all times. If you have a concern, please contact the classroom teacher to make an appointment to discuss the matter. Any abuse toward a member of staff will be directed to the appropriate authorities.

The children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 will remain at school for normal lessons.

I wish to sincerely thank Mrs Peachey and the staff committee for their commitment and passion in ensuring the children have an opportunity to participate, compete and showcase their talents in the pool. The children who qualify will be invited to compete at the Zone Athletics Carnival on Tuesday the 17th of February at Parramatta Pool.
Diocesan News

**Calendar**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6th February</td>
<td>9.00—2.00pm Swimming Carnival Year 3 –6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12 February</td>
<td>9.5am Opening School Mass.</td>
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**Birthday Wishes!**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week: Olivia Isaac, Olivia Gebrael, Kenyon Mendoza, Rohan Puri, Bianca Wehbe, Larissa El Hayek and Siad Ayoub.

**SCHOOL FEES**

School Fee Statements are due to be mailed by the Catholic Education Office on Tuesday 10th February. Term 1 school fees are due on the 6th March 2015.

Please note, that any school fee arrangement made in 2014 does not automatically continue.

This also includes those families that have automatic payments deducted from Centrelink. Please contact the office to make an appointment as soon as possible. If you have difficulty in paying school fees an appointment will need to be made to discuss this matter with Mrs Baird. Thank You

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY or at the Post Office.

**Ash Wednesday Mass times and Reconciliation**

A list of Ash Wednesday Mass times and Reconciliation during Lent across the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is available at: [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)

**Positions Vacant:** Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is seeking applications for Executive Assistant to the Archbishop of Sydney and Archbishop’s Diary Secretary. These positions are based in the Polding Centre in Sydney. Applications close 10 February 2015. For a confidential discussion and a copy of the Information Pack please contact Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources on 0402 210 055 or anthony@reachhr.com.au

**Catholic Outlook now on Facebook**

Our diocesan magazine Catholic Outlook is now on Facebook. Catch up with all your diocesan news and tell us what you think about the publication in the readership survey: [https://www.facebook.com/catholicoutlook](https://www.facebook.com/catholicoutlook)

**Liturical Ministry Formation Course enrolments close 8 February**

The Institute for Mission is taking enrolments for its Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses from February to May for those who are interested in being Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, taking Communion to the Sick and Dying, Senior Servers and Acolytes. There is no cost for these courses, which will begin mid-February and will be offered at two locations.

Institute for Mission: 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown, Mondays from 7-9pm, Introduction Sessions on 23 February & 2 March are compulsory.


**Enrolments close on Sunday 8 February.** To download an enrolment form go to: [www.instituteformission.com.au](http://www.instituteformission.com.au)

**World Day of the Sick Mass on 11 February**

St John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick celebrations on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Diocese will celebrate World Day of the Sick with a Healing Mass and anointing at Blacktown on Wednesday 11 February. A welcome is extended to the sick and the frail-aged, their relatives and carers. People from the healing professions – nurses, ancillary and administrative staff – from hospitals and nursing homes will also attend.

**Date:** Wednesday 11 February 2015, commencing at 7pm.

**Where:** St Patrick’s Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

*In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.*