Dear Parents and Friends of Holy Family,

One of the great delights of being a teacher in a Catholic school is the strong sense of belonging to a family - a Church family, a family of shared faith and ultimately, the family of God. Being part of a Catholic school community brings with it a sense of personal acknowledgement and a sense of being safe in the relationships that surround us.

All too often in society we hear others judge someone based on how they behave, what they believe, what they wear, their personal possessions and their material wealth. These judgements are indeed surface decisions - they certainly do not get to the heart of the person. Do these judgements on lifestyle, possessions, looks and wealth really reflect how Jesus chose His companions and followers?

It saddens me when I hear that a child has been excluded by peers, and sometimes the parents of other students, because they are deemed ‘different’. As followers of Jesus, shouldn’t we be aiming to welcome all children, all members of our community and all members of wider society? Perhaps by excluding others, we are really punishing ourselves by not being open to the possibility of a new and wonderful opportunity to help another through companionship. Our children look to the examples that we set, the way they hear us speak about others, the way we treat others.

In the week ahead, may we each take the opportunity to reach out to someone new in our community. Let us truly become a Catholic community where every man, woman and child feels welcomed.

Yours in family,

Mrs Sue Guilfoyle
Principal

And Jesus said, 
“Let the children come to me.”
Matthew 19:14

Now enrolling for Kindergarten 2015

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
Scripture Reflection
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Jn 14:15-21  I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

This Sunday, all three readings speak of the Spirit as next week we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord and the following week we celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Many of us are still able to recite the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we learnt when getting ready for Confirmation: wisdom, knowledge, courage, understanding, wonder and awe, piety and right judgement.

Pope Francis noted, in his daily Mass homily on Monday that the Holy Spirit also “gives us strength, gives us this steadiness to be able to move forward in life in the midst of many events.” He went on “we can ask ourselves today: What kind of heart do we have? ... Is it a heart that is scared by the changes of life and is hiding and afraid to give witness to Jesus Christ?” “Is it a brave heart or a heart that has so much fear and is always trying to hide? What does our heart care for? What treasure does our heart [give] custody to?”

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us not to hide away but to give away. They are given to us to reach out to love and care for our neighbour.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

This year we are again supporting the Vinnie’s Winter Appeal.

- Some of the teachers and Yr6 children will be having a Winter Sleep Out in the school hall on Friday of Week 6, experiencing a little of what homeless people go through. They are seeking sponsorship to raise money for the appeal. You are able to support the Yr6 Winter Sleep Out with your sponsorship, for a child in Yr6 or just a general donation.
- During the same day we will be having an Odd Shoe Day where students are asked to wear odd shoes and bring in a gold coin donation. The Junior Joeys will be visiting classes to raise awareness of homelessness.
- On Friday 27th June we will be having a Beanie & Scarf Day. Children are able to wear scarves and beanies and are encouraged to donate blankets for Vinnies to distribute to those less well off than us.

Stephen Bawden
Religious Education Co-ordinator

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
HFS recognised for excellence
As I wrote in the newsletter two weeks ago, Miss Bainy, Miss Sargent and I travelled to Melbourne to present at the Excellence in Professional Practice conference last Friday. The work we do at HFS was very well received and we even received an award for an outstanding presentation! Well done to our Kinder teachers for this important achievement.

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Loom Bands
My daughter has recently become VERY interested in loom bands. Do you know that feeling? Suddenly, everything becomes about those crazy, tiny coloured bands. Sometimes they drive me crazy, but there are some benefits to this craze. Just think:

- Fine motor skills are being developed by manipulating the tiny bands into different positions with the tips of the fingers.
- The habit of persistence is being developed when kids stick at acquiring a new skill.
- Problem solving skills are being developed when kids have to mentally plan what they need to do to start, carry out and complete a bracelet.
- The mathematical skill of patterning is being developed when kids make choices to create a nice looking colour scheme.
- The skills of collaboration and active listening are being developed when kids learn from each other.

However, may I remind you that our school uniform policy states that, basically, children are not to wear jewellery at school. So feel free to encourage your children to make loom bands, but remember that they don’t form part of our uniform.

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Positive psychology
Our staff are doing some work this year with Dan Haesler, an expert in positive psychology and well-being. In the past, most psychology focused on what was WRONG with people, but positive psychology focuses on how to make people’s lives BETTER. The research tells us that people who are positive are more effective at work than when they are negative, neutral or stressed.

A good start for developing the habit of being positive is to ask your children every day, “what is something you’re grateful for today?”

Mr Benjamin Munday

Walk Safely to School Day
Friday, 23rd May 2014

On Friday, 23rd May it is ‘Walk Safely to School Day’. It is a national event where all Primary School children are encouraged to walk safely to school. It will give an opportunity for parents and carers to closely supervise their children and promote safe pedestrian behaviour.

Some of the teachers will be meeting at Colquhoun Park, Blaxcell Street at 8:30am on Friday morning and will be walking to school from there.

So, leave your car at the park or commute from your house to the park and walk safely to school with your children.

It will not only be great exercise but it will be fun too. Hope to see you there!
## Calendar

**May**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 23rd May</td>
<td>9:10am Parish Mass - Year 2 &amp; Year 4 to attend.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.00pm Whole School Assembly. Items presented by Yrs 1, 3 &amp; 5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 29th May</td>
<td>Feast of the Ascension—Yrs 3-6 attending Parish Mass.</td>
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## Birthday Celebrations!

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week: Aaliyah Afu, Mikhaila Chaloush, Rebecca Chen, Annakise Salit, Joseph Taouk, Autumn-Jade McMahon, Charabella Germanos, Galia Germanos, Brandon Faddoul, Jack Spina, Nicholas Elias and Bechara Ghosn.

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## Tuckshop News.

Please be advised that going home with this week’s newsletter is a new updated tuckshop menu with a few price changes. A menu can also be downloaded from the canteen's website [www.melstastybites.com](http://www.melstastybites.com). Thank you.

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## School Fees

Term 2 School Fees have now been issued and are due by Wednesday 4th June. **Thankyou to everyone that has already paid the school fees.**

Please note, payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY or at the Post Office.

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## Community News

**From “I do”, to “We do”: a unique approach to making couple decisions.**

When: Thursday 29th May 2014. 730 – 9pm.
Where: Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Flushcombe & Marion St, Blacktown
Run by Francine and Bryon Pirola Directors of Smart Loving.

- Do you find it difficult to make decisions as a couple?
- Does one or both of you end up feeling compromised and without an equal voice?
- Do your discussions often end up in unpleasant arguments or cold wars?

Come and learn a method for making couple decisions. This unique Values Based Decisions Making framework will help you to learn how to connect with your deepest values for love and unity so that your choices become true couple decisions.

Francine Pirola an experienced marriage educator, a director and founder of the Smart loving series courses will give this presentation. Admission is free! Ph: (02) 9933 0222 | Mob: 0409 772 523

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**In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.**