Religious Education Matters

Jesus is with us!
In Year 2, we have been looking at the many ways we celebrated Easter. We have looked closely at the stories from John’s Gospel describing the disciples’ encounters with the Risen Jesus. We also explored the ways Jesus is with us today.

We used the app Comic Life to retell the story of Jesus and Thomas.
Principal’s Message

Very few things surprise me, however the attendance at our Mother’s Day picnic and liturgy was overwhelming. As I walked around the playground, happy faces greeted me and what was so energising were the many excited children who enjoyed sharing lunch with their loved ones. Days when we can join together and celebrate really build a strong community. It is wonderful to see that we have a strong community and that together we can build this school so that our children can witness the love and respect and model this behaviour in their daily lives.

Special thanks to our fantastic mothers who ran the Mother’s Day stall and the staff who organised our special Liturgy.

In memory of a beautiful woman.

During our Mother’s Day liturgy a special memorial presentation was made to our school from the Ursuline Sisters. Sr Leone, Sr Patty and Sr Venera shared with our community the memory of a very special teacher who worked at our school for many years as a Religious Education Coordinator. Sr Carmel passed away in January. Working with the Holy Family Community was very important to Sr Carmel so in tribute of her love of teaching her fellow Sisters presented our school with a beautiful bible in memory of the wonderful times Sr Carmel had at Holy Family. Following is a beautiful reflection written by Mr Bawden thanking God for the gift that was Sr Carmel.

Today we are paying tribute to our mums and the special women in our lives.

Over the past few years we have spoken about and paid tribute to the Sisters of St Joseph who founded and ran our school for most of its 77 years. The Sisters of St Joseph are just one of many Congregations of nuns. These are groups of women who have dedicated their lives to the call of God and to the service of others particularly in the areas of health and education.

Another special Order of nuns, especially in our Diocese of Parramatta is the Ursuline Sisters. They have impacted on the lives of hundreds of teachers and thousands of students in the life of our Diocese. Today we remember one very special nun – Sr. Carmel Fittler who was the Religious Education Coordinator at Holy Family from 2003 until 2010 and passed away after a long battle with illness on January 12 this year.

Sr. Carmel dedicated her life to God and served him through her work in schools and parishes throughout her life. Sr Carmel not only committed herself to the care and education of the children of Holy Family but to the love and wellbeing of many of the families in our community. She is responsible for the formation of many of the staff at Holy Family and is remembered as a wonderful role model and influence on our careers.

We are privileged today to have three of Sr. Carmel’s close colleagues and friends with us today. With us today we have Sr. Patty, Sr. Venera and Sr. Leone. 3 wonderful examples of the selfless dedication that Sr. Carmel and other Ursuline Sisters have made to education in the Parramatta Diocese.

Rest in peace Sr Carmel
You will live in our hearts

Y Baird

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
I wanted to share this letter with you. It comes from some lovely teachers in Queensland and was shared online by a happy parent.

I’m not one of those teachers who bag NAPLAN. I don’t see it as mindless, high-stakes standardised testing, with no benefit for students.

I value NAPLAN for the excellent, detailed information it gives us about what your children can do on a particular day, and what we need to teach them to move forward from there.

However, I definitely do not see achievement on NAPLAN as the great goal of education. There are so many things that make your children special and wonderful, and that’s what the teachers who wrote this letter were getting at.

In Catholic education, we value the whole person, because we believe that each and every one of us is created in God’s image. So let’s value NAPLAN for what it is, and keep it all in perspective. It’s just another day of great learning for us at HFS!

To Our Dearest Students from Year 3,

Next week you will sit your first NAPLAN test. Before you take this test there is something very important for you to know:

This test does not assess all of what makes each of you exceptional and unique.

The people who score these tests don’t know that some of you love to sing, are good at drawing or can teach others how to use a computer program. They have not seen the way that some of you can dance with grace or speak confidently to a large group. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them when they are sad. They do not know that you participate in sports, help your Mum and Dad or that play with your little brother, sister or cousins. They do not know that you are caring, thoughtful and that every day you do your best. Because these attributes cannot be tested.

The scores you get from this test will tell you how you did on that day, but they will not tell you everything. They can’t tell you that you have improved on something that you once found difficult. They can’t tell you that you brighten up your teacher’s day. They can’t tell you how amazingly special you are.

So come to school ready to do your best for the NAPLAN test and remember there is no one way to ‘test’ all of the wonderful things that make you, YOU!

Kind regards,

Mrs. Egan, Mrs. Schluter and Miss Bailey

Benjamin Munday
Assistant Principal

2016 Enrolments

Kindergarten enrolments for 2016 are now being accepted. Enrolment packages are available from the school office for collection. Please inform your family, friends and neighbours. Hurry to secure your child’s place.
Date | Event
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Thursday 12th May | NAPLAN finishes.  
3:30pm First Communion Lesson 2 in hall.
Tuesday 19th May | Captivate Showcase Rehearsal—Choir, at Marayong

**Birthday Wishes!**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week: Gabriel Nakhoul, Lucas Kanaan, Madison Saouma, Kelvin Nyakoi, Isiah Bose and Cadi Jones.

**School Photos**

This week you would have received your school photo package information. School photos will be held on Monday the 25th of May. Children are to wear their full winter uniform including ties for the boys. If you would like to order photos, please place the correct money in the envelopes that went home on Monday and return it to school before the 25th of May. Sibling envelopes are available from the school office.

I wish to sincerely thank our families for sending your children to school neat and tidy each day. It is wonderful to see the pride the children have in their uniform and their school.

**First Holy Communion Lessons**

First Holy Communion Lessons will continue this Thursday at 3.30pm.

**Save the date**

Our first parent group meeting will be held on Friday the 12th of June in the school Library. A recommendation was made from the parent body that these meetings be considered for a later time. For that reason the meeting will begin at 6.30pm until 7.30pm. All parents are welcome to attend. The agenda for the night will be sent home closer to the day. I am looking forward to sharing our school goals with you and the great work that is happening at Holy Family.

**CAPTIVATE Choir**

Our CAPTIVATE choir will be travelling to St Andrews school at Marayong for their next rehearsal on Tuesday the 19th of May. A permission note will be sent home this week.

**CAPTIVATE Band rehearsal**

Selected members of our CAPTIVATE band will attend a rehearsal on Wednesday the 20th of May. The rehearsal will take place in the school grounds from 10am until 2pm. Following this Mr David Russell will hold the voices rehearsal from 2pm until 4pm. Mr Russell will be auditioning students who would like to join this group. A letter will be sent home to you this week.

**Astronomy Night**

**OUR PLACE IN SPACE**

Come along and become more familiar with our neighbourhood and have a closer look at our solar system, sun and moon. The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and stargazing (weather permitting).

Cost: $18 Adult, $12 Child/concession, $50 Family

Bookings are essential, follow the link to register, [www.uws.edu.au/observatory](http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory),