Dear Families of Holy Family, 

Tomorrow we will celebrate Mary MacKillop and the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph, here at Holy Family Primary School. We should be very proud of our connection to Mary MacKillop and her vision brought alive here at Holy Family.

Why is the celebration of Mary MacKillop and our 75th Anniversary such a ‘big deal?’ I believe that opportunities such as these allow us to stop and give thanks to God for all that has been shared. Too often in life we dwell on what is wrong, what could be done better, the things we are unhappy about. Tomorrow gives us a chance to say ‘Thanks’ for the opportunities that have been given to countless students over the past seventy five years.

♦ To give thanks for the ninety two Sisters of St. Joseph who have served the children of Holy Family.
♦ To give thanks for the parish priest who have guided us in our faith, nurturing our love of God.
♦ To give thanks to the many lay staff who have taken on the shared mission of Mary MacKillop.
♦ To give thanks for the parents and parishioners of Holy Family who have supported the children in their educational journey.

In 1938 when the first two Sisters travelled from the Holy Trinity community to the old hall in The Trongate, little could they imagine the wonderful community that they were laying the foundation stones of.

Mary MacKillop founded the Sisters of St. Joseph on the belief of “Never see a need without doing something about it”. Today we are called to continue to keep this alive in our school, our Church and our country. By living this mission we are honouring all those who worked so hard to give us all that we have here at Holy Family.

Yours in family,

Mrs. Sue Guilfoyle
Principal
We congratulate this week’s Student of the Week Award recipients:

Chantel Owusu  Christie Kassar
Tatyana Nakhoul  Brayden Vu
Cody Gergi  Charbel Ghattas
Ben Kizana  Georgia McIntyre
Aushlesa Ghale  Raymond Bechara
Ken Tuala  Brandon Zemblewski
Jayden Ambara  Buddy Wehbe

Our New School Song: Tomorrow we will launch our new school song, ‘One Holy Family’. We would like to share with you comments from Andrew Chinn, giving the story of how he composed this beautiful song, the inspiration he gained from the school history, culture, staff and students.

It’s quite lovely to look back and see how this song came together. I am deeply honoured to have formed a relationship with the students over the past three years, celebrating Holy Week, the Feast of St Mary MacKillop, and the Feast of St Joseph. Over that time I have come to know the staff and students and get a “feel” for this very special school.

- The phrase “in the palm of God’s hand” came directly from one of the staff.
- Amanda offered the idea of linking the school motto “Live, Love and Learn” to each of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
- There was a very strong affiliation with the school’s Josephite tradition, hence the St Mary MacKillop verse.
- The old school song also provided the line “Many hearts, many lands” as well as reinforcing that Josephite link.

Thanks to Sandra, Talisha, Monica, Raymond, Patrick, and Sara. The following phrases came directly from the students:

- Jesus: reaching out, family to all
- Mary: saying yes to our God, Live a life of love
- Joseph: honesty, simple life of love

I love the song so much I am going to release it internationally on my new CD, In Joyful Hope. I have to say that as a veteran of over fifty school songs this is one I am extremely proud of. I hope it serves your school community well and reflects your unique and beautiful culture.

Staff News:

- Ms Pose concludes her time here at Holy Family this Friday to await the birth of her first child. We wish her all the very best for the weeks ahead and we look forward to news of the safe arrival of her bundle of joy.
- This week we also say a temporary farewell to Mrs Chiha as she prepares for the birth of her third child. We can’t wait to hear that your newest family member has arrived safe and well.

  We thank both Ms Pose & Mrs Chiha for all that they have given to the children of Holy Family.

- Welcome to Miss Jennifer Warwick who has joined our Learning Support staff this week. Miss Warwick brings many wonderful skills to our school and we look forward to her being part of this great community.
- Welcome to Mrs Clare Laws who will replace Ms Pose, working with the wonderful children of Year 5.

2013 - Celebrating 75 Years of Catholic Education at Holy Family School
Learning at Holy Family

Mark Ferguson visits Holy Family

On Thursday the 25th July, Mark Ferguson came to Holy Family to have a chat with Year 5 and Year 6 students about his experiences as a Channel Seven news reporter. He also wanted to know what we think is important to us and what we want to accomplish in life.

In high school Mark wanted to be a country vet. To achieve this job he needed to be very good at Math's and Science. His teachers advised him that he would be better at journalism rather than being a vet as he was very good at English. Mark began his journalism career at the age of 17. As the years past he has worked for two big networks, Channel 9 and Channel 7 and has travelled all around the world reporting the news. Mark shared that he loves his job and has never regretted the decision to become a journalist.

When Mark had finished talking we asked him many questions about his life and career. We then shared with Mark some of the issues that are affecting children in Australia such as bullying and racism.

By Mary-Anne, Payton, Sandra and Claudia

Here are some quotes from the students:

“Mark Ferguson inspires me to always try and achieve my goals even if I get knocked back I can always get back up” Atong

“What I learned is that he inspired me to keep trying and to follow your dreams” Vincent

“I learnt that life can be filled with different types of opportunities and you can set your goals higher in life” Deborah

“He inspired me to never give up and always try. Even if you’re not good at something you will always be better at it in the end” Joseph

Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day
Holy Family East Granville Champions!

Our Stage 2 soccer team were outstanding last Tuesday in their division at the Stage 2 Soccer gala Day. They were undefeated in their six games, winning four and drawing two tough games. Congratulations boys.

“Being Brave” Drama Performance!

Holy Family students enjoyed a great performance by the theatre company, Brainstorm Productions last week. The students learnt the importance of believing in their own abilities and to be resilient.

2013 - Celebrating 75 Years of Catholic Education at Holy Family School
**Calendar**

**Thursday 8th August**
- 75th Anniversary Celebrations & Feast of Mary MacKillop.
  - 9.30am Mass
  - 11.00am Morning Tea
  - 11.30am Open Classrooms
  - 12.00pm Student Disco (K-2)
  - 1.50pm Student Disco (3-6)

**Friday 9th August**
- 2.00pm Whole School Assembly– Year 1, 3 & 5 presenting items.

**Monday 12th August**
- Cluster Voice of Youth.

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**Happy Birthday!**

We congratulate Andrew Bechara, Patrick Habib, Jade Farah, Sandy Fleige, George Maatouk, Natalie Maatouk, Raymond Maatouk and Rebecca Maatouk who celebrate their birthdays this week!

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**2014 Diocesan Tuition Fees**

**School Funding Agreement Signed**

On 23 July, the National Catholic Education Commission signed the Australian Government’s Better Schools Plan (otherwise known as Gonski) on behalf of all Australian Catholic systemic schools. We are now confident this agreement will ensure no Catholic school is worse off under the new arrangements and that Catholic education systems will maintain their autonomy and ability to distribute funds according to local need. These arrangements will progressively deliver increased Commonwealth funding to the Catholic sector and will ensure greater clarity for our system and schools to plan ahead.

**Upcoming Federal Election**

This agreement is, of course, dependent on the outcome of the next federal election and whether the Federal Coalition will support the plan, if elected. I would encourage you to contact your local federal Liberal Member of Parliament (if you have one in your electorate) or the Opposition Education Spokesman, Christopher Pyne, to ask for their support of the Better Schools Plan.

**2014 Diocesan Tuition Fees**

Despite not knowing the outcome of the election we would like to give parents certainty for the 2014 school year. Bearing in mind the educational inflation rate of 5.8% and the financial pressures facing families, the Parramatta Diocesan Catholic Schools Council has approved the following fees for 2014.

In 2014, **Kindergarten tuition fees will remain unchanged.** This is the fourth consecutive year that we have kept our Kindergarten tuition fees at the same level recognising the additional costs young families face with children commencing school. **Tuition fees for Years 1 – 6 will increase by 3.9%**. While this increase is less than the educational inflation it is necessary to help meet the rising educational costs for each child. Sibling discounts, which benefit over 60% of families, will remain the same for 2014 (as per the table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Child</th>
<th>2nd Child</th>
<th>3rd Child</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 1 – 6</td>
<td>$332</td>
<td>$249</td>
<td>$166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3.9% increase)</td>
<td>$429</td>
<td>$321</td>
<td>$214</td>
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</tbody>
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In 2014, **no tuition fee payable for 4th or subsequent children.**

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**Diocesan Building Levy**

The building levy supports the capital works of all Catholic schools in the diocese and is payable per family. In 2014, the building levy will be increased by $24 per annum to $869 per family.

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**Financial assistance**

We can help assist families experiencing financial hardship through the Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund, the Byallawa Co-contribution scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and fee concessions. Families can apply for a scholarship at the time of enrolment in a primary or secondary school by speaking with the principal of their chosen school. For families with children already enrolled in Catholic schools, principals have the discretion to defer or reduce fees if a family is experiencing financial hardship. The process is confidential and will not disadvantage students.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding fee changes for next year, please contact your school office for further clarification. If, at any time, you experience financial difficulty please arrange to speak confidentially with your school principal.