

BRANCHES

Holy Family Primary School, Luddenham

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Term 1
5th February 2015
Issue 1, Week 2

2015
Wednesday 11th Feb
7pm - Parent
Information Evening

Friday 13th Feb
9.15am - Opening
School Mass
2.20pm - Whole School
Assembly

Tuesday 17th March
Shrove Tuesday
2.30pm - Burning of
the Palms

Wednesday 18th Mar
Ash Wednesday
10.30am Stage 2 & 3
Liturgy
11.45am ES1 & S1
Liturgy

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the new school year! We have had a few days of school already and it has been a great start to the first term. It is great to see students of all ages come into school for the new year. Each and every one is filled with emotions as they begin the 2015 school year. The younger students arrive with the anticipation of a new teacher and the excitement of seeing their friends again. The older students enjoy seeing friends again and getting involved in another year of learning and activities.

We warmly welcome the Guedes, Enman, Bhana, Boné and Sami families to our Stage 1, 2 and 3 classes, welcome back to Chloe Evans (Stage 2) as well as the 37 new Kindergarten children and their families to our school community. In addition to our new students, Holy Family has welcomed staff members this year, Mr. David Bullock, Miss Paris Esposito and Mrs Rebecca Evans to Stage 3 and Miss Lauren Sultana who will teach Japanese this year. We trust that you all will quickly become part of the the Holy Family Community.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Holy Family School and the Parish Centre. We will celebrate this important milestone on the Feast of the Sacred Heart (12th June), which is the Feast of our Parish. We will be looking for parish and school memorabilia, photos, stories... so I warmly invite anyone who is able to be involved in assisting to contact the school office. More information will be shared as we get closer to this event.

Next Wednesday will be the Parent Teacher Information session to start the year. This is an important opportunity for the key supports for our students to come together and hear the plans and directions for the coming year. If you are unable to attend please ensure that your child/ren collect the information that will be provided so that you are aware of what is happening. To discuss matters in greater depth please make a time to meet with your child's teacher. We will meet at 7pm in the Hall and then break into stage meetings. Each stage will repeat this information in a second presentation on the night.

Our first two days with the MAI assessments were a great success. I would like to thank all parents for your support of this initiative. We were able to complete all but a few of the children's assessments, which have since been completed. As a result of these assessments teachers have begun planning the next step in the teaching cycle for the students.

2015 will be a year full of promise and possibilities; a chance to continue to deepen our faith as a Catholic community; continue to engage in diverse, challenging teaching; an opportunity for us to become the best learners we can be!

Throughout the year, our school will be a place where staff, students and families have opportunities to experience God's presence in their lives, through liturgy and prayer. Our opening school mass will be on Friday 13th February where we will welcome our new Kindergarten students, induct our Yr 6 leaders and celebrate as a faith community. We warmly invite families to this and all celebrations to share in and witness our faith life with the students.

Education today is a complex engagement because of the intensity and variety of external influences particularly through various forms of media and electronic communications. Our school has a special role in assisting every parent with the education of their children, so that all children will develop a sense of personal responsibility for themselves, others and the environment.

We all know that children receive the best education when parents and teachers work as a team. Parents' enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of teachers. Together, staff and parents can provide educational excellence for every student, so that they can achieve their personal best.

At Holy Family

I Respect Myself

I Respect Others

I Respect the
Environment

Together, we can support one another to provide an inviting, collaborative learning environment and a place to celebrate our achievements.

“God, our Father,
we ask that Your Spirit be a constant influence in the lives of all who make up our school community.

As we begin this new school year,
lead us to be welcoming to everyone new to our community, students, families and teachers.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

In partnership let us continue to work to develop in the children strong minds and gentle hearts

Peace and Best Wishes for a wonderful year ahead,

Tim Vane-Tempest
Principal

Staffing News

The full staff list is included below for your information:

Holy Family School Staff for 2015

Principal		Mr. Tim Vane-Tempest
Assistant Principal		Miss Jodie Sibbald
Religious Education		Mr. Ray McCauley
Coordinator		
Early Stage 1	ES1 Blue	Mrs Annette Stein
	ES1 Red	Mrs. Rosa Surace
Stage 1	S1 Blue	Mrs. Sarah Brennan
	S1 Red	Miss Megan Bunting
	S1/2 Blue	Mrs. Melissa Whitton
Stage 2	S 1/2 Red	Mrs. Karen Ryan/Mrs. Sharon Taylor (Fri)
	S2 Blue	Mr. Ray McCauley
	S2 Red	Mrs. Nicole Bray
Stage 3	S3 Blue	Mr David Bulloock
	S3 Red	Miss Paris Esposito
	S3 White	Mrs. Stefanie Streele (Tu-Fri) Mrs Rebecca Evans (M)
Learning Support		Mrs. Wendy Steuart, Miss Jodie Sibbald (Reading Recovery)
Teacher Assistants		Mrs. Leanne Green, Mrs. Annette Tillman
Physical Education		Miss Monica Dann
Japanese		Miss Lauren Sultana
Music		Mrs. Frances Bartolo
Office		Mrs. Monica Miller (Finance), Mrs. Marie Edwards (Admin)
		Mrs. Despina Azzopardi (Admin)
Library Assistant		Mrs. Benita Sneesby
Executive Release		Mrs. Frances Bartolo, Mrs. Angela Franich
Grounds		Mr. Richard Ackroyd-Broadbere

Assembly

Our first Award Assembly for the year will be Friday of next week, starting at 2:25pm. As outlined last week these assemblies will be mainly to acknowledge students achievement. Our usual procedure of notifying parents when their child/ren will be receiving awards will continue as in the past. We look forward to seeing parents joining us at these important community gathering times throughout the year.

General Information & Reminders

School Hours

Monday to Friday	9.00am - 3.15pm
Supervision begins	8.35am
Morning Tea	11.00am - 11.30am
Lunch Break	1.30pm – 2.10pm
Classroom pack-up	3.10pm
Dismissal	3.15pm

The school day begins with certain routines and activities e.g. prayer, roll call etc. so it is important that children arrive at school by **8.55am**. The school grounds are open to pupils from 8.35am each morning and remain open to pupils until 3.35pm each afternoon.

Teachers As Learners

2015 will be another busy year of professional learning for all staff at Holy Family School. This year staff will be engaged in a range of professional learning courses to support our school goals. In the area of Formation Mr. McCauley will be participating in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome during the Easter break and the first week of Term 2. From my pilgrimage experience in 2014 this will be a significant time of learning, renewal and deepening of faith for Mr. McCauley. All staff from K-6 will be involved in Writing courses starting with the K-2 teachers later this term. Mrs. Brennan and Mrs. Bray will be training as EMU Specialist teachers to further embed and support our work with numeracy. We will also be supported in our professional work by staff from the Catholic Education Office - Mrs. Tracey Hoey (Literacy) and Mr. Paul Stenning (Numeracy) with our own Mrs. Whiteman also supporting the Numeracy program.

Kiss & Drop Area

The Kiss & Drop area is located in the drive-through at the front of the courtyard. It has been established to assist with traffic flow in the car park and for parents who wish to drop off children without parking.

The important guidelines for using the Kiss & Drop zone are:

Kiss & Drop operates between 8:35 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Cars will follow in single file through the drop zone

Drivers should move as far as possible into the zone before stopping to allow children to get out

Children need to exit the car on the left-hand side so they are not walking behind or between cars using the zone

No overtaking of vehicles in the Kiss & Drop zone

Drivers need to stay in their car at all times – no parking is permitted in the Kiss & Drop

When leaving the Kiss & Drop zone be aware of other drivers and pedestrians using the car park

Medical Forms & Medicare Number

Throughout the year there are occasions when students will attend excursions or represent the school at sporting or cultural events. To avoid asking for multiple forms throughout the year we are asking all families to complete and return a medical form (sent home today) for each child at the school which we will keep and use when needed. Included on this form is a space to record your child/rens Medicare number to assist should medical treatment be required whilst on an out of school activity. It would be appreciated if these forms could be returned to school by Friday 13th February.

School Uniforms

The Uniform is available through Lowes at Penrith. It is as follows:

Summer	Worn 1st and 4th Terms
Girls:	Check dress with navy tab tie Plain, short white socks Black shoes (those which can be polished, no joggers or skate shoes) Hair ribbons may be red or navy blue Navy school hat
Boys:	Blue shirt (short sleeved) Navy shorts Short navy socks Black shoes (those which can be polished – no joggers or skate shoes) Navy school hat
Girls/Boys	Sport shirt Navy school sports shorts in summer, navy track pants in winter Plain, short white socks Joggers/sandshoes Navy school hat

Hair Cuts

Hair cuts are to be appropriate for school. Mullets, spiking, no. 1 cuts, rat's tails, zig zags, mowhawks, razoring etc are not considered appropriate hair styles for school. Children with hair longer than collar length are to have it tied back with a ribbon or scrunchie in school colours. Hair is not to be coloured for either boys or girls. Your support with these uniform and grooming matters is appreciated.

Notes and Newsletter Day

We will, as far as possible, continue to have one day in the week for sending home of information and notes. That day will be **THURSDAY**.

Home Readers and Lost Reader Replacement Fee

Last year the school purchased a large amount of reading material for our students to add to our reading resources. These readers are a vital part of your child's reading development and it is important that one source of home reading be from class. Therefore, it is important that readers go home regularly and more importantly that readers are returned regularly and in good condition.

When readers are lost they need to be replaced at a cost to the school. Last year we informed parents that if books were lost or returned in poor condition then a replacement fee of \$10 would need to be paid. This year we will continue with this process. Should a reader not be returned after the required time a letter informing the parent of the missing reader will be sent home. If the reader is still unable to be found parents will be invoiced the \$10 replacement fee.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Jodie Sibbald

Assistant Principal

Changes to Issuing Exemption Certificates for Absences

The Minister for Education has approved changes to the use of the Attendance Register codes for 2015.

These changes will implement the ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting. ACARA developed the National Standards to establish nationally consistent parameters for the collection and reporting of student attendance data.

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel during school term is necessary the following considerations apply:

If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as "L".

If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student's best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence is unjustified and will be recorded as "A".

If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education.

Leave of ten (10) or more school days will require a formal application for leave in writing. This letter of request should be addressed to the Principal prior to commencing the leave period indicating the specific reason or purpose for the request of leave.

Principals should consider each application as it presents individually, and notify parents, carers, and class attendance roll teachers in writing of the outcome of this request.

Appropriate Use of Photographs and Videos

This a reminder to all parents, as we start the new year, about the appropriate use of digital images or video.

At this point there is no restriction on parents wishing to take and use photographs of their own **child or children** at school activities.

However, the use of photographs that include children other than your own, where permission has not been sought from the other child or children's parents is not acceptable. This is a significant breach of privacy and we all need to be aware and respect the privacy of others.

The school has a Media Consent form that gives all families the opportunity to inform the school as to your willingness to allow the use of your child's image by the school in promotional and advertising material. The Media Consent form is being sent home today (Thursday) to all families, seeking your permission for the school to take and use images for school promotions and publicity. Your prompt return of this information is appreciated.

It is possible that the taking of any digital image be it a still photograph or video at school events by parents and families may be prohibited if material is not handled and used appropriately. It would be unfortunate if this were to occur however, the privacy and security of others is an important consideration in respect to this matter.

CATHOLIC CULTURE

HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Serving others is an essential part of living our lives as a reflection of the values that Jesus taught us. This can take many forms - in the home, the classroom, the playground and the wider community. One way is by becoming an Altar Server.

Serving is open to the students in Stage 2 and 3 that have already received the sacrament of the Eucharist. It also involves a commitment to attending the Saturday evening Vigil Mass.

If your child is interested in becoming a parish Altar Server they need to come and see Mr Mac for a permission note. Once completed and returned they will be added to the roster and receive on the job training from experienced servers.



Beginning of School Year Prayer

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!
Amen

School Prayer

We are Holy Family Catholic
School
With respect for one and all.

We use One Heart and One Mind
to follow your sacred call.

Heart of Jesus, heart of love
I ask this Lord of you today.

To fill my heart with your love
In all the things I do and say.





Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following people who celebrated their birthdays since the beginning of this year:

Youssef Tadros, Montayah Astruc, Patrick Vial, Amelia Vella, Kiesha McMahon, Gabriella Brajuha, Christian Hanson, Jacob Hall, Anique Pantazakos, Elizabeth Searle, Clara Davies, Aiden Crawford, Emily Borg, Steven Borg, Seth Obereigner, Vincent Grima, Miss Sibbald, Mrs Franich and Mr Ackroyd-Broadbere.

Holy Family Bears - New Name - Same Club



AUSTRAL CITY BEARS

Junior Rugby League Football Club
Sunday Competition
Under 6's to Under 11's

COMMENCING SOON

Registrations held at Craik Park Austral
Friday 6 February, 2015 – from 6-7:30pm
Saturday 7 & 14 February, 2015 - from 10am to 1pm

BE QUICK to avoid disappointment

Copies of Birth and Baptism certificates required.
Any enquires call Julie 0408 807 370

FAMILY ASTRONOMY NIGHTS

Saturday 14 February and 28 February

8pm – 10 pm

These night will include a multimedia presentation with question time, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and 0.6m telescope and an opportunity to view celestial objects through the university's telescopes. Our programs will run regardless of the weather.

Cost: \$18 adult, \$12 child/concession and \$50 family

Bookings are essential: Book and pay online: www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What's On

Contact:

Tel: (02)4736 0135

Email:

www.penrithobservatory@uws.edu.au

www.uws.edu.au/observatory

www.twitter.com/uwsobservatory

www.facebook.com/UWSObservatory

School Banking 2015 is ready for launch.

OUTER SPACE
SAVERS

For over 80 years, the School Banking program has been teaching Australian children lifelong money skills. This year, your child is invited to join the Dollarmites on an intergalactic mission to Planet Savings.

Information on how students can get on board with School Banking, including a Savings Tracker and a rewards redemption card, is available from your School Banking Co-ordinator.

Your school has received parent packs that include all the information you need to get on board. If you haven't received a parent pack yet, please ask your School Banking Co-ordinator.

Rewarding good savings habits with eight new items in 2015

The School Banking program encourages good savings habits by rewarding students with awesome reward items. For every 10 deposits made through the program, they can redeem a reward from our Outer Space Savers range, including ET DVDs, Planet Handballs, Invisible Ink, Martian Pens, Intergalactic Rockets, Glow-in-the-Dark Solar Systems, Cosmic Light Beam Torches, Outer Space Savers Money Boxes and Lunar Light Bands.

You could win a family trip to Disneyland

In a School Banking first, students who make 25 or more School Banking deposits in 2015 will automatically receive one entry into the competition draw to win a family trip to California's Disneyland. The prize includes return airfares, five nights accommodation, transfers and three days park entry for up to two adults and two kids, plus AUD\$2,000 spending money.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

Things to know before you Can: Conditions apply. Promotion starts 9.00am AEDT 27/1/15 and ends 11.59pm AEDT 12/12/15. Entry is open to all Youthsaver account holders aged 5-18 years who participate in CommBank's School Banking program. Entrants under 18 must have parent/guardian consent. The draw will take place at 12.30pm AEDT on 12/1/16 at the Promoter's office. The first valid entry drawn will win a family trip to California's Disneyland valued at \$22,245. The winner's name will be published in the public notices section of *The Australian* on 28/1/16. Promoter is Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124 of Level 2, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Full terms and conditions available at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking. NSW Permit No LH/14/09857, ACT Permit No TP14/01345, VIC Permit No 14/5936, SA Permit No T14/2827.

