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Newsletter No: 37 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Parents,

This week marks the end of the liturgical year. Next week, with the first week of Advent, we begin the new liturgical cycle. It is fitting that the Church concludes the liturgical year with the celebration of Christ the King.

When Jesus speaks about the Kingdom of God he never gives a particularly clear picture of what he means. He usually refers to the kingdom with metaphoric language ('the kingdom of God is like ...') and often the kingdom is defined by what it is not. Catholic social teaching identifies three steps for getting at the truth – *see, judge, act*. The first step challenges us to notice and explore conflicts and tensions in our world. The second step calls us to make judgments in the light of Jesus' teachings in scripture and the Church's teachings about social justice. These two steps obligate us to act, to make a difference. This week, we pray for world peace. We pray the God's kingdom is evident in our own community. We pray peace, care, love and hope continues to shine through our words and actions.



#### RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to all children who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Certificates for Reconciliation will be distributed during weekend parish masses on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

#### NIGHT MARKET

Tonight is the culmination of much planning – I'm sure that it will be a great success. Thanks to all involved ... I'll see you this evening!

#### FOUNDATION (PREP) ORIENTATION

Yesterday the 2016 Foundation students came to school for the first of their Orientation days. It's an exciting time for the new families who will be joining our school community next year.

#### BASKETBALL GALA DAY

A number of senior students will participate in the Basketball Gala day at Oakleigh Recreation Centre tomorrow. They will walk to and from school and play approximately five games throughout the day.

#### SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November we have planned a school closure day. During the day we will be planning our curriculum for 2016.

#### SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB

THANK YOU to Jacinta Chetwin (Harry 3\4L & Bonnie 1\2 SP) who has been our book club organiser for the last two years. In fact it was Jacinta who approached me to get it back up and going at COHR! It certainly has been a profitable resource, not just for our library but continuing to highlight the importance and enjoyment of books and reading. Jacinta is handing over the coordinating to Anna Sarullo (Antony 3\4 L & Julia Prep D) and we are appreciative of Anna for taking it on. It is not a hard job but we are thankful to Jacinta and Anna for the couple of hours that it takes to collate orders for each issue.

Scholastic Book Club Issue 8 has arrived and this is the last issue for the year. Maybe there are some Christmas presents within this issue? Look over the flyer with your children, select the books you want, mark them on the order form on the back of the flyer, and **return the order form to school by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November with payment or complete your order online**. If you would like to order and keep the books a surprise, please just let Virginia in the office know or write a little note when you submit your order and we'll give you a call when they arrive.

This year has been very profitable from Scholastic Book club, with over \$700 in credit points. Last issue we were able to redeem over \$250 in rewards to replace some of our popular series books which were well read and falling to bits. We are very grateful to those that buy up from each book order. Enjoy looking through this last issue.

Sincerely,

Karen Wakeling and Jacinta & Anna

#### CHRISTMAS TOY & BOOK APPEAL

Once again Christmas has crept up on us and is only weeks away! The Christmas toy catalogues are being sent around and children are planning their toy list. It's an exciting time of the year for many children. Unfortunately, through no fault of their own, many Australian children will go without receiving a gift this Christmas, simply because their families cannot afford it.

With your help and the help of other Australian families we can provide our children with the true spirit of Christmas, giving a gift to someone who really needs one.

The Smith Family have made a request for gifts purchased to be suitable for older children (8 – 12 years). Good examples are books, puzzles, board games, art & craft, educational toys, meccano kits and remote control toys. Presents should be unwrapped, and no larger than back pack size and non-breakable. If batteries are required could they please also be included.

Donation boxes and information will be set up in the Foyer. The final day for presents will be Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Terri-Anne Clancy (mother of Milla 1/2S)

### **TEACHER GIFTS**

One of the lovely aspects of COHR is the amazing support we have from you as parents. One thing that is a little unique to our school is the Parents' Association recognizing birthdays by way of a small gift and card. The staff greatly appreciate the thought. However, it can be a source of embarrassment and unease if some teachers are given extra gifts over the PA gift. I believe that in some classes parents have collected money to purchase an extra present. I would ask that this not occur as we are delighted with the recognition.

Similarly with Christmas gifts – if parents wish to individually give a gift (small) this is acceptable. However, our staff do not expect a gift. Often a hand written card from a student is greatly cherished.

### **CONDOLENCES FOR PHIL SOLARI**

Our prayers and support are extended to Phil Solari on the death of her mother last weekend. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Agatha's, Cranbourne. A Rosary will be offered this evening at St Agatha's at 7:00pm.

### **SOCKTOBER**

Congratulations to the children who contributed so generously during Socktober.

The Social Justice Club is pleased to announce that COHR raised a total of \$915 for Catholic Mission. This will be used to help provide clean drinking water in Madagascar.

### **TERM 4 DATES**

#### **November**

Thursday 19th Night Market  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Yr 5/6 Basketball Gala day  
Wednesday 25th Prep Orientation 11:40am – 1:00pm  
Friday 27th School Closure day  
Sunday 29th Reconciliation certificates distributed

#### **December**

Friday 4th Carols in the Park  
Thursday 10th Yr 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner  
Friday 11th Reports, Portfolios & Class information sent home  
PA Christmas Party  
Tuesday 15th School Mass 9:15am  
Yr 6 Assembly 2:30pm  
Wednesday 16th Term 4 ends – children dismissed at 3:30  
Thursday 17th School Closure day

With best wishes

Thomas Coghlan  
Principal

### **NATIVITY PLAY**

Children are invited to take part in the Christmas Nativity on Christmas Eve at 6.30 pm, at the Church. They will be singing Xmas Hymns and dressing up in costumes. All children welcome to take part.

Rehearsal will be at the Church on Thursday afternoon straight after school. Children will be picked up from school foyer and taken to the church, where parents will pick them up at 4.15pm. Parents are very welcome to stay for the whole rehearsal time.



## Donations

Currently we accept new toys and books for 0 – 12 year olds. Additionally this year we encourage you to donate learning and educational related items.

- All gifts received must not be wrapped
- All toys should be no bigger than a school backpack
- Please ensure batteries are included if they are required to operate the toy
- Ensure you are able to deliver your donated toys and books during the specified timeframe. Toys cannot be accepted outside of these collection periods. Due to limited resources The Smith Family is unable to pick-up toys and books. Please do not deliver toys and books to Smith Family offices.

## Donations most needed

Currently there is a significant shortage of gifts for children 9 - 12 years of age. Your donation to these age categories it would be greatly appreciated.

## Items we don't accept

- Large items i.e. bikes, hula-hoops, adult cricket bats, large doll houses, ride ons, tennis set
- Second hand or handmade toys
- Clothes and Manchester including costumes
- Toiletries – perfume, make-up, nail polish
- Toys that replicate weapons i.e. guns, knives
- Religious items i.e. books, figurines
- Calendars & diaries
- Candles and lamps
- Adult games or videos
- Items used for marketing a brand or company i.e. fast food items/toys
- Breakable items i.e. porcelain dolls and tea sets
- Items that contain liquid
- Food
- CD's and video games

## Store gift vouchers and cheque donations

Store gift vouchers and cheque donations are always accepted. Please send all monetary donations in a secure envelope to: Nicole Rose, The Smith Family, PO Box 207, Collins St West VIC 8007 with cheques made payable to 'The Smith Family'.

## Donation Recommendations

Please find below a guide to appropriate toys and books for each age group. Please ensure you check the age suitability on the

[thesmithfamily.com.au/christmas](http://thesmithfamily.com.au/christmas)

# TOY & BOOK APPEAL

YOU CAN HELP



everyone's family

packaging before purchasing. Remember we have a significant shortage in the 9-12 age categories.

0 - 1

- Push and pull toys
- Musical instruments
- Soft material bath books
- Building blocks

2 - 3

- Play sets
- Dolls with no small attachments
- Plastic tea sets (no porcelain)
- Plastic golf sets
- Toy trucks
- Golden books

4 - 5

- Baby dolls
- Matchbox cars
- Plastic kitchen sets
- Picture books with few words
- Barbie doll or My Little Pony sets
- Figurines
- Easy jigsaw puzzles
- Activity and colouring books
- Young reader books

6 - 8

- Art, craft and bead sets
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Board games
- Remote control cars
- Lego
- Action Figurines
- Kite, Frisbee and Yo yo's
- Sporting goods

9-10

- Art and craft sets

11-12

- Educational games
- Sports balls
- Science kits
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Board games

- Meccano kits
- Beach sporting goods
- Children's novels
- Remote control cars
- Electronic hand-held games

**Remember:** Fun, versatile, activity based, long lasting, educational or active.

[thesmithfamily.com.au/christmas](http://thesmithfamily.com.au/christmas)