Dear Parents,

The Christmas season is the celebration of Jesus’s birth and epiphany. The epiphany is the feast day that remembers the showing of the infant Jesus to the Magi or the wise men from the east. In the Church’s liturgical seasons, the Christmas season is second in importance after the season of Easter. Christmas has many symbols, both Christian and popular, that are used to celebrate the season. These include: the crib, the star, the Christmas tree, lambs, angels, trumpets, shepherds, dove and holly among others.

The symbol of the Christmas tree has a mixed heritage. The prophet Isaiah predicted there would “come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse” (Isaiah 11:1). Jesse was the father of King David, one of Jesus’s ancestors according to Gospel genealogy. Christians took the idea of Jesus’ ‘family tree’ and decorated it with pictures and ornaments to represent his ancestors, such as David, Noah, Moses and so on. Of course it is now adorned with many other symbols.

Once again, as a school community, we can look back over a busy and successful year. Some of the highlights, on top of the many class learning experiences are:

‘O’ week activities
Sacramental program – Reconciliation, Eucharist & Confirmation
Education in Faith program: Parent information evenings, Faith formation sessions, Ash Wednesday Lent/Easter, COHR Feast day, School Masses, Andrew Chinn workshop and concert, Seasons program, Focus on values (based on Gospels values from Luke’s gospel), throughout the year
Physical Education: Sports day, inter school sport successes, Running club
Excursions/ Incursions, including the Power of One incursion & Cyber safety presentations
Social Justice activities: Project Compassion, Social Justice Wednesday (mini marathon), Crazy Sock day, fundraising, Night Market fundraising, Mini Vinnies, Harmony Day, Asylum Seeker gala dinner
Community events: Family Fish ’n Chip night, Shrove Tuesday ‘pancakes,’ Parent Education Board, Parents Association, School Open day, Walk-a-thon, Hot dogs/donuts days, Working bees, Mother’s Day stall, School disco, Father’s Day stall, Family Week, Grandparents day, School veggie garden, 2014 Prep parent meetings/orientation, Parents Association Social Night, Parent helpers, Choir singing carols in the park.
Chess program and Chess club
Year 5/6 camp
Book Week and Book fair
School Concert – Magic at the Museum
Technology updates: massive upgrade of wireless throughout the school, iPads in Prep, Tablets in 5/6 as well as upgrades of older hardware
Clubs: Computer club, Home task club, Café club, School choir, Chess club

END OF YEAR REPORTS
Tomorrow you will receive your child’s End of Year Report. Also included in the envelope is information regarding your child’s class teacher for next year, booklist and information regarding a parent information night at the beginning of next year. If you wish to speak with your child’s teacher please make a time for Monday afternoon.
Student portfolios will also be sent home tomorrow. We are making a few changes to our student portfolios, and this year’s Years 1, 3 and 5 students need to return their portfolio by next Tuesday.

END OF YEAR MASS
Our End of Year Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 17th December at 9am. We would love to see as many parents present as possible.
YEAR 6 FINAL ASSEMBLY
The Yr 6 final assembly will be held in the Hall on Tuesday 17th at 2:30pm. All families are most welcome.

LAST DAY
The children will be dismissed at 2:30 on Thursday 19th December. There will be a brief final Assembly on Thursday morning at 9am.
The school Office will close at 10am on Friday 20th December and will re-open on Tuesday 28th January.
Please ensure that all outstanding fees are settled before the close of our Office on Friday 20th December.

STAFFING – 2014
Next year we welcome back Ilona Certola (Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri) and Leah Macdonald from maternity leave. They will again combine together next year – this time in the 1/2 level. We will also welcome to our school Nicole Harink into Prep. Nicole has been teaching Prep at another school this year.

Level One (Prep)
Nicole Harink Prep H
Susan Daly Prep D

Level Two (One/Two)
Jo White 1/2 W
Karen Gosling 1/2 D
Phil Solari (T-F) &
Franca Paduano 1/2 SP
Ilona Cetrola &
Leah Macdonald (W) 1/2CM

Level Three (Three/Four)
Emily Shannon 3/4 S
Elise Pape 3/4 EP
Georgina Laming 3/4L
Jill Palermo 3/4JP

Level Four (Five/Six)
Michella Pradel 5/6 P
John Killen 5/6 K
Antonietta Corp (W-F) &
Jennifer Smith (M-T) 5/6 CS

Specialists
Karen Wakeling Resource Centre & ICT (T, Th, F)
Sue Tobin PE (Th, F)
Marisa Lucia LOTE (Italian) (T, F)
Connie Antenucci Performing Arts (Th, F)
Karin Dornbierer Visual Arts (M)

Administration
Virginia Macdonald (M, T, Th, F)
Pru Barrett (T, W)

Student Services
Michelle Seel
Lorraine Hill
Isabelle Georgalas

Class support/Integration Aides
Sue Jenkins
Sr Patricia Keogh

Chaplain
Sr Patricia Keogh
Positions of Leadership
Antonietta Corp  Deputy Principal
Jennifer Smith  Learning & Teacher & Literacy Leader
Jill Palermo  Religious Education Leader
Karen Wakeling  ICT leader
John Killeen  Sport Co-ordinator
Michelle Seel  Student Services
Tom Coghlan  Principal

2014
The Year 1 – 6 students commence on Wednesday 29th January. Our Preps will commence the following day – Thursday 30th January. There is a Welcome Morning tea in the Hall on Thursday 30th – all parents are warmly invited.
We have arranged a Parent Seminar on Wednesday 12th February on developing confidence and resilience in children – save this date for this important meeting.

VEGGIE GARDEN
On Monday at 3.15pm we will be selling beautiful, fresh, organic vegies from our garden. On sale in the foyer.

MARKET NIGHT RAFFLE
Two raffles were drawn at our Market Night. The winners of the Peter Mac Raffle were:
1st Prize – Kevin Tobin  (Arghan Oil Hair Pack)
2nd Prize – Grace Leslie  ($100 voucher to Dream Cakes and Café)
3rd Prize – Steve Blight  ($50 voucher to Blo Bar)
4th Prize – Brian Collins  (Quartz Lamp Botaniko)
5th Prize – Christine Conforti  (Hamper of Soap products Scentsational Soaps)
6th Prize – Veronica Kendall  (Sterling silver pendant and earring set from Airo Art)
The winners of the COHR raffle were:
1st Prize – Kerrilee Pearson  (Night for 2 at IBIS Hotel)
2nd Prize – Taliesha Hall-Huynh  (J & T House of Beauty gift pack)
3rd Prize – Claire DiFabrizio  (High tea for two at Beau Monde International)
4th Prize – Stevie Garth  (Santa Sac and $25 Little Hollywood hair voucher)
5th Prize - John Bernardo  ($50 voucher at Meat Me Souvlaki)

COHR SACRAMENTAL DATES – 2014
RECONCILIATION
Sat 22nd / Sun 23rd February  Parish Commitment Mass  5:30pm (SH) or 11pm (COHR)
Thursday 27th February  Family Information Night 7pm (at Sacred Heart)
Reconciliation
Saturday 26th April (11am or 4:30pm)
Saturday 3rd May (11am & 4:30pm)

EUCHARIST
Sat10th & Sun 11th May  Eucharist Commitment Mass 5:30pm (SH) & 11am (COHR)
Thursday 22nd May  ‘Walk through Mass’ 7pm
Wednesday 28th May  Eucharist Reflection day
Thursday 29th May  Eucharist Family Workshop 7pm
Thursday 5th June  Reconciliation 9:30am
Sunday 15th June  First Eucharist Masses – 1pm & 3pm

CONFIRMATION
Thursday 17th July  Parent Information night 7:30pm (at COHR)
Sat/Sun 19th & 20th July  Confirmation Commitment Mass (5:30pm & 11am)
Thursday 14th August  Confirmation Family Night 7pm
Friday 15th August  Confirmation Reflection day
Thursday 21st August  Reconciliation 9:30am
Friday 22nd August  Confirmation 7pm

With best wishes,

Thomas Coghlan
PRINCIPAL
IMPORTANT 2014 DATES
TERM ONE

January
Wednesday 28th  Staff return
Wednesday 29th  Yrs 1 – 6 commence
Thursday 30th  Preps commence
Welcome morning tea in Hall

February
Thursday 6th  School Mass
Family Fish’n’Chip night
Wednesday 12th  Parent Information night 7pm
Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd  Reconciliation Commitment Mass
Wednesday 26th  Parents’ Association AGM
Thursday 27th  Information Night – Reconciliation (Yr3)
Friday 28th  Enrolments for Catholic secondary schools close

March
Monday 3rd  School Photo day
Wednesday 5th  Ash Wednesday
Yr 5 & 6 leave for Camp
Friday 7th  Yr 5 & 6 return form Camp
Monday 10th  Labour Day holiday
Thursday 13th  Education Board meeting
Saturday 15th  Catholic Education Visual Arts Exhibition
Thursday 20th  Mass for schools at St Patrick’s Cathedral
Friday 21st  National Day against Bullying & Violence
Wednesday 26th  Parents’ Association

May
Thursday 1st  Education Board
Saturday 3rd  Reconciliation Yr 3
Thursday 8th  Mother’s Day stall
Sat 10th & Sun 11th  Eucharist Commitment Mass
Sunday 11th  Mothers’ Day
Tuesday 13th  NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)
Wednesday 14th  NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)
Family Faith Night (P-2)
Thursday 15th  NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)
Wednesday 21st  Parents’ Association
Thursday 22nd  Eucharist ‘Talking Mass’ 7pm (Yr 4)
Saturday 24th  Our Lady Help of Christians
Wednesday 28th  Eucharist Reflection day (Yr 4)
Thursday 29th  Eucharist Family Workshop 7pm (Yr 4)

TERM TWO

Tuesday 22nd  Term 2 commences
Wednesday 23rd  Parent/teacher interviews 3pm – 6pm (children dismissed at 2:30pm)
Thursday 24th  Parent/Teacher interviews 4pm – 6pm
Friday 25th  ANZAC day
Saturday 26th  Reconciliation Yr 3
Wednesday 30th  Open day
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6th</td>
<td>School closure day</td>
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<td>Monday 9th</td>
<td>Queen's birthday</td>
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<td>Sunday 15th</td>
<td>First Eucharist (Yr 4) 1pm &amp; 3pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 19th</td>
<td>Education Board</td>
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<td>Friday 20th</td>
<td>Mid-year Reports sent home</td>
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<td>Friday 27th</td>
<td>Term 2 ends (children dismissed at 2:30pm)</td>
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<td>Term 3 commences</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16th</td>
<td>Parents' Association</td>
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<td>Thursday 17th</td>
<td>Confirmation Parent Information night 7:30pm</td>
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<td>Sat 19th &amp; Sun 20th</td>
<td>Confirmation Commitment Mass</td>
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<td>Grandparents day</td>
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<td>Parent/Teacher interviews 4pm – 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6th</td>
<td>Parents Association</td>
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<td>Friday 8th</td>
<td>Feast of Mary MacKillop</td>
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<td>Thursday 14th</td>
<td>Confirmation Family Night 7pm</td>
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<td>Friday 15th</td>
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<td>Feast of Assumption of Mary</td>
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<td>Friday 22nd</td>
<td>Confirmation (Yr 6) 7pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 16th</td>
<td>Art Show</td>
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<td>Wednesday 17th</td>
<td>Footy colours/Hot dog day</td>
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<td>Friday 19th</td>
<td>Term 3 ends (children dismissed at 2:30pm)</td>
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<td>Sunday 5th</td>
<td>Daylight savings begins</td>
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<td>Term 4 commences</td>
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<td>Thursday 9th</td>
<td>Education Board</td>
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<td>COHR Feast day</td>
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<td>Monday 3rd</td>
<td>School closure day</td>
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<td>Tuesday 4th</td>
<td>Melbourne cup holiday</td>
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<td>Wednesday 12th</td>
<td>Prep (2015) parent meeting</td>
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<td>Friday 14th</td>
<td>FETE</td>
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<td>Wednesday 19th</td>
<td>Prep Orientation</td>
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<td>Thursday 20th</td>
<td>Education Board</td>
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<td>Wednesday 26th</td>
<td>Prep Orientation</td>
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<td>Sunday 30th</td>
<td>1st Sunday of Advent</td>
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<td>Friday 5th</td>
<td>Carols in the Park</td>
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<td>Graduation Mass &amp; Dinner</td>
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<td>End of year Reports sent home</td>
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<td>Annual Christmas Party</td>
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<td>Tuesday 16th</td>
<td>End of Year Mass</td>
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<td>Yr 6 Assembly</td>
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<td>Thursday 18th</td>
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