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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 Souvlakeri)

COHR SACRAMENTAL DATES – 2014

RECONCILIATION

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

EUCHARIST

Sat 10 th & Sun 11 th May	Eucharist Commitment Mass 5:30pm (SH) & 11am (COHR)
Thursday 22 nd May	'Walk through Mass' 7pm
Wednesday 28 th May	Eucharist Reflection day
Thursday 29 th May	Eucharist Family Workshop 7pm
Thursday 5 th June	Reconciliation 9:30am
Sunday 15 th June	First Eucharist Masses – 1pm & 3pm

CONFIRMATION

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

With best wishes,

Thomas Coghlan
PRINCIPAL

IMPORTANT 2014 DATES

TERM ONE

January

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

February

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

March

Monday 3 rd	School Photo day
Wednesday 5 th	Ash Wednesday
	Yr 5 & 6 leave for Camp
Friday 7 th	Yr 5 & 6 return from Camp
Monday 10 th	Labour Day holiday
Thursday 13 th	Education Board meeting
Saturday 15 th	Catholic Education Visual Arts Exhibition
Thursday 20 th	Mass for schools at St Patrick's Cathedral
Friday 21 st	National Day against Bullying & Violence
Wednesday 26 th	Parents' Association
Monday 31 st	School Sports day (children dismissed at 2:30pm)

April

Friday 4 th	Term 1 ends (children dismissed at 2:30pm)
Sunday 6 th	Daylight saving ends
Thursday 17 th	Holy Thursday
Friday 18 th	Good Friday
Sunday 20 th	Easter Sunday

TERM TWO

Tuesday 22 nd	Term 2 commences
Wednesday 23 rd	Parent/teacher interviews 3pm – 6pm (children dismissed at 2:30pm)
Thursday 24 th	Parent/Teacher interviews 4pm – 6pm
Friday 25 th	ANZAC day
Saturday 26 th	Reconciliation Yr 3
Wednesday 30 th	Open day

May

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

June

Friday 6 th	School closure day
Monday 9 th	Queen's birthday
Sunday 15 th	First Eucharist (Yr 4) 1pm & 3pm
Thursday 19 th	Education Board
Friday 20 th	Mid-year Reports sent home
Friday 27 th	Term 2 ends (children dismissed at 2:30pm)

July

TERM THREE

Monday 14 th	Term 3 commences
Wednesday 16 th	Parents' Association
Thursday 17 th	Confirmation Parent Information night 7:30pm
Sat 19 th & Sun 20 th	Confirmation Commitment Mass
Tuesday 22 nd	Grandparents day
	Parent/Teacher interviews 4pm – 6pm
Wednesday 23 rd	Parent/Teacher interviews 3pm – 6pm (children dismissed at 2:30pm)

August

Wednesday 6 th	Parents Association
Friday 8 th	Feast of Mary MacKillop
Thursday 14 th	Confirmation Family Night 7pm
Friday 15 th	Confirmation Reflection day
	Feast of Assumption of Mary
Friday 22 nd	Confirmation (Yr 6) 7pm
Thursday 28 th	Education Board
Thursday 4 th	Fathers' day stall
Sunday 7 th	Fathers' day
Wednesday 10 th	Parents Association
Tuesday 16 th	Art Show
Wednesday 17 th	Footy colours/Hot dog day
Friday 19 th	Term 3 ends (children dismissed at 2:30pm)

October

TERM FOUR

Sunday 5 th	Daylight savings begins
Monday 6 th	Term 4 commences
Thursday 9 th	Education Board
Wednesday 22 nd	COHR Feast day

November

Monday 3 rd	School closure day
Tuesday 4 th	Melbourne cup holiday
Wednesday 12 th	Prep (2015) parent meeting
Friday 14 th	FETE
Wednesday 19 th	Prep Orientation
Thursday 20 th	Education Board
Wednesday 26 th	Prep Orientation
Sunday 30 th	1 st Sunday of Advent

December

Friday 5 th	Carols in the Park
Thursday 11 th	Graduation Mass & Dinner
Friday 12 th	End of year Reports sent home
	Annual Christmas Party
Tuesday 16 th	End of Year Mass
	Yr 6 Assembly
Thursday 18 th	Term 4 ends (children dismissed at 2:30pm)