Dear Parents and Friends,

It has come around very quickly that I am writing the final newsletter for 2016. In this year our community has been blessed with a number of amazing opportunities including but not limited to:

- Setting a Guinness World Record for a science experiment
- Children sang as part of a mass choir for Mary MacKillop Feast Day
- Through our work with the excellent Brisbane City Council Active School Travel programme we have had scooter skills, performances, helicopter experiences and road safety talks
- Gold Medallist Gemma Etheridge visited and spoke to students
- Whole school dairy excursion as we painted a life size cow.
- Brisbane Lions press conference at school and game day experience
- Camps, excursions, homework clubs
- Fashion Night spectacular at Victoria Park
- Book week, cross country, gala touch football, AFL Auskick, NRL touch days, athletics carnivals, swimming lessons and swimming carnival
- Enhancement and creation of reading garden, new fences, new signs and new art and music room. Purchase and implementation of an iPad for every student
- Christmas Concerts, Naidoc week, Disco, Graduation Night, Reading Night

We apologise for the lateness of this announcement. The Year 1 Teacher we appointed has since been seconded to another school to be an assistant principal. Although disappointing for us it was an opportunity she takes with our blessing. Next week I will be conducting interviews with a number of excellent teachers before we appoint someone to the role.

Farewells:

For a number of staff and students, in particular the Year 6 students and Mrs Dos Santos, Friday will be their last day at St Mary of the Cross. We wish them all the best in the future and know that you leave behind a little bit of you in our school. Next year we will be welcoming new students across the school and some new staff members.

Please be aware that school will finish at 12pm. ALL Students are to be collected from school at this time or arrangements made with After School Care.

Have a restful break,
Matthew Beacroft - Principal
APRE
Mr Dean Estreich

Dear Parents and Friends,

Pope Francis ‘Top 10 Tips’ for HAPPINESS

This week I have included the last 5 of Pope Francis’ top 10 tips for happiness summarised by Father Ronald Rolheiser. Take these tips on board for the holidays and the Advent season.

Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people
If you want to bless a young person, don’t just tell that person that he or she is wonderful. Don’t just admire youthful beauty and energy. Give a young person your job! Or, at least, work actively to help him or her find meaningful work. This will both bless that young person and bring a special happiness to your own life.

Respect and take care of nature
The air we breathe out is the air we will re-inhale. This is true spiritually, psychologically, and ecologically. We can’t be whole and happy when Mother Earth is being stripped of her wholeness. Christ came to save the world, not just the people in the world. Our salvation, like our happiness, is tied to the way we treat the earth. It is immoral to slap another person in the face and so it is immoral too to throw our garbage into the face of Mother Earth.

Stop being negative

Don’t attempt to convert others, respect others’ beliefs
What we cherish and put our faith into grows by attraction, not by trying to convert others. Beauty is the one thing that no one can argue with. Cherish your values, but always act towards others with graciousness, charity, and respect.

Work for peace
Peace is more than the absence of war and working for peace means more than not causing disharmony. Peace, like war, must be waged actively by working for justice, equality, and an ever-wider inclusivity in terms of what makes up our family. Waging peace is the perennial struggle to stretch hearts, our own and others, to accept that in God’s house there are many rooms and that all faiths, not least our own, are meant to be a house of prayer for all peoples.

Final Day of School Liturgy at 11:15am in Holy Rosary Church

Friday will be the last day at St Mary of the Cross for some staff and students. We will have the opportunity to say goodbye to those leaving at our liturgy in Holy Rosary Church from 11:15am. The occasion will also provide an opportunity for the Year 6 students to hand over their leadership responsibilities to the Year 5 students. We welcome our school and Parish community to this celebration.

Happy and Safe Holidays

Congratulations on a great 2016 school year and all the very best to everyone for a safe and happy Christmas break. We pray for those leaving us and may they take with them our love into their new school communities.

Have a peaceful holiday,
Dean Estreich
Assistant Principal Religious Education (APRE)
PASTORAL CARE CORNER
Sr Anne Cannon

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your support during the year. My Christmas wish for you comes from Mary MacKillop who wrote to her sisters: “Though many of us will be far apart, we can be united in spirit at the crib. May our dear Infant Jesus come to us all with many graces.”

I think that we shall always see our God’s gifts upon our Christmas tree; you cannot touch them with your hand, yet they are always there right at your command!!! There’s joy, and faith and hope renewed; and there’s laughter for a happy mood. There’s gratitude for each new day, with a time to think, a time to stop and pray. With Christ our way, giving us his holy light, always shining very clear to make your pathway bright. These things are yours if you choose to see God’s gifts upon your family’s Christmas tree.

Remember, in our minds we create it, in our hearts we share it.

Peace on the earth, and good will to all.

Safe travel to those of you who are on the road or on the wing!

God bless,

Sr Anne
School Pastoral Worker

CHRISTMAS MASS AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH

There will be a 6:30pm Mass at Holy Cross on Christmas Eve, with carols beginning at 6:00pm. Children are required for the Carols procession and for the Gospel procession. We are looking for five readers, each with a small reading, five candle bearers, one book carrier and many lantern carriers. High school students are welcome. If you would like to participate, please let Sr Anne know through acannon@bne.catholic.edu.au. It’s alright to just turn up on Christmas Eve, too.

There will also be a midnight Mass in Italian, 8:00am at St Anne’s and 9:30am at Holy Cross. There will be no Christmas Mass at Windsor this year.

COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your support of the Christmas Appeal. Please remember to collect toiletries, tea, coffee and sugar on your travels and stamps from your Christmas cards. All of these can be used by others.

DECEMBER

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SCHOOL AWARDS

Sr Anne | Joanne
Louisa  |

LAWN BOWLS CONGRATULATIONS

There was great excitement last Friday as we conducted our playoffs. Victorious winners of the gold medal were the SuperStars. This team included Joanne Webber. Congratulations to them. Georgia Zumbo and her team played valiantly to come in third. We thank Windsor Bowls Club for their support and ask you to support them in return.
THE YEAR THAT HAS BEEN...

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