Harrison Herald Newsletter

Dear Parents

This is the last newsletter for 2013 and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very safe and happy Christmas and a fruitful New Year. I wish also to thank the staff at MTS for all that they do to assist in the education of your children. I hope they are able to have a very restful holiday. To the staff who are leaving, Catherine Blackwell (to England), Greg Egan (to Sydney), Sue Heuston (to Queensland) and Kate McGregor (to Holy Spirit in Nicholls), I express my thanks and best wishes for the future. Mrs Tanchevski will not return to teaching next year as she will be busy with her new baby that is due early in the school year.

Holiday Shut Down

The school will close on Friday and reopen for business in the week starting Tuesday January 28. Please use the school facilities during the holidays as we need to have the right people using our play areas as this will discourage the wrong people. During the holidays the grassed area will be revamped to provide a safe play space for the children. We are installing 1 000 sq. meters of artificial turf for the children. If you see any problems around the school please contact Crime Stoppers.

Bike Riding

The children in Year 3 have completed their bike riding classes and we were very impressed with the improved skill levels demonstrated by the children. Last Friday we had the opportunity to showcase some of the skills learnt during the program. The children received certificates for their hard work. My thanks to the many parents who came along to support the children last Friday.

Parent Helpers Morning Tea

Thanks to those who were able to come along to the morning tea held on Wednesday in the staff room. Even if you were not able to come along to the morning tea, we still wish to thank you all for your assistance around the school and your support for your children.

Cheerleading

It was wonderful to see the children in cheerleading on the stage yesterday doing such an amazing job. There was also an opportunity to thank Kelly for all her hard work this year. Thank you to the choir children under the direction of Mrs White for their wonderful singing at assembly yesterday.

Triathlon

A number of our children are competing in the Weet Bix Triathlon on February 16 at the AIS. If you want to enter your child please go on to their web site and register for this fun event.
**Happy birthday** to everyone who is celebrating their birthday this week including:
Grace Howell, Bianca Milin, Gabrielle Bishop, Mia Rezo, Cooper Greatz, Austin Evans, Vincent Fabrizio, Camela Paragalli, Michael Yang, Isabella Condemi, Ava Au, Nataliya Ciampa, Amelia Chalker, Joshua Carton, Emily Patmore, Luke Priestley and Stefani Ujdsur

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**Mass Times For Christmas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Vigil (Children’s Mass)</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve Mass (carols at 9:30pm)</td>
<td>10:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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St Francis Xavier (Hall):
Christmas Vigil at 7:00pm (with Carols)

Please Note: There will be no 8:00am or 5:30pm on Christmas Day.
WHOLE SCHOOL FOCUS:
The Journey
The value we are focussing on this week is: Giving

Giving is offering something without receiving anything in return.

Dear Parents
Who said that children don’t take notice of how parents go about doing things? At a Nativity play last Christmas, an enthusiastic group of young children was going about their enactment in a bright-eyed, eager manner. All was going to plan until Joseph knocked on the inn door and asked for a room for himself and Mary. The innkeeper kept to the script and responded by saying that there were no spare rooms. Unexpectedly, this sparked a non-scripted reply from Joseph who emphatically stated, “But my mum booked a room for us on the Internet!” No doubt, this would be a treasured memory for “Joseph’s” mother.

Of course, each of us gathers treasures of memories and experiences of teachings and principles as we age and mature. Christmas seems to be a time of drawing out these treasured memories that reach back as far as childhood. Carols and songs, decorated tree and presents, cultural traditions and midnight Mass, all have rich emotions attached, that give meaning to what we do in this season of Christmas. The ancient story told by Luke reminds us about the birth of Jesus and is one of those treasures we hear and store away: “There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and said: ‘Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all people. This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born – Christ the Lord. And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ So, the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.”

Luke 2. 8:16 abridged

In his best selling book, “The Jesus I Never Knew”, Philip Yancey contrasts the humility that characterised Jesus’ royal visit to planet earth with the image associated with royal visits today: “Queen Elizabeth II had recently visited the United States; her four thousand pounds of luggage included two outfits for every occasion, forty pints of plasma and white kid-leather toilet seat covers. She brought along her own hairdresser, two valets and a host of other attendants. A brief visit of royalty to a foreign country can easily cost twenty million dollars. In marked contrast, God’s visit to earth took place in an animal shelter with no attendants present and nowhere to lay the newborn King but a feed trough. Indeed, the event that divided history, and even our calendars into two parts, may have had more animal than human witnesses.”

So, how will Christmas be this year? Probably, not of Elizabethan proportions but celebratory so it builds “treasures of memories” for our children which will include a respect for Christ’s humble entry into our world. As Christians, we are a community that should be known for its compassion, care and love without discrimination.

Christ came for all people but especially the disadvantaged; we need to be the bearers of His attitude to the people who come in and out of our lives.

God, our Father,
We ask the Spirit to,
“clothe us with compassion, humility, meekness and patience and to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts”, so that we,
“God’s chosen ones” will give true witness to the message of Christ.

Amen.

Colossians 3. 12:15.

Peace and Best Wishes.
Anne Leet
(Religious Education Co-ordinator)
Dear Parents,

All children are invited to participate in the Parish Christmas Drama at Mass on Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December 2013. If your child would like to be involved they must attend two practice sessions at Holy Spirit Church Burdekin Avenue AMAROO on:

- Monday 23 December, 9am – 11am
- Tuesday 24 December, 9am – 11am

If this is acceptable to you, please sign the permission slip below and return it to Fiona at Mass or via the RED mailbox in the church foyer or email the information to fionawilk@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

All permission slips must be signed and returned by Friday 20 December

Thank you,
Fiona Wilkinson

I give permission for my child _______________________________who attends ______________________________ School in Year ________
to participate in the Christmas Drama on Christmas Eve at 7pm (arrive 6:30pm).

Your Name ______________________________ Phone: ____________________
Email: ___________________________________________

I am willing to assist with supervision at practice on: (Please assume your help is required and show up even if no-one contacts you. As you can imagine it is a very busy time. Queries to Fiona: fionawilk@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

- Monday 23 December 8:45am – 11am
- Tuesday 24 December 8:45am -11am
- Prepare costumes and props – time to be advised.
- Prepare costumes and props Tues 24 Dec at 5:45pm

Signed ________________________________
As the end of the year draws near, it is a great time to reflect on everything that has happened in 2013 and celebrate how much the children have grown and progressed. The projects the children have experienced have been so varied and exciting. They have investigated reflections, melting, space, growing plants, and life cycles to name a few. They have taken part in many whole school experiences including the water fun day, cross country carnival, Easter liturgies, Walkathon, Book Week and Athletics Carnival. The children have showcased their artistic talents and contributed to a fantastic ELC Art Show. They have learnt to be compassionate and caring when supporting our various charitable concerns. They have also experienced some wonderful excursions to see Possum Magic, the zoo, Questacon, the Botanic Gardens, Holy Spirit Church and even the local dentists, and had some fabulous incursions from the Recycling Centre, Space Jump, Indonesian dancers, and finished off with the amazing Science Showoffs.

It has been a very busy year with so much going on, but the amazing children have taken it all in their stride with enthusiasm and anticipation. None of the above would have been possible without the unwavering support of all our families and carers, so thank you very much for all your positivity, support and understanding throughout this year.

As some children move on to Mother Teresa School and others leave to attend different schools in the area, interstate and even overseas, it is a sad time as we say goodbye, but always with a smile as we remember all the happy memories that we have shared. It is always wonderful to see how the children develop and settle into their Kindergarten life and we love having visits from 'old' students, so please don't be strangers!

I hope you all have a fantastic festive season, and a well deserved relax, and we look forward to seeing you all again soon in your new 'grown up' uniforms.

Thank you for all support during 2013,
Clare Addinell and the ELC team.
MTS BLUESTARS
CHEERLEADING

Come join our teams
Registration day
SUNDAY 2 FEB 2014
Mother Teresa School
In quadrangle area
2pm till 3:30pm

BOYS & GIRLS WELCOME!!!!!!!

Ages from 4 yrs and up

All enquires contact Kelly Ciampa

t.ciampa@bigpond.com