Dear Parents,

It was great to see so many families participating in the Relay for Life on the weekend. At this stage the event has raised well over $50,000. The SHCS staff team did an amazing job raising about $2,200. Thank you to those families that supported a number of our small fundraisers. I think the staff members that participated would have slept well on Sunday evening!

Please read and reflect on the piece from Sr Kym about the traditional practice of ‘almsgiving’ during Lent.

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“I know just how you feel.”

I’ve often heard that and far too often from people who haven’t stopped to find out just how I did feel and who have gone on to tell me what I should be doing with my life. Yes, I have felt angry and hurt about their so-called ‘care’. And I’m sure many reading this can recall similar experiences. The ‘care’ we have been offered either doesn’t suit our need or is given insensitively. But then maybe I haven’t expressed my need properly. It seems we all have a lot to learn about caring – both in expressing our needs and in giving and receiving care.

In Lent one of the traditional practices is ‘almsgiving’, that is the showing of practical compassion to those in need. The word ‘compassion’ comes from the Latin meaning ‘feeling with’. With this practice we try to feel with people and offer a care that is appropriate to them – not to how we feel about their situation. It is good to send money to help those in need who are remote from us but the challenge of ‘almsgiving’ in Lent is primarily directed at us learning better ways of being compassionate to those around us who are in need….and that is pretty well everyone. We are challenged to love like God. Over these weeks, take time to really listen to those around you, and even ask questions about how they really feel, what their deepest desires are, how they feel needy. Ask yourself these questions, and if needs be, ask for care for yourself.
Opening & Blessing
We are officially Opening and Blessing our new Josephite Learning Centre and our other refurbishments on Tuesday the 12th April. We have a number of special guests attending including Archbishop Adrian, Dr Trish Hindmarsh – Director of Catholic Education and Senator Julie Collins. The ceremonies will be held in the school hall and will commence at 10.30am. We would love to see many members of our community in attendance, so please come along and join in the celebrations. An invitation for all members of our school community is attached to this newsletter. Please RSVP to the office if you are able to attend.

School Uniform
The children will be required to be in their full winter uniform after the Easter break. We have also reviewed our Sunsmart policy and made a few minor adjustments. One of these changes is that the children and staff are not required to wear their hats after the Easter break in the playground. This decision is based on advice and research from the Cancer Council.

Swimming Carnival
Our swimming team performed well at the Catholic Carnival last Friday morning. We had a large and enthusiastic team participate and many parent supporters. Thank you to Mrs Campagna, Mr Dwyer, Mr McQueen, Mrs Ford and Mr Freeman for looking after our team and driving the buses. Special mention to a number of students that won an event – Bailey Gordon, Matilda Seabourne, Georgie Smith, Courtney Walker and Callum Lowe. A smaller team will be selected to participate in the Huon/Channel Carnival next Wednesday 30th March. Permission notes will be sent home shortly.

Personal Belongings (Toys)
There is no need for children to be bringing toys to schools. Special toys and news items need be cleared with the class teachers and stored in a safe place in the classroom during the day.
Cyber Safety Presentation – Monday 18th April

We have had only a few parents let us know that they will be attending the Cyber Safety presentation on Monday 18th April. I am strongly encouraging all parents to attend this informative session that will be invaluable for parents in keeping up with the latest information about the online world, particularly around the issues of safety and cyber-bullying. One of the teachers has kindly offered to look after the children in the hall if baby-sitting is an issue. The hall is being fitted next week with a large screen and data projector, so the group may watch an age appropriate film. It will be extremely disappointing and embarrassing if we have to cancel this session. We need at least 25 participants for this session to go ahead.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

A note was sent today asking parents to choose a couple of times that may suit them for the upcoming parent/teacher interviews. Everything possible will be done to ensure parents get the time they requested. Please return the form to your eldest child’s teacher ASAP. There is only one form per family.

Have a great week

Stuart Kelly
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 30th March</td>
<td>Huon and Channel Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 1st April</td>
<td>Free Dress Day – to support P&amp;F Easter Raffle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 5th April</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 7th April</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 12th April</td>
<td>Opening &amp; Blessing of Josephite Learning Centre &amp; Refurbishments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 18th April</td>
<td>Cyber Safety Presentation</td>
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shg@catholic.tas.edu.au
Mr Stuart Kelly  
*The Principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School*  
Invites  
*School Community Members*  

to the Blessing & Opening of the Josephite Learning Centre & the refurbishments of the k-4 Learning Areas  
on  
*Tuesday 12th April at 10.30am followed by a morning tea*  
rsvp: Tues 5th April 2011 Miss Emily Direen 03 62971313 or emily.direen@catholic.tas.edu.au