Dear Parents,

Yesterday we gathered together in St Joseph’s Church to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. This important Feast Day is a Holy Day of Obligation, which means that it is one of only two days that Catholics are required to attend Mass. Fr Greg talked to the children about the significance of the Feast Day and how we should take this opportunity to reflect upon how we treat others. Thanks to Fr Greg for being so willing to lead this important day with us seeing that he held Masses across the Valley.

Fr Greg has recently launched a new website for the Huon Valley Parish, which is very informative with many details including upcoming Mass times and celebrations. There is a link on the school website to this site. I would encourage families to take the time to browse the site.

Congratulations
Well done to Hannah Geeves and Matilda Seabourne for being chosen in the Huon/Channel Netball Team.

Board Meeting
There is a School Board meeting this Thursday the 18th August in the staff room at 6.00pm.

P&F Movie Night
Over 90 students enjoyed the Movie Night last Friday afternoon. Thank you to the P&F for organising this fun activity for the children and to the staff that assisted with the supervision. A special thanks to Mandy Geeves for assisting with the food preparations and to Matthew Nicholas for donating the majority of the sausages and hamburgers.

SHCS Playgroup
Our new playgroup commenced yesterday with a number of children and their families enjoying the session. The playgroup will be held every Monday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am and is open to all community members. Thank you to a small group of parents that have taken on the responsibility to lead the sessions.

National Science Week
For National Science Week our Grade 1-6 teams are visiting Tahune Airwalk for a number of activities. The 3/4 Team and the 5/6 Team on Wednesday and the Grade 1/2 Team on Friday. Hopefully we get a couple of sunny days so the children can enjoy the outdoor activities that are planned.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Please check school website for upcoming events http://shg.tas.edu.au and click on the tab calendar.
PLANNING FOR 2012
The School Leadership Team and the School Board have begun planning for 2012. Our planning revolves around estimating the student numbers we will have in 2012. It is important that I am notified in writing of any students that will not be attending SHCS next year by early third term. This will assist in organising staffing and preparing our financial budgets. Our staffing of teachers and support staff are directly related to the number of children we have in the school. A couple of children leaving can have a significant impact on staffing and programs we are able to offer. This can cause difficulties at the beginning of next year if we are not aware of students that don’t return.

Grade 7 Enrolments in Catholic Education
Hopefully all Grade 6 families have returned their acceptance letters to the Catholic Colleges for 2012. It is important to note that all Sacred Heart Grade 6 students have been guaranteed a position at either St James Catholic College or St Aloysius Catholic College now and into the future. This is an agreement between the schools and the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office.

Circle Time
The teaching staff at SHCS have just completed professional learning to facilitate ‘Circles’ across the school from K-6. Circle Time is a structured framework for social and emotional learning and promoting a positive class ethos. It has powerful potential to reduce bullying, increase resilience, explore values and improve communication skills. It deals with serious and important issues such as understanding feelings and reducing prejudice in a way, which is highly motivating for students. It also covers curriculum expectations in several areas so is not an additional program for teachers to fit into their already overstretched day. We are implementing Circle Time in term 3 across the school as well as our new drama and dance programs.

I think many large schools would be jealous of the range of programs we are offering our students.

Cambodian Children’s Trust – BUS FUNDRAISER
Fiona and Trish from Juey Bazaar are running a fundraiser at the moment to buy a new bus for the orphanage in Cambodia that we have been supporting for a number of years. We are asking that if possible families make a $5 donation. Last week I gave Fiona $500 from the staff at SHCS to go towards the bus. Tickets can be purchased from the school office or from Juey Bazaar at the Southern Design Centre.

Shopping Vouchers
Great to see that we have a large number of Coles and Woolworth vouchers coming to school. A great way for the school to purchase new resources and sports equipment! Thanks for your support.

Have a great week

Stuart Kelly
Principal
No 24 - 16th July 2011

***REMINDER***

Please remember that the school is still collecting:

- McCains barcodes until 30th September
- Earn & Learn from Woolworths until 18th September
- Coles Sport for Schools until 19th October

The collection boxes are located in the school office. Your support so far has been fantastic.

Please remember to place your name and number on the Woolworths dockets and also on ONE of the Coles Sports for Schools vouchers as P&F will pick out a winner at the very end of the program.

CCT Footy Points Margin Tickets

Round 21 winner was Liz Donato

This weeks game is:
Round 22 = Carlton V Hawthorn 19.8.11

Name: ........................................ Grade......................

I would like to purchase Season Ticket $7
OR
I would like to purchase ...........Round 22 tickets at $1

Please send to school by Thursday to ensure you receive your ticket.

Book Day!

Wednesday 24th August is Book Day. Please come dressed as your favourite character. We will be having a parade in the afternoon with prizes to be won!

We are taking this ‘event’ as one opportunity to raise money for this years CCT fundraiser, please bring a gold coin donation.

We look forward to seeing you all dressed up!
Speech Pathology Week falls in the week 21 -27 August this year and speech pathologists are taking the opportunity to raise awareness of the role they play in the area of literacy.

Linda McKillop, from Speech Pathology Tasmania, says that despite our increased use of technology to communicate, literacy skills are still as important as ever. Poor literacy skills make it difficult to access an education and take part in the community.

Almost half (46 per cent) of Australians aged between 15 and 74 years do not have the literacy skills needed to meet the demands of everyday life. This shows how important it is to foster good literacy skills early in life.

Linda explains that being literate means being able to understand and analyse what you read, as well as write in a variety of ways for different purposes: stories, text messages, lists, completing forms etc. Literacy difficulties can be due to an underlying communication problem, she says, which may impact on a child’s written and spoken communication.

Speech pathologists have the specialised knowledge and experience needed to identify communication difficulties and to provide people with the help that they need to build critical language and literacy skills.

Fostering an early interest in reading will be beneficial to a child’s budding literacy development. Linda suggests that parents can assist children to develop their literacy skills by reading to their children from birth, playing rhyming games and encouraging creative play and story-telling.

Further information about the role that speech pathologists play in literacy and language development may be found on Speech Pathology Tasmania’s website www.spt.com.au, or by phoning 6234 5717.