Dear Parents,

“All is Grace.”

I heard those words often recently when I was in West Africa...and they came from people whose lives were pretty tough and who were aware of people whose situations were even tougher than theirs. They certainly pulled me up short. I don’t think they were being naïve, ‘Pollyannaish’ or even trying to look on the bright side. Rather they were asserting that God can and does work for good, our personal good, in each and every situation. God is on our side.

So why don’t we see it? There may be a number of reasons. Sometimes we are in so awful a situation that it will take time and personal growth before we can look back and understand it.

But more often it is because we are not looking at the situation in the right way. I recently met with a friend whose life is a mess and who, I believe, is upset that God hasn’t gotten him out of it. What really amazed me is that there are a number of real choices he could make that would go towards dealing with his problems, but he will not take even one. His attitude is stopping change. He wants total (miraculous) change or nothing and he won’t recognise that most real change in our lives comes in small steps, building on the good things already present and, often, employing the help of others. In other words, he doesn’t recognise the good that is around him and so is giving no room for grace to move. When we actually count our blessings, see the good within our reach, we open ourselves to God and let grace move within us. And that is what I saw in the lives of those people in West Africa. Tough as life may be, by focussing on their blessings they allowed grace to work even in the most difficult situations.

Loving God, open our minds and hearts to the goodness around us. Let your Spirit work in our lives that we may follow the example of Jesus, offering grace and goodness to all. We ask this in his name confident that you will hear us.

Sr Kym Harris osb

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**Dates for your diaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 23rd Nov</td>
<td>Ipad presentation (3.15pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrs 24th Nov</td>
<td>Assembly 1/2 Team 2:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrs 24th – Fr 25th</td>
<td>All Schools Triathlon event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fr 25th Nov</td>
<td>Grade 2 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 29th Nov</td>
<td>Grade 5 Leadership Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrs 1st Dec</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting – 9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 7th December</td>
<td>DANCEFEVER Concert @ SHCS K-2 9.00 - 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fr 9th December</td>
<td>DANCEFEVER Interschool Challenge 5:15 DEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12th December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 13th December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Dinner 5:30pm School Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrs 15th December</td>
<td>Carols Night 5pm School Oval</td>
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<td></td>
<td>End of Year Mass (EOY Awards announced)</td>
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4690 Huon Highway, Geeveston, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
shg@catholic.tas.edu.au
Last Friday afternoon we had a short assembly to recognise individual students and teams that performed well at our Bike-a-thon and those students that raised considerable funds. The Grade 5/6 team presented the results in a very interesting format that showed just how many kilometres we rode on the day. Our 3/4 team rode enough kilometres to get to Sale in Victoria! We had individual students in the Kinder/Prep group that rode over 15km. Outstanding effort! We also drew the major prize which was a gift voucher from Cyclingo in South Hobart worth $300. The students received one ticket in the draw for every $10 they raised. Tim Mitchell in Grade 1 was drawn out as the winner, which was fantastic as Tim raised the most money in the school ($177). Tim also went to Melbourne with his family on the day of the bike-a-thon but came down at 7.00am to ride for a few hours before they departed. A really positive story and a worthy winner. Thanks to Mr Dwyer for all his efforts in organising the day and the follow up work. At the end of last week we had a total of $4,400. We should be all very proud of our small but very generous and caring community. This will make a massive difference to the life of the Phon family for generations to come.

DANCEFEVER

Thank you to the families that have returned the Dancefever return slip from the newsletter last week. We are running it again this week and need to finalise the bus arrangements by the end of this week. The Derwent Entertainment Centre will have a kiosk open on the night serving hot and cold food. I would encourage students to have something to eat before the event. **There will be a Dancefever concert at school in the hall for our Kinder to Grade 2 students on Thursday 1st December from 9.00am – 10.00am.** This is an opportunity for the K-2 students to showcase to their families their new skills.

**Ipad Presentation**

Mr Dywer is holding an ipad information session for our Grade 6 families (2012) on Wednesday afternoon at 3.15pm. This session will give parents an opportunity to hear about our new initiative next year where all Grade 6 students will received an ipad 2. The session is also open for any other parents that may want to learn about the ipad and their potential to support student’s learning. Please contact the office if you would like to attend.

**Team Structures for 2012**

I announced to the Pre-Kinder families that Miss Anna Demarco has been appointed as our Kindergarten teacher for 2012. Anna has currently been taking PE and Drama for all our students for the second part of the year. We are very excited to have Anna join our community as she brings a wealth of experience, energy and expertise. Unfortunately (for us) two of our dedicated and outstanding teachers have recently won positions at Catholic schools in Hobart. Miss Jacinta Keenan is joining the staff team at St Mary’s College in Hobart and Mrs Sarah Longey is commencing at St Paul’s Catholic School in Bridgewater. One of the downsides of us running numerous great programs is that our staff will be sort after by other schools but it is an excellent opportunity for Sarah and Jacinta to continue their growth as educators.
In 2012 there are going to be some changes to our team structures and staffing, particularly in our primary grades (Gr 3-6). Unfortunately in 2012 we will have one less class due to the projected enrolment numbers. We have a large Grade 6 class leaving and a small kinder group coming into Prep. The number of teachers in the school is directly related to the number of students and to have one teacher in every class we need at least 26 students in each grade.

The Grade 3-6 area will have three full time teachers plus Mrs Fran Reynolds working with the students (80 students). To have a fourth teacher we really need at least 100 students in this area. Mrs Reynolds will be working in the Literacy Block (9.00am – 11.00am) every day as a fourth teacher to ensure we still have small interpersonal groupings during this crucial time. After the Literacy Block (after recess) the Grade 3-6 students will be working in their home grouping for the remainder of the curriculum areas – Mathematics, History, Geography, Science and the Arts. This is only a slight change to our structures and we are extremely confident that it will have a positive impact on the students and their learning.

**Teams for 2012**

| Kindergarten  | Miss Anna Demarco |
| Prep          | Miss Kim Turnock |
| Grade 1       | Mr Stuart Grey |
| Grade 2       | Mrs Alessandra Klein (3 days)/Mrs Ronita Barratt (2 days) |
| Grade 3/4     | Mrs Cate Doherty |
| Grade 4/5     | Mrs Deb Campagna |
| Grade 5/6     | Mr Greg Dwyer |

The Grade 3/4 and 4/5 home groups will be housed in the current 3/4 facility and the 5/6 group will be in the Josephite Learning Centre. The new structures in the primary grades will have no impact on the programs we are currently offering. For example, a grade 5 student in the 4/5 group or the 5/6 group will have identical programs and during the course of the year have numerous opportunities to work with peers in their same grade. Parents will be notified in writing in the next couple of weeks, which home grouping their child is in.

Our K-2 teams will be working as they have in the past. I am more than happy to answer any questions or queries about the changes, please contact me if I can assist.

**Grade 2 Camp**

Our Grade 2 students are having their outdoor education experience this Thursday and Friday. They are participating in a number of activities during the day and sleeping over at school on Thursday evening. Thanks to Miss Keenan for organising this fun activity for the students.

**Triathlon**

We have a team representing the school at the All Schools Triathlon Event this Thursday. Good luck to the team!

Have a great week
Stuart Kelly
Principal
Australian Mobile Recycling

Sacred Heart Catholic School has registered as part of the drive to recycle unwanted mobile phones. Australian Mobile Recycling was founded in September 2011. Our aim is to collect as many used and unwanted mobile phones as possible. All mobile phones received will be recycled for reuse. This means they will be refurbished for resale. Each handset is restored to factory conditions and all sim card and memory cards are destroyed. Any phones that are beyond repair will be broken down into their constituent parts and recycled by Australian licensed recyclers. For your efforts your organisation will receive $3 for every mobile phone returned.

If you have any unwanted mobile phones please drop them into the school office.

DANCEFEVER INTERSCHOOL CHALLENGE

Grade 3 - 6 Only
Wednesday 7th December

Children’s Names:........................................................................................................................................

☐ We will be making our own way to the event

☐ We will like to travel to the event by bus

☐ Number of seats required ......................

Unfortunately our children are unable to participate in the event

Please note the bus will be able to pick up families from Geeveston to Hobart at designated stops. More details about bus arrangements will follow once we have an idea of numbers.
Dear parents and students,

Christmas is a fabulous time of year when we all get together with family and friends to give gifts and open presents. But it is also the time of year when we celebrate that God gave us the most special gift of all- Jesus!

You too can give a free gift to a child who is doing it tough this Christmas.

We are asking families to donate a small gift for the giving tree, which will be collected by the ABC giving tree walkers on Thursday 8th December. Students are asked to bring gifts wrapped to their class teachers with it labeled if it is for a boy and girl and the age of the child. Students are asked to put their gift under the giving tree in the office foyer. Students might like to use some of your own pocket money, or do some odd jobs around the house in exchange for mum buying the gift.

This is a Free Gift, just as Jesus was a free gift to us and your chance to bring some joy to another child this season. There is no competition and there are no prizes- just you and your gift.

God said to us, in the Bible, in Corinthians...

“Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

6.00pm Geeveston—Fr Graeme Howard.
6.00pm Cygnet
Midnight with Carols—Franklin
10.00am Ranelagh.

Huon Highway, Geeveston, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
shg@catholic.tas.edu.au
Dads Day Out

Dads Day out runs on the last Saturday of each month. Dads and father figures with children of all ages are welcome. Our group has fun engaging in a variety of family activities.

On Saturday 26th November we are heading off on the Ida Bay train and stopping at Elliotts Beach for a BBQ. If you would like to join us please arrive at 11.15 am at Ida Bay train station. You can choose to return on the 1.30 or 3.30 train.

Bookings are essential. Cost is $5 per family. To book call Nel on 0457862269 or Anna on 0448188807.

Dads Day out is Funded through the Geeveston Child and Family Centre.

First Reconciliation

This week Thursday 24th November our candidates will be celebrating their first reconciliation at 7pm in the Church here at Geeveston. After 5-6 weeks of preparation our 21 young candidates are ready to receive the healing gift of this sacrament.
Sacred Heart Catholic School is participating in the Christmas Pageant this year, at Geeveston on Friday 9th December. Our school has had great fun in the pageant in previous years. It would not have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of the children and their families. So we hope you have your festive spirit ready and come along and be part of the pageant.

We have decided to enter as a pedestrian and bicycle group, with adult supervision at all times. This will enable children to hand out lollies and balloons along the way. There is to be no throwing of lollies and all bike riders must have helmets, otherwise they will be refused participation.

Children are encouraged to dress up although, if you do not wish to dress up, please still come along and walk with us anyway.

Everyone is to meet on the grass near the bridge, on School Road at 6.00pm. The parade will depart from School Road at 6.30pm and conclude at the Heritage Park. There will be a BBQ to follow (gold coin donation). There will also be face painting and a jumping castle.

With the changeable weather, please ensure that children have a Santa hat (or normal hat), a drink and a coat.

If your child/children would like to participate, please return the slip below to school, or phone me on 0409 337 065.

Parent/guardian participation is always appreciated. If you are able to walk with the parade please indicate on the slip also.

Thankyou
Maree McQueen

Child/Children’s Name:..................................................
Walking or bicycle Class:.........................
Parents Name: ........................................
Do you intend to stay with the floats: YES / NO (please circle)