Dear Parents,

So what sort of presents are you going to give?

Well, the wind-up to Christmas has begun with its attendant stress on present giving. Why stress? Because giving to people who already have more than they need of material things is a challenge. We want our gift to express something real, positive and meaningful yet we know that the thing we give is often superfluous.

May I suggest that a return to what we really are celebrating in Christmas could give us a way out of the dilemma? We celebrate the coming of God in our flesh. Jesus came to be with us, to experience the limitations and neediness of human life and transform them into a means of grace for ourselves and those whom we love. We each experience our neediness in different ways and we each need to turn to God and ask for the presence of Jesus to change our lives. Ask yourself what is it you would like to receive from the presence of God….then try to give that presence away? Do you need ‘joy’ then give joy, a happy act of kindness, an upbeat answer even when you do not feel like it. Do you need ‘peace’? Act in a peaceful manner even when you feel irritated. We can only truly receive a gift from God when we give it away. Only human channels that give freely can feel full.

Allow the presence of God to move through you giving ‘spiritual’ presence as you prepare for Christmas then when the time comes to decide on what presents to give, you will find it easier to choose something that will express your presence.

*Loving God, teach us how to give with joy and fullness of heart. May your Spirit reveal the presence of Jesus in our lives that we may present him to all we meet. 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>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 30th Nov</td>
<td>ipad presentation 7pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 1st Dec</td>
<td>DANCEFEVER Concert @ SHCS K-2 9.00 - 10am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 2nd Dec</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation 9.15am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 5th Dec</td>
<td>Grade 2 excursion - Hansel &amp; Gretel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 7th Dec</td>
<td>DANCEFEVER Interschool Challenge 6pm @ DEC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9th Dec</td>
<td>Grade 6 Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geeweston Christmas Pageant 6pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 12th Dec</td>
<td>Grade 6 Dinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 13th Dec</td>
<td>Carols Night 5pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 15th Dec</td>
<td>End of Year Mass (EOY Awards announced)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 3rd Feb</td>
<td>Bookday &amp; Uniform sales 9-12am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 8th Feb</td>
<td>Students return for 2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REMINDER**
P&F Raffle tickets to be returned by Friday 9th December 2011.

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4690 Huon Highway, Geeweston, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
shg@catholic.tas.edu.au
The staff and students are busily preparing for our end of year celebrations. We only have a few weeks left in our 2011 school year but we have a number of events and activities including the Dancefever concerts, Grade 6 dinner, end of year Mass and awards, carols evening, Kinder (2012) orientation day and a number of exciting activities for our Grade 6 leavers.

Our end of year reports will go home next Friday 9th December. I would like to thank the teaching staff for preparing these, which takes a considerable amount of time and energy. I am currently enjoying reading about the progress of the students.

DANCEFEVER
There has been a slight change to the Dancefever Challenge at the Derwent Entertainment Centre on the 7th December. The Challenge now starts at 6.00pm (doors open at 5.00pm), which should assist most of our families. Thank you to those families that have returned the slip letting us know about transport arrangements. We are still waiting to hear from a few families. I was lucky enough to see a whole school practice last Thursday lunch time. It was amazing! Parents are in for quite a shock.

The Kinder – Grade 2 Concert is on this Thursday at 9.00am in the school hall. I would like to thank Michael and Hannah from Dancefever for their enthusiasm, energy and skills, which has been thoroughly enjoyed by all our students. Who would have thought a few months ago that at our assembly last Wednesday we would have our Grade 5/6 boys up the front dancing and performing. The program has been a huge success and we will definitely be signing on for 2012.

P&F Meeting
The P&F held their final meeting this morning for 2011. Another successful year for our group of dedicated parents that have raised considerable funds that have been redirected into our classrooms. Next year promises to be a busy one with our school fair in October and hopefully some changes to our school uniform.

A reminder that the P&F Christmas raffle closes soon – there are more raffle books in the school office if you are able to sell any more.

Whooping Cough Letter
A note was sent home to all families last Friday afternoon after some of our Grade 5 students may have come into contact with a student from another Catholic School who has the condition. I would encourage all families to read the note carefully.

“Make Every Day Count”
In 2012 all Catholic Schools are running campaign to “Make every day count’. We are like many schools with quite high absentee rates due to a variety reasons, particularly illness. I hope that next year we can reduce our absentee rates to ensure students have every opportunity to achieve at school. The number of days that students have been away from school is on the front page of the end of year reports.

Booklists
We are hoping to get booklists to families by the end of this week. We are going to have online orders as well as a bookday at SHCS. The feedback from parents was 50/50 on the issue.

Class Groupings 2012
A note will go home to all families informing them of the class grouping for 2012. I wrote about a few slight changes to our structures in last week’s newsletter. Please contact me if you are unsure about the changes. I am more than happy to meet with parents at any time to discuss this.
No 37 - 29th November 2011

Kinder Orientation
This Friday morning our Kinder group for 2012 is getting together for their orientation day. They will spend some time with their teachers while Fr Greg and I meet with families for a morning tea and a chat. We currently have 22 students for 2012 with a few families still interested. Our Grade 6 leavers this year were the first Kindergarten group at Sacred Heart back in 2004.

Grade 2 Sleep Over
Our grade 2 students had a great time last Thursday evening when they had a sleep over in the school hall. On Friday they had an excursion exploring the township of Richmond. A great experience for the students who were extremely excited about the adventure! Thank you to the staff that assisted - Miss Keenan, Mr Grey, Mrs Barratt, Mr McQueen and Mrs McQueen.

Ipad Presentations
Mr Dwyer ran an information session for Grade 6 parents (2012) after school last Wednesday. The session looked at the trial we are implementing in 2012 that will see all Grade 6 students having their own ipad 2. Greg has offered to host another session for those families that were unable to attend. It will be held tomorrow night at 7.00pm in the Josephite Learning Centre. Please let the school office know if you are able to attend.

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.

Huon Highway, Geeveston, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
shg@catholic.tas.edu.au
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 Geelvink—Fr Graeme Howard.
6.00pm Cygnet
Midnight with Carols—Franklin
10.00am Ranelagh.

Huon Highway, Geelvink, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
shg@catholic.tas.edu.au
GEEVESTON CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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)
**Student Assistance Scheme (STAS) 2012**

The scheme provides assistance for low-income families towards the cost of levies for students enrolled from kindergarten through to senior secondary level. It is available to students attending a Government or registered Non-Government school or college and those students eligible to pay levies at the Tasmanian Academy or the Tasmanian Polytechnic.

**The Minister for Education has expanded the student assistance scheme to provide access for grandparents raising grandchildren.**

The school or college will receive funding on behalf of eligible students. This financial assistance is provided towards the cost of school levies.

**Income Test:** Income assessment is applied to parents/guardians of dependent students applying for assistance under the scheme. Independent students are required to meet the income test and also provide proof of their independent status. The income test used for the scheme is included on the application form each year. The income test table used for the STAS 2011 scheme is shown below:

### Maximum Total Taxable Parental Income 2010-11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. Dependent Children</th>
<th>Income per Week</th>
<th>Annual Parental Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$567</td>
<td>$29,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$653</td>
<td>$33,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$841</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$944</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>$55,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$1,174</td>
<td>$61,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8*</td>
<td>$1,291</td>
<td>$67,083</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For more than 8 children, add $119 per week or $6006 per annum for each additional dependent.*

Application forms for Student Assistance in 2012 are now available from the school office or can be downloaded via the link on our school website. For general enquiries contact the school office or for specific information on; assistance in completing the application form or the application procedures, contact the:

- BSS Service Centre
- Department of Education
- GPO Box 169
- HOBART 7001

Telephone: 1800 816 057
Facsimile: (03) 6233 7720
email: [STAS@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:STAS@education.tas.gov.au)
Grade 2 Camp

Grade 2 camp was cool. On Thursday we stayed at school, we played diamond cricket, and we watched The Muppets and we played fruit salad. On Thursday we went to the model village. Our favorite part was finding a model man in the village peeing. After the model village we got pizza at Eating on the Edge and then we went to Miss Keenan’s house. I ate a full pizza and Jack ate 4 pieces. Then we got on the bus to school and then went home.

By Travis & Jack