“Just what does happiness mean?”

Over this coming period, we often wish each other “Happy Christmas”. Just what do we mean when we say ‘happy’ in this context? Oh, no, it’s not the “Ho ho ho happy of Santa”, which often feels as real as snow at Christmas in this country. Nor is it the “happy” from the excess of the staff party. That type of excess hardly feels happy the next day. In fact, those experiences are part of our love/hate relationship with Christmas.

Happy is a very special word in the Christian context. It translates a Greek word which is sometimes rendered as ‘blessed’. This should make us think. Happiness is so often assumed to be a mood over which we have no control but actually it begins with recognising the blessings we have received and building on them. Now the funny thing about these blessings, these sources of happiness, is that they are not things outside ourselves, like possessions or prestige. They begin with our very selves. As Abraham Heschel put it: “To be is a blessing, just to live is holy”.

This is part of the reason Jesus came as a baby and lived through childhood. As you all know, a baby’s importance derives just from being. As parents, that intense rush of love that sometimes overwhells is a constant ongoing reminder of this ‘sacredness of being’ that is each person. As we celebrate Jesus’ sacred birth this Christmas, as recognise our children’s blessedness, may each of us recognise our own. God has delighted in making us. Let us delight in ourselves and find the true basis of happiness.

Loving God, you delighted in creating me. Open my mind and heart to the treasure you see in me. As we welcome the presence of Jesus in our world, may we also be welcoming to ourselves. We ask this in Jesus’ name, confident that you will hear us.

Sr Kym Harris osb

### Dates for your diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14th Dec</td>
<td>Christmas Pageant 6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17th Dec</td>
<td>Gr 6 Dinner 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 20th Dec</td>
<td>EOY Mass 9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 31st Jan</td>
<td>Book &amp; Uniform Day 9am -12.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6th Feb</td>
<td>Term 1 Begins!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2013 Dates

- **Term Dates 2013**
  - **Easter Break**: 29th March - 2nd April
  - **Term 1**: 6th February - 19th April
    - Holidays: 22nd April - 3rd May
  - **Term 2**: 6th May - 5th July
    - Holidays: 8th July - 19th July
  - **Term 3**: 22nd July - 27th September
    - Holidays: 30th September - 11th October
  - **Term 4**: 14th October - 19th December

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Huon Highway, Geeveston, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
[shg@catholic.tas.edu.au](mailto:shg@catholic.tas.edu.au)
Dear Parents,

What a fantastic evening last Wednesday at the Dancefever Challenge. Our students were amazing with their dancing skills and their positive attitude. I am sure many parents received quite a shock! We had numerous place getters in the dances and won the Grade 5 competition overall. We even came second and third in the teacher dance (the best couple were very unlucky!!!).

On Thursday morning our K-2 families enjoyed watching and participating in the concert. Another successful event that had families up and dancing in the last few items. A massive thank you to Michael and Janine our two instructors this term. Their energy and passion for dancing has had a very positive influence on our students and staff. The success of the program highlights the importance of the Arts and how children can learn when they are engaged and enjoy the activities. I hope some families are able to take up the offer of the Dance Scholarships that our first place getters received.

A special thank you to Scot McQueen and Samara Ford for driving the school buses on the night. A great help for numerous families!

Christmas Concert
A reminder that our Christmas Concert is in the school hall tonight at 6.00pm. Promises to be a great night of entertainment! As always it will be very tight with seating arrangements but we ask families to be patient. Parking will be available on the school oval and in the top car park. Please drive cautiously if parking on the oval and ensure your children are with you at all times. Please also remind visiting family and friends that SHCS is a smoke free environment and under no circumstances is smoking allowed on the school property.

School Reports
Our End of Year School reports will be sent home with the children this Friday afternoon (Thursday for Kinder). I hope the reports give you a clear indication of the progress of your children. If you have any queries, please contact your child’s class teacher in the first instance. I would like to thank the teaching staff for their efforts in preparing the reports. Teachers can spend up to 80 hours preparing reports in their own time, which is time spent away from their family and friends. I would encourage families to let the teachers know that you appreciate all their efforts!

There are some slight formatting problems with the reports. We are unsure how this has happened and we have had great difficulty fixing them. All Catholic schools in our system will have new reports in 2013, so we decided to not spend money and countless hours trying to fix the reports. I apologise for any small formatting errors on the reports but I am sure you will understand.

Pre-Kinder 2012
We completed our Pre-Kinder Program for 2012 last Friday morning. It has been great seeing our Kinders for 2013 interacting and getting familiar with their teachers and their learning space. This Friday morning we have the Kinder Orientation Day where the Kinders will stay with their teachers and I will meet with the families for a chat and morning tea. The session will commence at 9.15am.

Huon Highway, Geeveston, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
shg@catholic.tas.edu.au
Grade 6 Dinner
We have our Grade 6 Dinner next Monday evening in the school hall. A great family night to reflect upon their years at SHCS! I would remind families that this event is a special night for the students but one we try and keep ‘low key’. It has been tradition for the students over many years to have a game of cricket on the oval and to enjoy the company of their family and friends. Thank you to Mrs Dance for organising this special event for the students and their families.

End of Year Mass
A reminder that the highlight of our year together is our End of Year Mass next Thursday morning (9.30am) in the school hall. This Mass is for all members of our community not just our Grade 6 leavers. After Mass we will have our 2012 Awards presented. We have four special awards for our Grade 6 students and then one Josephite Award for each Grade in the school. The Josephite Award is for students that consistently displays the qualities of our founding order – fairness, compassion, justice, etc.. and live daily their motto of ‘Never See a Need Without Doing Something About It’.

Have a great week
Stuart Kelly
Principal

Thank You Multilit Volunteers
I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank our small group of wonderful volunteers who have come along weekly to work with some of our students on their reading skills. Multilit is a reading intervention programme for those students who find learning to read challenging.

This year’s group have made significant progress due to the dedication of our volunteers. SO, a heartfelt THANK YOU from staff and students to:

 Miriam McMullen,  Kate Greaves,  Pat Freeman,  Kylie Short,  Mandy Geeves  and Adrian Short.

A special mention to two staff members who also worked with these students: Thank you to Leanne Hall and Elizabeth Beven.

Mrs Fran Reynolds
Learning Support Teacher

Library Notice
Could everyone check at home for library books and return them asap.
Thanks Cathie Stockford

WANTED
Board Games and Lego for Positive Behaviour Support for 2013
Please bring to the school office.

Huon Highway, Geelong, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
shg@catholic.tas.edu.au
Sacred Heart Catholic School is participating in the Christmas Pageant this year, at Geeveston on Friday 14th 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 outside Huon FM, 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 a jumping castle and carols.

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

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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) 2013

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 2013 scheme is shown below:

Maximum Total Taxable Parental Income 2012-13

<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>$586</td>
<td>$30,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$675</td>
<td>$35,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$768</td>
<td>$39,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$869</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$975</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$1,095</td>
<td>$56,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$1,213</td>
<td>$63,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8*</td>
<td>$1,334</td>
<td>$69,297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For more than 8 children, add $123 per week or $6204 per annum for each additional dependent.

Application forms for Student Assistance in 2013 are now available from the school office or can be collected from the school office or downloaded via the 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
e-mail: STAS@education.tas.gov.au
No 39 - 11th December 2012

**Notice for Prep Parents. . .**
The Child Health and Parenting Services (CHAPS) commenced Prep vision and hearing screening later than usual in 2012. Unfortunately we have not been able to complete all prep children in 2012 and aim to screen these children in 2013. If your child was in prep in 2012 and you would like your child to receive their overdue prep screening promptly, CHAPS is running prep screening sessions in a number of child health centres in Southern Tasmania in January. Please ring 62307899 to make an appointment.

**Holiday Workshop**
A fun workshop with a casting director from ‘Packed to the Rafters’, ‘Conspiracy 365’, ‘Neighbour’s, ‘H2o-Just Add Water’ and more at CSA this December! Learn how to audition for TV and send audition tapes interstate. No experience necessary. For 14yrs and up. 17th December 10am-2pm or 5pm-9pm Cost: $175

BOOK NOW at [www.cooperscreenacademy.com](http://www.cooperscreenacademy.com)

**Wanted!!!**
Our friends in Cambodia need Shin Guards for soccer!!
Do you have pair of that you no longer need?
Adult and Children Sizes required.

Please send into school for collection

Thanks
Fiona and Trish
Juey Bazaar

**Raffle Tickets**
- Drawn Monday 17th Dec
Only 50c each!

Teddy Bear Harrison
A basket of teddies
Beading kit
3D Architectural puzzle

All of the prizes are in the foyer of the office.

All monies raised will be sent to our friends at the orphanage in Cambodia. This will help them enjoy Christmas.

Terima Kasih (Thank you)
Bu Peattie

**Book Sale**
@ Southern Design Centre
11 School Road GEEVESTON

Hundreds of great books @ cheap prices
Stock up for holiday reading

All money raised supports Cambodian Childrens Trust

Open Daily until 9th December!!

Contact Fiona 0427 560 151 or Trish 0409 020 372

Huon Highway, Geeveston, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
[shg@catholic.tas.edu.au](mailto:shg@catholic.tas.edu.au)
Thank you for supporting us.

Hi our names are Sophie Burgess, Lily Oates and Gracie Clark. For our RE project we all did lucky Pockets.

We would like to “THANK” you for helping us raise money for the Royal Hobart Hospital.

We would like to let you know that you have made some kids in the hospital happy.

Overall we raised $44.90. “WOW” thats good.

Again we would like to thank you for supporting our lucky Pockets program.
Christmas Kids Night Out

14th December
Ages 5 - 12
From 6:30 to 10:30

PRIZES FOR BEST DISCO MOVIES
ACTIVITIES AND GAMES
FUN FACTORY AND MORE . . . . .

just $10 per child for members and $15 for non members

Sausage sizzle, ice cream and drinks provided

Bookings are essential – Call 6264 3100

Early Education and Care Centre vacancies

Huon Valley Council Children’s Services currently has casual and permanent vacancies available at all Early Education and Care Centres

Huonville - The Cottage, 91 - 93 Main Road, Huonville
- Open weekdays from 7.30am - 6pm (excludes public holidays)
- Licensed for children six weeks to 12 years of age
- Morning and afternoon tea is provided

Dover Childcare, Chapman Avenue, Dover
- Open weekdays from 8.15am - 5.15pm (excludes public holidays)
- Caters to children six weeks to seven years of age

Geeveston Childcare, 9a School Road, Geeveston
- Open weekdays from 7.45am - 5.45pm (excludes public holidays)
- Caters to children six weeks to seven years of age

For further information contact the Children’s Services office on 6264 0333 or email childservices@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

wayraparatte Child and Family Centre

4879 Huon Highway Geeveston

Children’s Christmas Celebration!
Monday December 17 at 10:30 am
at wayraparatte Child and Family Centre
4879 Huon Highway, Geeveston

A special visitor will be arriving at 10.45am

Please let us know if you and your child are attending to make sure there is plenty of party food for everyone.

Please call by December 11 on 62970052 or 0448188807