Unwrapping Our Presence.

By now, I’m sure everyone reading this has seen some play on the words ‘presence’ and ‘presents’. We know that the latter are supposedly given so that we can appreciate the former. If we are to enjoy our presents, it really has to be that way. Most of us are not getting things we really need. And if we don’t really need something, we are not likely to appreciate it unless we recognise the love and thought that was behind it. Like most things of the heart, it takes time and effort to see what is behind the gesture. I was told recently about a family that has a wonderful ritual for opening their Christmas presents. When all are present, each present is opened, one by one. First, the card with its message of love is read, and then each gift is unwrapped and admired by all. It takes some time to get through all the presents, but each one knows what everyone got, from whom, and especially the message of love that came with each gift.

The Church’s season of Advent is our religious way of taking time to enjoy the presence of Jesus in our midst. Over four weeks, we pray over the different longings and needs that Jesus will fulfil. Then we have Christmastide when we slowly unwrap what Jesus’ presence means. Our hearts are made for deep love: what we all really need is loving presence. This has been and is given to us in the person of Jesus…and we give it to and receive it from each other. May your presents this year convey this presence!

Loving Father, you have given us the present of your love in the person of Jesus. Send us your Spirit to awaken our hearts to his love deep within our being and may we show his love to all. We ask this in Jesus’ name confident that your will hear us.

Sr Kym Harris osb

ST MARY MACKILLOP QUOTE

“Rest assured that I shall not forget any of you”

(Mary MacKillop - 1899)
Dear Parent/caregiver,

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR FAMILY OF IAN THOMPSON
On behalf of Mrs Melinda Thompson and her family, I would sincerely like to thank the school community for the love, comfort and support that has been extended to the family over the past week. The kind words, cards, letters and offers of support have been greatly appreciated.

Donations of food items and meals for the Thompson family can be left in the red container of the school office daily.

A collection will be taken up on Thursday night at the Christmas Carol Evening for the family. All money collected will be put into a trust account for Lachlan and Brooke Thompson. Your generosity would be very much appreciated.

HUON AQUACULTURE GRANT FOR SACRED HEART
Recently our school applied for a grant from Huon Aquaculture and we were successful in receiving $1500 for setting up our new raised garden beds. We are very grateful to the Bender family for this generous grant and the on-going support of our school and our local community in general.

We have already set up our 5 new Veggie Garden beds! The children helped to fill them with soil and recently we have planted a whole range of vegetables. We are looking forward to harvesting our veggies in coming months.

ARCHBISHOP PORTEOUS VISITING OUR PARISH
Families are advised that Archbishop Porteous will be celebrating Mass at Cygnet on Saturday evening and at Ranelagh on Sunday morning. All welcome!

ORIENTATION MORNING NEXT MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER
Our orientation morning for new students coming to Sacred Heart in 2014 will be held next Monday, 16th December from 9.15 – 11am. This is an important event and all new students and parents are expected to attend.

DANCEFEVER CONCERT FOR KINDER – GRADE 2 TOMORROW
A reminder that our K-2 Dancefever performance will take place in the school hall at 1.45pm tomorrow afternoon. Parents and family members are strongly encouraged to attend.

END OF YEAR REPORTS
As part of our reporting to parents process, we will be issuing your child's end of year report this Thursday, 12th December.

ABC GIVING TREE
This year our Junior Joeys are promoting the ABC Giving Tree and we encourage all families to donate a special gift that can be given to a child in need of support for Christmas. Gifts can be put under the Christmas tree in the office foyer. Presents should be wrapped and parents are asked to attach a tag that indicates if it’s for a boy or girl and the suggested age. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

SWIMMING PROGRAM THANKS
Special thanks to parents for supporting our school swimming program so well over the past two weeks. The program went very smoothly and the children made excellent progress. This year, we have followed the Royal Australian Life saving Program and have recorded the level your child has achieved in a booklet which is kept at school. Special thanks to our school staff who ensured that everything ran well each day. I would also like to thank parents, Kylie Short and Jo Brittain who instructed the children so well.
CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENING – THURSDAY, 12 DECEMBER
6pm

Families are asked to keep this night free so that you can come along and enjoy this great school event.

Each class will be singing Christmas Carols that they have learnt. Families can bring along a blanket, a picnic tea to enjoy while the carols are being sung, and perhaps a candle. Some cold drinks will be available for purchase on the night.

This event will be alcohol free and there is no smoking.

GEEVESTON CHRISTMAS PARADE – FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER

Families are reminded that the Annual Christmas Parade in Geeveston is being held in Geeveston on Friday, 13 December, commencing at 6.30pm. Everyone is very welcome.

ENROLMENTS 2014 – GRADES 4,5 & 6

We have a few positions available in these grades for next year. If you know of any families that may be interested, please encourage them to make contact with our school office.

FINAL WEEK

Next week is our final week for the year. A reminder that our School Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Thursday, 19th December commencing at 9.30am in the school hall.

This is also the final student day for the year and children finish at normal time – 3pm.

Parents and students are also encouraged to take the opportunities that come along to thank teachers and school staff for the wonderful service they provide each day.

Have a great week!

Luch Brighella
Principal

No canteen next week
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

As we approach the end of the school year I would sincerely like to thank the many volunteers who give of their time so generously for the school, and ultimately, for the children that attend our school. I sincerely thank all parents who have helped with the following:

- Classroom parent help
- School excursions & camps
- School Athletic, Swimming & Cross Country carnivals
- Other sporting events
- Fund-raising activities
- MultiLit Program
- Breakfast Club
- Community events
- Any volunteer activities

In particular, I would especially like to thank:

**Our Sacred Heart School Board**, who generously give of their time, energy and expertise for the benefit of our school community and ultimately, the children in our care. In particular, I would like to thank **Board Chair, Tony Bradley** for his genuine leadership and interest in our school. I am also very grateful for the support of our **Board members, Fr Greg Barker, Adrian Short, Fiona Donato, Fiona Steele, Karan Spilling and Bashir El-Tahche**.

**Our Parents & Friends Association**, who give an enormous amount of time to organising activities and fund-raising events for our school. Their hard work has led to many new resources being purchased for our school, and in particular, our students. **I would especially like to thank P&F President, Narelle Gane**, for her amazing leadership of our P&F this year. Narelle has been an inspiration to us all with her generous nature, organised manner and her genuine desire to help our school and to also ensure that our children have the very best opportunities. Narelle has been very well supported by a hard working committee who have also done an amazing job this year.

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**Dates for your Diary**

- Wed 11th Dec: DanceFever K-2 Showcase 1:45pm
- Thur 12th Dec: End of Year Reports sent home, Christmas Carols @ SHG 6pm
- Fri 13th Dec: Geeveston Christmas Parade, Gr 1/2 Excursion to St James, Grade 6 Big Day Out

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**WANTED**

Prep would appreciate any donations of glass jars with light screw on lids.

Thank you
From Prep

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Huon Highway, Geeveston, Tas, 7116, Ph 62971313, Fax 62971990
email: shg@catholic.tas.edu.au  Twitter Handle: @SHCSGeeveston
Christmas Time Around the Teams
**GEEVESTON CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Sacred Heart Catholic School is participating in the Christmas Pageant this year, at Geeveston on Friday 13th 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 will once again be entered as a pedestrian and bicycle group, although due to the success of the billycart derby earlier this year the organisers have decided to include billycarts if you still have yours and would like to ride it, fell free, just remember your helmet.

We rely on parents for added adult supervision while participating to allow children to hand out lollies and balloons along the way. There is to be no throwing of lollies and all bike/billycart 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 / Bicycle / Billycart  [ ] Class:  

Parents Name:

Do you intend to stay with the group:  YES / NO  

(please circle)
Help us free our bushland from weeds.

The bushland behind the cemetery needs weed removal and paths cleared so our students can ride their bikes again and continue learning in the bush. If you are interested in helping out at a working bee during January or February, please let the office staff know of your availability.
AN INVITATION TO ALL

SACRED HEART PARENTS 
& FRIENDS

INVITES YOU TO COME ALONG FOR A MEAL

@ THE LADY FRANKLIN HOTEL
ON WED. 18 DECEMBER
@ 6.00PM

RSVP 16/12/13
PH: 0429 331 883

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HAPPINESS IN GEEVESTON!

Screening & Exhibition of Artworks made during 2013

Imagine Geeveston map, short films, rap and animations
made by community members and artists
at the wayraparattee child and family centre

The Gymnasium,
Geeveston Primary School,
63 Arve Rd

Tuesday 17th December
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Free Event  All welcome
Light Supper Provided

Kickstart Arts presents
A partnership with wayraparattee child & family centre
with Geeveston Primary School