Why bother with Christmas?

I recently read through the latest edition of a popular women’s magazine which had lovely articles on how families throughout Australia would be celebrating Christmas and, I must admit, I felt uneasy. Would that it were that simple! No, it wasn’t the exquisite decorations or the wonderful menus that made me uneasy. It was the image of happy families coming together with peace, harmony and joy. I wish them well and sincerely hope and pray that their Christmas is as it is portrayed. But for many families Christmas it is not like that. Christmas is a minefield where we try to make peace and harmony through many and various challenges. Estrangements, addictions, mental illness, grief from deaths through the past year are just some of the major hurdles that have to be faced. Then add the ‘lesser challenges’ of over-excited children, too much food, too much alcohol (leading to free and frank discussion) and one sometimes wonders why we bother?

We bother because that is the meaning of Christmas. When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph did not provide the ideal conditions, life was beyond their control – but they did the best they could. Those who worshipped, shepherds and foreigners, were despised outsiders, and the threat of violence was in the air. That is the world God chose to be born in – a world like ours with its mess, muddle and pain. God is comfortable there; God knows how to handle it. So when we feel overwhelmed, let us turn to God and pray: “Be born in us this day.” And if everything isn’t ‘happy families’ we can still know that God is with us – Immanuel. Come Lord Jesus, be born in us this day.

Loving God, you sent your son Jesus into our midst, experiencing the pain and challenges that we have to face. Knowing him to be our brother may we turn to him when our cares overwhelm us. We ask this in his name confident that you will hear us.

Sr Kym

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th Nov</td>
<td>Swimming lessons continue</td>
<td>(finish 5th Dec)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th Nov</td>
<td>Assembly 2.15pm</td>
<td>Staff &amp; Parent Dyslexia workshop 3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th Nov</td>
<td>Twilight Fair 4 - 7pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Dec</td>
<td>Dancefever event at Derwent Entertainment Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Dec</td>
<td>Kinder Excursion - Raptor Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Find happiness in making others happy”

Mary
MacKillop
21.11.1899

Sacred Heart Catholic school acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Tasmania and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.
We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to the elders past and present.
Dear Parents

SCHOOLS TRIATHLON
Last Friday, our Sacred Heart Triathlon Team, along with 2,200 other primary school children from Grades 3-6, braved poor weather conditions at Bellerive Beach to complete the swim, bike ride and run sections of the triathlon. I was very proud of the 18 children who represented Sacred Heart in this really tough challenge. Swimming in freezing cold water, riding 5km on a bike and running 2km is a really big achievement especially in tough weather conditions. Well done to all our competitors and special thanks to staff members; Kari Thomas and Kate Greaves who did an amazing job on the day. It was great to have so many Sacred Heart parents there to help and support our team.
PRAYING IN THE BUSH AT SACRED HEART

Last Thursday, our Kinder and Prep children came together in our bush environment to pray. Before the liturgy our young children, helped by Mrs Watkins and groundsman, Isaac Dean, rolled logs over to where they were building their bush church. Ms D commented:

“They (the children) showed incredible team spirit and resilience and language such as, “My back is sweaty but it’s ok” and “You never give up” could be heard in our bushland today.”

“Then the Preps & Grades 1/2 arrived for church with a genuine calmness. Yet again, the calming effects of nature on children was really evident.”

“All the children and adults sat quietly as they prayed and listened to each other and the birds. I felt an inner peace and pride as I looked around our church today and thought to myself “our school rocks”

“So thank you everyone for helping make today awesome.”
SCHOOL TWILIGHT FAIR - THIS FRIDAY
Well, Fair week has finally arrived at Sacred Heart. This Friday our “Country Style” Twilight Fair will take place on our school grounds. We have nearly 50 stalls and activities and I’m sure that everyone who comes will be able to enjoy some great food and also enjoy all the other great activities on offer at our fair.

Food stalls will include Salmon, Italian, Curry, Barbecue, chips to name a few.

Cakes, cupcakes, delicious desserts, coffee, ice-creams and cold drinks

Chocolate Wheel, Balloons, Face-painting, Books

Jumping Castle, Handball competition, Pony rides, Lucky Jars

Box City, Plants, Silent Auction, Sweet Treats etc

These and much, much more will be at this year’s Fair. So come along and tell all your friends, neighbours and relatives to come along and join in the fun of the fair.

After school arrangements on Fair Day.
All children are expected to go home as normal at 3pm on the day of the fair. The only children who are allowed to remain at school after 3pm, are those whose parents are at school setting up the fair or working on stalls. Teachers and staff will also be really busy setting up class stalls and activities.

Fair start time
Fr Greg Barker will officially open the fair at 3.50pm. No sales will be taking place before that time.

FAIR DONATIONS NEEDED

- Treats to add to our trailer raffle – biscuits, chips, confectionery, cordial.
- Ice-cream containers & tins with lids than can be used for money on stalls.
- Lucky Jars – fill a clean jar with wrapped lollies, stationary, small toys
- Cake Stall – bring a cake, slice, cupcakes etc along to school Friday.
- Slabs of water, juices & cordials

If you can help with any of these items, please send them along to school.

2 WEEK SWIMMING PROGRAM
Our 2 week swim program has started really well with children participating in water safety and skill development pitched at their level. Qualified instructors are providing excellent instruction and following the Royal Life Program over the 2 week program. Special thanks to parents for ensuring that your children are coming to school ready for their swimming.

Life Jackets – If any parents can send a life jacket in tomorrow that we can use for water safety instruction over the next 2 weeks, that would be fantastic. Please ensure that the life jackets are named and dropped off at the school office.

Next Wednesday, 3rd December, all children need to bring a t-shirt and shorts to put on over their bathers as part of a water safety session taking place that day.
LAWSON GREY - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
Last month Lawson was selected to participate in a junior brown and black belt intense karate camp called a Gasshuku. He had special training with world chief instructor of his style for three days, learning new kata (forms) and kumite (fighting) with other junior brown and black belts from around Australia. He was also awarded Junior up and coming for Australia at the recent National Awards for Shukokai Karate. Finally he was awarded runner up at this weeks IGA Junior Sports Awards held at the Country Club in Launceston. Congratulations Lawson on your recent achievement! Well done!

ABC GIVING TREE
Traditionally Sacred Heart has supported the ABC Giving Tree and this year we would like to again support this wonderful initiative. From next week, we will have a Christmas Tree set up in the office foyer. If any family would like to donate a gift to go under the ABC Giving tree, your kindness would be appreciated.

Have a great week!

Luch Brighella
Principal

Grade 4’s Pet Rocks

$1 for small
$2 for large

Come along to our stall to get your pet rocks!

2015 SCHOOL CALENDAR SPONSORSHIP

We are currently seeking 12 sponsors for the 2015 school calendar. Every month each page will feature one business ad., and all the sponsors and their logos are printed on the back page as well. The cost will be $100.

Last year 170 calendars were purchased by families so they are viewed by a wide range of potential customers in the Huon.

We are providing this opportunity to our school community prior to canvassing other local businesses. If you are interested please contact Kate Greaves at mitchintas@gmail.com or on 0427971514 as soon as possible.

Thanks.
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Twilight Country Fair
Thank You to our Sponsors and Donors

KEEP AN EYE OUT EACH WEEK AS WE UPDATE THE LIST OF VERY GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES THAT WILL HELP MAKE OUR FAIR A SUCCESS.
(These businesses support us, please support them)

West Land Nursery
Phillips Civil Contracting
Huonville Pharmacy
Hawthorn Football Club
Dover RSL
Southern Designs
Cybersmart
Coca-Cola
Bruny Island Cruises
Tassal
Bonorong Wildlife Park
Ida Bay Railway
The Mercury Newspaper
Sally Doye L&S Doyle
Carolyn Crouch Body Shop
Redbreast Plants
Fullers Bookshop
Bennets Petroleum
Strawberry Blonde
Focal Printing
ZooDoo
Hasting Caves
Piero Brighella Advanced Mechanical Services and Trailers
Huon Rubbish Removal
Twigs & Daisy Chains
Goodyear
Dairy Australia
Fruit Growers of Tasmania
Sugar Australia
Chris Hurtle
Dover Pharmacy
Makers
El's Fashion
Duggans Tyre Service Huonville
Chemist Warehouse
Martin Doyle
John Osborne Print
Jilly Print
Mike Wilson Accommodation
Jet Boats
Nix Hair
Star Anise
Nest Huonville
Naked Bike Cafe
Rhonda Fibbens Hobby Horse
Geeveston Rubbish Removals
Franks Cider
Kermandie Hotel
PCYC
Eyelines Huonville
Tahune Airwalk
Stihl Shop Huonville
Stuart & Shelly Griggs
Port Huon Cottages
Dover Hair
Minnie Makeovers
Bendigo Bank
Vise Board
Jackman McCross Bakery
Pip & Ryan Hankin
Fiona & Scott Steel
Artery
JB Nicholas & Sons
IGA Geeveston
TA Ford Contracting
Huon Valley Hardware
Bleathmans Mobile Butcher
Road Safety
David Jennings
Huon Valley Council
Huon Little Treasures
Square Pegs Dyslexia Support and Advocacy Inc.

**a workshop for teachers and parents**

**MAKE THE DIFFERENCE:**
POSITVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA

**SCHOOL:** Sacred Heart Primary School, Geeveston

A practical, interactive 2 hour workshop for teachers and parents...

- understanding dyslexia;
- creating dyslexia friendly learning environments
- empowering children with dyslexia and related learning differences

Facilitated by: Simon Thiessen from The Real Learning Experience

**DATE:** Wednesday, 26th November  
**TIME:** 3.30-5.30pm

**FREE WORKSHOP....TO BOOK YOUR PLACE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

Square Pegs Dyslexia Support and Advocacy Inc

[Website Link]

facebook/squarepegstas | admin@dyslexitas.org
Calendars will feature artwork by your children as well as school photos.

All children's artwork from the same family will be incorporated into one calendar.

Order your Calendar now! Only $7.50 each

The P&F welcome any suggestions to improve our calendar from previous years! – Just email Kate at mitchintas@gmail.com

Students Names: ........................................ Grade: .........................
........................................ Grade: .........................
........................................ Grade: .........................
........................................ Grade: .........................
........................................ Grade: .........................

Number of calendars required: ......................... @ $7.50

Payment Enclosed: $.....................................

Calendar orders and payment must be received in the office before Friday 5th December 2014