

### IMPORTANT DATES

Learn to Swim Program	27 <sup>th</sup> November – 7 <sup>th</sup> December
Swim Fun Day	8 <sup>th</sup> December
Kindergarten 2017 Graduation	11 <sup>th</sup> December at 9:00 am
Year Six Graduation	11 <sup>th</sup> December at 10:00 am
Citizenship Awards	11 <sup>th</sup> December at 11:15 am
Christmas Carols Term 4 concludes	11 <sup>th</sup> December at 1:30 pm
Report Day	12 <sup>th</sup> December

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

On behalf of the staff, I would like to sincerely thank you for the support, time, care, patience and love you have shown throughout the year. I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank many of you for your most wonderful support of our hardworking staff, P&F Committee, the School Board and, of course, the children throughout the year. You have done this in a variety of ways, including:

- working in close partnership with us by trusting, listening, seeking clarification, helping out and steering clear of any negative put-downs, gossip or unconstructive criticism
- speaking to and speaking about others in a respectful, just, considerate and friendly way
- supporting P&F initiatives and encouraging and thanking them for their efforts
- being a positive influence in our community - thinking the best not the worst and treating all community members with respect, understanding and empathy

We have a very strong, cohesive and positive school community that is continuing to grow in many different and exciting ways. The more we continue to hold on to our faith, build on our strengths, develop and grow, and encourage and support one another without judgment, the more potential we have for realising our dreams as individuals and as a community!

I wish our graduating Year 6 class all the best in their future schooling and remind them that they will always be a part of the Holy Saviour School family. We are already looking forward to 2018 and welcoming a new Kindergarten cohort.

On that note, I wish to advise you that I will be on leave as of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017 for a period of 15 days. During my absence, please direct all matters to the Assistant Principal, Ms Rachael Bryant.

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a safe and relaxing holiday. I am looking forward to a productive 2018.

Peace be with you and your families.

*Yours in Christ,*

**Dianne Klumpp (Principal)**

## THE RELIGION CORNER

Christmas is only a matter of weeks away and lots of advertising is trying to compel us to shop now for all those special gifts. In our school, we are also reminded to do some shopping, but not necessarily for ourselves, but for others. Following from the success of previous years, we invite you to give in a practical, Christian way. "My brothers, if someone says he has faith, but does nothing, his faith is worth nothing" (James 2:14)

Firstly, we plan to give food to our local Saint Vincent de Paul committee. This means pantry items, such as rice, pasta, canned goods, etc. that can be easily stored. It can also include children's toys or speciality Christmas food, if you wish. The Bankstown shop was very appreciative last year when we arrived with all the goods. It is such a practical way to help our local community where so many families are struggling to pay everyday bills and feed their family. We have suggested to the children that they give the things they would like to eat themselves. We will place baskets in all the classrooms to accept your gifts.

Secondly, we believe you have already received a note regarding a Christmas Gift Drive for the newly arrived in Australia. Last year, Bishop Robert hosted a special meal, with Christmas gifts, for the children of families who had arrived in Australia recently. The families were so grateful to receive a gift for each child as they celebrated their first Christmas in Australia. The Bishop is keen to repeat this for all the many families who have arrived this year. The lunch will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2017.

The SRC students explain what we are doing:

As we begin this time of preparation for Christmas, our thoughts are drawn to those less fortunate than ourselves. Syrian refugee children have lost their homes, their security, their childhood.... Syrian families live far away from their family and friends. This special time of year is a reminder for us to give generously to those who are in need.

We would like you to encourage your children to remember others.

To this end, the SRC is organising a **Christmas Gift Drive**. We ask that every family donate a wrapped gift marked with **Boy** or **Girl** and the appropriate age. All gifts are to be placed under our Christmas tree next to the front office.

Thank you in advance and may God bless all families, particularly at this time of the year.

Yours sincerely,

**SRC 2017**

*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas,  
Yours in Christ,*

*Sr. Jeanette and Fr. Ibrahim*

## 2018 CALENDAR DATES

### Term One

Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January

**Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Staff Professional Development Day

Staff Professional Development Day

**Term One Commences (Full days)**

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> April**

Good Friday

Holy Monday

**Term One Concludes**

### Term Two

Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April

**Tuesday, 1st May**

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June**

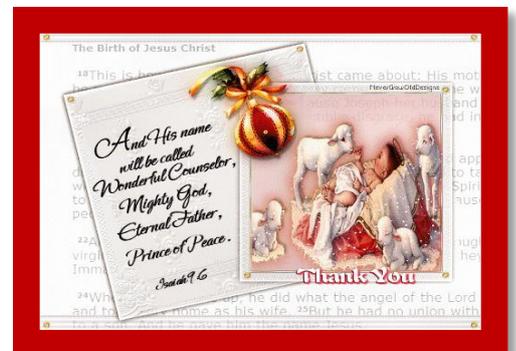
Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> June

Staff Professional Development Day

**Term Two Commences**

**Term Two Concludes**

Term Two Parent/Teacher Interviews



## REPORT CARDS ISSUED

### Term Three

Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July  
Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> September

**Term Three Commences (3 week vacation period)**  
**Term Three Concludes**

### Term Four

Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> October  
Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December  
Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December

**Term Four Commences**  
**Term Four Concludes**  
Report Day  
Professional Development Day

**Note:** *The above dates are a guide and may be varied as needed.*

## SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to all the parents who have finalised their school fees. We urge all parents to finalise school fees ASAP. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated.

## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, is the last day of Term 4 and it will be filled with exciting and important events. The day will start with the Kindergarten Graduation ceremony, at 9.00 am, followed by the Year 6 Graduation mass at 10.00 am.

Mr Jihad Dib, MP, will be giving out Citizenship Awards to some students at 11.15 am. Then, we will all be enjoying a barbecue prepared by the P & F Committee. The day will end with a Christmas concert at 1.15 pm whereby students will present a Nativity play with Melkite chants.

We encourage all parents to join us on this day to celebrate our students' achievements and success.

Mrs Matar  
Arabic Coordinator

## HEALTH CORNER

Being fit is a way of saying a person **eats well**, gets a lot of physical activity (**exercise**) and has a healthy **weight**. If you're fit, your body works well, feels good and can do all the things you want to do, like run around with your friends.

Some steps only parents can take — such as serving healthy meals or deciding to take the family on a nature hike, but kids can take charge, too, when it comes to health.

Here are five rules to live by, if you're a kid who wants to be fit. The trick is to follow these rules most of the time, knowing that some days (like your birthday) might call for cake and ice cream.

- Eat a variety of foods
- Drink water & milk
- Listen to your body
- Limit screen time
- Be active

## CLASSROOM NEWS



### YEAR 1

Year One students have been busy learning facts about lots of different animals in order to write an information report. We have been working hard to collate facts, write a report, edit and then type our final piece.

As we draw closer to the end of another school year, we are putting our heads down in our reading groups. Consolidation of all the reading skills we have been taught throughout the year is our

focus this term. Children have demonstrated outstanding improvement in their decoding, fluency, expression and accuracy. We are looking forward to a few more weeks of solid work before we let our hair down for the summer break.



### YEAR 5

In Year 5, we continuously work on improving our writing. This term, we have had a major focus around creative writing and narratives. Here is a fantastic narrative written by Yasmin Aletki, who is one of Year 5's most passionate writers.

#### FOUND

By *Yasmin A* (Year 5)

I spotted it on the pitted ground of the Simpson desert, a rock's throw away from the farm house. I could feel my stomach turning into soggy damper. I crept across the rocky ground and slowly moved towards the creature. Its ginger fur whistled in the wind and its baby doll eyes twinkled in the moonlight. Her grey whiskers twitched at me. Suddenly, I was frightened about what my mother would say if I brought this 'critter' in, but without a second thought, the creature stood up and waltzed right into my outstretched arms. "Hey little one, what are you doing out here all alone?" I asked. I shook my head and ambled back to my house. I stood in my Disney Themed bedroom, wondering if I really should be doing this, but the thought was lost as I neared my bed. I was exhausted, so I climbed into my bed, the creature still in my arms, and mystically fell into sleep.

The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak, fell on my head and woke me up. I sat up and wiped the sleep from my eyes. I was way too snug to get up, but the call of my mum definitely did its job. My mum always hated animals; I can't imagine what she would do if she sees the feline I invited in; she'll kill me! She thinks animals or 'pests', as she calls them, might ruin her precious parrot bushes. I sluggishly got up and stared at the cat. I let out an exasperated sigh and picked up the cat. It awoke and wriggled out of my arms. Again I retrieved it and lingered downstairs.

"WHAT IS THAT?" my mother bellowed lifting her head from the Daily Telegraph and staring, dumbstruck, at the cat. "It is a cat," I replied. Her face turned a furious tomato red colour and her mud brown hair went frizzy. You could see a bushfire had already started in her bright blue eyes. OH!NO!

For what felt like hours of arguing, "You know I am petrified of animals!" she bellowed. I bit my tongue, I was sick of her relentless yelling. I was infuriated! I scowled at her, I was sick of arguing and so was my cat. The feline leapt out of my arms and gave the most warm, the most comradery, the most snuggly cuddle to my mum. It even started to purr and meow. My mum's smile was brighter than the sun, she threw her head back, started to giggle and finally admitted defeat. "Her name shall be Tiger," I announced. My mother and I immediately started talking about possible names for kittens in case Tiger had any. In the end we agreed on Coco, Cleo or Ginger. I had a pleasant tingly feeling in my heart. I imagined Tiger and I walking around the

Parrot bush garden, her tag shimmering from the shining sun; it would say, 'Ivy's cat Tiger'. My cat Tiger, Once stray, and now, **FOUND**.

## NEW ARRIVALS NEWSLETTER NEWS

The New Arrivals students have been busy learning about many things this year, including about the very famous Australian author, Mem Fox. Mem has written many story books including 'Possum Magic', 'Koala Lou', 'Where is the Green Sheep?' and her latest publication 'I'm Australian too'.

Last term, the school received four signed copies of Mem's books. The students decided to thank Mem for the books and tell her a little about themselves in personalised letters. Mem personally responded with three handwritten letters thanking the students for their interest in her books. Below are some snippets from the students' letters and Mem's letters to the students.

*Hi Mem Fox. My name is Enji A and I like to read your books specially Possum Magic. In our school library, we have lots of your books and I always read your books. I like being in Australia because I like my school, I like my teachers and the best thing in Australia is speaking English. I hope you liked my letter. I am very excited to read your new book and thank you for the books you sent us.*

Dear Mem Fox,

I am Melane A. I am from Holy Saviour School. I am 11 years old and I have been in Australia for eight months.

I would like to tell you that I love your books. They are so exciting and funny. Thank you for sending some books like Possum Magic. I really like the book 'I'm Australian Too'.

Hi Mem Fox, I am Dani N. I am 10 years old. I come from Syria. Syria is my favourite country because I have many, many friends. I love Syria but I now live in Australia. I go to Holy Saviour School and I am a fan of your books. My favourite book is 'I'm Australian too'. I like it because you wrote about Syria.

Thank you from Dani.

My name is Majd. I am 10 years old. I go to Holy Saviour School. I am in Year 4. I have one sister and no brothers. I used to live in Syria from when I was born to 9 years old. When I came to this school I said to the teacher that I don't like to read any books, and when I read your books then I said, I love Mem Fox books. I love all your books. My favourite book is 'I'm Australian too'. I want to ask you 2 questions about your book 'I'm Australian too'. Why did you write about Syria? Why did you choose those countries?

Thank you Mem for sending 'I'm Australian too'.

My name is Maria A and I read your book Possum Magic and it was so beautiful.

I want to ask you something.

Why did you write about the invisible magic?

Have you ever been invisible?

Do you have magic books?

I am in Year Four I am ten years old.

I go to Holy Saviour School Greenacre.

All that I like to do is read books.

In our school library, there are lots of books that you wrote and they are all beautiful. Thank you for sending the books and my favourite was 'Possum Magic'. It is really cool.

My friends and I fight for you books because they are all our favourites.

From Maria

Hi I am Sarah N. I am 12 years old. I am in Yr 6. My school is called Holy Saviour. I live in Sydney. I lived in Syria a year ago. I really like the book "**I'm Australian too**". Thank you for sending the books for us. I have written a picture book called "**Journey to Treasure**". I am sending you a copy of it so you can read it. I hope you enjoy reading it.

## Mem's letter to Sarah

Dear Sarah,

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of your marvellous book about Sinbad. The ending was **great**: a very good surprise! Best Wishes and love,  
Mem Fox xxx

## Mem's letter to all the students:

Dear Greenacre Gang,

It was really lovely to hear from you. Thanks so much for writing to me and thanks for loving my books. You made my day!

I can't answer all your questions because of lack of time but I can tell you one thing. I chose to put Syria in "I'm Australian Too" because I felt so sad and sorry about the war. I wanted Syrian refugees to feel welcome and loved in my country. I'm **so** glad you're here!

Lots of love,  
Mem Fox xxxx

