REFLECTION

“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 overwhelms is a constant ongoing reminder of this ‘sacredness of being’ that is each person. As we celebrate Jesus’ sacred birth this Christmas and 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

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2013
As we conclude the end of the school year, we can sometimes get so focused on looking ahead and towards 2014 without stopping and enjoying the present. The end of the 2013 school year has come around very quickly and it is almost difficult to comprehend the vast range of teaching and learning experiences and events that have occurred throughout the school over the last 12 months. I would like to acknowledge everyone who has contributed so much in so many ways to ensure this year was such a success at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School. I have included below some of the many achievements, memories and events of 2013:

* the introduction of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) – including the introduction of our 3R’s Responsibility, Respect and Relationships
* the Data Wise Maths Numeracy strategy and initiative
* participation in the Action Maths (Early Numeracy Interviews) for students
* the purchase of a number of new iPads integrated into classrooms to support the school curriculum
* a successful visit from the School Registration Board who had several commendations of our school resulting in Immaculate Heart being re-registered for another 4 years until 2017
* the implementation of a highly successful pilot Indonesian program in Grades 3-5
* the introduction of a new Kindergarten and Sports uniform to reflect and promote the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School identity
* representation of our school at a number of new community events including School Choir and sporting teams
* strategic planning and designing for our school building program which will now enter the tendering process in 2014, with work to commence in Feb 2014 (work includes alterations and refurbishment of the School Hall, Kindergarten, Grade 3 and 4 classrooms, Music Room, relocation of Library into the existing Music Room, converting existing Learning Support Room into a new school Canteen and Uniform Shop)
* an establishment of a brand new and dynamic School Board
* a number of new initiatives for gifted and talented students
* the appointment of a new school compliance officer
* some wonderful excursions, class presentations and assemblies to compliment teaching and learning in the classroom
* a bright, engaging and new school website
* a very successful fundraising year led by our school P and F where a number of financial contributions were made to assist with minor and major school projects

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS
Over the last couple of weeks we have also been involved in a number of events as we make our way towards the end of the school year. These have included:
• A number of class excursions across a variety of Grades
• Our End of Year Mass
• Dance Fever Event at DEC for Grades 3-6 and a dance showcase for Kinder-Grade 2 students
• A visit from the Streetswags organization who presented Molly Pogorzelski and Alyssa Guinan (Grade 5 students) with a gift and a Community Service Award at gathering in recognition of fundraising ventures they led and coordinated at the school
• Our End of Year Picnic
• A visit by our School Choir to Vaucluse Gardens nursing home
• Today we will also hold our final end of year assembly

STUDENT LEADERSHIP
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected by their peers for leadership positions in 2014:

SCHOOL CAPTAINS:
JUANITA FUENTES
OLIVER FLEISCHMANN
DILLON
ELLOUISE KOP
EMMANUEL VITA
YOUNG
MOLLY POGORZELSKI
LILLIANA DEVINE
DONOHUE
CALEB MUNN
ALYSSA GUINAN
FAREWELL GRADE 6 GRADUATES OF 2013

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our 27 Grade 6 students who will be leaving us and embarking on a new and exciting journey into high school next year. They have been a great group of students and have represented our school with pride at numerous official events and functions this year and I have been greatly impressed with the level of maturity and cooperativeness they have shown in the last few months. I would like to wish each of them all the very best for the future.

Keren Budiongo Nseka, Nancy Budiongo Nseka, Benjamin Dale, Hayley Davies, Xavier Geiger, Dorothy Lagu, Jasmine Lanci, Will Lang, Maya Lietz, Mary Malonzo, Rose Michael, Waimaria Ngawhare, Ajak Ngor, Daniel Niekrasz, Izaac Onn, Jemma Patterson, Alex Pears, Georgia Pears, Joshua Roberts, Emma Rusell, Tahki Skrepetos, Elysha Smith, Shartiel Tuyishime, Tomas Vinen, Jemima Vita, Harry Ward, Finn Woolley

FAREWELL

This is also the last time I will be writing to the school community in my capacity as Principal. It has been a great privilege to have worked in such an amazing school community in 2013. It has been a wonderfully positive experience for me and I feel it is appropriate for me to acknowledge a number of people and key stakeholders in the school who have made this experience so memorable for me.

I would firstly like to thank Father Shammi (Assistant Parish Priest) for his support. I also wish to thank our School Board. It has been fantastic to work alongside you all and develop relationships with you on a professional and personal level. I have greatly valued your input and expertise in making and discussing future strategic directions for the school. Many sincere thanks to Mrs Bernadette Pogorzelski (Chairman of the School Board 2013) for her commitment and dedication to our school community.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding leadership team that I have had the great privilege of working with Miss Clark, Mrs Davies and Ms Pitfield. They have been a magnificent support and I have been extremely fortunate to draw on their wisdom, advice and personal leadership qualities on many occasions. My experience this year has been so rewarding and positive because of the cohesiveness and creative dynamics of our leadership team. I am confident that we have moved the school forward towards a position of strength in the strategic decisions and changes we have made, with the most important stake holders in mind, our students, always at the forefront of our decision making process.

To the teachers and staff of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School. It has been a pleasure to work alongside such a gifted, energetic, supportive, talented and inspiring staff. I would like to pay tribute for your support, friendship and exemplars of what it is to serve faithfully and with humility. The rapport you have with our students is incredibly strong and the students are coming to school with a great love of learning. One of my great delights has been watching proudly as our students perform, present and showcase their talents and work at whole school assemblies and performances. My sincere thanks are also extended to our richly talented and dedicated office staff, Miss Casey Mullen and Mrs Delphine Luff.

I also wish to acknowledge our P & F association. Our P & F have contributed greatly to a number of fundraising ventures as well as financially supporting numerous projects in the school. In particular, I wish to recognise the co-presidents, Mrs Tara Devine and Mrs Susan McLeod, for all their support. On a wider scale, I wish to thank the wonderful support I have received from the parent body of our school. It has been a great experience for me to get to know you and your children.
Finally, to the students that make up our school. From day one I was struck by your friendliness and warmth. I have lost count of the times that I have just been so impressed with your behaviour, in particular when representing the school on official events, including assemblies, sports carnivals, excursions and camps. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to lead a school with such wonderfully mannered, mature and responsive students who continually promote the school so positively to the wider community. I will miss every one of you greatly and I wish you all the very best for the future.

As mentioned earlier this year, unfortunately the circumstances are beyond my control and are due to an on-going health issue which I have battled with for a number of years. The condition has deteriorated and advice I received indicated I am unable to continue in the role beyond this year.

Leaving Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School is something that I will find extremely difficult to do. I have become attached to this great school community both professionally and personally and moving at the end of this year was not something I had planned or envisaged as I was looking forward to working in the school community for a number of years.

I look forward to hearing about the continued success of IHMCS. Wishing everyone a great Christmas and New Year.

Thankyou

Cameron Brown
Principal

2014 STAFFING

LEADERSHIP TEAM
Principal Mr Nick McGann
Assistant Principal /Religious Education Ms Bridget Cairns
Assistant Principal/Learning and Teaching Miss Emma Clark

TEACHERS
Kindergarten Mrs Shelly Horne
Prep Miss Stephanie King
Grade 1 Mrs Carmel Woolley (Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri), Ms Meg Kitchen (Wednesday)
Grade 2 Mrs Cathy Joyce (Mon, Tues and Fri), Mrs Therese Kelly (Wednesday and Thursday)
Grade 3 Mrs Kate Jackson (Mon-Thurs), Ms Bridget Cairns (Friday)
Grade 4 Miss Emma Clark (Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri) and Mrs Christine Keele (Wednesday Term 2-4)
Grade 5 Mr Eric Monaghan (Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri), Ms Louise Davidson (Thurs)
Grade 6 Mrs Jane Davies and Mrs Therese Kelly (every second Friday)
Learning Support Ms Louise Davidson
EAL Support Sister Joseph McVilly
Physical Education Mr Eric Monaghan (Monday)
Music Mrs Claire Williams (Tuesday)
Library Mrs Natasha Webster (Mon and Tues)
Art Ms Louise Davidson (Monday)
Teacher Assistants Mrs Christine Respondek, Mrs Fran Heynes, Mrs Grazia Parodi, Miss Amy Westwood, Mrs Cindy Askey-Doran
Compliance Officer Mr Steven Latham
Utility Officer Mr Nathan Foale
Finance Officer Mrs Delphine Luff
Administration Miss Casey Mullen

TERM DATES 2014
TERM 1 Thurs 06.02.14 to Thurs 17.04.14
TERM 2 Mon 05.05.14 to Fri 04.07.14
TERM 3 Mon 21.07.14 to Fri 26.09.14
TERM 4 Mon 13.10.14 to Wed 17.12.14

UNIFORM COLLECTION
If you have ordered our new Sports uniform it can be collected from the School Hall on Wednesday 29th January between 12 – 2pm. New orders can also be made on this day. We would also like to remind parents that the formal uniform still needs to be purchased at the Sacred Heart College Uniform Shop. Opening times have been attached. Also, be advised that it is not necessary to purchase a blazer.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOLIDAY OPENING TIMES
Monday 27th January 9am – 3pm
Tuesday 28th January 9am – 3pm
Wednesday 29th January 9am – 3pm (Uniform collection day 12 – 2pm)
Friday 31st January 9am – 3pm
Tuesday 4th February 9am – 3pm
Wednesday 5th February 9am – 3pm

WORKING BEE
There will be a 'Working Bee' at school to work on the gardens/grounds on Monday 20th of January. Any assistance is welcome between 10.00am and 2.00pm. If anyone wants to come around earlier or later or have any questions they can contact Duncan Brain at duncan.brain@education.tas.gov.au

LIBRARY NEWS
As this year comes to an end, I have a few people I would like to thank. Firstly to all the fantastic students who make my job a pleasure. Thank you for a wonderful year of borrowing and enjoying books. A huge thank you also to Mr Brown and all the staff at Immaculate Heart. I feel very grateful for your unwavering support.
A massive thanks also to the Parents & Friends who had no hesitation with assisting at our Book Fair back in August and also with the purchase of a Library iPad which is absolutely wonderful!
I hope you and your families all have a safe and happy Christmas, see you in 2014.
Mrs Webster –Library Technician

IHMCs Parents and Friends
The P & F committee would like to thank every parent, friend or staff member that assisted us this year in the P & F. We had many activities throughout the year, Welcome BBQ, Lorraine Lea Linen party, our monthly cake stalls, discos, shopping night, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls, assisting the Book Fair, BBQ’s for many events, footy theme day, chocolate fundraising (here a very special mention to MONA and Medicare staff for fundraising for us throughout the year), our Christmas raffle that was a huge success – a big thank you to all of the businesses for the kind donations and of course the canteen for the children.

We would like to sincerely thank our Principal, Cameron Brown for the commitment and support he has given us throughout the year, we really appreciate it.

The P & F have been able to purchase many things for the school this year, our own flag, banner and marquee, an iPad for the library, soccer equipment, donation to the Positive Behaviour Support program, just to name a few.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, we hope you relax throughout the break (remember no school lunches for a while!!) and hope to see you at our next two events in early 2014.

Please remember to put these dates in your 2014 calendar:

Annual Welcome Barbecue
Friday 21st February 2014 from 5.30pm to 8pm
Come and join us for this annual family event and meet other members of the school community. This is also an opportunity to welcome new families.
There will be activities for the children, a jumping castle and lucky door prizes.

Annual General Meeting
Monday 24th February at 7pm
The Parents & Friends Committee has two main aims: to continue to build upon our strong school community and to raise funds which will provide valuable resources and opportunities for all students.

At the AGM all positions for the Executive of the Parents And Friends Committee will be declared vacant and new office bearers will be elected at this meeting. These positions are not as daunting as they may seem. Please consider carefully the possibility of taking on one of these roles for 2014.
There are many capable and generous people amongst us, you will receive support in these roles and be rewarded through witnessing the happiness generated in our community through the work of the Parent’s and Friends. It is well worth the effort.
Uniform Centre Opening times for 2014

The Uniform Centre will be open for collecting second-hand clothing on Wednesday 22nd January 10am – 2pm. We cannot accept second-hand clothing on any other day, prior or during the back to school. No exceptions. Second-hand items will be accepted again as of the 21st March.

We cannot accept second-hand items at the College Office

Good quality clothing please - no holes and only current uniform will be accepted. (It must be cleaned, pressed and every item labelled with name and contact details. This needs to be done before bringing them to uniform centre).

No Uniform or Second-Hand Sales this day

- A reminder that all secondhand sales are cash only
- No Credit Card or Eftpos transactions accepted for secondhand sales
- Secondhand items cannot be put on lay-by, they must be purchased outright

Friday 24th January 9:30-2:30
Saturday 25th January 9:30-12:30
Tuesday 28th January 9:30-2:30
Wednesday 29th January 9:30-2:30
Thursday 30th January 9:30-2:30
Friday 31st January 9:30-2:30
Monday 3rd February 9:30-2:30
Tuesday 4th February 9:30-2:30

Opening times for term time next year to be advised.
They will be posted on Sacred Heart College Website in January.