REFLECTION
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 which began last Sunday 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

DANCEFEVER

During Term 3, our Kinder to Grade 6 students have been participating in the Dancefever program. Dancefever is designed to teach children social interaction through the enjoyment that emanates from dance. The dancing has been fun, fast-paced and energetic, exposing children to the fundamental skills of social interaction that are important from an early age.

Dancefever uses only current musical hits and the latest in audio technology and has provided the perfect atmosphere, encouraging children to enjoy the program in a fun, but educational environment – “from classroom to ballroom”.

The students have been dancing as individuals or couples, groups or as a team. I am adamant that our involvement in Dancefever has helped children improve their self-expression, respect, etiquette, school spirit, team-work and sportsmanship.

Last Monday a number of our Grade 3-6 students represented Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School at a special event at the Derwent Entertainment Centre. The showcase and culminating performance involved five other Catholic schools and several hundred competitors.
Quite simply, our students were magnificent ambassadors for our school on the night! They performed with great skill and enthusiasm as is now the custom and culture of our students when representing our school at community events, their behaviour and support for each other on the night was simply outstanding! I am very grateful to the families who supported the event by making the necessary arrangements so that their child/ren were able to compete.

We had some great results with a number of students reaching the finals of the various dancing categories and some students even winning sashes for being placed in the top 3. Our Grade 3 students won a trophy for the School Challenge Championship.

On Wednesday December 11, our Kinder to Grade 2 students will showcase to their families and to the school community the dances they have learnt at a special assembly.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

Last week I was able to hear a number of our Grade 5 students who nominated for school leadership positions in 2014, deliver their speeches to fellow students and staff from Grades 3-5. It was wonderful to see such a large number of students willing to put their name forward and be considered for these roles. The quality of the speeches they prepared was outstanding.

Public speaking is an important life skill and we aim for our students to be able to speak confidently to an audience. This is an important part of the curriculum. Not all students are going to win public speaking competitions but as a school we endeavour to nurture the skills and confidence to speak in real life situations where public speaking is required. Our students are given lots of opportunities to both prepare and present speeches as well as to listen and watch others speak right through their schooling. A clear confident speaking voice is an essential life skill as it fosters self-esteem and personal confidence and it was wonderful to be able to see so many of the Grade 5 students exhibit these skills. We will be making some announcements shortly with regard to our nominated Grade 6 leadership positions for 2014.

**STAFFING 2014**

We are currently finalising our 2014 staffing. We still have some vacancies to confirm at time of writing but will be able to confirm all staffing for next year in our final newsletter.

**SCHOOL REPORTS**

Parents will receive student reports on Friday December 13. It is our aim to provide accurate and comprehensive reporting of student achievement, development and performance. This assists in establishing open communication, improving student learning, assists in establishing future direction, and helps to identify areas of exemplary student performance, as well as areas in need of support and assistance.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Parents/Carers and students, please note we will finish school at the earlier time of 12.00pm on the last day of the school year, after the completion of our end of year assembly (Thursday, 19th December). The afternoon on this day will be spent undertaking a number of logistical requirements and movements as part of our 2013/2014 building program.

The end of year assembly signifies the end of formal schooling as such for 2013, and as is the custom of many of our Catholic Primary schools, we are asking if families can make arrangements to pick up their children at the conclusion of our final assembly. We appreciate your support in accommodating this request.

Please note that we understand that this may not be possible for some families and the remaining students at school will be fully supervised for the afternoon if arrangements cannot be made to pick up children at the earlier time. Please let us know if this is the case.
**TERM 4 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6 December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Leavers Mass at St Mary's Cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 December</td>
<td>Kinder-Grade 2 Dance Event in the school hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12 December</td>
<td>Grade 6 End of Year Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13 December</td>
<td>Reports Issues to Parents/Guardians</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13 December</td>
<td>Christmas Disco/Raffle Draw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16 December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Big Day Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 December</td>
<td>K – G6 Pantomime &amp; Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation/Final Assembly 10.30am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School finishes at 12.00pm</td>
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**Cameron Brown**  
Principal

**UNIFORM UPDATE**  
We have the new school hats available for sale in a variety of sizes. They are $12 each and are available from the school office.

**2013 DOMINIC COLLEGE YEAR 3/4 SPORTS DAY**

On Thursday **21 November 2013** over 500 participants and supporters played in the annual 3/4 Sports Day held at Dominic College. This annual event is aimed at promoting friendship, sportsmanship and fun and allows students in years 3 and 4 from St Therese’s, St Brigid's, Immaculate Heart, St Pauls, Holy Rosary and Dominic College to participate in sports including Football, Netball, Soccer and Tee Ball. Many of the students commented on the new friends that they made on the day. Although it was rather wet, the day was a huge success and the smiles on students’ faces made it all worth it. All of the students found warmth by enjoying a nice sausage and drink after their matches were completed on this day.

**2014 ENROLMENTS**

As we are in the process of finalising class numbers for next year, we would greatly appreciate if you could contact us if your child/ren are not going to be attending Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School in 2014. We have a number of classes with waiting lists and we would like to make contact with these families shortly to confirm if we have any potential vacancies.
CARITAS JUST LEADERSHIP DAY

On Thursday 28th of November seven Grade Five students, Ellouise, Juanita, Oliver, Patrick, Conor, Molly and Caleb M were all chosen to go to St Cuthbert’s to learn about what Caritas does and to discuss the issues of social justice around the world and how we can make a difference.

We got to do this with different students from Catholic schools in Southern Tasmania. There was a lady named Mary-Anne from Caritas Australia and she talked about how lucky we are living a great life and how some people don’t have the wonderful things that we have.

We had to get to know people better so we got into small groups and talked about ourselves and what we want to learn about Caritas. When it was time to have morning tea we went out side and got some fresh air. Then we went back inside. Then we did speed dating, it was pretty funny, what we had to do was get to know what other people’s favourite things were and what they enjoyed. Then we got given cards and they had names of different people on them. Later we had some lunch and played soccer and we met new friends. After lunch we got into our school groups and made a poster and we all joined in to help with the poster. This is what it looks like. We had a wonderful day and learnt so much about what Caritas does.

Written by Ellouise, Juanita and Oliver (Grade 5 students)

THANK YOU!

A BIG thank you to all the families who have supported our many Resource building fundraisers this year. These have included Woolies Earn and Learn, Scholastic Book Club and the toy catalogues. Through your participation the school will receive over $3700 in free resources including new home corner equipment comprising of a wooden stove, fridge, microwave, washing machine and dishwasher for the Kinders, maths and construction resources for the Preps and Grade 1’s and new readers and literacy items for the other classes in the school.

Once again the staff and students thank you for your support.

Meg Kitchen
Co-ordinator

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our Christmas Raffle is being drawn on Friday 13th December at our Christmas Disco. All tickets with money should be returned to school by Thursday 12th December. Don’t miss the opportunity to be in the running for some great prizes including Christmas hampers, a family weekend away, Zone 3 passes, a panel heater plus much, much more. Drop into the school office to pick up a book and check out the wonderful prize list!

SAVE THE DATES

P & F Welcome Barbecue - Friday 21st February 2014 from 5.30pm to 8pm
P & F Annual General Meeting - Monday 24th February 2014 at 7pm

More details to follow in the next newsletter.

IHMCS Parents and Friends Committee
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

DISCO
FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER
6.30-8.00pm
In the School Hall
Entry $3.00 each or $10.00 per family

The disco will have a Christmas theme. Your entry will cover the DJ, light show and lucky door prizes.
We will have glow products for sale. Juice boxes and snacks will be available for $1.00 each.

We also have face painting and balloon tying - $3.00 per face painting/balloon critter ($10.00 per family) or both for $5.00. There will also be a photographer taking your Christmas disco photos!

Younger siblings are welcome if supervised by an adult. Supervision is provided for school children but they must be dropped off and picked up from inside the hall. Please be considerate of our staff and volunteers by collecting children on time. Tea and coffee are provided in the foyer for parents.

COME AND PARTY WITH US !!!
Dear Parents/Caregivers

This is the third Assessment and Reporting update for 2013 and provides information about your child’s end of year report. All Catholic schools in Tasmania are moving towards a common report format (Prep-10) for both mid-year and end of year reports. Common reporting helps to build consistency in and between our schools throughout all stages of schooling. In 2014 we will be seeking feedback from parents/caregivers regarding both the midyear and end of year report. We look forward to your responses as we continue to work together to provide the best possible education for your child.

Dr. Trish Hindmarsh
Director of Catholic Education

End of Year Reports Prep-10

The End of Year Report is a summary statement that records the achievements of your child at a particular point in time. Teachers make a judgment based on their shared professional knowledge about how evidence in student work, over the school year, matches the achievement standards for each year level.

In each subject area teachers develop assessment that is directly aligned to what students have had an opportunity to learn, based on the intended curriculum. What is reported is directly aligned to what has been assessed. The intended curriculum for Tasmanian Catholic schools is outlined below.

The Curriculum for Tasmanian Catholic Schools

In Tasmanian Catholic Schools the curriculum for Religious Education is Good News for Living. Good News for Living can be viewed online at http://www.catholic.tas.edu.au/publications/re-resources

The Australian Curriculum English, Maths, Science and History are the intended curriculum for Tasmanian Catholic schools P-10 and in 2013 students were assessed against the achievement standards for these subjects (these can be viewed online at http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home)

The Australian Curriculum and/or the Tasmanian Curriculum inform the curriculum for other key learning areas, with the exception of VET (Vocational Education Training) subjects and specific school-based electives offered in Years 9 & 10.

The Tasmanian Curriculum can be viewed at http://www.education.tas.gov.au/Students/schools-colleges/curriculum/Pages/Tasmanian-Curriculum.aspx

End of Year Report Format

The End of Year Report includes:

- A summative A-E rating for subjects studied
- An indication of progress against the strands identified for each subject
- Attitude and application ratings
- A general/pastoral comment

Individual subject comments are not included as part of the End of Year Report.

In the primary school, subject based comments will be incorporated, where appropriate, within the general comment.

In secondary schools, subject-based comments will only be included in the general comment if especially warranted.

In consultation with parents/caregivers a narrative report may be provided for one or more subjects. A narrative report is given when it is not appropriate to assess a student against grade level expectations.
**The Complete Picture**

The A-E rating is only one part of the complete picture of student progress. The progress by strand highlights areas of strength and/or areas for further development. Please be aware that students receiving all ‘extending’ on the strands may be awarded an A or B based on the quality of their work.

Application and attitude to learning will help you to determine if your child is working to his/her full capacity. Together these provide the overall picture of your child’s progress, which cannot be conveyed by a single A-E rating.

It should also be noted that a student who has maintained the same rating from report period to report period is making progress. A C on the mid-year report and a C at the end of year indicates that your child has made the expected progress from one report period to the next.

**Reporting in Kindergarten**

Kindergarten educators are required to keep quality journals of student progress and development throughout the year. These journals are a rich source of information about student development and take time and care to maintain. They are used for a number of purposes including reporting to families.

These journals comply with the National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care and take the place of other formal forms of report documents used previously.

**Days of Attendance**

Attendance figures represent the number of days attended as at report submission date prior to printing. Depending on school size and internal demands, the day(s) of printing will vary. This will result in small differences in the total number of days between and, in some circumstances, within schools. Your child’s school will inform you of the dates represented on the report.

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**

When parents/caregivers receive a report card they also have the option of a parent-teacher interview to discuss their child’s progress. At the end of the year Parent/teacher interviews are by parent request. Requests for an interview need to be made immediately following the release of reports. Teachers are not available from the 20th December 2013 until 3rd February 2014.

**A-E Ratings**

The A-E rating describes the quality of achievement against the year level achievement standards. Students cannot be assessed against an achievement standard beyond their year level unless they have been taught the entire year level content to which an achievement standard applies.

The A-E rating is based on evidence of student learning through ongoing assessment. It is not influenced by effort or attitude, which are reported separately.

- **A: Outstanding Achievement**
- **B: High Achievement**
- **C: Sound Achievement**
- **D: Partial Achievement**
- **E: Minimal Achievement**

An A indicates a student has demonstrated outstanding achievement of the knowledge, skills and understandings expected at year level. This statement encompasses evidence of learning beyond the expected level.

An E indicates a student has demonstrated minimal achievement of the knowledge, skills and understandings expected at year level.

A C indicates your child has achieved the expected standard for a student in that year level.

Students in Prep-Year 2 will not receive an A-E letter rating. Their achievement will be conveyed using the rating descriptor only. (e.g. High achievement)