Dear Parents

On Monday of this week we celebrated in Prayer and Planting of a Rose the life and death of Christine Saba. Many thanks to those parents who were able to join the school community on that day.

This is a copy of the poem we shared at that celebration.

As much as I loved the life we had and all the times we played, I was so very tired and knew my time on earth would fade.

I saw a wondrous image then of a place that’s trouble-free Where all of us can meet again to spend eternity.

I saw the most beautiful Rainbow, and on the other side Were meadows rich and beautiful— lush and green and wide

And running through the meadows as far as the eye could see Were animals of every sort as healthy as could be

My own tired, failing body was fresh and healed and new And I wanted to go run with them, but I had something left to do

I needed to reach out to you, to tell you I’m alright That this place is truly wonderful, then a bright glow pierced the night

‘Twas the glow of many candles, shining bright and strong and bold And I knew then that it held your love in it's brilliant shade of gold.

For although we may not be together in the way we used to be We are still connected by a cord no one can see

So whenever you need to find me, we’re never far apart If you look beyond the Rainbow and listen with your heart.

Carmel Agius
Congratulations to all those children who celebrate their birthday around this time.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge 2011 (PRC)**

All Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 students have been encouraged to read the required number of books (20), from the PRC Book List, to complete. The 2011 Premier’s Reading Challenge this year.

Please continue to encourage your children to read books from the PRC Book List. All 20 book details must be submitted online no later than Friday the 26th of August so the school can verify them before the closing date.

If you **DO NOT** wish your child to receive a certificate from the Premier of NSW for completing this challenge and have your child’s name appear in the special Premier’s Reading Challenge Supplement in the newspaper you **must notify** your child’s **class teacher** by Friday the 5th of August.

Thank you Mrs Balogh-Caristo
School Excursion Notes

All school excursion notes can be found on the school website.
If your child misplaces an excursion note replacements can be downloaded from the school website.

To download from the website www.stmmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au

News & Events
Parent Communication
You will find all the permission notes. If your note is not there then please let the office know.

EARN AND LEARN

Our school is taking part in Woolworths Earn & Learn community program. This year, they are giving away more than $5 million worth of educational resources for Primary and Secondary schools all over Australia, including ours!

From July 18th to September 18th 2011, Woolworths will give you one Earn & Learn point for every $10.00 you spend in store (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards). Points will automatically appear on your shopping docket. All you need to do is save those docket and bring them to school (Woolies have given us a special collection box). You will be able to track our progress on our points barometer poster at school or online www.woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

At the end of the 9-week program we can redeem our collection of points against a choice of more than 7,000 educational resources. The list is extensive and includes library books, classroom equipment, art & craft materials and much, much more……

There’s no limit to the number of points we can collect, so your participation will really make a difference. The more points we earn, the more resources we can order!

Sports for Schools Promotion

We are participating and collecting vouchers for much needed sports equipment.

Vouchers are available in all Coles stores from 11 August to 19 October and we ask that you get involved to help collect vouchers for our school.

We are appealing to parents and guardians to collect as many vouchers as you can. By donating and encouraging friends and family to do the same, you are helping to provide a healthy and active education for our children.

Please visit coles.com.au/sportsforschools for more information about the program. A collection box will be located at the school office so please feel free to drop the vouchers in the box or give them to your children to hand in class.
Car Pick Up Zone

When using the car pick zone please ensure you are abiding by the following rules

All vehicles **MUST** clearly display the **FAMILY NAME** on the left sun visor

Parents/Guardians **MUST** obey all Road Rules and parking Signs

All vehicles are to join the queue on Henson Street (via Mason Street or Holdsworth Street)

**NO** vehicle is to join the queue from Davies Street

All parents/guardians are to:
- Remain in their vehicles with the engine running
- Move along the queue

Teachers will:
- Bring students to the Pick up Zone
- Direct students to the kerb side door of the leading car (front car)
- If students are not ready, parents are to move on and rejoin the queue

In the event of bad weather
- Pick up may not occur and you will have to park legally and pick up students
- Raining: students will assemble in the lower playground and wait for their parents to collect them.
- Extreme weather: parents will need to collect students from, undercroft as advised by messages through the PA system.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT AT ALL TIMES YOU ARE OBEYING ALL ROAD RULES, HOLRODY CITY COUNCIL OFFICERS AND FOLLOWING TEACHER’S DIRECTIONS.
PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD’S SEAT BELT ON CORRECTLY!