Dear Parents,

This will be our final newsletter for 2011. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have supported the school in so many ways.

I sincerely hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and a safe and relaxing holiday.

Keeping learning alive during the holidays

Holidays can be a great time for children – and teachers – to rest and for families to encourage different learning strategies within their homes. Summer holidays are a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy activities together. Children return to school from the long holiday more mature and keen for the new year after weeks of close contact with the family and friends.

Without, however, some attention to learning, the summer weeks of down time can bring problems later, when teachers have to spend time reteaching concepts students have forgotten.

The summer break can be especially difficult for younger children who have only recently got used to the daily school routine. They are new learners, and the new skills and routines take a lot of reinforcement, so it’s harder for them to come back after the break and start up again where they left off.

Parents may like to spend a short time each day going over some of the things their children have learned at school. Make it fun, but also help to reinforce what children have been learning. Enjoyable activities with letters and numbers and reading a lot can help keep learning alive.

There are many educational activities that families can do to help make the transition back to school easier. Cooking, shopping and reading, planning activities, working out costs, making phone calls, writing thank-you letters are all very important to keep children engaged so that their minds stay fresh for when they return to school.

Try using the newspaper as a learning tool, even with younger students. They can find the items you need in supermarket advertisements. Get them to circle words they recognise in stories or photo captions.

Take children for small day trips that are fun, educational and energetic. Buy postcards so they can write to friends and grandparents about what they have seen and done.

Playing cards and board games can keep children engaged in reading, cooperating and learning skills.

Carmel Agius

Farewell to teachers

We say farewell to the following teachers at the end of the year. Mr David Kisun after many years of teaching is retiring, Mrs Willard, Sr Lucy, Sr Anne, Mrs Bonorchis, Miss Macleod and Mrs Weathersten. All of these teachers in varying ways have made a significant contribution to the children in our school both through the academic endeavours as well as sporting, pastoral and creative activities. We say thank you and best wishes for the future.
**Next Week’s Happenings**

**Thursday**
8th December

**Disco Mufti**
Gold Coin Donation—Star Light foundation
P&F Disco—Infants 3.30pm—5.00pm
Primary 5.15pm—7.00pm

**Friday**
9th December

Christmas Mufti

Reports go home today
Carols 1.30pm on the Lower Playground outside the LARC

**Sunday**
11th December
3rd Sunday of Advent

**Monday**
12th December
8:40 School Prayer and Assembly.
Advent Liturgy — Kindy, Years 1 & 2.
Year 6 Graduation Liturgy 6.30pm in the Hall.

**Tuesday**
13th December
No Student Banking
Year 6 Reward Day Sydney Aquatic Centre Homebush

**Wednesday**
14th December

**Thursday**
15th December
Thanksgiving Mass 9.00am Parents welcome
Gold Coin Donation for St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal

**Last Day for Students**

**Friday**
16th December
Staff Development Day
This is a pupil free day

**Monday**
30th January
Students return for Term 1 2012

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**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**Week 9**
Kindergarten    Oscar Perez
Year One        Georgia Diab
Year Two        Elizabeth Pobee
Year Three      Micheline Beshara
Year Four       Jehan Abou El Leil
Year Five       Andrea Putrus
Year Six        George Chemuel

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**School Leaders for 2012**

**School Captains**
Joseph Georges
Antonela Pavlovic

**Vice Captains**
Matthew Ghannoum
Holly Ibrahim

**Colour Captains**
Maur
McGovern
Tosi
Kostka
Malina Hak
Dominique Nasr
Layla Toufan
Georgia Elias

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**Christmas Carols**
On Friday 9th December, Parents, Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles are invited to attend the St Margaret Mary’ Christmas Carols at 1.30am in the school grounds.

Students are to wear **Christmas Mufti** on this day.

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**Thanksgiving Mass and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**

Our Thanksgiving Mass will be held on Thursday 15th December at 9.00am in the church. Students will attend Mass to say thank you for the school year. All parents are most welcome to join us in the church for Mass at 9.00am. On this day we are also asking the children to bring a **gold coin donation** to give to the St Vincent de Paul Society as a donation toward their Christmas Appeal.

Please note this is **not a mufti day**, all children are to wear school uniform on this day.
BIRTHDAYS

Charbel Sukkar  Isabella Anderson  Samantha Georges  Cherie Elkadi  Matthew Mitchell
Malina Hak  Kevin Elias  Christian Ibrahim  Charbel Saba  Mehaara Joseph
Georgia-Lee McLeay  Dannesa Law  Amelia Walsh  Grace Neculman  Alannah Maroun
Kout Deng  Jade Graham  Andrew Yanga  Alana Curkovic  Roma Maharaj
Joshua Isaac  Christina Epenian  Christopher Alsaad  Shania Biber  Abiel Santos
Hayden Gerrie  Mary Haouchab  George Ghasb  Eddie Chiu  Victor Doueihi
James Farhart  Sarah Haddad  Andrew Alam  Mark Paul  Mary Fakhr
Stephanie Eid  Ivana Juric  Emilia Juric  Charbel Ndaira  Kristen Ayoub
Mary Cham  Jaidyn Walsh  Tony Zahra  Jayden Bazouni  Kirpatric Manalansan
Dib Aoun  Jehan Abou El Leil  Jacob Escalada  George Baissari  Georgia Abraham
Dominic Hak  Lilli Loncar  Raphael Khoury  Rebecca Georges  Michael Flores
Charbella Rizk  Anthony Epenian  Katherine Hampouris  Eleena Bourizk  Jessica Toubia
Nathan Lee  Sunnelle Maxion  Raia Vivas  Andrew Haddad  Elie Bourizk
Jemma Dickson  Pateel Krikorian  Vatsal Sharma  Denise Bou Sattout  Mikayla Issac
Ammanda Kuhwayarira  Charbel Khraiche  Vanessa Abou-Habib  Julian Caballero  Neola Asante
Salome Blandon Cano  Robert Kahila  Melvin Lanojan  Jackson Chami  Anuj Talati
Jessica Machin  Carrie Wu  Karen Wu

Congratulations to all those children who celebrate their birthday around this time and during the holidays.

SERVE UP A SMILE CHRISTMAS DISCO

Calling out to all the dance kings and queens to this year’s Christmas disco. Start practising, as this year’s music will be brought to you by special “DJ – Wii JUST DANCE!” You can dance along with the funky moves you’re used to on the JUST DANCE Wii game.

DON’T FORGET the disco will be held on THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER in 2 separate sessions.

Infants  K—2  3.30pm—5.00pm
Primary  3—6  5.15pm—7.00pm

Thursday 8th December will be disco mufti for all students with a gold coin donation.

**All money raised will be matched dollar for dollar by the P & F and donated to the Starlight Foundation.**

Sausages are $3.00 each
Water will be sold at the disco for $2.00
Glow stick bracelets will also be on sale for ONLY 50c.
Onions, BBQ & tomato sauce available FREE on the night.

Children not attending the disco need to be picked up from school in their normal way at 3.00pm.
Important Dates for 2012

January 26  Australia Day (Public Holiday)
January 27  Teachers Return to School
January 30  Students in Years K-6 Return to school
February 22  Ash Wednesday
March 17  St Patrick’s Day
April 5  School Closes Term 1
April 5  Holy Thursday
April 6  Good Friday
April 8  Easter Sunday
April 23  Term 2 Commences
April 25  ANZAC Day
May 8  Naplan Testing for Years 3 & 5
May 8  Year 6 Canberra Excursion
May 9  Naplan Testing for Years 3 & 5
May 9  Year 6 Canberra Excursion
May 10  Naplan Testing for Years 3 & 5
May 10  Year 6 Canberra Excursion
May 20  Ascension
May 27  Pentecost
June 11  Queen’s Birthday
June 29  School Closes Term 2
July 16  Term 3 Commences
August 8  St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
August 15  Feast of the Assumption
September 2  Father’s Day
September 21  School Closes Term 3
October 1  Labour Day
October 8  Term 4 Commences
October 16  Feast of St Margaret Mary’s
November 1  All Saints Day
November 2  All Souls Day
December 19  School Closes for Students
December 21  School Closes Term 4

Leaving
If you know your child/ren will not be returning to this school in 2012 please let the office know as soon as possible.

St Margaret Mary’s Parish
St Margaret Mary’s Christmas Carol
Saturday 10th December at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.
Cost $5.00 adults, $2.50 children. Including BBQ, dinner and Salad. There will be fairy floss, jumping castle, face painting, hair colouring, raffle prizes, carols entertainment and a special finale and fireworks display! Children will receive a free juice.

Christmas Mass Times
December 24
Vigil Mass (For Children) 6.00pm
Mass 9.00pm
Solemn Mass 11.00pm
December 25
Masses at 8.00am and 10.00am (No Evening Mass)

Tuckshop Roster
Term 4 Week
Thursday December 8  L.Saliba
Friday December 9
Monday December 12
Tuesday December 13  L.McLeay, H. Maroun
Wednesday December  A.Boulous, P. Georges,
Thursday December 15  M. Issac

Merry Christmas

Joseph Antonela Matthew Holly
School Captains 2012

Layla Georgia Malina Dominique
Colour Captains 2012