Dear Parents,

As a young child I spent many hours searching for cicadas. Even now with my own children we have enjoyed many an afternoon collecting cicada shells. No matter how old you are, there is always a sense of wonder and fascination, when you come across a cicada shell still clinging to the bark on a tree. It looked dead but somehow you knew, that in some mysterious way, it was alive; the neat split down its back, was from where the living creature inside had escaped and taken flight. You couldn’t actually see it anywhere but at some point you would hear it singing away in some tree.

The cicada shell is a good analogy for the empty tomb that was found by the women then Peter and John on Easter Sunday. The resurrected, living Jesus, who had once been inside it, was gone. He was out amongst the living to whom he appeared several times. Every time he came to his friends, they became stronger, wiser, kinder, more daring. Every time he came to them, they became more like him.

Now that Jesus was raised from the dead, the Apostles and disciples, his followers, were commissioned to give witness to his death and resurrection. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, they fearlessly preached what, previously, they had not understood. We see this clearly in the transformation of Peter, who went from misunderstanding the scriptures to interpreting them through the lens of the resurrection. We see it in Paul, who had set out to put Christians to death, only to become the champion of the fledgling church.

By rising from the dead, Jesus shattered the hold that death had over all of us. Death could not keep him down and, if we are joined to him, neither can it keep us down for we are “Easter People”, full of the new life of Jesus. This is why Christian faith does not rest on the death of Jesus and an empty tomb but on the continuing experience of the risen Jesus.

We Christians today are summoned to live, proclaim and celebrate Jesus’ victory over death by resisting all those forms of death and violence that saturate our society and not only unjustly take the lives of innocent people, but can desensitise our spirit and damage our belief in freedom and justice for all.

The Resurrection announced that human values cannot be extinguished by violence or death; no one can be forgotten. Here and now, God holds onto the lives of all the departed including the lives that have been wasted, violently cut short, damaged by oppression. All have worth in God’s sight.

There are constant hints of resurrection in our daily lives, foretastes of our ultimate resurrection. These are found daily in our downs and ups, our sorrows and joys, our worries and relief, our disappointments and successes. Easter Sunday offers an opportunity to celebrate all our small, personal “resurrections” and unite them with Jesus’ Resurrection. It offers us renewal to be people of faith, hope and love in our home and in our community.

“Lord, we ask this Easter to become more like you. Help us to develop an inner strength that is capable of handling life’s situations. Help us to provide a place in our heart where you reside. Amen.”

I wish each of our families a very Happy Easter – filled with the joy the resurrection brings to each of us during this season.

Peace and Best Wishes.

R. Blissenden
Richard Blissenden
Principal
Dear Parents,

**Faith Formation**

**Palm Sunday Passion of the Lord: Year A**

First Reading  Is 50:4-7

Despite rejection, Isaiah does not abandon his call.

Second Reading  Phil 2:6-11

Jesus made himself lowly and was exalted.

Gospel  Mt 26:14 – 27:66

The Passion.

*A beginning point for discussion of this week’s Gospel with children:*

*Who are the people who love you?  
What special things do they do for you?  
Jesus suffered and died because he loved us.  
How can we show God’s love to others?  
Today is the beginning of a special week of celebrations.  
How can we participate in Holy Week?*

**Catholic Culture**

Congratulations once again to all the children who presented themselves for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation last year. It has been noted that the number of children making their sacraments does not match with the number of students on the grade. For whatever reason your child has not participated in the programme it is important to note that through Baptism they already started on the journey. By participating in the programme they are continuing the journey that you as parents already chose for them. They are then able to fully participate in the sacramental life of the Church and the celebrations we have as a school. We nurture, plan and prepare our children for many things and their spiritual life should be part of this as well. Please watch for dates and times when these will be available again this year.

**Confirmation Parent Meeting**  
14th May, 2014. 7.30pm/school hall

**First Eucharist Parent Meeting** –  
30th July, 2014. 7.30pm/school hall

**First Reconciliation Parent Meeting** –  
22nd October, 2014. 7.30pm/school hall

Looking forward to sharing this special time with you all.

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**Social Justice**

**Baker’s Delight Hot Cross Bun Drive**

Our fund raising for Project Compassion this year has once again been a great success. I will publish the final tally in week 1 newsletter next term. This money will go directly to Caritas to support the work they do in many countries around the world. Thankyou you all so much for your support. Special thanks to Daisy Fenech, Michelle Mazurek, Melissa O’Connor, Josie Monteleone and Sharon Hader for all your help with the Hot Cross Bun orders, collection and distribution. This was a great effort this year with 219 bags of hot cross buns ordered. Thankyou once again for your time and support.

This year the theme for Project Compassion ‘Have life and have it to the full’. If you wish to know any other information the website is [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

**Project Compassion Week 6**

“We mean to save human lives, to restore dignity to persons, to offer hope.”

POPE FRANCIS

Your support for Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia to build a just world by enabling vulnerable communities to be architects of their own future.

This week we meet Nirangini who grew up in a small peaceful fishing village in Sri Lanka. From 1983 to 2009 a civil war affected Sri Lanka, and Nirangini and her entire community were forced to leave their village. They returned after the war with nothing, but thanks to Caritas Australia’s partnership with Caritas Sri Lanka, Nirangini now has a permanent home and through participating in an income generation program, she and her son are re-establishing their lives. Please donate to Project Compassion today so partnerships like this can continue to grow.
**Sustainability**

**Earth Hour**: we will be celebrating Earth Hour this year next week. Last Saturday night a programme was aired on television focusing on our own Great Barrier Reef. We have a school Great Barrier Reef Art Exhibition on display in the 2G windows and the Library windows and we would like to encourage everyone to participate. Parents, children and staff are welcome to contribute their artworks to the exhibition. This will continue into next term. Please hand in your artwork to Mrs Shahoud, Mrs Moore, Mr Lanyon, the Environmental Team or the office. Please make sure your name and class (if applicable) is clearly marked on the back of the artwork.

**Nude Food Day**: this was held yesterday and we would like to congratulate all those who participated. This is one way we can focus on reducing our waste and sustaining our environment for the future. We will be having more of these days next term. We would encourage everyone to have a discussion with their families on how we can reduce our own carbon footprints.

Have a lovely week
God Bless
Sharon Shahoud
Religious Education Coordinator

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**THANK YOU**

We would like to thank all the staff, parents and children at Corpus Christi for their love, help, support and prayers over the past couple of weeks. It has helped us make this transition a little easier. We are still stunned and in shock at the sudden death of Luke but we are taking things day by day and slowly getting back into routine. Please know we are eternally grateful to all of you.

From Karen, Natalie and Daniel Sprycha

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**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**CAN YOU HELP ON THE MOTHER’S DAY STALL?**

The Mother’s Day Stall will be held on Thursday 8th May. We need some volunteers to assist in selling the items to the students. If you are willing to assist on our stall please contact the office and they will then forward your details to Georgette Apap our Mother’s Day Stall Coordinator!

**EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITY- CHESS**

Thank you to all of the students who tried out for our school chess teams. Congratulations to the following students who will play chess for our school in the NSW Junior Chess Championships.

Trent Whitbread 6B
Jake Horne 6E
Riley Ashmore 6B
Luke Attard 6E
Joel Bosel 6B
Gryphon Vickers-Evans 6B
Maegan O’Connor 6G
Nicholas Grima 6B
Patrick Rose 5G
Adam Neill 5G

Our first game will be played on Friday 9th May. More details will be sent home early next term once the 2014 draw has been finalized. For more information go to [www.nswjcl.org.au](http://www.nswjcl.org.au)

Maree Tonnet
Assistant Principal
NURSERY RHYTHM DAY

We have run a unit on Nursery Rhythms for a number of years here at Corpus Christi. The culminating event is for the children and staff to dress as a character from a Nursery Rhythm. This follows weeks of work with Nursery Rhythms. We choose to focus on Nursery Rhymes because research shows that children who have memorised Nursery Rhythms become better readers. Nursery Rhymes repeat vowel and consonant sounds and naturally develop phonemic awareness skills. Nursery Rhymes have rhyming words, help to enrich children's vocabulary, provide a fun opportunity to develop oral language, introduce structure to writing and are engaging for parents, grandparents and children alike.

They are good for the brain. Not only does the repetition of rhymes and stories teach children how language works, it also builds memory capabilities that can be applied to all sorts of activities. I love this quote from Mem Fox “Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they’re four years old, they’re usually among the best readers by the time they’re eight.” -Mem Fox author of Reading Magic

Our Nursery Rhythm Day event last week involved parents, grandparents and visitors in a great community building event. The children’s learning was enhanced and everyone had some fun! Our thanks to all those able to be present and to Miss Dane, Mrs Betros, Miss Jones and Mrs Tonnet for their work on this very successful day.

ANZAC DAY

As ANZAC Day will fall during the holidays the local RSL Sub branch held its annual ANZAC Student Service this week. The SRC from Year 6 and I attended the service held at the Paceway with students from local Primary and High schools in the Penrith Area. We listened to an address by Lieutenant Brett Davis, recited the ode, sang the National Anthem and our captains laid a tribute. Our students were outstanding ambassadors for our school. During our Assembly in week 1 we will have our own short ceremony for ANZAC Day.

TERM 2 DATES - ADVANCE NOTICE

1) PRG meeting Term 2 – Guest Speaker Dr Kate Highfield, Teacher Educator – Institute of Early Childhood, Macquarie University. Dr Highfield’s presentation will cover
   - apps for learning,
   - appropriate ‘screen time’,
   - good gaming and
   - how to access quality apps.
   Parents are strongly encouraged to attend our PRG meeting in term 2 to be held on Monday 19th May 2014. More details to follow but mark the date in your diaries.

2) Monday 26th May - Staff Development Day

HOLIDAY MATHS CHALLENGE - EVERYDAY ARRAYS MULTIPLICATION HUNT

While out and about (or even at home) during your holidays, see if you can notice any arrays around you. Take a photo and share it on twitter by using the #cccarrays. This way we can share our photos as a school community. Include in your tweet, the number sentence that describes your array, how many rows, how many columns and the total.

Need help finding some arrays? Look at your windows, in the kitchen, anything with buttons and check your child’s toys (many board games have an array-like grid).

I look forward to following the tweets and photos from Corpus Christi families.

Enjoy the holidays!!

Mrs Boyer.
PRINCIPALS AWARD
Congratulations to the recent Principal’s Award Winners –
Imogen Buttigieg 2B, Charlie Whittaker 3G, Rachel Fiutowski 5B, Nathan Chambers 6E, Megan Cooper 6B and Claire Palamara 6B.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES-
TERM 2 - SOCCER
F.A.S.T Football Academy will be holding an after school soccer program for grades Kindergarten to Year 4. The program will be starting on the 15th of May each Thursday afternoon for 6 weeks on the school grounds. The soccer program involves an inflatable soccer field and is a great opportunity for students to be part of this program. FAST Football will be holding a demonstration for all students during school time on Thursday 1st of May and will hand out forms for the program. If you wish to sign up you can register online www.fastfootballacademy.com.au or return the form to the office.

GYMNASTICS TERM 2
During Term 2 the students in Year 1 and Year 2 will participate in Gymnastics. Students will need to wear their sports uniform every Friday. Students in Year 2 will wear normal school uniform on Wednesdays.

STAFF NEWS
Mrs Jo Hartog, one of the Creative Arts & Research Skills Teachers (CARST), will be taking Maternity Leave from the end of this term. We wish Mrs Hartog, her husband and her two children the very best as they wait for the arrival of their new baby. From next term Mrs Kathy Faccin will be working with the CARST Team.
Corpus Christi Parish, Cranebrook…

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Thursday 17th April - 7.30pm
Mass of the Lord’s Supper
A beautiful celebration of the origins of our Eucharist.

Friday 18th April - 10.00am
The Stations of the Cross

Friday 18th April - 3.00pm
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
This moving ceremony honours the great sacrifice of Christ.

Saturday 19th April - 7.00pm
(Note not 6.00pm)
The Easter Vigil
This is the highlight of the Church year when we celebrate the greatest hope ever given to humanity.

Sunday 20th April - 7.30am & 9.30am
Masses of Easter Morning
A continuation of the celebration of resurrection when the new Easter light and Easter water of Baptism are used to help give a blessing of renewal.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
Wishing you a happy and safe holiday break. The children have been learning about the significance of Holy Week in their Religious Education classes and I hope that you are able to take the opportunity to attend Holy Week services here at Corpus Christi next week and then the Easter Celebrations over the middle weekend of the Holidays. Fr George and the team at the Parish would be very happy to see you in the Church in the coming days at this most significant time in the Church’s year.

Mr Blissenden

ENROLMENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN 2015
Enrolments are now open for Kindergarten 2015. If you have a child who will turn 5 before the 31st July, 2015 you are welcome to collect an enrolment package from the school office and apply for enrolment. If you know of families in the area looking for a quality Catholic Education for their child – please let them know that we are currently accepting enrolments.

JOIN PLAYGROUP
Playgroup is a place for you and your child aged 0-6 to have fun, make new friends and develop skills through play. Cranebrook Community Centre
Tuesday 29th April 10am – 12pm
You are welcome to try 2 sessions before you become a Playgroup member.
www.playgroupnsw.com.au

SUPPORT FOR ALISHA LIVELSEY
A Trivia & Auction night has been organised to support the travel costs for Alisha to represent Australia on Saturday the 26th April at the Penrith Gaels Club. Tickets are available from Kellie (mum) 0414 392 781 or the club.
What’s on and When

**April**

| Week 11 | Fri 11th | No School Banking, Last day of Term 1 |

**TERM 2**

| Week 1 | Mon 28th | Staff and Students return Term2 |
| Wed 30th | Uniform Shop 8.30am to 6pm |
| Fri 2nd May | Yr 6 Fundraiser - Disco |

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**“Teachers Choice” Merit Awards**

- Ezra Fulton
- Montanah Telefoni
- Hayley Vella
- Zoe Shanahan
- Brayden Hoath
- Nicholas Papapavlou
- Lachlan Caffrey
- Marcus Fodor
- Joanne Azzapardi
- Luke Sherwin
- Gabrielle Galluzzo
- Kyesha Carter
- Austin Tunaley
- Daniel Sprycha
- Alicia Xiberras
- Natalie Shaylor
- Riley Gorgioski
- Lleyton Sullivan
- Demi Field
- Jemma Papworth
- Harrison Ashmore

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS**

- Riley Fahey 2B
- Lucas Camilleri 2B
- Lucas Galea 2B
- Katlya Knoester 2E
- Daniel Panitz 4E
- Bailey Mount 5B
- Emma Bonadio 5E
- Riley Tilley 5E
- Lachlan Bowe 6G

**UNIFORM SHOP**

The Uniform Shop **WILL NOT** be open during the holidays. The Uniform Shop will open all day Wednesday 30th April 8.30am – 6pm. (Week 1 Term 2)

**PLAYGROUND AWARD**

Emily Tempone 1G

**NOTES SENT HOME RECENTLY:**

- Letter to KE
- Yr 5 Excursion

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**Term 2 Week 1 - Reminders**

- Monday - Assembly 9.20am – 10am
- Tuesday – Assembly 2.20pm
- Wednesday – Uniform Shop 8.30am – 6pm
- Friday – School Banking
PRG - Easter Raffle Update

A big thank you to those families that purchased tickets in our recent Easter Raffle. We raised a total of $1942.20 which will go towards purchasing more IT for our children’s classrooms as well as additional reading resources.

Congratulations to our prize winners.
1st prize – Amanda Smith c/- 2G
2nd prize – Adam Jones c/- 3E
3rd prize – Sienna Galloway c/- 1G
4th prize – Hayden Adams c/- 6G

Our class prize winners were:
KB Sophie Fahey
KE Isaiah Gabb
KG Bailey Carter-Dempsey
1B Thomas Whittaker
1E Piper Smith
1G Skye Daly
2B Judd Cavallaro
2E Mikayla Morgan
2G Brayden Hoath
3B Charlie Klemesnd
3E Cassandra Sanchez
3G Jade Limpic
4B Georgia Thomas
4E Victoria Olarra
4G Kiarnah Klukow-Leavey
5B Lilly King
5E Tahlia Dwyer
5G Gabriella Galluzzo
6B Samuel Mallows
6E Maddison Glasheen
6G Alexandra Dickson

Thanks to those staff that also bought tickets to support the PRG.
The winner of the staff prize was: Mrs Sue Follan.

The next PRG event will be the Trivia Night which will be on Friday 13 June 2014. Look out for more information early next term regarding how you can support this event.

Also a big thank you to the PRG team who have volunteered their time to organise the raffle.

Happy Easter to all.