Dear Families of Chisholm,

The Greatest Gift Of All

Last Sunday we celebrated the conclusion of the Church’s liturgical year. It is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks to God for the many blessings, as a parish and school family, that we have received throughout the course of this past year.

The season of Advent, which commences next weekend, provides a number of opportunities for us to focus and prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. I would like to share with you the following reflection.

This time of year can often seem to revolve around gifts, presents wrapped in boxes with expensive cards and ribbons. Yet the paradox is that as Christians we celebrate the birth of one who was laid in a manger, whose parents had to travel by donkey and had no place to stay once they arrived at Bethlehem.

The theme of gift allows us to refocus our celebrations this season and to celebrate the gifts we receive daily. There is a beautiful scripture in Mark’s Gospel that talks about the poor widow who gives a tiny amount, but gives out of her poverty. Most of us give out of abundance. Our gifts often mean more when they are given out of poverty. What are some of the ways we can give out of our poverty? In reflecting on our lives, what have been the greatest gifts? While it might be nice to receive presents the greatest gifts are the gifts of love that God has given us.

Madonna Magazine Summer 2015, p 3

As part of our preparations for Advent we will hold a special prayer each Monday at o’clock. As many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school.

Parish Mass 9:30am

As part of our preparations for Advent we will hold a special prayer each Monday at o’clock. As many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school.

Kindergarten commences / full day

This is our Catholic school

Let peace dwell here

Let the rooms

Be full of contentment

Let love abide here

Love of one another

Love of everyone

Love of God

and love of life itself

Let us remember that

As many hands build a house

So many hearts make a school.
FROM THE REC

World Youth Day 2016 will be held in Krakow, Poland. Chisholm will raise funds to support Miss Jana Fizely to participate in this youth pilgrimage. Today families will receive a book of 10 $2 raffle tickets (first prize is a new car) to sell to help Miss Fizely on her way. This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to deepen their faith and strengthen their potential for leadership in our Church. Young people of every language, people and nation will bear witness to Jesus Christ, and on their return, bear abundant fruits of God’s grace from their experiences. On the way to Krakow Miss Fizely will work with other young people to rebuild schools and orphanages in a mission setting in the Tagbilaran parish in the Philippines. This Diocese was devastated by an earthquake. Families might like to pray the following prayer for Miss Fizely and the other young people attending World Youth Day.

Heavenly Father,  
grant that they may bear witness to your mercy.  
Teach them how to convey the faith to those in doubt,  
hope to those who are discouraged,  
love to those who feel indifferent,  
forgiveness to those who have done wrong  
and joy to those who are unhappy.  
Allow the spark of merciful love  
that you have enkindled within them  
become a fire that can transform hearts  
and renew the face of the earth.  
Mary, Mother of Mercy, pray for them.  
St. John Paul II, pray for them. Amen.

Marilyn Hancock – Religious Education Co-ordinator

MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW (MAI)

In the past few years our school has administered the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) with students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. This numeracy assessment identifies students’ mathematical knowledge and understanding and involves a teacher asking a series of questions within counting, place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division. In 2016 we will continue to administer this assessment to all students on the first two days of school, Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January 2016.

To ensure your child is assessed on either of these Staff Development Days, an online booking system will be used to register and allocate a time for students. From the 11th December we are requesting that parents log into www.schoolinterviews.com.au and register your child(ren) online. This process is identical to the process used when registering a time for parent/teacher interviews. To ensure you register a time that is most suitable it is important parents log in quickly on or after 11th December.

Sincerely
Mr Simon Crothers

AWARDS CEREMONY, DECEMBER 14TH

CRITERIA – END OF YEAR AWARDS
Two categories of awards are presented to each class group at the end of each year. Each classroom teacher will nominate one student for these annual awards. Students may receive this award more than once during their time at Chisholm. Not every student will receive this award during their time at Chisholm. The two categories are:

Christian Leadership
✓ Consistently displays a caring attitude towards others
✓ Reflects school expectations in attitude and action
✓ Exemplifies a safe, honest, respectful learner.

Learning
✓ Demonstrates initiative in pursuit of excellence and independence
✓ Shows creative and critical thinking in response to tasks
✓ Exemplifies being a safe, honest, respectful learner

Hawkesbury City Council Award – Year 6 award for academic excellence and leadership.

Rotary Club Award – Year 6 community award for Citizenship.

This year, our awards will be presented at our Assembly on Monday 14th December 8.45am.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Christmas Hampers for St Vinnies
Chisholm will be collecting food for hampers to be distributed by St Vinnies. This year each grade will be assigned a category of food/drink to donate. To be brought in on Thursday, Week 9 (3rd Dec), It will also be a Christmas muffin day for the donation.

Kindergarten- Christmas food (e.g. pudding, custard)  
Year 1- tinned vegetables/fruit  
Year 2- tinned meat (e.g. tuna, tinned ham)  
Year 3- cereal  
Year 4- soup (packet/tinned) or biscuits  
Year 5- pasta sauce/pasta  
Year 6- cordial or long life milk

Please ensure that donations are non-perishable.

Thank you for your ongoing support!
The Social Justice Team

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2016

2016 applications are closing interviews have been conducted. Parents still wishing to enroll their child in Kindergarten 2016 are urged to submit their enrolments promptly. If you have any relatives or friends considering enrolling their child at Chisholm in any grade, now is the time to remind them to place their applications at the school office.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2016

Parents, if you intend travelling overseas or interstate during the Christmas holidays and your child/children will be returning to school late in 2016 due to extended holidays or any other reason, could you please notify the office, in writing, that this will be happening and noting the date your child will be returning for the 2016 school year. This information impacts on the February Census and our funding.

SEMESTER TWO REPORTS

Your child’s semester two report is being prepared and will be sent home on Thursday 3rd December. Parent Teacher Interviews will be available on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December.

Bookings for interviews open online at 3:00pm on Thursday December 3rd and close at 3:00pm on Monday December 7th. Details for online bookings will be in a letter sent home with your child’s report.
**END OF YEAR MASS**

Previous correspondence indicated that our End Of Year Mass would be at 10:00am on Tuesday 8th December. Please note that the time has changed to 9:00am. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused and hope you can still join us in prayer and celebration.

**PARENT THANK YOU MORNING TEA**

The staff of Chisholm would like to thank the large number of parents who generously give their time to support the school, in so many different ways, throughout the year.

As a way of recognising this huge contribution we would like to invite all parents who have supported the school in any capacity in the Classrooms, Canteen, CCG, Learning Centre, as a coach, or any other area, to a thank you morning tea on Tuesday 8th December, following the End of Year Mass. We hope to see you all there so we can say thank you!

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**THE STAFF OF CHISHOLM CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**extend an invitation to a …**

**“Thank You Morning Tea”**

All parents who have supported the school in 2015, to be held in the Learning Centre in your honour on TUESDAY December 8th, after the End of Year Mass

We would love to have you grace us with your presence.

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Name: ........................................... Class: .................

I will / will not be able to attend the “Thank You Morning Tea” on Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Book Return Competition**

This is the last week for borrowing. After next week, all Library books will need to be returned.

**There will be a prize for students in the first class to return all of their Library books.**

Please have a good look around at home for any Library Books and make sure they are returned. This is especially important for Year 6 students, so that overdue notes do not follow them to high school.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

All students in K-2 will receive their Premier’s Reading Challenge certificate this week. Students in 3-6 who are receiving their Gold and Platinum certificates will have to wait a bit longer for them to be delivered to the school. Thank you for your patience and congratulations for being such amazing super readers!

Fiona Lark
Teacher Librarian & LTST

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**SPORT NEWS**

**Diocesan Sports Trials**

The Parramatta Diocesan Sports trials are starting this term for 2016. These are not school trials for sports teams but rather representative standard trials run by the Parramatta Diocesan Sports Council to represent Parramatta at Mackillop trials. If your child is in Years 5 or 4 and is playing representative sport (or in the case of no reps) or in a well-placed Division 1 team, please contact Mrs Baxter in writing with an expression of interest. There is a strict criteria for these trials which the children need to meet in order to attend these try outs and limit of 2 students per school. Please carefully consider this before sending in expressions of interest.

**2-5 Swimming Carnival**

Thank you for all of those who have returned notes and have made themselves available to assist on the day. Notes regarding jobs and a timetable for the day will go home to all students next week. Good luck to all of those attending.

**Diocesan Sport 2016 News**

Congratulations to Liam Saba (5M) and Spencer Williams (5W) on making the Parramatta Diocesan Softball male team for 2016.

Congratulations also to Joey Delle Coste (5G) on making the Parramatta Diocesan 2016 Tennis Team and Nick Magnisalis (5M) who is the reserve in case of injury. We look forward to hearing how you all go next year.

**Well done!!!**
Expand your imagination by reading this summer and you could win an iPad mini.

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of four iPad minis.

The more books you read, the more chances you have to win.

Enter online at www.parra.catholic.edu.au
Entries close 5 February 2016.

Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge

We are safe, honest, respectful learners!