Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

The following extract is taken from a SMH article shared with me by Mrs Press. Please take the time to read another view on the use of Technology in today’s world.

*Leading children's author Mem Fox finds it “heartbreaking” to see small children left alone with smartphones and tablets to entertain themselves, saying an increasing reliance on technology to teach children how to read could inhibit their empathy and social skills.*

Fox said parents must keep reading books - either paper or ebooks - with their children to interpret the characters and help the child comprehend the story.

“One of the things that bothers me most is that people seem to think that kids can be left alone with technology, [but] they would be less likely to leave the child alone with a pile of books at the age of two or three,” she said. "It is the aloneness that is heartbreaking."

Fox said she was also sick of parents boasting about a child's ability to use technology while ignoring the child's concentration skills or ability to handle a book properly.

While Fox admits to loving technology and occasionally using it to occupy her own grandson, she feels too many parents have replaced parenting time with technology. "Really, why do we have children if we can't spend some time with them? It is just not right for the child. If we can't spend time with our kids, we shouldn't be having them."

Apps had no beginning, middle or end, and did not describe forgiveness or courage in adversity, the author of Possum Magic and Where is the Green Sheep? said. Emotions like empathy were only developed if adults helped children see when sad, scary or nasty things were done to characters in a book or an app.

Macquarie University lecturer in early childhood language and literacy Emilia Djonov said the real benefit of parents or teachers reading to children was the adults' ability to encourage children to relate the story or images back to their own life. This helped children's comprehension of what they were reading and was missing when technology took the place of an adult.

Kate Highfield, also a lecturer at Macquarie University's institute of early childhood, said interactive books could distract children who were learning to read because the books focused on animations and sounds rather than meaning.

"While this adds some 'fun', it's important that ebooks are just one small part of a child's time with text and for this reason, we really need to ensure that children still have access to quality books and shared reading with a traditional book," Dr Highfield said. She also warned against leaving children unsupervised with devices for more than a few minutes. "I suggest that parents think of tablets and mobile technologies as a digital playground and, just as you wouldn't leave your child in the park alone, we shouldn't leave them alone in the digital park."

May the blessing of the Holy Spirit be on all our community,

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**Holy Trinity Prayer**

O God my Father in Heaven
I offer you myself and all I do today.
Mary, my Mother, help me to love God.
Amen
Dear Parents,

In term 3, the students in Years Four and Six completed an online assessment for Religious Literacy. This assessment was conducted by the Parramatta Catholic Education Office for all students in these two grades. Thirty Five questions from the seven strands of Sharing Our Story: God, Jesus, Church, Scripture, Prayer, Sacraments and Christian Life were answered.

In addition to this, the students in Year Four completed, in class, an assessment for Religious Literacy. This assessment was conducted by the Holy Trinity staff during a staff meeting. The results from this assessment were sent to the Catholic Education Office and added to the results achieved in the online test.

A written report of your child’s achievement in this assessment will be sent home with school reports at the end of the year.

Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God,

Mrs Amy Press,
Religious Education Coordinator

Our International Food Fair is just over 1 week away!

Thank you to all the families who have donated generously to our appeals for donations of prizes and also for items for the gift baskets to be used for the Chocolate Wheel.

A huge thank you also to the parents who have been busy wrapping these prizes.

If you know people or businesses who might be willing to donate prizes please let the school office know.

Pre-Buying of Money Tokens

Money Tokens to the value of $1 and $5 are being pre-sold at the school and are available now to purchase food from the stalls and for use at the Food Fair.

Food prices will range from $1 to $5. Families can purchase tokens for food, drinks and sweets. This is to avoid queuing up at 5pm at the Token Booths.

Tokens will also be available to purchase on the night.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are pre-buying your tokens they must be kept safe as we will not be replacing any lost tokens. Please consider the tokens as cash. If you lose the tokens you are losing cash.
**Helpers Needed to Cover Books**

The school has been fortunate to purchase a large number of new reading resources.

More books have just arrived and we are again looking for helpers to cover these books in clear contact so the children are able to use them.

If you are able to help for any amount of time on **Monday 18th November** your assistance would be gratefully appreciated. The school library will be open all day for anyone who is able to come in.

For anyone unsure how to cover books with contact, there is an opportunity to be shown how to do so.

**Literacy Hint**

Before reading a book, make sure your child has some background knowledge of the subject. This will help your child to predict the types of words that might be met and their context. For example, if the book you are going to read is about the beach, prepare him or her by talking about what the beach is like and what people do there. Give your child time to look through the book before reading to prepare for what is to come. Talk about their own experiences that are similar.

**Canteen Aprons**

Currently we have only one apron left in the canteen. If you have taken any HTG aprons home to wash please return by Friday so they can be used in the canteen.

**Parents Welcome to HTG Library**

The HTG Library is open this Friday from 2pm for parents to come along, have a tea or coffee, chat, look at books and use the computers.

**Birthday Celebrations**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday in **November**:


**MERIT AWARDS**

Congratulations to the children who have received their class award for the week ending 8.11.13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Tamara Salloum</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lucy Sultana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Bianca Qiu</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Noah Batistic</td>
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<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Katerina Bui</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bradin Le</td>
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<td>Year Three</td>
<td>Andre Berou</td>
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<td>George E;-Hajj</td>
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<td>Year Four</td>
<td>Adhel Ahoi</td>
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<td>Michael Khalil</td>
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<td>Year Five</td>
<td>Ruby Zrieka</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hayley Toman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Six</td>
<td>Olivia Carniel</td>
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<td>Anthony Pham</td>
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**Students of the Week**

**Week ending 8.11.13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Gariella Batistic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Sarah El Hajj</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Raynesh Shrestha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three</td>
<td>Caitlyn Nakfour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Four</td>
<td>Anne Nguyen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Five</td>
<td>Tobias Teunon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Six</td>
<td>David Nguyen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Social Skill Focus**

**Staying Out of Fights**

- Stop and count to ten
- Think about your choices
  - Walk away
  - Talk to the person in a friendly way
  - Ask someone to help you solve the problem
- Act out your best choice

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**Things to Do Checklist**

- Return Swimming Carnival note by **Friday 15th November** for Year 3-6.
- International Food Fair on **Friday 22nd November** starting at 5pm.
- Swimming Carnival on **Thursday 28th November**.

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**The Creative Spirit**

The creative spirit that God put inside of you is always at work. Let His creativity bring out the best in you today.

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**Canteen Roster**

If you are able to help on the roster between 10am and 2.15pm on a Tuesday or Friday please contact the school office. Volunteers must complete Child Protection Training which is accessed online at [www.parra.catholic.edu.au/childprotection](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/childprotection).

Paulette Zaiter, Canteen Coordinator

- **Fri, 15th November** - Sue Bou-Francis, Maram Salloum, Joey Maroun
- **Tue, 19th November** - Joyce Irima, Camilla Liutai
- **Fri, 22nd November** - NO CANTEEN - International Food Fair
- **Tue, 26th November** - Joanne Batistic, Josleen Taouk
- **Fri, 29th November** - Rosette Bou-Francis, Sophie Depares, Joey Maroun
- **Tue, 3rd December** - Paulette Zaiter, Sue Bou-Francis
- **Fri, 6th December** - Sandra El-Khoury, Almaza Faddoul, Joey Maroun

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Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers without whom we could not run the canteen or the uniform shop.

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**Calendar Dates**

- **Fri, 15th November** - Mass - Year 1 and Year 2
- **19th & 20th November** - Kinder 2014 Orientation 1/2 day
- **Fri, 22nd November** - Assembly - Year 3 – all welcome to attend
  - International Food Fair - 5 to 9pm
- **Wed, 27th November** - Year 5 Reconciliation
- **Thu, 28th November** - Swimming Carnival - Year 3-6
- **Fri, 29th November** - Advent Ceremony - Year 4
- **Thu, 5th December** - Year 6 Reconciliation
- **Fri, 6th December** - Assembly - Year 6