Dear Parents / Guardians

**REMINDER**

There is no school on Monday, 2nd November, 2015. The school is closed for the Cup Weekend.

The school is also closed on Melbourne Cup Day Holiday - Tuesday, 3rd November.

**Congratulations and Best Wishes**
The St Mary of the Cross Community wish Fleur Griffiths all the very best as she celebrates her wedding to Sean Palensky (7th November). Fleur will be absent from school next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday due to wedding preparations.

**School Fee Payments**
There are still a large number of outstanding school fees. If you have paid your school fees or have a payment arrangement in place please disregard this, however if you are yet to make any payments to your 2015 school fees please contact the school office immediately.

Fee payment options are available, please contact Kirsty Palimaka, Business Administrator on 8376 5400.

**Parent Privacy Policy and Intent to Return in 2016**
Please note that the above two forms were handed to students yesterday, each parent is required to return these forms by no later than Thursday, 5th November.

**Tuckshop Steering Committee**
In the coming week you will receive an email inviting members of our school community to be on a Tuckshop Steering Committee. This committee will work over the coming terms to develop our Tuckshop Code of Practice, which will include Food Policy, Ordering procedures, management issues and other important topics. The work of this committee will ensure that our Tuckshop operates efficiently and provides healthy and nutritious food options for the children.

This is an area that many parents would like to have a say in, and the committee will produce documents for community comment, however the working party will be limited to six parents and two staff members. The criteria for selection for this committee will include:
- Formal qualifications (related to food and diet),
- experience in the management of food premises and availability.

The Expression of Interest Form will come via email either Wednesday or Thursday next week.

**Building News**
The new building is rapidly nearing completion with the handover date (14th December) looming large on the calendar. We are currently in the process of ordering furniture and other items to fit out our new space.

In 2016, years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be based in the space, but Preps and year 1&2 will use the space, particularly the new food science area, as they participate in our healthy food healthy lifestyle program. Years 3-6 will participate in the Kitchen Garden program commencing in term one.

The building project will also deliver a new outdoor space including amphitheatre and grassed area.

We look forward to the building's completion in the coming weeks.
**School Start Time**
There are many students who are arriving late to school. I would remind all parents that school starts at 8.45am. Children who are late are missing out on valuable community time. Please make an effort to ensure that all children are at school by 8.40 am. Teachers would appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

**School Hats**
A reminder that Hats are compulsory during terms one and four. Children are not able to go outside if they are not wearing a school hat. Many children ‘lose’ their hats - please use this to help develop their sense of responsibility for their own belongings. All children, no matter how young they are, can be responsible for ensuring their things are collected at the end of each day and packed away in their bags. We, as adults must help them to develop these skills by making them accountable for their actions.

**Coming Up This Week – 2nd November to 6th November, 2015**

Monday, 2nd November  School Closure Day
Tuesday, 3rd November  Melbourne Cup – Public Holiday
Wednesday, 4th November  Parents & Friends Meeting (7.30pm)
Wed 4th to Fri 6th November  2016 Prep Brigance Testing

And the week after…….. 9th November to 13th November

Wednesday, 11th November to Friday, 13th November - Senior Camp
Wednesday, 11th November - Prep Transition (Session 1)
Friday, 13th November - Prep Transition (Session 1)