Reflection

We wait in joyful hope
You bring me news of a door that opens
at the end of a corridor, sunlight and singing:
When I had felt sure that every corridor
only led to another,
or to a blank wall

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
we wait in hope.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces
to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, ‘Come Lord Jesus!’

Let us pray with longing for the coming of the Lord.

God of life, our hearts desire the warmth of your love
and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour
and give us the strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming
may find us rejoicing in his presence
and welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen

Dear Parents/Carers
We still have a number of events for families in our final two weeks of school and we hope that everyone is able to support, at least, some of those.

ART SHOW – Remember that this Friday evening, Friday December 6th, we will be holding the Annunciation School Art Show, beginning at 5:00p.m. The Art Show will be held at the Brooklyn Hall, on the far side of the park that is diagonally opposite the school.
We would like all families to be in attendance and the show will be officially opened at 5:15p.m. by Brooklyn artist, Geoff Ricardo.
A BBQ Dinner will be available from 5p.m., with the following price list:

Sausage in Bread - $2
Hamburgers in Bread - $3
Vegie Burger - price still to be determined
Soft Drinks - $2 a can.

There will be a raffle on the evening, with tickets on sale for $2 each, or 3 for $5. Excellent Prizes!
The BBQ will be set up at about 4p.m. and if any parent is able to assist with the BBQ, from that time, please leave your name at the office, with Connie.
PUPIL FREE DAY – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
I would like to remind everyone that a Staff Panning Day, to continue preparations for 2014, will be held next Monday. There is no school for children on this day.

SCHOOL FEES FOR 2014
After receiving advice from our school accountant and discussions with our Parish Priest, Fr John O’Connor, the decision has been made to have a small increase in our family fee for 2014. Other school costs will not increase. There are two main reasons for the slight rise in school fees.

The first is because all Catholic schools are funded according to their SES (Socio-economic status (SES) is a measure of an individual or group’s standing in the community and is based on variables including income, occupation, educational attainment and wealth.) Recently the SES for Annunciation School has been upgraded from 88 to 94. This means we will receive about $10,000 less funding in 2014.

The second reason is that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for educational institutions is currently at 5.6%. We need to respond to these pressures to keep the school in a financially viable situation.

The costs for next year will be as follows:
School Fees (Family Fee) will rise from $200 per term to $210 per term.
Curriculum Levy (Per child) will be $300, which includes swimming. No change from 2013
Excursion Levy (Per Child) will be $50, no change from 2013.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL PICNIC – FAMILIES WELCOME!
This year we will all be going to Anakie Fairy Park for our end of year picnic, on Tuesday December 17th. As with last year, everyone is welcome to come along. You must make your own way. The entry to the Fairy Park, for all other family members is $16 for adults and $8 for children. There is a separate note coming home, about the trip, the cost for the school children and containing a permission slip that is to be returned.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION
Our Year 6 children will have a Graduation Mass and Presentation on Tuesday evening, December 17th. I would ask all school families to try to come along as it is a whole school community celebration to see the year 6 class graduate from Annunciation and move into the next important phase of their lives. The Mass will begin at 7p.m. and the short Graduation ceremony will follow immediately in the Community Room.

SCHOOL FEES
Could all outstanding school fees please be brought up to date immediately. A statement will be sent home shortly for all families that have outstanding fees.

TRYSAIL PROGRAM FOR YRS 5/6
On Monday, the Yr 5/6 class experienced a Yachting ‘TrySail’ program with the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria in Williamstown. The children had a really enjoyable afternoon and learned a great deal about boating and general water safety. Check out some of the photos!!

2ND HAND UNIFORMS:
As your children grow, uniform items become outgrown. If you have good quality school uniform items that you would be happy to donate back to the school, we would be very pleased to receive them. Sometimes we use them to help out other families or use them when a child needs to change a uniform item.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Dates for Term 4, 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 6</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 9</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 13</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 17</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 17</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 18</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Dates for Term 1, 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 29</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;/Thurs 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 31</strong>&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 5th February</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
The Parents and Friends would like to thank all families who have contributed towards the Xmas raffle. Each family should have received their raffle tickets during the week. If you would like more tickets please see Connie at the office.

You can still send along donations and some suggestions are:

Grade Prep/1: biscuits, lollies, chips, chocolates, cordial, canned goods etc.
Grade 2/3/4: christmas decorations, wrapping paper, cards, bonbons, baubles, etc.
Grade 5/6: Nuts fruit mince, christmas condiments, mince pies, tarts

Of course any donations you may want to make will be gratefully accepted. When you send in a donation could you please check the use by dates.

Well done to the Grade 4s and 5s who competed in the Emmanuel College Soccer Day. We were blessed with beautiful weather and it was great to see our primary students giving their all and displaying a great spirit of sportsmanship. Congratulations to the students from the Emmanuel Soccer Academy who did a great job in the running the tournament.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
The annual Vinnies Christmas gift appeal is on again. Vinnies Christmas gift appeal assists people and families in need who, without their support, may not experience all that Christmas has to offer. Our school will is asking for donations to be sent in and we will pass them on to St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Some gift suggestions are:

Children and teenagers: Plus toys, rattles, clothes, building blocks, toy musical instruments, books, DVD’s, board games, sporting equipment, movie tickets and gift vouchers.

Men: Toiletry packs containing razors, shaving cream, shampoo, soap toothpaste, toothbrush and deodorant make wonderful gifts and are easy to distribute. Clothing such as t-shirts (all sizes), thongs (sizes 8-12) socks, backpacks/bags and gift vouchers are also ideal.

Women: Toiletry packs containing shower gel, razors, shampoo/conditioner. Body lotion, amkeup, toothpaste, toothbrush and deodorant are great gifts. Clothing or clothing vouchers, shoes and sandals, bags and gift vouchers are also appreciated.

All gift donations can be left at the office. We have until approximately 11th December to collect all gifts. PLEASE DO NOT WRAP ANY GIFTS.