



Holy Rosary Primary School

LOOK TO THE STAR

Your fortnightly newsletter



4 November 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

"Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but of those who are trying to become saints. Therefore, let us be extremely patient with each other's faults and failures."

~ Mother Teresa ~

Many of our girls were full of excitement earlier in the week as they discussed costumes they had worn on the weekend, those who celebrated earlier, and others discussed costumes to be worn on Monday, 31 October as they celebrated Halloween. Their eyes shone with the idea of all the sweeties they were going to enjoy as their 'treat.'

Halloween has been the topic of many controversial debates over the years. I was recently given an interesting article to read which was written by a Catholic author of numerous articles on Catholic moral, social, political and historical issues, Scott P. Richert. Below is an extract from this article which you too might find of interest.

"Halloween: A Catholic View.

Halloween" is a name that means nothing by itself. It is a contraction of "All Hallows Eve," and it designates the vigil of All Hallows Day, more commonly known today as [All Saints Day](#). ("Hallow," as a noun, is an old English word for saint. As a verb, it means to make something holy or to honour it as holy.) All Saints Day, November 1, is a [Holy Day of Obligation](#), and both the feast and the vigil have been celebrated since the early

eight century, when they were instituted by Pope Gregory III in Rome. (A century later, they were extended to the Church at large by Pope Gregory IV.)

The Pagan Origins of Halloween:

Despite concerns among some Catholics and other Christians in recent years about the "pagan origins" of Halloween, there really are none. The first attempts to show some connection between the vigil of All Saints and the Celtic harvest festival of Samhain came over a thousand years after All Saints Day became a universal feast, and there's no evidence whatsoever that Gregory III or Gregory IV was even aware of Samhain.

In Celtic peasant culture, however, elements of the harvest festival survived, even among Christians, just as the Christmas tree owes its origins to pre-Christian Germanic traditions without being a pagan ritual.

The Celtic elements included lighting bonfires, carving turnips (and, in America, Pumpkins), and going from house to house, collecting treats, as carolers do at Christmas. But the "occult" aspects of Halloween – ghosts and demons – actually have their roots in Catholic belief. Christians believed that, at certain times of the year (Christmas is another), the veil separating earth from Purgatory, heaven and even hell becomes more thin, and the souls in Purgatory (ghosts) and demons can be more readily seen. Thus the tradition of Halloween costumes owes as much, if not more, to Christian belief as to Celtic tradition...

Making your decision:

In the end, the choice is yours to make as a parent. If you choose, as my wife and I do, to let your

children participate in Halloween, simply stress the need for physical safety (including checking over their candy when they return home), and explain the Christian origins of Halloween to your children.

Before you send them off trick-or-treating, recite together the Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel, and explain that, as Catholics, we believe in the reality of evil. Tie the vigil explicitly to the Feast of All Saints, and explain to your children why we celebrate that feast..."

I de Oliveira

STAFF MATTERS

We are pleased to announce and congratulate Mrs Joanna Groesser on her promotion as Head of Department: Senior Phase starting January 2012. We look forward to her positive contribution to the continued development of the department.

DATES TO DIARISE:

Thurs, 10 Nov: First Holy Communion
Thanksgiving Mass & Tea 08:30
Gr 7 Farewell Outing to Sun City

Fri, 11 Nov: Gr 3L Assembly 07:45

Mon, 14 Nov: SP exams start.
SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12:30 UNTIL 29 NOVEMBER

Wed, 16 Nov: Rec Year report evening 18:00

Thur, 17 Nov - Fri, 18 Nov: Gr 3 Overnight Camp

PRAYERS FOR:

- Daniella Rudolph (Gr 6L), Dominique Webb (Gr 1M) and Kelly Webb (Gr 6B) whose Grandfather is ill.
- Jessica Munro (Gr 4S) whose 21 year old cousin is receiving chemotherapy.

- Gabriella de Stefano (Gr 5D) whose Gran is not well.
- Mrs Fitzpatrick whose sister-in-law has cancer.
- Courtney MacIntosh (Gr 5D) and Shannon (MacIntosh Gr 1M) whose Great Granny is not well.
- Ms Noreen Ngwenya (Zulu teacher) whose nephew in Zimbabwe is seriously ill.
- Kiana da Silva (Gr 0H) whose Granny is not well.

CONDOLENCES

- Matilda de Freitas (Gr 6L) whose 15-year-old cousin passed away.
- The Barron family and staff and students and St Benedict's College on the passing away of 11-year-old Matthew as a result of injuries in a car accident.
- Mrs Benigno and family on the passing away of her Mother.
- Ms Theodora Ngema on the death of her sister.

Please remember all those in our Holy Rosary family who are in need or suffering in any way.

SCHOOL TERM AND SCHOOL TIMES

Term 3:

Open: Tuesday, 6 September

Closes: Wednesday, 30 November

School opening times: 7:40

School closing times:

Gr R: Mon – Fri: 13:00

Gr 1 - 2: Mon-Thurs: 13:30
Fri: 13:00

Gr 3: Mon-Thurs: 14:05
Fri: 13:00

Gr 4 - 7: Mon – Thurs: 14:05
Fri: 13:35

Early closing times:

Gr R – 3: 11:00

Gr 4 - 7: 11:30

RECEPTION YEAR NEWS

Our Reception Year choir performed at the Summer Concert on Wednesday, 26 October. The girls sang beautifully and are well prepared for the junior choir next year.



We were blessed with glorious weather for our summer breakfast on Friday, 28 October. Thank you to all the tuck girls for supplying the delicious food.



We are so proud of our girls who performed like “stars” at our Christmas Concert. Thank you for all your support and encouragement over the two nights.

DVD orders will be finalised on Monday, 7 November. No further orders will be taken after this date.

We were treated to a puppet show by the “Puppet Show Club” on Tuesday this week.



Gala – Monday, 7 November: The girls are looking forward to showing off their swimming skills. Refreshments will be served from 11:45 at the pool. We look forward to seeing you there. Please be reminded that you are welcome to take your daughter home after the gala. The Karate and Tennis girls will return to school.

There will be **no** swimming on Wednesday, 9 November as the PE teachers will be away at a gala.

Please note that a letter regarding the catering for our New Children’s Party went home today.

Reminder: School will be closing at **12:30** from **Monday, 14 November** due to the Senior girls closing early for exams. All extra-murals will take place from 12:30 – 13:00.

Report Explanation Evening, **Wednesday, 16 November at 18:00**. Please park on the field and meet us in our classrooms. We will be having a picnic with Pathways and Edenvale Private on **Thursday, 17 November**. Please send a picnic lunch.

MUSIC NEWS

The last Percussion practice for the year will take place on Tuesday, 8 November.

PASTORAL CARE AND ETHOS

A certain Denis Waitley is quoted as saying:

"Life is the movie you see through your own, unique eyes. It makes little difference what happens out there, it's how you take it that counts"

During this hectic and often emotional time let us try to focus on the good and positive in our midst... we have so much to be thankful for!

The Santa Shoebox collection leaves me speechless (a rare occurrence!). Knowing the generosity of our parents and their extended families and colleagues, we undertook this project with the knowledge that we would be well supported in it. But, we had no idea of the extent to which our parents and girls would go to make it the massive success it has been.

We are absolutely thrilled with the hundreds and hundreds of beautifully wrapped boxes that were created with such love and the contents thereof that were so caringly chosen, packed and delivered.

Each day the girls would proudly deliver their gifts to my office; they would share their shopping experiences with me and they all expressed the wish that they could see the faces of the little children who would be fortunate enough to receive these parcels. Girls you won't see them, but I can assure you that you will experience their joy and appreciation as you open your own gifts on Christmas Day knowing that you have all made an incredible difference in the lives of hundreds of children throughout South Africa.

Parents, thank you so much for your unbelievable kindness ... you too will be richly blessed!

Kindly convey our sincere thanks to your relatives and colleagues for their donations as well. What an achievement!

Thank you, too, for the donations



of toiletries, household goods, clothing and Christmas crackers that have also been sent to school. All these items have been 'earmarked' for the needy of our community and will be delivered to them shortly.

Once again, thank you for your support and kindness throughout the year. May God bless you always.

Sharon Sabatier
Head of Pastoral Care and Ethos



JOHANNESBURG MINI COUNCIL

Once again, Holy Rosary School was invited to nominate two representatives, currently in Grade 6, to serve on the Johannesburg Mini Council together with representatives from thirty nine other schools.

The Grade 6 girls were addressed by Julieanne Ferreira and Siobhan Mc Loskey regarding the aims and objectives of the Council. This they were able to do with authority, as Julieanne and Siobhan both hold management positions on Mini Council.

Our Grade 6 girls displayed a keen interest in the programme and were

required to apply for a position on the Council by submitting their letters of motivation. All these girls were granted a preliminary interview and six girls were then shortlisted.

These confident and highly motivated pupils were interviewed by Julieanne and Siobhan, Ms De Oliveira, Mrs Bibis and Mrs Sabatier. The finalists acquitted themselves admirably and this made the selection process very difficult.

We are proud to announce that Kirsty Mulena and Lauren Buchanan (**pictured below**) have been chosen to represent Holy Rosary on the Council.



The students and staff wish to thank Siobhan and Julieanne for their competence in helping us select our 2012 Councillors...they have been a great inspiration to our Grade 6 applicants. We also thank them for the outstanding work they have done whilst representing Holy Rosary on Council. They really did us proud!

We wish Lauren and Kirsty, the Councillors of 2012, every success and happiness in their endeavours. Congratulations ladies!

Pictured below are Kirsty, Caitlyn, Patricia, Lauren, Storm and Courtney, our Grade 6 finalists, flanked by Siobhan and Julieanne.



STUDENT LEADERS' & GRADE 7 NEWS HEADLINES

We have a Guide dog! Yes, thanks to the support and generosity of our Holy Rosary family we have raised sufficient funds to sponsor a guide dog.



We raised funds by:

- Hosting our Star-search competition
- Organising our "Wanted" dog posters
- Holding a Grade 7 Cake Sale
- Compiling and selling our Grade 7 Recipe Book
- Receiving a very generous donation from G7 Entrepreneurs' Tax.

Thank you so much for supporting us!

Toni, Kaitlin, Bronwyn, Keegan and G7

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT HOLY ROSARY

On Sunday, 30 October, some of the Grade Three Saint Benedict's boys and Holy Rosary girls received the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist for the first time. They had been prepared for the reception of this Sacrament during the course of the year and had received Jesus' love and forgiveness during the Sacrament of Reconciliation on two occasions. Before Mid-term break, the Grade Three girls attended a retreat which was facilitated by the Catholic Bible Foundation. Last week, we visited the Carmelite Convent in Benoni. The girls learnt more about this contemplative order of Sisters and they

saw how the altar bread was made and were permitted to taste a sample!

Mrs Petersen and I were entrusted with the task of teaching the girls. We would like to thank Mrs Livingstone and Mrs Raines for their invaluable help throughout the year and for their assistance at the Masses and at the Communion service on Sunday. The Grade Three girls who did not receive Communion were so supportive of their peers and they enthusiastically shared in the joy of the celebration with them.

We were so impressed by the commitment and reverence which was exhibited by this group of girls. The little girls looked angelic and the boys were smart and handsome! The parents adhered strictly to the dress code and the beautiful dresses were age-appropriate and they befitted this sacred occasion.

We extend our congratulations to the following girls and we pray that they will always be as close to Jesus as they are at present.

Stephanie Backos
Courtney Boake
Angelia Bollo
Aimee Caplan
Michela Ciccone
Monita De Abreu
Simone de Castro
Simone dos Santos
Chiara Ebersey
Mila Gaspari
Morgan Jones
Alessandra Kefaladelis
Sarah Kromhout
Courtney Laros
Jordyn Lawrence
Claudia Leach
Kristen Loo
Luana Mattiello
Kate Metzger
Jordyn Naicker
Lovely Opfou
Daniela Pataco
Tia Poovan
Zoe Queck
Clara Regal
Alexia Sequeira

Daniela Sesamo
Kel-C Stainbank
Amber Taylor
Jamie Ullbricht
Francesca Villanella

We would like to thank our Parish Priest, Father Leathem, for his gentle and sensitive interaction with the girls and for the time and effort which he puts into preparing the girls for their First Holy Communion. He is a person of such great faith and his commitment to his mission as a disciple of Jesus is an inspiration to everyone at Holy Rosary.

Mrs M. Fitzpatrick.
HOD: Religious Education.

SPORTS NEWS

Tennis Results from Thursday, 27 Oct 2011 v St Stithians

The A team lost 36 to 45
The B team won 34 to 29

The combined result was HRS lost 70 games to 74

Swimming Results from the Pridwin Night Gala

On Tuesday, 1 November HRS A Swimming team participated in the Co-Ed Pridwin Night Gala. We swam with KEPS and finished 2nd.

Swimming @ St Teresa's on Wednesday, 2 November

The Grade 1,2 and 3 swimmers participated in a fun gala at St Teresa's. There were no points but all the girls thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FORMS

Please note these forms are available from the Finance Office.

ADVERTS

HOLY ROSARY AFTERCARE CENTRE DECEMBER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

We will be running a Christmas Holiday Programme from the 1st – 9th December from 7:30 to 17:00 daily (half day fetching between 12:30 and 13:00). A variety of fun Christmas crafts and activities will be on offer. Children are to bring costumes, caps and towels as well as bikes and scooters. Limited space is available and preference is given to aftercare girls, so book early to avoid disappointment. Phone 011 453 -0071 to book your child in and get details.

Date	Morning activity	Afternoon activity
1.12	Christmas Centerpieces	Christmas Pop Idols
2.12	Creative Father Christmas	Music and games
5.12	Father Christmas serviette rings	Christmas tree angel
6.12	All I want for Christmas is...	Christmas big screen movie
7.12	Rudolph paper bag puppet	Willow wreaths
8.12	Baking – Christmas trees	Christmas puzzle
9.12	Christmas colouring in competition	Swimming Christmas Party

Cost: Aftercare girls

R65 half day; R 90 full day

Other HRS girls

R 75 half day; R 100 full day
(space permitting)

LINCOLN BROS – 011 448 1497/8/9 or 071 896 1320

We do Piano Hire: Private & Functions, New & Used Sales, Repairs, Re-polish / Re-spraying, Servicing, Tuning, Concert Tuning, Castor Cups, Castors, Piano Covers, Piano Trolleys, Transport & Crating of Pianos.

GURU on Fourth – Introducing our exciting ‘NEW’ shop. NOW stocking gorgeous affordable clothing, a wide range of gifts and ever changing home décor & furniture. Open Monday – Friday 8:30 – 17:00 and Saturdays 9:00 – 13:00. Join us Friday the 11th and Saturday the 12th of November for our Christmas market.
Cnr of 2nd and 4th Avenue, Edenvale

Bizzy Bodeez

“Christmas Gift” Craft Workshops for Primary School Children

Run by Mrs. Moura & Mrs. Pullen

- ❖ R100 per day or R450 per week (paid in advance)
- ❖ 9:00-12.30
- ❖ D & T Classroom

Bring a packed lunch and painting T-shirt

5 December: Photo Frames (we will be taking photos)

6 December: Candle & matchbox holder

7 December: Photo Mobile- Bring 6 photos

8 December: Christmas tree

9 December: You can choose a gift to make

SMS to book: 074 700 7452

Please enter through Viner Road gate only.

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GERMISTON



**BACK TO SCHOOL STATIONARY
DISCOUNT SHOPPING DAY**



Dear:

HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL

We would like to thank you for your loyal support this year and invite the **Principal, Admin staff, and Parents** of your School to a day of **exclusive discount** Shopping at Makro Germiston for all your stationary requirements for 2012

Please bring your Makro School Card and a copy of this letter to our Reception in the main store where your card will be loaded with a **'10% off Stationary'** discount for the day

Not only will you benefit from this great deal, but why not get an early start to your Christmas Shopping? This will also be a great chance to increase your Rebate for the January rebate payouts

There will be a Lucky Draw for the parents to win great prizes and a give away for the school who's sales are the highest for the day! Prizes will be delivered to the school thereafter.

SO DON'T MISS OUT!

Attached to this email is a Letter of Invitation to your parents and a possible advert that can be placed on a notice board or printed in your school newsletter for Marketing purposes.

Please note: the discount is a percentage off shelf price and does not apply to products already loaded on a promotional deal.

Product Exclusions: Any stationary item / Bond paper that is on a current in store promotion
• General Merchandise, food or liquor products

Date: Saturday 5 November 2011

Time: 8am to 4 pm

Venue: Makro Germiston

For any further information please to contact :

Danielle Cradick
Marketing Administration Manager
Makro Germiston
011372-0391



Everything you could ever want. And more. For less.

**Please note: This newsletter may also be
viewed on our website:
www.holyrosaryschool.za**