Dear Parents and Families, Staff and Children

Last Friday was the Feast of the Sacred Heart, and this month of June is a special time of devotion to the Sacred Heart. It was the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Priests and Brothers (MSC) and the Daughters of Our lady of the Sacred Heart Sisters (OLSH) who accompanied the people when they first came to Santa Teresa sixty years ago in 1953. Many people in the community owe their education and well-being to these generous men and women who were inspired by the love of God for all humanity, and dedicated their loves to bringing that love to others.

The heart has long been a symbol of life, of vulnerability and of love. The heart is central to the human body and without it we cannot function. The heart pumps blood throughout the human body and without this we are unable to live. God is central to our lives, and like the heart without God we cannot function fully as a person. God and God’s love are the source of our spiritual lives. Saint Paul wrote – “Without God we are nothing, and with God we are everything”.

We use the image of the heart to speak about our humanity using terms such as wounded heart, broken heart, heavy heart, warm heart, cold heart, joyful heart, gentle heart etc. The image of the sacred Heart of Jesus is a reminder of his humanity and that Jesus experienced all the feelings, including vulnerability that we experience in life. In Saint Matthew’s Gospel Jesus said: “Come to me all who are weary and heavily burdened and you will find rest for I am meek and gentle of heart” Matt: 11:28). The Sacred Heart of Jesus reminds us that Jesus is aware of and sensitive to all our needs and we should therefore never hesitate to go to him in our difficulties.

Thirdly, the heart is a universal sign of love. In speaking with his disciples not long before his death Jesus told them they were no longer his servants but his friends. The correct translation for friend in this context is ‘beloved of my heart’ (John 15:15). This exchange between Jesus and the disciples reveals the intimate love Jesus has for all those who seek to follow him. When Jesus was crucified his heart was pierced with a lance to ensure he was dead. This is symbolic of Jesus having given all for us and for our salvation. It is the greatest sign of love – to give one’s life for another.
We pray this week for the grace to turn to God in all our needs knowing that God in Jesus has experienced our human condition, and will always answer our prayers.

Yours sincerely

In JMJ

Br Daniel

**Principal**

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to the following children who received awards at the assembly last Wednesday:

Marcellin Awards for *Kindness*: Chelsya Oliver, Sharilitha Young, Victor (Blondie) Palmer, Joel Palmer, Shereece King, Casey Lynch, Shantara Conway, Simon Bloomfield, Cornelia Gorey.

*Keeping Everyone Safe & Happy*: Brianna Andalong, Cornelius Cavanagh, Calvina Smith, Floyd Spratt.

Congratulations to the following children who made their *First Reconciliation* last Thursday:

Kefon Alice, Teresa Laughton, Karlila Meneri, Dorrie Oliver, Kerry Smith, Sophie Spratt, Kaliesha Young, Lesharna Young.

**Semester One Reports**

Semester Reports will be sent home this week with the children. A letter explaining the report format will be included with each report. If you wish to discuss anything about your child’s report with the teacher you are very welcome to come to the school before the end of the term (Friday 21st) and meet with the teacher concerned.

**Friday June 14th**

This Friday a number of children will be away at athletics in town. All teachers will be involved a Maths in-service on Friday and Saturday. *There will therefore be no normal classes this Friday and children do not need to come to school.* If children do come there will be supervised activities.

**Semester Holiday Break**

Holidays begin next Friday June 21st and school resumes for the children on Tuesday July 16th. Monday July 15th is a Professional Development Day for all staff.