August 25th 2014

Dear Parents and Families, Staff and Children

On Sunday (August 24th) the Church celebrated World Refugee and Mission Day. We are all well aware of the suffering of many people in various parts of the world who are without a place to call home, and in most cases without any safe refuge. Their situation is largely the result of others not accepting those who are different in some way – it may be because of their religion, their race, their political beliefs, or it may be simply that they are poor.

Jesus makes it very clear that Christians must always remember that all humankind is part of God's family, and therefore we should always strive to avoid divisions and to accept others who are different in some way. Jesus often spoke about forgiveness and the need to settle differences in a peaceful way that is respectful of everyone. We are asked to think about what we can do to set a good example for others by the way we enter into respectful relationships with others.

It is important to remember also that in the history of God's people recorded in the Bible there were several occasions when they were exiles seeking a safe place in a foreign land. The story of Moses leading the people from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land outlines God's plan for everyone to live in freedom and harmony. During their forty year journey through the desert to the Promised Land, God provided food and water for the people to ensure their safe passage. We are asked to do the same today to those seeking refuge.

Soon after the birth of Jesus, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph became refugees as they sought safety in a foreign land to escape the persecution of King Herod. As a very young child Jesus was a refugee in danger of being killed. It was the kindness and acceptance of strangers in a foreign land which gave to him and Joseph and Mary a safe haven.

We pray this week for the grace to be accepting of others, especially those who are different from us in some way. We also pray for generous hearts that will be welcoming of strangers who seek a place of refuge and safety in our land.

Jesus and Mary bless all Santa Teresa families.

Yours sincerely

In JMJ

B. Daniel (Principal)

"Almost every day, the television and newspapers show stories of refugees who flee from hunger, from war, from other grave dangers, in search of a security, and of a dignified life for themselves and for their families. Jesus chose to be born into a refugee family to show that God's love reaches everyone. As a result, he also asked Christians to look out for people 'exiled' within their own families, and within God's family." (Pope Francis)
Welcome
Welcome to the teachers and students from OLSH Alice Springs who are visiting the Santa Teresa community this week.

Congratulations
Congratulations to the following children who received awards at the assembly last Wednesday: Ruth Hayes & Dwayne Huddleston Talking Nicely; Year 3 Class (Great Writing about the Bush Trip); Lesharna Young (Outstanding Leadership & Class Work); Kerry Smith (Terrific Effort with Classwork); Ashton Ware & Stormie Flowers (Independent Maths Work); Jordan Oliver (Setting an Excellent Example for Others); Georgina Williams & Nattina Gayakamanga (Excellent Listening, Effort, Good Work & Kindness).

Magic Words
Army Green: Josiah Douglas  
Acid Green: Shereece King & Cassara Heffernan  
Orange: Ryan Mulladad & Claudia Oliver  
Blue: Elijah Bloomfield  
Aqua: Shaquille Young & Casey Lynch  
Ruby: Jordan Oliver  
Lemon: Jamie Young  
Lime: Jamie Young  
Anti-Flash White: Joel Cavanagh

Book Week/Literacy Week
We are celebrating Book Week and Literacy Week at school this week. Each morning from Monday – Thursday the whole school will begin the day in the library with reading. Some may wish to read individually; some may wish to share a story with others, older children may wish to read to younger children; adults may wish to read to children. All families are most welcome to join in this activity – come to the library and read with or to your children and grandchildren. On Friday there will be literacy activities in all classes during the morning session, followed by a Book Character Parade commencing at ----, and then a sausage sizzle lunch. Families are most welcome.

Father's Day 2014
On Monday September 8th (the day after Father's Day) there will be a special celebration at school for all fathers, grandfathers, and father figures. It will begin with a Prayer Assembly in the Library commencing at 12.00pm (Midday). Following the assembly families are invited to visit the classrooms and then to join the children for a sausage sizzle lunch.

Prayer – Our Refugees
Dear Jesus, when King Herod heard that you had been born in Bethlehem, he sent men to find you so he could kill you. Mary & Joseph took you and escaped into Egypt. You were refugees far away from your own country. Today, please be with the many families who must escape from their own country; and become refugees.

I pray that you will watch over them as they travel, and give them safe places to live. Help us to welcome people who must escape from their own country as you did. Open our hearts to our refugees, and fill their hearts with hope, that one day they can go back home to a land they love, or come to love Australia as their home. Amen.