



## *Holy Cross Primary School, Glendale*

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3 December 2004

Dear Michael

I am writing on behalf of the Holy Cross Catholic School community to thank you for the encouragement that you have given to our students for their participation in the Courage to Care follow-up project.

When I arrived at Holy Cross School this year, there was a culture of bullying within the school. This situation was causing much unhappiness and feelings of insecurity among our students, parents and members of staff. As a new member of the staff and an experienced teacher, this was one of the most difficult challenges that I had confronted in a career spanning 22 years.

We put a number of measures into place to deal with bullying. These measures included a classroom education program, counselling of bullies and their victims, and suspensions from school. At about this time, I happened to visit the Courage to Care exhibition with my family one weekend. It occurred to me that this was exactly what my Years 5 and 6 students needed to see. I explained our school's situation to one of the guides at the exhibition and, in spite of your heavy bookings, B'nai B'rith managed to squeeze our school into its busy schedule. I am very thankful that you were so accommodating.

Courage to Care came at a very opportune time for us. The themes of communal tolerance and living in harmony were clearly communicated at the exhibition. Our lessons and discussions back at school enabled our students to apply these themes to their own personal experiences of bullying at school. The follow-up project afforded our students the opportunity to articulate their feelings about being bullied, and to identify ways in which they can be proactive in discouraging bullying.

The good news is that Holy Cross School is now a different school. There is a heightened awareness among the students of the notion that one person can indeed make a difference, and that each one of us has a responsibility to look after each other. Courage to Care must accept at least some of the accolades for the progress that we have made. As I told you yesterday, Courage to Care has been identified by a number of our Years 5 and 6 students as a real highlight of 2004.

Thank you for travelling such a long way to be with us yesterday. Your visit meant a great deal to us, and it reinforced the message for our students that Holy Cross Catholic School continues to strive to become a bully-free community. Thank you for your generous donation of the book "Childhood Memories", which I am certain our students will enjoy reading.

Please pass on our gratitude to Ellen, Del and Paul.

Yours faithfully

Peter Green.  
Assistant Principal.