



NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's Primary School
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Date 13.12.19

Week 9 Term 4

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

As this is our last Newsletter for the year, I would like to say a huge thanks to all the parents and grandparents who have made our school a better place by generously volunteering their time. Your generosity is very much appreciated, thank you. Thank you also to the small and dedicated P&F team, who also generously give of their precious time to support our school.



Thank you also to the wonderful staff who are such dedicated and committed professionals. The children of St Joseph's are lucky to have such a fantastic group of people who have tirelessly worked all year to improve learning outcomes. You are an amazing team. THANK YOU.

Sadly, as the year closes, we need to say goodbye to our lovely Year 6 students and families, we wish them good luck with their future endeavours. We will miss all their beautiful faces and warm smiles on the playground.

Finally, we say thank you to Mrs Karen Kelly and Ms Helen Mauric for all their hard work this year. Good luck and thanks to Mrs Tina Newstead who will be on leave during 2020.

Have a safe and restful holiday and pray that our classrooms will be completed.

Be gentle on yourselves and your children.

God bless

Marie Butel-Simoes



At St Joseph's East Maitland, we are a faith community living the experience of the Body of Christ in all we do. Our mission is striving for excellence, with empathy and integrity. We live by Gospel teachings and the Mercy values of respect, courage, compassion, hospitality, service, and justice with Jesus as our guide.

From the Assistant Principal

Dear Families and friends of St. Joseph's,

As the 2019 school year draws to a close, I would like to say thank you to all the parents, carers, grandparents and friends of St Joseph's who have contributed so much to making our school the wonderful community that it is. I would like to offer my gratitude to the many people who have given their time, seen and unseen, to make our school the great place that it is for our children. This is a lovely place to come to each day and it is the students, teachers, parents, grandparents and friends of the school that make it so special. Your enthusiasm and commitment is very much appreciated and noticed.



May God bless each and every member of our school family this Christmas season, may the joy and peace of the Christ child be in your homes and in your hearts.

God Bless,

Mrs Sue Lacey.



A Christmas Creed



I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people; whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love healed our worries and frailties, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for the times when I am selfish and thoughtless of others, the need of love when my heart knows sorrow.

I believe in God who loves us unconditionally. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem, for me and for the world.



Over the last few weeks as we prepared for the end of our school year we participated in quite a few celebrations and events. Some of these events were specifically related to the celebration of our Catholic Faith, others were an acknowledgement of the gifts and talents of our students and community members, and some were just festive events, class parties and get togethers as well as fond farewells. All of these activities are part of what makes St. Joseph's special, of how we celebrate what we believe in, our Faith and our Mercy Values. As a part of actively living out our faith we are asked to live as Jesus did. Jesus celebrated with his friends and acknowledged their importance in his life, he asked us to live life to the full and use our gifts and talents. So therefore, in the busyness of our lead up to Christmas we are in all our community activities keeping Christ in Christmas and living as Jesus asked us to.

As we rush here and there over the next few weeks.

It is a great time to remember the three R's in life.

RELAX

Many of us are overworked and overstressed. Take a break, even if only for a few moments. Take a walk, experience the beauty of God all around you.

Just be. Experience the restoring power of rest and sleep. Smile at the sky. Walk the earth softly.

REFLECT

Have a summer tune up. Fine tune yourself with God and with the world. How are you really doing? What have you done in your life this year? What do you still want to accomplish? How is your family? Are you kind in spirit to others? Is God in your life? Questions... questions . . . Allow yourself to be questioned by life itself.

RENEW

Take time to renew and recharge. Renew your contact with God. Renew your family ties, your friendships, and your mission for people and for this world.

Touch base with your very own self. Embrace yourself, warts and all. You are still your own very best friend in this life!

Lord as we prepare for Christmas, remind and help us to relax, reflect and renew.



RE News

Dear Parents

We have had many wonderful opportunities to join as a school community this year and I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very special thank you to all for joining in the wonderful celebrations we have had at St Joseph's during 2019.

My thanks go to Sue O'Donohue, Trish Hall, Adrian Humphries and Terry Fitzsummons for their ongoing support and assistance with music for our Masses and Liturgies. Thank you to our talented guitarists, musicians and singers who have made each celebration very special with their participation. Thank you to our altar servers and all students who assisted throughout the liturgies or masses. Thank you to the teachers and classes for your preparation and participation for each and every occasion. Thank you to the families of students for joining us in celebration and prayer.

Thank you to Fr Paul and Fr John for their ongoing support of the St Joseph's Community throughout the year and for presiding and assisting over our many Masses. You are all a very important part of our school community.



Many thanks to Pauline Ellicott, Trish McGregor, Karen Kelly, the P&F and the many parents who have assisted with catering or helped in any way with many of our events and celebrations throughout the year.

Thank you to all our families who have supported the needy communities in our world through Catholic Mission, Project Compassion, the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, our Mission Fete, and more!

Anything and everything you do is appreciated in so many ways!

Advent

The month before Christmas has got to be the longest time of year for kids! Help you kids make it through the long days of December by celebrating Advent. Even better, Advent also helps you keep the focus of Christmas on Jesus rather than Santa Claus, presents, and other commercial aspects of Christmas.

This weekend we commence the third week of Advent. The first violet candle, symbolizing HOPE is lit in Week 1 and the second violet candle, symbolizing FAITH, in Week 2. The second candle, also known as the "Bethlehem Candle" reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

In the third week of Advent, we relight the first two violet candles of HOPE AND FAITH, and we now also light the rose candle, symbolizing JOY. This candle is also known as the "Shepherd's Candle". It reminds us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

In the fourth week of Advent, we relight the first two violet candles of HOPE AND FAITH, and the rose candle symbolizing JOY, and then light the fourth candle symbolizing PEACE, also known as the "Angel's Candle". It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

The Christ candle (white) in the middle of the wreath is lit at Christmas.

An Advent Prayer for the family: Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen





Prayer to End our School Year

*At the end of this school year, we give thanks to God:
For all the teaching and learning that have taken place in our school, both in and
out of the classroom,
For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been
faced
For the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have been healed
For the respect and care that have been given.
We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and for those that have
grown.
For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,
For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days
and for the love that has kept us going.
We give thanks for the community that we are and we ask you Lord— Bless our
families as we begin our holidays, may our time together leave us with memories to
cherish.
Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed to continue
our journey together.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

God Bless
Annemarie Arkell

[From the Primary Co-ordinators](#)

[Coordinator News](#)

Students were presented with certificates for their participation in the UNSW ICAS testing. As the testing was online this year, our numbers were less but our results were wonderful.

Well done to the following participants.

Ryan Callan: Maths – Distinction, Oliver Skinner: English and Maths – Credit, Joseph Mikhail: English and Writing – Credit, Maths – Distinction, Jack Boyd: Maths – Merit, Charlotte Allen: Writing and English – Participation, Science and Maths – Credit, Lars Meskauskas: Science – Participation, Maths – Credit, Eva Skinner: Maths – participation, English – Credit, Hayden Searl: Maths – credit, English – Distinction, Oliver Slattery-O'Brien: Maths – Credit, English – Distinction, Lucinda Prebble: English, Writing and Science – Participation, Maths – Merit, Francis Mikhail: Maths and writing – Credit, English – Distinction, Miliana Callan: Maths and Writing – Merit, English - Credit

[BYOD 2020](#)

Students will be given a copy of the User Agreement on the Boot Camp day next year which is to be signed and returned to school before the commencement of the program.

Please see Mrs Le Breton if you have any questions.

<u>Term 1 Week 2</u> Date TBC	<u>Year 5 BYOD Boot Camp Day</u> Students are taught the User agreement and rights and responsibilities of BYOD, and participate in Cyber Safety and Digital Citizenship lessons.
<u>Term 1 Week 2</u> Thursday 6 th February and Friday 7 th February 2020	<u>Device Set up Days</u> All students will be required to bring devices to school, and Mrs Le Breton, along with CSO Learning Technology Officer will ensure they are set up ready for use at school. Even if you have already set them up, students will still be required to bring them in, so that we can install school internet security certificates.
<u>Term 1 Week 3</u>	BYOD commences in Year 5 classrooms

[Enviro Warriors](#)

This year saw the continuation of our St Joseph's Enviro Warriors group. The goal of the Enviro warriors is for students to raise awareness of environmental issues to the school community. This includes announcements, newsletters and most importantly action. This group has had many new initiatives and I am so very proud of all they have achieved within our school. We are proud to say our cans and bottles are being recycled well and Maitland City council have begun recycling collection once a fortnight with our three school bins for paper and cardboard. The goal to be completely nude food by 2019 was not achieved but we have definitely increased the number of students using reusable containers. We will continue to work on this area as our goal at St Joseph's is to be a completely nude food school. If you would consider this when purchasing lunch containers for next year that would be greatly appreciated. A great clip on lunch preparation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mN4pdCINsdM>

The Enviro Warriors have secured two \$500 grants that purchased bins to create our three bin and compost system. So we now have recycling for paper and cardboard and plastic bottles and poppers from the canteen as well as our normal garbage. We also installed a recycling station for our bins which is assisting students with using the bins correctly. The Enviro Warriors also entered the Sustainable schools competition which we got commended from Maitland City Council with areas to continue to work on. We also received a grant of \$2400, which allowed for an environmental education officer to come and attend the school for the day and teach all classes about sustainability and correct recycling.

Overall the Enviro Warriors have done a great job raising awareness within the school community and will continue with their hard work next year. I'd like to thank the members of the 2019 Enviro Warriors for their constant commitment and drive to make our school a better place. I'm personally grateful for the help Mr

Arkell has given with bins and Mrs Josephine O'Brien for assisting with can recycling and the recycling station, which we love.

Awards Week 7

Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Eleanor Barry Dylan Byrne Luke Hogan				Gabriel Chriba Phoenix West Lincoln Hardy		Katherine Carter Leah Cunningham Olivia Janetzki
CHRISTIAN VALUE AWARD- RESPECT						
Koby Pridue				Oceana Dafo		Alexia Johnson

Awards Week 9

Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Jonathan Hogan Ashlyn Drewery Darcy Ribaux Harriette Stace Ella D'Angelo Annabelle Baker Savannah Campbell Finn Eddy Milla Lantry Quinn Mercer Mav Nancarrow Theodore Payton Logan Pyziakos Lucy Shanahan Riley Thompson	Ivy Leonard Ella Cassel Matthew Ramage	Alex Robinson Chloe Collis Kobi Owen	Noah Dominish Jenson Cruz- Wise Preston Stace Aaron Harland Ellie Houghton Timothy Fairlamb	Oakley McDonough Jessica Cassel Charlotte Allen		Katie Brand Abbey McGregor Oliver Steinerts Bridget Taylor Jeremy Dupal Nada Ahmed Rohan Power Ellena Durighello Cooper Sargent
CHRISTIAN VALUE AWARD- RESPECT						
Edwina Brockman	Oliver Brown	Isabella Thomas	Saffi Humble Hamish Whitney	Max Brand		Logan Eveleigh Isha Monkley Madeline Conn

Dates to remember

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
Term 4 WEEK 10	16/12 Year 6 Surf Sun safe Day Infants Christmas Party	17/12	18/12 LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS Year 6 Arch 2.30pm Canteen Pizza	19/12 PUPIL FREE DAY	20/12 PUPIL FREE DAY	21/12

Term 1 WEEK 1 2020	27/1 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	28/1 PUPIL FREE DAY	29/1 PUPIL FREE DAY	30/1 Years 1-6 Return	31/1 Kindergarten Start 9.30-2.30	1/2
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Important Dates for

Date	Event
16th December 2019	Year 6 Surf Sun Safe Day & Infants Christmas Party – Christmas Clothes
18th December 2019	Year 6 Arch 2.30pm & Last Day for Students Canteen Pizza Day & Christmas Clothes
30th January 2020	Year 1 -6 Return
31st January 2020	Kindergarten 2020 start 9.30am -2.30pm
3rd February 2020	Swimming carnival
6th February 2020	BYOD set up day
18th February 2020	Opening School Mass 9.30am
17th – 19th March 2020	Year 6 Canberra
9th April 2020	Last day of Term 4

School News

Compass Reminders

1. If your child is going to be absent from school, please enter it onto Compass before 9am. We have a high volume of SMS alerts going out, along with many unexplained absences. Please make sure that you have accounted for any absences. When you log into compass you will see on your child's profile if they have any unexplained absences.

2. You do not need to enter partial absences into Compass, only full days. If you are dropping off late or picking up early you will need to sign your child in/out of school via the Compass Kiosk at the front office.

Pastoral Care Grant

Last week I was informed that we received the Pastoral Care Worker for 2020 to 2022. Thank you for your assistance with the application. We have been allocated 14 hours a week. The position has not been advertised yet.

Building Update

As of Monday 16th December, the Infants and Disabled toilets will be closed for refurbishment. I do not believe these will be completed by the beginning of 2020 so all the students will need to use the Primary toilets during this period.

The five primary classrooms are coming along well, they are looking more open with the brick and walls removed. Fingers and toes crossed these will be completed on time.

Local Schools Community Grant

I am pleased to announce that I received a phone call from Meryl Swainson yesterday to inform me that we received an \$8000 grant for our primary playground equipment. The equipment will be built in 2020.

Staff 2020

Assistant Principal: Mrs Susan Lacey

Religious Education Co-ordinator: Mrs Anemarie Arkell

Primary Co-ordinators: Mrs Laura Lebreton, Mrs Maree Pittaway/ Mrs Karen Kiem

	Banksia	Wattle
Kinder	Mrs Michaelie Schweinbeger	Mrs Joanne Clarke
Year 1	Mrs Tracee Cinello	Mrs Annemarie Arkell
Year 2	Mrs Alana Hughes	Mrs Jennifer Smith/ Miss Trish Bowe
Year 3	Mrs Karen Kiem	Mrs Louise Weekes
Year 4	Mrs Jessica Palmer	Mr Terry Fitzsummons
Year 5	Miss Vanessa Blyton	Mr Gerard Carey/ Mrs Maree Pittaway
Year 5/6 Grevillea	Mrs Susan Lacey/ Mrs Leanne Roberts -Thomson	
Year 6	Ms Michele Reynolds	Mrs Laura LeBreton
Pedagogical Mentors	Mrs Susan Lacey	Mrs Maree Pittaway
Learning Support Teacher	Mrs Cate Larke	Miss Brooke Hartup
	Mrs Barbara Gibson (1 day a fortnight)	
English as a second language (ELAD)	Mrs Patricia Higgins	
Aboriginal Education Teacher	Mr Gerard Carey	
RFF - PE	Ms Marese Peachey	
RFF- Creative Arts	Mrs Ashley Oates	
RFF- Japanese	Mrs Diana Dastor	
Library	Mrs Sarah Ziemba	Mrs Catherine Wallace
Gifted Education Teacher (GEM)	Mrs Jessica Palmer	
GEM release	Mrs Catherine Wallace	
Primary Co-ordinator release	Mrs Catherine Wallace	
Religious Co-ordinator release	Mrs Catherine Wallace	
Clerical Staff	Mrs Joanne Lynch	Mrs Sue Lawes
	Ms Bernadette Enright	
Library Assistant	Mrs Kim Bezzina	
Canteen Supervisors	Mrs Pauline Ellicott	Mrs Trish McGregor
Learning Support Officers	Mrs Mary Nolan	Mrs Jen Purcell
	Mrs Jodie Willis	Mrs Catherine Smith
Cleaners	Mrs Lianne Skinner	Mrs Ramona Tanner
Grounds-person	Mr David Arkell	

Class allocations for 2020

Today the children meet their new classmates and teachers for 2020. As you can all well appreciate, the task of formulating class lists is enormous and much time over the past four weeks has been given to this. Every care has been taken to ensure that your child is placed in the best situation to enhance their learning and social development. Perhaps your child may not get into the class they want or be with the friends they want to be with. I do not know how many times a child or parent has been apprehensive about a teacher, or class placement, only to find that they have had a great year. Life is full of challenges and a big part of this is learning to deal with a range of people, whether it be children or adults.

It is about building resilience that can be used in later life. How your child responds to the news of their class teacher for 2020 will largely depend on your own response. If your child sees you being positive and encouraging, they may also then be confident and optimistic about 2020.

Year 5 & 6 2020

Your children will find out their class groupings for 2020. As you are aware there will be an extra class next year, which will be a 5/6 class. Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6) in 2020 will be moving into the 5 refurbished classrooms. These classrooms are all interconnecting with glass sliding door between them.

The children will be assigned to a home room for roll purposes but in keeping with a 21st century learning environment, the 5 Stage 3 classes will be conducted as flexible and fluid groupings to better meet the learning needs of all students. Flexible grouping is not anything new. Teachers have been grouping students in various ways in their classrooms and across grades already. Flexible grouping is more than just moving a students' seat, it is practical way to differentiate as learning needs dictate. This might include all of Year 6 being taught by 3 teachers, while all of Year 5 are being taught by two teachers and vice versa. It also allows flexibility for individual students to be catered for at their level throughout Stage 3.

Year 6 2020 Canberra Excursion

Parents need to be aware the Year 6 Canberra Excursion has been booked for **17th- 19th March** in Term 1. This excursion is billed separately to school fees and is required to be paid a week before the students attend the excursion. Parents will need to be aware of the cost when budgeting for Term 1 2020. We do not have the actual figure at this stage, but it is approximately \$400.

Last day for Attendance

Last day of student attendance for 2019 is Wednesday 18th December.

First Day for 2020

First day of student attendance for 2020 for Year 1 to Year 6 is Thursday 30th January and Kindergarten commence Friday 31 January - 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Infants Christmas Party

The Infants Christmas party will be held on 16th December. They will need to wear their Christmas clothes and have a packed party lunch box with a few small Christmas treats and of course some healthy food as well. **Santa will arrive at 2:10pm**

School Reports

Semester 2 reports will be going live this afternoon. If you require an interview with your child's classroom teacher prior to or following the distribution of the reports, please contact your classroom teacher to make an appointment.

Farewell To Families

The graduation Mass for Year Six was held on the 3rd December. Part of the occasion was also a farewell and thank you to the families whose close connection with the school closes when their child leaves. Some families have been here for only a short while and others for considerably longer.

Brief words were spoken to express the school's gratitude to these families for their participation in, and support of the school. Each family has made a significant contribution to the life of the school, and the school's future is built on their efforts.

End of Year Award Recipients 2019

This year the class awards were given to students who performed exceptionally well in the following categories:

Academic Excellence 3 students per class: the recipients of these awards will have achieved excellent results in one or more of the Key Learning Areas.

General Achievement: The recipient of this award will have achieved excellent personal progress in one or more of the Key Learning Areas.

High Expectations - Attitude and Effort: The recipient of this award will have shown a positive growth mindset and believed in their ability to achieve and learn.

Congratulations go to the following students:

Class	Academic Excellence	Academic Excellence	Academic Excellence	General Achievement	High Expectations	Christian Attitude Mercy Values
KW	Nicholas Johns	Edward Lyons	Lucie Kracyla-Po	Danielle Humphries	Lyla Whitney	Grace Piefke
KB	Mia Ridgley	Charlie Sidoti	Max Jackson	Lindsay Chen	Kingsley Stevenson	Rosemary Sacco
1W	Peter Curto	Jai Firle	Addison Nichols	Brayden Le Breton	Ashley Fairlamb	Isabella Wills
1B	Matteo Tettamanzi	Sienna Hodson	Eliza Fogarty	Zahli Walmsley	Braxton Drane	Aidan Smith
2W	Ryan Callan	Eisha Barr	Abel Harris	Alexis Palmer	Chloe Collis	Samantha Levey
2B	Oliver Skinner English	Amaya Martin	Anna Wang	Samuel Brideson	Dekota Mahony	Audrey Searl
3W	Marli Grice	Hamish Whitney	Joseph Mikhail	Milla Winchester	Lucy Cant	Aaron Harland
3B	Addison Priestley	Alana Barnes	Confidence Olie	Addisyn Durighello	Owen Lyons	Jacob Blazevic
4W	Poppy Carlstrom	Darcy Butchard	Charlotte Allen	Preston Rohowicz - Donnelly	Ritika Perala	William (Billy) Harris
4B	Hayden Searl	Lars Meskauskas	Georgia Tighe	Frankie Proctor	Lucy Greaves	Madalene Connolly
5B	Jack Lantry	Oliver Slattery-O'Brien	Isabelle Powell	Hayley Franklin	Oscar Schweinberger	Oscar Wills
5W	Lewis Adamson	Alex Rayfield	Shayla McBeth	Aiden Sanson	Dallas Jones	Ben Fairlamb
6W	Charlotte Burns	Cooper Sargent	Bailey Butchard	Nixin Hudson	Addison Rohowicz-Donnelly	Miliana Callan
6B	Bridget Taylor	Lachlan Pala	Maddison Winchester	Logan Eveleigh	Lillian Woodward	Abbey McGregor

St Joseph's East Maitland 2019 Sporting Champions

Abbey McGregor & Riley Barnes

School Captains And Prefects For 2020

Captains

Lewis Adamson Shayla MacBeth

Prefects

Grace Lantry Riley Barnes

Claire Young Jack Lantry

Phoebe McGregor Rhys Stretton

Sport Captains

Kenny Red Zalia Monkley, Tashi Humble, Francis Mikhail and Jack Sullivan

Dowling Green Abigail Mackaway, Keely Fogarty, Archie Gibson and Riley Rostron

Mcauley Blue Penny Clarke, Audrey Johnson, Oscar Wells and Ben Fairlamb

Therry Gold Evie Kaal, Makayla Gudelj, Lachlan Jackson and Marcus Anderson

The Captains, Prefects and Sport leaders will receive their badges at the opening school liturgy next year.

Office Notices

Reminder to return Family Discount, ICT and Volunteer availability forms for 2020

Please return the Family Fee Discount Form (blue) to ensure that the correct discount is applied to the 2020 school fees, especially for those families who have students at different schools in the Diocese. **Please make sure the Family Diocesan Pastoral Contribution preference is ticked.** A copy of the form is attached for your information.

Health Care Card

Health Care card holders are reminded that they will need to provide a copy of their card every year to ensure that the discount is applied to their children's school fees. A new concession form must be completed each year.

School Fees

Just a reminder that any outstanding school fees will need to be paid by the end of term, unless previous arrangements have been made with the Principal. Should you have any concerns in this regard please contact the office to arrange a meeting with Mrs Simoes.

Leaving families at the end of 2019 -Other than Year 6 Families

If your family is intending to leave the school at the end of 2019 we ask parents to provide us with written confirmation of your family's intention to leave and the new school the children will be attending prior to the end of the year, and that all school fees be paid in full.

Newsletter Advertising 2020

Places are now available for advertising with us in the Newsletter for 2020.

Advertising can be by the Term or by the year. Please contact the office for further information

Library News

Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the challenge this year. We had 280 students complete the challenge! Well done! Certificates have now been awarded.

A special congratulations to all the students who received their gold certificates this year. Well done! Remember that your holiday reading counts towards next year's challenge!

Overdues

Borrowing is finished for the year and we are currently putting the books to bed for Christmas and carrying out a stocktake in the Library. Thank you to the many parents and students who have found overdue books or paid for or replaced lost books. If you are unsure of the location of a book, feel free to contact us and we will check the Library for you.

Best Borrowers

The best borrower this year was Benjamin Hindle, who borrowed 107 books! Congratulations!

The best borrowing classes for the year were:

Stage 1- KB

Stage 2- 4W

Stage 3- 5B

They are being rewarded with a special movie session next week.

Here are our top borrowers for 2019:

KB Lindsay Chen

KW Milla Lantry

1B Braxton Drane

1W Jack Allen

2B Olivia Mckaway

2W Ryan Callan

3B Alana Barnes

3W Sean McCann

4B Kayden Mahony

4W Charlotte Allen

5B Benjamin Hindle

5W Benjamin Fairlamb

6B Isha Monkley

6W Addison Donnelly-Rohowicz

Merry Christmas and Happy Reading!

Mrs Ziembra, Mrs Smith and Mrs Bezzina

Learning Support

Have a wonderful Christmas and a restful holiday break from the Learning Support Team.

Don't forget that children are learning new things every day. They are in awe of the world around them and their play is how they learn.

Literacy: vocabulary building is something that is easy to do. Use words and explain their meaning. Read books with your child that have rich vocabulary. A teacher was reading Possum Magic to a child a few weeks ago, and they had never had a lamington. Vocabulary and experiences with the world around them helps to build language comprehension skills.

Maths: there is opportunity to use maths every day. Let them cook, read recipes and explore with measuring and weights. How big is 250ml, what fraction of a litre is that? Sorting socks, sorting pegs, shopping all provide opportunities to use maths

Jigsaw puzzles, Lego/ blocks, card games, board games and hands on materials are far better for brain development than screen time.

Cate Larke & Brooke Hartup Learning Support Teachers
Jen, Mary, Jodie, Catherine & Kim Learning Support Assistants



Sports News

A note from Miss Peachey

What a wonderful year I've had as PE teacher at St. Joseph's. I have seen many students develop skills they didn't know they had. Congratulations to those students who have achieved a personal best score and gone on to represent our school in a variety of disciplines.

This week all the classes have displayed incredible sportsmanship toward each other, skills and teamwork as they participated in their last week of organised PE lessons. I'm sure next week's classes will display the same development and engagement. It was great to see their learning all come together over this term, ending the year on a high.

Thank you to all the students, teachers and parents for your support to ensure a successful year. May you all have a beautiful and peaceful Christmas.

Miss Marese Peachey

Swimming Carnival 2020 – Positions VACANT

We have 2 more jobs to be filled for our swimming carnival on Monday 3rd February. If you have time to spare and will be at the carnival, why not grab a stopwatch or a pen if record keeping is more your style? We would appreciate your assistance.

We still require 1 recorder and a lifeguard (PM session). Please contact Mrs Kiem on karen.odonnell@mn.catholic.edu.au if you are able to assist.

Swimming Carnival 2020 - NOTES

If you have not returned your PINK swimming note, **please return to Mrs Kiem ASAP**. This assists us in booking the appropriate number of buses for our return to journey.

Our sporting year

We have had a fabulous year of sporting achievements. Thank you to all our students for always giving their best, being wonderful team players and encouraging each other. It is always heartwarming to hear from members of the public too, of how well our students represent our school at regional and diocesan events. Thank you to all our wonderful parents and grandparents who give so generously of their time to assist in the running of events, transporting students and cheering along the sidelines. Our Sports Captains and Games Gurus have led our school through numerous events and activities, giving their time, energy and enthusiasm in abundance. 2020 brings many sporting activities and we look forward to sharing wonderful achievements with our school community.

Dates for the calendar

Monday 3 February – school swimming carnival

Friday 7 February - POLDING Basketball & Tennis - Lismore

Monday 17 February – ASC swimming Carnival

Thursday 27 February - Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Friday 13 March – Diocesan Cricket trials

Thursday 19 March – Diocesan AFL trial

Tuesday 24 March – Diocesan Winter Sports Trials

Thank you for your support,
Karen Kiem
Sports Coordinator

Canteen News

Reminder- Canteen Pizza day 18th December – Sno Cones available at Lunch time \$1

No other orders will be available on this day. Sno cones will be available for purchase at Lunch time for \$1

Canteen Roster

Monday 16/12	Tuesday 17/12	Wednesday 18/12	Thursday 19/12	Friday 20/12
Natalie Butchard	Nicole Frost	Corina McElduff	Pupil	Pupil
Belinda Meskauskas	Kate Meyn-Shrimpton	Annette Hodgson	Free	Free
Kate Wang	Claire Dillon	Collen Stark	Day	Day
	Anne Porter			

Canteen Roster 2020

Monday 27/1	Tuesday 28/1	Wednesday 29/1	Thursday 30/1	Friday 31/1
Public	Pupil	Pupil	Claudette Callan	Angie Lawlor
Holiday	Free	Free	Roslyn Upton	Mel Smith
	Day	Free		Kate Carney
				Amy McGregor
Monday 3/2	Tuesday 4/2	Wednesday 5/2	Thursday 6/2	Friday 7/2
Natalie Butchard	Bec Piefke	Lauren Colvin	Ruth Eveleigh	Irene Ziemba
Mandy Thornton	Adrian Humphries	Amanda Collis	Trisha Oswald	Amanda Carlstrom
	Rebecca Thompson	Suwaila Agwaig	Robyn Jones-Finlay	Sharon Allen
				Amanda Ancliff
				Georgia Harrison

Christmas 2019 in the Chisholm Pastoral Region

Regional Advent Reconciliation

Thursday 19th December - 7.00pm - Sacred Heart, New England Hwy, Campbell's Hill

Vigil Masses

6.30pm - Outdoor Regional Vigil - St Mary's Grounds, Maitland (Bent St, just off Grant St)

6.00pm - Our Lady of Lourdes, Cnr Anderson Dr & Delprat Ave, Beresfield (inside the church)

6.30pm - St Paul's, 10 Young St, Rutherford (inside the church)

Christmas Day Masses

7.15am - Immaculate Conception, Cnr George & James Sts, Morpeth

8.00am - Sacred Heart, New England Hwy, Campbell's Hill

8.20am - Holy Family, 11 John St, Largs

8.30am - St Joseph's, Cnr King St & New England Hwy, East Maitland

9.30am - St Patrick, 55 New England Hwy, Lochinvar

9.30am - St Columba's, Cnr Prince & Church Sts, Paterson





Teach reading effectively in every classroom, every day

Reading with children

Reading with children is one of the most enjoyable things a parent, grandparent or carer can do, and as a bonus it helps their language development.

While it is not the case that children learn to read simply by being read to, shared reading is one of the essential literacy experiences that contribute to children becoming good and willing readers. Books contain words, grammar and language structures that are different to conversational language.

"I think if parents realised that reading never just happens, that reading is the tip of an iceberg that begins with children's first language acts and involves vocabulary growth, feeling at home in the world of letters. If I could get across to parents that one of the best things they could do is first read to their child, maybe 5 minutes, maybe 10 minutes - but every day - and to give an example of reading as part of our lives."

Dr Maryanne Wolf, Director of the Centre for Reading and Language and Associate Professor of Child Development, Tufts University

Shared reading activities are largely about nurturing a love of reading and books, but there are some things that will make the experience especially beneficial for children.

Shared reading is important for children of all ages. It needn't stop when they are able to read independently.

One of the keys is to read **with** your child, rather than **to** your child.

Involve children in the reading experience by letting them choose books, discussing the story and the characters, talking about the sounds and meanings of the words, and talking about the pictures.

Simple tips for shared reading that will enhance children's literacy development:

- Make time to read together every day – the longer the better, but even 15 minutes is better than not at all.
- Read together in a place without distractions like television or computers.
- If it is a new book, look through it together first and discuss what it might be about.

With younger children:

- Explain how books 'work'. Explain that all books have a title and an author, how to hold a book, that we turn the pages from the front to the back, and we read the words from left to right down the page. This seems obvious to us, but not to children!
- Point out letters in words and talk about their sounds. Start with the first initials of the child's names and their family's names.
- Include books with rhyme or alliteration to help development phonemic awareness.
- Include books with an interesting variety of words to develop vocabulary. Talk about the meaning of new or unfamiliar words and try to use those words in conversation over the next few days.
- Include classic fables and fairytales from a variety of cultures to develop children's cultural literacy.

With older children:

- Choose books for shared reading that are more challenging than children are capable of reading on their own, which will expose them to words, ideas, themes, and concepts that will contribute to their vocabulary, and general knowledge.
- Alternate books by contemporary authors with books by classic authors like Rudyard Kipling, CS Lewis, and Robert Louis Stevenson. This will open up new worlds to children and extend their cultural literacy.
- Encourage children to be more adventurous in their own book choices, especially at the library.
- Don't insist on finishing a book if they are not enjoying it after the first few chapters. Put it aside and maybe come back to it another time.

For information on how to find the right books for your child, visit www.fivefromfive.org.au

Advent

MOMENTS



The shepherds were unusual heralds of the birth of the Christ child. They were not wealthy, influential or politically important. They lived simple, often lonely lives. But their presence at the manger is a sign of hope – that we can all experience moments of spiritual joy and awakening. The shepherds went away ‘glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...’ (Luke 2:20). We too are called to celebrate the moments of hope in our own lives: times of unexpected kindness from others; moments of inspiration and insight; experiences of solitude and contentment; times of excitement and wonder.

As Leunig reminds us in his Christmas reflection:

Love is born
With a dark and troubled face
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born
Love is always born
(Leunig, 1991, The Prayer Tree)

*Pause for
Reflection*

*When have you
received the gift of
hope?*

*A real Christmas gift, for which Advent is the process,
is learning to hum hope, learning to dance the divine...*

(Chittister, 2018, joanchittister.org Nov 27)

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