



# St Joseph's Primary School School News

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Tuesday 4th August 2015

## August 2015

Empowering and challenging students to become lifelong learners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Week 4</b> 2/8	3/8 Assembly 2.40pm	4/8	5/8 LIBRARY - SPORT - CANTEEN 3.30 Sacramental Program	6/8 Richard Cootes Mission visit Campdraft & Fete Meeting 6.30pm RSL	7/8	8/8 Feast of St Mary MacKillop
<b>Week 5</b> 9/8 Mass 8.30am	10/8 Merriwa Horse Sports Assembly 2.40pm P&F Mtg 4.30pm	11/8 Kinder Transition 9.30-11.30	12/8 LIBRARY - SPORT - CANTEEN 3.30 Sacramental Program	13/8 SCHOOL PHOTOS	14/8	15/8 Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist Mass 6.00pm
<b>Week 6</b> 16/8	17/8 Assembly 2.40pm	18/8	19/8 LIBRARY - SPORT - CANTEEN UHCM Quintet performance	20/8	21/8 Term 3 fees due	22/8
<b>Week 7</b> 23/8 Mass 8.30am	24/8 Assembly 2.40pm	25/8	26/8 SPORT - CANTEEN Newcastle Permanent Maths Comp 5/6	27/8 LIBRARY Book Week activities Joel Howlett Magic Show Kinder Transition	28/8 Little Sprouts Day	29/8 Mass 6.00pm

## REFLECTION

### IGNATIAN EXAMEN

Lord, I know that you **love me** and that you are with me right now.

Lord, **help me** to be aware of your presence in the people I've encountered and the experiences I've had this day.

Lord, **forgive me** for those moments when I have fallen short, times when I have not been the kind of person you want me to be.

Lord, **give me** a heart that is more like your own, so that I may be grateful for the many blessings of this day and in my life.

Lord, **grace me** with the strength to embrace what awaits in hopefulness, hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead.

Amen.



# *From the Principal . . .*

Over the past few weeks I have had many opportunities to sit with principals and other educational colleagues from over the diocese and share what we do in our schools to raise the learning for all students. I am very proud to say that the work we are doing in St Joseph's Merriwa is very highly regarded. As we look to the current research on education, we, the teachers and staff at St Joseph's Merriwa are constantly looking for and finding ways to apply it in our local context.

**Teaching styles have changed** since each of us experienced being a student. These changes have come about through a greater understanding of how the brain works as well as in response to the demands of the world for which we are educating the students.

**The quality of the teacher** can no longer be judged by the amount of homework sent home. A quiet classroom is not necessarily the indicator that students are engaged in their learning; in fact student engagement is more often than not messy, loud and active. Common goals are no longer as relevant as personal learning goals because each student is learning at a different rate. Student learning is boundless. The teachers help students become great learners, but the student is free and encouraged to learn beyond the knowledge of the teacher in any given topic. The ICT capacity of the school and the student's capacity to use it is crucial to today's education.

**St Joseph's school has moved to a more collaborative style** of learning and teaching to maximise the level of education for **all** our students. While these changes are being embedded right across the school, the Infants' learning space is a wonderful and very successful example. Many parents have taken the opportunity to have a look at the classroom in action. The feedback to us has been very positive. I gave an account in my last report about how the data we are collecting is indicating strong growth in student learning. I urge all parents who have

not seen the great things happening in the school to come along to the P&F meetings to learn about why we do the things we do in the classroom and then book in for a visit to the classrooms. Often Open Days and visitor's days are a little less typical by virtue of the fact that the classroom numbers swell to such a great size.

**We want to be true partners in your child's education** with you. We'd love to hear your views on how we can do this better.



**Some things at St Joseph's have not changed.** Regardless of the demands and pressures of the 21<sup>st</sup> century world, we are still helping you in teaching the students about the Love of God for each and every one of us. We are still learning about the life of Jesus Christ to help us live our own lives as honest, just, loving and compassionate people with "optimism and hope for the future" . A large part of this teaching is helping students to deal with issues as they arise. To know what is right and stand up for what is right. We are not born with these skills, they need to be taught and modelled.

I pray that you are as excited as we are at St Joseph's for the education of your children.

**"Optimism and hope for the future"** is a very strong statement in our Vision Statement. As a staff we collect positive anecdotes from around the place to boost our optimism about what is going in our learning spaces. I want to share some of those each newsletter with you. They give me great hope for the future of our children.

A note from a parent to staff: *"Thank you for the care and attention you give our children"*

Parent comment: *"I just love this school...the quality of learning is high and it teaches compassion"*

Teacher comment: *"How wonderful that a child accepted a song sung by me as a work reward, rather than a tangible token reward"* Casual teacher: *"It is so lovely to teach in a supportive learning environment such as the Infants learning space."*

Year One boys: *told their teachers they wanted to push themselves to do great work. They were very proud of their new efforts.*

I was thrilled last week when a student from the Infants class noticed that the Stage 2 class had not yet come onto the playground for recess. His explanation for this was – *"They must be still learning"*. What a positive outlook (and it was correct)!

#### **Creative Learning Opportunities at Lunchtime:**

Last term I invited parents and in particular fathers to come in at lunch or recess time to do something with a group of students to value add to their learning at school. I would like to give a short summary.

Jeremy Nicholls comes in when he can and plays touch footy with anyone who's keen.

Michael Hagley comes in at recess on Wednesdays and builds models with a small multi age group of students.

I play chess with any students who would like to play. No prior knowledge is needed we learn through playing.

What is this doing for our students? It is helping students to relate well with others. Gives students the opportunity to talk to another adult who has time to listen. It encourages turn taking, rule following, patience and commitment. The students love this opportunity.

If you would like to join us at school and have a plan please let me know. We would love to welcome you too.



**Congratulations to Darcy Taaffe** who competed brilliantly at Diocesan Athletics carnival last week to gain herself a place in the Polding Team in the 100 metres running race. When asked what place she came at Dio, Darcy modestly said "Well I didn't see anyone in front of me"!!! Good luck Darcy. We look forward to hearing of your efforts at Polding level on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

*Helen Whale*

## **A re you into movie making?**

**We want to make a short movie (5 minutes) about our school. If you have the skills and interest, we have the camera and ICT. Please contact Helen at school.**



### **MIDDLE CHILDHOOD SURVEY**

In Term 3, 2015, all students enrolled in Year 6 of participating Government, Catholic and Independent primary schools in NSW will be invited to participate in a survey of child mental health and wellbeing: the Middle Childhood Survey (MCS). The MCS is part of a larger longitudinal NSW Child Development Study (NSW-CDS) that explores how children's early experiences influence later adolescent and adult health, education, social and life outcomes.

An information booklet will go home with Year 6 today.

# AWARDS



*Congratulations to the following award winners.*

## Kindergarten

**Tilly Clark** – great efforts in handwriting

**Lula Peebles** – for a great effort in maths using 'The friends of ten'

**Arlia Parker** - for showing great skills making equal groups and arrays

**Jack Patterson** - for working well in literacy time

## 1/2

**Arfan Isam** - good efforts in solving maths problems using the inverse strategy

**Fiona Tomy** - for a fantastic job at reading at our Grandparents Mass

**Cody Bates** – for great efforts in his holiday recount

**Peter Hagley** - for showing good problem solving skills when working with leftover in maths

**Seth Pepper** - for developing reading skills to show better understanding of factual texts

## 3/4

**Roy Lawler** - excellent effort in writing a Cinquain poem

**Helena Parker** - for her quality work in using mental and written strategies for addition and subtraction problems involving three and four digit numbers

**Amy Redgate** - for developing a good understanding of poetic devices

**Olivia Collins** - for a sound understanding of patterns and algebra

## 5/6

**Jorji Taaffe** - for consistently being a focused and diligent student

**Nicole Martin** - for her quality contributions to class discussions

**Dylan Turner** - for an excellent effort in reading groups this week

**Gaby Nicholls** - for always seizing the challenge by extending her responses in written tasks

## Principal's Awards:

**Emily Barwick** - for being a cooperative and helpful student after Grandparents Day, helping to pack up

**Nicole Martin** - for stepping up to help in every way she possibly could at Grandparents Day

**Sam Grady** - for being focussed in class and motivated to achieve great learning

**Madelaine Thrift** - for maintaining a high standard of learning



Best wishes to the following members of our school community who will be celebrating their birthday in the coming

**Bobby Keegan**

**Sam Grady**  
**Mrs Oldman**



# RE NEWS

## Richard Cootes visit

This Thursday, Mr Richard Cootes from Catholic Mission Australia will be conducting his annual visit to our school. Richard presents the main focus for Catholic Mission Australia for the year through a liturgy and his talent of storytelling using music. As is our tradition we will hold our annual Mission Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> September (the last day of Term 3). 5/6 organise a wonderful day with fantastic activities where we focus on raising money for people who are not as fortunate as ourselves. More information will follow closer to the date.

Please come and join us this Thursday at 12 o'clock in the Joey's Room (old Library).

## Feast of St Mary MacKillop

Mary MacKillop Feast Day is celebrated this week (8<sup>th</sup> August). Mary MacKillop is the first Australian saint. We will have a special liturgy next Monday 2:40 pm to celebrate this feast day.

Mary MacKillop was born in Victoria in 1842. She was the eldest child in her family and had 3 sisters and 4 brothers. Mary's first job was as a clerk when she was 14, she then worked as a governess looking after her cousins and teaching them (and other farm children) their lessons. She loved children and later became a school teacher. In South Australia she met a priest named Father Julian Tenison Woods who also wanted to help poor children attend school. Together Mary MacKillop and Father Tenison Woods started the 'Stable School' in 1866. All of the children had lessons in reading, writing, math and singing. The girls also enjoyed learning to sew whilst the boys enjoyed woodwork. Mary and her sisters also taught the children about God and taught them to trust in Jesus. In 1866 Mary MacKillop and Father Tenison Woods started the religious order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites) and in 1867 Mary MacKillop became a nun - Sister Mary of the Cross. Mary and the Josephite nuns set up schools in Australia and New Zealand. They also set up houses for elderly women, young girls and women without jobs. They gave their life to people in need often giving comfort to the sick and dying and even visiting people in jail to give them whatever help they could.

At times in her life Mary MacKillop met people who made it hard for her to perform her good works but she never gave up and today the Sisters of St Joseph are still doing the work that Mary MacKillop started all those years ago.

The Sisters who have been long affiliated with Merriwa also belong to the Sisters of St Joseph's.



## Sacramental Program

Please keep Patrick McLaren, Mikayla Telfer and Roy Lawler in your prayers as they continue to prepare for the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. The children will receive the sacraments on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm Mass. Bishop Bill Wright will be celebrate Mass on this very special occasion. Please come and join us.

Anne Marie Peebles  
REC



# say cheese

## School Photo Day is 13 August 2015

*Have your child's school memories captured forever*

Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes and remember these helpful points:



- Don't seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope however each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day
- Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request
- Please enclose correct money as no change is given. Cash and money orders only (sorry no credit card accepted)

**Please return envelopes with payment enclosed to school by Thursday 6th August**

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact us

e admin.nhvcc@misp.com.au  
p +61 2 4966 8292  
f +61 2 4966 8293  
www.msp.com.au



Do you have an interest in MUSIC, DRAMA or DANCE, love to meet new people and would love the opportunity to perform at Newcastle Civic Theatre? Then ASPIRE is for you!

### What is ASPIRE?

ASPIRE was launched in 2012 and provides an outlet for the creative talents of students in Catholic schools in the areas of dance, drama, voice, stage band and strings.

Over 100 students are involved across five ensembles in workshopping dance routines, songs and musical works in the ASPIRE program as well as developing scripts and improvisation for a fully self-devised show.

Students from Years 5-11, 2016 are encouraged to become involved.

Anna Kerrigan who is the Artistic Director of ASPIRE and has worked with our school for the last two years will be holding a meeting for all parents and students interested in this exciting project at St Joseph's Aberdeen. The meeting will commence at 5pm next Wednesday 12th August and will take place in the Tenison Woods Centre.

If you have any questions please contact **Anne Marie Peebles**.



Collaborative learning in action . . .



. . . a typical day at St Joseph's





# St. Joseph's P&F Association

PO Box 23  
MERRIWA NSW 2329

## P&F Meeting – Minutes

**July 13<sup>th</sup> - no quorum, therefore no items passed. General discussions took place**

1. Open time: 1640
2. Opening prayer: read by Dermot
3. Attendance: Dermot Shannon, Helen Whale, Bronwyn Redgate, Elizabeth Foran, Sally Hagley, Kim Holland, Jane Clarke, Anne Marie Peebles
4. Apologies: Peter Holland, Mel Bates, Paige Farrow, Sam Kerr
5. Minutes of last meeting: **Not presented due to no quorum**
6. Correspondence In:
7. Correspondence Out: Nil
8. Principal's report:
  - Helen Whale – Welcomed Elizabeth Foran to the committee and the school
  - Discussed Campdraft/Fete. Helen said she was very impressed with the event. Acknowledged the families working together to ensure things ran smoothly.
  - Working bee Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Mulch needed, donations required. Stable stands for seating. discussed ideas
9. Treasurer's report: A copy is obtainable from the school upon request.

### General Business

- Kim to acknowledge Tash Taaffe on behalf of the committee for her P & F contributions
  - Briefly discussed feedback from Campdraft/Fete. Positives so far were the market stalls provided more variety. Times allocated to various activities and announcements meant that families were more aware of what was occurring and when
  - Feedback to consider. Allocate the task of rostering - who is volunteering where etc. should be a role of the Campdraft/Fete committee person
  - Increase the advertisement at the actual fete. indicating what stalls are school fete and what are actual market stalls. An offer to make a bunting to go across the tent was given
  - Raffle ticket stand to sell tickets on the day
10. Date of next meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015
  11. Executive Meeting: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015

### Agenda 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015

- Report from
  - Campdraft and Fete
- Proposed projects
  - Multi purpose court
  - Tree project
- Parents in Partnership program
- Information and Marketing video

### REMINDER

The wrap-up meeting for the  
St Joseph's Campdraft & Fete  
will be held this  
**Thursday 6th August, 6.30pm**  
at the Merriwa RSL Club.

Everyone most welcome to attend.

# St. Joseph's P&F Association



P&F meetings for 2015 will be held on the second Monday of each month at 4.30pm in the MacKillop Room.

**Next meeting - Monday 10th August 2015**

If you would like to add an item to the agenda to be discussed at the meeting, please contact [Kim Holland](mailto:kimholland1369@gmail.com) on 0422 035576 or email [kimholland1369@gmail.com](mailto:kimholland1369@gmail.com) by the Monday of the week preceding the meeting.

## THANK YOU...

to the Jamieson & Keegan families who gave up some valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus recently.



## CANTEEN ROSTER

5 Aug Clare Martin & Pauline Lawler  
12 Aug Helpers needed

Please contact Mel Bates on 0417 060381 if you are able to help with canteen this term.

## BUS ROSTER

8/9 Aug Lawler family  
15/16 Aug Magner family  
22/23 Aug Martin family

# P&F News

The P&F would like to acknowledge and thank Tash Taaffe for her contribution to the P&F this year in her role as Vice President and for her ongoing support.

P&F would also like to thank all families and others involved in fundraisers over the years.

This year we have purchased many valuable items which will benefit the school for many years to come:

- We purchased a set of beautiful aluminium bench seats for the children to sit on in the playground and had these modified to suit
- We have funded an increase in weekly hours of our grounds person to ensure our school and grounds continue to be maintained in good order
- The P&F notice board is now in use for all to have a read - check it out on the new Library verandah

Kim Holland  
Secretary



Cancer Council  
NSW

Nutrition Snippet

## The simplest way

...to make a healthy curry

### Chickpea + Vegie curry

1 teaspoon canola oil  
1 onion, chopped  
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
1 tablespoon ground cumin  
1 tablespoon ground coriander  
1 tablespoon curry powder  
400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed  
½ zucchini, chopped  
3 carrots, chopped  
1 cup frozen green beans  
400g can tomatoes (no-added-salt)  
165g can reduced-fat coconut milk  
4 cups cooked rice (from 1 ½ cups of uncooked rice), to serve



### Method

Heat oil in frypan or pot and fry onions, garlic and spices for 2 minutes -- Add the rest of the ingredients and simmer with the lid off for 15-20 minutes -- Serve with rice  
*Variation: you can use a variety of vegetables in this curry. Potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower and capsicum all work well.*

For more information visit  
[www.eatittobeatit.com.au](http://www.eatittobeatit.com.au)  
or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](https://www.facebook.com/eatittobeatit)

Eat It To  
Beat It