## August 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>5/8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting 4.30pm</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation 9.30-11.30</td>
<td>Debating Mbk</td>
<td>Feast of St Mary MacKillop</td>
<td>Sam PD - CSO</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>12/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>Merriwa Horse Sports 3.30 Sacramental mtg</td>
<td>Music Workshop Muswellbrook</td>
<td>Director/Principals Day CSO - Anne Marie</td>
<td>Feast of the Assumption</td>
<td>Netball Gala Day</td>
<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>19/8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.30 Sacramental mtg</td>
<td>12.00 Book Week Parade</td>
<td>Term 3 fees due Little Sprouts Day</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>26/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>3.30 Sacramental mtg</td>
<td>Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition</td>
<td>Fathers Day Stall</td>
<td>Fathers Day Breakfast, Liturgy &amp; Activities</td>
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<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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## Reflection

You are my eyes to look upon the world.
You are my voice to speak out.
You are my hands to reach out and touch my people.
You are the face of God!
Welcome to Week 4!

Mr Morris is back on board. Welcome back Mark. We have missed you and look forward to seeing your smiling face around the school again. Mr Morris is busily preparing students for debating this week and preparing the Newcastle Herald with Stage 3.

This week we are very happy to welcome two new families to our school community. Last week Riley Melmeth joined Year 1. We welcome Riley and his parents - Jade and Joel. This week Dylan Turner has joined Year 3 while his brother Rhys has joined Year 4. Welcome mum Lucy and grandmother Pat. We pray that your experience with our school is long and fruitful.

We also bade farewell to Emily Rose and her family last week as they moved back to Western Australia. We wish Emily, Abigail, Tricia and David all the very best with the next chapter of their lives. Thank you so much for the wonderful way you embraced our school for the short time you were with us. We will miss you all.

Grandparents Day was a great success. The children enjoyed sharing the day with their parents, grandparents and surrogate grandparents. All our new children were able to plant trees along Hacketts Lane while the children who have been here for longer shared literacy lesson time with their guests. We then moved to the church for a wonderful celebration of the Mass for Sts Joachim and Anne - Jesus’s grandparents. Nourished by the beautiful Mass we moved back to the MacKillop Room and the beautiful sunshine to share lunch. We are indeed blessed to have such a warm nurturing extended school family. Thank you to everyone who was able to be with us. Thanks also to Mr Gordon Kerr for coming in to cook the BBQ for us. Mrs Kerr is very fortunate to have a husband that is generous with his time, cooks well and enjoys the company of our school community.

Did you attend a parent and teacher meeting last term? YES - Was there follow up for you? Was there follow up for the teacher? Was there follow up for the student? Don’t forget to follow up on the plans and strategies suggested. No – It’s not too late to call your teacher and book a mutually agreeable time to discuss your child’s progress.

The Term 3 working bee was a great day. The grounds are looking spectacular. Thank you to the newest members on the team – the Magners. Every member was in attendance and what fine workers they are. Thank you to the other families and friends who joined us on the day. A special thank you to Andrew Luke who came to fix our flagpole again. This time with a bit of help and ingenuity we have fixed it for good! I really appreciated the families who could not help on the day but assisted in other ways – manure for the gardens, clearing the furniture from the verandah, and even baking a cake for morning tea.

Our next working bee is on Sunday 13th October. This will be the big spring working bee. Please mark it on your calendar now to avoid missing out!!

Last week we had two National Partnership days at school with our mentor Virginia. Virginia worked in class with the teachers to monitor their progress in Literacy and Numeracy teaching. She was very affirming of the progress we have made. She also chaired the staff meeting which focussed on planning for the new English syllabus 2014. Virginia was strong in her praise for the work the
teachers at St Joseph’s have already done to ensure that next year’s changeover is smooth. Well done St Joseph’s!

Four members of staff attend a professional development day in Newcastle last Friday, focussing on teaching children on the Autism spectrum. The feedback has been very pleasing. Most impressive was the comment from staff that this is great learning for those children who may be on the autism spectrum and that strategies suggested would be highly useful for other students experiencing learning difficulties also.

Congratulation Hannah Riley, Tamasy McNaught and Jorji Taaffe who competed at Diocesan level in Athletics last week. All three girls represented the school very well and were terrific sports. Thank you to the families of these three girls who cooperatively managed to get themselves to the carnival and back with a minimum of fuss!

The Kindergarten transition program had its first school session today. We will have a report in the next newsletter. At this stage we have a very healthy number of enrolments for next year. Please remember to mention enrolments to people you know who have a child ready to start Kinder. Word of mouth is the best advertisement. So many of our new enrolments are here because of happy parents promoting the school. Well done everyone!

Debating is on again and we will send four of our stage three students to the Regional competition tomorrow. Clancy Martin, Hannah Riley, Eliza Peebles and Clancy Moore will represent our school admirably. More news on that next week.

Next Tuesday a group of young musicians from St Joseph’s will travel to Muswellbrook to take part in a day of Music workshops hosted and run by students and teachers from St Joseph’s Aberdeen. We are certainly not neglected in this part of the woods!

St Joseph’s Biennial Netball Gala Day is on Friday 16th August. The primary students (Years 3-6) are fielding 4 teams. They will be competing against small schools across our region. Thank you to the parents who have already offered their help with organising this big day. Thanks to John Lannen for organising this carnival. We will also be in need of canteen helpers - thanks Emma for organising this side of the day.

Good luck to our horse riders who will compete at the Merriwa Horse Sports carnival next Monday. Thanks to Mrs Kerr for your ongoing assistance with managing our team.

Remember we have a small but very useful parent library in the front fooyer at school. You are welcome to borrow any books and magazines at any time...just check them out with Sally before taking them.

Interesting snippets from the parent library.

♦ Tips on making the most of parent – teacher interviews (ParentNet T2.13)
♦ New research confirms importance of partnering with parents to support learning. Read how the outside school life of students has a far greater impact on their learning than the inside school life (ParentNet T2.13)
♦ Exercise and memory training (Get Ahead Kids. Educating families on the go. Vol5 No 2)
♦ Exercise and brain function (Get Ahead Kids. Educating families on the go. Vol5 No 2)

Sock it to Poverty was the theme of the Mission Day presentation given to the students last week by Mr Richard Cootes. Did you know that around the world many children are stolen from their homes and forced to beg at train stations and that young girls are sold into domestic slavery? Using a variety of media including song and visuals Richard impressed on the children the need to be aware of the plight of people around the world who are less fortunate than themselves. This gives us the incentive to raise money on Mission day.

Until the end of term Anne Marie Peebles will be acting principal in my absence. Please do not hesitate to speak with her should you have any concerns. I am very confident in Anne Marie’s ability to keep the school operating as per normal. Mrs Ninness will assume a greater role in the Year 1/2 classroom to relieve Anne Marie for Principal duties. John Lannen will assume the role of Religious Education Coordinator during this period.

Until my return in Term 4 please stay safe and happy. I will think of you all often especially as I walk my way across the Camino trail in Spain. God Bless!

Helen Whale
Mr Richard Cootes visited us from Catholic Mission to pray, talk and entertain the students and teachers about how we can be involved in helping others all around the world who are less fortunate than ourselves. Everyone enjoyed the presentation and we can now begin the process of working towards Mission Australia’s big fund raising month of October - Socktober. Socktober is simple in concept but powerful in impact. Socktober is where you join in to help us sock it to injustices against children all over the world. This will be part of our focus for our own Mission Day held on the last day of term three- more information to follow.

Mary MacKillop Feast day
is celebrated this week (8th August). Mary MacKillop is the first Australian saint.

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, maths 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.

Our own Sisters here in Merriwa belong to the Sisters of St Joseph’s.

Mary MacKillop Prayer

Ever generous God,
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop
to live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement
to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.
With confidence in your generous providence
and through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop.
We ask that you grant our request
We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh
by the Holy Spirit
so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with
courage, trust and openness.
Ever generous God hear our prayer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ.
Amen
AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards in weeks 2 & 3:

Kinder
Annalyse Blyton – for always making sure her environment is tidy
Pia Henderson – for being a caring and responsible class mate.
Christian Cropper – for his improvement in forming letters correctly
Ava Peel – for her positive attitude in all areas of school life

1/2
Hudson Attenborough - fantastic effort in all areas of school life
Tahlia Blyton - for always showing she is ready to do her best work
Riley Melmeth—for settling into our school so well
Roy Lawler - for showing beautiful behaviour during our visit from Mr Cootes from Mission Australia

3/4
Jorji Taaffe – for her excellent and settled approach to writing activities

Jonathan Keegan – for his great work in writing complex sentences
Jemma Grady – for her excellent work in adding and subtracting 4 & 5 digit numbers
Nicole Martin – for her excellent work in adding and subtracting 3 digit numbers

5/6
Tamasy McNaught - for a conscientious effort to complete all work
Clancy Moore - for his excellent and settled approach in all areas of school life
Bailey Telfer – for an inspired effort in measuring area of triangles
Ty Riley – for marvellous morphemic skills demonstrated in Spelling activities

Principal’s Award:
Riley Telfer - for making sensible choices
Helena Parker - for trying so very hard to do her best work in class.

LIBRARY LINKS

“Read across the Universe” is the theme for this years’ Children’s Book Week organised by the Children’s Book Council of Australia - CBCA. We will be celebrating Book Week on Wednesday 21st August.

Only two weeks to the BIG BOOK WEEK PARADE – dress-up ideas and suggestions are being explored with the children and they are being encouraged to recycle materials - eg cardboard boxes, Dad’s old hat, etc in order to generate some wonderful dress-up ideas. Please visit the Children’s Book Council of Australia website for details of the short listed books.


Some books to consider for dress up ideas:

Lightning Jack is a carousel horse that can go amazing places, when you use your imagination.
When Sam Tully sees the free-spirited horse Lightning Jack, he dares to ride him. Together they muster a herd of steers into their stable, escape a grazier's deal and fly into the air with Pegasus wings. Then when they are ambushed by the notorious outlaw Ned Kelly, Lightning Jack leaps out of trouble and back to the wilderness. But then Sam can't resist a race and rides Lightning Jack against the ghost of Phar Lap at breakneck speed...Sam's horse is a gallant horse, a midnight horse, a dream.

Tom the Outback Mailman has inspired some children to don a battered hat, shorts tied up with string and boots with no laces.
Based on her bestselling book, MAILMAN OF THE BIRDSVILLE TRACK, Kristin Weidenbach has written a lively, engaging version for younger readers, capturing the humour, excitement and ingenuity of a classic slice of Australia’s fast-vanishing history. Timothy Ide is a South Australian illustrator with a genuine feel for the beauty and hardship of life in the Australian outback. Shortlisted for the 2013 Children's Book Council Awards Book of the Year, Eve Pownall Category.

Happy reading
Colleen Oldman, Teacher Librarian
Past - Future - Why Campdraft & Fete?

Let me take you back in time, to before the Campdraft & Fete. The P&F association would do a number of fundraising functions throughout the year that required a much greater time commitment from the parents of St Joseph’s.

Fundraising functions in one school year included:
• Each family cleans the bus (sometimes twice when numbers were low)
• Mother’s day luncheon
• Street Stall for our Sisters of St Joseph
• 3 other Street Stalls
• BBQ for the Festival of the Fleeces
• Biennial Fete
• Catering for other community events (such as town campdraft, Merriwa Show, clearing sales etc.)

Parents were also asked to attend working bees on a monthly basis for;
• Grounds keeping, including mowing and any other maintenance
• Assist with school cleaning

Now back to present time ....
P & F ask for:
• Campdraft & Fete in June, the benefit of this event is that people from out of town attend and spend their money at our event, which means we no longer drain all the money from within our own town and our own pockets.
• Each family cleans the bus once per year. This requires a time investment of between 1½ and 2 hours per year per family.
• One street stall in November to support the Sisters which we do as a charity event.

We now raise the money of past fundraising functions plus more by only doing these three events.

The money raised pays for:
• All the books given at the end of school year presentation
• Ribbons & medallions for swimming and sporting carnivals
• Items on the Wish List, which is not only formed by staff but is contributed to by the parent body, YOU.
• resources used to assist in our kids’ education. Eg. reading schemes etc.
• Assistance with school excursions
• Ground keeper’s wages
• Additional hours for the cleaner
• Donation to the Sisters for their help within the whole community
• Equipment for the classrooms as needed
• Playground equipment & sporting equipment

So today we raise roughly $17000 per year by doing just these two fundraisers. This money pays for so much more than our school fees cover. We currently have 44 families in our school. If we divide $17000 by the number of families here we would get $387.40 per family. This is what you would need to pay over and above the school fees each year to cover the ongoing expenses that our P&F incurs throughout the year, to provide the wonderful learning environment and equipment our children enjoy.

Now we put the question to you

Campdraft & Fete 2014
Do we go ahead?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please fill out and return to school before the next P&F meeting 2nd September to have your say. Speak now or forever hold your peace!

The final decision will be made at the next P&F meeting. This will be 2nd September at 4.30pm.

A yes vote means we do the Campdraft and fete in 2014.

A no vote means we raise our funds through a series of other fundraising events as per previous years.
Next P&F meeting
2nd September 2013
at 4.30pm
Please come along and have a say in your children’s school life. Babysitting by a teacher in the classroom at school is available on the nights of meetings.

THANK YOU . . .
to the McLaren & McNaught families who have given up some of their valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus in recent weeks.

Do you have a topic you would like to see discussed at your P&F Meetings?

If there is any item for the agenda that parents or friends of the St Josephs community wish to have put on our monthly agendas for our P&F Meeting, please do not hesitate to email them to mrw.pandf@mn.catholic.edu.au

Please note items need to be in before the last Monday of the month for the item to make it on the agenda for the meeting held on the first Monday of the month.

Thank you
Emma Henderson
Secretary

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Clare Martin, Pauline Lawler, Sheree Baber, Emma Henderson & Mel Bates.

Coming up ...

NETBALL GALA DAY
16TH AUGUST
Canteen helps appreciated
FATHERS DAY STALL
29TH AUGUST

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<tr>
<th>CANTEEN ROSTER</th>
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<tr>
<td>7th Aug     Sheree Baber &amp; Heidi Grady</td>
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<td>14th Aug    Sheree Baber &amp; Mel Bates</td>
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<td>21st Aug    Emma Henderson &amp; Jodie Magner</td>
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<th>BUS ROSTER</th>
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<tr>
<td>10th-11th Aug Cropper &amp; Halse families</td>
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<td>17th-18th Aug Morgan family</td>
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<td>24th-25th Aug Myers family</td>
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<td>31st Aug-1st Sep Nicholls family</td>
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**THANK YOU . . .THANK YOU . . .**

The simplest way
to Shop on a Budget

Five Quick Tips to saving $$$

1. Create a weekly menu plan
2. Write a shopping list according to the menu plan
3. Compare prices
4. Buy fruit + veggies that are in season
5. Limit your purchases of pre-made snacks/meals

What's in season now?

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For more information visit www.eattitobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eattitobeatit

Eat It To Boat It