Dear God,

Please bless our grandparents.
Thank you for the life they gave my parents and for the life they give to me.
For the ways they helped me and made me strong, I give thanks.
For the ways they love me no matter what, I rejoice.
For the ways they have paved the road that leads me here, I am grateful.
Let them grow in wisdom and joy in life.
Let them find peace and rest from their work.
Let them be healed of every sickness and pain.
And let them see with their own eyes the glory of your Son, Jesus, in the love of their children and grandchildren.
Bless them always until they come to rest in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Welcome back to school for the second semester. It is so good to see that all our children and teachers have returned to us safe and well.

Congratulations to Mrs Claire Frampton on the safe arrival of baby George. At the end of last term Claire surprised everyone with the earlier than expected delivery of baby George. He is a beautiful little boy who looks so much like his big sister, Lilly. Congratulations James and Claire! May your new baby bring God’s blessings to you and your family!

Welcome to the Magner family! Jodie and Richard are the newest parent members of our St Joseph’s school community. John Magner has joined Year 4 and Tia and Patrick have joined Year 3. We look forward to many happy years of association with your family.

The Spirit of St Joseph’s Award for Term 2 was won by Chloe Towell. Chloe is a student who always looks for ways to help others. She is kind and caring towards her fellow students and teachers. She eagerly participates in all activities and takes on leadership roles. Chloe has a keen sense of justice and looks for ways of helping people less fortunate than herself. This was demonstrated in her recent work towards planning the talent quest for St Vincent de Paul. Congratulations Chloe and thank you to Leanne, Neville and Stephanie Hook and Merriwa Newsagency for your very generous support of our school.

Let us keep Caitlin Porter in our prayers as she undergoes an operation this week. We will miss you Caity. We pray also for Mr Keegan as he works towards healing.

Thank you Mrs Peebles for organising the Vinnies Day on the last day last term. The teachers have been doing such a good job teaching the students about caring for those less fortunate than ourselves that a group of Stage 2 children took on the initiative to plan the activities for the day. A talent quest, lolly jar and other games were planned and promoted by the girls and a great day was had by all. Total money collected on the day was $181.00. This will be presented to our local SVDP society in Merriwa.

The Regional Athletics Carnival held in Week 9 of last term was very well attended. Thank you to all students who represented the school and the parents who drove them to the venue. All children were very competitive on the day. Three students have successfully qualified to go to the next level to represent our Upper Hunter region at Diocesan. The students were Hannah Riley for shot put, Tamasy McNaught for 100 metres and long jump and Jorji Taaffe for 100 metres.

Thank you to all the school community for the wonderful way you pulled together to ensure that our major fundraiser for the year was a great success. The Campdraft and Fete day was sensational. There was so much community spirit present at the event that I am sure every one looking on would be in awe of St Joseph’s school community. Thank you to all the committee members who worked for months planning all the events. Particular thanks to Tanya Ninness for leading the campdraft committee and to Leanne Hunt for leading the fete committee. Parents and grandparents, husbands, wives, nieces and nephews, friends and associates worked together to achieve wonderful things. We read in the bible that there are many gifts but the one spirit. This was evident on the day. We witnessed people sharing the gifts of cooking, coffee making, setting up stalls and pens, drafting cattle, droving cattle, photography, child minding, running events, judging events, cooking BBQs, selling cakes, entertaining children, selling raffle tickets, serving at the canteen, recording scores, collecting entries, writing promotional articles, donating prizes, donating sponsorship etc, etc. Our children are the winners. Well done. There will be a full report at the P&F meeting.

The first day back at school saw the annual Open Day very well attended. The teachers were very pleased that parents came to show an interest in their children’s learning. Feedback from parents and guests was really positive:

“Thanks for a great open day today. It was really nice to be welcomed into the classrooms. Great to see so many people attending. The children were a credit to their school and their parents, as I noticed them giving wonderful little talks about the school to the new parents.”

Another visitor to the school stated “I loved the warm and informative information session given in the hall. This is obviously a very special school. The atmosphere is very positive.”

Yet another visitor – “The respect the children show the principal, their teachers and each other...
is beautiful to witness. There is a real family atmosphere here”.

The Open day saw many new parents and their children come to see what big school is like. For them, this is the first day of a comprehensive transition process that enables the new Kinders for 2014 to gain confidence in their new school setting before they actually start. We look forward to seeing them often over the next few months.

Professional Development
Last Tuesday Mr Lannen, Mr Morris and I attended day 2 of the Focus on Reading training. We are learning so many new skills which we are eager to implement in the classroom.

Yesterday all the staff attended Professional Development Day at Scone to learn more about the new English Curriculum which will begin implementation in 2014. We are working hard to ensure that this transition is a smooth one for students as well as teachers.

Thank you to Alana Partridge for offering her time and skills to our Stage 3 debating team last week. Alana worked with the 4 students to teach them some of the finer points about debating.

Mrs Kerr and Mr Morris attended a Beginning Teachers workshop on Friday to arm them with tricks of the trade to survive the first few years of teaching.

Mrs Kerr attended PD in the holidays to increase her skills in the use of Gate21. We are so fortunate to have teachers dedicated enough to give their own time in the holidays so freely.

Grandparents Day is this Friday. It is so lovely to hear of all the Grandparents who are making their annual trip to Merriwa for this wonderful occasion. This year we will have another focus for the day as our grounds and those of our neighbouring organisations are getting saturated by beautiful trees. A note went home with your child on Friday to order their lunch and to explain the format of the day.

The Term 3 school working bee will be held this Sunday. Please look at the job schedule at the back of this newsletter to see what you can bring/do to help out. The day will commence after Mass at 9.30 and conclude at 12noon with a sausage sizzle. If there are any cooks amongst you, who feel so inclined, please bring a plate to share for morning tea. The working bees are a wonderful social event for parents and students alike.

The P&F meeting will be held at 4.30pm on Monday 5th August. All are welcome. Please try to attend as this is a very appropriate forum to learn about your child’s school. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the meeting. Please join us.

Kind regards
Helen Whale

RE NEWS

Why do we celebrate Grandparents Day each year at the end of July?

Grandparents day is celebrated as close as possible to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne. Sts Joachim and Anne are Mary’s parents and Jesus’s grandparents. Our Church here in Merriwa is also named after St Anne and a statue of a young Mary and her mother Anne is found in the church on the right hand side up towards the front. St Anne is often depicted as wearing red. This year we are lucky enough to celebrate on the Feast Day which is the 26th July. Sts Joachim and Anne were greatly honoured by God who gave them a daughter conceived without sin who was to become known as the Mother of God! It would seem that they performed their parenting responsibilities with great grace.

Anne Marie Peebles
REC
Reading every night is important for children to improve their reading skills. Sitting with your children and reading aloud with them is a special experience. Try to do this every night for ten to fifteen minutes.

Tanya Ninness
Learning Support Teacher

“Reading Tips”

“When you open a book with your children, you are opening the world for them.”

1. Talk with your children
2. Read to your children
3. Let your children see you read
4. Ask older children to read to younger ones
5. Go to the library together
6. Give your children books about their special interests
7. Keep books, magazines, and newspapers around your home
8. Plan outings for your children
9. Say rhymes and poetry, or sing songs
10. Tell stories about your family

Welcome back! I hope everyone is refreshed and ready for this exciting term. CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK and the completion of the Premier’s Reading Challenge will be our focus for this term.

Over the next few weeks we will be reading and discussing the short listed books and collecting ideas for dressing up in some of the characters or animals in the stories.

Some of the animals that appear in the stories so far are: Hare, shark, owl, wombat, frog, elephant, python, lyrebird to name just a few.

Here is a brief outline of a couple of the books we have looked at so far...

**Too many elephants in this house**
In Eric's house there were too many elephants - in the living room, in the kitchen, in the bathroom, even in his bedroom! The elephants take up a lot of space, but Eric loves every one of them. So when his mum says they have to go, Eric comes up with a clever solution to a very BIG problem. From the creators of The Terrible Plop comes this delightfully energetic story, full of fun and exuberance.

**Topsy-Turvy World**
To the first Europeans who came to Australia, everything seemed topsy turvy. Christmas was in the summer and trees shed their bark but not their leaves. And the animals were bizarre. There was a bird that laughed like a donkey and a type of greyhound that bound along on its hind legs like a hare. There was an animal in Tasmania whose nocturnal screeches sounded like the devil and a river creature that had a duck's bill at one end and a beaver's tail at the other. The Europeans had never seen anything like these animals before and gave them names similar to those of the European creatures they already knew. They drew and painted odd pictures of them, showing they did not understand the animals' habits. In one illustration, a wombat is standing on its back legs and in another a Tasmanian tiger is wrestling with a platypus of the same size.

Colleen Oldman
Teacher Librarian
Congratulations to the following students who received awards in weeks 9 & 1:

Kinder
Sienna Baber – for being such a caring and responsible student
Phoenix Dening – for his watercolour artwork
Emily Rose - for her interest in all learning activities and her willingness to help other learn.
Harry Cook - for making his whole class (and teacher) laugh with his funny jokes!

1/2
Mia Morgan- for trying hard in MiniLit
Mikayla Telfer - for developing skills to have a joke with her teacher
Bobby Keegan- for his ability to write four digit numbers accurately
Jock Grady - for being able to explain an answer using mathematical thinking
Clayton Porter - for showing wonderful responsibility during our Open Day activity
Riley Telfer - for make a big effort to write words and sentences unassisted.

3/4
Charles Brazier - for his great improvement in Spelling activities
Piper Cropper – for trying hard in Reading activities
Jorji Taaffe - for qualifying to represent the region at Diocesan athletics for the 100m
Patrick Magner – for settling into St Joseph’s school so well
Tia Magner – for settling into St Joseph’s school so well
John Magner – for settling into St Joseph’s school so well

5/6
Tamasyn McNaught - for qualifying to represent the region at Diocesan athletics for the 100m and long jump
Hannah Riley - for qualifying to represent the region at Diocesan athletics for the shotput
Ty Riley - for offering and assisting with tasks around the school
Oliver Towell - for being a good role model to others

Special Awards :
Tanja Sormaz - for successfully completing Multilit Word Attack Skills
Tamsyn McNaught, Bailey Telfer and Oliver Towell - for successfully completing Multilit Word Attack Skills

Principal’s Award:
Rebecca Keegan – for finding ways to help others.
Ava Peel – for working well with her buddies to ensure the playground is a happy place for all.
Caitlin Porter - for her fabulous cooperative organisational skills as displayed in work she did for the planning of the St Vincent De Paul activities.

Playground Champion - Britnee Attenborough- for being a caring and thoughtful friend
Next P&F meeting
5th August 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 Jamieson family who have given up some of their valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus in recent weeks.

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Emma Henderson, Mel Bates, Vic Shannon & Yvonne McNaught.

Canteen Roster
24th Jul Clare Martin & Pauline Lawler

Bus Roster
27th-28th Jul McLaren family
3rd-4th Aug McNaught family
10th-11th Aug Cropper & Halse families
17th-18th Aug Morgan family

Working bee jobs
- Clean outside eating tables
- Replace flag pole rope
- Replace light bulbs on verandahs
- Clean air-conditioner filters in classrooms, offices and canteen
- Relocate furniture on library verandah
- Clean up gardens
- Sweep paths

Nutrition Snippet
Banana Toastie—Afternoon Snack Recipe

Try this quick, tasty banana toastie recipe to add some fruit to your children’s afternoon snack.

Ingredients
- 1 small egg, beaten
- 1 banana, sliced
- 1 tsp orange juice
- 1 tbsp sultanas
- 1 tsp caster sugar
- Pinch of cinnamon
- 4 slices multigrain bread
- 1 tbsp reduced-fat ricotta cheese

Method
1. Combine egg, juice, ricotta and sugar.
2. Add banana, sultanas and cinnamon and mix.
3. Place two slices of bread on the sandwich maker, divide mixture over the two slices, top with remaining slices of bread
4. Toast until heated through and egg is cooked.
5. 1 serve of fruit. Serves 2.

For more information about the Eat It To Beat It program please Ph 4923 0710 or visit www.cancercouncil.org.au/eatittobeatit