**Reflection**

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It’s not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

Nelson Mandela
Dear Parents,
As I ponder the fortnight gone and that which is about to begin, I am struck by the number of occasions we, as a school have been supported by the Catholic Schools Office. Over the past four weeks staff members from “The Office” have been a common sight at St Joseph’s. Here is a short summary of the support given:-

• Education officer – Teaching/Learning presented a staff meeting on developing children’s comprehension skills
• Behavioural Psychologist support visit
• Support visit by Assistant Director, including classroom visits
• 2 day visit from expert teacher mentor as part of the National Partnership program
• Professional Development in Religious Education
• School Psychologist visit
• Visit by Director to deliver principal performance review including visit to classrooms
• Speech therapist visit to class rooms and a follow up staff meeting to discuss ways teachers can improve language learning for students
• Parent Liaison Officer attended the P&F meeting to offer her services to the parent body

At the same time there has been an increase in the expected level of Special Needs funding to the school and a great deal of campaigning is being done on the behalf of the staff and parents of all children in Catholic schools to ensure the government meets our funding needs in the future.

As a principal I am very grateful to the CSO for its support of our school. On your behalf, I thank them. We are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful Catholic education system.

Last week I wrote about the value of practising skills to gain proficiency. This week we congratulate Eliza Peebles on achieving a 3rd place and a highly commended for her piano playing at the Eisteddfod at Scone. Eliza can often be heard playing the piano at school during breaks. Patrick McLaren is also a keen piano player - what great skills he is developing. Their persistent example is encouraging other children to book the piano at lunch times to practise!

Many of the children on special reading programs at present are seeing real results of their extra effort in reading. We are very happy with the great development in skills being demonstrated by most children.

This week we remember Mr Robert Keegan in our prayers as he receives medical treatment over the upcoming weeks. We continue to pray for Mr Morris’ return to good health. Mark has asked me to thank you for your prayers and hopes he will be fit and ready to rejoin us at school soon.

At the end of next week we will again farewell Mrs Frampton as she commences maternity leave to await the birth of her second child. On behalf of the whole school community I wish Claire and her husband James and daughter Lilly, all the very best during this period of anticipation and joy. We look forward to hearing some great news soon.

Mrs Peebles will teach Year 1/2 for the rest of this term and then from the beginning of Term 3 Mrs Tanya Ninness will job share with Mrs Peebles. Mrs Ninness brings a great deal of teaching expertise to this position and both Mrs Peebles and Mrs Ninness are looking forward to working together to continue the fantastic work that is going on in the 1/2 classroom.

The Festival of Fleeces is on this weekend. We invite all the students to join us in the parade. The theme this year is bush dancing, so put on the dancing clothes and join us at 11.15am at the showground. There is a form to fill in for the festival organisers at the end of the newsletter. Please return it to school or bring it with you on the day.

Have you seen our festival display? A great deal of creative effort has gone into preparing
the display which is in the Merriwa Newsagency window. Have a look and locate your child’s smiling face.

Thank you Nathan Telfer for your assistance with the rotting peppertrees. We appreciate your assistance in making the school grounds safer for the students.

Enrolments for 2014 are currently being processed. Don’t forget to tell your friends what a wonderful school St Joseph’s is. We will be contacting all prospective parents soon regarding the orientation and transition program which begins in term 3.

Our Athletics carnival will be held on Wednesday. We are grateful to the parents who have offered their help on the day. We are sure to have a great day. The shot put and long jump events held last week were a great success. Again thanks for all your help on the day. Feedback contained in the survey of parent and teachers, after last years’ carnival, has been used to improve the planning this year. Thanks for your many practical suggestions. This is a wonderful example of the school community working together for our children.

**Hat Day is Australian Rotary Health’s community action and awareness day.**

At St Joseph’s, for the last three years, we have held our day at the Athletics Carnival. By taking part in Hat Day you will be helping the four million Australians affected by mental illnesses. By donating to mental health research you are helping us fund research aimed at finding treatments and cures for mental illnesses such as depression, anxiety and schizophrenia.

At the carnival on Wednesday, 5th June, we are hosting the crazy hair and hat day. Please consider wearing a hat or spray/decorate your hair and donate a gold coin for your effort!!

Thank you
Oliver Towell
(5/6 Leader and Hat Day coordinator)

School reports are being written at present and we plan to have these out to you in Week 8.

Week 9 will be a period of formal Parent Teacher interviews to discuss your child’s progress with their teacher. All parents are expected to participate in this round of interviews. A booking schedule will be sent out in the coming weeks for you to nominate a preferred time.

Kind regards
Helen Whale

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Learning Support News

Our first Multilit graduate for this year received their completion certificate at Monday’s assembly. This student has worked hard with Mrs McLaren to work through and complete the Multilit Program this Semester. As a result the student’s confidence and skills have improved dramatically. Well done.

If your child attends a specialist appointment such as optometrist, speech therapist, occupational therapist etcetera, please ensure that you let your child’s classroom teacher know and supply them with a copy of the report. This will assist the school and parents to work together to ensure the best possible learning outcome for your child.

Tanya Ninness
Learning Support Teacher
The Feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated 19 days after Pentecost which will be this Friday 7th June. We will be attending Mass in St Anne’s at 12.00 and invite you all to join us.

This is an old tradition of private devotion. The Feast of the Sacred Heart allows us to stop and think about the love of Jesus – the love that Jesus has for us, the love we have for Jesus and in return the love we have for each other. This Feast Day is very often depicted with Jesus and his heart showing on his chest. Next time you are in St. Anne’s Church see if you can find the statue!

In an Andrew Chinn song we find great lyrics to help us understand this Feast Day:

Love one another as I have loved you  
Love one another is our call  
Be the love, be the heart of Jesus  
One heart, one love, the love within us all.

The latest version of the Catholic Family magazine can be accessed at the below address. Articles include - Overscheduled kids and couples; Boredom Busters- some great ideas about ensure great quality family time.

http://cathfamily.org/2013-june/

Update for the Premier’s Reading Challenge
We’re almost half way through the challenge and we have several students close to completion - well done.
In Kindergarten: Annalyse, Braeden and Pia are well out in front. In Years 1 and 2: Alyssa and Mikalya are being hotly pursued by four students. While in Years 3 and 4: Gaby, Damian and Chloe are in the lead. In years 5 and 6: Britnee and Tamasyn are close to completing the challenge. What a great result. Keep up the good work.
If your child is reading books from home or the public library, please send a list so that they can be added to the challenge.
To find out more about the Premier’s Reading Challenge visit the web site at https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html
Children are encouraged to select from the Premier’s recommended reading list when they borrow.
Don’t forget students need a Library Bag in order to borrow.
Happy Reading
Mrs Colleen Oldman
Teacher/Librarian
AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards in weeks 4 and 5:

Kinder
Pia Henderson – for setting out and completing work neatly
Ava Peel – for her fantastic answers when talking about the weather
Ella Beaven – for her concentration during writing activities
Braeden Halse – for his effort in sounding out words

1/2
Darcy Taaffe - for showing improved confidence in all that she does
Madelaine Thrift - for consistently working at a high level
Tahlia Blyton - for always trying to improve her writing
Amy Redgate - for working well in reading groups

3/4
Nicolas Morgan – for his settled approach in English writing activities
Caitlin Porter – for her great artwork of a Rainbow Serpent
Kade Attenborough – for his effort in Writing activities
Nicole Martin – for her great contribution to classroom discussions

5/6
Clancy Martin - for enthusiastically and actively participating in all class activities
Clancy Moore - great organisational skills
April Lawler - for outstanding effort in homework and application of drawing and graphics in computer skills
Bailey Telfer - for great sportsmanship displayed during athletics activities

Playground Champion-
Harry Cook – for trying his hardest in daily PE activities
Emily Ninness - for encouraging people to join in games on the playground

Principal’s Awards:
Jonathan Keegan – for conscientious effort in all aspects of schooling
Riley Telfer for the wonderful effort he has put into his classroom learning. I thoroughly enjoyed my teaching day with Riley’s class on Friday.

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The simplest way to spend less on snacks with Fruit & Veg

Did you know that pre-packaged snacks almost always cost more than making your own healthy snacks? Also if you buy the fruit and veg that’s in season it will cost less and taste even better.

Have a look at this comparison chart to see how you could slash 20% off your spending on snacks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost per 100g</th>
<th>Less healthy choice</th>
<th>Cost per 100g</th>
<th>Healthier choice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3.37</td>
<td>1 choc bar (60g)</td>
<td>$1.32</td>
<td>2 slices melon, ½ orange, 1 kiwi fruit &amp; sml bunch grapes</td>
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<td>$2.59</td>
<td>1 slice cheese-cake</td>
<td>$2.04</td>
<td>6 baby corn &amp; snow peas + ½ avocado for guacamole dip</td>
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<tr>
<td>$0.79</td>
<td>1 Hawaiian pizza</td>
<td>$0.33</td>
<td>1 med tin baked beans + 2 toast</td>
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<td>$1.93</td>
<td>1 pkt crisps (150g)</td>
<td>$1.19</td>
<td>1 carrot, ½ cucumber + sml bowl salsa</td>
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<td>$2.31</td>
<td>1 muesli bar</td>
<td>$0.18</td>
<td>1 pear</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1.72</td>
<td>1 sml pkt biscuits</td>
<td>$1.12</td>
<td>1 sandwich bag air popped pop-corn</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Prices as March 2013

For more information please visit www.cancercouncil.org.au/eatittobeatit
Next P&F meeting
24th June 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 Grady & Constable
families who have given up
some of their valuable time
to clean the Aberdeen Bus in
recent weeks.

P & F would like to thank our Canteen
Helpers from 22nd May—Scott Beaven
& Mel Bates and from 29th May —
Patricia Jancovich & Scott Beaven

St Joseph’s PS Merriwa
Campdraft,
Sporting & Fete Day
Saturday 29th June 2012

CDF Student Account

The Catholic Development Fund (CDF) can provide your child with a student account
that is operated through the school. All parents of kindergarten students should have
received a welcome letter which included a new account brochure. If you would like to
open a CDF student account for your child please send the application form and an
initial deposit to the office and a new account will be opened for your child. If you do
not currently have a student account application form you can pick one up at the
school office.

The CDF also offers great savings accounts for parents – call 1800 810 330
for further information.
It’s just around the corner! Not long to go now!
Hope you have booked this date in your diary!
Organisation of our fundraising Campdraft & Fete Day is well under way.

Meeting: This Thursday 6th June 6pm Merriwa RSL
to discuss Fete and Market Stall Organisation.
Everyone welcome and needed!

Help on the day
Attached is a roster for the day. Help will be needed in the second ring running sporting events; the campdraft ring- helping in the yards with cattle, scoring and time keeping; in the canteen, on the bbq, running a fete day activity, selling raffle tickets etc. We will also require some help on Friday setting things up and on Sunday putting everything away! There will be something for everyone! Please fill in the roster as best suits you and return it to school ASAP.

Sponsorship
We have had a very positive response from our sponsorship letters with businesses from both outside and within the Merriwa community being very generous. We now have trophies & or prizes on all our campdraft events. If you know of anyone who would be willing to sponsor our event or if you would like to sponsor our event yourself, please contact Tanya Ninness at stephen.ninness@bigpond.com or phone 65485185. We have great sponsorship packages to meet everyone’s needs.

Campdraft & Sporting
Campdraft entries are filling fast. We have had a very positive response from the campdraft and horse community and are expecting large numbers of competitors on the day. Further enquiries regarding anything to do with the campdraft or sporting can be made to Roger Moore 0427153446 or Stephen Ninness 65485185 / 0429691105.

Canteen/BBQ
Emma Henderson is the organiser of the canteen/bbq. We need help serving and cooking the bbq. Please fill out the roster attached. Contact Emma 65485084 for further information.

Fete Day Activities:
Leanne Hunt is in charge of our Fete Day side of things. If you have any ideas or are willing to help please contact Leanne on 0487761253.

Raffle
Raffle tickets were sent home last Thursday. These need to be returned to the school sold or unsold by the Monday 24th June 2012. Raffle Tickets will also be available for sale at Max’s Country Cuts, Hunter Mutual and also on the day.

But wait! There’s more happening- read on!!!!
Cappuccino
Helen Whale and her team of merry helpers will have the cappuccino machine steaming. Drop in for a coffee and choose from a variety of delicious cakes.

Lucky Dips & Showbags
There will be boys and girls lucky dips available for $1 a go. Showbags will also be available (limited number so get in quick).

Hobby Horse Races
Decorate your hobby horse and be in the running for the best decorated hobby horse!! Don't have a hobby horse? Borrow mum's broom or mop! Then be prepared to run that hobby horse around a few events just like the real horses!!

Tug of War
Get your team together for the tug of war! There will be various sessions, with times to be announced! More information to come!!

Treasure Hunt, Play Dough and Sand Pit Activities
Sounds interesting! Great side show type activities for the kids to have a go on! But we need someone to man them! There's not much involved! If you're interested ring Leanne!

Craft Activities
The kids can sit down and use their creative side to make their own key ring and magnets for mum and dad! Instructions and demonstrations will be provided! We need some help to run this though! So if you can lend a hand- ring Leanne!

Plant Stall
Mrs Oldman is happy to run the plant stall again! However she needs donations of plants. If you have any plants to donate please ring the school and leave a message for Colleen. You can then leave them at the school or drop them down to the showground on Friday 28th June.

Cake, Sweet & Nik Nak Stall
We need someone to run the cake, sweet & nik nak stall. We need lots of donations of cakes and sweets. We would also like donations of any homemade goodies like jams, relish, scarves, jewellery etc. Remember a list of ingredients needs to be attached to the goods. Goods can be dropped off to the school or to the showground Saturday morning.

Market Stalls
We are interested in having Market Stalls at our day! Do you know someone who has a market stall and would be willing to come? Site fees are very reasonable. If so please contact Leanne on 0487761253.
We have a number of interested stall holders coming to our event:
Lorraine Lea Linen        Gummun Place        Amanda Wright Home made Soaps
Jennifer Hickey Handmade Toys Cowhorse Tack        Melissa Eeles- Saddlery
Spoonful of Sugar Cup Cakes Maken Rugs to You
Tracey Franks- Handmade Crochet, Knitting and Embroidery items

Magnets by St Joseph's Stall
Students of SJM will be decorating magnets during lunch times. These will be for sale on the day. If you want to buy the magnet your son/daughter decorated you will need to be there first!

But wait! There's more happening- read on!!!!
Silent Auction

We have a stallion service fee donated to the school which we will be offering for sale to the public in a silent auction. The stallion is Seligman Spin owned by Peter Gessler. Further information on Seligman Spin can be found at www.seligmanspin.com. If you are interested in bidding on this stallion ring Tanya or Stephen Ninness -65485185.

Thankyou to our sponsors so far:

- Australian Quarter Horse Society
- Harvey World Travel Scone
- Maurice Irvine Tullymore Stud
- Merriwa RSL Club
- Tash Holden Communications
- Hunter Valley Tentpegging
- Mitevite
- Merriwa Bushmen’s Campdraft
- Landmark Merriwa
- Jamie & Sarah Edmonds
- Makenrugsto you
- Gordon Martin
- Vero and Sons Electrical
- Bill Reynolds
- Hunter Mutual Merriwa
- Best Family
- Davis and Sons Livestock Transport
- Merriwa Rotary
- RM Moore Property & Livestock

- Anthea Wright
- Merriwa Post Office
- Precious Pieces Denman
- CDF Newcastle
- Merriwa Pharmacy
- ABCRA Hunter Zone
- Aaron Henry Optometrist
- Australian Reptile Park
- Williams Concreting
- RM Williams
- Peter Gessler
- Dianne Mitchell
- Hair Indeed Merriwa
- Throwley Pastoral Company
- David and Bronwyn Redgate
- Dianne Ninness
- Mark Whale
- Hunter Branch ASH
- Stan Bowd Custom Made Saddlery
**Roster for the SJM Campdraft Sporting and Fun Day Saturday 29th June 2013**

- Friday: set up will begin around 1pm: this includes cleaning and setting up the canteen; putting up the campdraft panels (fence), rotary tent, bunting fences; setting up tables & chairs to name a few jobs!!
- Sunday pack up will begin around 10am: taking down campdraft panels, returning tables and chairs to RSL, packing up the canteen, taking down the Rotary tent etc!!

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MERRIWA FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES FESTIVAL 2013
As organiser of Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces on 8 June 2013

RISK WARNING AND WAIVER OF CONTRACTUAL DUTY OF CARE
For Events participant’s

Contract for supply of Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces. By participating in Festival of the Fleeces today I agree to do so at my own risk. I know that my agreement operates to exclude any liability in negligence for harm that I may suffer. I have been warned that this recreational activity may cause physical harm to me or to someone under my control or accompanying me, and I confirm that I have no condition, medical or physical, that could prevent me from, or be aggravated by, participating in this activity.

(Both the applicant and a parent or guardian must read carefully and sign if applicant is under 18.)

ACTIVITY: (Applicant must list activity or activities that they plan to participate in).

I am aware that to participate in any physical activity can be dangerous in nature involving MANY RISKS OF INJURY. I understand that the dangers and risks of death, serious neck and spinal injuries which may result in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons, and other aspects of the muscular skeletal system, serious injury to virtually all internal organs, and serious injury or impairment to other aspects of my body, general health and well-being. I understand that the dangers and risks of playing, or practicing to play or participate in the above listed activities may result not only in serious injury, but in a serious impairment of my future abilities to earn a living, to engage in other business, social and recreational activities, and generally to enjoy life.

Because of the dangers of participating in the above activities, I recognize that the rules and regulations which govern the said activity exist to provide a safe environment for all participants and agree to abide by those same rules for my own safety as well as those around me.

In consideration of the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces Committee, in permitting me to participate in each of the activities / programs listed above and to engage in all activities related to the programs, including, but not limited to, preparation, practicing or participating in that activity program, I hereby assume all of the risks associated with participation and agree to hold the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces Committee and Upper Hunter Shire Council, its employees, agents, representatives, and volunteers harmless from any negligence and all liability, actions, causes of action, debts, claims, or demands of any kind and nature whatsoever which may arise by, or in connection with my participation in any activities related to the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces Committee.

The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, estate, executor, administrator, assignees, and for all members of my family.

By signing this form, I acknowledge I have read, understand, and will comply with its intent and purpose.

PARTICIPANT:_________ _______ GUARDIAN: _____________________________DATE: ______/_____/_____

(PRIVACY STATEMENT

The personal information that Council is collecting from you is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. The intended recipients of the personal information are officers within Council; data service providers engaged by Council from time to time; any other agent of Council.

The supply of the information is/is not voluntary*. If you cannot provide or do not wish to provide the information sought, Council may/will* be unable to process your application.

You may make application for access or amendment to information held by Council. You may also make a request that Council suppresses your personal information from a public register. Council will consider any such application in accordance with the Act. Council is the agency that holds the information.

Enquiries concerning this matter can be addressed to the Public/Privacy Officer