You are our Father, You live in heaven,
We talk to you Father, You are good.
We talk to you Father, You are good.

We believe your word Father,
We your children, give us bread today.
We your children, give us bread today.

Others have done wrong to us,
And we are sorry for them, father, today.
And we are sorry for them, father, today.

We have done wrong, we are sorry.
Teach us Father not to sin again.
Teach us Father not to sin again.

You are our Father, you live in heaven
We talk to you Father, You are good.
We talk to you Father, You are good.
Welcome to the final week of Term 2. We are halfway through the year! This week is the busiest week for parent participation in the whole year. This is the week of our major fundraising activity. The fete and campdraft, as you know, will run on Saturday. Already so many of you have put in many hours preparation to ensure that once again, this event is a huge success.

The money raised at the campdraft enables the P and F to fund the many projects that make our school a fabulous place to educate your children. You have received rosters to help, plates to fill with cooking and suggestions on other ways to help out on the day, please do anything you can to help make the day a resounding success. We will all be the winners.

Thank you to all our generous sponsors who have supported the event financially, with cattle, transport and prizes. Please read the list of sponsors on the back of this newsletter.

This Friday is Vinnies Day
Each year we use this day to raise much needed funds to support our local St Vincent de Paul Society as they help the less fortunate members of society. Please read the notice in RE News for more detail about our day. Read also our Catholic Schools Office Director, Mr Ray Collins’ reflections on the CEO sleepout which he participated in last week. Very interesting reading.

The Regional Athletics Carnival was held today. We had 26 students compete and are still awaiting the results. Congratulations to all the students who represented our school so well. Thanks Mr Lannen for managing the team on the day.

Gulgong Horse Sports was held yesterday. We were very ably represented by a squad of 12 students. Thank you Mrs Kerr for managing the team on the day. Congratulations to all students and especially Clancy Martin for winning the 11 Years Champion Boy rider, April Lawler 12 year Champion Girl rider and Jemma Grady for winning the Reserve Champion 9 years girl rider. It was also fabulous to see Clancy Martin and Hannah Riley sashed the Champion Pair of riders.

Science was on the agenda last Thursday as all of our Stage 3 students combined with St Joseph’s Denman to compete in the Science and Engineering Challenge at Muswellbrook. Thank you to Mrs Ninness for managing these students on the day and thanks to St Joseph’s Aberdeen for providing the transport.

Please see our Ringer pages for a report written by Hannah Riley.

There is also a great display of poetry from some of our students in this week’s Ringer.

Professional development for teachers is a great priority at St Josephs.

- Last Monday, Mr Lannen, Mr Morris and Mrs Whale travelled to Muswellbrook to start an intensive program focussing on explicit teaching of comprehension to students from Years 3-6. This program fits nicely into our National Partnership focus on Literacy and we are looking forward to implementing some of the strategies learned, straight away.
- Mrs Kerr, Mr Morris and Mrs Whale attended the last of the Mathematics workshops for Count me in too. All of our teachers are now trained in this approach to teaching Mathematics.
- All teachers will attend Professional Development on Monday of Week 2 to learn more about implementing the new English Syllabus. THIS IS A PUPIL FREE DAY.

St Joseph’s Open Day
Monday 14th July
12.00 - 1.30pm
Orientation meeting in the MacKillop Room for 2014 Kinder parents and other interested community members.
Classroom visits for all others.
Shared afternoon tea at 1.30pm

Ever wondered what goes on in your child’s classroom?
Who does your child sit with?
How does your child’s teacher teach?
Come to the open day and visit the classrooms.
Sit in and watch a lesson or two.
Please try to be there and see your child’s class in action.
Grandparents Day will be celebrated on the 26th July, which is Friday of Week 2. Please mark this on the calendar and be sure to start organising your grandparents now so you won’t be disappointed. This is always a very special day for our families. The children enjoy spending special time at school with their grandparents and the grandparents often comment to me that it is one of the most treasured days of their year. This year only a few families will be planting trees and the rest of the school community will be doing other cooperative activities at school. There will be a shared lunch and liturgy as is usually the case.

A percussion concert will be held at school in week 2 of next term. We welcome the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music here once again as they showcase some of the great talent they have. Director Adam Wills will join with fellow percussionist James Townsend to form Radius Percussion, a dynamic percussion duo that will undertake a week-long tour performing at schools throughout the Upper Hunter and the presentation of public concerts at Merriwa and Scone. The concerts will feature a wide variety of music, including some familiar tunes and some new music composed for the duo. In the evening there will be a special recital at the School of Arts at 7pm which the general public may attend. What a wonderful opportunity for the whole community. Please make an effort to attend so that Merriwa becomes a place where cultural activities happen. Tickets: $20 Adults $15 Concession for the evening concert.

Working bee will be held on Sunday 28th July which is the second Sunday after school returns in Term 3. Mark it on your calendar! This day is always a great social event for children and parents. We will commence the day after Mass at 9.30am and finish in time for a bbq lunch at 12noon. A list of jobs to do and equipment needed will be forwarded during Week 1.

Netball Gala Day will again be hosted by St Joseph’s Merriwa this year in August. Invitations to this day have been distributed to all the surrounding schools. If you have netball skills and would like to assist us on the day please contact John Lannen, our gala coordinator.

Catholic Schools Office Director, Mr Ray Collins, participated in the St Vincent de Paul CEO Sleepout Last Thursday. I have included here some of his reflections. It is well worth a read!

As I contemplated the daily life of the homeless in Australia through the evening of 20th June, Australia was also commemorating World Refugee Week. The Sleepout certainly reinforced for me the daily plight of the homeless in our community. The hardness of the sleeping surface beneath two pieces of cardboard brings to reality the difficulties faced by the homeless every night as they try to find a safe, protected and reasonably comfortable place to sleep. I was grateful that the night was reasonably pleasant, temperature wise, but when a cool breeze blew up at around 4.00am I was wishing I had worn the “hoody” I had in my backpack. I did not have to face the possibility of pouring rain, icy winds or freezing temperatures. Vinnies also had security guards present so that I didn’t have to worry about the few possessions we were permitted to bring with us. The homeless in our society do not have that security each night. One of the startling statistics related by the Vinnies people is that the largest group of homeless in our region are women with young families. Everything we can do to support the work of St Vincent de Paul is to be encouraged. Just as my perceptions of what it is like to be homeless were heightened last week, Refugee Week is also designed to bring to our attention the plight of those who are forced to flee their homes and seek protection in countries such as ours.

This year’s theme for Refugee Week was Restoring Hope, focusing on the restoration of hope for a future free from fear, persecution, violence and insecurity. We have difficulty imagining the fear associated with living in a country stricken by war or civil unrest where persecution is the norm. The desperation of handing over your entire savings to board a leaky, un-seaworthy vessel only to encounter the fury of storms and mountainous seas whilst experiencing serious food and water deprivation is hard to believe. Then comes the next challenge of living in a refugee camp with an uncertain time frame for re-settlement and assimilation. The theme of Restoring Hope encourages us to do whatever we can to support refugees as they seek protection from persecution and violence.

At Penola House in Mayfield West we see our Church reaching out to refugees in many practical ways whilst, at the same time, being an advocate for their humane and just treatment here in Australia. The staff and volunteers are actively providing hope for a better future for those who have had to leave everything behind. As with the St Vincent de Paul Society, Penola House does magnificent work in reaching out to
**RE NEWS**

**Vinnies Day**

This Friday is Vinnies day. This is the time when we think of others less fortunate than ourselves.

On Friday we ask that all students come to school in warm preloved clothes and bring a gold coin donation. The money raised on the day will go to our local Vinnies organisation. This is a great way of showing the love of Jesus to others.

Other events on the day will be a special afternoon tea. We will have for sale **popcorn and jelly cups** plus we will conclude our day with a **liturgy and talent quest** commencing from 1.30pm!!!!

Please feel very welcome to join us from afternoon tea.

What a great way to finish off the term!

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**Learning Support News**

**What to do in the holidays?**

Developing literacy and numeracy skills can be fun and enjoyable. It is important to continue developing these skills over the holidays. How? Try some of these suggestions:

1. Read, Read, Read!
2. Use the computer! Use programs such as LEXIA and The Study Ladder or encourage your child to write a story. Send an email to a friend, research a favourite sporting hero, make a special card.
3. Travelling- listen to stories on a CD, play Spotto, read the road signs, make up stories about street names or locations.
4. Cooking- read the recipe, shop for the ingredients, measure the ingredients, make the recipe.
5. Play a board game- scrabble, boggle, monopoly, card games, dominoes.
6. Use magazines to cut out pictures and make collages or use the pictures as a story starter.

*Most importantly encourage your child to READ, READ, READ!!*

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Tanya Ninness
Learning Support Teacher
Holiday activities

During the holidays it is important that children continue to practice their reading. Students can have access to the **Lexia program** which is a computer based program used at school.

Here is the link which will get you LEXIA from home:

http://www.lexialearning.com/files/support/LexiaReadingSchoolToHomeOverview.pdf

Follow the directions carefully from this link.

When asked, enter the Customer Code which is below.

**CUSTOMER CODE:**
3843-6594-1484-4173

The student’s **username** is their last name plus first initial and the **password** is their first name.

**AWARDS**

*Congratulations to the following students who received awards in weeks 6, 7 & 8:*

**Kinder**
- **Toby Jamieson** – for creating fantastic sentences!  
- **Cody Bates** – for showing great sportsmanship at the Athletics Carnival!  
- **Alissa Myers** – for her impressive knowledge about Mass and Time  
- **Emily Rose** – for her great skills she uses when sounding out words  
- **Emily Barwick** – for creating a beautiful Dreamtime artwork  
- **Christian Cropper** – for his improvement in written work

**1/2**
- **Riley Telfer** - for showing great improvement in his LEXIA time  
- **Helena Parker** - for great participation in class discussions  
- **Roy Lawler** - for great art work and participation  
- **William Henderson** – for a trying hard to improve his handwriting  
- **Audrey Gill** - for fantastic effort in reading groups  
- **Axul Hourn** - for beautiful presentation of work

**3/4**
- **Damian Jamieson** – for his great work in writing activities  
- **Jemma Grady** – for her fantastic contribution to classroom discussions  
- **Camdyn Constable** – for working well in Creative Arts  
- **Tamara Sormaz** - for her great effort in Mathematics activities  
- **Jonathan Keegan** – for his great work in Spelling activities  
- **Emily Ninness** – for her great work in Writing activities  
- **Gaby Nicholls** – for her super effort in sentence writing

**5/6**
- **Eliza Peebles** - her willingness to have a go and help wherever needed  
- **Oliver Towell** - trying hard in all areas of the classroom  
- **Ty Riley** - for a creative "Frozen Painting"  
- **April Stanley** - for trying her hardest in all classroom activities  
- **Hannah Riley** - for writing a very good recount of the Science Challenge Day.

**Playground Champion**
- **Pia Henderson** - demonstrating great playground skills  
- **Darcy Taaffe** - for being playful and caring.

**Learning Support**
- **Lauren Redgate** - Multilit Completion Certificate  
- **Charles Brazier** - being enthusiastic and willing to work hard during Multilit sessions

**Principal’s Awards:**
- **Madelaine Thrift**: for trying so hard to be a responsible and caring student  
- **Emily Ninness**: for being a very responsible community person. Emily has been spotted at school and in the wider community cleaning up rubbish after events and ensuring our environment is litter free.
GULGONG HORSE SPORTS

Yesterday, 11 students represented our school at Gulgong Horse Sports. The day started off with very limited vision driving to the event. When the fog lifted the hacking events commenced. Our riders competed to a very high standard with several ribbons being won. Class sizes on the day were very large which proved a challenge to win one of four ribbons in the sporting events but our competitors showed their determination, winning many ribbons.

Two of our riders were presented with champion ribbons, congratulations to April Lawler, Champion 12 year rider and Clancy Martin, Champion 11 year rider. Congratulations also to Jemma Grady for being Reserve Champion 9 year rider. As well as these achievements, Clancy Martin tied for Overall Champion of the day AND Hannah Riley and Clancy Martin were also awarded Champion Pair of Riders.

Thank you to all of the families and students for making it such an enjoyable day. All of the riders should be very proud of themselves for displaying good sportsmanship throughout the day.
Thankyou to the wonderful parents and friends who have volunteered to manage one of our fun day activities or to assist on the day!

**Working Bee**
There will be a working bee at the showground to help set up on Friday starting at 2:30pm. We need help to: set campdraft panels up, clean and set up the canteen, put market and fete fencing up, pick up and set up table and chairs from the RSL club, set up the Rotary tent, put up signs etc!

**Roster**
We still require help on all activities! We still have time slots to fill, so if you can do this please ring Tanya 65485185 or Leanne 0487761253 to volunteer your time! Attached is confirmation of times for those wonderful people who have sent their rosters back. If you have sent your form back in and I have missed your name - I apologise and need your help - ring me! If this does not suit please ring Tanya 65485185.

**Canteen/BBQ desperate for help!**
The canteen/bbq needs help! We have had little response in this area. The canteen is one of our big money making ventures on the day! We still need help in this area. Even if you have volunteered on another activity please try to give at least an hour to the canteen as well! Ring Emma 65485084 or Leanne 0487761253 to volunteer your time!
Please check out the roster attached.

**Plant, Cake & Sweet Stall**
We also need donations of plants, cakes, sweets and other nik naks! These can be dropped off at the school on Friday or the showground on Saturday morning.

**Raffle**
The raffle tickets sent home need to be returned to school ASAP! Tickets will still be on sale on the day.

**Silent Auction**
The silent auction is still open for business! Ring Tanya (65485185, 0419985680) to put your bid in or for further information. It’s just like ebay except over the phone!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roster for the SJM Campdraft &amp; Fete Saturday 29th June 2013</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen/ BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Setup, Cattle Yards, Sporting events, Fun Day Activities, Cake, Nik Nak Stall, Plant Stall, Cappuccino, Hobby Horse/Tug of War, Sandpit &amp; Playdough, other</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
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