We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

Bishop Ken Untener, 1979
Hello again to all the parents and friends of St Joseph’s school. It is so good to be back with you all again after 6 weeks travelling in Europe. Mark and I had a wonderful time visiting Hong Kong, Belgium, Poland, Ireland, France and Spain. The last two weeks of our holiday was spent walking on “The Camino”. This was definitely a highlight for me and I am proud to say that all the training paid off and I was able to walk it quite comfortably, except for niggling blisters on my feet. My back remained strong and my fitness was great. The actual walking track follows the way of St Frances from France to Santiago di Compostella in the North West of Spain, where the remains of St James are buried. Pilgrims have been walking “The Camino” for centuries. The path wends through villages and across fields and cities and of course is dotted by cafes, hostels and churches. I took the opportunity to call into many of the churches and say a prayer for each and every member of our school community. For myself I prayed that the peace and serenity I felt while walking would remain with me as I return to the hustle and bustle of life back home.

I am very grateful to Anne Marie Peebles and the dedicated team of teachers and support staff at St Joseph’s for keeping things operating so well in my absence.

One of the happenings in my absence has been the preparations for the play which will be performed this Wednesday evening. The students are very excited about performing “Joseph and his technicolour dreamcoat” and are very proud of their efforts. I will be as surprised as the parents on the night which is a great treat. I have seen some very special costumes arriving at the school and I know the event will be a very colourful one! Special thanks to Jodie Magner – mum of John, Patrick and Tia, for your incredible assistance with the costumes.

Welcome to the Tomy family to our school community. Fiona Tomy joined Kindergarten last week, from St James Muswellbrook and has settled in very well. We warmly welcome Fiona and her family and we pray that your association with St Joseph’s is a long and happy one.

Enrolments for next year are coming along very nicely. Again, it has been word of mouth from parents, and the wonderful reputation of our school as a quality educational facility that has persuaded our new families to enrol. Thank you for the positive promotion you do for our school.

NAPLAN results for years 3 and 5 will be sent home this week. These results provide the teachers with much valuable information about the learning happening in the classroom. Analysis of the total result data enables the school staff as a whole and the individual teachers to assess the success of learning programs already in place and strategically plan for future learning. The most valuable data we receive is the growth data for the students from Year 5 over the two years since they sat the same test in Year 3. When we have analysed the results we will provide more feedback to the parent body. Much of our efforts in the National Partnerships program have been focussing on improving these results.

Last week the whole school participated in the Cassilis sport program. The students had the opportunity to experience high grade coaching in yoga, judo, orienteering, hockey, zumba, soccer, rugby league, gymnastics and cricket. The students participated extremely well and all had a fantastic day. I would like to thank the staff and students as well as parents from the Cassilis Public School for providing us with such a worthwhile experience. The effort that went into planning the day was tremendous and the hospitality was very welcoming and friendly.
A pupil free day is scheduled for next Monday. The whole school staff is going to enjoy a spirituality day with Assistant Director Mr Craig Wattam and Religious Education Officer Mrs Sue Hutchens. This will be a very timely opportunity to take a break from the busyness of school and personal life and reflect on our personal mission in life.

The school working bee was held on Sunday and I sincerely thank the Magner, Moore, McLaren, Peebles, Redgate, Shannon, Kerr and Whale families for their generous assistance. The grounds and buildings are looking fresh and clean again. It was lovely to spend some social time with the families as well. The sweeping and edging jobs fell victim to the horrendous winds but we were able to concentrate on indoor clean-ups and even some prop preparation for the play. It was wonderful to have some families pop in just for a short while between engagements and do what they could. Every little bit helps!

Relay for Life will be held on Saturday 16th November. Our students have been invited to sing the National Anthem at the ceremony during Saturday afternoon. If your child/children is able to participate in this could you please send the attached form back this week or advise by return email so that we can decide if we can accept the offer as a school.

Kind regards
Helen Whale

RE NEWS

During November we celebrate two very important feast days. First is All Saints Day on the 1st of November and then All Souls Day follows on the 2nd November.

All Saints Day is when we remember all the Saints. Australia only has one saint - Mary MacKillop, but we remember many great saints from all over the world. A saint is a person just like you and me that God gave special graces to in order for them to do special things. All the saints were holy men and women. Some of the saints could work miracles, some could heal, some had the ability to be in two places at once. God gave them these abilities so His message of love could be passed onto us.

All Souls Day is the start of a month of remembering people who have died. During this special month a box will be placed in the Mary MacKillop room for us to place a special card of remembrance in for any special people we would like to remember, who have died. This box will be placed on the sacred space and be part of our liturgy each week during the month of November.

Anne Marie Peebles
REC

RELAY FOR LIFE - SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

My child/children ____________________________________________ will / will not (delete as applicable) be participating in the singing of the National Anthem at the Merriwa Relay for Life on Saturday afternoon, 16th November.

Parent/Guardian
Helping your child to become a good speller

**Use everyday opportunities to draw your child's attention to words.**
- Talk to your child about how you spell and what you do when you don't know how to spell a word.
- When your child comes to words they can't spell, encourage them to look at the new words, say them, cover them with their hand, write them from memory, and then check them.
- When learning to spell an unknown word, first talk about what the word means.

**When your child is taught spelling at school, they learn to understand:**
- how words sound
- how words look
- how words change form, eg from ‘jump’ to ‘jumped’
- where words come from.

**At school, kids:**
- usually spend time each day studying words
- learn that spelling is a tool that is closely linked to writing and reading
- learn that accurate spelling matters and that it’s important to check their writing for mistakes.

**What you can do to help your child with spelling**
Explain to your child that some words can be sounded out, but not all English words can be spelt correctly by ‘sounding out’, eg the words ‘you’ and ‘said’.
- Talk to your child about how you spell, and what you do when you don't know how to spell a word.
- Encourage your child to write at home on paper and on the computer, eg filling in forms, writing notes to family members, writing phone messages and reminder notes, making lists, replying to letters and emails, and sending cards.
- Provide a dictionary and use it together. Remember that dictionaries are more useful if your child knows about the alphabet and how a dictionary works.
- Encourage your child to first try spelling unknown words themselves, and then praise the parts of the word that are correct and suggest what else is needed.

**Say, cover, write, check**
When learning to spell an unknown word, first talk about what the word means, then try learning to spell it using the following technique:
- look carefully at the word
- say the word
- cover the word
- write it from memory
- uncover and check your attempt against the correct word
- repeat as needed.

**What you can do when your child asks how to spell a word**
- Encourage your child to have a go first, and then discuss their effort.
- Make sure they have access to a dictionary (if they have learnt to read) and know how to use it.
- Simply tell your child how the word is spelt and talk about it together.

**What you can do when your child finds spelling too hard**
Be supportive. Remember that when your child is learning to write, they will not be able to accurately spell all the words they want to write.
If your child seems to be having ongoing problems, talk to their teacher.
A new app to help spelling

A new app designed for Android phones and tablets helps students of all ages practise and improve their spelling. The Premier's Spelling Bee 2013 app features almost 3,000 words and corresponding sentences from the spelling competition of the same name. It also uses Australian spelling and voices. The app features two categories - junior and senior - with a number of levels that increase in difficulty. Most adults would find the high levels in the senior category a challenge.

You can google ‘premiers spelling bee app’ or use this web address to download the app: http://apps.samsung.com/mercury/topApps/topAppsDetail.as?productId=000000637780&srchClickURL=|@sn=SAPS|@qh=1195048784|@qid=SAPS.SRCH|@q=Premier%27s+Spelling+Bee+2013|@tot=4|@idx=0|@doc=G00015990859|@title=nil

Thank you to the following two websites for the information above:

Tanya Ninness
Learning Support Teacher

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards in weeks 10 & 1

Kindergarten
Christian Cropper – for working hard on his sounds
Ava Peel – for being caring and considerate, always looking after her class mates
Fiona Tomy – for settling into St Joseph’s so well
Sienna Baber – for her fantastic handwriting
Alissa Myers – for working hard to sound out words

1/2
Mia Morgan - for being a wonderful friend in the classroom
Thomas Hunt - for practising his reading at home
Kiesha-Lee Taylor - for participating in class discussions
Axul Hourn - for always taking a great deal of care with his school work
Mikayla Telfer - for great participation in Maths with place value
William Henderson - for great participation in Maths with place value

3/4
Chloe Towell – for her fantastic effort at the Upper Hunter Public Speaking.
Darcy Moore – for his fantastic effort at the Upper Hunter Public Speaking.
Gaby Nicholls – for her excellent participation in comprehension activities
Tia Magner – for her settled approach in classroom activities

5/6
Britnee Attenborough – for enthusiastically organising and setting up Mission Day

Ty Riley – for enthusiastically organising and setting up Mission Day
Eliza Peebles – for enthusiastically organising and setting up Mission Day
Bailey Telfer – for enthusiastically organising and setting up Mission Day
Tamasy Mcaught – for enthusiastically organising and setting up Mission Day
Clancy Moore – for enthusiastically organising and setting up Mission Day
April Lawler – for a wonderful description of who God is
Clancy Martin – for actively participating in Maths lessons

Playground Champion:
Patrick Magner – for being all smiles on the playground

Principal’s Awards:
John Magner- for his outstanding commitment to the school play
Dylan Turner for wonderful participation at Cassilis Sports Day

Spirit of St Joseph’s Award: Emily Ninness- Emily attends most school functions or contributes in other ways for example bagging manure for our working bee. She helped out her family and the school in the lead up to and during the school campdraft. Emily is a kind and caring student both in the classroom and on the playground and is always very polite to staff and visitors. She is always willing to help with jobs and activities.
Next P&F meeting
4th November 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 Peebles & Myers 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 recent Canteen Helpers — Mel Bates, Jodie Magner, Heidi Grady & Sheree Baber.

1/2 Need your help:
The children in 1/2 will be making some exciting projects in art and science this term. We need donations of the following items:

- 22 ice-cream containers
- cardboard
- fabrics/material (scraps)
- artificial flowers
- feathers
- felt
- empty match boxes
- ribbons
- sequins
- coloured paper
- paper doilies
- coloured pebbles
- Or anything else that could be used to make hats, Christmas cards and a game of tic tac toe (noughts and crosses).

Please send in to school or speak to Mrs Peebles or Mrs Ninness for further information!

Many thanks
Tanya Ninness

We are still collecting donations for the Samaritan’s Purse Christmas boxes. If you would like to contribute, please send your items in by the end of this week. The box on the right offers some suggestions for suitable gifts.