**May 2013**

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<td>P&amp;F Meeting 6pm</td>
<td>Library, Sport Canteen Dio Cross Country Sacramental meeting 3.30pm</td>
<td>Mothers Day Stall School Psychologist visit</td>
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<td>Mothers Day Breakfast, Liturgy &amp; activities</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
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<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>Library, Sport Canteen Sacramental meeting 3.30pm</td>
<td>Helen—CSO—NP 12.00 School Spelling Bee Finals MacKillop Room</td>
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<td>Pentecost Family Mass 6.00pm</td>
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<td>Pentecost Sunday</td>
<td>Library, Sport Canteen Regional Spelling Bee Muswellbrook</td>
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<td>Mass 8.30am P&amp;F Executive Meeting 4.30pm</td>
<td>Middle Schools Day Aberdeen Yr 5-6 Entries due Gulgong Horse Sport</td>
<td>Library, Sport Canteen Helen—CSO D/P Sacramental meeting 3.30pm</td>
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<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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**Reflection**

*Need a laugh? These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:*

“For those of you who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs”.

“Please post your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered”

“The sermon this morning: ‘Jesus Walks on the Water’. The sermon tonight: ‘Searching for Jesus’.”

“Don’t let worry kill you off—let the Church help.”

“Ladies don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.”

*The Majellan April-June 2013*
From the Principal...

Welcome back to Term 2.  
As usual we have so much to be grateful for and so much that we want to ask your prayers for.  
We thank our God for the safe arrival of baby Isabel Vera Myers. Isabel is the baby sister of Alissa in Kindergarten and daughter of Amanda and Steve. On behalf of the whole St Joseph’s community we wish you every happiness and joy that a new baby can bring.  
We ask for God’s blessings on Sr Brigid who celebrated a very significant birthday last Sunday. We wish her many happy returns.  
This week we remember in our prayers the sick members of our school community, especially Hamish Peebles (father of Eliza and husband of Mrs Anne Marie Peebles), Mark Morris (our 5/6 teacher) and Jenny Freeman (mother of Emma Henderson and grandmother of Will and Pia).  
There has been a great deal of sickness around the community lately. I thank those parents who have kept their children at home until they are no longer in danger of spreading their illness to others. We are not in a position to pass on information about other students’ illnesses as a matter of course, but if you think the information about your child would be useful for other students please let us know. As usual the doctor is in the best position to inform patients of trends. The doctor should also inform schools if there is a need to disseminate information such as this to the parent body.  

The Royal Commission into child sex abuse has begun.  
I can only echo the thoughts expressed in the April – June edition of the Majellan Magazine (a copy can be located in the school foyer).  
“I am so ashamed. My church, the one I love, has provoked the Government into calling a Royal Commission….Most Catholics share these feelings of shame and anger …shame and sorrow for the victims of this abuse and for their families.”  
The Royal Commission is an opportunity to have the truth told and justice done. I pray that God’s grace will bring real peace to all those who have been hurt and that we can once again be guided by the light of Christ to bring about a better world. Our Bishop William Wright stated “In this time we must all have the courage to ensure that the whole story is told and the actions of those involved are judged, with as much of the truth as the Lord gives us the grace to know and understand.” Friday March 1, 2013  
A viewing of “Breaking The Silence” is being held in Muswellbrook on Saturday 11th May at 9.30am, in the St James School Hall. The Insights Team will be facilitating the viewing.  

ANZAC Day was celebrated in the holidays and I thank those special people who were able to join with the school to march in memory of all those who have fought for our country. A special thank you to our leaders Tamasyn McNaught and Oliver Towell who laid the wreath on our behalf. Thank you to the following children and their families for their participation: Eliza Peebles, Audrey Gill, Clancy and Darcy Moore, Amy and Lauren Redgate, Jorji and Darcy Taaffe, Chloe Towell, Thomas Hunt, Allysia and Paige Carroll, Emily Ninness, Cody Bates. A special thank you to Gaby Nicholls who represented us at Cassillis. Thank you to our staff members who were also present: Mrs Gilbey, Mrs Kerr, Mrs Ninness, Mr Morris, Mrs Peebles and Mrs Whale.  

St Joseph the Worker’s feast day was celebrated at school on the 1st of May. The children participated in a beautiful liturgy which was followed by some lovely activities organised by the teachers. There is a display of some of the children’s work in the MacKillop Room. The children shared a feast day cake at the end of the celebrations.  

The grounds are looking beautiful again thanks to the hard work of a fabulous group of parents, parishioners and friends. We spent just 2 hours on Sunday weeding, planting, watering, trimming and sweeping in the school and church grounds. Thank you to the following families for your fabulous spirit of generosity: Towell, Grady, Moore, Rose, Shannon, Whale, Henderson. We were assisted by Sisters Brigid and Mary, Mark and Jane Smith, Kay Burgess, Andrew Luke and Jo and Tony O’Brien. Many hands make light work. At the conclusion of the work we shared a beautiful morning tea as well as a cake for Sr Brigid’s significant birthday.  

Last week work was done on the homework policy to make it more meaningful and manageable for students, teachers and parents. The process of formulating this new policy has been inclusive of parents and teachers. The result is a very meaningful policy which I urge all parents to read and support. The new policy was launched at yesterday’s P&F meeting and has been sent home today as well as located on the school website for easy reference.  

A new policy is being written to guide the process of offering and conducting special reading programs to students within the school. All trial phases for MiniLit and MultiLit have now been completed. The results for most students have been extremely pleasing. The new policy will set out clear conditions for offering these programs to students experiencing reading difficulties and also clear guidelines on the commitment required from students and families on these programs. We hope this will help maximize the benefits of the programs which we fund from school resources but would otherwise cost many hundreds of dollars if offered by an independent agency.  

This afternoon, all teachers will travel to different schools after the school day has finished to collaborate with their regional stage partners. They will share ideas...
This term I hope to work on the combined behavioural support/pastoral care/anti bullying policy. Again I urge interested parents to participate in the process. Your ideas and views are very much valued.

NAPLAN assessment will take place in week 3. All students in years 3 and 5 will participate in this testing. It is vitally important that your child is at school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of that week. "The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au."

Parent and teacher interviews were conducted in Term 1. I hope all parents who attended these interviews found them to be helpful. Parents asked for these additional interviews so that they had an early measure of their child’s progress. The formal interviews for first semester will be held in week 9 of this term. Please check your child’s progress. The formal interviews for first semester interviews so that they had an early measure of their

Your school...Did you know???

♦ All children at St Joseph’s Merriwa have access to Lexia. This is a very successful targeted reading program. Students access it at school as part of their literacy development and they can access it at home to consolidate their learning. Great achievements have been made using this program.

♦ Multi Lit and Mini Lit remedial reading programs are offered to students experiencing the need for extra literacy assistance.

♦ Every classroom and the library at St Joseph’s Merriwa has an interactive whiteboard which is used to assist students to become competent users of information technologies and to heighten their engagement with the curriculum. It assists in the explicit teaching strategies to groups/class of students.

♦ Every child at St Joseph’s school Merriwa has access to a laptop computer to use whenever his/her class is using digital learning tools.

Next week, 13th – 17th May, we are hosting a Scholastic Book Fair at the school. We will have a wide variety of books for all ages including a great range of fiction and information books at very reasonable prices. We invite all members of the community to come along and browse through our Book Fair – now is a great time to stock up on Christmas gifts! Commission earned on the sale of books will go towards new resources for our school library.

Student achievements:

♦ Several of our students competed at NSW Pony Club State Sporting and Campdraft Championships. Congratulations April Lawler, Clancy and Nicole Martin and Hannah Riley who had to achieve very high results to be selected for this competition and who competed very well at the event.

♦ Gulgong Eisteddfod results for dance were very pleasing. Eliza Peebles, Darcy Taaffe, Audrey Gill and Alissa Myers all qualified to dance and gave fabulous performances. Alissa gained a Highly commended in the jazz section, while Darcy and Audrey came third in the ballet section. Congratulations to all these great dancers.

If you would like to have your child’s special achievements mentioned in this newsletter please email the details in to school. In the busyness of school life I may not always remember details mentioned to me in passing. Please don’t take offence at this but rather email or write a note with the relevant details.
Events coming up this term, please make sure you have them marked on the calendar and feel very welcome to join us...

This Friday 10th May we will be celebrating a very important event— Mothers’ Day!
This is a special day where we especially remember our mums, those who are with us and some who are no longer with us. We also take time to think about people who are not mothers but show love and care to us just like mothers.

On Saturday night the 18th May we will be celebrating a very important feast day- Pentecost.
We would like invite you to be part of the parish Mass commencing at 6pm. Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. We will be encouraging students to actively take part in this celebration with their families and also to make an effort to wear red to Mass. This is the colour associated with Pentecost. This special feast day focusses on the events when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples heads in the forms of tongues of fire. The disciples were locked in a room afraid of what might happen to them as they were friends of Jesus. The Holy Spirit came and gave them special gifts to go out into the world to spread the message of Jesus and told them not to be afraid. This event also ends the Season of Easter.

Our last day of term (28th June) is when we hold our annual Vinnies Day - we ask children to bring in a gold coin donation which is given to our local St Vincent de Paul Society to assist locals in need. Also on this day we encourage all students (and staff) to have some fun and dress up in other people’s preloved clothes.

We have commenced the sacramental program for the year. The children will be working with the sacramental team and their parents and family to prepare for this special time in their lives. We ask that you pray for these students and please feel free to come and celebrate the sacraments with them. The children will be making their 1st reconciliation on Monday 3rd June at 3:30 in St. Anne’s Church and 1st Eucharist and Confirmation later in the year.

Anne Marie Peebles
REC
AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards in weeks 10, 11 and 1:

Kinder
Braeden Halse – for his beautiful handwriting
Alissa Myers – for her detailed narrative writing
Emily Rose – for her amazing knowledge about living and non-living things!
Toby Jamieson – for an amazing effort in all maths activities!
Emily Barwick – for her unreal knowledge about the Bible
Christian Cropper – for his amazing effort in his workbooks

1/2
Clayton Porter - for solving mathematical number problems
Darcy Taaffe - for trying hard in all she does
Mia Morgan - for fantastic effort in bookwork
Bobby Keegan - for great participation in English activities
Clayton Porter - for trying to improve his sprinting skills
Korey Halse - for outstanding spelling results

3/4
Tamara Sormaz – for always showing care and concern for others
Gaby Nicholls – for her excellent work in Reading groups.
Chloe Towell – for always displaying an excellent attitude to all her learning
Lauren Redgate – for her excellent work in Reading Groups
Rebecca Keegan - for her great work in Spelling groups
Tanja Sormaz – for her great effort in Writing activities

5/6
Tamasyn McNaught – for a fantastic attitude to school and being a wonderful, compassionate school leader
Clancy Moore – for creating and presenting an awesome PowerPoint on Sir Donald Bradman
Eliza Peebles - for creating and presenting a fabulous PowerPoint on Sidney Nolan
Britnee Attenborough - a comprehensive and consistent approach to all areas of school work
Hannah Riley - for helpful nature in the classroom

Playground Champion:
Phoenix Dening – for playing cooperatively in the sandpit

Principal’s Awards:
Nicholas Morgan - for being a fabulous helper around the school and for making very wise choices
Eliza Peebles – for her fabulous public speaking skills displayed at the Rotary meeting
Oliver Towell and Tamasyn McNaught for stepping up to the leadership plate so well and being involved in extra school functions.

SCHOOL HORSE SPORTS

On the 25th March 16 students represented our school at Blandford Horse Sports.
A great day was had by all with all of our students demonstrating a wonderful sense of good sportsmanship. Many of our riders placed in several events during the morning riding classes and in the afternoon sporting events. A special congratulations goes to Clancy Martin who won the Champion 11yr boy rider and Emily Ninness who won Highest Point Scoring rider of the day.
A very big thankyou to the parents who assisted in running Diamond Flag with me!

Gulgong Horse Sports will be held on the 24th of June. Entry forms have been sent home today and are also available on our website. All entries need to be returned to the school by Tuesday 28th May.

Reminder: All Horse Sports days are run under Pony Club Association of NSW Regulations. For those students who are wishing to enter in Gulgong Horse Sports, Roper or Dogger style boots are permitted to ONLY be worn for sporting (and campdrafting) with riding trousers (ie not jodhpurs) as per the PCANSW Blue Book found at http://www.pcansw.org.au/site/ponyclub/image/Fullsize/80026.jpg. Competitors, for the riding classes, must wear a pair of short Jodhpur boots defined as “elastic sided, reasonably smooth, fully soled and uppers that may incorporate a zipper but no laces or buckles”.

Samantha Kerr
7th May 2013

Dear Parents,

A spelling bee is a contest in which participants are asked to spell words in a round-robin format, where each person gets a turn to spell a word that is suitable for his or her level. Spelling Bees are a fun and easy way to engage children in the learning process, to help develop their spelling and vocabulary, and to give them the confidence to test their skills against their peers, in a friendly competition.

The Spelling Bee is similar to the Public Speaking Competition. During the Spelling Bee the word will be given to the student, the student then repeats the word, spells the word and says the word again! Students will have the opportunity to participate in the Spelling Bee at:

1. **Stage Level:** Students from each stage will compete against students in their own stage: Early Stage 1, Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3. These Spelling Bees will occur in class during Week 3 (May 12th - May 17th 2013). Four students from each Stage (or classroom) will be selected to be a finalist in the School Spelling Bee.

2. **School Level:** The School Spelling Bee will be held on Friday 17th May 2013 at 12 noon. Parents are most welcome to attend The School Spelling Bee. Each winner from Stage 1-3 will then compete at the Regional Level.

3. **Regional Level:** The Regional Spelling Bee Final will be held Term 2, Week 4 - Tuesday 22nd May 2013 at 5.30pm at St James, Muswellbrook.

The word lists attached to this letter are the lists that will be used for each Stage Level in the Spelling Bee. You might like to review these words with your child. Students could prepare for the Spelling Bee by:

1. Doing Look Say Cover Write Check!
2. Using this fun website with spelling activities and fun games to help practice for the spelling bee: [http://www.ozspeller.com/](http://www.ozspeller.com/)
3. Having your own Spelling Bee at home using the words from the lists. Say the word to the student, the student then repeats the word, spells the word and say the word again!

We hope this is a positive experience for your child. We encourage all students to participate and to do their best during the classroom competitions.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child participating please contact Tanya Ninness (coordinator) or your child’s class teacher.

Regards

Tanya Ninness
Mother’s Day:
Breakfast orders are due tomorrow (Wednesday). We would love help from our dads to make this a special event for our wonderful mums.
Mother’s Day stall will be held on Thursday. Remember to send in money for your child to purchase a Mother’s Day gift(s) between $1 and $5.

Parents and Friend’s Meetings:
We have had a very small attendance at P&F meetings this year. On a number of occasions we have not had enough parent representation to continue with the meetings. The P&F meeting is a wonderful opportunity for parents to work in partnership with the school for the benefit of the children. It is also a great opportunity to meet and get to know the other wonderful parents at the school. We realise that the timing may no longer suit the current parent body so next month we will hold the meeting at 4.30pm. Please try to come along to the MacKillop Room. Refreshments will be served and children will be babysat.

Where can you help??
The St Joseph’s Junior Campdraft and Fete will be held on the 29th June 2013. This is approximately 8 weeks away. We need lots of help to ensure this event is a success! Please complete the form below indicating you willingness to assist! Everyone is needed on the day. This is our primary fund raiser for the year - unlike every other year there is no St Joseph’s BBQ to man at the Festival of the Fleeces, there is only one street stall and no mother’s day luncheon or bi annual fete. This is the ONE BIG EVENT of the year and we ask all parents to put their hand up to help for at least a couple of hours over the weekend.

Please fill in where you would prefer to help out and return to school.

Name:..............................................................................................................................

Phone:.............................................................................................................................

☐ Setting up Friday- erecting safety fences and panels, setting up sporting ring, setting up canteen, erecting marquees, setting up tables and chairs, setting up steak hut

☐ Canteen on Saturday

☐ Assisting in the 2nd Ring on Saturday to run sporting events, help with sporting events

☐ Pack up and clean up on Sunday

☐ Fete section of the day running stalls and assisting with stalls on Saturday

☐ Where ever I am needed

☐ Cooking cakes, slices etc. before the day

☐ Provide a trailer load of fire wood for the community camp fire

Organisation of the campdraft/horse side of things is well under control.

There will be a meeting organised shortly to discuss and organise the fete activities.
Next P&F meeting
3rd 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 Brazier, Hourn & Wright 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 3rd April—Steven Hourn, Brad Pittman & Hayley Rogers and from 10th April —Patricia Jancovich & Vic Shannon

Town Soccer for students aged 10+ years
Do you need something active and social to do on a Saturday morning? Scone Soccer has organised a 6-a-side competition for students aged 10+ years, to be played in Scone each week. Games are at either 9.30am or 10.30am and last for 50 minutes. Come along and have a “social” game of soccer without having to travel too far! For more information contact Lesley on 0415-958478.

NEEDED ...
A donation of a large WHEAT HEAT BAG for educational purposes (the type you warm in the microwave for injuries and muscle stiffness).

If you have one you would be willing to donate please drop it into the school or call Tanya on 6548 2035.

Please accept our sincere thanks for the prayers offered for our little Isla and our family.
The knowledge that we had so many kind, caring people praying on our behalf really helped us through a very challenging time.
Thank you so much for your generosity, we are blessed to know you, and be a part of such a great community.
“Those blessings are sweetest that are won with prayer and worn with thanks.” – Thomas Goodwin
Kind regards,
The Moore family