Marquet Street, MERRIWA NSW 2329  
Phone: (02) 6548 2035  
Fax: (02) 6548 2782  
Email: admin@merriwa.catholic.edu.au  
Tuesday 17th September 2013

St Joseph’s Primary School  
School News

September / October 2013

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<td>3.30 Sacramental mtg</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation 9.30 - 11.30</td>
<td>Library Canteen Gymnastics UH Public Speaking Final</td>
<td>Environmental workshops</td>
<td>Last day Term 3 MISSION DAY</td>
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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 23/9/13 - 7/10/13 INCLUSIVE

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<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>Students &amp; Staff return for Term 4</td>
<td>Library Canteen</td>
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<td>Cassilis Sports Workshop</td>
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<td>Mass 8.30</td>
<td>3.30 Sacramental mtg</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting 4.30pm</td>
<td>Library Canteen</td>
<td>School Play 6.00pm School of Arts</td>
<td>Helen - CSO</td>
<td>Mass 6.00</td>
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<td>PUPIL FREE DAY Staff Development</td>
<td>22/10</td>
<td>Library, Canteen Sacramental practise 3.30pm</td>
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5/6 SCHOOL EXCURSION - CANBERRA

REFLECTION

May God bless us with eyes that see the needy in our world.  
May God bless us with courage to seek justice and peace.  
May God bless us with generosity to share what we have.  
May God bless us with love to see Christ in each other.
**From the Acting Principal . . .**

**What a fantastic term we have had.**

We started the term with our annual Open Day and NAIDOC Week celebrations. Other events which have occurred this term include: Debating, UHCM Percussion Concert, Grandparents and National Tree Planting Day, Richard Cootes visit from Mission Australia, Netball Gala Day, commencement of the Kindergarten Transition Program, Merriwa Horse Sports, Aberdeen Music Day, School Gymnastics Program, ASPIRE concert, Book Week activities and parade, Little Sprouts Day, School Speech Day, Father’s Day Breakfast, liturgy and activities and 5/6 publication in the Newcastle Herald Competition to name a few. Plus staff members have continued to attend professional development days in areas of Literacy, Information Technology, New Curriculum and working with members of the Catholic Schools Office focussing on literacy and numeracy.

During this week we will continue to see wonderful opportunities as we send eight students to St James’ Muswellbrook on Wednesday to compete in the Upper Hunter Public Speaking Competition – good luck! We will also participate in an environmental workshop on Thursday and conclude the term on Friday with our annual Mission day - the focus for the day is “Sock it to Poverty”.

**Mission Day - Out of Uniform and bring money to spend!!!!!!**

This Friday we will be holding our annual Mission Day. This is a day where we think of others not as fortunate as ourselves and donate to a worthy cause. Richard Cootes visited us earlier this term to inform us about the focus for this year. Stage three has been busy organising some fantastic activities for the day based around the theme of Socktober. Activities so far include – Crazy Sock day- come dressed in crazy socks, Rock Your Socks Off dance party, sock relays to see who can put a number of socks on in the shortest time, decorating socks- bring a sock you want to decorate and many more activities. Bring a gold coin donation to come out of uniform plus some extra money to participate in the other activities. All activities will commence at 12:00pm after a special Mission Day Liturgy and assembly - all are very welcome to join in the fun!

**Gymnastics**

Gymnastics lessons concluded this Wednesday (tomorrow) and it has been wonderful to see how the students have enjoyed these sessions and have developed a variety of different skills and improved and consolidated skills they already knew. Well done everyone for a great effort. We would like to invite parents to attend the last session of gymnastics. Times are 3/4 - 9:15; Kinder - 10:00; 1/2 - 12:00 and 5/6 - 12:45

**Cassilis Sports Day**

On Friday 11th October (1st Friday back) we are all looking forward to heading to the Cassilis Sports Day. Students are reminded to wear sports uniform and hat and bring plenty of water. Thank you for returning notes and lunch orders so promptly. Please note for this week only (1st week of term), normal school uniform will be worn on Wed 9th and sports uniform on Fri 11th October.

**School Play**

As mentioned previously we are currently working on our school play. This year the play will be Joseph and His Technicolour Coat - commencing at 6pm at the School of Arts on Wednesday 16th October. All family and community members most welcome to attend.

**Costumes for the Play**

Students who are in the chorus- Jeans with a plain coloured shirt, no writing or images – this includes all kinder, year one and two and some year three and four. Brothers and Jacob - white cattle dust coats
(we have had these kindly donated to us by St Joseph’s Aberdeen) and a coloured sash (eg a cord from around a dressing gown) plus a tea towel around their head with a cord.

Narrators- jeans and white shirt
Prisoners, Baker, Butler, Prison Guards- jeans and white shirt
Pharaoh, Pharaoh’s wife, Potiphar, Potiphar’s Wife - jeans and white shirt.

Samaritan Boxes
Mrs Bowman visited on Monday afternoon to speak to the children about the importance of the Samaritan boxes. Please remember to bring in donations for the Samaritan Boxes by the end of this week. What a wonderful way to help others and spread the message of Jesus all over the world.

Smoking
This is a reminder to all that smoking is not permitted in many outdoor public places, including school grounds. This ban extends to areas near the entrance to schools. There is a penalty of $550 for anyone who fails to comply with the law.

Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy
The Catholic Schools Office has published a new “Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy”. A pathway of the action to be taken has been included in this newsletter and copies have been placed in the front foyer for you to view. Please be aware of this Policy and follow the procedure if the need arises. Remember we are always very happy to hear from you and work with you to achieve the best outcome.

Have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to hearing about Helen and Mark’s adventures on Helen’s return to school next term.

Anne Marie Peebles

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards in weeks 8 & 9:

Kindergarten
Pia Henderson - for her knowledge of 2D shapes!
Ava Peel - for working so hard in literacy activities
Cody Bates - for his work ethic across all learning activities
Emily Barwick - for her interest in our Religion lessons
Harry Cook - for always having a go at gymnastics
Annalyse Blyton - for her beautiful drawing in Art

1/2
Jock Grady - for thinking and making good choices
Patrick McLaren - for pushing himself to reach great things in literacy groups
Bobby Keegan - for active participation in class
Jack Shannon - for working well during reading groups and being a good role model
Madelaine Thrift - for being very helpful in the classroom

3/4
Jorji Taaffe - for always being a great role model to everyone in 3/4
Emily Ninness - for her fantastic work ethic in all aspects of her learning.

Camdyn Constable - for his great effort in Creative Writing
Rhys Turner - for his great focus and settled approach in class

5/6
Tamasyn McNaught - for writing a fantastic Narrative using descriptive language
Oliver Towell - for a super effort in Maths resulting in an improved understanding of fractions
Clancy Martin - for participating well in Maths lessons and improving his skills in Data

Playground Champion:
Alissa Myers - for enjoying and having fun on the playground
Kade Attenborough - for participating well in bull rush game

Principal’s Awards:
Amy Redgate - for always looking for ways to help others
Ty Riley - for a fantastic effort during play practice
This Friday, Year 5/6 will be hosting **Mission Day activities**. Come out of uniform – it will cost you a gold coin.

This World Mission Month, students in Catholic schools across Australia are invited to reach out to children who are homeless and in desperate need in Mongolia and throughout the world. By fundraising for Catholic Mission students can help ‘Sock it to homelessness’ and build the Church in Mongolia and in the most remote areas all across the world.

In Mongolia the winters are long and harsh, with temperatures often dropping to below 40 degrees Celsius. Due to widespread poverty many parents are unable to care for their children and provide them with food, clothing and a safe, warm place to live.

Soko, was once homeless. She was forced to live underground to stay alive, seeking warmth from the harsh winters next to the scorching hot water pipes that run beneath the country’s capital, Ulaanbaatar. Like Soko, her friend Oldoh also had no real place to call home. He was abandoned in front of a hospital.

Students can ‘Sock it to homelessness’ and build the Church in Mongolia by fundraising for Catholic Mission and help children like Soko and Oldoh.

Fundraising is an excellent way for students to reach out to children in Mongolia, and around the world, and help build God’s Church. When you raise money for Catholic Mission, the money goes directly to support children in need.

As part of nurturing the Catholic identity of your community, the Bishops and Directors of Diocesan School Administration have asked every Catholic school in Australia to support Catholic Mission’s work with children. This is vital in helping raise funds for children in need, providing them with shelter, health, nutrition and education.

Many activities have been organised and it is sure to be a fun day. The most anticipated activity will be the Sockticle Course and the Sock Off.

REMEMBER THIS IS AN OUT OF UNIFORM DAY. CHILDREN MAY COME IN PLAIN CLOTHES FOR A GOLD COIN DONATION. NORMAL RULES APPLY—SENSIBLE COVERED SHOES AND HAT. BUT REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CRAZY SOCKS ON AND BRING A SOCK TO DECORATE!
Learning Support News

We are very lucky to have funding to provide a Learning Support Assistant to assist with the learning needs of students.

Students who work with our Learning Support Assistant, Cassandra McLaren, are very fortunate as they receive customised learning opportunities either one to one or in small groups. During this time students participate in activities that support their learning in the classroom.

Students working with Mrs McLaren have a responsibility to:
- Be prepared (with glasses, pencils etc)
- Arriving promptly to the session and returning promptly to the classroom
- Try their hardest (ready to listen, follow instructions and complete set work)
- Complete any homework
- Be at school everyday
- Behave in a positive manner
- Have a positive attitude toward the program
- Be careful not to disrupt other students

Parents of students working with Mrs McLaren have the responsibility of supporting the school by:
- Sending the student to school everyday
- Assisting with the completion of homework and handing it in on time
- Supporting the program
- Liaising with the school as required

We have limited Learning Support Assistant time and it is very valuable. As such, time with Mrs McLaren is only allocated to those students who can uphold their responsibilities. Any student in breach of their responsibilities will be spoken to by the classroom teacher or the Learning Support Teacher and a record of their behaviour will be recorded. Consistent breaches of these responsibilities will result in a phone call to parents and a review of the student’s participation in such programs will occur.

The Learning Support timetable has been reviewed for term 4. Time has been allocated to students who have continued to uphold their responsibilities and still need assistance. If you have any queries or concerns please feel free to discuss this with me.

Tanya Ninness, Learning Support Teacher
CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Catholic Schools Office promotes an absolute commitment to the safety, welfare and well-being of all children, particularly those attending the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

"Protecting children is one of our most sacred trusts." (Bishop Bill Wright, 2012)

Diocesan schools comply with a range of state legislation designed to protect children, including:
- The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- The Ombudsman Act 1974 (Part 3A)

There are also key Church guidelines that promote the protection of children, including:
- Towards Healing: Principles and procedures in responding to complaints of abuse against personnel of the Catholic Church in Australia (2010)

The Catholic Schools Office has specific policies and standards to heighten the protection of children, including:
- The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Reporting Child Protection Concerns Policy
- Child Protection Code of Professional Standards for Catholic School Employees

In 2005 the Diocese established a centralised, expert child protection team, now known as the Diocesan Child Protection Unit, which oversees child protection practices in all Catholic schools in the Diocese, as well as providing a range of preventative services and responding to allegations of abuse.

You can contact the Diocesan Child Protection Unit on (Ph. 4579 1390), or find out about it at: http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/bishop/dapcu.htm

PREVENTION IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

Screening
Catholic Schools Office is working with the Office of the Children’s Guardian to implement the new Working with Children Check (‘Check’). Before anybody is employed in ‘child-related work’ (as either a paid employee, self-employed or volunteer), they must have a valid Check. Catholic Schools Office verifies the person’s status through an online service provided by the Children’s Guardian before they are allowed to commence work.

Any person who is considered to be a great risk to remain in child-related work, will be barred. Barred persons will not be allowed to work in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

There is a phased roll-out of the new Check for existing employees, that is due to be completed by 31 December 2017.

Training
The Catholic Schools Office requires that all permanently employed staff complete a full day of child protection training presented by the Diocesan Child Protection Unit. Casual staff are required to complete a half-day training course. Further, principals and assistant principals provide regular child protection updates and reminders as part of the schools in-service training and professional development.

In terms one and two of 2012 the Catholic Schools Office and the Diocesan Child Protection Unit provided a full day refresher in child protection for all Diocesan schools.

RESPONSE IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

Reporting
Staff in Diocesan schools are mandatory reporters. This means they are lawfully required to report to the Community Services Helpline if they have reasonable grounds to suspect a child is at risk of significant harm from abuse or neglect and those grounds are identified in the course of, or from the person’s work. Also the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Reporting Child Protection Concerns Policy obliges all members of the Diocese to report any child protection concerns to their supervisor or Principal to be assessed as possible risk of significant harm reports to the Helpline.

The Diocesan Child Protection Unit and School Principals will contact NSW Police if they believe a criminal act has occurred.

As parents of children attending a Diocesan school you are encouraged to discuss any child protection concerns you have with your child’s principal. If you believe the matter is not being addressed appropriately, you have the right to contact the Diocesan Child Protection Unit to discuss your concerns.

As parents you also have the right to report your concerns to the Community Services Helpline or NSW Police at any time you believe it necessary.

Investigating
All allegations of child abuse or neglect are taken seriously by the Diocese.

Where the alleged conduct involves a person associated with Catholic Schools Office or a Diocesan school, including employees and volunteers, then the allegations are investigated at a level commensurate with the seriousness of the allegations.

Where an alleged conduct is minor, the Principal of the school, oversigned by the Diocesan Child Protection Unit, may undertake a local investigation. Where the alleged conduct is more serious, a trained investigator from the Diocesan Child Protection Unit will conduct the investigation. This may involve oversight by the NSW Ombudsman.

When there is an allegation made a thorough risk assessment is conducted and appropriate safety measures are put in place.

If your child is a witness or otherwise involved in such an investigation, the Diocesan Child Protection Unit will contact you as the parent, explain what is happening and request your permission to interview your child. The Diocesan Child Protection Unit prefers to interview your child at home with you present.

Child protection investigations are confidential. As parents you will only be advised of an investigation or the outcome of an investigation if there is a legitimate need to know.

Prepared by the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle | Diocesan Services (c. August 201)
St. Joseph’s P&F Association

Next P&F meeting
14th October 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 . . . THANK YOU . . .
to the Ninness & Parker 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 — Tash Taaffe, Jodie Wilton, Emma Henderson & Heidi Grady.

REMINDER
Summer uniform orders are now due. Please send your order form in to the school office or contact Leanne Hunt on 0487 761523

Merriwa Little Athletics ‘Come and Try’ Day
It’s nearly time to get the shorts and running shoes on as Merriwa Little Athletics kick’s off for another season on Monday 14 October, Term 4.

We are delighted to host a ‘Come and Try’ day in the second week of the school holidays. Get a snap shot of what Little Athletics is like and learn from one of the Department of Sport and Recreation’s professional coaches! Bookings are essential. See below for contact information.

We will also be taking registrations for the 2013/14 season, so get along to Little A’s normal venue, No. 2 Merriwa Oval (Brisbane Street), from 10am to 12 noon on Friday 4 October these holidays.

To book your place at the Come and Try Day go online to http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/active/whatson.asp?region=hunter or email Tash Taaffe at tashholden@bigpond.com for a copy of the forms or call Tash on 6548 5002 to find out more. Bookings to this event are essential.

CANTEEN ROSTER
18th Sep Mel Bates & Jodie Magner
Term 4 - to be advised

BUS ROSTER
5th-6th Oct Peebles family
12th-13th Oct Myers family
19th-20th Oct Porter family
26th-27th Oct Redgate family

Cancer Council NSW
Nutrition Snippet
The simplest way
to make two meals out of one
Save time on dinner by cooking a larger portion size + using leftovers the night after.

Ingredients
2 onions diced, 4 carrots grated, 600g lean beef mince, 600g frozen spinach, chopped and defrosted, 4x 400g cans no added salt chopped tomatoes, 200ml skim milk, 200g instant lasagna sheets, 250g reduced fat ricotta cheese, ½ cup grated parmesan

Method
Preheat oven to 180C. Fry onions and carrots on medium heat. Set aside with spinach. Cook mince until browned. Add vegetables and 3 cans of tomatoes. Simmer for 8-10 mins. Refrigerate half the mixture for tomorrow nights dinner: Spag Boli
Layer an ovenproof dish with ¼ of mince mixture. Combine remaining canned tomato with milk, drizzle ⅛ over mince layer. Cover with pasta sheet. Repeat for 4 layers. Spread remaining milky tomato sauce on final pasta layer and sprinkle with cheeses. Cook in oven for 20 mins. Serves 4
The next night; bring spaghetti to the boil and cook until al dente. Serve with Bolognese sauce. Yummm!

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

Eat It To Beat It

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