**St Joseph’s Primary School**

**School News**

Tuesday 4th March 2014

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**March 2014**

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<td>Blandford Horse Sports</td>
<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass 9.15am Library, Sport Canteen Lenten Program</td>
<td>Staff Asthma Training</td>
<td>World Day of Prayer 7pm Holy Trinity Church</td>
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<td>3.30 Sacraments Information Session</td>
<td>Pancake Tuesday</td>
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<td>CSW Open Classrooms 1pm-2pm Shared Recess Liturgy &amp; Assembly 2.30pm</td>
<td>Yr 6 - CSW Mass Newcastle 3.30pm Sacramental Session</td>
<td>Library Sport Canteen Parent afternoon tea 2pm Caroline’s Café</td>
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<td>3/4 Mass 12.00</td>
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<td>3.30pm Sacramental Session</td>
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<td>St Joseph’s Day Library, Sport Canteen - Harmony Day lunch Parish/School dinner</td>
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<td>Senior Citizens Concert RSL 10.45</td>
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**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Week 9

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**REFLECTION**

Jesus, divine Teacher, you have blessed us with many wonderful people in our lives. Today we thank you for the teachers and support staff.

We thank not only for what they do, but more importantly, how they do it.

We thank you for their care, concern, guidance, and love; for their academic contributions and extracurricular contributions.

May they know that their example of faith and concern has tremendous impact on our lives.

Grant them peace and strength, now and always.

Amen.
From the Principal...

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) will be celebrated by St Joseph’s School Merriwa and all Catholic schools in NSW and ACT from 9-15 March 2014.

The theme for CSW 2014 is ‘more than a great education’ which encourages schools to showcase for their local community the opportunities available to students, raise awareness, and celebrate the distinctiveness of Catholic schools.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community, by showcasing what happens in our classrooms every day.

Our school will be celebrating in the following ways:

- **Commissioning of the Year 6 leaders and the staff of the school at Mass** on Sunday 9th March at 8.30am followed by shared morning tea in the MacKillop Room. This is an important Mass as the Year 6 leaders commit themselves to the challenge of leading the students in the school in 2014 and they are presented with their leaders’ badges. The staff members from the school pledge before the assembled congregation to do all in their power to provide quality education in our school.

- **Visiting our open classrooms** on Monday 10th March between 1-2pm to work with your children in the Literacy and/or Numeracy sessions. Bring a snack to share with your child for recess at 2pm and then join us for a special CSW Liturgy at 2.30pm in the MacKillop Room.

- **Viewing the school display** in the shopping centre and learn how our Catholic schools offer more than a great education.

- **Parent’s afternoon tea/get together** at Carolyn’s café 2pm. All parents, grandparents and carers welcome.

These are ideal opportunities to support the community of St Joseph's Primary School, Merriwa and learn more about the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day.

Our school has a supportive community of teachers, parents, carers, P&F, clergy, parishioners and support staff who work together to focus on giving students the best education possible, encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of St Joseph’s Primary School, Merriwa and I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you throughout the week from 9-15 March. Australian Catholic Superannuation are proud supporters of Catholic Schools Week 2014.

Our Year 6 leaders, Ty Riley, Clancy Moore and Eliza Peebles, will accompany Mrs Peebles to The Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hamilton on Tuesday to join with school leaders from across the diocese to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools Week also marks the opening of the enrolment period for the 2015 school year. If you have a child ready to start school next year, or you know someone who does, please call the school to arrange for an interview and enrolment package.

Catholic schools enrol about 20 per cent of Australian school students. There are 615 Catholic Primary and Secondary schools across NSW and the ACT, providing quality education in a faith-centred environment.

Catholic schools teach the same curriculum as government schools. Expectations of achievement and conduct are high. With a strong focus on the individual, a broad curriculum caters for a wide range of interests and abilities.

Catholic schools offer highly qualified and professional teachers who cater to the diverse learning needs of our students.

Parents and Friends Association is a wonderful group that supports our children’s education by supporting the school. Membership in the P&F is free and it gives every parent the opportunity to make friends, be an active part of our school community and to gain an understanding of the culture of the school. The Annual General Meeting of the P&F is this Wednesday night. Please show your support and come
along at 6pm in the MacKillop Room. Child minding is available at school.

What a privilege it was again to host Andrew Chinn. The students, teachers, parents and friends who attended were captivated as he sang and danced spreading God’s message. I think the photos show the fun that was had on the day. If you wish to purchase any of his music simply visit the website listed below. Also I have included part of his blog about his trip to Merriwa. We look forward to Andrew’s next visit where we can all use the ‘pick me smile’ and the special butterfly bows he taught us.

From Andrew Chinn’s webpage: 
www.butterflymusic.com.au

February 25: St Joseph’s in Merriwa then St Joseph’s in Denman: I’ve seen some amazing things on my early morning drives. Saw this balloon on sunrise this morning on my way out to St Joseph’s at Merriwa, where I’ve been visiting for about ten years. Anne-Marie Peebles does such a good job there with RE, music and liturgy. And it’s great to see dancing principals - well done Helen!

Merriwa Central School RO AR members and also ex-students of St Joseph’s - John and Luke Cronin, Bailey McNaught and William Taylor visited our school to work with the primary students. This one hour session was much appreciated by the students and we would like to thank the boys for their time and enthusiasm and Mr Adam Johnson for his effort in organising such a great event. We look forward to seeing the ROAR representatives again next term.

Clean Up Australia Day activities were postponed last Friday due to the wet weather. The Upper Hunter Shire Council provided a BBQ which we will hold until our rescheduled day next week. Thank you to Phoebe and the Upper Hunter Shire Council.

Blandford Horse Sports was held yesterday (Monday) and we congratulate Emily Ninness, Ty Riley and Nicole Martin on their great efforts. The horse skills were exemplary and we were most impressed by the numerous reports of their fantastic sportsmanship.

Helen Whale

The Catholic school fulfils a service of national usefulness. It guarantees cultural and educational pluralism.

In the Catholic school there is no separation between time for learning and time for formation.
Today is **Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Tuesday)**. This is an old tradition and people used it to prepare for Lent's fasting, some people cooked all the meat they had. Another custom on this day is to ‘feast’ on pancakes to use up all the supplies of flour and eggs. It is a day of happiness and rejoicing with food.

The following day is **Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent** which lasts for forty days. Year 1-6 will be attending the parish Mass at 9:15am on Wednesday and you are very welcome to join us. Kindergarten will be having a prayer service where the ashes will be distributed in their classroom at 1:10pm - due to the Healthy Harold visit on Wednesday.

Lent is traditionally a time of prayer and fasting in preparation for the celebration of Easter. However, with young children, our focus is more on reflecting upon our lives and being more like Jesus- A time when we remember Jesus’ love and concern for others.

Eg. I play soccer...I could be more like Jesus by being kind to my team mates and not getting angry with them. I read books ... I could be more like Jesus by reading a story to my younger brother and sister each night.

The family activities that are suggested for Lent are offered to your whole family. They are intended as beginning ideas that your family may like to select from and further develop to suit the needs of your family.

Lent is an important growing time for us all, please encourage your child to share with his/her teacher and class the activities that your family is doing to get ready for Jesus' Resurrection. During the Season of Lent the children will be studying a Lenten/Easter unit from our Religious Education Programme.

**Suggestions For Family Activities For the Season of Lent**

- Prepare a special ‘peace and quiet’ space together. Place a bible, missal or special book of prayers there. Make or choose a candle to go there. Soften the space with cushions, pot plants, a drape of material for the bible. Keep in mind the purple colour of Lent. Come to agreement that whenever someone is in the ‘peace and quiet’ space they will not be disturbed.

- At the beginning of Lent spend a quiet time together when each member of the family thinks of how they would like to change during Lent. Each person could write or draw this on a piece of paper, which is then burnt. Place the ashes in the ‘peace and quiet’ space.

- Decide together the things your family will go without during Lent. Place a project compassion box in the quiet space. Each week put in the savings from things your family has gone without. Project Compassion boxes have been sent home today. More are available in the church or just let one of the staff at school know and we can arrange to send another one home.

- Agree to share some quiet Lenten meals together.

- Share some of the psalms for the family prayer.

- Make forgiving each other and asking for forgiveness a focus during Lent.

- Collect favourite quotes, poetry, photos, newspapers pictures or stories. Each member of the family could add to the collection.

- Focus on the sign of the cross for prayer. Make it slow and thoughtful.

- During Holy Week decorate eggs together. Prepare the house for Easter.

- Share hot cross buns on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Talk about the meaning of the cross.

Anne Marie Peebles
REC

**The Catholic School offers young people the means to acquire the knowledge they need in order to find a place in society.**
AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners:

Kindergarten
Ellie Holland – for describing many things that move.
Levi Hourn – for a great effort in Literacy.
Nate Brown – for predicting events in stories so well!
Claudia Patterson – for her very settled approach to her school work.

1/2
Ava Peel – Great work using MS Paint to create a picture to go with the story Imaginitis
Mia Morgan – Great work using MS Paint to create a picture to go with the story Imaginitis
Phoenix Denning – For working well and remembering our school rules
Bobby Keegan – Great effort in writing activities

3/4
Korey Halse – for his great bookwork
Piper Cropper – for her positive contribution to class discussions.
Will Henderson – for working well in Reading groups.
Damian Jamieson – for his great work in Mathematics.

5/6
Clancy Moore – for writing a super Narrative following the correct structure
Eliza Peebles – for writing a fabulous Narrative following correct structure
Tanja Sormaz – for her remarkable results in Spelling tests
Rhys Turner – for volunteering to set up National Anthem each Monday

Playground Champion:
Helena Parker – for always being friendly on the playground
Toby Jamieson – for being eager to participate in Daily PE activities

Principal’s Awards:
Madelaine Thrift and Korey Halse: For very good quality English bookwork.
John Magner: For showing maturity and responsibility in his actions, especially in relation to the younger children in the school.

Happy Birthday to the following members of our school community who will be celebrating their birthday in the next two weeks...

Mia Morgan

Catholic Schools have been a major component of Australian Education for over 175 years.
The Catholic school is part of the evangelising mission of the church.

PARISH – SCHOOL DINNER

ON Wednesday 19th March, we will be holding our annual Parish-School Dinner at Merriwa RSL Club. This is a great opportunity for us to celebrate our community of Catholic faith.

We would love you to join us for the evening. Please contact John Lannen at the school for more information and bookings.

The evening will commence at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. As in previous years we will hold a trivia quiz throughout the night.

Further details including cost will be available next week.

The promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Clare Martin, Pauline Lawler, Mel Bates & Jodie Magner.

Next P&F meeting
Annual General Meeting
5th March 2014
at 6.00pm
in the MacKillop Room

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 families who gave up some of their valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus in recent weeks.

The Catholic school is part of the evangelising mission of the church.