God was good to all of us-
He gave us hands to pray.
He gave us faith to fill our hearts
And guide us on our way.
He gave us food and shelter
To protect us from the storm.
He gave us too, a golden sun
To keep us nice and warm.
He gave us flowers for beauty.

He gave us birds for song.
He gave us smiles and humour
To help when things go wrong.
And then for love he gave the gift
Apart from any other...
God was good to all of us-
He gave us each our Mother!
I hope you all enjoyed your Easter break however you spent it. We continue to be in the Liturgical season of Easter and as such we focus on the hope that we have been gifted with through the resurrection of Jesus. Pope Francis has pointed out in his writings and speeches that we are an Easter people and we are charged with the responsibility of proclaiming the joy of the Gospel as told in the teachings of our Lord. Let us pray that we all try hard to spread the Good News of God’s kingdom to our children so that the world continues to be inspired by hope and love.

We remember in our prayers this week Sr Mary Jackson who suffered a stroke on Easter Sunday; Sr Brigid who awaits further medical treatment; Matthew Cronin who continues to heal from his broken leg and Mrs Ninness who has been sick this week. May God hold them all gently in his palm.

We are delighted to share the news of baby Anna Louise Thompson, sister for Seth (Year 1) and daughter for Greg and Katie. We wish the family every blessing at this special time.

Welcome to Miss Paige Farrow who began teaching Stage 2 (Year 3/4) last week. The students are enjoying their new teacher as much as she is enjoying them. We wish Paige a very happy association with our school. Paige was formally introduced to the parent community at this week’s Parents and Friends Meeting.

We welcome Alyra (Kindergarten) and Lincoln (Year 3) Bannerman and their parents Carly and Rob to our school community. We hope we share a long and fruitful association with you.

Thank you to all volunteers who helped at our working bee on Sunday. It was cold enough but the atmosphere was warm and busy. We managed to get a good number of jobs completed. The old wooden seating has been removed, a pin board erected outside Year 5/6 classroom, all gardens weeded and mulched, photos taken and morning tea served. Thanks to the families who couldn’t help on the day but dropped off some mulch for the gardens.

The Diocesan Cross Country Carnival will be held this Wednesday at Tarro. Thank you to all the parents who are accompanying students to the carnival. Mr Morris will be the team teacher. We have 18 children who will be representing our school as they compete in this event. Best wishes to all those students.

Happy Mother’s Day to all the mums and grandmothers in our school community. You have a very special role in continuing to build God’s kingdom and we appreciate all that you do. We look forward to sharing breakfast with you on Friday and hope to see many mums and grandmothers at our Liturgy and activity session following breakfast.

Mrs Whale’s Master Writing Class has been going very well. We have entered our first writing competition with Chloe Towell winning first prize and Darcy Moore gaining a highly commended. This term we are having fun with poetry and dabbling in some newspaper journalism as well.

NAPLAN testing will be conducted with all students in Years 3 and 5 next week. Please ensure your child is at school every day as this testing provides us with great diagnostic information with which to plan future learning experiences. More information about NAPLAN, along with sample assessments, can be found at: http://www.nap.edu.au/?cldee=aGVsZW4ud2hhbGVAbW4uY2F0aG9saWMuZW1LmF1

Several students are taking part in the lunch time “Cool and Friendly” program. This program supports primary aged students to deal with their emotions, especially anger, in an acceptable manner. There are 6 volunteers participating in this program at present and they are enjoying learning about things that make them happy and sad and different degrees of happiness and unhappiness.
Are you missing uniform bits and pieces? At this time of changeable weather the children tend to come to school rugged up and peel the layers off as the day goes on. Help them take responsibility for their belongings by ensuring each item is clearly labelled with their name.

*Have a great term!*
*Helen Whale*

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There are several events coming up this term, so please make sure you have them marked on the calendar and feel very welcome to join us.

This Friday 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.

Our last day of term (27th 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 will also have a whole school Mass on this day to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart. This special feast day reminds us of the love Jesus has for us.

We are continuing with the *sacramental program* for the year. The children will be working with the sacramental team and their parents and families 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 students have already made their first Reconciliation and will receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation at the beginning of Term 3.

A reminder to join us at our *liturgy and assembly* each Monday afternoon. The focus of the liturgy is the previous Sunday’s Gospel reading.

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**Project Compassion:** Thank you to all families who have returned their Project Compassion boxes. We ask that all boxes are returned to school by Friday 9th May.

We have been asked to make available to you by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office a brochure on *What the Catholic Church Teaches on Asylum and Migration*. This has been placed in the parent library located in the front office. Also there you will find copies of ‘The Majellan Family’ which is a magazine put out by the Redemptorists. The Majellan Magazine focuses on marriage and family life, with articles of interest to husbands and wives, and to parents and children, together with photos from readers and jokes sprinkled through the pages.

*Anne Marie Peebles*
*RE Coordinator*
You are invited to our

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

A hands-on experience where children can discover a love of books and a life-long passion for reading!

**When:**
Next week!! 12th - 16th May 2014
Open 8:30 - 9:00am and 3:00 - 3:30pm
Other times by arrangement

**Where:**
MacKillop Room, St Joseph’s, Merriwa

Huge variety of books available for all ages. The Scholastic Book Fair is packed with a multitude of genres, including fantasy, classics, reference, award-winners, humour, nonfiction and mystery.

Come along and browse! All purchases benefit our school by providing wonderful resources for our classrooms and library.
AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners:

Kindergarten
Matilda Cronin – for describing 2D shapes in our environment like a superstar!
William Luke – for showing great sportsmanship at the cross country carnival cheering everyone on!
Levi Hourn – for being settled and ready to learn.
Caludia Patterson – for representing numbers through pictures, words and numbers
Nate Brown – for great effort in his writing

1/2
Pia Henderson - for being a good friend to everyone
Ella Beaven - for making some good choices at school
Fiona Tomy - for working well in the classroom
Seth Pepper - for being a fantastic and caring friend
Ella Beaven - for fantastic writing and maths work

3/4
Jorji Taaffe – for her well written account of the Gallipoli landing.
Chloe Towell – for her great writing of a persuasive text.
Dylan Turner – for his settled approach to Writing activities in the classroom.
Patrick McLaren - for a fantastic retell of Mulga Bill’s Bicycle
Rebecca Keegan - for her sensible and mature approach to class work

5/6
Clancy Moore – for a totally awesome week of fantastic work ethic and leadership
Tamara Sormaz - for an outstanding effort and result in Cross Country
Gaby Nicholls – for being a fantastic collaborator in group and paired work
John Magner – for being an excellent contributor in any class discussion or debate

Playground Champion:
Ben Patterson – for cleaning up rubbish and packing up without being asked
Matilda Cronin – for always taking responsibility for giving her Asthma bag to the teacher on duty

Principal’s Awards:
Seth Pepper – trying so hard to care for others
Eliza Peebles - for giving up her time to represent the school so beautifully at the Stations of the Cross on Sunday in Kilaben Bay and for being a responsible school leader who sees a need and actions a plan to fix it.

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

Happy Birthday
Sister Brigid
William Henderson
Lincoln Bannerman
Nicholas Morgan
Next P&F meeting
Annual General Meeting
2nd June 2014
at 4.30pm
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.

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Peta Luke, Marj Ward, Sarah Booth, Maxine Cronin, Kim Holland, Vic Shannon & Sharee Baber.

CANTEEN ROSTER
Volunteers desperately needed! Please contact Mel Bates 0417 060 381 if you are able to help.

BUS ROSTER
10/11 May  Heaven family
17/18 May  Booth family
24/25 May  Brazier family
31 May/1June  Brown/Redman family

THANK YOU . . .
to the Baber & Bates families who gave up some of their valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus in recent weeks.

Mothers Day Stall

Dear Parents

The Mother's Day gift stall will be held this Friday 9th May at lunch time.

The P&F runs this stall as a service to offer children the opportunity to purchase a gift to present to their mums/grandmothers on Mother’s Day. It is not a fundraiser.

Presents range in price from a $1 to nothing over $5. There will also be presents for Grandmothers/Nannies.

Please send money with your child on Friday.

Thank you
Megan Towell

LOST AND FOUND

A watch has been found and handed in at the office. Please contact Sally if you think it may be yours. Best description wins!
2013-2014 Family Energy Rebate

$125* TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

DON’T MISS THE DEADLINE!
Apply before 5pm Friday 13 June 2014

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the costs of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2013 – 2014 the rebate gives:

• A $125 credit against electricity bills for eligible applicants who receive electricity from an electricity retailer.
• A $137.50 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a caravan or mobile home park and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:
• Be eligible for Family Tax Benefit A or B during 2012-2013 and have received a relevant payment; and
• Be the primary account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a caravan or mobile park home, whose name appears on the electricity bills supplied by the park operator.

YOU CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO APPLY FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE
• ONLINE – it takes a few minutes to submit and processing starts immediately.
• PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE
PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM
* eligibility criteria apply

APPLY ONLINE NOW!
Some enthusiastic helpers at the Working Bee