May 2014

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<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
<td>Library, Sport Canteen</td>
<td>PJ Day for Asthma 2pm Bible Society</td>
<td>5.30 Regional Spelling Bee Final Muswellbrook</td>
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<td>Anne Marie - REC Assembly Day</td>
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<td>3.30 Sacramental meeting</td>
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<td>HELEN - PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE</td>
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<td>ATHLETICS CARNIVAL</td>
<td>Festival of the Fleeces</td>
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<td>Mass 8.30am Pentecost Sunday</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>3.30 Sacramental meeting</td>
<td>Library, Sport Canteen</td>
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REFLECTION

O Lord,
Grant me your strength, so I will have courage in every situation;
Grant me your love, so I may love others as you love me;
Grant me your wisdom, so I will show others the path to success;
Grant me your mercy, so I will forgive those who have hurt me;
Grant me your peace, so I will find the best in everybody;
Grant me your hope, so I will never give up;
Grant me your joy, so I will be thankful for all my blessings;
And Grant me your grace, so you will always be at my side.
Amen
I had the opportunity to visit Sister Mary and Sister Brigid in their respective abodes on Friday. They were both in good spirits and very happy to hear all the news of Merriwa. Both Sisters send you their love. We continue to pray for the sisters and ask for God’s healing touch. We continue to keep Matthew Cronin in our thoughts and prayers as he endures the long rehabilitation journey also.

The Year 3 and Year 5 students completed their NAPLAN tests last week and all students entered the process with a positive spirit of giving the test their best effort. Thank you to the parents and students for ensuring the students were present and punctual at school each day. The teachers have been working conscientiously over the past two years to ensure the students are familiar with NAPLAN type questioning, in fact each day all Maths classes have a NAPLAN type question embedded within its lesson. We eagerly await the diagnostic information we will receive from the testing so that teachers have more information about each child’s learning in Literacy and Numeracy with which to design further teaching-learning experiences.

The teachers have completed an on line professional development session on the new Maths syllabus this week and they are in Muswellbrook today to do more intense face to face professional learning on the same topic. The teachers are continuing to work hard to ensure that they are ready to fully implement the new syllabus by the start of the 2015 school year.

It is not OK to be away nor is it OK to be late for school or to leave early from school. The government requires that students attend school on every gazetted school day of the year unless they are too ill or have a pressing need to be away. Please ensure your child fills this requirement and if they cannot, due to illness or other reason, please phone the school on the morning of the absence and then send a note outlining the specific cause of their absence on their return. I will be making contact with families over the next few weeks if attendance has been an issue.

Student leadership at school is a very important aspect of our education program at St Joseph’s. For the past 6 years we have moved to a model where all students in Stage 3 are school leaders and in particular the Year 6 students have special leadership responsibility. I would like to congratulate our current Year 6 leaders – Ty Riley, Clancy Moore, Eliza Peebles and Matthew Wilkins. These leaders without exception have embraced their role with great school spirit and a spirit of service and responsibility. The leaders meet each week in one lunch time with Mr Morris and myself and they plan their week’s service and discuss the week that has gone before. They keenly observe the interactions of all children on the playground and assist the teachers and students where needed. The leaders have already organised their leadership shirt, which they wear every Wednesday, the Mother’s Day breakfast which was a great community event, Pancake Tuesday event and the upcoming Pyjama Day for Asthma awareness. They are at present planning a fundraiser to help support the Life Education program which comes to our school each year. They also try to be present representing the school at all out of school events such as Anthem singing at Australia Day, ANZAC Day march, Stations of the Cross, Sunday Mass, Festival of the Fleeces Parade, School campdraft and fete etc. The four leaders are challenged each week to discuss at the leaders meeting their strengths and weaknesses. We call this session “The good, the bad and the ugly”! Each student has taken responsibility for their own shortcomings and is in a continual process of self improvement. We are so proud of our leaders and their parents deserve to be proud of them also. I implore all members of our school community to acknowledge our leaders and encourage them in their service role.
A unique opportunity has arisen at school to teach your child about **responsibility**. Since the Sisters have been so ill this year, we have not been able to return the chooks to the school grounds. We are now looking for students to volunteer to roster on to care for the chooks on the weekends. I will return the “girls” to school over the next week if I have enough committed carers. The students and teachers will feed, water, collect eggs and let the “girls out each morning and lock them back in their cage from Monday to Friday. We need the students to do the same on Saturday and Sunday each week. The responsibility is a great one, because if the care is not consistent the chooks may be killed by a fox at night or suffer hunger and thirst. If you are happy for your child to take on this very responsible role, please fill in the roster at the end of the newsletter.

I will be attending a **conference** in Adelaide next week where I will be learning very up to date research on how the brain learns and experiencing modern examples about how designing classrooms/learning spaces can maximise this learning. I am very excited about this opportunity and I will be very happy to share my learning upon my return at P&F meetings.

**Pyjama Day** to raise awareness and funds for Asthma research is being held at school tomorrow. Please help us support this very worthwhile cause. We have more children affected by asthma at this school than any other ailment.

The **Spelling Bee** has produced class champions and now Stage champions. Congratulations to Peter Hagley, Rhianna Smith, William Collins and Nate Brown from Early Stage 1; Kiesha-Lee Taylor, Darcy Taaffe, Helena Parker and Braeden Halse from Stage 1; Jorji Taaffe, Tia Magner, Nicholas Morgan and Korey Halse from Stage 2 and Eliza Peebles, Darcy Moore, John Magner and Jemma Grady from Stage 3 for being your class champions. After the very competitive Spelling Bee on Friday the **Stage champions are Rhianna Smith, Kiesha Lee Taylor, Jorji Taafe and Jemma Grady.** The champions from Stages 1, 2 and 3 will now go forward to Muswellbrook to compete against the other schools’ Stage champions. Thank you for supporting this competition as it is our Region of schools’ strategy to lift the spelling competence of our students.

There will be an opportunity to participate in a **Maths Mentals Bee** later in the year. Start drilling your child/ren on their tables now and help them have the competitive edge when this competition starts. Again this is an initiative of our region of schools to do something to raise the level of Maths achievement in our schools. Please help us to do this.

Kind regards

Helen Whale

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**WEEKEND CHOOK CARE ROSTER**

My child/ren _________________________________ would love to help look after the chooks on a roster basis over the weekends. I understand this will involve letting the chooks out of a morning, attending to their food and water needs, collecting eggs and locking them up each night over the weekend.

Signed ________________________________ (parent)

Please advise any weekend dates when you will not be available

____________________  ______________________  ____________________
The ASPIRE program is vibrant and alive and well into its third year involving over 120 students from across 30 diocesan schools. The showcase for this year is based around Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Talented students from across the diocese will be sure to entertain you in music, dance and drama as they bring this much loved story to life. The showcase will be held in the magnificent Civic Theatre again this year and the venue is reflective of the professional standard of the production.

Over the last couple of years we have taken students from Years 3-6 to this production and they have enjoyed the experience. At this stage we are asking for expressions of interests from both students (Yr 3-6) and parents. If we have enough expression of interests we will look into hiring a bus otherwise we may call on parents to drive students as in previous years. The production we would like to attend is on Thursday 24th July at 11am. Approximate cost $25 per child ($10 ticket and $15 transport) $30 ticket for adults plus transport

Please fill in the information below and return to school by Monday 26th May so we can finalise details and see to how many students we are able to offer this wonderful opportunity.

Regards,

Anne Marie Peebles

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**ASPIRE CONCERT**

My child ___________________________ wishes to express interest in attending the ASPIRE concert.

Signed ___________________________________________________

I ____________________________ am able/unable to transport students to the ASPIRE production on Thursday 24th July if needed.

I am able to transport ______ students.

I ____________________________________________ would/would not like to attend the performance.
What is Pentecost? It’s the Church’s Birthday!!!!

Pentecost is a very special time when the disciples and other Christians received the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost occurred 50 days after Easter Sunday or 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had already gone back to Heaven so the disciples and new believers of Jesus were waiting to receive the Holy Spirit because that’s what Jesus told them would happen. Plus, since Jesus wasn’t with them anymore the Holy Spirit would help bring them closer to God. Just before Jesus was taken up to heaven he told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and they’d be his witnesses in the whole world.

Pentecost was a day to celebrate the end of the grain harvest. The people would offer two loaves of bread they had made from their crops and two lambs were waved before the Lord as a thanks offering. This was their special way of thanking God for the weather and for helping them get a crop for that year.

The disciples and other Christians had come together to thank God and suddenly a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Next they saw tongues of fire that separated and came to rest of each of them. When the tongues of fire came they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different languages.

The Holy Spirit actually helps us in many ways; he comforts, teaches, helps us grow in our relationship with God and gives us strength to get rid of the bad habits in our lives. He also gives us power and helps us know when we’ve done something wrong. Of course, we need to want to grow, learn and change to be more like God for the Holy Spirit to really work with us.

Pentecost is a special time of celebration. It is because of the Holy Spirit that we can have the courage and the strength to spread Jesus’ message and live a life to be more like God.

We celebrate this special day on Sunday 8th June in St Anne’s Church at 8:30am where we will be celebrating a special family Mass. The specific colour for Pentecost is red and we ask that you make a special effort to wear something red.

Anne Marie Peebles
RE Coordinator

St Joseph’s students have many opportunities to represent our school such as regional sporting carnivals, excursions etc. We are always proud of how our students conduct themselves at these events but it is also nice to receive positive feedback.....

Hi Helen
Just wanted to congratulate St Joseph’s on the great display of team spirit yesterday at the cross country! All the kids and Mr Morris cheered each other along all day and it was really nice that the whole team stayed until all the races were over. Thank you Mr Morris and all of the parents and kids that attended. It was very enjoyable and a great representation of our school.

Kind regards
Megan Moore
Many thanks to all who supported our Scholastic Book Fair. We hope you are enjoying your new purchases. Sales of around $1200 at this very successful event have earned us more than $360 worth of new library books and resources for our school.

Special thanks to Vic Shannon and Melissa Collins for all your help with displaying, selling and packing up the book fair and to those who offered help along the way.

Our next book fair will be held in Term 4, so keep this in mind when planning for Christmas!

Sally Gilbey
Coordinator

ATHLETICS

Help Required!

Our annual athletics carnival will be held on Friday 6th June (week 6).

We will require some fantastic parents to assist in the markings for the event (marking lanes etc.)

Please contact the school if you are able to help!

Many thanks
Sam Kerr
AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners:

Kindergarten
Rhianna Smith – for great work identifying and naming 3D shapes
Grace Booth – for working well in Literacy groups
Ellie Holland – for her contribution to class discussions
Bethany Wightman – for her effort in all key learning areas
Aidan Hunt – for being responsible and ready to learn
Alyra Bannerman – for working hard in Literacy groups

1/2
Phoenix Denning - great effort in practicing writing skills
Bobby Keegan - fantastic effort in identifying physical activity
Riley Melmeth - great effort in being prepared for the Mother’s Day Liturgy
Darcy Taaffe - great effort in our school spelling bee
Helena Parker - great effort in our school spelling bee
Braeden Halse - great effort in our school spelling bee
Kiesha-Lee Taylor - great effort in our school spelling bee

3/4
Korey Halse - for his great skills in measuring capacity

Amy Redgate- for her excellent work in writing a ballad
Tia Magner - for great contributions to class discussions
Nicholas Morgan - for great work in PDHPE activities

5/6
Eliza Peebles – for organising and managing a successful Mother’s Day Breakfast
Clancy Moore – for organising and managing a successful Mother’s Day Breakfast
Ty Riley – for organising and managing a successful Mother’s Day Breakfast
Year 5/6 – for embracing a new teaching method in Mathematics wholeheartedly

Playground Champion:
Camdyn Constable - for including others in games
Alyra Bannerman – for fitting into the St Joseph’s playground extremely well

Principal’s Awards:
Mr Morris - for putting so much time and effort into organising the Mother’s Day Breakfast.
John Magner - for being a helpful and responsible student in helping teachers to prepare the room for the Spelling Bee last week.

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

Fiona
Tomy
Anne Marie
Peebles
Matthew Wilkins
Aidan Hunt
P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Tash Taaffe, De Patterson, Mel Parker & Kylie Telfer.

Thank you to the Beaven & Booth families who gave up some of their valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus in recent weeks.

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.

Canteen roster
21 May  Lucy Johnson & Jenny Johnson
28 May  Sally Hagley & Scott Beaven
 6 June  Heidi Grady & Fiona Wightman

Bus roster
24/25 May  Brazier family
31 May/1 June Brown/Redman family
 7/8 June  Collins family
14/15 June Constable family

We are interested in having Market Stalls at our Campdraft. Do you know someone who has a market stall and would be willing to come? Site fees are very reasonable. If so please contact samantha.kerr@mn.catholic.edu.au
Reading is important!
- Reading has always been an important skill. In our modern world it is more important than ever.
- Often parents are asked by the school to listen to their child read at home. It’s a good way of supporting your child’s reading.

Hints for reading with and listening to your child read
- Before reading, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about.
- During reading, discuss what has been read up to that point, and imagine what will happen next time.
- After reading is finished, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures.
- When reading a harder book together, take turns. Beginning readers can read the repetitive parts and more experienced readers can read a paragraph or a page.
- On finding an unknown word:
  
  _Pause_ to give your child time to work out the word
  
  _Prompt_
  - go back to the beginning of the sentence, or read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence.
  - – look for a clue in the picture or the words
  - – look at the first letter and think about what the words could be
  - – ask “Does this make sense?”
  - – try to sound out the word
  - – if necessary tell your child the word

  _Praise_ your child for trying even if mistakes are made.

For more information visit:
You might not know that our school has one student with type 1 diabetes. This is because they look like every other kid, but they have an important difference.

Kids with type 1 diabetes have an autoimmune disease that means they cannot produce their own insulin. You can’t catch type 1 diabetes and it’s not caused by lack of exercise or too much sugar.

It occurs when the body’s immune system mistakenly destroys the cells in the pancreas that produce insulin. Everyone needs insulin to live.

People with type 1 diabetes require up to 6 insulin injections every day or may have an insulin pump which is attached to them 24 hours a day. They also need to check their blood glucose (sugar) levels up to 6 times a day (by way of a finger prick) and carefully monitor their food intake and exercise regime on a daily basis.

If their blood glucose level drops too low (commonly referred to as a “hypo”) they require a quick dose of sugar to prevent them going so low so as to go into a coma.

Jelly Babies are often used as a quick source of sugar. Type 1 diabetes is difficult to manage. Around 10,000 kids in Australia have this form of diabetes, which accounts for around 10% of all people with diabetes.

It is with you for life as there is currently no known cure. Every day five more Australians are diagnosed with this disease, most of them are children.

There is no known way to prevent type 1 diabetes but scientists are working on it. JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) is working hard to help find a cure by leading research to cure, treat and prevent type 1 diabetes.

Our school will be supporting JDRF and helping to deliver a better future for kids with type 1 diabetes by selling merchandise valued between $3-$6. If you wish to support this worthwhile event please see Eliza Peebles who will be selling the merchandise at lunchtime.