**St Joseph’s Primary School**

**School News**

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Tuesday 22 July 2014

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### July / August 2014

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<td>Week 2  20/7</td>
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<td>WORKING BEE</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<td>No canteen</td>
<td>Aspire Concert</td>
<td>Grandparents Day &amp; tree planting</td>
<td>Canteen</td>
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<td>Tanya &amp; Paige - CSO</td>
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<td>Week 3  27/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>Diocesan Athletics</td>
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<td>PD - Sam, Cassandra &amp; Melissa</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation 9.30-11.30</td>
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<td>Canteen</td>
<td>Richard Cootes visit</td>
<td>Feast of St Mary Mackillop</td>
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<td>Helen - Principals’ Conference</td>
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<td>Week 5  10/8</td>
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<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>Merriwa Horse Sports</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation 9.30-11.30</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>Helen - CSO</td>
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<td>Feast of the Assumption</td>
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**REFLECTION**

Gracious God, we want to be responsible for our own lives, and we want to make positive choices each day. Inspire us to get our priorities right and be generous in our care and concern for others. In busy days and casual days remind us, too, of our basic human need for personal time and quiet and space, and lead us to respect the personal needs that others also have. Amen.

*Today I will be inspired to respect the community’s need for quiet and space.*
Welcome to Term 3. The staff at St Joseph’s wish you a great term of quality education.

Congratulations to the eight children who received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist on Saturday evening. They are now the newest, fully initiated members of our parish community. Bishop William and Fr John celebrated this beautiful Mass and encouraged us all to continue our mission as baptised Christians to bring the Good News of Christ to all. The supper afterwards was a very welcoming and happy occasion shared with the parishioners of St Anne’s as well as special family and friends of the candidates. Thank you to Mrs. Peebles and Miss Farrow for helping to prepare the children for the Sacraments and to all the other staff who helped throughout the time.

The annual school campdraft and fete event, held on the first Saturday of the holidays was a tremendous success. Thank you to all families for your generous support of the school. A huge thank you to all our sponsors and for those who went out searching for sponsors and those who helped in the months of lead up work for the event. The committee has worked very well to ensure the success on the day and I whole heartedly thank all concerned. A special words of thanks to all the children who helped in the background with countless tasks as their parents worked to prepare for the big day – especially Darcy and Clancy Moore, Emily Ninness, Darcy and Jorji Taaffe and Cody Bates.

How does the campdraft/fete help your child?

- It is our major fundraiser, raising money to support school projects, thus improving the educational experience of all our students
- It gives all families the opportunity to work together for a common cause, regardless of skill level, race, creed, social status
- It helps parents and families to get to know each other
- It provides a day of great fun for all children.
- It raises the profile of our school in the community and beyond
- It allows us to source funds from outside the immediate school community. Donations came from far and wide and riders paying entry fees came from far away towns.

Each year, the experience has become better and better for all. The buzz among the students for weeks beforehand was excited. Some comments from students and parents, heard after the day, include:
- “I had the opportunity to work with parents who I have never spoken to before”
- “I can’t get in to school to help, but this day I can do so much to help out”
- “helping with reading etc is not my thing, but I love to work on the canteen at the fete”
- “My family isn’t horsey, but we all enjoyed seeing what goes on at a draft. The hobby horse race was so much fun..”
- “I can’t do much for the school with my young bub, but I can cook and am happy to do that to help out.”
- “The atmosphere down at the showground was so friendly. It felt like a big family. The kids and adults at the little kids activity area were very welcoming. I am seriously considering enrolling my toddler in St Joseph’s when she gets to that age.”

There are some photos for you to enjoy at the back of this newsletter and more will be uploaded to our website soon.
Srs Mary Jackson and Brigid Linehan send their best wishes to the members of the St Joseph’s School community. I visited with each last week and am really happy to report that they are happy and peacefully and patiently waiting to return to better health.

Welcome to our newest members of the St Joseph’s school community. Mia Jacobs has joined our Stage 1 classroom and we warmly welcome Mia and her family to our community. We look forward to sharing many happy times with you all. Mia has settled in very well and has made some great friendships already.

Congratulations to our two new members of the School Leadership Team - Nickolas Roberts and Matthew Wilkins. Nick and Matthew will receive their badges at our Grandparents Mass this Friday.

The school open day was a great success last Monday. The school leaders did a wonderful job of conducting guided tours for our 2015 families. The open classrooms were abuzz with parents and friends. Thank you for your attendance. A very special thank you to Fiona Wightman for baking beautiful slices and biscuits for afternoon tea.

Working bee success.
It was wonderful to have the assistance of parents and students at the working bees held on Friday and Saturday. A special thanks to De and Rob Patterson who were the sole workers on Friday afternoon in the cold!! Please see the photos for evidence of the fun had by all and the wonderful work completed. Not only did we tidy the school grounds and do a few running repairs but we also tidied and cleaned up the church garden in readiness for the Confirmation Mass. Thank you to Darcy and Jorji Taaffe, Ben Patterson, Patrick McLaren, Thomas and Aiden Hunt who brought their parents along to work as well as Kim Kennedy and Richard Magner who were brave enough to come alone. Thanks once again to the fantastic group of teachers – Samantha Kerr, Mark Morris and Paige Farrow, who have no children of their own at school but still came along anyway to help out. You are truly wonderful school community members.
We look forward to seeing parents and grandparents on Friday to celebrate Grandparents Day. This day provides students with the opportunity to share their pride in their school and their learning with their families. As it is also National Tree week we will be planting trees in McCartney Street in conjunction with the Upper Hunter Shire.

Diocesan athletics will be held on Thursday 31st July. We wish competitors Jorji Taaffe (9 years girls 100m) and Clancy Moore (senior long jump) all the very best wishes as they represent the Catholic schools in the Upper Hunter Region at this event.

Students in the Primary classes (Years 3-6) will be walking to the School of Arts on Wednesday 30th July to watch the dress rehearsal of the Merriwa Central School’s performance. We would like to thank the staff of MCS for their kind invitation. It is an important educational opportunity for students to learn to be an active and discerning audience. This will enable them to analyse a performance before they embark on their own performance in September.

14 students from the primary classes are also travelling to Newcastle to attend the matinee performance of Aspire. This performance is a very professional production involving 95 talented students from Years 5-12 in Catholic schools across our diocese. The performance – “A Night in the Forest” is the result of 6 months of hard work in 5 ensembles: drama, dance, stage band, strings and vocal. Thank you to Miss Farrow and the parents who are making this possible for our students.

Parent and teacher interviews, held late last term, were a great opportunity to discuss your child’s progress with the teachers. It is very pleasing to see the Semester One Parent Teacher opportunities so well supported by parents. Informal opportunities are available throughout the term by phoning the school to make an appointment with the teachers. We are very pleased with the increased level of parent involvement in their children’s education as evidenced by participation in these meetings as well as open days and requests for interviews with teachers. When we all work together we can provide the best opportunities for our students to learn.

Helen Whale
Principal

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

William Collins
Jorji Taaffe
NEWS FLASH: GRANDPARENTS ARE VITAL, POPE TELLS YOUTH
RIO DE JANEIRO, JUL 26, 2013

“Saints Joachim and Anne were part of a long chain of people who had transmitted their love for God, expressed in the warmth and love of family life”, Pope Francis told the World Youth Day crowds in Brazil. “How important grandparents are for family life, for passing on the human and religious heritage which is so essential for each and every society! How important it is to have intergenerational exchanges and dialogue, especially within the context of the family. Children and the elderly build the future of peoples: children because they lead history forward, the elderly because they transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives. This relationship and this dialogue between generations is a treasure to be preserved and strengthened!

STS JOACHIM AND ANNE
Joachim and Anne were greatly honoured by God who gave them a daughter conceived without sin who was to become known as the Mother of God! It would seem that they performed their parenting responsibilities with great grace. Their feast day on July 26 is a day to honour them and all grandparents for their contribution to our lives.

FACT FILE
We know very few facts about Sts Joachim and Anne; the only recorded stories of them are from an apocryphal gospel dating from the 4th Century AD called the Protoevangelium of James. The legend told in this document says that after years of childlessness, an angel appeared to tell Anne and Joachim that they would have a child. Whatever their names or the facts of their lives, we can assume that Mary was raised in a Jewish family home faithful to God and to the religious traditions of her day such that she was led to respond wholeheartedly to God’s request with faith, “Let it be done to me as you will.”
(adapted from www.catholic.org/saints)

Anne Marie Peebles, REC
Congratulations to the following award winners.

**Kindergarten**
- **Grace Booth** – representing God’s Gifts through beautiful illustrations
- **Nate Brown** – being able to explain if 1 whole has been cut in half and why or why not
- **Levi Hourn** – a conscientious effort using Lexia
- **Aidan Hunt** – contributing to discussions about history
- **Bethany Wightman** – great descriptions about the weather
- **Claudia Patterson** – great participation in Literacy Groups
- **Rhianna Smith** – representing numbers to 20 using numerals and words

**1/2**
- **Mikayla Telfer** - giving tasks a go
- **Mia Morgan** - great participation in music
- **Cody Bates** - great efforts in Maths games
- **Mia Jacobs** - settling into our school
- **Pia Henderson** - fantastic progress in written work
- **Riley Melmeth** - great perseverance mastering rounding numbers to the nearest 100’s in Maths
- **Kiesha Lee Taylor** - great results in book work organisation

**3/4**
- **Axul Hourn** - his mature attitude at the Regional Athletics Carnival
- **Madelaine Thrift** - always taking pride in the presentation and quality of her work
- **Charles Brazier** - his great enthusiasm towards our science unit
- **Patrick Magner** - always being polite and courteous to others
- **Lincoln Bannerman** - great effort in all subjects
- **Jock Grady** - great writing work samples

**5/6**
- **Tamara Sormaz** – some fantastic work with fractions with different denominators
- **Darcy Moore** - being fabulous with fractions
- **Tanja Sormaz** – yet another fabulous Spelling test result
- **Rhys Turner** – fabulous knowledge of rounding whole numbers to different place values
- **Gaby Nicholls** – always being willing to contribute to class discussions

**Playground Champion:**
- **Thomas Hunt** – always being willing to help pack up the Sport Shed

**Principal’s Awards:**
- **Riley Melmeth** – putting a top effort into all subject areas this term.
- **Will Henderson** - great effort in writing skills.
17th Annual
Special Needs Mass
Tuesday 29 July 2014
St Patrick’s Church Lochinvar
Theme ‘God has made us a family’

The Special Needs Working Party of the Federation of P & F Associations warmly invites all families and friends of children with special needs, teachers, principals, school staff and parishioners to

join together to celebrate our Annual Special Needs Mass!

July
29

St Patrick’s Church
Lochinvar - 7pm

Federation of Parents & Friends Associations
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

No RSVP required, however for further details, please contact:
Cath Garrett-Jones - Parent Liaison and Resource Officer
P 4979 1303  E cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au
P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Emma Henderson, Mel Bates, Katie Thompson & Scott Beaven

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

St. Joseph’s P&F Association

CANTEEN ROSTER
to be advised
Helpers needed..
Please contact Mel Bates 0417 060 381
if you have some time available

BUS ROSTER
19/20 July McLaren family
26/27 July Melmeth family
2/3 August Jamieson family
9/10 August Morgan family

Keep an eye on our website:
www.merriwa.catholic.edu.au
for more photos of recent events

Thank you to Mike Wong for these photos

St Joseph’s Campdraft & Fete